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# PeerSpectives

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University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

The Academic  Advising Center

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## CHECK US OUT:

Monday– Friday  
8 a.m. — 4:30  
p.m.

Thursday  
Walk-ins  
Welcomed

## The Man Behind the Emails

### By Nikki Judd Peer Advisor

You read his emails, you see him around campus, and you may have even chatted with him, but do you know what Chancellor Joe Gow was doing when he was an undergraduate in college? Chancellor Gow came to the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (UW-L) campus in 2007. I interviewed him to find out about his education path and what advice he would give to UW-L students.

At the start of our interview, I asked Chancellor Gow to explain what his undergraduate major was and how he became a Chancellor. He explained that he wasn't certain if he wanted to attend college. Music was at the top of his priority list, but his parents encouraged him to attend college. He took their advice and enrolled in a university. The Chancellor explains, "I chose a business major just because it

sounded pretty good. When I started taking the classes, I wasn't very good at them and did not really enjoy them. However, other people who were business majors did enjoy their classes. So, I did something very smart; I went to see my academic advisor."

During his visit, the advisor told Chancellor Gow not to worry about money or jobs and asked him what he enjoyed. English and political science were top interests, but he settled on a journalism major. Chancellor Gow stated, "I got my degree and never became a journalist. Now, I am saying that with a smile because I learned your major is really not as critical as some people may think it is. I learned some great things in journalism...skills that I use in my job today" Chancellor Gow eventually went on to graduate school for speech communication and ended up becoming a professor, which ultimately lead him to administration. He states, "the bottom line is the good advising

that I received was critical, not so much in answering all of my questions but freeing me to the possibilities."

In the fall of 2010, 451 out of the 1,812 incoming freshman were undeclared majors. I asked Chancellor Gow what advice he would give people who fell into the undecided category. He explained, "don't worry about that. You may feel like you're the odd one out, but you are not. Focus on the things you really enjoy. Don't listen to people who say, 'what are you going to do with that degree' or 'there are going to be no jobs in that field.'"

*Story continued on page 2*

*"The good advising that I received was critical..."*

## Mark Your Calendar...Important Dates!

- **April 4**  
Summer Registration
- **April 11**  
Fall Registration
- **May 6**  
Last Day of Classes
- **May 9-13**  
Final Exams
- **May 14**  
Graduation, Residence Halls Close
- **May 23– June 17**  
Summer Session I Begins
- **June 20–July 15**  
Summer Session II Begins
- **July 18–August 12**  
Summer Session III Begins





### Julie's Favorites

**Color:** Purple

**Class:** History of Higher Education

**Place to Eat:** Fayze's (especially their bread!)

**Summer Activity:** anything outside; tubing, fishing, or swimming

## Student Spotlight: Julie Pitel

**By Aiyana Bloome  
Peer Advisor**

Julie's hometown is Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. She is currently an advisor in Laux Hall and is pursuing her master's degree in the Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education pro-

gram. She attended UW-L for her undergraduate degree as well, completing a major in English and a minor in German.

After Julie graduates in May of 2012, she plans to work in residence life as a hall director, but would ultimately like to work in advising.

Julie's favorite part about working in Laux is when her advisees stop by just to chat.

Julie's advice for students is to get involved and take advantage of all of the resources, student organizations, and programs on campus.

## The Man Behind the Emails *Continued from page 1*

It all does come out fine if you listen to your heart. The pressure of the economy is evident but you don't want to end up with a job you don't like just to pay the bills." In addition, I asked Chancellor Gow what advice he would give to an incoming freshmen. He stated "when you get here, you are going to encounter

many interesting experiences. Try and keep an open mind and try some things that you have never tried before."

I asked Chancellor Gow what it was like to serve in a prominent role on campus. He explained, "It's an amazing privilege to have the job. No day is the same; everyday is different." Last week, he was in multiple

states, flying to Los Angeles and back to Madison. Next week he will be in Washington. I asked him if he felt like he lived a 'rock star' lifestyle. Chancellor Gow replied, "I am really lucky I get treated like a rock star by the students. It's just beautiful and I am touched by that."

## Fun Facts about our Chancellor

**By Nikki Judd  
Peer Advisor**

**NJ: What was your first vehicle?**

JG: "Chevy impala. I loved it because it could fit a big guitar amp in the trunk."

**NJ: How did you learn to play guitar?**

JG: "Trial and error."

**NJ: Who is your favorite musician?**

JG: "Wow that's hard. I guess if I had to pick one...Muddy Waters. He was the ultimate blues singer and guitarist. He had a fascinating story." Chancellor Gow even got to see him play live!



**Nikki with Chancellor Joe Gow**

# Bound for Success

**By Michelle Stertz  
Upward Bound Advisor**

Upward Bound is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. There are over 800 Upward Bound programs across the country. Our program is hosted by the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Eligibility is determined by family income and parents' education level. We serve students in 9th through 12th grade who attend high schools in La Crosse, Monroe and Jackson counties with programming from September through August. The year is comprised of two components: the academic year and the summer session.

During the academic year, UB offers weekly tutoring sessions where high-achieving UW-L student tutors help with homework and teach academic skills that will help UB students succeed in high school and college. We also offer several college visits; monthly Saturday events; special leadership workshops; test preparation and practice; and help with college, scholarship and financial aid applications!

The Summer Session, a six week component, is a sample of college life. Students live on

campus here at UW-L while taking high school classes in math, science, language arts, and world languages. These classes help them get a head start on the forthcoming academic year and reinforce valuable study, time management and test taking skills. UW-L student tutors help su-



**2010 Upward Bound**

pervise in the residence hall and provide daily tutoring. Additionally, seniors get a jump start on college preparation in a senior seminar where they can explore college and career options and begin the college application process. During the sixth week of the program, we travel to a regional metropolis for more college and career exploration and to experience new arts, culture and recreation. Summer ends with a Graduation and Awards Ceremony.

The Bridge program, held

concurrently with the Summer Session, is an opportunity for UB high schools graduates to transition from high school to college in a supportive environment. Every summer, selected Bridge students attend classes at UW-La Crosse or Western Technical College while living in a residence hall with the UB summer program. All along, they receive continued mentoring and tutoring from Upward Bound teachers and staff.

There are many success stories among our graduates who have gone on to become doctors, teachers, lawyers, university professors, counselors, medical technicians, accountants, engineers, planners, artists, actors and more! A national study showed that Upward Bound graduates are *four times more likely to earn an undergraduate degree* than students of similar backgrounds who did not participate in UB!

UW-L students who are interested in becoming involved with the Upward Bound program can apply for a paid tutor position for the academic year and/or summer session. For more information and the application please go to [www.uwlax.edu/upbound/](http://www.uwlax.edu/upbound/).



**Congratulations to Peer Advisors Nikki Judd and Laura Rapp who will be graduating in May. Best of luck in your future endeavors!**

# AmeriCorps: Gain Experience While Giving Back

**By Laura Rapp**  
**Peer Advisor**

Whether you are searching for a job post graduation or a place of employment for the summer months, AmeriCorps may be the perfect opportunity! Many of us, myself included, have heard of AmeriCorps, but may not have a true understanding of what this service organization has to offer. President Lyndon B. Johnson created the original national service program in 1964 which functioned as two separate programs. AmeriCorps was officially launched in the early 90's when President George H.W. Bush signed the National Service Act, combining the existing two branches. The main goal of AmeriCorps is to partner members with nonprofit organizations in an effort to provide service to communities in critical need. Members gain experience in their desired area, provide service to the community and become engaged

civic leaders.

There are three main programs that make up AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps.



Each branch has different tasks and qualifications, including your level of education and work experience. For example, the VISTA branch seeks members with a college degree, providing a stellar opportunity for UW-L

graduates.

There are many areas of service including, but not limited to, education, the environment, economic development, public safety, elder care, homelessness, and health. Time commitments vary from 9-12 month positions that are full time, to summer opportunities, to year around half time positions of 20 hours per week. Members receive money for a living allowance, in addition to money to help pay for college, student loans, or future education. Full time members receive healthcare benefits.

AmeriCorps has many local sites, offering a variety of work. You can visit the website, [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) for more information as well as a complete listing of openings around the United States. There are thousands of openings around the country that will allow you to make an incredible difference in the lives of others!

## LC Hip Hop Dance Team

**By Aiyana Bloome**  
**Peer Advisor**

Are you looking for a fun extracurricular activity? How about trying out for the LC Hip Hop Dance Team? LC Hip Hop is a non-competitive dance group that performs for UW-L home basketball games, as well as community events like Relay for Life. The team also presents an end-of-the-year show every spring to showcase all their routines from the season.



**The LC Hip Hop Dance Team**

**2010-2011**

This year's show is March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Valhalla. Guest performers include the UW Dance Team and dancers from the La Crosse YMCA.

Try-outs for LC Hip Hop are held during fall semester, so watch for advertisements around campus. For more information, please contact Aiyana Bloome via email at [bloome.aiya@uwlax.edu](mailto:bloome.aiya@uwlax.edu)