

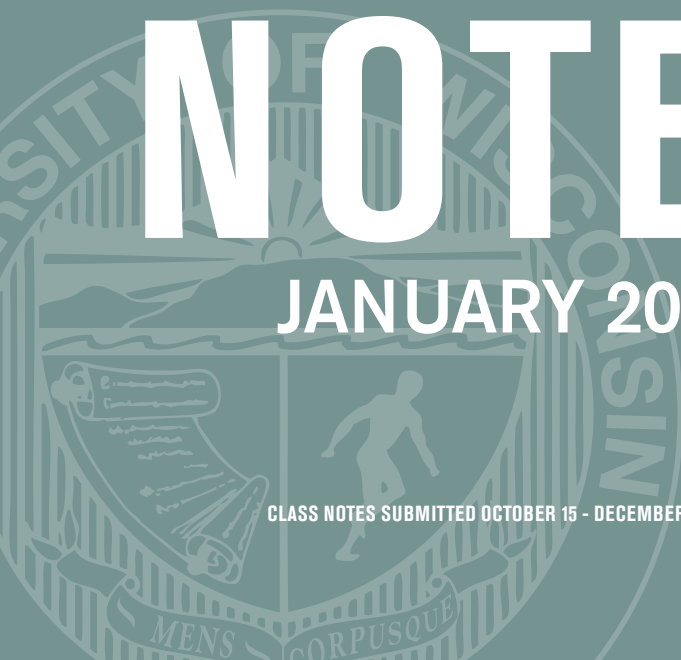


UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

CLASS NOTES

JANUARY 2021

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED OCTOBER 15 - DECEMBER 15, 2020



'64

Helen (Brawner) Putre is retired and living in Exmore, Virginia.

'69

Bruce J. McGuire is a retired coach and teacher living in Elgin, Illinois.



Ashton Veramallay

'70

Ashton Veramallay, Richmond, Indiana, professor emeritus of economics and director emeritus of the Center for Economic Education at Indiana University East, has received the Indiana University Bicentennial (1820-2020) Medal. The medal itself is unique, made from materials salvaged

from bells hung in the Student Building on the IU Bloomington campus for almost 100 years. The IU East campus is one of eight campuses of Indiana University. Veramallay also received the Chancellor's Medalion, the highest honor presented by the Chancellor of IU East; State of Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest award the governor can give to a civilian; along with UWL's Maurice O. Graff Distinguished Alumni Award. Veramallay holds a bachelor's with a double major in economics and sociology from UWL, and a master's in economics along with a doctoral degree in economic development and resource economics from Iowa State University.

'73

Joan (Weinberg) Gavin is a retired educator living in Hillsboro.

Marie (McMurtagh) Plantz is retired and living in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

'74

Wendell "Bruce" and Phyllis Willer, both '74, live in Cumberland. Bruce has retired as a director of special education.

'75

Anne Kienitz, Sun Prairie, is retired. Kienitz served as a nurse, medical coding auditor, EMT, tour guide, and more. She is enjoying retirement serving as an election official and diving deep into genealogy.

'77

Gregg Yowell, Lenexa, Kansas, is a self-employed attorney in Overland Park.

'79

Julie Pedretti, Naples, Florida, works for Healthcare Network. The organization is working to protect and inform community members as they navigate the pandemic.

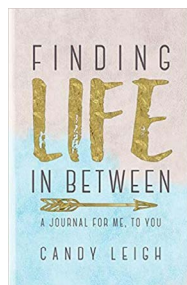
'90

Birgitta I. Rice is retired and living in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Todd M. Weaver, La Crosse, is department chair and professor in the UWL Chemistry and Biochemistry Department.

'98

Jennifer (Hausmann) Roell, West Bend, is a physician assistant with Advocate Aurora in Germantown.



'99

Candy Leigh, Franklin, has written her first book, "Finding Life In Between," a story of one woman struggling in survival mode who took to heart that when nothing was certain,

anything was possible. Leigh, president and owner of Candy Leigh Coaching, LLC, spent most of her career in the financial services industry for a Fortune 500 company, most notably developing diversity and inclusion leadership programs. She also spent many years consulting with and coaching sales executives and leaders. The book is published by The Unapologetic Voice House and available on Target.com, Amazon, Google Play, Apple, Amazon, Kobo and other libraries.

'09

Jena Jaeckels, Plymouth, is an academic advisor at UW-Green Bay.

DeAndre Taylor, Thornton, Colorado, is associate director of Residence Life at the University of Colorado Boulder. Taylor plans to complete a doctor of education in equity and educational leadership from the University of Colorado Denver in May.

'11

Jeana Carow, Fayetteville, Arkansas, is the assistant director of facilities at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

'18

Julia E. Price, St. Louis, Missouri, recently started a new position in career development as a career specialist at St. Louis Community College.

'19

Jeremy M. Miller, Madison, is a sourcing specialist with the Fiskars Group in Middleton.

'20

Derek G. Zellmer, Bloomington, Minnesota, is a program manager at Homeward Bound Inc. in Maple Grove. Zellmer reports he's enjoying his new job while gaining lots of experience.

In Remembrance

- 1954** — James Lamke, Onalaska.
1955 — Thomas Knudson, Bridgewater, Maine.
1955 — Carol (Staples) Stewart, Madison.
1961 — Henry “Hank” Hahn, La Crosse.
1964 — James Blaney, Gilbert, Arizona.
1968 — James “Jim” Leonhart, Sun Prairie.
1969 — Charlotte Markos-Kann, La Crosse.
1970 — Helen (Birnbaum) Perlich, La Crosse.
1970 — Phillip “Phil” Woller, Indianapolis, Indiana.
1972 — Julia “Julie” Raymer, Ashland.
1975 — Keith Weiland, Trempealeau.
1987 — Patricia Rolansky, La Crosse.
1999 — Roxanne (Bender) Hoke, Viola.

Faculty & Staff

Jo Arney

Jo Arney, 44, of Coon Valley, died Nov. 19, 2020. Arney earned a bachelor’s from UW-Stevens Point, a master’s from Colorado State University, and a doctorate from the University of Colorado in Denver. She joined the UWL Political Science and Public Administration Department in 2007. From 2016-18, she was on leave to direct the Re-Imagining the First Year initiative at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, working with 44 institutions to initiate leading practices in student success, particularly those aimed at first-year students. When she returned to UWL, she became director of Student Success. A scholarship has been set up in her name at the UWL Foundation to support a multicultural or first generation student. [Give here:](#)

Allen Charles Nelson

Allen Charles Nelson, 88, of La Crosse died from complications of COVID-19 at Benedictine Manor Oct. 8, 2020. He received a bachelor’s from UW-River Falls, a master’s from the University of South Dakota, and a doctorate from UW-Madison. He taught in the UWL Biology Department from 1964-96, teaching biology, mycology and medical mycology. He retired as full professor. He is survived by his wife and children. [See a complete obituary.](#)

Laura L. Nelson

Laura Lyn Nelson, 68, died Oct. 12, 2020, at her home in La Crosse. Nelson came to La Crosse in 1983 to join the UWL Speech Communication and Theatre Arts Department where she taught courses in rhetoric, public speaking, argumentation and debate. She was an assistant coach for the UWL forensics team until the program ended in 1988. When the Speech Communication and Theatre Arts Department split in 1996, Nelson was instrumental in forming the

new Communication Studies Department, which included a merger with the Mass Communication Department. She served as the new department's chair for nine years. In 1989, Nelson won the Eugene W. Murphy Library Special Recognition Award. She retired in 2016. She is survived by a sister and brother. [See a complete obituary.](#)

Bill Schmidt

William A. Schmidt, 93, La Crosse, died Oct. 17, 2020, at Brookdale Assisted Living Home from complications of COVID-19. He began his career at UWL in 1969, holding positions of instructor of secondary education, associate professor in the College of Education, and director of Student Teaching and

Internships. He completed his career as interim dean of the College of Education, retiring in 1989. Schmidt was an extremely dedicated educator, dedicated not only to the university, but most especially to the students he served. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and three children. Memorials may be given the William & Georgene Schmidt Scholarship in Education at the [UWL Foundation.](#)

[See a complete obituary.](#)

To learn more about the UWL Alumni Association and its activities and events visit:
uwlax.edu/alumni



The times they are a changin'...

COVID-19 has brought change. Everywhere.

As we look for even more effective ways to support students and alumni, we may not be able to send publications, like The Lantern, to you as often.

Help us in this change! Give us your email. Log into...

▶ uwlax.edu/go/alum-email

Thanks for supporting the UWL Alumni Association!

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Phone /email

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Class Notes Policy:

Class notes and obituaries are published online in January, April, July and October.

The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the month of quarterly posting.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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