

LANTERN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Volume 43, No. 1
WINTER 2016-17

THE U

The new Student Union
comes alive » Page 16 »

ALSO INSIDE: Campus News | Athletics News | Feature Class Notes



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CLASS NOTES ONLINE

Go to www.uwlaxumni.org for complete class notes each quarter. Click on 'News,' then 'Class Notes.'

ON THE COVER:

NEW STUDENT UNION: THE U – Architects incorporated elements found in nature throughout the building, such as this window between second and third floors resembling an eagle's nest. Read more about all The U has to offer to our students and the community on page 16.

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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 1st of the month prior to the quarterly postings. See www.uwlaxumni.org for details.

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THE NEW 'LIVING ROOM'

It was 1815 when Cambridge University organized the first student union. Houston Hall, built in 1896 at the University of Pennsylvania, was the first official student union building. The word “union” was used for a university-wide society that cut across college lines and aimed to assemble unity through understanding differences.

At UWL, it took almost a half century before a student union was built. UW-Madison’s Memorial Union opened in 1928, but it wasn’t until 1958-59 that nine unions, including Cartwright Center, were constructed on Wisconsin State College System campuses.

I began my student life career in 1985 at UWL. Before that, I worked with student governance and student involvement on campuses. My dissertation analyzed student involvement and cognitive development of students.

The student union is the community center — the living room — of a university, providing services, conveniences and amenities the collegiate community needs in daily campus life. It’s where students, faculty and staff come together for informal interactions



to relax, eat and recreate. It’s a safe place that fosters increased understanding.

As students began the process of naming our new facility, some encouraged using “union” for the historical perspective. Others preferred “center,” referring to the campus focal point.

For me, the name is less important than empowering students to use the facility. It’s how we work with students to continue their out-of-class education and develop community.

When you walk into the new building, you will feel a difference from Cartwright. It’s larger with comfortable gathering spaces for individuals and group interactions. Students can recharge personally or technologically.

The new building provides many new opportunities. Cartwright Center has served us well. We’re proud

“The student union is the community center — the living room — of a university, providing services, conveniences and amenities the collegiate community needs in daily campus life.”

Larry Ringgenberg

of its history. It has helped us to create a new campus living room — one that meets the needs of today’s students and those for many years to come.

*Larry Ringgenberg,
Director, UWL Student
Centers*



ASSISTANT ACES

UWL PAs achieve 100% pass rate

A unique UWL program is a cure for the nationwide primary care doctor shortage. UWL's physician assistants earned a 100 percent pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam. That along with small class sizes and partnerships with two leading healthcare

institutions — Gundersen Health System and Mayo Clinic School of Health Science — continue to make the program attractive. The program celebrated National PA week in October to spread the word about how it's successfully helping the health care shortage.

STILL STELLAR

U.S. News & World Report's 2017 America's Best Colleges ranks UW-La Crosse as the state's best and the No. 4 public university in its list of Best Regional Universities in the Midwest. It's the

16th year in a row that UWL has remained the state's top-ranked among UW System comprehensives and the top 4 in the Midwest. Also, UWL listed among "A-Plus Schools for B Students,"

which identifies "where non-superstars have a decent shot at being accepted and thriving" and where spirit and hard work make a difference.



A ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Science Labs Building took place on Nov. 16, 2016. Pictured are, from left: Allen Nelson, Professor Emeritus of Biology; Eric Lehmann, Vice President, Fowler Hammer; Valentine Schute, Founder/ Principal, River Architects; Jacob Schimmel, UWL Student Association President; State Sen. Jennifer Shilling; Chancellor, Joe Gow; David Miller, Vice President for Administration and Fiscal Affairs, UW System; and Aaron Monte, Chemistry & Biochemistry professor.

DIGGIN' IT

NEW SCIENCE LABS BUILDING BEING BUILT

Construction of a new \$82 million science facility on campus got underway last summer. The building's construction got even more exciting during a ceremonial groundbreaking in November.

The new science labs building addresses lack of space and a severely

deteriorating infrastructure in Cowley Hall, the existing science facility. When Cowley was built in 1965, and added on to in 1969 and 1970, fewer science programs were offered and enrollment was smaller.

The four-story building will include 35 new instructional and research labs for

biology, chemistry, geography and earth science, physics, microbiology, river studies, and the radiation center. It also has shared administrative and support areas. The building should be completed by winter 2018.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BUILDING BOOM

About \$296 million in new building projects were completed or are in progress on campus since 2007. Another \$126 million are planned through 2020. These projects have employed architects, engineers and construction workers, and have led to the purchase of building materials and furnishings. This adds up to a \$928 million economic impact, using the industry standard 2.2 multiplier.



SOUNDS GOOD

Wind Ensemble among top 10 groups selected nationally

The College Band Director's National Association has recognized the UW-La Crosse Wind Ensemble in an elite group of just 10 programs nationwide in its "Small Program Band" competition. Among the competition's three jurors, the Wind Ensemble's performance was ranked first

by two jurors and second by the third. "This is the equivalent of a national title for one of our sports teams," says Tom Seddon, UWL Wind Ensemble and UWL Orchestra director.

IT ADDS UP



Professor Gubbi Sudhakaran, left, and Associate Professor Jennifer Docktor, of UWL's Physics Department, will help K-12 teachers in Wisconsin integrate technology, engineering, arts and mathematics with science. The \$395,000 U.S. Department of Education and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction grant will allow UWL to offer workshops the next two years. This isn't the department's first K-12 partnership. From 2011-2014, faculty led professional development in physical science to 30 area teachers through a project called "A LOT of Science."

Collegiate coaching

Students, faculty make college more attainable for Latina/o students

Olga Dedkova-Hasan watches Latina/o students in her high school classes falling through cracks in the education system.

Most parents of her Arcadia, Wisconsin, students finished elementary school in Mexico. Concepts key to college preparation — like G.P.A. and AP classes — are foreign to those families.

As a result, she sees Latina/o students starting families rather than pursuing college. It's a growing issue as Arcadia's Latina/o population increases. Wisconsin's school-aged population is 10 percent Latino/a; Arcadia's High School is about 28 percent.

UWL outreach is helping to fill the growing college prep gap. Since 2010, History Professor Víctor Macías-González has been visiting Dedkova-Hasan's classes. During spring semester 2016, he brought along Latina students from UWL eight times to talk about their college journeys.

Macías-González and Omar Granados, director of UWL's Institute for Latina/o and Latin American Studies, received a College of Liberal Studies grant to fund the trips. They are now applying for another grant to expand the program elsewhere.

Since the visits Dedkova-Hasan has noticed change.



ABOVE: Last spring, UWL Latina students visited the classroom of Olga Dedkova-Hasan, a Spanish and ELL teacher at Arcadia High School, to talk to Latina/o students about college.



LEFT: UWL faculty members Víctor Macías-González and Omar Granados were first-generation college students. Macías-González is Mexican-American and the son of immigrants; Granados is a Cuban immigrant. They've led outreach efforts in Arcadia that aim to make college more attainable for a growing Latina/o population.

"I'm hearing some say they'll wait on the family and go to community college or get some kind of degree," she says.

TOP TROOPERS

Four in inaugural Eagle Battalion Hall of Fame class

Two alumni are among the four former UWL ROTC cadets in the inaugural class of the Eagle Battalion Hall of Fame.

The National ROTC Hall of Fame was established in summer 2016 at Fort

Knox, Kentucky. In fall, the UWL ROTC Battalion established its own.

Inductees receive a plaque and have a display dedicated to them in the Department of Military Science. Along with UWL,

the Eagle Battalion includes cadets from Viterbo University, Winona State University and St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Those inducted into the Eagle hall on Nov. 12, 2016 included:



Col. Eric D. Kerska

U.S. Army Retired, a 1987 graduate of Winona State University. Deployed twice to the Iraq War; 32 years of service. Awarded three Legion of Merit awards and two Bronze Stars.

UWL ALUM



Col. Gerald W. Meyer, '73

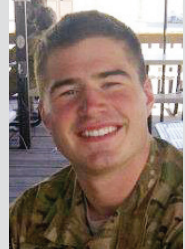
U.S. Army Retired. Served 32 years as an armor and adjutant general officer. Participated in the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.



Capt. Timothy E. Hornik

U.S. Army Retired. Deployed to Iraq. Shot in the head by a sniper and permanently blinded. Awarded the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

UWL ALUM



Capt. Jason L. Church, '11

U.S. Army Retired. Deployed to Afghanistan; struck by an explosive device and lost both legs. Awarded the Purple Heart.

REDISCOVER LA CROSSE

Fall reunion planning underway

Hundreds of alums expect to return to campus Oct. 19-22. If you haven't been back "home" for a while, plan now to return. Reunion groups scheduled include: Delta Sigma Phi fraternity; Beta Sigma Chi fraternity; African American alumni group; 1992 championship football team; football players/coaches; and Phi Mu sorority. Also, former student athletes will be inducted into the Wall of Fame. Check your email for more or sign up for updates at www.uwlalumni.org/whatsnew.php to make sure you receive details. Visit www.uwlalumni.org for information.

STILL LIKE
2C EACH
OTHER



Their specialty designed shirts say it all: "WE STILL LIKE 2C EACH OTHER AFTER 20 YEARS UW-L HUTCH HALL." They met in 1997 on 2C Hutchinson Hall and have held reunions since graduation. Meeting last summer were, left to right starting from the top, Julie Dahl, '00; Jenny (Lange) Toth, '00; Katie Johnson, '00; Julie (Leahy) Carrievau, '00; Molly (Tully) Polyock, '00; Becky (Finn) Ewald, '00; Graciela (Aguilera) Fenton, '02; Krissy Luedtke, '00; and Tara (Wieneke) Heinze, '00 & '02.

Wall of Fame honors seven

Six alumni and a former coach entered the Intercollegiate Athletics Wall of Fame last October. Former athletes and coaches are recognized for their exceptional athletic abilities and enhancing school tradition. More at uwla.edu/wall-of-fame



RYAN ALLEN | ATHLETE: 2002-06 | WRESTLING

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: Outstanding Wrestler at the 2004-05 NCAA III tournament. "A prestigious award that required many hours, days and years of hard work to achieve."

- » All-time leader in victories; one of two UWL wrestlers to earn four NCAA III All-America accolades.
- » Bachelor's in physical education, 2008.



BECKY (MCDONNELL) BEAULIEU ATHLETE: 1997-2001 | GYMNASTICS

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: "Gymnastics was my favorite part of those four years. The life-long memories and friendships will not be forgotten. My experience at UWL shaped my life's work of coaching gymnastics."

- » School record of 9.80 in 1999 on the floor exercise, second consecutive NCGA national title.
- » Bachelor's in psychology, 2001; master's in school psychology, 2002.



ANNA (MEYER) GRAHAM | ATHLETE: 1998-2002 | SWIMMING

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: "Earning the first place and conference/team record in the 100 backstroke my senior year."

- » Nine career NCAA III All-America honors, three in the 100-yard backstroke.
- » Bachelor's in art and anthropology, 2002.



**LACE (VAN ZEELAND) LUEDKE | ATHLETE: 1993-98
TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS-COUNTRY**

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: “Racing the 400-meter and 4X400-meter at the 1997 outdoor national championships at UWL and being part of the group that placed second.”

- » Outdoor national champion 4x400-meter relay in 1997; fifth in 400-meter dash. Third-place, 4x400-meter relay in 1998.
- » Bachelor’s in physical therapy in 1997.



JEREMY MARTENS | ATHLETE: 1990-93 | TRACK & FIELD

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: “First UWL student-athlete to be an eight-time All-American in one event: long jump.”

- » Four indoor All-America titles; four outdoor All-America titles.
- » Three-year letter winner.



VINCENT ROTTINO | ATHLETE: 1999-2002 | BASEBALL

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: Being a non-drafted free agent for the Milwaukee Brewers and becoming a major league player. “It is a very difficult road through the minor leagues to make it to the big leagues. You have to grind and break down walls and barriers on a daily basis to prove that you are a big league player.”

- » First UWL player to earn American Baseball Coaches Association All-America accolades.
- » Bachelor’s in chemistry, 2002.



**PAT HEALY | COACH: WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY,
1991-2001; WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD, 1991-2016**

BIGGEST ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: Sweeping the NCAA III Indoor and Outdoor Championships in 2015.

- » Teams finished in the top-10 in 41 of 50 possible national championships.
- » “Triple crown” (cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field) in 1983-84 and 2001-02.



POWERFUL PERK

Xcel Energy lighting up minds while keeping the lights on

Xcel Energy is pumping energy into UWL — beyond the heat and the lights.

The company that provides electrical and natural gas service is also contributing to energy fueling young problem solvers, critical thinkers and, ultimately, future idea generators.

Since 2001, Xcel has contributed from \$6,000-10,000 annually to the UWL Foundation. Gifts supported everything from youth science exploration camps to college mathematics competitions.

Xcel supports organizations that improve, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, says Mike Herro, manager of the Xcel Community Service & Key Account Team.

“The economic growth

“The economic growth and future of the communities we serve relies on educational systems and programs that produce a quality workforce for tomorrow.”

Mike Herro

and future of the communities we serve relies on educational systems and programs that produce a quality workforce for

tomorrow,” explains Herro. “We value our relationship with the university and look forward to supporting a variety of scholarships and STEM related activities in the future.”

UWL received \$10,000 from Xcel in 2015, including \$2,000 for the Dean’s Summer Fellows Program in the College of Science and Health. That supported student research projects, including one that sought to improve technology.

A WAVE OF UNDERSTANDING

In summer 2015, UWL student researcher Tanner Wolf was finding new ways to encode electrical data onto an optical beam.

Confusing?



Tanner Wolf

Even Wolf, a physics and mechanical engineering student, didn't at first understand why he was doing it. But through the summer, it was impossible for him not to learn. He frequently explained his project to those without physics backgrounds, and gave a seminar presentation.

"That was good to reinforce the knowledge and theory behind it," he notes. "It helped me understand the research better."

Wolf thanks Xcel for the opportunity. "If businesses want to have the best and brightest coming out of the education system, it means a lot to have research opportunities available," he says.

MAKING REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS IN MATH

Research opportunities are one way to apply complex STEM questions to real life; competitions are another.

Chad Vidden, UWL assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, works with area industry to bring



TOP: Xcel's investment in STEM learning starts earlier than college. Kids participate in 2016 UWL Continuing Education and Extension Environmental Explorers program with Randy Hines, a biologist with the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center. **ABOVE:** The Math Modeling Competition on campus included competitors, from left, Yu Guan, Daniel Morrison and Jack Meyers. Grants from Xcel Energy make the competition possible.

challenging mathematical problems to students for the annual Mathematics Modeling Competition. He likes showing students the applicability of math and skills necessary to help companies move forward.

The competition wouldn't happen without

Xcel Energy, which funds most of the event — \$2,000 in 2015. Vidden calls Xcel "forward thinking" for its investment.

A GIFT FOR GENERATIONS

Estate gift led to one student's biggest life adventure



Danielle Cook, '16, during a January 2016 return visit to her study abroad location in Twickenham, England. Cook says a scholarship from an estate gift gave her the flexibility to study abroad, which shaped her dreams.

Lillian C. George, '35, is still changing lives at her alma mater.

George earned a degree in education and went on to a distinguished career of civil service in Washington, D.C. When she and her husband, Theodore, died, the remainder of their estate was split between their alma maters, leaving UWL with the largest estate gift in its history.

The Theodore A. and Lillian C. George Trust and Estate gave \$1.69 million to UWL — funding more than \$60,000 in new scholarships for students each year beginning in fall 2012. The first class of UWL student scholarship recipients graduated in May 2016.

“UWL and Lillian George set me up for an amazingly bright future,” says May graduate Danielle Cook. “I feel like this gift

opened doors for me that I possibly would have never pursued, leading to outcomes that have truly shaped who I am and what my dreams are.”

Cook received a \$4,000 scholarship each of her four years from the estate gift. It gave her the financial flexibility to study abroad in Twickenham, England, which she calls her “biggest life adventure.”



“If I could speak to Lillian George today, I would thank her profusely for her generous gift. I am extremely grateful, and I truly hope to pay it forward someday.”

Danielle Cook, '16

“If I could speak to Lillian George today, I would thank her profusely for her generous gift,” says Cook.

Now Cook is building on that international experience as she pursues a master’s degree in

corporate communication at Bournemouth University in Bournemouth, England. She aims for a career in corporate communication and marketing for an international business or university.

Cook hopes her experiences and achievements would make George proud. “I am extremely grateful for this gift, and I truly hope to pay it forward someday,” she says.

HELPING UWL ATTRACT TALENT

Cook received a call that she earned the scholarship in summer 2012 when she was still undecided about attending UWL. The gift was the tipping point. “Once I received the George scholarship, I knew UWL was the university I was meant to attend,” she says.

Having a four-year, renewable scholarship to offer incoming

students is a great asset when state high school graduating class sizes are shrinking and competition for top-notch students among schools across the Midwest has increased, says Jackie Briggs, UWL assistant director of Admissions.

“This is one of the few renewable scholarships we offer students, and it is very attractive to students and their family members,” says Briggs. “In addition to helping students afford college, it is helping UWL attract the next generation of students who will make a difference both on campus and in the world.”

MAKE AN ESTATE GIFT

Anyone considering an estate gift to benefit UWL should contact Greg Reichert, vice chancellor for University Advancement and president of the UWL Foundation, at 608.785.8672 or greichert@uwlax.edu.

THE U





THE NAME

UWL's student union has had a name on its edifice since 1968 when the university named it Cartwright Center in honor of Edith Cartwright, dean of women from 1941-69. The building addition in 1985 was named for Richard J. "Joe" Gunning, dean of men from 1947-71.

The new student union's name — Student Union: The U — was selected by students, who voted among four choices narrowed by the UWL Student Association.



THE NUMBERS

1

concessions area for student organizations to fundraise

2

private dining rooms

3

rooms make up the large multipurpose/ ballroom

204,287

square feet

5

gas fireplaces: two double sided, one outdoor

8

dining selection areas

11

meeting rooms of various sizes



OUTSIDE BROUGHT IN

The architect used natural features of the La Crosse area to guide the design and create an interior that looks and feels like the natural scenery that surrounds the UWL campus:

- » First floor columns resemble trees with lights that look like leaves
- » Terrazzo floor on first floor represents three rivers meeting at the Information Counter
- » “Marsh lookout” between level one and lower level
- » Recycled barn board used in some spaces
- » Bamboo used for some wood floors
- » Stone used throughout



ANYONE HUNGRY?



LOWER LEVEL OPTIONS:

pizza, appetizers and grill with beverages, including tap and bottled beer.

MAIN LEVEL OPTIONS:

Southwest/Mexican; deli; grill; Einstein Bros. Bagels™; Kitchen Classics (home-style favorites including vegan/vegetarian); Soup & Salad Bar; La Crosse Café (made to order)

FEATURES & SERVICES

- » University Centers
- » Dining Services
- » Eagle Card
- » Admissions
- » Student Organizations — Pride Center, leadership, multicultural organizations, Campus Activities Board, Student Association, Racquet, fraternities and sororities, and others. The groups have a private space, front porch, and community areas.
- » Custodial and Maintenance Offices
- » University of Wisconsin Credit Union
- » Follett Bookstore
- » Textbook Rental
- » Veterans Lounge
- » PLAY - recreation area
- » Theater that seats 220
- » Entertainment Café with two levels
- » Hearing loops in Entertainment Café; multipurpose/ ballroom
- » Gender neutral restrooms on each floor
- » Family room for moms
- » Three dressing rooms
- » Eight lounge areas
- » Three balconies
- » All LED lights in public spaces
- » Information counter/ticket booth
- » Vending machines

THE U

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

“This is awesome!”

*“Wow, look at the view!
Downtown is on one side and
Grandad Bluff is on the other.”*

*“That’s amazing. You can
watch touchdowns in the
north end zone!”*



Larry Ringgenberg — who was named Director of University Centers in 1990 — was instrumental in bringing the students' vision of The U to life.

UWL STUDENT CENTERS TIMELINE

1959

\$920,000 Cartwright Center built. Robert Steuck named director. **Enrollment: 1,825**

1964

\$716,000 north side building expansion completed. Donald Strand named director. **Enrollment: 2,987**

1967

\$2.2 million Whitney Center completed. **Enrollment: 5,111**

1970

Calvin Helming named director.

1972

Student committee recommends Cartwright Center addition; effort fails. **Enrollment: 6,785**

1973

Robert Mul-lally named director; retires in June, 1990.

1975

Deep fryer grease fire causes extensive damage to the Cellar.



“The new student union is designed to provide a supportive and safe place where all students will feel at home. It will challenge them to grow, increase social interaction skills, and encourage the development of leadership skills.”

Larry Ringgenberg

If reactions from lucky students who had friended the new student union’s Facebook page and got to preview the new building in November are any indication, the \$55 million building is a home run.

The impressive building, located just west of Roger Harring Stadium, immediately catches your eye with its multi-colored, earth-tone edifice mimicking Grandad

Bluff, which stands due east. The new “living room” of the campus provides many modern conveniences, says University Centers Director Larry Ringgenberg.

“It’s larger with comfortable gathering spaces for individuals and group interactions,” he says. “Students can recharge personally or technologically.”

The new chapter in campus life opens in late January when students return for the spring 2017 semester. Ringgenberg says visitors to the building will find a place to relax next to one of the four inside fireplaces, multiple areas for dining with friends, and a catbird’s seat for listening to music in the entertainment café.

1979

Chancellor Noel Richards approves planning for Cartwright remodeling. **Enrollment: 8,908**

1984

Ground broken for extensive remodeling, addition to reorient building toward the center of campus. **Enrollment: 9,259**

1985

Sept. 14 – Grand Opening of the \$5.3 million Joseph Gunning Addition and renovation of Cartwright Center.

2012

Students vote to build a new facility rather than repair Cartwright. **Enrollment: 10,380**

2014

Ground broken east of Wimberly Hall for the new Student Union: The U.

2017

New \$55 million building opens in January. **Enrollment: 10,546**

Hands-on Experience

Challenge grant supports learning outside the classroom

Ben Stauss flew through the trees of Queenstown, New Zealand, on a zip line. Harnessed to a steel cable, he swung over blue waters and snow-capped mountains. He was in awe.

Stauss was experiencing tourism at its finest. But the UWL senior's study-abroad experience in New Zealand was much more than a vacation.

The trip's focus on eco-tourism took the marketing major down to street level where he met the zip line business owner who shared his efforts to pursue tourism in a sustainable way. Stauss met with many other local entrepreneurs with similar goals. He calls this hands-on experience "the best way to learn."

SUPPORT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Stauss' study abroad experience is just one example of the many ways UWL students learn through experiences outside class. Others include undergraduate research, internships, student teaching, clinical experiences, study abroad, campus leadership, community services and more.

A new \$100,000 challenge grant — the Margins of Excellence Initiative — will support even more experiential



Marketing Major Ben Stauss says his experience studying abroad in New Zealand was one of the best ways to learn about sustainable business. He is pictured at Abel Tasman National Park in New Zealand.

learning opportunities. Professor Emeritus Ron Rada and his wife, Jane, launched the initiative with a \$100,000 gift. They hope their contribution inspires additional gifts totaling near \$1 million over the next two years.

HOW DO I CONTRIBUTE?

To support the Margins of Excellence initiative, contact the UWL Foundation at 608.785.6803 or foundation@uwlax.edu

A STRONG DOSE



Alumni physicians help students prep for med school

A UW-La Crosse alumna, her husband and others have teamed up to help UWL students prepare for medical school interviews and the healthcare field.

As healthcare becomes increasingly team-based, medical schools are searching for future doctors with not only academic credentials, but also people skills.

The push has led many medical schools to expand the format of interviews to include multiple mini-interviews or M.M.I.s — brief interviews with multiple evaluators that include short scenarios with doctor-patient role playing.



ABOVE: Five UWL alumni physicians helped prep students planning to head to med school. They included, from left, Dr. David Rushlow, '86; Dr. Heather Stefaniak, '99; Dr. Stephanie Maves, '00; Dr. Yvonne Datta, '82; and Dr. Martin Sievert, '07. Other physician volunteers not pictured included: Dr. Milt Datta, Dr. Brian Manske, Dr. Mary Rathgaber, and Dr. Ben Wedro. **TOP:** UWL biology major Karissa Sime-Peschel during one of the interview preparation exercises.

Exposing students to that interview style is one of the reasons Yvonne Datta, '82, and her husband, Milt Datta, both physicians, volunteered to help create and support an annual medical school mock interview event for UWL students planning to go to medical school.

The second event was in September.

“My interviewers were helpful in giving me hints toward what topics I should focus on, and identified areas where I could improve,” says biology major Karissa Sime-Peschel.



Landing a Legacy

Gibson retires as gymnastics coach

Head gymnastics coach Barbara Gibson, '78, retired in August. During 31 seasons spanning 1986-2016, she led UWL to all 17 of its National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championships — 12 in

the last 16 seasons. The 17 titles are an NCGA record. Gibson was named WIAC Women's Gymnastics All-Time Coach in 2012 in conjunction with the conference's centennial. She's also on UWL's Wall of Fame.

THE BARBARA GIBSON ENDOWMENT FUND FOR UWL GYMNASTICS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2010. TO SUPPORT IT VISIT FOUNDATION.UWLAX.EDU

Gibson by the Numbers

17 NCGA TITLES

20 WIAC TITLES

6 NCGA COACH-OF-THE-YEAR TITLES

20 WIAC COACH-OF-THE-YEAR TITLES

209 NCGA ATHLETIC ALL-AMERICA HONORS

70 NCGA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA HONORS

8 CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS®

16 WIAC SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

32 NCGA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPS

78 NCGA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPS

774-201

CAREER UWL RECORD

GYMNASTICS: Alum is interim coach



Kasey Crawford, '08

Kasey Crawford has been named UWL's interim head coach of gymnastics following eight years as an assistant. Crawford, '08, was a four-year letter winner and two-year team captain.

"Barbara has been an incredible leader

of this program for so many years," says Crawford. "She has shaped me into the person and coach I am today, and has similarly impacted hundreds of UWL gymnastics alums."



HITTIN' THE MATS

UWL hosts the 2017 NCAA III Wrestling Championships March 10-11 at the La Crosse Center. Around 170 participants from 60 schools from across the U.S. are expected. It's the third time UWL has hosted the NCAA III Wrestling Championships. The others were in 2011 and 2012.

SOCIALIZE ONLINE

Follow UWL Athletics on
Facebook and Twitter



COMMUNITY REC CONNECTION



Student athletes headed to the bluffs for more than practice. They helped build a recreational option for the Coulee Region. Intercollegiate Athletics joined the City of La Crosse Parks,

Recreation & Forestry Department, and nine area businesses (identified in photo above) to construct the "Building Champions Trail" in Hixon Forest. It's 2.13 miles and includes

a one-mile educational loop featuring savanna ecosystems, three goat prairies and three scenic overlooks. There's also information about plants and wildlife.

THE UWL WAY

TROY RICHTER, '89, RELISHES CAMPUS CAMARADERIE



The request of rooms for 70 White House staff members was unusual, admits Troy Richter. But his staff's response wasn't.

The Assistant Director of Residence Life is used to getting residence halls ready for high school students and coaches each June shortly after the academic year ends. But Richter, '89, and his staff had only 19 hours to prepare rooms for staffers preparing for President Barack Obama's visit in July 2015.

"They were very happy with the arrangements de-

"It's the care we give to our students and the care we extend to our colleagues."

Troy Richter, '89

spite it being the first time White House staff were housed in a campus residence hall," says Richter. At the end of their stay, Richter was summoned by Secret Service for a toast of thanks.

Richter says stays like

these, and in particular, the annual WIAA State High School Track & Field Meet, give visitors a glimpse as to why he returned to UWL 22 years ago.

"Every year I'm amazed how we can roll out the red carpet for 2,500 athletes, coaches and volunteers," he says. "We're able to offer them a glimpse of the excellence and sense of care received by our students during an academic year."

Richter calls that special camaraderie "The UWL Way," something he hasn't



Troy Richter, 89', and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Paula Knudson, during the award ceremony honoring Richter as recipient of the UWL Academic Staff Excellence Award.

found on other campuses. “It’s the care we give to our students and the care we extend to our colleagues,” Richter explains. “It’s how we go above and beyond our job descriptions to make sure students get a positive UWL experience.”

Richter has held six positions on campus. Working directly with students gives him the most satisfaction.

“The best part has always been working with students,” he says. “I enjoy the fun interaction I’m able to have. There’s a high energy level there and it’s rewarding to be a part of it.”

Richter and his family know firsthand the thoughtfulness of colleagues. When his son was unexpectedly hospitalized at the age of 4, colleagues from across campus came to their aid. “We didn’t have to make meals for almost three months,” he recalls. “I’ve been so blessed with amazing colleagues, supportive supervisors and wonderful mentors.”

THE TROY RICHTER FILE

- » 22 years on campus. Assistant Director of Residence Life-Operations since 2012. Previously, Senior Academic Services Coordinator with the College of Liberal Studies/School of Education; Instructor of “Understanding Human Differences”; University Centers Program Advisor; Upward Bound Program Advisor; Residence Hall Director.
- » Off campus: Residence Life at UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point; West Salem High School teacher.
- » Bachelor of Science in history and broadfield social studies from UWL, 1989; Master of Science in Education, UW-Platteville.
- » Fun Fact: Master of ceremonies for the Campus Child Center Oktoberfest Parade for 12 years.

THE UW-LA CROSSE ACADEMIC STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD ... is given to an academic staff member who has excelled in performance and service. Recipients are selected by a committee of peers.



DELIVERING HEARTS

Alumna hands out gifts with help from UW-L woodworkers

Lori Furlano has earned the title of “Grandma Lori” in many La Crosse area homes. As a social worker with the Healthy Families Program at the Family & Children’s Center, Furlano, ’96, visits

parents raising children in stressful situations. Some are socially isolated because of language or cultural barriers. Others struggle with mental health issues or trying to survive in poverty.



“She is amazing,” says Tina Yang, a teen mom in the program. “She helps me with anything ... when I’m emotional or just need something.”

Yang is finishing high school, working part time and helping care for her two-year-old son, Zayden, and his younger siblings. Sometimes it can be emotionally a lot to take.

Furlano has that warm smile and calming voice every kid — and even parent — needs to know that everything will be OK. She connects families to community resources like education and healthcare. And come holidays and birthdays, she makes it her mission to give each child at least one gift.

That’s where Furlano gets some back up from her alma mater. Employees in UWL’s Biology Department have been building handmade wooden toys for the last 18 years for area kids. In recent years most of those toys have gone to Furlano to distribute during the holidays to kids in the Healthy Families Program.

Scott Cooper, a biology professor, and Kurt Grunwald, a radiation safety officer, both grew up with woodworking. They started building toys to give to charity back in the late 1990s. They had signed up with other UWL co-workers to fill holiday food baskets for families in need. While they



ABOVE: The woodcrafters making a difference for area children are, from left, Butch Bobenmoyer, of Gundersen Health System; Kurt Grunwald, a UWL radiation safety officer; Mark Sandheinrich, interim dean of UWL’s College of Science and Health; and Scott Cooper, UWL biology professor. **PREVIOUS PAGE:** Lori Furlano, ’96, with the Healthy Families Program at the La Crosse Family & Children’s Center, delivers a gift to four-year-old Mariaelena Vian Tepole while her younger brother looks on.

loaded up boxes with food at The Salvation Army, they noticed a pile of mostly used toys and donated clothes on the floor that families could take. Most were left by end of the night.

“We thought it would be nice for kids to have a new toy that no one had played with before,” recalls Scott.

Over the years they’ve built 50 toys a year — 900 during the last 18 years. Along the way, they’ve recruited helpers, including several more UWL employees and Gundersen Health System employees. UWL students in Cooper’s research lab help paint the toys each year. Toys have ranged from grasshoppers on wheels to doll cradles. This year they

built a fishing pole with a working reel and four fish to magnetically catch.

When Furlano delivers one of the toys — packaged in a bright red bag — to two-year-old Zayden, he can’t control his excitement. He’s jumping across the living room carpet as his mother looks on. As Furlano pulls out the toy fishing set, his eyes are fixed.

Then, she pulls out four bright, colorful fish. “Fishy!” Zayden exclaims as she holds the fish to the pole now gripped in his small hands. “He’s so happy,” Yang says as she watches him. “He loves fishing.”

Seeing her son happy, “it makes me happy,” she says.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE UWL WOODWORKERS AT:
WWW.UWLAX.EDU/STORY/A-HEARTWARMING-HOLIDAY-HOBBY

Top Teachers

Alums making a difference in K-12 earn national honors



LISA KOENECKE, '91

2016 Kohl Fellowship, Teacher of the Year Award

Koenecke, the school counselor at River Bluff Middle School in Stoughton, supports students as they begin setting career goals. “When I can see a student solve their own problem, then I am a happy counselor,” she says. Koenecke supports students as they begin setting post-secondary goals. “I proudly display my UWL colors in my office, and never give up an opportunity to tell students about the amazing experience I had there,” she says.



PENNY KROENING, '85

2016 National Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year

Kroening received the award from SHAPE America, the national society of health and physical educators. As the physical education teacher at Summit View Elementary School in Waukesha, she encourages students to imagine, move and develop a lifelong love of physical activity. UWL professors challenged Kroening to continually adapt lessons to engage more students — something she’s continued over her 32-year career.



CHRIS GLEASON, '02

Will Represent Wisconsin at the National Teacher of the Year Award Program

Gleason, the band director and instrumental music teacher at Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie, says his Master of Education—Professional Development degree from UWL was vital to his growth as an educator. “The program was so well designed offering autonomy, collaboration, and opportunities for self-reflection,” explains Gleason. “I think back fondly on our classes and the time we spent building community and constructing knowledge. It made a significant impact on who I am today.”

Leaving a legacy

RYAN M. POEHLING, '95



Hank Poehling, Ryan's father, and UWL senior Sofia Kozidis, '17, recipient of the Ryan M. Poehling Memorial Scholarship.

Ryan Poehling's caring and giving carries on despite cancer cutting the 1995 geography graduate's inspiring life short.

Each year since 2001, a UWL junior or senior geography major has received a \$2,000 scholarship — The Ryan M. Poehling Memorial Scholarship.

His father, Hank Poehling, established the endowed award to carry on Ryan's philosophy of giving.



Ryan Poehling

"Me" and "I" were not part of his vocabulary," explains Hank. "That is the basis for why we set up a scholarship — to continue his philosophy of helping other people."

Ryan died Dec. 17, 2000, at the age of 27 from a rare form of cancer — just weeks before completing a doctoral degree in economic geography.

Hank says Ryan was atypical even at the age of 7. When his parents asked him what he wanted for Christmas, he encouraged them to skip him and buy his brothers nicer presents.

Ryan's caring and giving nature continues through the scholarship. "I know Ryan would be thrilled with what he is still accomplishing in death," says Hank. "We are thrilled that we are helping students possibly achieve the goals that cancer cheated Ryan from achieving."



LEAVE YOUR OWN 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

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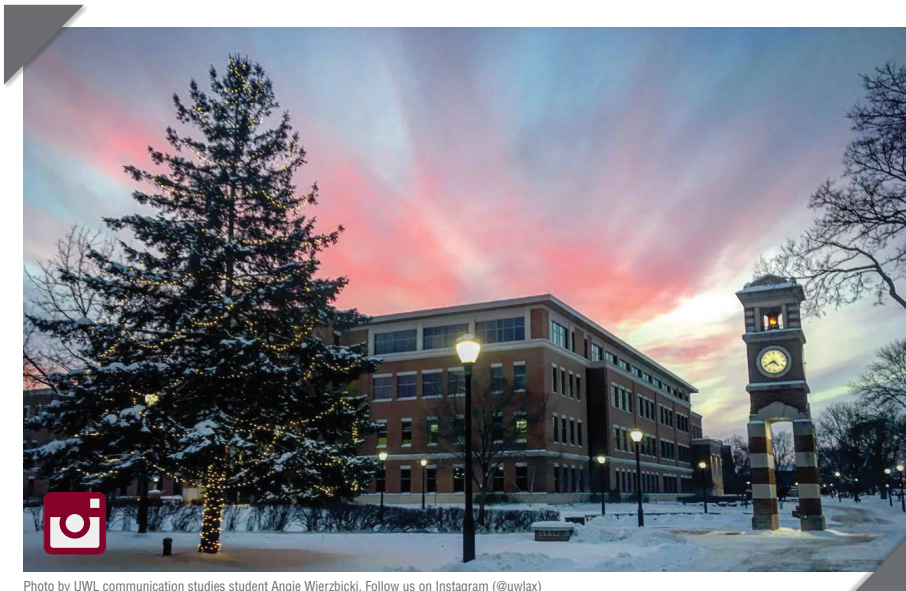


Photo by UWL communication studies student Angie Wierzbicki. Follow us on Instagram (@uwlax)