



CLASS OF

1957

JIM SIMLE

Jim Simle graduated from Bismarck High School in 1957. Jim served as student council president and excelled in football, basketball and baseball. He married his college sweetheart, Mary Alice Pehrson, and they have two daughters, Stacey and Kelly.

Jim began his teaching and coaching career in Williston. He moved to Fargo in 1965 and taught physical education and coached the Fargo South High School gymnastics team to seven state titles. In 1979, he began his full-time career coaching and mentoring thousands of young gymnasts in the Fargo-Moorhead Acro Team.

The F-M Acro Team has performed at countless NBA, college and high school basketball games. The Acro Team was the featured halftime entertainment at nine NBA All-Star games and made six appearances at New York's Madison Square Garden. They entertained crowds at the University of Minnesota for 34 consecutive years as well as many Minnesota Viking's football games. The team also performed at 44 North Dakota state basketball tournaments. Jim retired from the Acro Team in 2010, following the team's 543rd performance.

In 1981, Governor Allen Olson proclaimed the Fargo-Moorhead Acro Team North Dakota's Official Goodwill Ambassadors, a title re-proclaimed by Governors Sinner, Schafer and Hoeven.

Jim is proud of his accomplishments as a coach, but says that he is equally proud of his 33 years as a classroom teacher. "I am grateful for having had the opportunity to spend a lifetime working with young people. I hope and pray that I have had as positive an influence on their lives as they have had on mine."

