

Program Order

Entr'acte

The Gordon Scholarship Jazz Combo

James Piela, saxophone
Matt Windett, trumpet
Eric Streske, guitar
Patrick Lindsley, bass
Reed Grimm, drums

ACT I

The Gordon Scholarship Jazz Combo

Welcome Master's of Ceremonies
"This I Believe" Faculty Honorees
Presentation of Awards Dean Benson
"People Will Say We're in Love." From OKLAHOMA!
Natalie Wikstrom and Nick Bailey
Alethia Kenworthy Piano

ACT II

Departmental Excellence Awards

Presentations Dean Benson
Chairs/Program Directors
John E. Magerus Award Presentation
Dean Benson
Curtain Call Master's of Ceremonies

Special Recognition

Faculty Nominees for "Recognition of Excellence" Awards

Don Sloan, Department of Art
Jim Putz, Department of Communication Studies
Mark Malisa, Department of Educational Studies
Victoria Calmes, Department of Modern Languages
Vincent Her, Ethnic & Racial Studies Program

Student Nominees for John E. Magerus Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior in the College of Liberal Studies

Maggie Lach, Department of Art
Anthony Corso, Department of Educational Studies
Angela Armstrong, Department of Educational Studies
Justin Sokol, Department of Psychology
Megan Oliver, Department of Psychology
Katherine Schaaf, Department of Psychology
Molly Hoffmann, Department of Theatre Arts

Production Team

Special Thanks To:

Ron Stoffregen, Amanda Hart, Krista Shulka, Brandt Mayer,
Derrick Falkowski, David Hartig,
Joe Pollack, Anthony Sherony, Greg Balfany, Chartwells,
the CLS Dean's Office, Carol Beard, Joey LaSarge

The Faculty, Staff and Students of:
The College of Liberal Studies
The School of Education
The School of Arts & Communication

The College of Liberal Studies PR Committee

Scott Dickmeyer, Chair
Amanda French, Vincent Her, Sarah Kehoe, Tom Pribek,
Jim Putz, Brad Quarberg, Patrick Randolph,
John Ready, R. Searcy, Bart VanVoorhis,
Megan Zumach, Billy Clow

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
College of Liberal Studies Presents

An Evening of Excellence

CLS Faculty Excellence Awardees

CLS Faculty "Recognition of Excellence" Award for Teaching

Sheri Ross (Department of Philosophy)

CLS Faculty "Recognition of Excellence" Award for Research/Scholarship/Creative Endeavors

Walter Elder (Department of Theatre Arts)

CLS Faculty "Recognition of Excellence" Award for Service

Matthew Cashion (Department of English)

CLS Academic Staff "Recognition of Excellence" Award for Teaching

Elise Denlinger (Department of Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies, Modern Languages, & TESOL)

CLS Academic Staff "Recognition of Excellence" Award for Research/Scholarship/Creative Endeavors

Karyn Quinn (Department of Music)

CLS Academic Staff "Recognition of Excellence" Award for Service

Janis Hanson (Department of Modern Languages)

April 02, 2008

Master's of Ceremonies

Ms. Mary Leonard
Dr. Gary Walth



Director's Notes

This is the seventh year for the College of Liberal Studies recognition of Excellence Awards. Begun in 2001 by Dean John Magerus, it was conceived as a celebration of teaching, research, scholarship & creative endeavor and service for faculty and outstanding contributions by students to the life of the college. We are proud to expand that celebration to academic staff as well this year.

Academic staff are vital to the success of our college and are truly deserving of this honor.

Thank you for taking the time from all you do to celebrate with us this evening. In the midst of our busy lives, we often times forget to thank each other for the efforts put forth in support of "Excellence."

Interim Dean Ruthann Benson

CLS Undergraduate Student Excellence Awardees

Kaitlyn Borland, Department of Archeology

Lauren Jagielski, Department of Archeology

Maggie Lach, Department of Art

Adam Ludwig, Department of Communication Studies

Teri Passow, Department of Communication Studies

Renee Smith, Department of Communication Studies

Angela Armstrong, Department of Educational Studies

Jaime Burse, Department of Educational Studies

Rebecca Hendrikse, Department of Educational Studies

Maura Henn, Department of English

Kathryn Kaspar, Department of English

Beth Komisarek, Department of History

Leah Ziegler, Honors Program

Elizabeth Bisswurm, Department of Modern Languages

Laura Greschner, Department of Modern Languages

Rachael Kramer, Department of Modern Languages

Sarah Becker, Department of Music

Patrick Lindsley, Department of Music

John Deutsch, Department of Philosophy

Jamie Belongia, Department of Political Science & Public Administration

Erin LaVoie, Department of Political Science & Public Administration

Tiffany Gille, Department of Psychology

Rachel Mittag, Department of Psychology

Meagen Oliver, Department of Psychology

Katherine Schaaf, Department of Psychology

Justin Sokol, Department of Psychology

Adam Conlin, Department of Sociology

Maxine Mason, Department of Sociology

Joseph Pollack, Department of Theatre Arts

Amanda Jansen, Department of Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

CLS John E. Magerus Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior

Hollie Nyseth

A May graduate with degrees in Sociology & Political Science, minors in International Studies & Spanish, and a 4.0 gpa, Hollie has worked on campus as a research associate for the Research Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal, she has also been a teaching assistant for the sociology department and is the Vice President of the Golden Key International Honor Society. She has been a RA, vice president of her hall, and been involved in many other extracurricular activities and community service projects. Hollie received a UWL-Undergraduate Research Grant for a research project that she conducted in Mexico on panhandling and has presented at the Midwest Sociological Conference. Hollie has also spent time working on service projects in Mexico. This past summer she has taught English in a Mexican Prison and worked with a Mexican human rights group. She has also had an internship with a congresswoman in Mexico and worked with an NGO on service projects that help people with AIDS and people who live on the streets. Hollie has been accepted to several Ph.D. programs for the fall of 2008. Hollie is the daughter of Tim and Linda Nyseth, of Neillsville, Wisconsin

Student Biographies

Angela Armstrong, Department of Educational Studies

In her five years at UWL, Angela learned the value of education in opening minds to new ideas. She has also learned to embody the philosophy of *carpe diem*. Angela made the most of her time here, and will fulfill a dream of teaching eighth grade abroad in Columbia next year. She is grateful for the support, opportunities and encouragement that faculty have given her. Angela has also learned to value friends and family and to embrace and learn from the diversity in the world.

Sarah Becker, Department of Music

Sarah feels that her view of life has become more focused by her experience of being a student in the College of Liberal Studies. Specifically, she now focuses on the importance of a broad spectrum of experiences that help shape a person's intellectual and individual self. She feels confident as a future teacher because of valuable hours within a classroom setting. Her advice for new UW-L students is to keep an open mind about everything! College is a time to explore new interests and solidify the beliefs of the person you would like to become.

Jamie Belongia, Department of Political Science & Public Administration

Jamie feels that public administration is one of few majors that truly encompasses aspects of every major because government is influenced, affected, and plays key roles in everything around us. For this reason, public administration majors have extraordinarily different values, personalities, and experiences that they bring to the table. Jamie is most thankful for the relationships with wonderful faculty.

Kaitlyn Borland, Department of Archeology

Kaitlyn feels that her CLS major, focused on learning about the past, actually has taught her how to better shape her future. Because Archaeology is a comprehensive, holistic discipline, she feels prepared for whatever direction her future takes her. Kaitlyn believes that her UWL experience has been especially rewarding due to the incredibly intelligent professors who were so willing to share their wealth of knowledge. She is also most grateful for all of the people with whom she shared the college experience.

Jaime Burse, Department of Educational Studies

Jamie's experience as a student in the College of Liberal Studies that has opened her eyes to what she feels is the true purpose of her life—to teach. She will soon step into a classroom and know that she will be teaching because it is what she loves and not for the glory or the money. She simply wants to “love what I do” and share her passion with others. Her advice for new UWL students is to get involved! She believes the college experience is a chance of a lifetime and students need to break out of their “box” and make the most of it!

Elizabeth Bisswurm, Department of Modern Languages

Time flies, so make the most of it! Elizabeth has done that. She is grateful for her opportunity to study abroad and for all of the great people she has met in her for years as a German major. She has learned that even if you choose the right major, and going to class is fun, the majority of what a person takes with them after college will be outside of the classroom. With an open mind, you can learn much from the most unlikely people and experiences.

Adam Conlin, Department of Sociology

Adam's UWL experience has had an important impact on his life. In fact, he claims, the CLS program helped him begin to develop a comprehensive view of the many social and environmental issues rooted in our current societal system. The drastic alteration from his previous world-view catalyzed by his coursework has motivated him to pursue a career in community organizing. He is most thankful for the close relationships developed with advisors and professors, which allowed him to pursue an education beyond the classroom. Additionally, he is grateful for the network of friends that helped him every step of the way.

John Deutsch, Department of Philosophy

John feels majoring in the CLS has afforded him a more holistic view of the world. He fully appreciates the interconnected dynamism shaping us all. His education has afforded him a heightened awareness of the complexities of modern questions regarding culture, religion, politics and economics and therefore allows him to better approach these issues. He is most thankful for those professors who genuinely encouraged the pursuit of knowledge and critical as well as creative thinking. He is also thankful for the philosophy and photography departments; without them his educational experience and personal growth would have been lacking. Lastly, he is thankful for all the candy and food Dr. Sherwitz, Sibbie, and others generously provided.

Tiffany Gille, Department of Psychology

Tiffany attributes her professor's extensive real world knowledge base to opening her eyes to new experiences and viewpoints that never before considered. In fact, she believes that at UWL, if you take your education seriously, and apply yourself in everyway possible, your professors will help you every step of the way. Ultimately, Tiffany feels that UW-L has a lot to offer to a wide range of students, and has the support of a wonderful community; not to mention the beautiful location.

Laura Greschner, Department of Modern Languages

In her pursuit of a career teaching language and culture, Laura will take with her the importance of diversity close to home and around the world. She credits her CLS major with helping to strengthen and stretch her understanding of the world. She will also rely on what she has learned at UWL; that teachers who care really do make all the difference. The easiest path is not always the most rewarding, and that languages open up people to new ideas, experiences and worlds.

Rebecca Hendrikse, Department of Educational Studies

Rebecca's major has served to strengthen her dream of teaching elementary kids in the third-world. In that pursuit, she has learned the importance of early childhood education. She has also learned that it is her responsibility to make learning enjoyable and

applicable. Rebecca is grateful for the strong relationships she has built while at UWL and sees them as most important, even if life seems too busy with exams, papers and work. Rebecca has also learned what an opportunity and privilege it is to attend college, an opportunity many do not have.

Maura Henn, Department of English

Maura knows her limits and how to overcome them, thanks to discussions with students and professors, and for the academic and personal challenges she has overcome. She encourages others to find a major in something they are passionate about so that their academic relationship can foster their interest in what they are learning. Maura has learned that she can truly accomplish her goals if she sets her mind to them, and that friends can be as much a part of family as relatives.

Amanda Jansen, Department of Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

If you put yourself in different situations, you never stop learning. This is the philosophy Amanda will take with her when she leaves UWL. This philosophy of life was fostered through Amanda's array of experiences that helped open her eyes to the diversity of life, and the importance of teaching others to accept and value diversity. She credits her learning of social problems and how to work with others to her community involvement. Amanda has also learned the value of advocating for change to help others while at the same time strengthening leadership skills.

Lauren Jagielski, Department of Archeology

Life will always be a glass half-full for Lauren because her CLS experiences have helped prepare her for her life-long goals. She sees no greater gift than to have learned how to live with and enjoy all that surrounds her. Lauren is thankful for the memorable faculty and students who instilled in her a passion for life and learning, and that possibilities in life are truly limitless. She has learned that experience is everything and that she can do no better than being the best person she can be, and to show others how to do the same.

Kathryn Kaspar, Department of English

Find and pursue something you love and everything else will fall into place. Sound advice, as Kathryn sees it. She is thankful for the supportive and encouraging faculty in CLS for teaching her to question things she once took at face value and to look at things from several perspectives. She indeed has learned that she should not be afraid to ask questions, and that impossibility is a false concept.

Beth Komisarek, Department of History

The journey is more important than the destination. Beth sums up this sentiment by stating that life is more about what you learn and how you grow than just reaching goals. Do what you think you cannot. Beth credits the wonderful faculty at UWL: Their inspiration and constant pushing for her to do her best. She is also thankful for her study abroad experience, which taught her the importance of trying new things. She has also learned to work hard, to think independently and to take pride in her work.

Rachael Kramer, Department of Modern Languages

As a Spanish major, Rachel has learned to appreciate both the diversity and similarities that unite humankind. She attributes her own passion to excel to the passion for and knowledge of the language of her instructor in her first college Spanish course. Rachel values her vast experiences in the CLS and how they have let her see the world through different eyes. Rachel hopes to fulfill her desire to help people understand each other by becoming an interpreter and translator.

Maggie Lach, Department of Art

Through the multitude of opportunities offered at UWL, such as studying abroad, Maggie has learned to appreciate human differences and to learn from one another with an open mind. She credits and is thankful for her passionate professors and fellow students who want to learn. Maggie is also grateful for the support of her family and friends, some of whom she never knew existed until La Crosse became her second home. Maggie will never take her education for granted and “have no regrets.”

Erin LaVoie, Department of Political Science & Public Administration

Being a Liberal Studies major has widened her worldview. The variety of disciplines can make a more well-rounded student and person. Erin is thankful to have found an outlet of expression through activism. She is most thankful for the UW-L Progressives and the Environmental Council. “Being a part of those groups has most shaped my college experience by teaching me that if I find injustice in the world, there is something I can do about it.” Education is one of the biggest investments you’ll make in your life, so it is very important to take advantage of your time in college. “There is a lot going on in the world around you, get involved!”

Patrick Lindsley, Department of Music

Patrick points to the breadth of knowledge and wisdom presented in each and every classroom as helping to teach him to appreciate every aspect of life, no matter the situation. He learned to develop and utilize different approaches to different circumstances, and to work hard to accomplish his goals. He enjoys what he is studying, and to Patrick, that is all that matters.

Adam Ludwig, Department of Communication Studies

Adam credits his Communication Studies major for his ability to observe and ask “why?”. This ability will be forever and integral part of Adam, and is essential for a life in which we never stop learning and growing. Adam thanks the synergy of the faculty, staff and fellow students for creating an experience that is greater than any one factor combined. This very experience has taught Adam to love people for who they are, going beyond tolerance to acceptance. Adam urges students to leave their comfort zone, to accept new things, people and ideas, and to choose a way to go.

Maxine Mason, Department of Sociology

Maxine is most thankful for all of the opportunities that she has found. She has discovered there are many interesting events and organizations to take part in on campus. Through her involvement she has learned about the world around her, but also a lot about her strengths, weaknesses, and character. Through her liberal studies education, she gained a comprehensive perspective towards people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds and a well-rounded education that has prepared her for whatever path she takes after college.

Rachel Mittag, Department of Psychology

Throughout her academic career, Rachel has learned the value of individual differences in understanding people. She also learned the value of research and critical thinking in understanding the world. Rachel is thankful for the wonderful support of family in friends in helping her to realize the importance of never giving up. Even though many goals seem out of reach, they are attainable. Rachel vows never to forget the people who helped her get where she is. She urges students to take advantage of experiences as UWL, as every one helps to shape life’s direction and to achieve one’s goals.

Meagen Oliver, Department of Psychology

A liberal studies education has helped Megan to gain a better understanding of herself and of her environment. She is especially grateful for the support and individual guidance of her professors in helping to mold her into a more compassionate and open-minded person. Through her academic career, Megan has learned to appreciate the privilege of an education. She has also

learned to spend her time in ways she will not regret. Megan’s advice is to live life and to love the person you are.

Teri Passow, Department of Communication Studies

Rarely is there only one way to approach something. Teri attributes her knowledge of the importance of looking at things from a variety of perspectives to her experiences as a CLS major. She is thankful for the opportunities to develop and grow as a person that have allowed her to learn the importance of a diverse approach to life and understanding. Teri sees her education as a chance to get out and learn about the world and the people in it, and encourages students to take advantage of their opportunities as UWL.

Joseph Pollack, Department of Theatre Arts

One of the most valuable lessons that Joe has learned as a result of his experience in CLS is that there is more to life than just work, or that one’s profession is not the entirety of their life. Joe attributes the learning of this lesson to his department’s ability to be a family for its students. Joe has also learned to use his time wisely, as it goes by quickly; to have fun; and to find close-knit group of people for support. These help Joe to cherish every moment, and to learn from every situation, even bad ones.

Katherine Schaaf, Department of Psychology

Critical thinking and an eye for detail when analyzing an issue: These are two ways in which a CLS major has helped shape Katy’s view of life. Katy is thankful for her excellent mentors, and her opportunities to study abroad and become involved in undergraduate research. She has learned the value of becoming involved through research, volunteering and engaging in extracurricular activities. She has also learned the value of understanding other cultures and different world views.

Renee Smith, Department of Communication Studies

Renee is extremely grateful for the genuine caring of the professors in her program. She points to the mutual care and respect between faculty and students as a critical element in helping her to realize the importance of knowledge and creativity. She is also grateful for the equally important opportunities for hands-on experience in preparing her for the “real world”. Renee stresses the importance of getting involved inside and out of the classroom to make meaningful connections between what is learned in class and the text and real life situations. To Renee, success is about personal drive, motivation, and hard work.

Justin Sokol, Department of Psychology

Justin sees his undergraduate years as a time of tremendous personal and professional growth and maturity, in large part due to the vast array of opportunities and experiences available to students in CLS. Justin is particularly grateful for the interactions with professors, and points out how they always made time for him, no matter how busy they were. He values most the knowledge and skills he has gained in his career, and the opportunity he was given to develop his own interests, which include his goal of someday having a similar positive influence on the lives of college students.

Leah Ziegler, Honors Program

Applying psychology to everyday situations and conversations is one way that an education in the College of Liberal Studies has shaped the person that Leah has become. A combination of wonderful friends and professors has made Leah’s time at UWL the best educational experience she could have, for which she is very grateful. Leah has learned that you can never learn too much, and vows to be a student in one way or another for life. She has also learned that relationships with others are the key to her happiness, not money. She advises students to choose wisely because college offers more than one can imagine. Keep in mind the person you want to become.