

LANTERN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

got science?

WE REALLY DO!



VOLUME 44, NO.2
SUMMER 2018

FEATURES



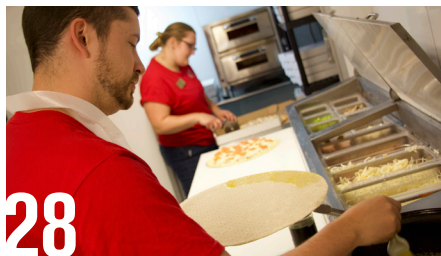
COVER STORY: GOT SCIENCE?

A \$2 million gift — UWL's largest single gift ever — does more than name the new science building. It's transforming how science is being taught, along with propelling the campus as a state environmental leader.



DRIVEN

Ryan Crain's mother didn't sugarcoat anything. When she had no food on the table, she told him why. When Ryan's dad went to prison, she shared what he had done. His past struggles in the rearview mirror, Ryan Crain, '18, looks ahead to his dreams.



A DAY IN A LIFE: WINGHAVEN PIZZA FARM

Rob Grover, '16, and Greg Roskos, '11, own and run Winghaven Pizza Farm in western Wisconsin. Get a glimpse into a Saturday shift down on the farm.

CLASS NOTES ONLINE

Go to www.uwlax.edu/alumni for complete class notes each quarter. Click on 'News,' then 'Class Notes.'

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UWL Murphy Library archives all past issues of the *Alumnus*/*Lantern Magazine*. View them at: digitalcollections.uwlax.edu/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp

CLASS NOTES POLICY: The UWL Alumni Association publishes class notes and obituaries online in January, April, July and October. The deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the quarterly postings. See www.uwlax.edu/alumni for details.

POINT OF VIEW: ROGER HARO »

SCIENCE by DOING

Building provides space for
revolutionary instruction



Prairie Springs Science Center (PSSC) represents a significant milestone in transforming science instruction.

In the '70s and '80s, science and mathematics students were passive recipients. They got information from lectures and occasional front-of-the-room demonstrations. Biology students viewed scientific processes watching filmstrips synchronized to audio-tutorials while sitting alone at a cubical desk. "Teaching-science-by-showing" reigned.

Few professors engaged in research. If they did, it didn't include undergraduate students. Research laboratories in Cowley Hall didn't lend to interdisciplinary

collaboration, idea exchange or experiential learning.

Technological advances in the internet and natural sciences in the '90s contributed to new career opportunities and increased enrollments of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students at UWL, especially in allied health.

New faculty came from research labs or working groups where interdisciplinary collaboration ruled. While instruction remained the gold standard for promotion, research productivity and collaboration sparked the new professors. The new emphasis on learning through real-world activities extended beyond the classroom.

Mentoring undergraduate researchers meant professors worked directly with students, which is how UWL became a national leader in undergraduate research.

The design of the new PSSC reflects a priority on active learning in spaces for experiential research. Faculty and students will learn and discover together in research clusters, where cutting-edge instrumentation and cross-disciplinary collaborators dominate. Students can move closer to becoming STEM experts by directly participating in research — a paradigm shift that gives our students an upper hand in tomorrow's essential jobs.

*Professor Roger Haro,
Interim Associate Dean, UWL
College of Science and Health*

NEW DEAN

College of Science and Health selects new dean



Mark Sandheinrich

Long-time biology professor and researcher Mark Sandheinrich is dean of the university's College of Science and Health. Sandheinrich, who served as interim dean of the college for nearly two years, was named the new dean in December following a nationwide search. He has worked at UWL since 1988.

UWL: A BEST VALUE

Here's another thing to mention when talking with prospective students: UWL is on Kiplinger's 2018 'Best College Values' list for affordability and quality — one of only two from Wisconsin on the list of top 100 best values in public colleges. UWL is No. 45 for out-of-state students and No. 64 for in-state students. Kiplinger's has given UWL "best value" recognition for more than a decade.

STUDENT AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP

Vitaliano Figueroa has been named the university's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. He had been assistant vice president for student affairs at San Diego State University.



Vitaliano Figueroa

Figueroa, who began Feb. 5, replaces Paula Knudson who left UWL in June 2017 to become vice president for student affairs at Northern Iowa University.

ACCREDITED AGAIN



The College of Business Administration has again received the international seal of approval. The CBA has maintained accreditation by AACSB International —

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools. A review team visited in February; the stamp is good for five years.

LOW STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATE

UWL is among Wisconsin's top colleges and universities for its students paying back their student debt. The Student Loan Report ranked UWL No. 2 in the state among public universities for its students not defaulting on their loans over the past three years. Only 2 percent of



UWL students defaulted on their loans — better than the 5 percent UW System average. Financial aid programs — such as the award-winning "It Makes Cent\$" — contribute to the favorable rate.

HOW TO TALK POLITICS . . .



Tim Dale

AND KEEP FRIENDS

Dreading that family picnic with your uncle who always talks politics? Tim Dale, UWL associate professor in Political Science and Public Administration, shared tips on how to talk politics and keep friends during TEDxUWLaCrosse this spring.

A key part, says Dale, is actively listening instead of waiting for your chance to talk. As you listen, try to understand why someone is making the arguments they are.

Use these phrases to more deeply understand someone's reasoning and develop common ground.

- » **I understand where you are coming from . . .**
- » **I can see why you would believe that . . .**
- » **I think we can agree on a basic premise that . . .**

see the video at
[YOUTU.BE/QKG_GBOQ3ZO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKG_GBOQ3ZO)

DISTINGUISHED

Seven alums return to campus this fall to share their stories with students while being recognized for success. They'll return at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, in the Strzelczyk Great Hall, Cleary Alumni & Friends Center. An awards brunch is at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, in The Bluffs Room, Student Union. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered at 608.785.8489 or uwlax.edu/alumni.

MAURICE O. GRAFF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes outstanding achievement of alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the university. Long-time administrator Maurice O. Graff instituted the honor in 1977.



Jon Erickson, '76

- » Internationally recognized expert on college and workforce readiness assessment; retired president of ACT Inc.
- » Bachelor's of Science in history and social studies.



Joonkoo Yun, '92

- » Scholar, productive contributor and mentor in the fields of kinesiology and adapted physical activity; professor at Oregon State University.
- » Master's of Science in special physical education.

RADA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years, achieved professional distinction and taken part in humanitarian activities. Professor emeritus Ron Rada and his wife, Jane, created the award in 2002.



Matt Brantner, '05

- » Revered conservation advocate; founding executive director of WisCorps, a statewide conservation corps.
- » Bachelor's of Science in biology.



Marc Gall, '03

- » Successful bank executive and respected humanitarian; vice president of BOK Financial, Milwaukee.
- » Bachelor's of Science in finance and economics.

ALUMNI

PARKER DISTINGUISHED MULTICULTURAL ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes outstanding alumni who have contributed greatly to improve multiracial culture and understanding on campus and in their careers. History Professor Emeritus James Parker initiated the award in 1997.



**Thomas
Harris, '11**

- » Esteemed, long-time student advisor and assistant director of UWL Multicultural Student Services.
- » Master's of Science in College Student Personnel.



**Houa Xiong,
'98 & '00**

- » Respected senior academic adviser at UW-Oshkosh.
- » Bachelor's of Science in recreation management; Master's of Science in Education, College Student Development and Administration.

BURT AND NORMA ALTMAN TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD

Honors and recognizes outstanding educators and the significant contributions they make to children and communities. Professor Emeritus Burt Altman and his wife, Norma, created the award in 2015.



**Phil
Ertl, '88**

- » Accomplished educator; Superintendent of Schools in the Wauwatosa School District since 2005.
- » Bachelor's of Science in physical education.





HALF A CENTURY!

Alumni Association turns 50 in 2019

FESTIVITIES BEGIN SEPT. 20, 2019 AND END OCT. 27, 2019

People turning 50 are sometimes referred to as being “over the hill.” But the Alumni Association reaching that mark is hitting its prime. “Celebrating UWL alumni” is the theme of the UWL Alumni Association’s 50th anniversary.

“Yes, the Association is turning 50, but this is an opportunity for us to celebrate UWL alumni who have used their education to make the world a better place,” says Janie Morgan, executive director.

Festivities begin with the Alumni Awards program Sept. 20, and run through Reunion Weekend, Oct. 27, 2019. Plans include a dinner/gala, new campus banners, unveiling of Cleary Alumni & Friends Center renovations, legacy families/scholarships and more.

Be sure to stay in the loop with Alumni Association events. Update your contact info at www.uwlax.edu/alumni!

A special thanks to the 50th anniversary committee: Kara Pennoyer, Dave Johnson, Linda Kastantin, Jill Blokkhuis, Ginny Moore, Kelly Nowicki, Darryle Clott, John Stangler, Brad Quarberg, Sanja Dojcinović and James Bushman.



Athletics adds women's golf, lacrosse

There are more chances for the Eagles to vie for conference and national titles. Women's golf starts in fall 2018, while women's lacrosse gets underway in spring 2020.

David Taebel, Holmen High School's head girls' golf coach in 2017, takes the inaugural reins for golf. A

head lacrosse coach will be hired later this summer. Golf will name a home course soon; lacrosse will play on UWL's soccer field.

They are the first sport expansions since women's soccer in 1992. Golf was a varsity sport from 1970-71 until ending following the 1982-83

season and becoming a club sport. There are 230 NCAA III teams with nationals in spring.

Lacrosse, currently a club team, is UWL's 21st varsity sport. UWL will be the lone WIAC school with women's lacrosse and the 286th in NCAA III.

2017-18 Finishes

TEAM	WIAC FINISH	NATIONALS
WOMEN'S TENNIS	2 ND	DNQ
SOCCER	1 ST	NCAA III QUARTERFINALS
VOLLEYBALL	1 ST	NCAA III SECOND ROUND
WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY	2 ND	17 TH
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY	1 ST	2 ND
FOOTBALL	3 RD	DNQ
WRESTLING	1 ST	7 TH
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	3 RD	43 RD
WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	1 ST	29 TH
MEN'S BASKETBALL	6 TH	DNQ
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	2 ND (TIE)	DNQ
GYMNASTICS	1 ST	2 RD
MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1 ST	5 TH
WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1 ST	26 TH
MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1 ST	27 TH
WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1 ST	59 TH (TIE)
SOFTBALL	7 TH	DNQ
BASEBALL	4 TH	DNQ
MEN'S TENNIS	N/A	DNQ



WANT MORE UWL ATHLETICS STATS? NO PROBLEM!
GO TO WWW.UWLATHLETICS.COM

WRESTLING WITH PURPOSE

Wrestler Sean O'Neil was uncertain after an anterior cruciate ligament tear in 2014. The Prior Lake, Minnesota, freshman had worked hard to start on varsity. O'Neil could heal and “wrestle through the motions,” but he decided to go “all in,” fueled by competitiveness and international experiences.



Wrestler Sean O'Neil prides himself in preparation. His determination goes beyond wrestling, and links his passion to help others home and abroad.

O'Neil's aunt led him to Peru in summer 2011, just before high school. With limited Spanish, O'Neil was uncomfortable.

“When you are thrown into a situation like that, where you don't know how things work, you don't know the language, you don't know how to get around, it's kind of a scary feeling,” O'Neil notes. “You feel pretty helpless.”

But the trip sparked a passion for traveling, languages and culture. O'Neil took more Spanish and traveled to Guatemala. He's gone on college mission trips, including a medical trip to Nicaragua in March.

The biology/pre-medicine major and Spanish minor finds joy in helping others and experiencing cultures.

O'Neil along with his

fiancé, Renee, raised funds to go on the trip to Las Salinas, Nicaragua. They assisted the work of an American-run clinic, Project Limon.

The clinic promoted sanitary conditions and taught safe food preparation and nutritional habits. They would often visit the local villages to offer prenatal and diabetic care.

O'Neil said the clinic was not well-known, so he was

tasked often with handing out clinic pamphlets. His knowledge of Spanish allowed him to have deeper encounters with the people he met.

"It was really nice to be able to communicate and cross those cultural barriers," says O'Neil. "If you are just handing them the pamphlet and you walk away, it's like, 'Well, that's great, but tell me a little more; What's going on?'"

O'Neil finds joy in encountering and caring for people that are not as fortunate. He has been humbled by the

different experiences he has had and every time he returns to the U.S., he feels like he is seeing through a different lens.

"You get so comfortable in your own skin when you are in the States," said O'Neil. "I feel like you can take for granted some of the luxuries you get to enjoy, and you feel so comfortable."

O'Neil bears that same dedication of caring for others in training and competing on the wrestling mat. After recovering, O'Neil went 15-4 at 174 pounds in 2015-16. At

184 pounds his senior year, he finished 19-2 and helped the team win a second straight conference title.

O'Neil prides himself in preparation, along with determination to love others.

"I think actions always speak louder than words," says O'Neil. "You can talk up such a big storm, whether it's in wrestling or in anything you say you are going to do, but if you don't show it, no one is going to believe you."

Story by UWL student Matt Riebe

SUCCESS OFF THE MAT

O'Neil received the 2018 WIAC Max Sparger Wrestling Scholar-Athlete Award with a 4.00 GPA. His other honors:

- » three-time WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll member
- » Dean's List
- » Scholastic Achievement Award, 2017



LEFT: Sean O'Neil reunited with his Spanish teacher Letty Yokumb (left) and her son Omar (right) in Guatemala. O'Neil's family traveled and visited the San Pedro Spanish School, his host family, and an exchange student they hosted after O'Neil left for college.

CENTER: O'Neil assisted in a prenatal homestay while in Nicaragua. Here he is using a doppler to find the heartbeat of a baby of a woman who was seven-months pregnant.

RIGHT: Sean O'Neil (right) and his aunt Lynn Newton visited Machu Pichu on their trip to Peru in 2011.



WORLDLY WORD OF MOUTH

He tells everyone about his “second hometown.” It is a place of natural beauty — a bluff overlooking the city and a downtown park by the river. Come fall, residents celebrate Oktoberfest. For anyone looking for college education, Abdulaziz Almazrou, '16, tells them to look no further than UW-La Crosse.

“I think La Crosse has it all — the quality of life in the city and the quality of education in UWL,” says Abdulaziz.

He was initially attracted to La Crosse because of the success stories from two older cousins who earned UWL degrees. Now the third in his family to become an alum, he has inspired other family members to attend.

Abdulaziz's family is part of a long line of relatives and friends from the Arab country who collectively have one of the longest sustained histories of attending UWL among all international

student groups. The first from his family came to UWL more than a decade ago.

The vast majority of Saudi Arabian students studying at UWL are sponsored by Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM), so their educational expenses are covered by the Saudi Arabian government.

Saudi Arabian students say UWL stands out among American universities because of its reputation and size.

“The experience is challenging enough to produce strong individuals who do well in their careers,



but it's not like going to a larger school where 100 students from Arab Nations attend and you can get into that bubble,” notes Khaled Almazro, a May graduate who majored in finance and minored in economics.

On a smaller campus, Saudi Arabian students find more interaction with students and professors. Their professors push them to think analytically and critically.

Khaled chose his economics minor because of Associate Professor Nabamita Dutta who “communicates ideas so clearly” and brings current, global news examples

BELOW: Three cousins and international students from Saudi Arabia are, from left, Khaled Almazro, Yousef Almazrua and Yousaf Almazrou. Almazro, a finance major, and Almazrou, a business management major, were attracted to UWL because of the success of their older brothers. Almazrua, also a finance major, heard about the campus from his cousins.



“I think La Crosse has it all — the quality of life in the city and the quality of education in UWL.”

Abdulaziz Almazrou, '16, above, is now a partnerships and international relations specialist at King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.

POPULAR MAJORS

The two most popular majors among our Saudi Arabian alums:

- » FINANCE
- » INFORMATION SYSTEMS

to class with links to economics. “She has been a great teacher who allowed us to understand a subject that is not very easy and do well in

it,” explains Khaled.

Relationships have also grown outside of class.

Vivek Pande, associate professor of accountancy, has been a mentor, say Khaled and his cousins, Yousef Almazrua and Yousaf Almazrou. “Whenever we needed someone to push us a bit, he was there,” says Yousef.

Yousaf calls his academic advisor, Professor Drew Stapleton, “phenomenal.” Stapleton engaged him in after-class discussions about what to continue studying.

Not only do Saudi Arabian students benefit

from their campus connections, they bring a broader cultural perspective to UWL and break down stereotypes, says Miranda Panzer, UWL international student advisor. “Having interactions with international students is a vital piece of not only becoming a good employee, but also moving us forward as a society,” she notes. She looks forward to welcoming many more Saudi Arabian cousins and friends.

“It is a tradition that cannot be broken,” says Khaled, who confirms his brother — now in seventh grade — is planning to come.

STEVE'S FAVES

STEVE BROKAW, PH.D.

OCCUPATION: Professor of Marketing

AT UWL SINCE: 1990

COLLEGE MAJOR: Marketing



FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:

My favorite city is Paris because it makes my skin tingle just to be there. My favorite country is Wales because it is simply beautiful. I also enjoy returning to Indiana to see family. I also like Viroqua — a very stable small town, which is rare these days.



FAVORITE COLLEGE CLASS:

The health and physical recreation class I took ... in billiards. For a whole semester I got up early three days a week to play pool. And, I got a credit for it.



FAVORITE SPOT AT UWL:

The window of my current office: I overlook the Child Center playground — a much a better view than the parking lot I used to see. I think about how the little ones will one day join us; and how much more controllable they are now.

FAVORITE HOBBIES:

Listening to music, playing pool, watching the grass grow — when you make watching it a hobby, you don't have to cut it as often.



FAVORITE PASTIME:

Reading; when it is for fun it is not work. But then I got to do this for a living in large part because I enjoy reading, and this “job” requires a lot of that. All in all, this has not been like work. Well, some of it has been like work, but not the reading part.



50 YEARS

1968-2018

COMPUTER SCIENCE



ABOVE: A student smiles while using one of the first terminals in the Computer Science Department, the Digital VT 100. Today, a similar terminal is on display in the department's historical area.

TOP: A staff member opens the Digital VAX 11/780, which connected all the VT 100s on campus. The VAX, housed in the basement of Wing Technology Center, was the university's initial computer system.

It's hard to think of a university without computer science today. But when UWL's Computer Science Department was founded in 1968 it was second in the UW only to UW-Madison. Computer Science Department faculty and staff plan to mark those 50 years during a special event Friday, Oct. 5. For specifics, visit the department's homepage: cs.uwlax.edu

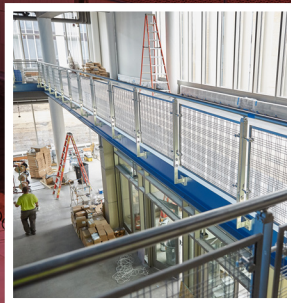
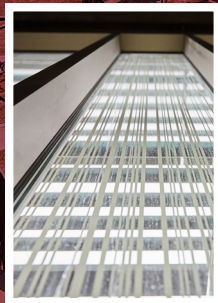
REMEMBER WHEN THE DEPARTMENT WAS IN:

- » Graff Main Hall, 1968
- » Wing Communications Center, 1969-74
- » Wimberly Hall, 1974-90
- » Morris Hall, 1990-2001
- » Wing Technology Center, 2001-present

NOTEWORTHY DATES

- 1968:** John "Jack" Storlie creates department; first courses offered
- 1969:** computer science minor created; department moves into remodeled Wing Communication Center
- 1971:** computer science major approved
- 1973:** first graduates of computer science bachelor's degree
- 1996:** computational science minor established
- 2001:** department moves to remodeled Wing Technology Center; Master of Software Engineering established.
- 2003:** dual degree with UW-Madison Department of Engineering approved
- 2005:** computer engineering technology emphasis with Western Technical College established
- 2006:** five-year dual degree bachelor's and master's established
- 2018:** embedded systems emphasis created in spring, 50th anniversary celebrated

■ WE REA
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ALLY DO! ce?

A \$2 million gift — the university's largest single gift ever — does much more than name the new science building, the Prairie Springs Science Center. It's transforming how science is being taught, along with propelling the campus as a state environmental leader.

continued on next page »

PRAIRIE SPRINGS SCIENCE CENTER

\$82

million project,
State funded.

187,000

square footage makes the new center just smaller than Centennial Hall, but still the size of more than three football fields.

2

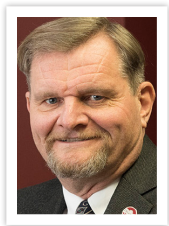
years to complete. Construction began fall 2016, and will be finished in fall 2018.

23

research labs, along with 36 instructional labs.

9

labs in the building support nine departments/centers: biology, biochemistry, chemistry, earth science, geography, microbiology, physics, River Studies Center and Radiation Center.



“The new space will support hands-on investigation and active-learning experiences that are essential to a modern college education in science.”

Mark Sandheinrich, dean,
UWL College of Science and Health

the building



continued from previous page »

“Earth Day grew out of the Wisconsin Idea,” explains UWL Biology Professor Roger Haro, referring to the state’s philosophy that education should influence people’s lives beyond the classroom. “This is UWL’s opportunity to contribute to the development of environmental leaders for Wisconsin and the nation.”

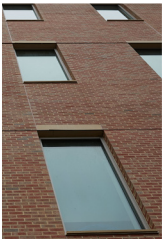
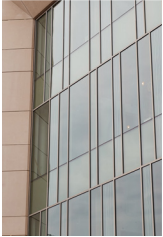
Haro, interim associate dean of the College of Science and Health, says it’s an exciting time for the college to provide new educational opportunities for students from throughout campus.

“This is all about growing opportunities for students,” notes Haro. “We’re trying to leverage these

opportunities for students not only in the sciences, but also the arts, humanities and business. There’s an indirect connection to all the academic areas on campus.”

The \$2 million gift from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust creates an endowment fund to support:

- » Environmental studies and education



DID YOU KNOW?

- » The Prairie Springs Science Center will include more than \$1.5 million in new equipment to provide additional opportunities for undergraduate research.
- » The new center addresses space constraints and deteriorating infrastructure in Cowley Hall, the existing natural sciences building built in the late '60s when there was half of the number of students on campus as there is today.



“This is a way to promote environmental leaders for tomorrow. It truly is UWL’s opportunity to create environmental leaders.”

Roger Haro, UWL professor of biology

- » Wildlife and habitat protection
- » Conservation
- » Ecological technology

The endowment will focus on establishing educational programs taking place in the new science building opening by fall. Since Cowley Hall was constructed in the mid-’60s, science education

has changed — moving from a “teaching-science-by-showing” model to “teaching-science-by-doing,” explains Haro. “Today, student learning has a hands-on, minds-on approach.”

“This is a way to promote environmental leaders for tomorrow,” says Haro, the 2015 Wisconsin

State Professor of the Year. “It truly is UWL’s opportunity to create environmental leaders.”

Haro anticipates the \$2 million endowment is just the beginning for campus environmental initiatives, adding: “We need to strategically think of how we can make this fund even greater.”



the gift



Carolyn Scott, '85,
and Jay Scott, '84

THURSDAY
NOV. 15, 2018
2-4 P.M.

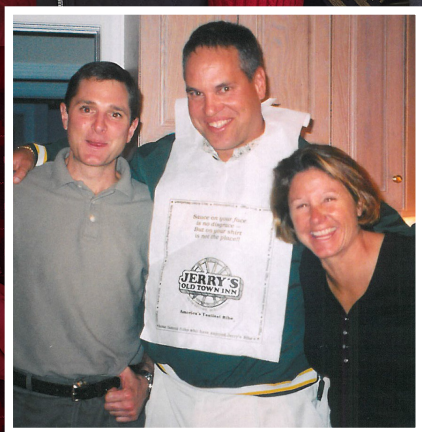
Building Dedication & Celebration

Tours and Reception
Open to All



WHO WAS PAUL FLECKENSTEIN?

During his lifetime, Paul was a steadfast supporter of environmental education and conservation programs, says his sister, Carolyn Scott, '85. He supported Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee and The Nature Conservancy. He was dedicated to land restoration and enjoyed planting trees, removing invasive species and caring for his gardens. Carolyn and her husband Jay Scott, '84, serve as the trustees of Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust.



Paul, Jay and Carolyn in 2001

read/watch more at
news.uwlax.edu/a-2-million-endowment

THE NAME

Prairie Springs Science Center — the name of UWL's newest science building — was inspired by Paul's love of his home in Genesee, Wisconsin, which he called Prairie Springs, says Carolyn. The name also links the city's first name, Prairie La Crosse.

WHY THIS GENEROUS GIFT?

For a number of reasons, according to Carolyn. One is the university's outstanding students. "UWL is attracting some of the brightest and most prepared students from our state and region," she says.

Carolyn and Jay also point to outstanding and caring faculty and staff. "The culture of quality instruction within a caring community of faculty and staff is key to a student's success," notes Jay.

The gift provides a margin of excellence. "This allows us to support, through an endowment fund, the significant investment the people of the state of Wisconsin have made in the new science labs building," says Jay.

ECOLOGY EFFORTS

The first round of student undergraduate research projects funded by the Prairie Springs Endowment Fund

BENJAMIN FINLEY » **GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE**

Semi-automatic detection of wild rice on the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Indian Reservation in central Wisconsin using satellite and drone-derived imagery.

CHASE HACKNER » **BIOLOGY**

An analysis of three existing energy-efficient homes to determine the most sustainable design features for homes in the Upper Midwest.

SOPHIA KERO » **CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

Development of green catalytic heterogeneous synthesis of curcuminoids.

CHARLOTTE PETERS » **GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE**

Continued analysis of a sediment core as a basis for understanding climate change and its effects on the settlement, habitation and subsequent abandonment of the Aztalan site in southeastern Wisconsin.



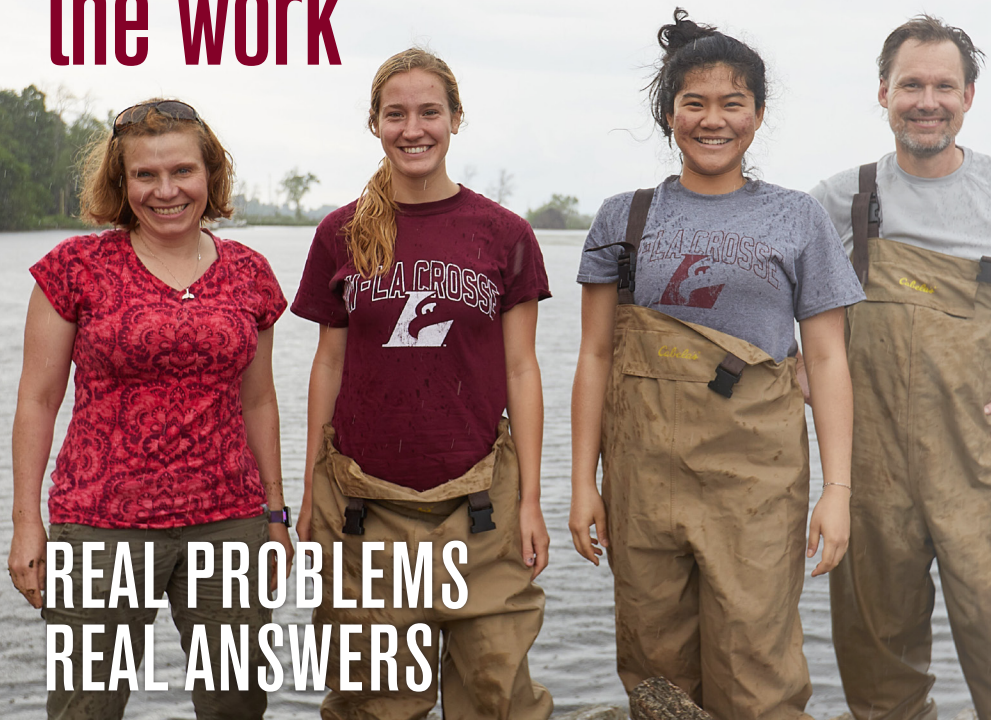
UWL student
Charlotte Peters

OLIVIA SCHAULS » **ARCHAEOLOGY AND** **ANTHROPOLOGY**

Examining the community supported agricultural program at Old Oak Family Farm and how it changes eating behavior.



the work



Environmental chemistry students take science to the streets

Do rain gardens filter runoff pollutants? Is Myrick marsh water quality impacted by the road salt?

Environmental chemistry students used science to answer those questions and more this spring.

Nadia Carmosini, assistant professor of chemistry, showed her students that basic chemical principles relate to real-world questions communities face.

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Department hears from employers that developing graduates who work on teams and think critically is key. Carmosini

challenged students to do just that by taking a research question from beginning to end — from developing a hypothesis and designing the experiment to collecting data and delivering results.

“To take the scientific process through the full cycle from asking a question to writing a paper is huge.”

Austin Hamlin, '18

Her efforts to develop these skills through hands-on, community-based projects reflects wider university goals — strategic plan pillars — of transformational education and community engagement. It also demonstrates where UWL is headed.

Through the support of the Prairie Springs Endowment Fund, university undergrads will do more research in environmental studies.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND THE COMMUNITY

May graduate Austin Hamlin, who took

Professor Greg Sandland, Biology, (far right) is conducting research on the Mississippi River near Stoddard with colleague Nadia Carmosini (far left) and chemistry majors Alex Galbraith (second from the left) and Yuanman Ma (second from the right). They are gathering snails as part of a class examining real-world environmental issues. The research is examining the use of a copper-based pesticide for controlling the invasive faucet snail in Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River.



Students in the Environmental Chemistry course took water samples at Myrick Marsh near a storm sewer pipe to find out if water quality is impacted by road salts. At left, May graduate Alex Morgan during sample collection.

Inset photos by UWL student Elexius Passante

Carmosini's spring course, says there is a disconnect between the general public and scientific community when it comes to how humans impact the environment. He wants to be part of a future bridging that gap.

"The main reason I took this class is because it is something I care about," explains Hamlin, currently working at Milwaukee's South Shore Water Reclamation Facility. "I am personally interested in our environment and problems we are facing."

Hamlin says the course gave him knowledge to explain why most scientists

believe human emissions are warming the planet or why a parking lot can be bad for nearby water.

He learned the latter through his class research. His team studied the efficacy of La Crosse rain gardens in filtering contaminants from storm water runoff before they end up in area waters. Because of the project's large scope, the results by semester's end were inconclusive. But they paved the way for continued student research next year.

Carmosini aims to have students repeat the projects and collect more data in future semesters. Most projects

offered a good start, but need more sampling.

But some class results are conclusive. Hamlin was one of several students to personally thank Carmosini for the research opportunity.

"This class really challenged me," he notes. "To take the scientific process through the full cycle from asking a question to writing a paper is huge. We can now understand what it would be like to be an environmental chemist and contribute to knowledge that can be disseminated to the public and influence policy."

A NEEDED BOOST

Grad thankful for scholarship that helped define her future

May graduate Amber Pethke received the largest scholarship the UWL Foundation awards to an incoming student four years ago.



Amber Pethke helped her dad with the chores. She bedded pens, milked cows, and mowed lawn that seemed to stretch for miles across their farm outside New London.

At first she wasn't thrilled with the work. When her dad asked, she would roll her eyes. But, with time, Pethke and her three sisters understood the importance of supporting their parents' dairy business. Eventually, they enjoyed it, often competing to see who could pitch hay or milk the cows the fastest.

Pethke's enthusiasm carried over to school where she played sports, joined clubs, worked part-time and earned A's. When it came time for college, her mother encouraged her to share her hard work on paper and apply for a UWL Foundation scholarship.

“My parents always had confidence in me. I lacked confidence in myself.”

Amber Pethke, '18

Pethke thought that was silly. How could a farm girl from New London stand out in a crowd of incoming UWL students? “My parents always had confidence in me,” she says. “I lacked confidence in myself.”

Living on a farm was “not the greatest income in the world” and Pethke needed the financial support. She applied, expecting to potentially earn a few hundred dollars.

Pethke was in study hall her senior year when she got a phone call. She was told she had earned the Esther Risberg West Scholarship — the largest the UWL Foundation awards

She made a great friend — her little sis — as a Big Brothers Big Sisters of the 7 Rivers Region volunteer.

Pethke developed greater conviction in what she cared



May graduate Amber Pethke volunteered for Big Brothers Big Sisters in college. Here she's with her little sister. She also interned, worked part time and joined various clubs and societies. The experiences helped her with career goals.

to an incoming freshman. She would receive \$36,000 over four years.

“It was just jaw-dropping. I felt awestruck,” she recalls. “I called my mom and she said, ‘I told you so.’”

The scholarship was more than financial relief. It was the first time someone other than her mom or dad had expressed that much confidence in her abilities. It gave Pethke even more confidence.

At UWL, that confidence grew as she pursued unimaginable paths — like studying abroad. She interned at Onalaska High School, presenting to classrooms about life after high school, coordinating tutoring, organizing student needs assessments and more. She worked with victims of sexual and domestic violence interning with New Horizons.

about — serving vulnerable populations and advocating for youth. She majored in sociology with an at-risk child and youth care minor, and applied for graduate school in professional counseling. After graduating in May, she started graduate school at UW Oshkosh to become a school counselor.

Back on the farm, Pethke learned work wasn't so hard when she understood why it was important. “My dad couldn't possibly do everything by himself, especially with 300-400 cows to milk,” she explains.

Her college education has created a future that also doesn't feel like work because she is invested in how important it is. She's not only grateful for the scholarship, but for the confidence it gave her.

DRIVEN

His struggles in the rearview mirror, Ryan Crain, '18, looks to his dreams



Ryan Crain's mother didn't sugarcoat anything. When she had no food on the table, she told him why. When Ryan's dad went to prison, she shared what he had done.

Sometimes Ryan's mother told him things that were hard to hear. But she also told him that he could do anything.

"She told me that the greatest thing she gave me was her blood — my heritage being Ho-chunk. It is unique," he says. "... she wanted me to live my dreams."

Ryan's mother died when he was 21. Her picture is propped up next to the odometer in his 2007 Dodge Caliber, tracking the miles along with him. Ryan is only 33, but he has a long, winding road behind him.

He grew up living in and out of foster care because of the instability, alcohol abuse and fighting at home. His memories of his father are vague phone calls to prisons in Appleton and Green Bay.

His teenage years and young adulthood were no

easier. He lost his parents to cancer and had facial reconstructive surgery twice after a brutal beating from a stranger.

Despite all of this, Ryan graduated from UWL in May with a bachelor's degree in management and received multiple job offers. He recently launched his career as a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual.

Ryan's girlfriend and now wife, Cassidee Fosterling, '13, inspired him to go back to school. She had known she



May graduate Ryan Crain, '18 landed on the Dean's List, became a founding member and president of an honors fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, and held an internship with the Ho-chunk Nation.

INSET: Ryan Crain and his wife Cassidee Fosterling, '13.

UWLAX.EDU/STORY/DRIVEN

New Scholarships

MARY O'SULLIVAN AND FRANCIE BALL WTC TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

O'Sullivan and Ball created the award for Western Technical College students interested in transferring to UWL. It awards a \$1,000 scholarship annually.

THE LANGDON FAMILY NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jim and Eileen Langdon's fund makes UWL more affordable for Native American students. It awards a \$1,000 scholarship annually to an incoming freshman who's a member of a U.S. Native American tribe.

To contribute to these or other scholarship funds contact the UWL Foundation at 877.895.3863 or foundation@uwlax.edu.

"She told me that the greatest thing she gave me was her blood — my heritage being Ho-chunk. It is unique ... she wanted me to live my dreams."

Ryan Crain, '18

wanted to be a teacher since the third grade and then became one.

Ryan had other friends who graduated from UWL and landed great jobs, but seeing Fosterling do it was different.

"I was never inspired enough to go out and capture my dreams until I started dating her," says Ryan. "I knew if I was to marry this great woman, I would need to provide and be an equal."

Ryan excelled at Western Technical College before

transferring to UWL. He says his mother would be proud of him for living his dreams.

Fosterling thinks about Ryan's success relative to many youngsters she sees in school.

"Thinking about the kind of lives students can have, and watching him overcoming those things — it's a success story I hope for all of my students who have those rough points," she says.

WINGHAVEN PIZZA FARM

Hidden in the rolling coulees outside Galesville, you'll find the Winghaven Pizza Farm next to Ferguson's Orchards. The outdoor restaurant is in the midst of its first full summer after opening for about two months last fall. Rob Grover, '16, and Greg Roskos, '11, own and run Winghaven. The name was inspired by the farmland it's located on, which used to be Winghaven Orchards. Grover has worked in a variety of fields and is currently in politics. Roskos planned on being a corporate consultant in a big city. Now he finds himself in a very different situation in small-town Wisconsin. He turned his communication studies and organization major into fueling his passion for cooking and creating recipes. Roskos creates a new recipe each month, and there's even talk of a secret menu.



12:01 p.m.: Work at Winghaven starts with preparations for a baby shower. Roskos and Sarah Grover, kitchen manager and current UWL student, start making the stone-fired pizzas for the special event. Roskos reminisces about how he grew up cooking alongside his grandmother at family functions.

9 p.m.: After five hours of serving up delicious pizzas, Roskos and Grover put the finishing touches on another weekend.





2:04 p.m.: With the baby shower served, Roskos starts work on a gluten-free crust. He wants to add it to the menu, but won't do so until he's pleased with the end result. It's a work in progress getting the special crusts to come out just right in the high-temp stone ovens — without the burnt edges, yet cooked all the way through.



3:30 p.m.: A couple from central Wisconsin — more than 100 miles away — shows up before normal service hours of 4-9 p.m. Saturdays. The staff serves up pizza anyway, as Roskos takes the time to chat with the couple about the farm.

WINGHAVENPIZZAFARM.COM

Hottest-selling pizzas at Winghaven

- » MEAT LOVERS
- » LOCAL CLASSIC
- » CHICKEN BACON RANCH



5:17 p.m.: Rain in the forecast puts a crimp in pizza sales. Yesterday, customers bought 112 pizzas between 4-9 p.m. But the slower start means Roskos and Grover can mingle with patrons and enjoy the live music.

Philanthropy Advocates

Students show
what donating
means for UWL



How important are donors to UWL? The Student Philanthropy Council hopes to shed some light on just how much what UWL donors do goes to make a difference for students. Senior Chris Porter, a UWL political science and communication studies major with a minor in leadership development, became president of the Student Philanthropy Council when it formed in January. The group builds awareness about the important part donors play in making UWL what it is.

Campus vanguard Chris Porter gets prospective students to picture themselves at UWL. Once here, he expands that picture — showing students how donors help make UWL the great place it is.

As the Student Philanthropy Council's first president, Porter explains how donors help support everything from student research and study abroad experiences to scholarships. The funding is particularly important after decades of an overall decline for higher education public support in Wisconsin.

Porter, and others on the council, want students to see how they benefit from donors — and recognize the importance of giving when they become alumni. "As students, we see the benefits of giving today, and it is important people continue to see those benefits down the road," explains Porter.

To build awareness, the Student Philanthropy Council formed in January and held UWL's first Philanthropy Week in April. Through a selfie contest, sidewalk chalking and more, they shared philanthropy's impact.

Being on the council has given Sarah Schimpf a better understanding of philanthropy: "It's not just putting a name on a building. Contributions go toward the experiences students have."

A perfect example: the recent \$2 million gift not only named UWL's new Prairie Springs Science Center, it supports research projects and many scholarships.

During Philanthropy Week, students wrote thank-you notes to faculty and staff who donate to UWL, which the council members delivered. "I was met with a lot of smiles," says Schimpf. "I think they really appreciated the gesture."

LEAVING A LEGACY



Francie Ball,
left, and Mary
O'Sullivan

YOUR LEGACY

There are many ways to create a scholarship fund to help future generations of UWL students. Please contact Greg Reichert at **608.785.8672** or greichert@uwlax.edu

Providing a path

They didn't attend UWL themselves, but they're helping to make sure others do.

La Crosse retirees Francie Ball and Mary O'Sullivan attended UW-Madison before landing in the Coulee Region for their careers. Their direct connection to UWL is attending classes on campus through the Senior Audit Program.

O'Sullivan taught writing and technical writing at Western Technical College for more than 30 years, while Ball, a registered dietitian, was on the advisory committee for the food service management

program at Western. With those connections, they wanted to provide Western students options to pursue their dreams.

They created the Mary O'Sullivan and Francie Ball WTC Transfer Scholarship, to be given annually to students transferring to UWL. "We hope the scholarship sends the message to Western students that they have a place as transfer students at UWL," says O'Sullivan.

"It is a small way to affirm their accomplishment as a two-year college graduate and to encourage them in their future studies," adds Ball.



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La Crosse from the bluffs » Photo by UWL photographer Michael Lieurance '02

