

Ringgenberg says it takes a team effort

Without his staff, Larry Ringgenberg says he wouldn't be where he is today. UW-La Crosse's successful director of Student Activities and Centers is reluctant to take personal credit for the large student-funded division on campus.

"In most of what I do, my staff deserves credit for getting the job done," says Ringgenberg. "I see myself as being a person who if it weren't for the people I work with, I wouldn't accomplish anything."

Despite being named a 1999 UW-L Academic Staff Excellence Award recipient, Ringgenberg points to those around him when being praised for a job well done. "I see this more as a staff award than an individual award," he says.

Ringgenberg's job description has changed much since being hired as director of student activities and centers in 1990, after serving as associate director for five years. Originally hired to administer Cartwright and Whitney Centers, he took over administering the \$10.2 million Recreational Eagle Center when it opened in 1997. Ringgenberg also took on advising the UW-L Student Association and coordinating the College of Student Development and Administration (CSDA) Program, along with serving on numerous divisional and institutional committees.

"I have never known Larry to not be willing to

step up to a request for help or consideration," says Tom Hood, retired dean of Student Development.

Ringgenberg says the most challenging part of his job is making sure the student-funded division stays financially sound. He says one of his biggest accomplishments is bringing his staff of around 50 together. "I've been very satisfied to see how the various entities have pulled together to become a team," he says.

One of the small joys of his job was having a newer staff member coming up to him to

say "I love working here."

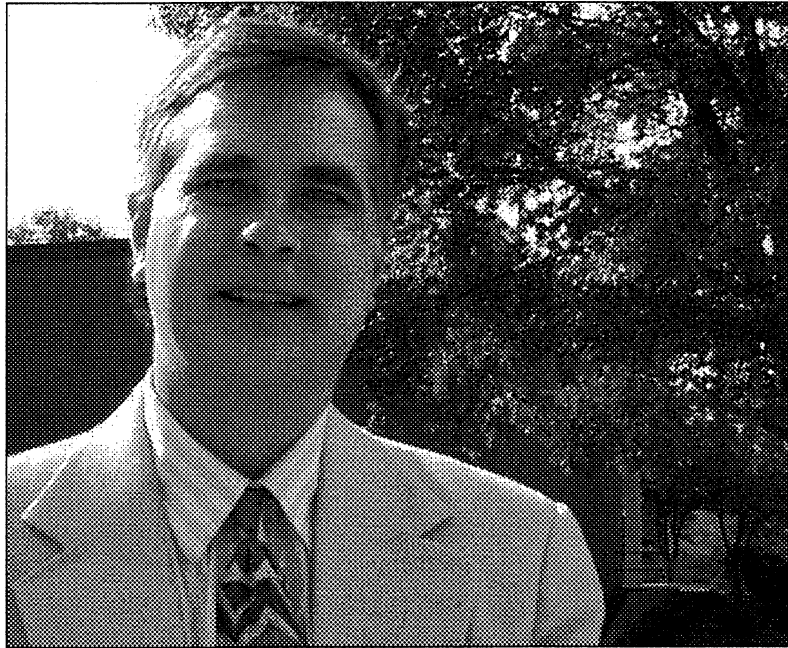
Ringgenberg enjoys his time with students, both graduate students in CSDA and undergraduates in student organizations. One group of students he gets to know well is those who serve on student government. "These students are very dedicated," he explains. "It's really fun to see how they change and see them blossom in maturity."

Ringgenberg says he originally came to campus in 1985 because the position offered him an opportunity to practice his training, as well as teach it. That meld keeps his job interesting, along

with the colleagues in the division.

"I have a wonderful staff that really likes to work here," says Ringgenberg. "It's the people around here that makes things worthwhile."

-by Brad Quarberg, University Relations



The Larry Ringgenberg File

- Ph.D. in College Student Personnel Administration**, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colo., 1986.
- Master's in College Student Personnel Administration**, University of Iowa, Iowa City.
- Bachelor's of arts** in psychology and journalism, UW-Eau Claire.
- Director of Student Activities and Centers** at UW-L since 1990; associate director from 1985-1990.
- Coordinator of the College of Student Development and Administration Program** at UW-L since 1992; instructor with the program since 1985.
- Recipient of the Annabelle E. Wolf Award** for outstanding leadership in student affairs, Wisconsin College Personnel Association, 1998.