COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES // VOLUME 3 // ISSUE 7

# NEWSLETTER



### Dean's Message

DR. CHARLENE WOLF-HALL

Spring semester has been off to a busy start. Spring Break will already be here next month. This issue highlights several of the activities and events that start off the new year for the College of Natural Sciences.

As we push to complete all our goals for this academic year, take time for self-care, help a friend or colleague in stress, and please be kind to all. These are websites for resources that may be helpful for students, faculty, and staff:

- https://www.sdstate.edu/wellness
   -center/counseling-services
- https://bhr.sd.gov/benefits/FY22Files/EF SoSD.pdf

Note that the images from the Science as Art competition presented in the Awards & Recognition section will be on display in the Dean's Office. Please consider stopping by and seeing all the pieces on display in room 131 of the Avera Health & Science Center. We love to have visitors. Our office has warm welcomes and hot beverages to help you get through the coldest part of winter.

Spring semester goes by fast, and before you know it, we will be preparing for graduation ceremonies. For those in their final semester at SDSU, savor those moments that make this place special while you can. Enjoy the beautiful winter scenery, learn, succeed, experience, and stay warm.



College of Natural Sciences

## Awards & Recognition

#### **AISES National Awards**

American Indian Science & Engineering Society

South Dakota State University's AISES student organization received three top national awards at the national conference. The chapter has two CNS students and is advised by Physics faculty member **Dr. Larry Browning**.

Advocacy Partner Service Award Recruitment and Retention Award Chapter of the Year Award **Harley Fischer**, Human Biology **Aubre Westover**, Human Biology Read more on page 8!



#### **Celebrating Work Anniversaries**

November 2022 - December 2022 - January 2023

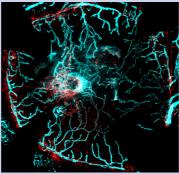
Fathi Halaweish - 27 years
Bruce Millett - 25 years
Andy Ellis - 21 years
Robert McTaggart - 19 years
Jess Mediger - 16 years

Liping Gu - 14 years Ruanbao Zhou - 14 years Fangjun Li - 9 years Charlene Wolf-Hall - 4 years Matt Nixon - 2 years

### **College of Natural Sciences "Science as Art" Awards**



1st place (\$300) - **Armaan Sandhu**, Microbiology PhD student



2nd place (\$200) - **Ahana Majumder**, Biology PhD student



3rd place (\$100) - **Hannah Markman**, Human Biology B.S. student

#### **Research Endowment**

William S. Wadsworth Jr. & Nancy Wadsworth Award

Dr. Jihong Cole-Dai, Chemistry & Biochemistry

### Sioux Falls Middle School Visit

On November 17, 140 students from both the Ben Reifel and George McGovern middle schools came to Brookings for a campus visit. Their trip included a science demonstration, academic fair, tours, SDSU ice cream, and more!

**Pictured below**: Dr. Larry Browning and Harrison Wegner put on a science demo in the OLPAC



The students' first stop was the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center, where Dr. Larry Browning, Physics faculty, and Harrison Wegner, Biology Education B.S., conducted several exciting science experiments. "My favorite part of the show was the stuff we put in liquid nitrogen. I especially loved the part where Dr. Browning threw a racket ball against the wall and it shattered," Wegner said.

As the middle school visitors moved through the academic fair in the Student Union, they got a chance to learn about our programs in Natural Sciences. Several CNS student ambassadors were on hand to answer questions and demo some VR (virtual reality) headsets.

"During the event, I realized how important it is for students in middle school to gain exposure to ideas after K-12 education," said Madison Higbee, Biology B.S., pictured below. "My advice for junior high students who are thinking about their next steps after K-12 would be to explore their school's extracurricular activities! You can

learn a lot about yourself by actively engaging in a sports team, community service event, clubs, and other events hosted by your school."

science teacher for a couple
years while I get my master's
degree. After I get my master's
degree, I hope to become a
high school principle."

-Harrison Wegner

**L to R**: Tyffani Hanson, Paige Wood, and Madison Higbee at the academic fair

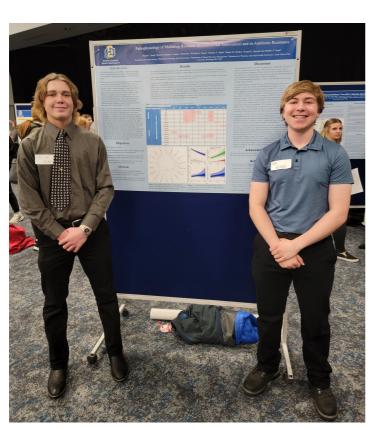


### Bio-Micro Day of Scholars

The Department of Biology & Microbiology held its Fall 2022 Day of Scholars event on November 15th in the Volstorff Ballroom. This event takes place once a semester, giving student researchers a chance to practice presenting their work. Freshmen in the Department are required to attend, giving them an idea of what to expect later in their programs.

Nick Busse, pictured left below, and Bodhi Brady, pictured right below, conducted research on tuberculosis with Dr.

Madhav Nepal, Department of Biology & Microbiology. "It's interesting to understand how TB permanently harms people, and how we can efficiently combat it," Brady said. "Further investigation into immunotherapeutic treatments is necessary, essentially slowing the symptoms and stopping the damage."



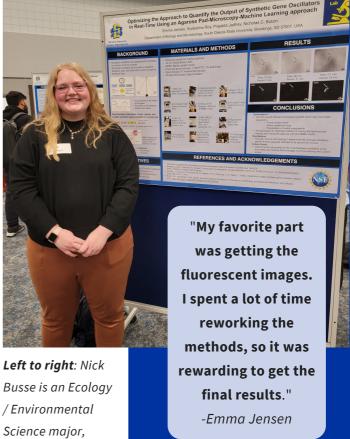
Georgia Hirschey, pictured right, is a Human Biology predental major. She took part in a study abroad trip to Finland which was led by Ashley McConnell, advisor for the College of Natural Sciences. Hirschey's poster examined the topics of recovering lost indigenous languages and accessibility of healthcare for indigenous populations. The group also visited tribes in South Dakota, which allowed her to compare similarities across continents.

Her favorite part of the trip was visiting locals in Finland.

"We got to witness how a Sami family lives. They hosted us in their home with coffee and biscuits and discussed their values and traditions with us."

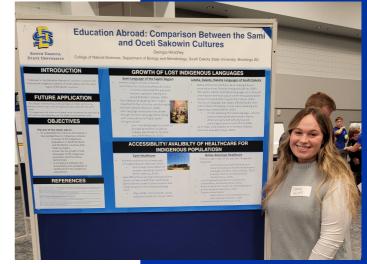
#### Mark your calendar!

The Spring 2023 Day of Scholars is scheduled for April 18, 2023.



Bohdi Brady is a Human Biology / pre-med major, and Emma Jensen is also Human Biology

/ pre-med.



### GIS Day at USGS EROS

A group from the Department of Geography & Geospatial Sciences and GSCE (Geospatial Sciences Center of Excellence) visited the EROS (Earth Resources Observation and Science) Center near Sioux Falls in November. EROS is part of the USGS (United States Geological Survey) and many SDState alumni work there.

The visit was for GIS Day during Geography Awareness Week and included poster presentations. Graduate student Mohammad Maruf Billah presented his work on estimating winter wheat yield and protein, and was able receive valuable feedback on his research from EROS scientists!

"Early estimation of wheat yield and protein is very important for local and global food demand and security. In our research, we used Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)-based multispectral remote sensing and machine learning approaches for wheat yield and protein estimation," Billah said. "So, our study

aimed to investigate the potential of UAV-based multi-temporal multispectral images for early season estimating wheat yield and protein."

The visit also included tours of the facility.

"During the trip, my favorite part was exploring the EROS Data Archive Center and data server station,"

Billah said.

Pictured right: Dr. Sen Subramanian, Associate
Dean for Research, and Dr. Dapeng Li, Department of
Geography & Geospatial Sciences, discuss a poster
during the EROS visit.

#### Mark your calendar!

The 2023 Geography Convention is scheduled for March 30-31. It will be held on campus and feature a wide variety of speakers, student posters, a GeoBowl trivia competition, and more!





### Indigenous People's Festival

The first-ever Brookings Indigenous People's Festival was held on November 19, 2022 at Mickelson Middle School. Dr. Derek Brandis and Dr. Matt Miller, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Dr. Larry Browning, Department of Physics, and Harrison Wegner, Biology Education B.S., attended the event to facilitate some fun hands-on science demonstrations!

"We had a variety of activities set up including fluorescence, making slime, showing how a string oscillates, standing in a bubble, and frozen Cheetos to name a few," Brandis said.







### Visiting Jack's Imagination Lab

Three Student Ambassadors from the College of Natural Sciences visited the Washington Pavilion on Saturday, January 28th. They were were set up in Jack's Imagination Lab, which is part of the Kirby Science Discovery Center. Museum visitors had a chance to try out virtual reality (VR) headsets and learn more about

our programs!

Ambassadors will return three more times this semester, giving many folks in Sioux Falls a chance to interact with CNS. The dates are February 25th, March 25th, and April 15th.

Pictured left to right: Tyffani Hanson is a Human Biology Pre-Med major, DeeDee Cross is a Human Biology Pre-PA major, and Olivia Petrik is a Biotechnology major.



### Media Coverage of CNS

**Schultes named SDSU Family of Year**: "Through three generations, members of the Herbert J. Schulte family have held high their loyalty to South Dakota State University, and now they're being honored as the SDSU Family of the Year."





Dr. Barbara (Schulte)
Helton, pictured left in
the front row, graduated
in 1963 with a chemistry
degree. She graduated
from USD Medical School
in 1965 and was one of
only three female
graduates from
Georgetown University
medical school in 1967.

Click to learn more about the Schulte family!

#### Research Highlights from Geography & Geospatial Sciences

**SDSU researchers' work allow for more accurate air quality forecasts**: "The National Weather Service at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) now produces current, first-rate forecasts of air quality conditions throughout the entire country—thanks in part to two researchers from South Dakota State University.

'This new generation fire emissions product developed by our group has made significant contributions to NOAA's mission of air quality forecasting,' Zhang said." Dr. Xiaoyang Zhang is a Professor in Geography & Geospatial Sciences and co-director at the Geospatial Sciences Center of Excellence. Click to learn more about this new algorithm.

**Wildfire season: Improving community evacuation plans using data-driven models**: "Wildfires pose a significant risk to residents living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in the American West, and a South Dakota State University assistant professor hopes his research can help make resort towns and other communities with high transient populations safer.

Dapeng Li, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences at SDSU, has been researching ways to improve wildfire evacuation planning in the WUI communities with transient populations. While some research has been conducted on evacuation planning, Li found there has been little to no research done on evacuation planning in towns with an abundance of "second homes." Click to learn more about this project or read Dr. Li's publication.

### Media Coverage of CNS, cont.

AISES National Conference: "South Dakota State University's American Indian Science and Engineering Society student organization received three top national awards—the Advocacy Partner Service Award, the Recruitment and Retention Award, and the Chapter of the Year Award—at the annual AISES National Conference, held Oct. 6-8 in Palm Springs, California."

Aubre Westover, Human Biology Pre-Dentistry major, is the club's Treasurer. Harley Fischer, pictured second from the left, is a Human Biology Pre-Med major and is the club's Tribal Outreach



"AISES faculty adviser Larry Browning said the SDSU chapter has had remarkable leadership in the past few years, with officers who have been dedicated in their approach to community involvement and improvement.

'Led by Cierra Sazue this year, Traelene Fallis last year and Danielle Arpan the year before, AISES members have developed ways to support each other, have a sense of purpose and community service, and have fun while moving forward,' Browning said." Click to read the whole story!



**SDSU's remote sensing program earns world ranking**: "South Dakota State University's remote sensing program has been ranked as one of the top academic programs in the world by the Shanghai Ranking's 2022 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects.

SDSU's program, housed in the Geospatial Sciences Center of Excellence, Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences, came in at 22nd in the world and the fifth-best program in the United States. It trails only the University of Maryland, College Park; California Institute of Technology, Boston University and Mississippi State University.

'Our scientists, including postdoc and Ph.D. students, at the GSCE use various satellite observations with a spatial footprint from three meters to 500 meters and a temporal revisit time from five minutes to 16 days to monitor variation of the earth surface,' said Xiaoyang Zhang, co-director and senior scientist of the GSCE.

This year's edition contains rankings of universities in 54 subjects across natural sciences, engineering, life sciences, medical sciences and social sciences. The ranking methodology uses a variety of indicators, including research output, international collaboration, research quality and influence, and international academic awards."

# Open PRAIRIE Data

#### **NOVEMBER 2022**

Data across the whole College of Natural Sciences:

- 3,115 downloads at 479 institutions in 108 countries
- 3 new works posted
- Teaching DNA Extractions from Fruits (Strawberry, Banana, Kiwi, and Watermelon) was the most frequently downloaded piece at 192 downloads. It was written in 2022 by a group including Dr. Madhav Nepal and graduate student Dillon Nelson, both in the Department of Biology & Microbiology, for the iLEARN program.

#### DECEMBER 2022

Data across the whole College of Natural Sciences:

- 2,326 downloads at 324 institutions in 94 countries
- 0 new works posted
- Characterization of Landsat-7 to Landsat-8 Reflective Wavelength and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Continuity was tied with November's top article at 131 downloads. It was written in 2016 by a GSCE group including Dr. Hankui Zhang, Department of Geography & Geospatial Sciences.

#### JANUARY 2023

Data across the whole College of Natural Sciences:

- 2,471 downloads at 367 institutions in 110 countries
- 4 new works posted
- Teaching DNA Extractions from Fruits (Strawberry, Banana, Kiwi, and Watermelon) was the most frequently downloaded piece at 130 downloads.
- Characterization of Landsat-7 to Landsat-8 Reflective Wavelength and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Continuity was the second most downloaded piece at 108 downloads.



# $Recent\ Publications\ from\ CNS$

Author	Department	Journal	Title
Charles Fenster	Biology & Microbiology	Evolutionary Ecology	Analysis of the leaf metabolome in Arabidopsis thaliana mutation accumulation lines reveals association of metabolic disruption and fitness consequence
Fathi Halaweish	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Nucleosides, Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids	Synthesis of novel pyridine and pyrimidine thioglycoside phosphoramidates for the treatment of COVID-19 and influenza A viruses
Brian Logue	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry	The Prevalence of Opioids in US Drinking Water Sources Detected Using Direct-Injection High- Performance Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry
Doug Raynie	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Journal of Molecular Liquids	Acidic and basic amino acid-based novel deep eutectic solvents and their role in depolymerization of lignin
Fangjun Li & Xiaoyang Zhang	Geography & Geospatial Sciences	Science of the Total Environment	Pronounced increases in nitrogen emissions and deposition due to the historic 2020 wildfires in the western US
Volker Brözel	Biology & Microbiology	Microorganisms	Microbial Interactions in Soil
Radhey Kaushik	Biology & Microbiology	Journal of Medical Virology	Development and characterization of an inducible assay system to measure Zika virus capsid interactions
Xiuqing Wang	Biology & Microbiology	Faseb Journal	TNF-alpha-dependent lung inflammation upregulates PD-L1 in monocyte-derived macrophages to contribute to lung tumorigenesis
Yajun Wu	Biology & Microbiology	Journal of Environmental Management	Effect of freezing temperature on dewatering, consolidation properties, and microstructure of landfill sludge
Jihong Cole-Dai	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics	On the potential fingerprint of the Antarctica ozone hole in ice-core nitrate isotopes: a case study based on a South Pole ice core
Dapeng Li	Geography & Geospatial Sciences	Expert Systems With Applications	Automatic concrete sidewalk deficiency detection and mapping with deep learning
Fangjun Li	Geography & Geospatial Sciences	Expert Systems With Applications	Improved estimation of fire particulate emissions using a combination of VIIRS and AHI data for Indonesia during 2015-2020
Maitiniyazi Maimaitjiang	Geography & Geospatial Sciences	Remote Sensing	Estimating Crop Seed Composition Using Machine Learning from Multisensory UAV Data
Parashu Kharel	Physics	Journal of Magnetism & Magnetic Materials	Localization effects and anomalous hall conductivity in a disordered 3D ferromagnet

### Recent Publications from CNS, cont.

Author	Department	Journal	Title	
Christopher Crawford	Geography & Geospatial Sciences	Inland Waters	The not-so-dead of winter: underwater light climate and primary productivity under snow and ice cover in inland lakes	
Parashu Kharel	Physics	Physica Scripta	Experimental and theoretical investigation of FeCrVAl and related compounds	
Dapeng Li	Geography & Geospatial Sciences	Journal of Environmental Sciences (China)	Significant coal combustion contribution to water- soluble brown carbon during winter in Xingtai, China: Optical properties and sources	
Fathi Halaweish & Trevor Ostlund	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Drug Development Research	Novel EGFR-MAPK kinase and ABC transporter inhibitors for HepG2 resistant to Erlotinib	
Nizam Uddin	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Journal of Molecular Structure	Discovering biological efficacy of new thiadiazole as effective inhibitors of urease, glycation, and (DPPH) scavengers: Biochemical and in silico study	
Gergely Imre	Biology & Microbiology	Cells	The E3 Ligase TRIM25 Impairs Apoptotic Cell Death in Colon Carcinoma Cells via Destabilization of Caspase-7 mRNA: A Possible Role of hnRNPH1	
Wanlong Li	Biology & Microbiology	Plant Biotechnology	CRISPR-induced miRNA156-recognition element mutations in TaSPL13 improve multiple agronomic traits in wheat	
Xiuqing Wang	Biology & Microbiology	BMC Pulmonary Medicine	Association between psoriasis and lung cancer: twi-sample Mendelian randomization analyses	



#### Class Field Trip

Dr. Natalie Thiex took her
Introduction to Biotechnology
class, BIOL 235, to Prairie
AquaTech's facility for a tour in
November 2022. Prairie AquaTech
(also known as Houdek) is a local
company which was formed out of
research happening at SDState.
They were founded in 2012 and
have grown substantially since
then! They use a natural,
biological process to convert
soybean meal to a high-quality
ingredient for animal feed and sell
to customers all around the world.

### CNS Holiday Snaps



Left: a group toured the new Dakota Bioproducts Institute at Research Park during the CNS holiday party. Right: fun activities at an NSTA club meeting.









Suggested donation items:

Candy
Chocolate Chips
Brownie Mix & Cake Mix
Popcorn
Lotion

Soap Loofahs Shampoo & Conditioner ToothPaste &ToothBrushes Feminine Hygiene Products

#### Reminder!

The College of Natural Sciences is adopting Jack's Cupboard, the oncampus food pantry for students. CNS faculty and staff can bring donations to these locations:

- Dairy Science 228
- Northern Plains Biostress 252
- Avera 246
- Wecota 109
- Daktronics Engineering 255

**DEADLINE**: 3pm on February 13th



### Fall 2022 Dean's List

Cole Adam Joseph Anders Mara Andersen **Kuol Arop Ann Babits** Gavin Baker Joshua Balster Joshua Bartscher Chiara Bassi Jaidyn Bauman **Tacey Baustian** Trista Baustian **Brady Beck** Biftu Benti Hayden Bentz Ashlyn Beyer Claire Beyers Jenna Blogg Austin Bonn Blake Borwege **Bodhi Brady** Caitlin Bright Cole Brown Cayden Budd Zachary Budden Rachel Burke Jenna Bush Cassidy Carda Kenzie Carlson **Kyerra Carter** Jaritza Cazares Cruz Reese Cerney Andrew Chesak Haley Christensen Kayla Christopherson Alex Clemons

Nicholas Coad

Ellie Colbeck

Madison Cocker

Hannah Cooper Makayla Courtney **Deirdre Cross** Mason Crow Kallie Crowl **Courtney Currier** Jackson Dana Robyn Dayton **Evan DeBates** Joseph Dembouski **Charles Dendinger** Erin Denevan Kaylee Derickson Mackenzie Deschler Halle Determan Aftyn DeWit **Lindsey Dockendorf Nathan Doering** Jeremiah Donahoe Aidan Donelan Maggie Donner Avery Dooley Marissa Driesen Kyliee Dunn Nathanial Dvorak Thomas Ebrahem Mitchal Eichacker Hunter Eide Jenna Eischens Gabrielle Engbarth Sarah Erickson Mary Fanta Alexis Fickbohm Jennifer Findlay Harley Fischer Julie Fischer

Mary Fites

Derek Follett

Aubrie Franken

**Emily Gadker** Lily Geffre Megan Gerhart Elizabeth Gillingham Joseph Glasrud Vanessa Granstrom Libby Gregg Nicole Greyer Connor Groen Savannah Gruber Dru Gylten Paige Haakenson Claira Hall Thailan Hallman Zachary Handberg Madison Hansen Tyffani Hanson Hailey Hanson **Torry Harding** Caleb Harthoorn Emily Hedge Jackson Hegg Taryn Heibult Trey Heiderscheidt Olivia Heim Riley Hellmann Mato Henderson Mackenzie Henning Kelli Henricks Madison Higbee Zoe Hillmer Nicole Hintz Kyra Hintz Georgia Hirschey Halle Hoekstra **Kevin Holmes** Alicen Honner Rylee Honomichl

Elise Hotzler

William Hummel Morgan Huntington Madeline Jacobson Natalie Jacobson Natalie Janssen Emma Jensen Lauren Johnson **Emily Johnson** Bryce Johnson Noah Johnson Caden Johnson Emma Jorgensen Hannah Jussel Alex Kandolin Colby Karline Bidhi Kasu Devyn Keller Lauren Keller Shawn Kessler Reem Khalaf Mohammed Elizabeth Klabunde Connor Klinkhammer Miriam Knoble Luke Knutson Elizabeth Kooiker **Carter Koons** Isaac Kovash **Brady Kruse** Hallie Kueter Thomas LaFave Nathaniel Lanthier Shannon Lasey Avery Lewison Madalyn Limesand Emma Lusk Alexandra Madsen

### Fall 2022 Dean's List, cont.

Daniel Magee Kenadie Martinsen Jessica Masgai Madison Mathiowetz Anders Mattecheck Nicole Matter Alissa Maurer Carson Max Levi McKinley Erinn McSherry Jaclyn Meier Ashton Merrill Jacob Merxbauer Max Miller Caitlyn Miller Samantha Miller Jorja Muller Parker Murphy Megan Nelson Whitly Netland **Emily Nikolaus Kadin Norris** Katelynn Noteboom Samantha Oehlke Shelby Olson Drew Olson Tyler O'Neill Erin O'Reilly Emma Osmundson Samara Overvaag Jacob Paulson Josie Pearson Tessa Pederson Ryan Peldo Katherine Percival Gavin Perrell Jadyn Perry Allison Peters

John Petersen

Nora Peterson Olivia Pfeifle Andrew Pick Gabrielle Pietila Hannah Poleiewski Jolie Pond Kristen Poppen Jordyn Post Madison Preston Ryan Prohofsky Cole Prunty Cael Pudenz Jack Rabern Vaughn Raimo **Matthew Rattenborg** Anna Rauber-Ramos Cale Reeder Alyvia Reese Coby Reetz Jessica Reinhardt Justin Reinschmidt Claire Reith Miles Retzer Jacob Reynolds Dylan Richey Jonathan Ricke Gracee Ringling Amanda Roesler Kennedy Roland Kylie Rosenau Kaitlyn Roskens Abigail Rost Alexis Roth Ashur Rouleau

Kristin Rud

Tiana Rupp

Joslyn Russell

Faith Saewert

Hannah Salas

Darratu Salesa Addisyn Sargent **Alexis Saunders** Matthew Schell Alex Schemek Kiara Schilling Makenna Schlumbaum Jayme Schmidt Codi Schmidt Sidney Schroeder Kristen Schulte Megan Schulte Sydney Schultz Malia Schumacher Wyatt Seagren Katelyn Severson Hattie Shaffer Isabella Shepherd Cora Shull Megan Sitts Jessica Skare Lason Smith Landon Smith Tanner Smith Paige Snell Owen Snethen Alexander Sohl Jacob Spreng Alec Steever Isaac Suchor Lauren Tereshinski Amelia Thoennes **Aaron Thomas** Kylee Thorpe Riley Thorpe Mara Tiede

Logan Tlam

Natalie Toben Luke Tunge Nathan Tuttle McKenna Tvedt Olivia Ulmer Sarah Urevig Chloe Van Heuveln Wendy van Nes Jared Volesky Emma Von Hagel Mackenzie Voss Madelyn Walsh Kirsten Walz Neka Watson Harrison Wegner Mason Weidenbach Jacson Welte Kaden Westergaard Marissa Whitehead Matthew Wieberdink Ella Williams Rylan Willis Rachel Wilner William Wilson Jared Wipf Cole Withrow Vanessa Wittenberg Codie Wolfe Breeanna Wolkerstorfer Paige Wood Carlie Woodall **Tucker Wookey** Makira Wrage Jax Wysong Shimin Yunker