



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

# CLASS NOTES

JULY 2026

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED APRIL 15 - JUNE 15, 2026

'93

**Louis Molina** is an assistant dean at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

'95

**Matthew Rubey** recently accepted the position of senior director of federal accounts for Azurity Pharmaceuticals.



Brian Soller

'96

**Brian Soller** was recently named president of JENOPTIK Optical Systems, a global technology group specializing in photonics. In his new role, Soller will be responsible for the

efficient operation, strategic development and sustainable growth of Jenoptik's U.S. optics and photonics business.

'99

**Scott Fillner** is an elementary school principal in the Linn-Mar Community School District in Marion, Iowa.

'00

**Cassidy Sanchez (Coggon)**, a physical therapist for Emplify Health by Gundersen in Hillsboro, was recently recognized for a feat of creative problem-solving in pediatric care. Sanchez was featured in a recent article detailing how she partnered with UW-Madison's Engineering Department to develop a specialized crawler that gave one young patient greater comfort and mobility. Sanchez hopes the device, dubbed the "Coggon Crawler," will help many more children and families in the future.

'00

**Stacie Opahle (Cihlar)** is the director of human resources for Manitowoc Public Schools. She recently completed her dissertation – "The Impact of Targeted Professional Development on Principals' Instructional Leadership and the Cultivation of Positive School Culture" – and earned her doctorate degree from National Louis University.

'03

**Susan Cadwell (Porter)** retired in June after 36 years teaching high school math, 35 of which came at Portage High School. In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her son and other family members, as well as friends. She also looks forward to exercising, gardening, biking, fishing and skiing, along with adding to her long list of hobbies.



Justin Schmitz

'11

**Justin Schmitz** received the award for outstanding sound design at the Helen Hayes Awards in May in Washington, D.C. The Helen Hayes Awards are the Washington D.C. equivalent of the Tony Awards in New York City. Widely recognized for outstanding work in theatrical sound design, Schmitz was the 2022 recipient of UWL's Rada Distinguished Alumni Award.

'10

**Nicholas Schueller**, a social studies teacher in the Mequon-Thiensville School District, was named a 2026 Herb Kohl Foundation Teacher Fellow. This fellowship celebrates and supports outstanding Wisconsin educators who demonstrate excellence and innovation. Those selected receive a one-time award of \$6,000, and their school receives a \$6,000 matching grant to enhance learning.



Peter Weiden

'10

**Peter Weiden** is the assistant athletic director of football operations at the University of Illinois.

'18

**Emily Poh (Wypiszynski)** is the recreation supervisor for the Village of Allouez, part of the Green Bay Metropolitan Area.

'22

**Camryn Frye** is an executive assistant at UW-Oshkosh.

'25

**Cole Rogeberg** is a loan officer for Park Bank in La Crosse.

# In Remembrance Alumni

- 1952 – Bob Hoffman, Holmen  
1953 – Carol Ortega (Burghardt), Sierra Vista, Ariz.  
1954 – Elizabeth Knutson (Gant), Onalaska  
1954 – Bob Wells, Wisconsin Rapids  
1957 – LaVone Schmitz (Roberts), Kimberly, Wis.  
1958 – Mildred Evenson (Relyea), Black River Falls  
1958 – Mary Solbreken (Larson), La Crosse  
1958 – Marilyn Wuttke (Sauer), Holmen  
1959 – Carol Weber (Henrich), Middleton  
1960 – Mary Panke (Fiebig), Coeur d’Alene, Idaho  
1960 – Jane Temp, Green Bay  
1963 – James Edwards, Sparta  
1966 – Mike Bennett, Portage  
1966 – Jim Schams, La Crosse  
1966 – Dennis Stannard, Onalaska  
1967 – Wayne Jacobson, Onalaska  
1969 – Doug Mitchell, Beloit  
1971 – Sophie Bell (Mittelstadt), Eden Prairie  
1971 – Patrick McDaniel, Madison  
1971 – Kathleen Stoen (Nelson), Holmen  
1972 – Margaret Baudhuin (Gilman), Sparta  
1972 – Carol Ibinger (Bowen), Pigeon Falls, Wis.  
1973 – Tom Brinsko, Saint Paul  
1974 – Vada Fauver (Anderson), Blue River, Wis.  
1974 – Maria Holley (Kritchman), Stoughton
- 1974 – Fred Jungers, Milwaukee  
1974 – Linda Nook (Diagostine), Sarasota, Fla.  
1975 – Thomas Beversdorf, Nekoosa, Wis.  
1975 – Michael Zein, Onalaska  
1976 – Daniel Hundt, Onalaska  
1976 – Fred Marini, Melrose  
1977 – Marge Thompson (Yunk), West Salem  
1978 – Janet Devore, Livingston, Texas  
1980 – Dano Lee, Park Falls, Wis.  
1984 – Curt Grinde, La Crosse  
1984 – Daniel Kotek, Viroqua  
1985 – John Bissen, La Crosse  
1986 – Sheri Lippitt (Zager), Waunakee  
1990 – Karolee Hogden, Winona  
1991 – Amy Zipp (Recla), Niagara, Wis.  
1992 – Kim Clark (Seiler), Onalaska  
1993 – Matt Bekkedal, Neenah  
1995 – Kenneth Cook, Trempealeau  
2003 – Mark Schroeder, Chili, Wis.  
2011 – Darren Kinder, La Crosse  
No grad year listed – Marilyn Carney, Tucson  
No grad year listed – Rich Heimerl, Portage  
No grad year listed – Larry Olson, Marshall, Wis.  
No grad year listed – David Tostrud, Onalaska

## Faculty & Staff

### Philip Berg

Philip Berg, professor emeritus, died April 15, 2026, at age 92. Berg taught sociology/anthropology at UWL until his retirement in 1997.

### Thomas Kreibich

Thomas Kreibich, UWL staff member, died March 28, 2026, at age 61.



### Al Gedicks

Al Gedicks, professor emeritus, died May 9, 2026. Gedicks was a longtime sociology instructor at UWL and also served as director of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council. He was a driving force behind environmental justice alliances that sought to protect natural lands from destructive mining. A passionate educator and storyteller, Gedicks also explored these environmental and sociological

efforts as an author, including in his 1993 book, “The New Resource Wars: Native and Environmental Struggles Against Multinational Corporations,” and in his 2001 book, “Resource Rebels: Native Challenges to Mining and Oil Corporations.” He is remembered by many for his deep commitment to environmental justice.

### Maureen Longcor (Lowry)

Maureen Longcor (Lowry), former UWL staff member, died May 24, 2026, at age 85. Longcor spent nearly three decades at UWL before retiring and growing into a new career as a realtor.

### Robert Simpson

Robert Simpson, former UWL staff member, died May 12, 2026, at age 90.

## Submit UWL Class Notes

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### Phone/email

Kyle Farris | University Marketing & Communications  
608.785.6640 | [kfarris@uwlax.edu](mailto: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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