



CLASS OF

1978

LAUREN W. RITTERBUSH

At an early age, Lauren W. Ritterbush developed a fascination with the Native peoples of the Northern Plains. Upon graduating from Bismarck High School as valedictorian, she pursued her goal to learn more about the ancestors of Native Americans and become an archaeologist. She began her studies in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of North Dakota (B.A., Summa cum Laude 1981, Phi Beta Kappa), following which she was awarded a four-year fellowship for graduate training at the University of Kansas (M.A. 1984, Ph.D. 1990).

Lauren's earliest archaeological work facilitated research at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. She also participated in excavations at On-A-Slant Village. In following years, she expanded her understanding of our human past throughout the Plains, as well as in the American Southwest and Europe. As Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, Lauren has produced numerous professional publications and dedicated herself to education at all levels. She has designed museum exhibits, promoted K-12 education, and frequently presented at public venues. Throughout her career she has introduced thousands of students to the field of archaeology, helping them to understand how insights gained from past societies are informative today. The quality of her instruction has been recognized twice through K-State's William L. Stamey Teaching Award, along with other instructional and mentoring nominations.

Although proud to be a fifth-generation North Dakotan, Lauren has made her home in Kansas along with her husband, Brad Logan, also a Plains archaeologist. They have one son, Elias Robert Logan, who has inherited architectural and artistic talents of his Bismarck grandparents, Robert H. and Julia E. Ritterbush.

