BUSINESS CENTRAL Issue: January/February 2012 Section: Business Calendar Word Count: Art/Photos: Photo Credit: Captions:

Marco Hires New Employees

Oct. 3- "Marco has recently hired the following employees at its St. Cloud office: Corey Leinen, Voice Technician; Amanda Jaeger, AR Representative; and Tanner Ripka, Internal Technical Specialist."

Nurse Practitioner Joins HealthPartners Central Minnesota Clinics

"ST. CLOUD, MN – October 6, 2011– HealthPartners Central Minnesota Clinics is pleased to announce that Nicole Marti, Certified Nurse Practitioner, has joined the staff of HealthPartners Central Minnesota Clinics. Nicole received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Minnesota State University in Moorhead, MN. She also has a Family Nurse Practitioner Certification from Minnesota State University in Mankato, MN. She worked most recently as a Registered Nurse at the Saint Cloud Hospital in Nephrology, where she provided care for non-pediatric patients with renal failure. Nicole will be working at our main clinic in Sartell as well as the HealthStation clinic at the main clinic and the Coborn's Superstore in Sauk Rapids."

Jennifer Novak Joins Committee

"Jennifer Novak, practice administrator at PineCone Vision Center in Sartell is now on the American Optometic Associaton's Para Optometric Awards and Recognition Committee."

Doherty Staffing Solutions Earns WRC Certification

"Edina-based staffing firm becomes first in Minnesota to be awarded certification focused on risk management

Minneapolis, MN – Doherty Staffing Solutions announced today that it has now been awarded Workers' Compensation Risk Certification (WRC).

The WRC Certification initiative is provided as a service of the American Staffing Association (ASA), staffing industry risk management consulting firm RCS, and the volunteer efforts of the WRC Advisory Council.

WRC recognizes staffing companies that practice best-in-class risk management to reduce workplace injuries and related costs. WRC-certified companies maintain that a focus on safety and risk management protects their employees while offering a higher level of service to clients.

"We are always striving for continuous improvement at Doherty, and realized that RCS is both highly visible and recognized in the industry as having the best practices when it comes to risk management," said Al Brown, president of Doherty Staffing Solutions. "With what RCS has brought to us, we are now more poised than ever to advise our clients and prospects on worker safety."

Doherty is the only staffing company in the state of Minnesota to hold WRC certification.

To be awarded certification, companies undergo a thorough review of their operational practices as they pertain to hiring and screening, substance abuse, talent matching, employee orientation, client safety evaluations and partnerships, incident investigations and corrective measures, and return-to-work programs. The results are compared against a system of best practices developed by an advisory council of insurance carriers, insurance brokers, and staffing industry risk managers."

PineCone Vision Center doctors among first to attain certification

Sartell, Minn. –Dr. Nicolas Colatrella and Dr. Stacy Hinkemeyer of PineCone Vision Center are among the first 453 doctors of optometry to attain American Board of Optometry Certification. American Board of Optometry Certification is a voluntary process that establishes standards demonstrating that the doctor has exceeded basic requirements and maintains the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience needed to deliver quality patient care.

"Our intention is to exemplify exceptional care for our patients," states Dr. Nicholas Colatrella, "by making a rigorous commitment to lifelong learning." PineCone Vision Center is a state-of-the-art comprehensive eye care provider with a team of vision-care specialists and a professional staff providing the best eye care solutions available.

The American Board of Optometry was founded in 2009 by the American Academy of Optometry, American Optometric Association, American Optometric Student Association and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

Federated Challenge Gives \$300,000 to BBBS of Central MN

The Federated Insurance Foundation recently presented a check for \$300,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota based in St. Cloud. The donation comes from funds that were raised this past summer at the Federated Challenge for Kids of Minnesota. The two-day event, hosted by Federated and Wells Fargo Bank, was held in the Twin Cities area. Co-chaired by Federated Insurance Chairman Al Annexstad and his wife Cathy, the Federated Challenge has raised several million dollars in recent years to support the work of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Minnesota. Since 2005, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota has received \$1.6 million from the Federated Challenge, which represents the largest single source of funding in the organization's history.

"We extend our deepest appreciation to Al and Cathy Annexstad for leading the Federated Challenge to be a major difference in the lives of the 800+ youth we serve annually," noted Jackie Scholl Johnson, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota. "While many people agree that our children need our help, the Annexstads and Federated are doing something very meaningful about it. Because of their generosity, Big Brothers Big Sisters is able to match more youth who are facing adversity with a caring and guiding mentor. The bar that Federated has set is one to be emulated by others."

Three agencies of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization currently serve Minnesota: the Twin Cities, Central Minnesota, and Southern Minnesota in Owatonna. Together these agencies serve over 5,000 children in the state, with several hundred more on waiting lists to be matched with adult mentors.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota was established in 1969 and helps youth to realize their potential by providing positive growth experiences through one-to-one mentoring relationships. To learn how you can become involved in the life of a child, as a mentor, volunteer, or donor, please call (320) 253-1616 or visit www.bbbscentralmn.org.

Kellen named Minnesota Transit Professional of the Year

ST. CLOUD — Metro Bus Director of Operations and Technology Tony Kellen was named Minnesota Transit Professional of the Year at the Minnesota Public Transit Association annual conference on Wednesday, October 12, in St. Paul, Minnesota. This award is presented to individuals who have designed and implemented a specific program demonstrating innovative concepts or effective problem-solving techniques of proven value. The recipient of this award will be employed by a transit system that is a member in good standing of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

"Tony Kellen's heart has been in our world of public transit for over 25 years," said Metro Bus Executive Director David W. Tripp as he presented Kellen the award. "The citizens of not only the St. Cloud metropolitan area, but also statewide are better off today because of that and his thirst for bringing efficient and effective change to their public transportation mobility needs."

Photo Caption: Tony Kellen has worked as the director of operations and technology at Metro Bus since 1986 and has served as the President of the Minnesota Public Transit Association since 2005. Kellen (right) is pictured with Metro Bus Executive Director David W. Tripp.

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library Awarded National Medal of Honor October 25, 2011

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. –The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) at Saint John's University has been awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums and is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

HMML is one of five libraries and five museums chosen to receive this annual award. Medal winners are selected from nationwide nominations for institutions that demonstrate inno-vative approaches to public service, outstanding community outreach, and advancement of global cultural understanding. U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) nominated HMML for the award. As one of the world's leading cultural preservation organizations, HMML's mission is to identify, digitally photograph, catalog, and archive the contents of endangered manuscripts belonging to threatened communities, and then to make these unique cultural resources available to users around the world.

"The work of HMML is inspiring, vitally important, and deserves recognition for excellence. The National Medal is an honor that places HMML among America's preeminent libraries and highlights its commitment to preserve the world's most endangered manuscripts. HMML's executive director, Father Columba Stewart, OSB, and the entire HMML team deserve congratulations for earning this award. They have my deep appreciation for their tireless efforts to ensure mankind has access to these sacred texts for generations to come," said Representative McCollum. The congresswoman represents Minnesota's 4th district, which includes Minneapolis and St. Paul as well as Ramsey County, northern Dakota County and western Washington County.

"We are deeply gratified to receive this honor," says Father Columba, "As a 'library of libraries' HMML has formed partnerships with over 480 libraries and archives, and has photographed more than 120,000 manuscripts in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and India. These handwritten books and archival materials are the primary resource for understanding the evolution of humankind's diverse cultures. They represent a distinct record of the history, language, art, literature, and religious faiths of many communities. We partner with scholars, librarians, teachers, religious leaders and government officials around the world to ensure that written documents from endangered cultures will be digitally preserved, shared with scholars, and studied to reveal their significance for everyone's better understanding of the world in which we live."

HMML applies best-practice standards to digital imaging, electronic cataloging, and archiving of digital data and is recognized as a world leader in digital imaging and electronic cataloguing. HMML partners with national and international organizations such as the Library of Congress, the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes (IRHT) in Paris, the Arcadia Fund of London, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

"Congratulations to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library on receiving the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The work you have done is an inspiration to libraries and museums throughout the nation," said Susan Hildreth, IMLS Director. "With innovation, creativity and a great deal of heart you have achieved an outstanding level of public service."

The other institutions that will received the IMLS medal this year are:

Weippe Public Library & Discovery Center, Weippe, ID

San José Public Library, San José, CA

Alachua County Library District, Gainesville, FL

Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH

Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

EdVenture Children's Museum, Columbia, SC

Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA

Madison Children's Museum, Madison, WI

The 2011 award winning libraries and museums will be honored at a Washington, D.C. ceremony. Each library and museum also receives an honorarium of \$10,000.

KDV to Expand Expertise and Client Base (no photo)

Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 27, 2011: Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd. (KDV) and David B. Campbell, Ltd. (DBC) announce the signing of a letter of intent for DBC to join KDV. The merger broadens KDV's portfolio of expertise, services and clients as it strengthens its presence in the Twin Cities. Based in Maple Grove, DBC specializes in accounting and consulting services in the automotive, construction, professional service and real estate industries. The merger is expected to be completed by October 31, 2011. "We are excited about the DBC group joining our team because of their culture and commitment to quality," said Loren Viere, Managing Partner of KDV. "They are an excellent complement to KDV in terms of their values and dedication to client service. We believe together we will be able to enhance our ability to serve our clients and provide greater opportunities for our staff. We welcome them to our KDV team and our client base, who have helped us grow to be one of the largest accounting and consulting firms in the State of Minnesota."

"We are excited to join forces with KDV and to enhance the experience our clients receive through the many services that KDV can offer," said David Campbell of DBC. "KDV is a well-respected firm and I am confident our clients and staff will benefit from the additional resources that will be available to them. We are eager to practice as part of KDV and to continue to make a difference for our staff and clients."

About KDV

Founded in 1945, KDV has built on its heritage of sound, strategic advice over the years. Today, we offer a full range of business and financial services to help clients increase efficiency and financial performance. Our areas of expertise include Certified Public Accounting, Income Tax, Advisory, Wealth Management, Payroll, Technology, Business Valuation and Consulting Services.

GNP Company[™] *Wins Meatingplace's 2011 Jesse Jewell Award (no photo)* Honored for Innovation and Positive Impact in the Poultry Industry St. Cloud, Minn. (October 31, 2011) – Growing to the point that it changed its name from Gold'n Plump Poultry to GNP Company was just one of the reasons cited for GNP Company, the Midwest's largest chicken producer, to win the prestigious Jesse Jewell Award. Named after the legendary poultry industry pioneer, Jesse Jewell, the award was given by major industry publication, Meatingplace, now in its 10th year of recognizing industry innovators.

Meatingplace's managing editor, Tom Johnston, described GNP Company's key areas of innovation and positive impact in the poultry industry when he said, "We felt that GNP rose to the top due to its performance in a tough year with new product introductions; its award-winning plant operations; the innovation of a carbon footprint label that shows a dedication to sustainability; and the rare expansion of jobs."

Each year, the Jesse Jewell Award is given to "a poultry processor whose products, processes or overall approach to marketing or management have improved not only its own bottom line, but raised the standard of excellence for the entire poultry industry, just as Jesse Jewell did." Past winners of the Jesse Jewell Award include: College Hill Poultry, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Murray's Chickens, Wayne Farms, LLC, Coleman Natural Foods, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., Sanderson Farms, Inc., Perdue Farms, Inc. and O.K. Foods.

"We feel honored to have received this award, but it's really our team members and growers who deserve the credit. They're always committed to doing better—our people are our greatest assets," said Mike Helgeson, third-generation and CEO of GNP Company. "It's also been a tough year for the industry because of record-high feed costs, so we feel fortunate to have made progress and continually improved in some very key areas," he added.

Mike Helgeson and his father, Don Helgeson (second-generation and chairman of the board) accepted the award on behalf of GNP Company at the 2011 Annual National Chicken Council Meeting in October. According to Mike Helgeson, it was fitting for his father to attend because both Don and his brother, Jerry, made the decision in the 1950's to move the business from hatching to include all aspects of a chicken operation, including milling its own feed, partnering with area family farm partners to raise broiler chickens and processing its own chickens for market. This business model of "vertical integration," was the same model the award's namesake, Jesse Jewell, has been credited with pioneering.

A full copy of the Meatingplace article can be found on GNP Company's website at gnpcompany.com.

About GNP CompanyTM

The Gold'n Plump brand is distributed by GNP Company (formerly known as Gold'n Plump Poultry), based in St. Cloud, Minn. since 1926. GNP Company was founded in 1926 by E.M. Helgeson and is still owned and managed by the same family, today. GNP

Company is provider of premium chicken products to retail, deli and foodservice customers throughout the Midwest and in other parts of the country under both the Gold'n Plump® and Just BARE® brands. The company employs about 1,600 people and partners with nearly 350 family farmers in Minnesota and Wisconsin to produce wholesome, high-quality chicken. For more information on its full line of poultry products, as well as innovative recipes, general cooking and safe handling tips and nutrition information, visit goldnplump.com and justbarechicken.com. Company information, including its annual Farm to Fork Report, can be found at gnpcompany.com.

Jared Brewington appointed to Board of Directors

"Jared A. Brewington, Manager of Commercial Business Development of Chamber member Green Energy Products, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of Compatible Technology International. Compatible Technology International is a 30 year old international nonprofit organization (based in St. Paul) that alleviates hunger and poverty in the developing world by designing and distributing simple, life-changing food and water technologies. CTI's promotes food security by building and deploying devices that address the post harvest side of the food chain. Many organizations focus their efforts on seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation for cultivating crops, but few consider farmers' post harvest needs. CTI's devices help farmers process, store, and sell their crops improving nutrition and providing economic opportunities for the rural poor. Mr. Brewington joins a group of industry and education executive leadership (3M, Cargill, DeCare, U of M, St. Thomas, William Mitchell, Dorsey & Whitney) to steer CTI's next 30 years of innovation and outreach.

http://www.compatibletechnology.org & http://www.greenenergyproductsllc.com"

Clifton Gunderson, LarsonAllen Announce Plans to Merge

CliftonLarsonAllen Will Rank Among Top 10

MILWAUKEE and MINNEAPOLIS (Nov. 1, 2011) — Clifton Gunderson and LarsonAllen, ranked as two of the nation's top 20 certified public accounting and consulting firms, today announced plans to merge and form one of the top 10 accounting firms in the United States. The partners of both firms have agreed to the combination. Pending final approvals, the merger will take effect Jan. 2, 2012. The new firm will be named CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA).

CLA will bring together two firms of significant magnitude to offer unprecedented emphasis on serving privately held businesses and their owners, as well as entities in the public sector — not-for-profits and governmentals. Access to a firm with a top 10 presence and capabilities committed to serving primarily these types of clients is rare. The new firm will have more than \$550 million in combined revenue, employ more than 3,600 professionals, including 500-plus partners, and will operate from 25 states and Washington, D.C.

CLA will have a dominant presence in the accounting profession with its highly specialized capabilities in the health care, financial institutions, governmentals, not-for-profits, manufacturing/distribution, construction, real estate, agribusiness, dealerships,

employee benefit plans and other industries, in addition to its strong technical foundation in audit, accounting and advisory services.

"This merger of peer firms changes the landscape of the accounting profession and pioneers a new trend by focusing primarily on private companies and their owners," said Clifton Gunderson CEO Kris McMasters. "We will be the firm of choice, the champions and leading resource center for privately held companies, proactively addressing their needs with our comprehensive suite of services. The firm will be positioned as the go-to source of information, knowledge and unique offerings for owners and leaders looking for assistance in achieving their personal and business dreams and objectives."

Gordy Viere, CEO of LarsonAllen, said industry specialization has been at the core of both firms' practices. "Coming together heightens our capacity to develop that vital focus and extend it beyond our accounting and advisory services to our wealth management and outsourcing capabilities," he said. "This cohesive trio of industry-focused guidance is uncommon for private businesses and public sector organizations. It's a powerful new resource for them."

CLA will have a national wealth management practice positioned as one of the top three in the accounting profession, with nearly \$3 billion in assets under management. The combined firm will boast a \$50 million industry-specialized outsourcing practice to help clients meet their financial, tax regulatory compliance and reporting responsibilities. In addition, CLA will have the capacity to help clients with international dealings successfully do business in a global environment.

Organizational structure

Organizationally, the new firm will be built around a holding company and three entities: CLA LLP, CLA Wealth Advisory and CLA Outsourcing — all integrated in their capabilities and delivery of services. Both Viere and McMasters are proven leaders and peers in the accounting profession, having been recognized for their strong leadership. They will continue as CEOs within the integrated CLA firm. Viere will oversee the CLA holding company, the wealth advisory practice and the outsourcing practice, and McMasters will oversee CLA LLP, the public accounting practice.

Helping people build careers

This union brings together two firms that have a culture of maximizing and growing the strengths of their people through progressive and innovative career development strategies and programs. Both firms have received significant recognition for their workplace practices. The two leaders share a passion for ensuring their professionals have the tools and experiences to build great careers customized to their individual long-term goals. CLA will offer employees flexibility, career choice, learning programs and experiences designed to attract people who want to develop themselves into well-rounded business and financial professionals, while pursuing their chosen specialty.

About Clifton Gunderson

Clifton Gunderson, ranked as one of the nation's largest certified public accounting and consulting firms and the largest U.S. member firm of HLB International, provides a wide range of assurance, tax and consulting services to clients in a variety of industries. Founded in 1960, Clifton Gunderson has a staff of more than 1,800 professionals serving clients from 47 offices across the country. Clifton Gunderson, and the separate and independent member firms of HLB International, provides personal and high-quality service to clients in over 100 countries through the HLB International "Global Care" approach. For more information about Clifton Gunderson, visit www.cliftoncpa.com.

About LarsonAllen

LarsonAllen LLP (LarsonAllen) is a highly industry specialized firm that ranks as one of the U.S.'s top 20 accounting/professional services firms that provides audit, accounting, tax, consulting, and advisory services. Founded in 1953, LarsonAllen has approximately 1,800 people operating from 40 offices located in Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin. LarsonAllen is an independent member of Nexia International, a top 10 worldwide organization providing services to clients globally. For more information about LarsonAllen, visit www.larsonallen.com.

DEED Awards Funding to Train Workers at CentraCare Health System

ST. PAUL (Nov. 7, 2011) -The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has awarded a \$178,406 grant under its Minnesota Job Skills Partnership to train 279 workers at CentraCare Health System - Long Prairie.

CentraCare Health System operates a hospital, clinic and long-term care facility which serve the residents of Todd County and the surrounding area.

Nurses, emergency medical technicians, medical technicians and medical transcriptionists will learn techniques to improve the quality and safety of patient care using a national program developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and offered by Central Lakes College.

"The training will assist in improving the ability of CentraCare Health System to provide continuing excellent care for its patients, while meeting additional growing demands for its services," said DEED Commissioner Mark Phillips. "In addition, Central Lakes College will expand its curriculum, enabling the college to teach more innovative techniques in patient care."

Sessions will include "Overview of Transforming Care at the Bedside," "Heart Failure Core Processes," and "Anticoagulation Management." CentraCare Health System employees will earn continuing education credits for courses completed successfully.

For more information on the grant, contact Rebecca Best, dean of economic, workforce and regional development at Central Lakes College, 218-855-8143 or rbest@clcmn.edu.

MJSP offers technical, financial and job training assistance to businesses, communities, educational institutions and workers. The board brings businesses with specific education needs together with educational institutions to design customized training programs.

DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development. For more details about the agency and our services, visit us at www.PositivelyMinnesota.com. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/PositivelyMN.

CSB and SJU maintain No. 1 ranking in mid-term study abroad participation

For the second consecutive year, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are ranked No. 1 nationally among baccalaureate institutions with students who participate in mid-length study abroad programs, according to Open Doors 2011, the annual report on international education published by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The report was released Monday, Nov. 14.

The two schools had 367 students study abroad in mid-length programs during the 2009-10 school year, according to the most recent data released by IIE. Mid-length duration study abroad programs are those lasting one semester, one quarter or two quarters (CSB and SJU operate under the semester system).

The 2011 report also found that CSB and SJU ranked No. 4 nationally among baccalaureate institutions for total number of study abroad students, with 573 students who studied abroad in 2009-10. CSB and SJU have been among the top six nationally in the number of students participating in international study abroad programs for the past seven years, according to the IIE.

"We are thrilled that CSB and SJU have maintained the No. 1 ranking within the Open Doors Report as it illustrates that despite economic challenges, education abroad remains an important part of the CSB and SJU educational experience," said Peggy Retka, director of the Office for Education Abroad. "Our faculty-led, semester-long program model encourages broad participation for a significant period of time. The impact of study abroad also benefits both campuses as the students and faculty return with new perspectives."

A total number of 270,604 U.S. students studied abroad during the academic year 2009-10, an increase of 4 percent from the previous year.

Open Doors 2011 also reported that CSB and SJU ranked No. 13 among baccalaureate institutions with 270 international students for the 2010-11 school year. CSB and SJU had the highest number of international students among Minnesota schools listed in the top 40 baccalaureate institutions.

"Our international students complement our study abroad programs bringing cultural diversity and a world view that elevates our liberal arts program to global awareness and perspective," said Roger Young, director of international admission at CSB and SJU.

"Two of the Benedictine values that we have always aspired to are inclusiveness and hospitality; we live them through our our study abroad programs, our commitment to attracting students from all over the world and our supportive faculty and staff."

The number of international students at United States colleges and universities increased by 5 percent to 723,277 during the 2010-11 academic year, according to the report. This represents a record high number of international students in the United States.

CSB and SJU offer 17 semester-long study abroad programs in 14 countries on six continents, including the program to Kolkata, India, which began last spring. Most of the programs are almost exclusively led by CSB and SJU faculty members, which is very unusual among baccalaureate institutions. In addition, CSB and SJU sponsor dozens of short-term and service learning overseas trips, as well as internship and volunteer opportunities.

For the complete report, see <u>www.iie.org/opendoors</u>.

Marco CFO Jennifer Mrozek Named as CFO of the Year

St. Cloud, MN – The Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal recently announced Jennifer Mrozek, CFO at Marco, Inc. as the CFO of the Year winner in the medium private company category.

Mrozek has been with Marco since 1998 and became CFO in 2003. Her tenure as CFO has been marked by helping the company grow its revenue from \$40 million to \$90 million and doubling its profits. Mrozek has also taken a lead role in negotiations and system integration for seven companies it acquired over the past two years.

Mrozek has served as a Board Member, Community Investment Team Chair and Audit Committee Member for the Central Minnesota United Way. She is a board member of the St. Cloud Area YMCA and the St. Cloud Junior Achievement Chapter. Mrozek also belongs to the Minnesota ESOP Association Program Committee and the local Forum of Executive Women.

Finalists and winners were recognized on November 17th at the luncheon and awards presentation at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.