



University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

CLASS NOTES

July 2017

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED APRIL 1 - JUNE 15, 2017

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Allen D. and JoEllen K. (Krause) Thompson, both '69, Port Townsend, Washington, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are seeking information on other '69 graduates who participated in the Marching Chiefs to arrange a 50th reunion on campus in 2019. Those interested should send information to auntjelly@q.com.

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Thomas Conboy, Rockton, Illinois, is a 68-year-old cancer survivor. He had his prostate removed May 2003, and the surgery left him cancer free. He was disabled with severe complications at 55 years old in 2004. In 2003 Conboy was employed by the Parker Hannifin Corp. Aerospace Group in Irvine, California. He spent 27 years in the military aerospace industry in various domestic and international procurement and program management roles. Conboy lives a block south of the Rock River on the bluff side. He and his partner are surrounded by agriculture in

some of the richest soil. Having lived in California and Texas, Conboy reports he now knows the value of land and water in the Midwest.

75

Peter "Potamus" Crivello, '75 & '85, has retired from the West Allis-West Milwaukee Recreation Department and sold his lake home. He has moved to Font Mojave, Arizona.

76

Freddy Korneta, La Crosse, is retired and enjoying spending time with two grandchildren.

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Nancy "Jinx" Collins, Green Bay, has been inducted into Green Bay's Women's Bowling Hall of Fame. A native of the Buffalo, New York, area, she began her bowling career at age 6 and has continued for the past 63 consecutive years.

81

Nancy Vittone Paddison, Pearland, Texas, was recently elected treasurer

of the American Physical Therapy Association's Oncology Section.

82

David Rusch, Hartford, has retired after 35 years of teaching and coaching as head football coach, and an assistant for basketball and track.

84

Sonja L. Schmitt, Sturgeon Bay, recently became self-employed with two home businesses: Isagenix Healthcare Products Sales and Mary Kay cosmetics consultant.

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Michael Bautch, Brighton, Michigan, says his appreciation for La Crosse, Wisconsin and the educational experience at UWL grows significantly higher with each year he's away from that area. "It is really a special place," he says. Bautch is currently running one division of Universal Logistics Holdings in Detroit with 48 facilities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Colombia. He is married to

La Crosse native, Jolene Evans, '88, and they have three daughters. Soon, he will be paying for undergraduate and graduate education for three at the same time. He truly misses the tuition fees of UWL circa 1983-1987. "Keep up the great work at UWL," he advises. "It was a blessing to be part of the program and the community."

Kevin Wilde, Racine, is finishing his 30th year in education, currently as an 8th grade U.S. History teacher for the Waterford Grade School District. He is celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary this year. His oldest daughter is finishing a nursing degree at Milwaukee School of Engineering and his youngest daughter is entering her third year of an engineering degree at the University of Southern Indiana.

91

Timothy W. Smith has moved to Highland Park, Illinois, following 22 years of teaching in Racine. He recently bought a house in the Ravinia neighborhood with his fiancé. He

is a dual language teacher with Waukegan Public Schools.

Mark Vlaj, Milwaukee, retired from teaching and coaching with Milwaukee Public Schools in 2006 and is "enjoying it."

99



Heather S. Nason, Orlando, Florida, has joined the firm of Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A., practicing in commercial real estate. Nason holds her AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell and was named a Florida Super Lawyer "Rising Star" in 2010. She is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and Commercial Real Estate Women, serving on the member services committee. Nason is on the board and executive committee of the Bridges of Light Foundation and an active member of Cele-

bration Church. She holds a J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law, and graduated with high honors in political science and sociology from UWL.

04



Melissa Lemke, Racine, has been awarded the Wisconsin Public Health Association Excellence in Research Award. Her research began at UWL. Lemke is program manager for the UW Madison School of Medicine and Public Health Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health program and Center for Urban Population Health.

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Bradley Burmeister, De Pere, is an emergency physician at Green Bay Emergency Medicine Services, which staffs Bellin Hospital in Green Bay.

Faculty & Staff Remembered

RAFIQUE AHMED

Rafique Ahmed, 73, died May 28, 2017, in his La Crosse home. Ahmed was a faculty member in the UWL Department of Geography Earth Science, joining in 1984 and retiring in 2015. Ahmed was an

accomplished meteorologist and climatologist with significant research and pedagogical contributions in climate change and variability in Bangladesh. He published several books on climatology, along

with many peer-reviewed journal articles. Besides academic pursuits, Ahmed was a family man who had many friends and well-wishers.

JOHN HELD

John Held, 75, died June 5, 2017, in his Black River Falls home after a long, relentless battle with cancer. Held spent his 30-year career at UWL in the Biology Department as a professor, specializing

in fisheries. He was a true believer in the scientific method and spent many hours on research, much of which was on rivers studying fish. He was assistant vice chancellor and director of graduate

studies before retiring in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Yadira; two daughters and stepson.

REV. KEITH A. KENSINGER

The Rev. Keith A. Kensinger, 86, died June 5, 2017, in Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania, after a brief illness. A Presbyterian minister, he was a campus minister at UWL from 1975-93. He will be

remembered most for his love of gardening, faith, generosity of time, and love of service. Kensinger is survived by his husband, David Glotz, and a son and daughter.

Alumni Remembered

- 1948** — John Ellison, Milwaukee
1951 — John I. Schumann, Sheboygan
1954 & '74 — Doris E. (Mathison) Johnson, Coon Valley
1960 — David L. Umnus, Menominee, Michigan
1961 & '67 — Wayne Gates, Westby
1962 — Leland R. Alexander, Cincinnati, Ohio
1962 — Edward R. Larson, Beloit
1965 — Eugene G Hersil, Mauston
1968 — John C Spillner, Sr., Montello
1971 — James Coonan, La Crosse
1971 — Francis “Frank” Dais, Rhineland
1979 — Elaine (Rohan) Richmond, Cedarburg
1979 — Spencer Warren, Stoughton
1983 — Nadina Suhr Troia, Sun Prairie
1991 & 2010 — Thomas Pleger, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Submit UWL Class Notes

ONLINE: www.uwlalumni.org/whatsnew.php

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CLASS NOTES POLICY:

The UWL Alumni Association publishes class notes and obituaries online in January, April, July and October. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the month of quarterly posting. See www.uwlalumni.org for details.

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