



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

# CLASS NOTES

APRIL 2026

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED JANUARY 15 - MARCH 15, 2026

## '84

**Jeff Melby**, '84 & '94, of Portage, retired in December after spending the past 12 years as an FDA Enforcement Specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

His work allowed him to travel extensively throughout many Wisconsin communities. He also supervised more than 150 high school and college students, providing them with valuable part-time law enforcement experience. Prior to his work with the FDA, he was involved for many years with Wisconsin's Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse prevention programs. A highlight of his policy efforts was recognition by former Gov. Doyle as part of a statewide team to help establish Wisconsin's smoke-free air law.

Melby's wife, **Kerry (Molstad) Melby**, '79 & '92, retired in 2018 after more than 35 years teaching middle school health education,

physical education and her last few years as dean of students in the Portage School District. During her teaching career, she also wrote many grants for physical education activities and achieved many teaching recognition awards.

In retirement, they plan to enjoy more time outdoors and with their children.

## '85

**Brad Quarberg** received the Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer Distinguished Service Award from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Quarberg served on the La Crosse Board of Education from 2016 to 2024, and was the board's liaison to the foundation as well as a member of its Grants Committee. While serving, Quarberg and his wife, **Gail**, '89, established the Quarberg Pride of the Northside Endowment, which awards grants to Logan High School's marching band and choir. Quarberg retired

in July 2023 as a Distinguished Senior University Relations Specialist with emeritus status after 38 years promoting UWL and public higher education. He remains deeply involved in the La Crosse community.

## '91

**Keith Mahlum** is the chief philanthropy officer for the South Dakota State University Alumni & Friends Foundation.

## '92

**Jennifer (Bialk) Scherneck** is a realtor in Madison.

## '97

**Ivan Weiss Jr.** is the director of Advisor Development at The Pelora Group, part of Mass Mutual, in Charlotte, N.C.

## '11

**Nolan Schmidt** is the vice president of Supply Chain for Fastenal.

## '14

**Adam Pagenkopf** is approximately half-way through his PhD program in cellular and molecular pathology at UW-Madison.

**Christian Wendland** is the senior director for accountable care at Optum healthcare in Los Angeles.



Caroline Kannel

## '16

**Caroline Kannel** is an athletic trainer for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams, specializing in luge. Kannel supported Team USA athletes during their completions in Italy this winter.

## '19

**Tommy Losch** is the camp director for Turning Rivers camp in Campbellsport, Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization serving children who have experienced trauma or other challenges. Losch was recently honored at the American Camp Association's National Conference, receiving the Eleanor P. Eells Award for Program Excellence. The award recognizes people and programs that have used camp environments to make a positive difference in people's well-being.

## '20

**Noah Rohleder** is a police officer for the UW-La Crosse Police Department.

## '25

**Calix Denny** is a lab technician for General Finishes, a manufacturer of wood finishes based in East Troy, Wisconsin.



Marissa Eckrote-Nordland

## A former winner, now a decider

After receiving the Murphy Award as UWL's top graduate in 2016, Marissa Eckrote-Nordland, now an assistant professor of economics, chaired the committee tasked with identifying the 2026 Murphy Award winner.

"Receiving the Murphy Award ... was a defining moment in my undergraduate career and the most meaningful culmination of my time as a student at UWL," she says. "Participating in (the selection) process reminded me of the lasting impact institutions and mentors can have, and of my responsibility to help cultivate the next generation of leaders."

# In Remembrance

## Alumni

1951 – Donna Schomberg (Knudson), La Crosse  
 1959 – Norman Jerome, Onalaska  
 1960 – Pedro Ver Velde, Loudon, Tenn.  
 1961 – Jean Hays (Shepherd), Burnsville, Minn.  
 1962 – Gene Drecktrah, Oshkosh  
 1963 – Kaye Kjome, La Crosse  
 1965 – Ardelle Williamson (Albertson), West Salem  
 1967 – AnnaBeth Culver, La Crosse  
 1969 – Lyall Schroeder, Woodlawn, Va.  
 1970 – Anna Krause (Klema), Viroqua  
 1971 – Susan Link (Bishop), La Crosse  
 1971 – Pat Stephens, Holmen

1976 – Jerry Guentz, La Crescent  
 1978 – Dave Vieth, Middleton  
 1979 – Kevin Hanson, Whitelaw, Wis.  
 1982 – Terri Boisvert, La Crosse  
 1984 – Tom Goltz, La Crosse  
 1990 – Don Barnard, Darlington, Wis.  
 1990 – Birgitta Rice (Olsson), Saint Paul  
 1997 – Colleen Welper (Kane), Caledonia, Minn.  
 1999 – Carla Olsen, Billings, Mont.  
 No grad year listed – David Athnos, La Crosse  
 No grad year listed – Michael Martell, Roseville, Minn.  
 No grad year listed – Al Trapp, La Crosse

## Faculty & Staff

### Mehmet T. Aritan

Mehmet T. Aritan, professor emeritus, died Dec. 7, 2025, at age 80.

### Lynn E. Ceason

Lynn E. Ceason, former UWL staff member, died Feb. 5, 2026, at age 84.



AnnaBeth Culver

### AnnaBeth Culver

AnnaBeth Culver, professor emerita and UWL donor, died Dec. 29, 2025, at age 98. Culver spent 23

years as an instructor specializing in health and physical education, and went on to establish the AnnaBeth Culver Endowment Scholarship Fund for Health, Physical Education and Athletic Training, which has provided students with financial support for over 30 years.

### Julius Erlenbach

Julius Erlenbach, former provost and vice chancellor, died Feb. 28, 2026, at age 82. After leaving UWL in 1996, Erlenbach served 14 years as chancellor at UW-Superior.



Pat Stephens

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### Dorothy Ann "D.A." Marshall Ferguson

Dorothy Ann "D.A." Marshall Ferguson died Feb. 8, 2026, at age 95. Ferguson dedicated her energy to civic efforts as a member of the UWL Self Sufficiency Program Board of Advisors.

### Nelda Manter

Nelda Manter, professor emerita, died Oct. 11, 2025, at age 91.

### Linda Ann Perez

Linda Ann Perez (Vaughan), former UWL staff member, died Jan. 21, 2026, at age 76.



Al Trapp

### Al Trapp

Al Trapp, former president of the UWL Alumni & Friends Foundation, died Feb. 7, 2026, at age 79. A lawyer by trade, Trapp taught political science courses at UWL in addition to his many years of leadership work with the Foundation. He was also heavily involved in the community, serving as chair of the La Crosse Chamber of Commerce Board, among other roles with local organizations.

Pat Stephens, former president and long-time leader for the UWL Alumni & Friends Foundation, died Feb. 3, 2026, at age 77. Stephens was known by many for his strong involvement on campus as well as his far-reaching dedication to the broader community, demonstrated by his leadership of Rotary Lights, Irishfest and many other local traditions.



# Submit UWL Class Notes

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[www.uwlax.edu/foundation/connect/whats-new-with-you](http://www.uwlax.edu/foundation/connect/whats-new-with-you)

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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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