

*University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

# CLASS NOTES



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**

*January, 2013*

*Tell us how you're doing!*

SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES BLURB TO:

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**CLASS NOTES POLICY:** The UW-L Alumni Association publishes class notes online in January, April, July and October. The deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the quarterly postings. See [www.uwlalumni.org](http://www.uwlalumni.org) for details.

# 49

**George and Arline Schubert** attended the 24th Annual Symposium on Baseball and the American Culture in June 2012 at Cooperstown, N.Y., where they presented a paper, "A Selected Chronological History of Assumption of Risk and Use of Waivers and Disclaimers Used in Major League Baseball (MLB)." In previous years Schubert has presented papers on baseball at this symposium and at the NINE Conference in Phoenix annually. Schubert continues to teach part-time in the Sports Business Program at the University of North Dakota. He teaches sport law in the fall semester and, on occasion, a special projects course in the sports law area.

# 66

**Fred Jurewicz** and his wife, Maetta, Shakopee, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 14, 2012.

# 68

**William C. Harris**, Rio Rancho, N.M., has retired as a state of New Mexico Telecommunications Manger, a position he held from 1998-2010.

**Kathy (Klus) Van Reusen**, Tucson, Ariz., retired from her health educator's position at the Kern County Department of Public Health in Bakersfield, Calif., last year. She and her husband, Tony, relocated to Tucson where they met 25 years ago while both were

working at the University of Arizona. They settled in Oro Valley and are enjoying "desert-living" again. Kathy stays active in the local branch of the American Association of University Women, participating in a book group and being on the board of a neighborhood group. They also attend University of Arizona football and basketball games. "I think I'm busier in retirement than I was when I worked full time," she says.

**Kristy (Anderson) Watson**, Bainbridge Island, Wash., loves being retired and living with her husband, C. Thomas, on an island that is just a small town, but a suburb of Seattle with all of its benefits.

# 69

**James J. Bird**, Mooresville, N.C., has been promoted to associate professor and granted tenure at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education. He is the departmental coordinator of doctoral programs and teaches classes for school principals and district superintendents. This is a second career for Bird that comes after 31 years as a school administrator, the last 16 as superintendent of schools in Auburn Hills, Mich. He retired in 2006 and he and his wife, Linda, moved to North Carolina.

**Diane K. (Adams) Hubbard**, Norwalk, retired in June 2012 after 36 years of teaching elementary students in Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Schools.

**Mary (Tornowske) Lubner**, Cedarburg, continues to be involved in 4-H activities by helping a project leader and chaperoning trips. She has been to South Korea and Mexico. She has been to South Africa and China through People to People with a physical education delegation. She holds a 5th degree black belt in Taekwon Do and teaches classes three times a month.

# 70

**Margaret A. Ewert**, spends summer in the La Crosse area and winters in Florida. The retired art teacher is in her 42nd year in the teaching arts, subbing all spring and leading summer enrichment art programs. She enjoys watching the kids have fun with all art projects. "It is not work, but a joy," she says. Ewert recently lead a tour to the Galapagos Islands. She plans another adventure for next year to somewhere in South America.

# 73

**Michelle Finn Durmick**, Bentleyville, Ohio, has retired from Nestlé USA. She has started an HR/OD consulting practice.

# 74

**Leone (Larson) Pierce**, '74 & '81, Mosinee, retired as assistant director of Financial Aid from UW-Stevens Point in June. She and her husband are busy helping family, traveling and providing church services at local Senior Living Centers/Nursing Homes. In January 2012 they became grandparents of twin girls.

**Marti Sopher**, Madison, works at UW-Madison.

# 76

**Rob Cowan**, Deerfield, Ill., and his wife, Christine, are retired teachers from the Illinois Public School System. He taught at Zion-Benton High School. They remain active in the teaching profession as substitutes, test proctors, and in academic assistance. Both of their daughters are teachers as well. Cowan says he misses campus, citing "the fine Instructors I had" and the various sports teams that represent UW-L. He speaks highly of the school and is surprised how many alums he runs into while wearing UW-L apparel or from the sticker on his car. "It's heartwarming just to talk about the memories," he says.

# 77

**Gerald "Jerry" Clusen**, New London, retired from Kimberly-Clark Corp. in 2008 after a 28-1/2 year career

in information systems; manufacturing engineering, maintenance and operations; and research and engineering. He plans to complete his military career in the Navy Reserve in September 2013. As an Information Warfare officer and former enlisted Electronics Technician, he has served more than 41-1/2 years and is a Rear Admiral (lower half) assigned to U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet.

# 80

**John Hillmer**, Waukesha, is director of IT Operations & Infrastructure for Northwestern Mutual's headquarters in Milwaukee and Franklin. Hillmer is an officer of the Milwaukee IT Leadership Forum, an organization with members from southeastern Wisconsin who come together monthly to leverage one another's experiences and best practices. Each spring they sponsor and host the Wisconsin IT Symposium in Pewaukee. Hillmer serves on the IT Advisory Board for Bryant & Stratton College, and supports and volunteers at numerous non-profit organizations in southeast Wisconsin. He and his wife, Bonnie, have four children. In June they became grandparents.

# 83

**Bob Klein**, Twin Lakes, has taken a new position with the Racine Family YMCA as director of Marketing and Resource Development. He worked in the YMCA from 1984 until

2011 as physical director of the LaPorte Family YMCA, Indiana, executive director, Southlake YMCA, Indiana and President/CEO, YMCA of McHenry County, Illinois. He's busy raising a 12-year-old son, Mitchell, and 16-year-old daughter, Emilee.

# 84

**Laurie (Docken/Severson) Marsh**, Galesville, is in her second year as Title I Co-Reading Director at Blair-Taylor Elementary. Last year she completed the training for the English Language Learner A.C.C.E.S.S. testing that is required by law to be given to children of families that speak a language other than English in their homes. This year she will also be a major part of the Response to Intervention and Student Assistance Teams. In addition to working at school, Marsh was employed for the summer by UW-L alum and staff member, Laura Delaney, for childcare and at Laura's family owned and operated Elmaro Vineyard in Trempealeau.

# 85

**Brenda (Lund) Stein**, Nashville, Tenn., had her artwork featured in the Nashville Arts Magazine in August 2012. See the feature on pages 60 – 62 at: <http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/53f2c9e8#/53f2c9e8/60>

# 87

**Douglas Geiger** moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., with his partner, Erik, in February, 2012, to become Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at St. John's University. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Stony Brook University in its master's program in higher education administration.

**Julie Smith-Taylor**, Oceanside, Calif., an accredited public relations professional and president of Taylor PR Inc. in Oceanside, has been elected 2013 chair on the Executive Board for the Western District of the Public Relations Society of America. The district represents five western states and more than 2,000 public relations professionals affiliated with 10 chapters. Smith-Taylor recently qualified to become a lifetime member of the Worldwide Who's Who Association, a registry of executives, professionals and entrepreneurs.

# 89

**Jeffrey Bakken**, Bloomington, Ill., was appointed Dean of the Graduate School and Sponsored Research at Bradley University June 1. He had been at Illinois State University where he has served as the Interim Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Studies and International Education in the College of Education. Bakken has authored numerous books, book chapters and journal articles, and has been a member of research teams

that received more than \$1 million in extramural funding.

**Steven A. Knudson**, Madison, was appointed administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Gaming in January, 2011.

# 90

**Kristyn L. Ackley**, Madison, has been named director of development for Easter Seals Wisconsin.

# 94

**Samuel Anantadjaya**, Bandung, Jawa Barat, Indonesia, completed a doctorate degree program March 16, 2011. He works for Swiss German University and successfully secured a research grant for about \$65,000. His wife, Irma Nawangwulan, '95, works for Universitas Pembangunan Jaya.

**Jason J. Parr**, St. Paul, Minn., is the owner and founder of JSP Properties, a full service property management company offering professional services for residential properties in the Twin Cities. JSP specializes in rental management of single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes, multi-units and apartments. JSP recently received Best in St Paul award for Property Management, and Best Manager award from CIC – Midwest. See more at: [www.jspproperties.com](http://www.jspproperties.com)

# 99

**Carmen N. Couden**, Waukesha, was named a Wisconsin Law Journal 2012 "Up & Coming Lawyer." Attorneys selected are recognized for contributing to their communities and making significant impacts on the legal profession and their own law firms early in their careers. Couden is a senior counsel in Foley and Lardner's Milwaukee office.

# 00

**Chad E. Gilbeck**, Onalaska, has been named 2012 Employee of the Year at Viterbo University for "Outstanding Service to the university." He has been the Help Desk Service Coordinator for 10 years.

# 01

**Amanda Bergel**, Green Bay, graduated from UW-Green Bay in January 2012 with a master's in management, with an emphasis in organizational and employee development.

# 02

**Jamie McClendon**, Racine, works as an attorney for the Wisconsin State Public Defenders. She represents indigent clients on criminal matters.

# 03

**Aaron, '03, and Brooke, '04, Bowman**, Big Lake, Minn., have two boys, Kaleb and Tyler, who will be in the high school graduation classes of 2024 and 2025.

# 04

**Abigail (Foth) Holcomb**, Chicago, is director of Residence Life at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her daughter, Eve, is two years old.

# 05

**Briana Schroeder**, Austin, Texas, is working in development at the University of Texas-Austin.

# 06

**Toby Garrod, '06, and Kristi L. Parker, '08**, were married in December 2010. They live in Madison. Toby works for Alfalight; Kristi, is employed by the University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation.

# 07

**Leslie A. Revers**, Chicago, received a CPA license in May 2012.

# 08

**Allison Gerland**, Superior, was promoted to Assistant Director of Student Involvement at UW-Superior where she has worked for four years. Gerland advises the student program-

ing board, oversees student organizations, coordinates campus wide events, and promotes school spirit.

# 08

**Teri Passow, '08 & '10, married Christopher Durkin, '10**, June 23, 2012. They live in Oshkosh. Teri is a program coordinator of the McNair Scholars at Marian University; Christopher works at UW-Oshkosh.

# 09

**Kyle T. O'Brien** married **Laura Barquest, '10**, June 23, 2012. They live in Sun Prairie. Kyle is a legislative adviser to Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Dennis Smith. Laura is completing the graduate program in occupational therapy at UW-L.

# 10

**Kate Slisz**, Rochester, Minn., is a master's international economic and community development student studying in a joint program through Illinois State University and the Peace Corps. She finished coursework at ISU in June and was scheduled to leave in September for 27 months of Peace Corps Service in Botswana. She will work in the health sector with youth who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

# 11

**Megan Brandt**, Baraboo, is an administrative assistant in the legal department at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.

**Pa Moua-Yang**, La Crosse, is the Operations Program Associate in the University Advancement and University Communications at UW-L. She received a 2012 Diversity Scholarship Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District Five. She and her husband, Chao Yang, are active members of their church, Hmong Faith Alliance Church.

# 12

**Sarah Fender** has moved to Taichung, Taiwan, for a teaching job. "It's nice to put my UW-L degree to good use," she says.

# Class of 20??

**Ryan and Kristin (Nagrocki) Skoraczewski**, both '97, Gurnee, Ill., a son, Jack Robert, April 18, 2012. He joins brother, Owen (6) and sister, Quinn (3).

# IN MEMORIAM

TO GIVE A MEMORIAL, SEND A CHECK TO:  
UW-L FOUNDATION, 615 EAST AVE. N.,  
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

## Staff and faculty remembered

**CLOYCE CAMPBELL**, 96, died Aug. 30, 2012, in La Crosse. He became a professor of economics at UW-L in 1956, and was chair of the Economics and Business Administration departments for several years. Campbell was instrumental in developing the School of Business Administration in the 1970s. He retired in 1981. He is survived by his wife, Florence, and their two children. Send memorials to the Cloyce Campbell Scholarship at the UW-L Foundation.

**ALLEN B. BIRCHLER**, 86, died Aug. 14, 2012, in La Crosse. Birchler taught in the History Department from 1965-90. He taught European survey, along with English, world, church, military and specialized European history. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their four children.

**ERNEST J. GERSON**, 97, died Sept. 23, 2012, in La Crosse. Gershon, '37, was a four-year letter winner in gymnastics. Following teaching stints in secondary education, Gershon returned to UW-L where he taught for 36 years. UW-L was his life. His students meant everything to him, each being a product of his love for physical education and desire for growth. He is survived by a son and daughter. Send memorials to the UW-L Foundation for non-traditional students.

**HOPE O. HAGAR**, 70, Onalaska, died Sept. 22, 2012, in La Crosse. Hagar was a faculty member in the Social Work and Sociology departments from 1974-1999. She was known for her compassion, caring and strong sense of social justice. She is survived by her husband, Larry.

**THE REV. CALVIN F. HELMING**, 85, died June 18, 2012, in La Crosse. Helming was director of student services during the late '60s and early '70s. He lived in Holmen and served as interim pastor in many area congregations. He is survived by his wife, Verona, and four sons.

**WILLIAM "BILL" O. OTTO**, 79, died Thursday, June 28, in La Crosse. Otto, a 1957 UW-L graduate, was on the recreation and parks department faculty from 1964-1991. He was appointed interim dean of the College of Health Physical Education and Recreation for 1988-89. He was also chair of the department for many years. He is survived by wife Mary Jo, and two sons.

For complete obituaries on most listed staff and faculty, go to [www.lacrossetribune.com](http://www.lacrossetribune.com).

## Alumni remembered

**1932:** Mary Svec, La Crosse  
**1934:** Larry Sieger, Viroqua  
**1935:** Frank James, Roswell, Ga.  
**1938:** Melvin Olson, La Crosse  
**1939:** Palmer Peterson, Burnsville, Minn.  
**1940:** Thelma Cooper, Portland, Ore.  
**1942:** Betty Hanson, Grass Lake, Mich.  
**1942:** Elizabeth Sweet Herold, Stoddard  
**1943:** Mary Sexauer, La Crosse  
**1945:** Charlotte "Charlie" Marie Quarberg, Mondovi  
**1946:** Randi Brye, La Crosse  
**1947:** Merle (Moore) Mills, Viroqua  
**1950:** Lois Hardt, Palm Springs, Calif.  
**1951:** Frank Feally, San Jose, Calif.  
**1951:** Raymond Kroner, La Crosse  
**1953:** Lois Krubsack Heyerdahl, Sparta

**1954:** Robert Grabinski, Arnold, Md.  
**1954:** Robert Lechnir, Marshalltown, Iowa  
**1956:** James Mason, Viroqua  
**1956:** Kathleen Raymond, Mountain View, Calif.  
**1956:** Barbara Van Gent, Green Bay  
**1955:** Sally Jenkins Quinn, Germantown  
**1957:** Linwood Brann, Eau Claire  
**1957:** Bill Otto, La Crosse  
**1957:** Betty Rogstad, Altoona  
**1962:** Gordon Borreson, Seattle  
**1962:** George M. Hetherington, Bloomington, Minn.  
**1962:** Karen Bach McDowell, Mabank, Texas  
**1965:** James H. Potter, Hillsboro  
**1968:** Coletta R. Schreier, Cashton  
**1970:** Bonita Hoffman Weiland, Kendall  
**1970 & 1993:** Patricia Copps, La Crosse

**1971:** Lyle Stanek, Sarasota, Fla.  
**1972:** Patrick Umberger, Onalaska  
**1973:** Charlotte A. (Knight) Mangan, Cashton  
**1974:** Janet Gottbeheat Ray, Kendall  
**1975:** Ann Henke, Onalaska  
**1977:** Joseph Alan Kopiness, Columbus, Ga.  
**1979:** Larry Halverson, La Crosse  
**1979:** Frank Vondrashek, Rochester, Minn.  
**1980:** Kathie Beckmann, Onalaska  
**1981:** Bruce J. Jack, San Francisco  
**1986:** Patrick Daul, St. Paul, Minn.  
**1990:** Kevin Hurley, Chicago  
**1992:** Kelly Lokken, La Crosse  
**1993:** Patricia (Pedretti) Hansen, Viroqua  
**2000:** Lisa Prokupek Wille, Westby  
**2010:** Ashton May, Adams, Minn.  
**2011:** Kayla Konemann, Lyndon Station

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*For you.  
For La Crosse.  
For a lifetime.*

*Your UW-L Alumni  
Association membership  
supports many valuable  
programs and services,  
including this magazine.*

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a member today.*



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