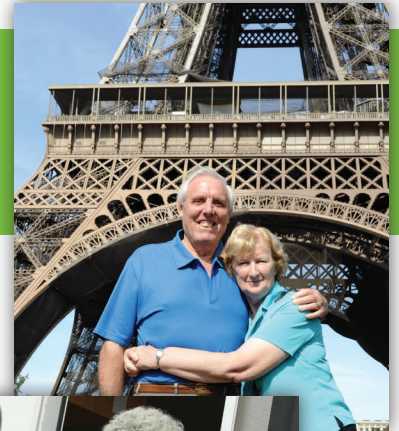


# Join the Network!

## Reconnect With Classmates

Joining the Alumni Network provides you with the opportunity to stay in touch with cherished classmates and keep up with what's going on in Grand Forks and Grand Forks Public Schools.



**EVERYBODY LOVES GABE!**  
by: Kathleen "Tootsie" Gasparini, GFC '66

When Kim Slotsve, former principal at Red River High, announced that she asked Tom Gabrielsen to be the new Commons Supervisor, the staff and faculty were ecstatic.

"Are you kidding me?" (or something like that) was Gabe's response initially about accepting the new position. He reflected that he liked the comment, but then conceded that he did get bored. He reconsidered, and accepted the job.

Kim Slotsve on Gabe:  
"To say that we hit the jackpot when we hired Tom Gabrielsen, would be an understatement. I knew Gabe as the grandfather of the Hoopin' kids, and a great supporter of all Red River activities. He was a retired teacher, coach, and counselor with exceptional 'people' skills. Gabe was the exact fit for this redefined position. He had the ability to develop relationships with teenagers and ultimately help create a sense of belonging for all students at Red River High School. Gabe is one of the most positive people I have ever met."

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**Dr. Kris Aragon, Principal Red River High on Gabe:**  
"Either at lunch or between classes, I would see Gabe walking the hallway, and all the kids are passing by and giving him knuckles. We meet, and Gabe responds that his wrists and hands get so sore. No sooner than he says that, another student walks and gives him knuckles." I told him, "I wonder why they are sore?" Seriously, Gabe always has lots of great stories, in fact, he is a historian of Red River High, the faculty and staff love him. The students love and adore him. We really appreciate having him here every day with us."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average worker will have about ten different jobs before they are forty years old. Tom "Gabe" Gabrielsen takes this one step further. He has worked

for Grand Forks Public Schools for forty-nine years and has held about ten different positions. Principal of Grand Forks Public Schools at McVilly, ND, and Carleton, ND. He was an assistant basketball coach, head golf coach, and history teacher. He also was a teacher for the Core Program, a program to help students who were having difficulty with school. He went to the University of North Dakota for his Master's in counseling in 1974 and was a counselor until he retired from GFCPS in 1997. However, Gabe has continued to work mostly as a counselor whenever and wherever they needed him. The list includes Training, Wilder, Eileson, Grand Forks Central, Kelly, and now Red River, again.

**Gabe on warm fuzzies:**  
"When I was a counselor at Kelly Elementary, they were using a curriculum called 'Project Charlie.' One of the projects was to make little yarn balls that symbolized saying nice things to others. Like a warm fuzzy and not being mean like to others like a prickly ball. When I got to Red River, some of the Kelly kids were getting ready to graduate, and they came into my office and asked me if they could make a warm fuzzy for each graduate to wear for the ceremony. Two different classes did that! They pinned a warm fuzzy on their graduation gowns, wasn't that great?"

**Born of Norwegian immigrants,** Gabe's dad was a Lutheran minister. He fondly remembers hanging with his brothers and that they did have a few extra rules. He smiled as he said, "I would hear that we couldn't go or do some things because I was the preacher's kid." He credits his mother for teaching him the small wood box on the kitchen table that contained small slips of paper with a Bible verse on each. They would read one each morning to start their day. They did face sadness when he was young, he and his three brothers got whooping cough, and his brother Burton, "didn't make it." His father was serving a small parish in Woodworth, ND, where Burton is buried.

**Gabe on Burton:**  
"A few years ago, I was coming home from a meeting in Bismarck and thought I would stop at his grave site. He went to the caretaker's home and identified himself. The elderly gentleman said, 'you look like you look like Burton.'"

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# Receive the Newsletter

## Receive 4 Issues of the Red Cent Newsletter!

Don't miss out on feature stories about graduates and how they've grown into successful professionals. Hear from our guest writers who share their memories of growing up in Grand Forks. Keep up with classmates as they submit their alumni updates.

Catch up on Alumni News | Search for classmates | Stay up to date on reunion info

Most importantly, when you add an extra donation, you help the Foundation on our mission to support our students and schools with enriched opportunities, grants, and scholarships.

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