



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

CLASS NOTES

APRIL 2024

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED JANUARY 15 - MARCH 15, 2023

'79

Gary Dunn retired in 2013 after 34 years as a teacher and dean of students in the Anoka, Minnesota, school district. Would like to hear from UWL friends (1975-79) at gduwn1957@comcast.net.



Shane West

'98

Shane West was named chief operating officer of TDS Telecommunications LLC, based in Madison. As COO, West is responsible for all day-to-day operations for field services, network assurance, facilities, call center operations, consumer and commercial sales, product development, and marketing.

'05

Jessica Karis Mulligan became the vice president of advancement at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, after six years leading the Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation.

'09

Chris Briggs is the assistant director for training and development at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

'11

Jason N. Bernhagen is a pre-authorization specialist for SSM Health in Madison.

'12

Sarah Swanson is a UX researcher for Xcel Energy in Minneapolis.

'17

Jacquelyne R. (Huinker) Lebahn is self-employed as the owner and CEO of Rabbitt Training LLC in Rochester, Minnesota. Rabbitt Training is a

private personal training studio working with the active aging population, pregnant and postpartum mothers, and post-operative patients cleared by physical therapy. Pre-made workouts are available via the Rabbitt Training app.

Jesse Martinez received one of five Fabulous Young Professional Awards from the La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce. Martinez worked not only makes a difference in the lives of his students at Logan Middle School in La Crosse — he also holds several leadership positions in state and national organizations advocating on behalf of public schools. Martinez was also selected to attend a meeting at the White House with First Lady Jill Biden, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and other congressional leaders.

'18

Zachary L. Porior is a quality systems coordinator for McCain Foods in Appleton.

'20

Ahmed Abdelgawad is a senior investment specialist for Bank of America Merrill in Jacksonville, Florida.

'23

Isabel N. Ortiz is an admissions coach for Western Technical College.

Brian Clevon, '07 & '08, has been named the 2024 Certified Professional of the Year by the American College of Sports Medicine. Clevon is an ACSM-certified clinical exercise physiologist for Bellin Health Marinette Clinic in Marinette, Wis. "ACSM has been a guiding light throughout my career as a health care professional, so receiving

this recognition is very special," Clevon says. In his spare time, Clevon is an avid runner and triathlon competitor — he even leads the Bellin Health Marinette 5K Heart Run/Walk and the Tri City Event Series. He is also working on his second children's book, "Kenzie Runs the World," inspired by his love of travel and appreciation for diversity.



Several alumni and friends visited La Crosse in February to celebrate the 90th birthday of Dick Koehler, UWL's first director of Residence Life. Koehler, who was well known on campus for his positive outlook and vibrant personality, retired in 1997 after three decades at UWL. "During my whole life, Dick has been such a

positive role model and mentor for me because of his positive approach to life," says Pam Lindley, '86 & '89, who came from Phoenix to attend the celebration. "He's been able to impact so many lives, including mine, with his kind heart, positive attitude, use of humor and easy-going style." Koehler says the friendships he formed

at UWL continue to hold meaning for him. "I never got too serious because having humor and laughter in my life has, I think, helped me be as healthy as I am," Koehler says. "I'm 90 and have my wits about me, which came from how I reacted to situations and my love for interacting with people."



Physical therapy reunion

Physical therapy alumni from the class of 1983 returned to campus for a reunion this fall, marking 40 years since completing their degrees. From left to right (standing):

Jayne Larson-Rhiner, Dave Lutz, Marcia Bergelin-Brockman, Mark Glendenning, Gordy Goetz and Mary Fendt. From left to right (sitting):

Cindy Groshek-Berg, Tami Burnham-Graves, Cheryl Harke-Peters, Karen Ballweg-Geschke and Pat Kita-Madler.

In Remembrance Alumni

- 1946 – Jean Bakkom, Sharon Springs, N.Y.
- 1950 – Bernadette Gajewski, Milwaukee
- 1950 – Margaret (Storandt) Haag, Mindoro, Wis.
- 1953 – Ruth (Anderson) Ekholm, Sparta
- 1953 – Merlyn "Gene" Lee, Conifer, Colo.
- 1956 – Marie (Roellich) Weaver, La Crosse
- 1959 – Judy (Keefe) Ellefson, Onalaska
- 1959 – Minerva (Smetana) Supple, Eau Claire
- 1961 – Phyllis Iverson, Soldiers Grove, Wis.
- 1963 – Chet Bradley, Sun Prairie
- 1964 – James Benson, Kaukauna, Wis.
- 1966 – Eleanor (Krogan) Oftedahl, Westby, Wis.
- 1967 – Patricia (Derouin) Kendhammer, Onalaska
- 1969 – Michael Engh, Ripon, Wis.
- 1978 – Frederick Brietzke, Fort Atkins, Wis.
- 1982 – Dorothy (Fitzpatrick) Prell, Sparta
- 1991 – Dennis Yeiter, La Crescent
- 1992 – George Howe, La Crescent
- 2000 – Bruce Klubertanz, Holmen

Faculty & Staff

Caroline Norelius

Caroline Norelius, 73, died on Dec. 18, 2023. Norelius was UWL's director of alumni relations and the executive director of the UWL Alumni Association from 1988 to 1997.





Submit UWL Class Notes

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www.uwlax.edu/alumni/about/whats-new-with-you

Phone/email

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Class Notes Policy:

Class notes and obituaries are published online in January, April, July and October.
The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the month of quarterly posting.

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