



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

CLASS NOTES

JULY 2025

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED APRIL 15 - JUNE 15, 2025

'79

Joe Schmit has retired after a long and distinguished career as sports director for KSTP-TV, 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS and 45 TV in the Twin Cities. During his career, Schmit covered everything from World Series and Super Bowls to local high school sports. Schmit says he looks forward to spending more time with his family and working on other passion projects.

'20

Vanessa Czeszynski, a Ph.D. student studying ecology, evolution and behavior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, was named a Fulbright Fellow and an American Scandinavian Foundation Fellow. Together, these fellowships will allow Czeszynski to experience cultural exchange in her host country of Norway, while conducting cutting-edge research with collaborators at the University of Oslo for an entire year. Czeszynski will be researching lakes and early Earth analogs to learn more about Earth's past, present and future.

'22

Evan Rusch, after graduating from UWL, began working with U.S. Bancorp Investments, a subsidiary of U.S. Bank. Rusch worked in the brokerage service department until October 2023, then transitioned to a wealth management advisor after obtaining Securities Industry Essentials Series 7, Series 63 and Series 65, and insurance licenses.

'23

Grant Mathu is a campus community safety coordinator for Western Technical College in La Crosse.

A rising chef



'10

Via Vang, already recognized as one of the country's best rising chefs, has add another award to his growing résumé. In June, Vang and his colleagues received the James Beard Award for Broadcasting for their show, "Relish," which explores the stories behind some of Vang's favorite dishes in the Twin Cities food scene. The award was a fitting way for "Relish" to kick off its sixth season June 23, with episodes available to stream on the PBS app. Vang, owner of the Minneapolis-based Vinai restaurant, specializes in Hmong cuisine and enjoys sharing stories about the connection between food and people.

In Remembrance Alumni

1958 – Peter Schaettle, Onalaska

1958 – Ronald Wegner, Independence, Iowa

1959 – Dick McCormick, La Crosse

1959 – Marjean (Brenstien) Riisager, Asbury, Iowa

1960 – Peter Harman, Saint Paul

1961 – Sandra (Raymond) Hohl, Allentown, Pa.

1965 – Chuck Chritton, Lakeland, Fla.

1965 – Ruth (Hass) Hurlburt, Onalaska

1966 – Jim Ezell, Indianapolis

1967 – Orville Molling, Onalaska

1967 – David Olson, La Crosse

1970 – Carol (Price) Olson, Chandler, Ariz.

1974 – Thomas Franzini, La Crosse

1975 – Dennis Ryan, Tomah

1976 – Freddy Korneta, La Crosse

1982 – Suzann (Kane) Balduzzi, Onalaska

1985 – Brian Vandenberg, Wilson, Wyo.

1985 – John Rock, La Crescent

1990 – Amy (Kerwin) Kobishop, Sun Prairie

1990 – Mary (Rieland) Mormann, La Crosse

1992 – Kristine (Plunkett) Selberg, Chippewa Falls

2005 – Kami (Connor) Hansen, Cottage Grove, Wis.

2013 – Matthew Kesler, Saint Paul

Michael H. Egle

Michael H. Egle died March 6 at age 84. Egle was one of the founding professors of UWL's Computer Science Department and went on to teach for 32 years. He helped pioneer the large lecture/small group concept for introductory level courses and recorded hundreds of TV lectures through the years. Egle was also known for speed-walking through campus and enjoyed greeting people on his route.

Charles Frederick Hosler Jr.

Charles Frederick Hosler Jr. died June 7 at age 85. Hosler was a professor of biochemistry at UWL for 34 years. Outside of work, Hosler taught Sunday school and performed in the church choir, shared his love of woodworking with his children and grandchildren, and was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader.

Faculty & Staff

David Olson

David Olson died May 19 at age 79. Known as "Coach Ole," Olson had a long career in teaching (math) and coaching (track and field and cross country), including a stint as a faculty member at UWL. As both a coach and teacher, he helped shape several generations of students at Logan middle and high schools in La Crosse.

William T. "Billy" Clow

William T. "Billy" Clow died April 17 at age 63. Clow was passionate about sharing his love for theater and design, and went on to teach at UWL. Clow also served on the UWL Foundation Board.

Irene M. Thorelli

Irene M. Thorelli died April 8 at age 74. Thorelli was a professor in the College of Business Administration at UWL and was active in the community, volunteering with the School District of La Crosse and other local organizations.

Janice "Jan" M. Larkin

Janice "Jan" M. Larkin died April 8 at age 89. Larkin worked at UWL until her retirement in 1993. She enjoyed reading, mahjong, golf, crossword puzzles, walking her dog, spending time with family and friends, and volunteering at Mayo Clinic Health System.



Submit UWL Class Notes

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Kyle Farris | University Marketing & Communications
608.785.6640 | kfarris@uwlax.edu

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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