

NDSCS 95-Year Electrical Celebration

NDSCS is excited to celebrate 95 years of the Electrical Technology program during 2018 Homecoming. Ivan Maas, Associate Professor and Chair of Building Systems and Electrical Technology, invites NDSCS Electrical alumni to an all-class reunion on September 28-29, 2018.

The demand for electricity and our dependency on it continues to grow. What used to be a basic farm site has now become high tech with Variable Frequency Drives on blowers and Programmable Logic Controllers monitoring bin temperatures and conveyer operation. Buildings, in general, have become more automated, tying the HVAC systems, lighting and security into the structures. Homeowners have also jumped on board, demanding control of their own home operations. Renewable energy sources continue to ebb into the marketplace in response to state and federal demands.



Electrical Students with Don Kruckenberg. November 22, 1985, The Dakota Scientist.

How It All Started

Ben H. Barnard, an electrical engineer, was hired to start the Electrical department in 1922. With the invaluable assistance of Karl Larson, Barnard put the two-year curriculum together. The first year was used to prepare the teaching facilities for the electrical trades. Classes began in the winter term and tuition was \$5.00. By February of 1925, 64 electrical students were enrolled. Because of the rapid growth, the Trades Building (located where the Harry Stern and Ella Stern Cultural Center is now) was not large enough.

The new Trades Building, (the west end of what is now Horton Hall), was completed in 1927.

During the war years, 1941-1945, electricians were trained by the U.S. Navy at NDSSS. At that time, campus was much like a military base, under the guard of the Navy with restricted entry and exit points. Verlin Lundgren was hired in 1954 to add motor and temperature controls to the curriculum. In 1962, the two-year electrical course became known as Electrical Technology. With the need for more space, the Electrical program moved to Barnard Hall in 1967.

By the mid-1970s, the department had 10 instructors and 140 first-year students, with some on a waiting list. Ken Kjar saw a rise in electricians hired for power plant jobs, manufacturing and testing of electrical devices. In the mid-1980s, programmable controllers and solid state controls were new electives taught to second-year students. Other specialties included advanced wiring and three-phase motor repair. Don Kruckenberg started a program that allowed students to complete the electrical courses in three years.

The Last 25 Years

In 1985, Ivan Maas began teaching theory and math in the Electrical Technology department. With lower enrollment numbers, he moved to the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning areas. Maas took on the leadership of the Electrical Technology along with the Refrigeration, Heating and Cooling and Plumbing program when Don Kruckenberg retired. When asked if much has changed in his 30+ years of teaching, Maas replied, “yes and no.” He commented, “Electrons continue to power equipment and we still teach three amps plus four amps equal five



Kruckenberg helped establish an Electrical Technology Museum in 1995 in a wing of Barnard Hall. It contains more than fifty items highlighting how things have changed over the years.

amps.” (Remember your trig.) Maas feels the success of the Electrical Technology program over the years lies in a good foundation of theory and math intertwined with basic technical and mechanical skills and a good dose of code study.

The Electrical Technology program enrollment has been cyclical over the past several decades. Record numbers occurred in the 1970s when 150+ first-year students were accepted, followed by the lows in the 1980s with 38 first-year students. Recent highs in the 2000s topped out at 110 first-year students and have settled at an average of about 60 incoming first-year students each year. Students continue to bring energy and vitality to the department and learn to balance academics with personal and social life. Many of the students are from North Dakota, complete their schooling and find jobs in state.

For a complete list of Electrical Technology instructors through the years visit **NDSCSAlumni.com/ElectricalInstructors**.

Electrical Technology Instructors



Ben Barnard
1923-1959 • 36 years



Karl Larson
1924-1947 • 23 years



Ed Karst
1924-1926 • 2 years



Charles Sturdevant
1925-1926 • 1 year



E.A. Magnuson
1927-1928 • 1 year



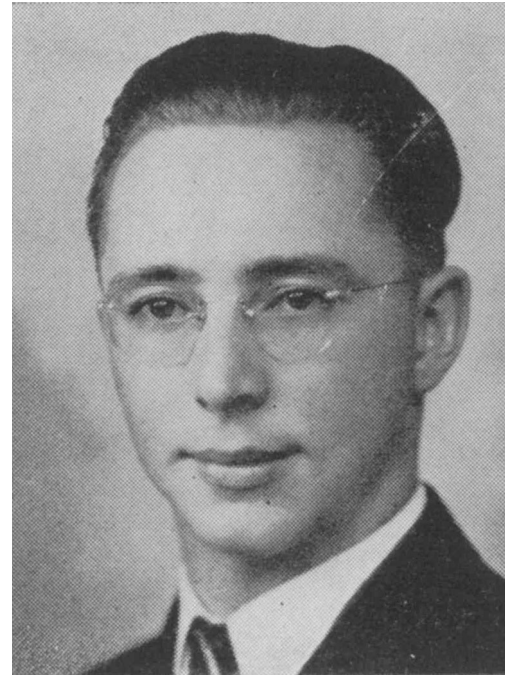
Thore Hawk
1928-1930 • 2 years



D. V. Edling
1930-1932 • 2 years



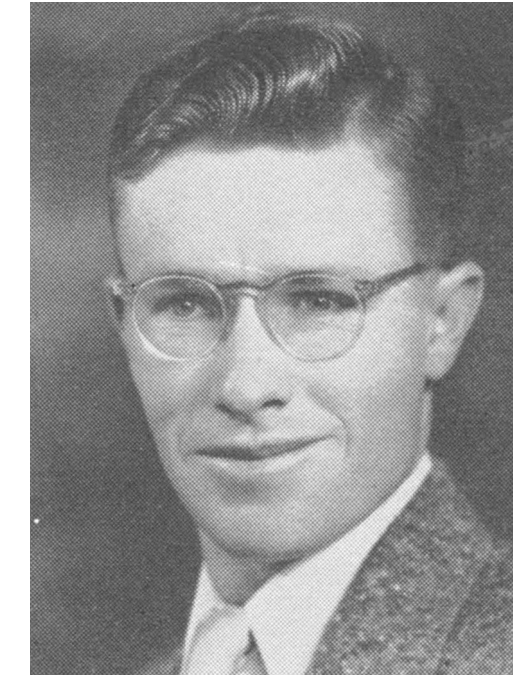
Ed Johnson
1938-1939 • 1 year



Leslie Baumer
1945-1946 • 1 year



Joe Vetter
1945-1946 • 1 year



Charles Brockmeyer
1946-1954 • 8 years



Clarence Hoefs
1946-1960 • 14 years



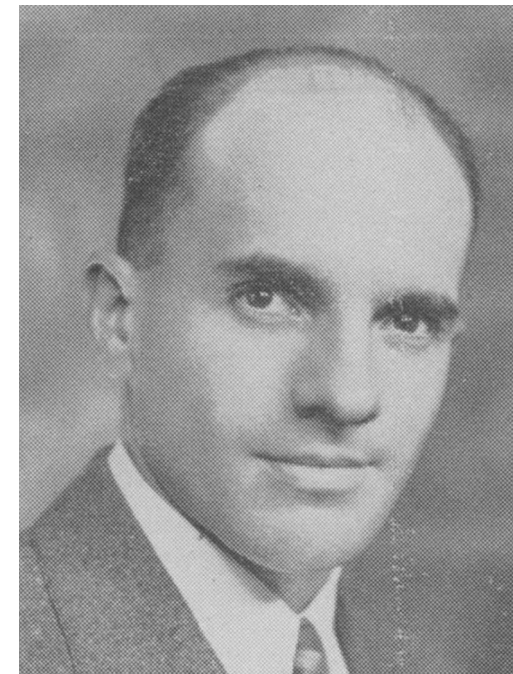
Merton Jacobson
1946-1968 • 22 years



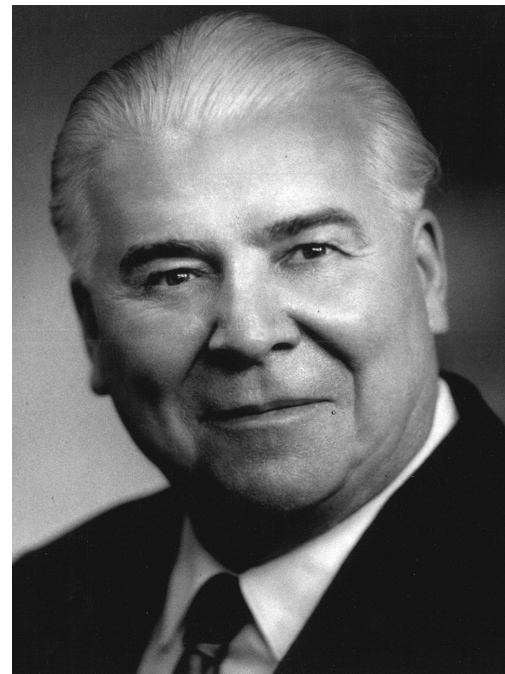
Donald Fauss
1946-1948 • 2 years



James Wright
1946-1950 • 4 years



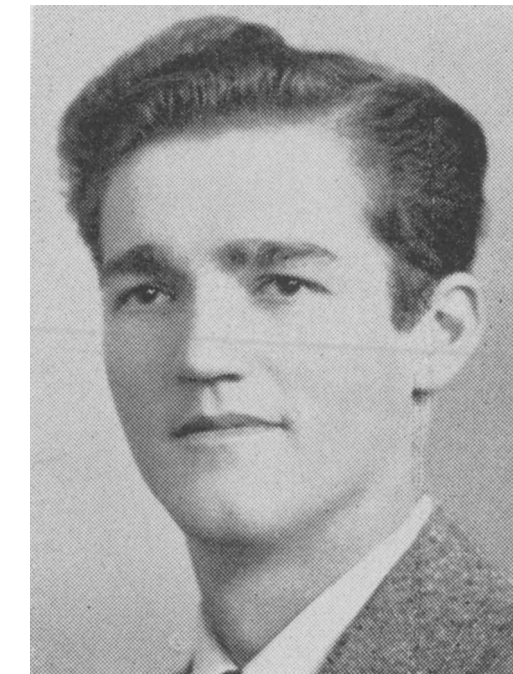
Walter Kurth
1948-1949 • 1 year



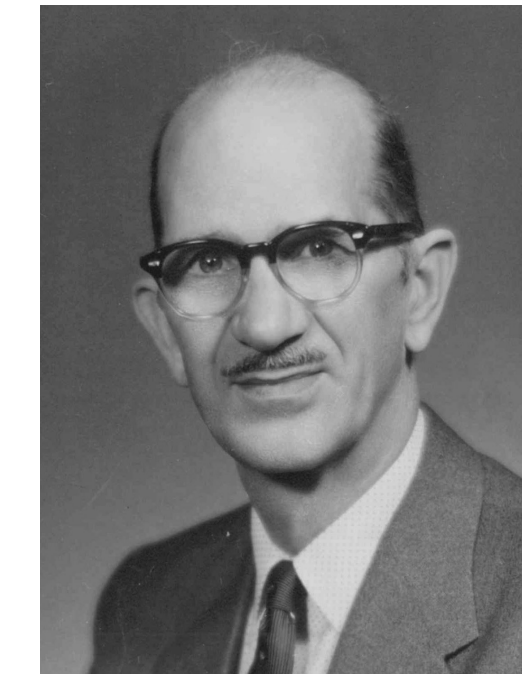
Harvey Bisek
1949-1950
1952-1954 • 3 years



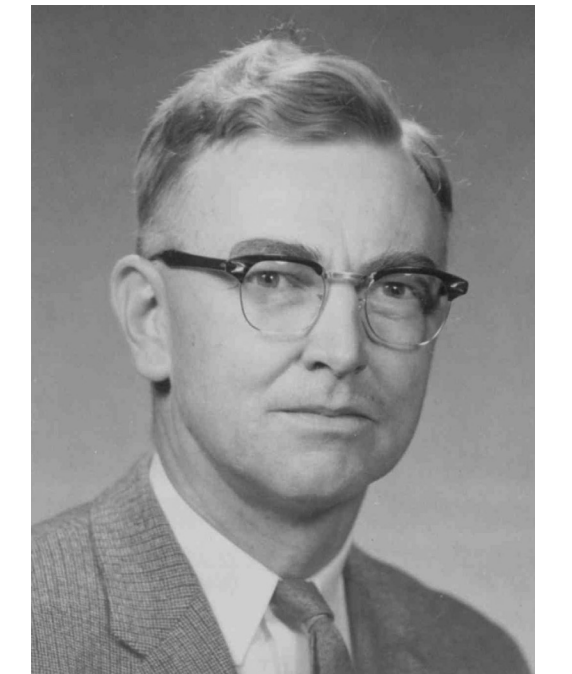
Norman Ekblad
1949-1952 • 3 years



Boyd Will
1949-1951 • 2 years



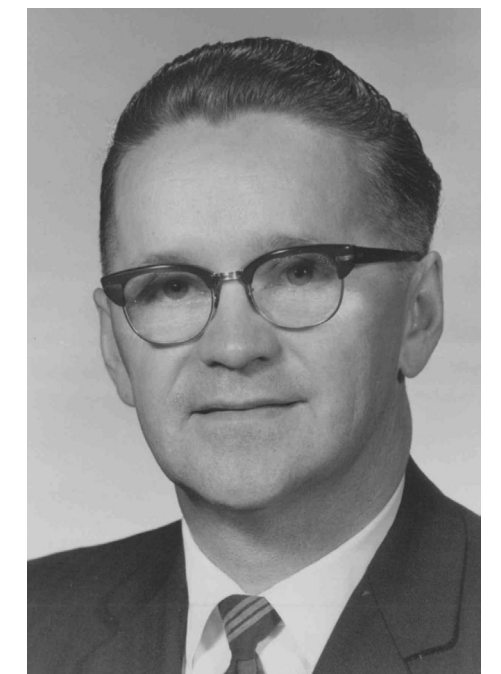
Emil Peterson
1953-1956 • 3 years



Virgil Matheson
1954-1967 • 13 years



Verlin Lundgren
1953-1983 • 29 years



Marlo Hinsverk
1957-1986 • 29 years



Gordon Kersten
1959-1960 • 1 year



Clifford Anderson
1961-1963 • 2 years



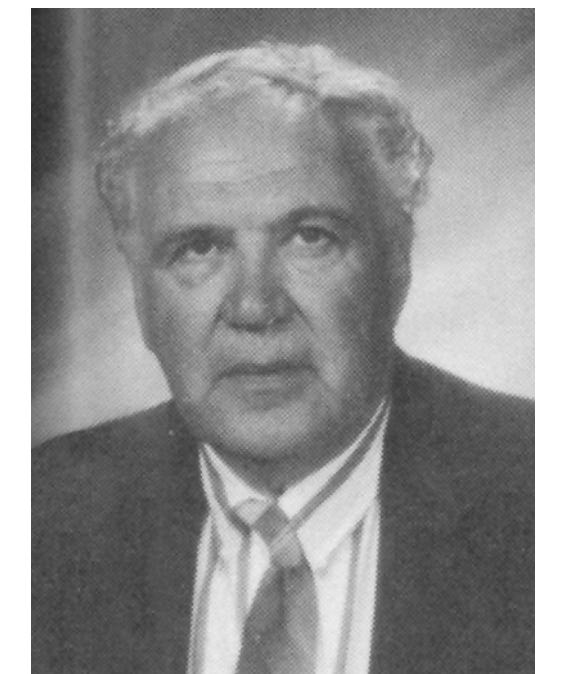
Chester Smuhl
1961-1966 • 5 years



Herman Hareland
1963-1966 • 3 years



Ken Anderson
1964-1986 • 22 years



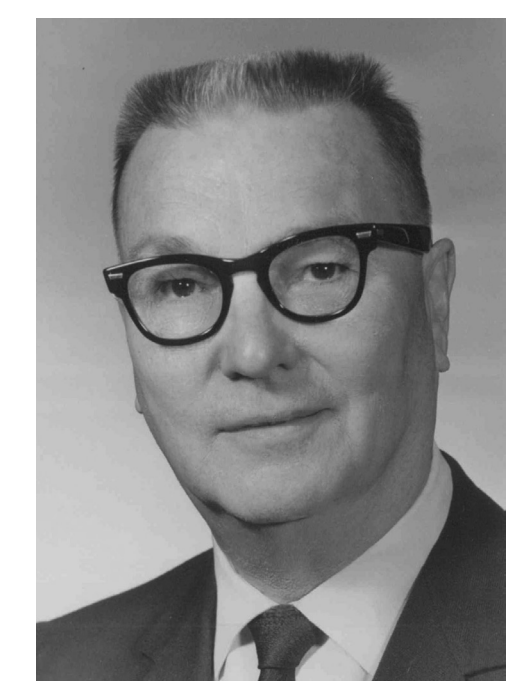
Bernie Anderson
1965-2000 • 35 years



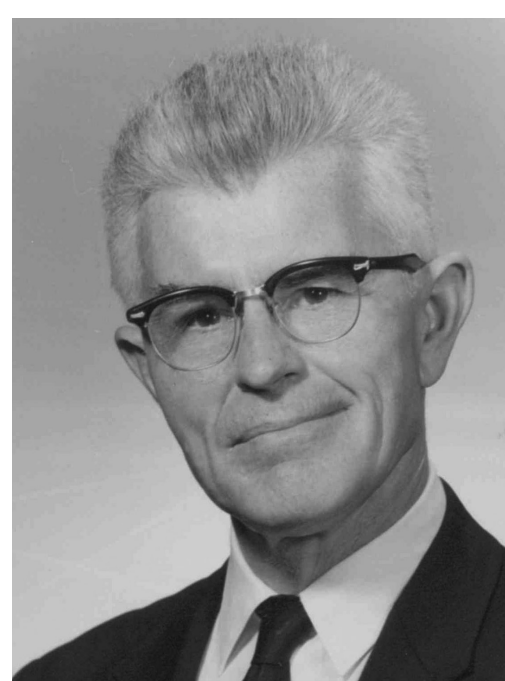
Stanley Grant
1966-1967 • 1 year



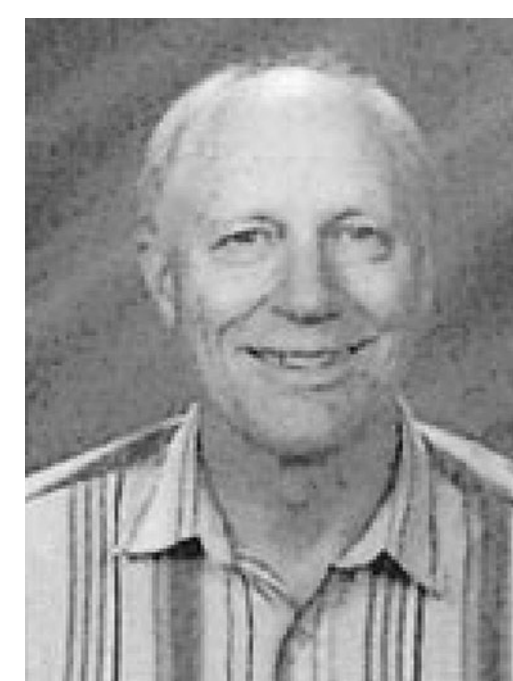
Dan Giddings
1967-1970 • 3 years



Walter Wellan
1967-1969 • 2 years



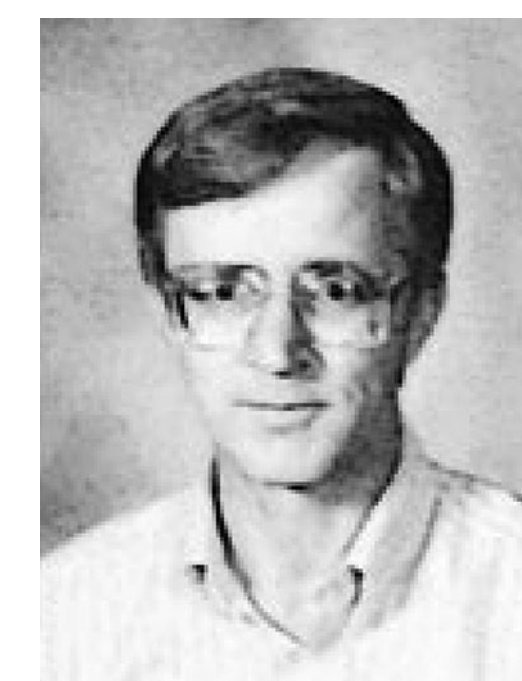
Francis Rice
1968-1969 • 1 year



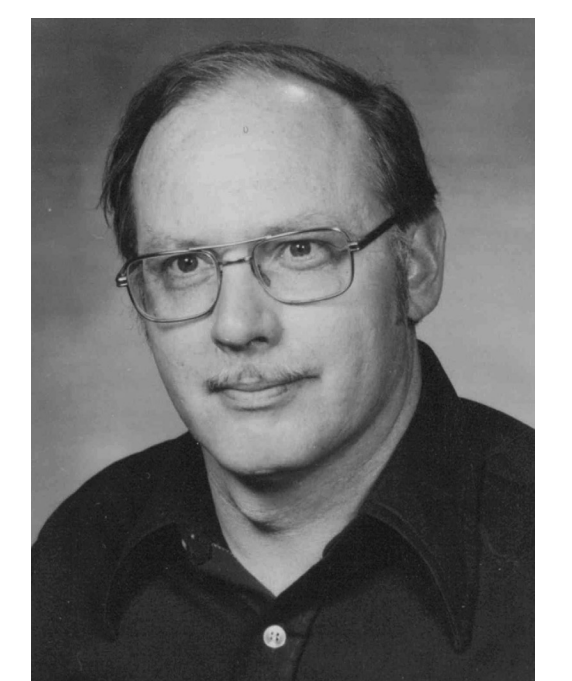
Charles Henry
1969-2003 • 34 years



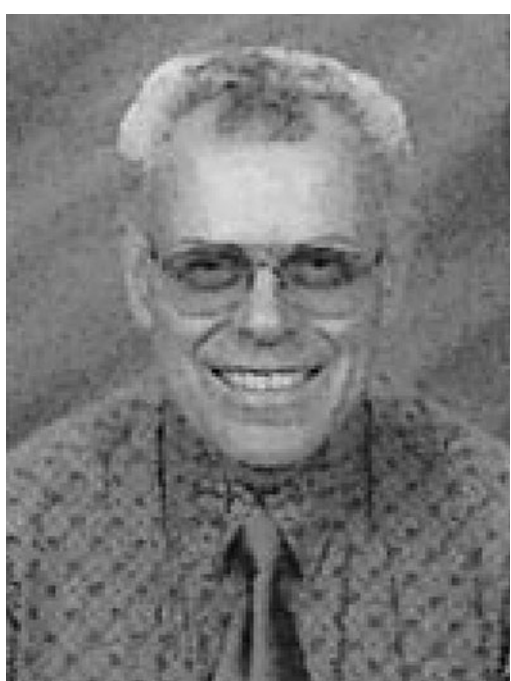
W. Ken Kjar
1970-1991 • 21 years



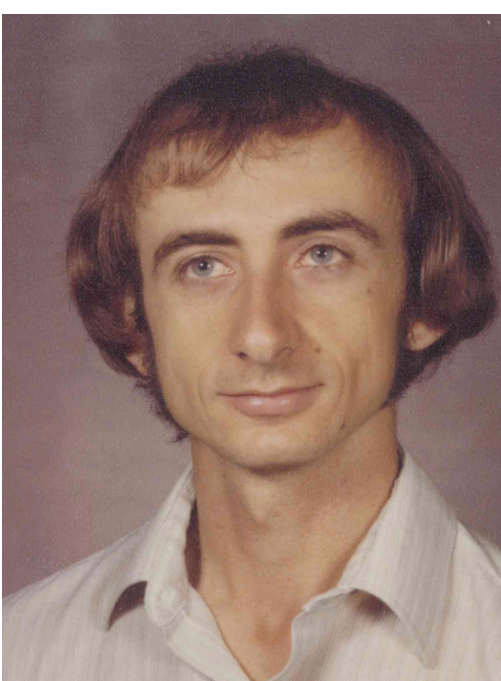
Dean Wenker
1971-2001 • 30 years



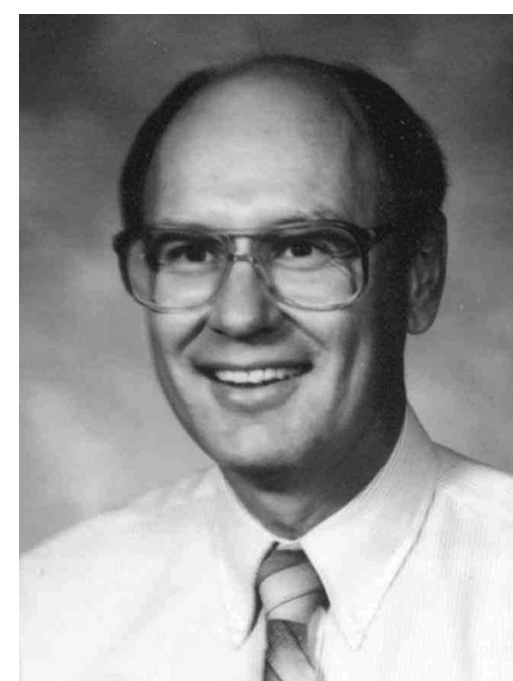
James Limmer
1973-1978 • 5 years



Don Kruckenberg
1975-2005 • 30 years



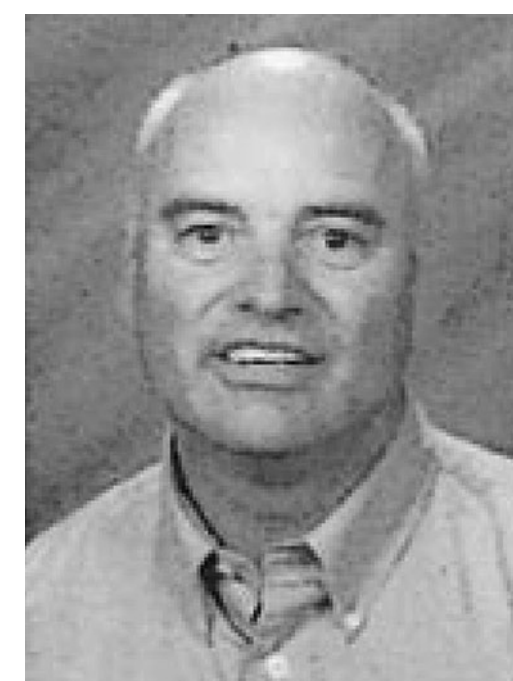
Dennis Bader
1978-1984 • 6 years



Bill Deibert
1979-1989 • 10 years



Tim Pull
1984-2015 • 31 years



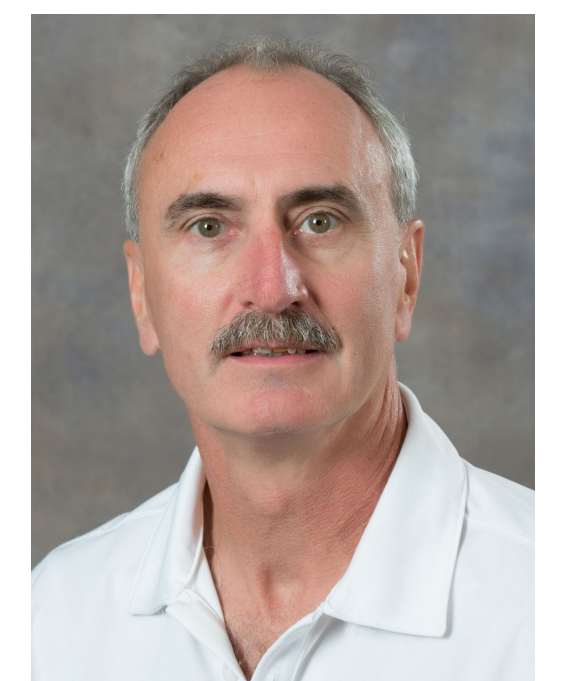
Ron Knudtson
1997-2009 • 12 years



Jerry Brackin
1999-2014 • 14 years



Shane Suko
2005-2016 • 11 years



Ivan Maas
1985-Current • 33 years



Kara Gruenberg
1993-Current • 25 years



Slade Fitzgerald
2002-Current • 16 years



Mark Eback
2004-Current • 14 years



John Travis
2006-Current • 12 years



Leanne Jaenisch
2014-Current • 4 years



Lonnie Wurst
2014-Current • 4 years