



Uncovering a Village

Mississippi Valley
Archaeology Center
(MVAC) helps keep
highway projects on
time, wins award
for collaboration.



Kathy Stevenson, MVAC projects director, excavates a cluster of animal bones — turtle shell, freshwater mussel, bird bones. The team would excavate or watch as contractors dug to see if something was exposed. They would mark spots, map them out and organize their finds accordingly.

STORY ON PAGES 4 & 5 >>

From CLS Dean Ruthann Benson



SERVICE LEARNING HELPS COMMUNITY, STUDENTS

According to the National Service Learning Clearinghouse, service learning is “a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” (www.service-learning.org).

Service learning offers students the opportunity to solve problems as they apply classroom knowledge to issues in the world beyond the university. Not only can students learn how to think more critically through real world application of their knowledge, they also learn how to work with community partners and can develop their roles as engaged citizens.

Service learning is one of the applied learning opportunities we offer students in the College of Liberal Studies. We are committed to assisting students to advance their critical thinking skills as they engage in internships, serve communities, and develop their roles as citizens.

In this issue of the Capstone, we feature stories about how some of our departments work with community partners on the local, state, and national level. Whether our departments collaborate with the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin tribal communities, local K-12 schools, nonprofit organizations, legislators, or national initiatives, they regularly contribute to our surrounding communities and offer students applied and transformative learning opportunities.

Perhaps you know of organizations that would like to partner with faculty and students from UW-L? If you have a partner ideas or a story you'd like to share, please contact Julia Johnson at jjohnson2@uwlax.edu.

Sincerely,

Ruthann E. Benson

EDITOR

Brad Quarberg, '85

ART DIRECTOR

Sanja Dojčinović

WRITERS

Kjerstin Lang
Brad Quarberg, '85

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sue (Sullivan) Lee, '82 & '87
Pa Moua-Yang, '11

EDITORIAL ADVISER

Julia Johnson

The Capstone is published biannually for UW-La Crosse College of Liberal Studies alumni and friends. Send comments to: Associate Dean Julia Johnson, UW-L College of Liberal Studies, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601, or 608.785.8113 or jjohnson2@uwlax.edu.

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and is in compliance with Title IX and Section 504.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Future editions of Capstone will be online. We'll let you know about issues via e-mail, so make sure we have an updated email address to keep you in touch. Update your information at:

- 1.877.UWL.ALUM
- alumni@uwlax.edu
- www.uwlalumni.org
- UW-La Crosse Alumni Association, Cleary Alumni & Friends Center, 615 East Ave. N., La Crosse, WI 54601



www.uwlax.edu/lc

Features



6 →

Learning In and Through Community

CLS students are finding out what their field of study means in the context of the community. See where they're working and learning.



9 →

An Automatic Window

Sick of staring at the walls? Janet Sorenson, '02, can change that with Anywhere Windows, providing a perfect view right out a window in your office. Find out how.



12 →

That 'Go-Get-'Em' Attitude

Jason Church, '11, faced challenges as a soldier in Afghanistan. Find out how this Purple Heart recipient addresses new life challenges back home.



16 →

A Major Update

With changes in family demographics, technology and more, it was time to revise the Early Childhood-Middle Childhood major. Discover what's been done.

UNCOVERING A VILLAGE: CONTINUED FROM THE COVER



MVAC staff and UW-L students pitched in to keep the project moving forward on Hwy. 35 in Onalaska.

Archaeologist Kathy Stevenson recalls catching the first glimpse of an ancient village buried under Hwy. 35 in Onalaska. It was summer 2011 when building demolition for a large road construction project had begun. Amid the rubble, her team of researchers zoned in on some dark soil where a building foundation had just been removed.

In a time long before garbage trucks, these dark circles in the earth were the remains of 400-700-year-old garbage pits or “pit features” — spots where former cultures threw their garbage. The seemingly mundane find to a layperson was a treasure trove to her team of archeologists.

“What archaeologists study is the remains people left behind from their everyday life,” explains Stevenson, projects director for UW-L’s Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center. “From their ‘garbage’ we can tell what tools they made,

the animal resources they used, what kind of crops they grew, the size of the site, how long they lived there ... there is so much information you can tease out.”

MVAC researchers knew they would learn more about the Oneota culture, which flourished in the La Crosse and Onalaska area from about A.D. 1300 to 1600. But the team was in for a surprise when the two pit features became six and eventually 500 as the workers began to peel away the roadbed in 2012, exposing remnants of the village, as well as human remains in more than 30 locations.

“There was an entire, intact strip of village right under the street for about five blocks,” says Stevenson. “The ramifications were huge and so were the responsibilities — especially when dealing with human remains, where there is a strict process that needs to be followed.”

“When you have a road dug up in the middle of the city, you need to keep moving dirt. I was fearful going into the project that it would be held up, but once I saw how the MVAC team got going on things — putting in long days and long hours — I saw they wanted to work with us to get the project done. They understood the time constraints we were dealing with.”

Chris Dahl, projects leader with the Department of Transportation



Kathy Stevenson, MVAC projects director, said communication with multiple stakeholders in the project was key. Those groups included the DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Wisconsin Historical Society, City of Onalaska, Ho-Chunk Nation and construction contractors.

Kathy Stevenson gets a close look at one of the artifacts found.

Yet, the archeologists were keenly aware that they were working in the middle of a busy downtown area with a construction timeline to follow.

“When you have a road dug up in the middle of the city, you need to keep moving dirt,” says Chris Dahl, projects leader with the Department of Transportation. “I was fearful going into the project that it would be held up, but once I saw how the MVAC team got going on things — putting in long days and long hours — I saw they wanted to work with us to get the project done. They understood the time constraints we were dealing with.”

Stevenson says communication — every day and sometimes multiple times daily — was key. They had to work with multiple stakeholders in the project including the DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Wisconsin Historical Society, City of Onalaska, Ho-Chunk Nation and construction contractors.

For MVAC’s commitment and dedication to the project, the team was recognized with a 2012 WisDOT Tribal Excellence Award. The award is for providing exemplary contributions and services to building and enhancing partnerships with the Wisconsin DOT and Wisconsin Tribal communities.

“We are used to working with construction companies,” says Wendy Holtz-Leith, MVAC research archaeologist. “We are out in the hot sun, shoveling all day along with them.”

MVAC staff and UW-L students pitched in to keep the project moving, says Stevenson. They found items such as pottery, animal bones, food waste, burnt rock, deposits of ash from cooking fires and more.

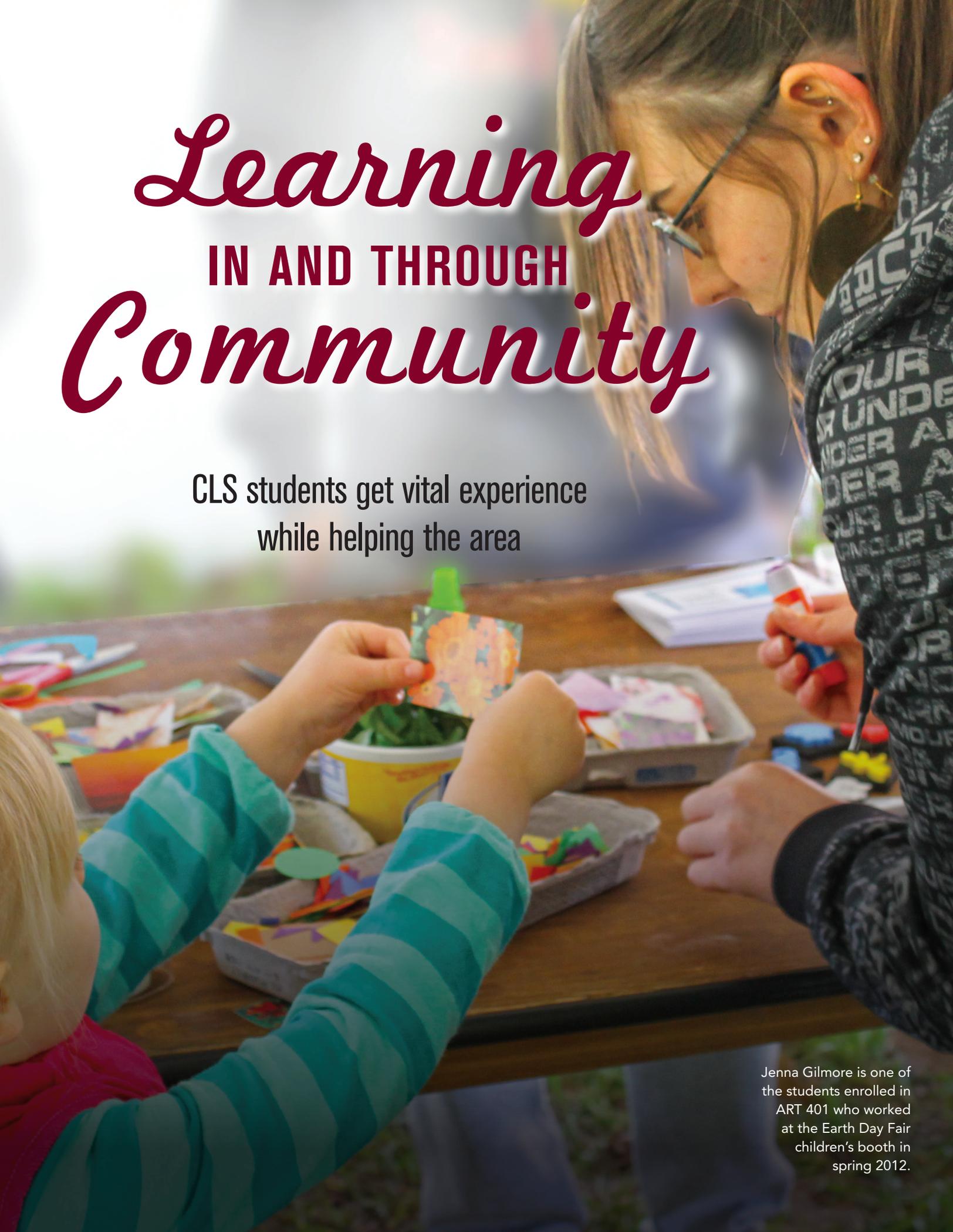
MVAC had suspected there would be artifacts in this location based on historic records, including newspaper accounts from as

far back as the 1880s indicating people had found “Indian artifacts” and “Indian remains.”

“When I first started working in this area about 30 years ago, we knew almost nothing about the area having these kinds of sites,” says Stevenson. “We keep building more of a picture of the cultures who lived here and who they were.”

Joe Tiffany, MVAC executive director, says last summer’s Onalaska project is another example of the center’s impact during the past three decades.

“MVAC has been dedicated to working with the community to preserve the archaeological resources of this region for more than 30 years,” Tiffany notes. “This project is a great example of how our staff collaborate and work efficiently on these projects so that both MVAC and the community benefit.”



Learning IN AND THROUGH *Community*

CLS students get vital experience
while helping the area

Jenna Gilmore is one of the students enrolled in ART 401 who worked at the Earth Day Fair children's booth in spring 2012.

College of Liberal Studies students are learning what their field of study means in the context of community. Communication Studies students raise funds for a local organization during TV telethons, art education students teach local kids at the YMCA, and majors of all types took a trip in January to build homes in a village in Ecuador while learning about social justice issues.

Civic engagement can be measured by activities such as voting, volunteering in the community or even eating dinner with neighbors, says Jo Arney, a UW-L political science professor. Service learning is a teaching method that combines formal instruction with a related service in the community.

SERVICE LEARNING IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Broadcasters play an important and visible role in the community. In fact, they are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to serve their community, notes Pat Turner, professor of Communication Studies. For 14 years Turner's students have helped raise money and other donations for the Coulee Region Humane Society during a live TV telethon that airs on KQEG. Students prepare video packages, are on-air talent, and direct and crew the three-hour production, says Turner. While they learn about their important role in community, they also help it. Last November the telethon raised more than \$5,000 for the humane society.

SERVICE LEARNING IN ART EDUCATION

In fall 2012, UW-L students enrolled in one of Monica Urbanik's art educa-

tion classes developed lessons and taught classes at both the La Crosse and Onalaska YMCAs during "Arts Week." They also volunteered at the YMCA's Teen Center throughout the semester and documented their experiences.

The partnerships continue this spring as students are involved in the La Crosse YMCA's after-school program at Emerson Elementary School and will be in charge of the Children's Art Booth at the Earth Day Fair in April, at Myrick Hixon EcoPark.

Through service learning, students encounter a broader definition of what it means to be an art educator, says Urbanik, assistant professor of art education. "It provides students with an understanding that art educators are also arts activists," she explains.

SERVICE LEARNING OUTSIDE LA CROSSE

Despite seven days working in the mud and rain, students say a trip to Ecuador during winter 2013 intersession was amazing and life changing. They built and repaired homes and made other community improvements at a small village on the coast of Ecuador.

While an obvious benefit to the Ecuador community, students formed real connections with a new culture and used their Spanish in a practical way. Before and during the trip, they engaged in service-learning curriculum focused on social justice and diversity issues. A Modern Languages class will be offered in fall 2012 for service learning in Ecuador to give more background on the history, culture, and geography of Ecuador and Latin America prior to the trip.

A CLOSE LOOK AT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ON CAMPUS, IN COMMUNITY

UW-L is one of 20 schools nationwide participating in a two-year American Association of State Colleges and Universities study to measure civic engagement. Jo Arney, a UW-L political science professor leading the AASCU study on campus, says the first year of the study is devoted to understanding civic health on campus. The second year will open to the wider La Crosse community.

First, campuses will devise measures and metrics for assessing civic health on campus and in the community. After conducting the assessment, the hope is that campuses will identify a measure of civic health for improvement and devise a program to respond.

UW-L students started research during spring semester and will present results to AASCU in June.

When students returned home, they discussed ways to get engaged in the La Crosse community and chose a project to work on locally, says Darlene Lake, an associate professor of Spanish and adviser of Service Learning in Ecuador.

"We want students to understand that there are ways they can become engaged with others that help the world in some way, and also helps them become better citizens of the U.S.," says Lake.

BUILDING A BUSINESS *Family*

Jennifer (Anderson) Hansen, '93,
capitalizes on her liberal studies
degree

Jennifer (Anderson) Hansen hoped to become a family and marriage counselor. Instead she's counseling a different family — her 78 employees.

Hansen graduated in 1993 with a psychology major and Spanish minor. After graduation and spending a month in Europe, she returned to suburban Milwaukee and landed a social work job.

In planning her career, she began asking family counselors if they would go into the field if they had the opportunity to start over. Most answered “no.”

In June 1994, Hansen's father asked her to consider working in the family business — Anderson Seal Inc., which provides sealing products for a variety of industries. She was accepted to grad school, but decided to give her father's company a year. That was 18 years ago. She purchased the company from her father in 2003. In 2009, Forbes

Jennifer (Anderson) Hansen, '93, returned to campus last fall to share her business experience. Hansen credits her success in creating a great business culture at her business to her liberal studies education.



“You have to be able to talk with people who are different than you. If you only specialize in what you do, you'll miss out on the whole picture.”

Jennifer (Anderson)
Hansen, '93

named her one of Milwaukee's “Women in Business.”

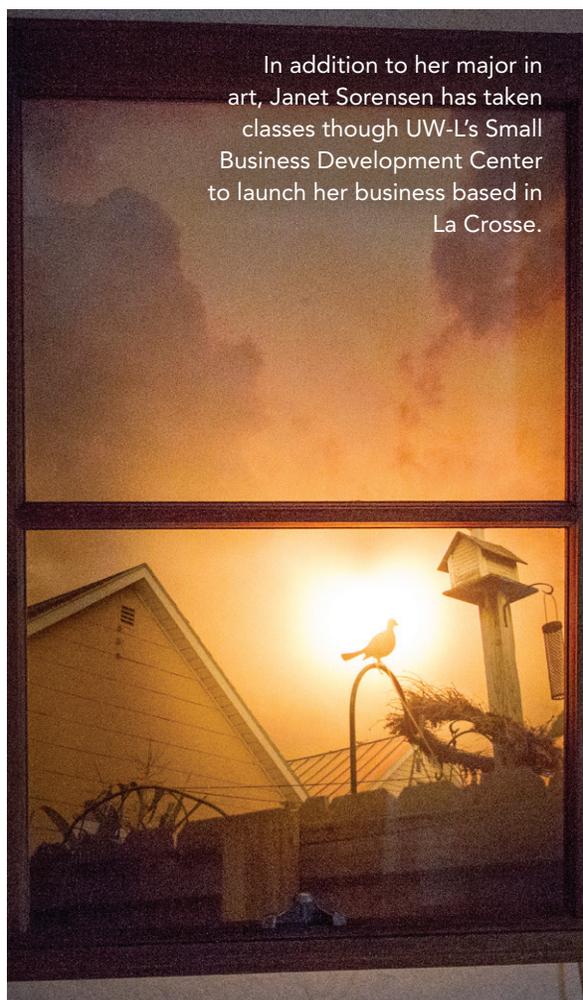
Hansen has drawn from both her psychology and Spanish studies to help her business stay competitive and grow.

For sustainable business ideas, she asks workers for input and recognized their

individual efforts. “The people working on the floor have all the ideas,” explains Hansen. “I simply asked them: ‘If you could have anything for your job what would it be?’ and then gave it to them.”

Her down-to-earth, personal style with workers has made employees feel like part of the company, which has become a family. They celebrate birthdays (employees get the day off with pay) and hold special parties. For Halloween, they do reverse trick-or-treating — they dress up and deliver candy to customers. “We work hard and we play hard,” she notes.

Hansen contributes her success in creating a great business culture to her liberal studies education. “You have to be able to talk with people who are different than you,” she explains. “If you only specialize in what you do, you'll miss out on the whole picture.”



In addition to her major in art, Janet Sorensen has taken classes through UW-L's Small Business Development Center to launch her business based in La Crosse.

AN AUTOMATIC WINDOW

Despite having four surgeries and a skull fracture in recent years, Janet Sorensen wears a wide smile.

She's worked hard to have a positive view in life. And she's done it mainly by giving a good view to others.

Sorensen, '02, launched her business, Anywhere Windows, in 2008. She makes windows for win-

dowless spaces — bringing anyone, anywhere a beautiful view.

Sorensen takes high-resolution photos, places them behind real window frames and adds backlighting. She works diligently to make her windows appear like the real thing, placing small lights behind the image where the sun peaks above the horizon, or a crack in the clouds.

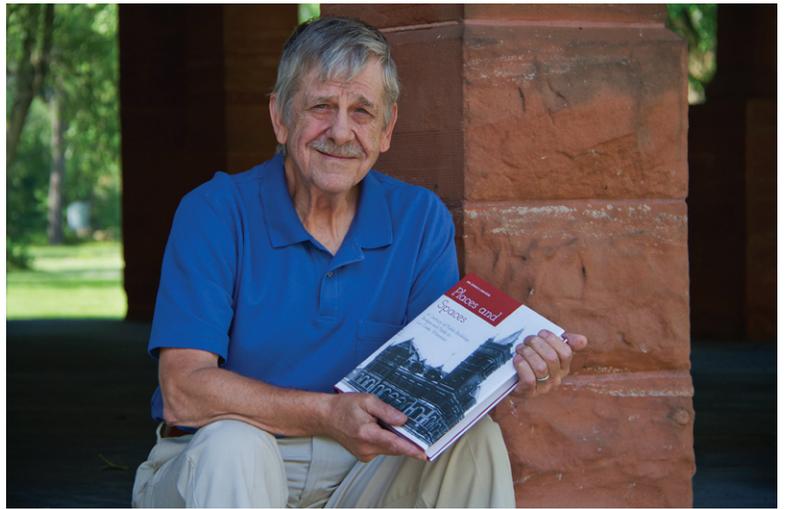
Sorensen got the idea for Anywhere Windows when her daughter was going to be deployed to Iraq and she wanted a view to remind her of home. Sorensen made her daughter a view of a sunset on her grandpa's farm and gave it to her for her birthday. She has since created many other views of country settings, flower gardens, lightening storms, Coulee Region bluffs and much more.

Learn more at www.anywherewindows.com

'Places and Spaces'

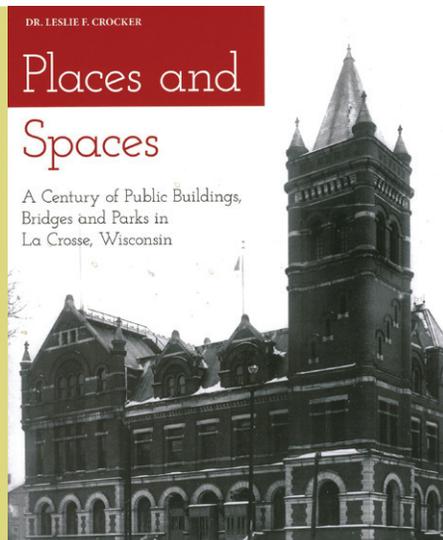
People can study Gothic architecture in Paris, France and Moorish styles in southern Spain, or La Crosse — with Les Crocker's art history book in hand.

Crocker, a retired UW-L art history professor, published the book "Places and Spaces: A century of public buildings, bridges and parks in La Crosse, Wisconsin." The 350-page, hard cover book includes the history of 79 La Crosse buildings, sites and structures, beginning with the first County Courthouse in 1851 and ending with the 12th fire station from 1956.



TOP: This Moorish-style gazebo at Pettibone Beach was built in 1901 by the architectural firm Schick & Roth. The style is rare to find in the U.S. and is a well-preserved example, says Crocker.

ABOVE: Les Crocker, who taught art history at UW-L for 30 years, sits at the gazebo at Pettibone Beach, which is featured in his book.



The Book:

"Places and Spaces: A century of public buildings, bridges and parks in La Crosse, Wisconsin," is \$40, plus shipping. Learn more and order a copy at lacrosse-buildings.com

Wall of Fame Honorees

The following College of Liberal Studies and School of Education alums entered the UW-L Athletic Wall of Fame in October:



**JULIE (WATERHOUSE)
REGAN**

1994-98; swimming

- Top athletic accomplishment: Uniting the team for a WIAC championship.
- Graduated in 1999, elementary education. Third grade teacher at Bangor (Wis.) Elementary School.



NORRIS M. THOMAS

1987-88; 1991-93; football,
track & field

- Top athletic accomplishment: scoring on two championship teams: 1992 NCAA III Football and 1993 NCAA III Indoor Track and Field
- Graduated in 1993, mass communications. Teaches TV production at Hamilton High School, Chandler, Ariz.



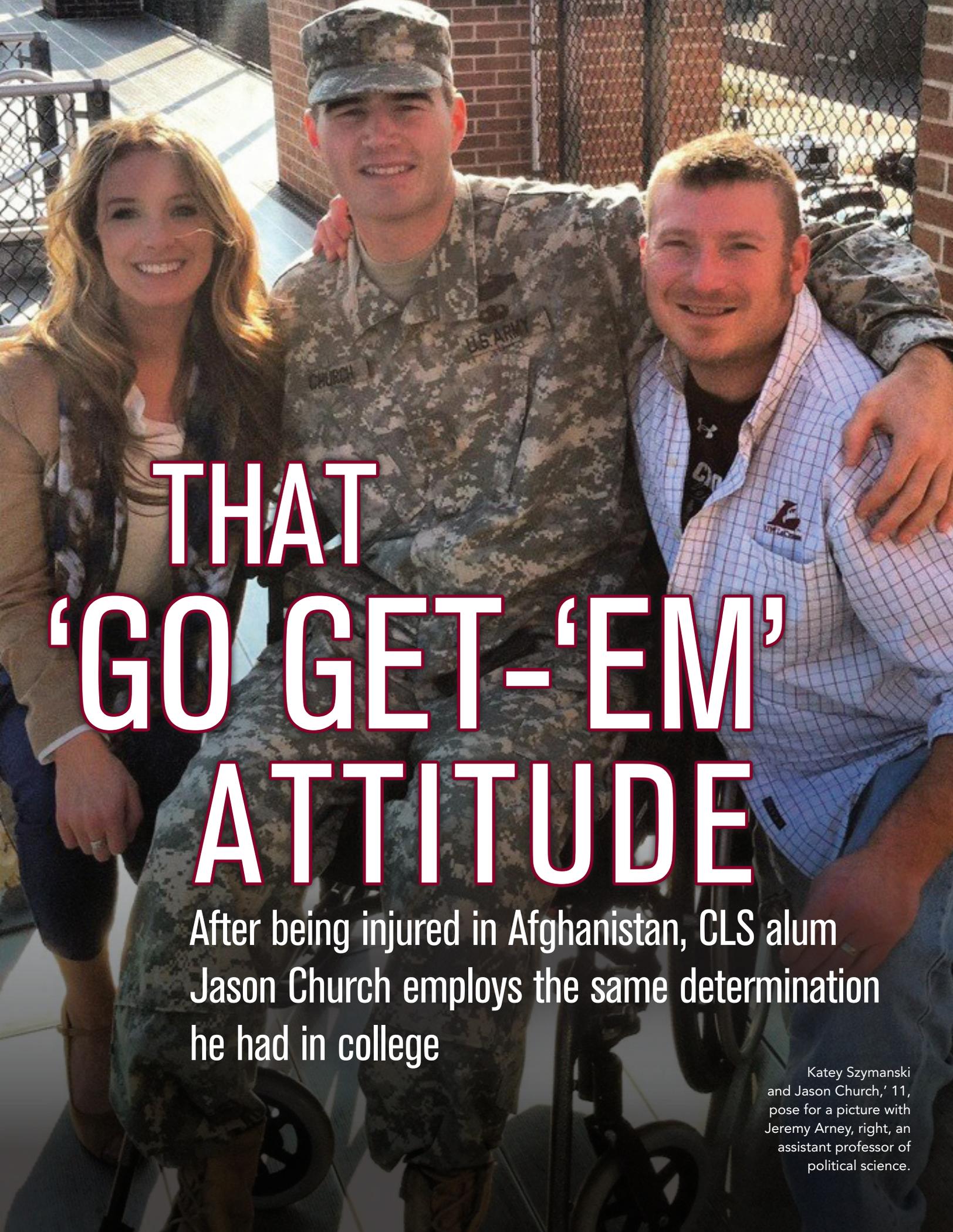
**JENNIFER (TISCHAEFER)
IGNACIO**

1996-2000, soccer

- Top athletic accomplishment: records for goals in a game, season and career; assists in a game, season and career.
- Graduated in 2001, elementary/middle school education. Third grade teacher in the Kyrene School District, Tempe, Ariz.

The Wall of Fame pays tribute to former athletes and coaches for exceptional ability and enhancement of UW-L traditions. Others honored in October were John E. Milke, Jr., '81, and Larry Terry, '76.

**SEE COMPLETE
LIST >>**



THAT 'GO GET-'EM' ATTITUDE

After being injured in Afghanistan, CLS alum Jason Church employs the same determination he had in college

Katey Szymanski and Jason Church, '11, pose for a picture with Jeremy Arney, right, an assistant professor of political science.



Jason Church, '11, and his girlfriend, Katey Szymanski, show off a quilt from UW-L's Political Science Department. Jeremy Arney, assistant professor of political science, gave Church the quilt during his visit to UW-L in November. The woman who made the quilt knew Jason's story and told her husband, a Vietnam veteran. He stitched the final touches on the quilt — writing the words "thank you."



Jason Church, '11, a political science major, meets President Barack Obama while in the hospital.

Jason Church, '11, accepted the purple heart Nov. 10 at Roger Harring Stadium as his university family watched.

The student turned Second Lt. had sustained major injuries in Afghanistan, including losing his legs below the knee. His ambition to confront the challenges ahead was a familiar sight. It was what Church had done as UW-L's football captain — a dedicated trainer and natural leader with focus and determination, says former coach Larry Terry.

"People looked up to him for his work ethic," says former teammate Nate Ward, '11. "He played his heart out."

And Church, a political science major, showed that spirit as a student as well.

"He always has a go-get-'em attitude. Nothing can stop him. Nothing can get him down," says Jeremy Arney, assistant professor of political science. "That's the kind of guy he is."

“He always has a go-get-'em attitude. Nothing can stop him. Nothing can get him down. That's the kind of guy he is.”

Assistant Professor
Jeremy Arney

So neither former coaches and teammates nor teachers were surprised to learn that Church continues to set goals and push hard to attain them. They plan to support him in those efforts.

Former football players who knew Church held a "No Eagle Left Behind" benefit for Church Jan. 26 on campus. UW-L's Political Science Department arranged to have a patriotic quilt

personalized for Church, which Arney gave him at the Nov. 10 football game.

"As a professor, this is my first student who has been injured in war. I knew he was special and was going to be fighting on the front lines because he is that good," says Arney. "Every time he left my office I thought, 'I hope this kid is going to be alright.'"

Friends of Church say seeing him accept the medal on Nov. 10 was a reminder that he would be all right.

"Knowing him and his personality, he is going to be OK," says Arney. "He will do well at whatever he does."

Church would eventually like to coach at the high school or college level. And he has ambitions to return to school for his master's and doctoral degree in political science with an emphasis in international affairs.

No Bullying!

Psychology students bring awareness to bullying

In the wake of La Crosse TV station WKBT News 8 Anchor Jennifer Livingston's on-air response to bullying that went viral worldwide, UW-L psychology students sent a message of their own.

In October, UW-L psychology students Amanda Abrahamson, Mai Lea Yang, Zach Esselman and Amanda Opper organized an anti-bullying chalk pledge on the pavement around Hoeschler Tower as part of a class project in group dynamics, taught by Grace Deason, assistant professor of Psychology.

Many on campus added their names in chalk to the list, showing their united effort against bullying.

Abrahamson told News 8 that Livingston's message, as well as past hate crimes on campus, were motivation for the chalking.

"We thought it would be a great time to bring some awareness to campus and get people thinking about bullying and hate crimes and how they really impact us and — by all the signatures here — that they impact so many other people on campus," Abrahamson said in a News 8 interview.

Livingston showed up and added her name in chalk.

Click on the picture to the right to watch the video.



TOP: UW-L student Amanda Abrahamson explains the chalk pledge to a News 8 reporter. Photo courtesy of news8000.com. ABOVE: Students contribute to the chalk pledge. BELOW: Click to watch video.



THE MUSIC LIVES ON

Endowment created to honor Lindy Shannon, La Crosse area deejay, helping music majors since 1992

They never heard the La Crosse deejay on the air, but his name lives on thanks to a UW-L Foundation endowment.

In 1992, friends of La Crosse rock 'n' roll enthusiast Lindy Shannon organized a concert to honor the local icon who helped many budding musicians. With some profits, they created an endowed scholarship at UW-L in 1992 that's awarded annually to music majors.

"Receiving this award meant a great deal in helping me to afford going to a great school like UW-La Crosse," says Tiffany Townsend, a music education choral and general emphasis major from Park Falls. "This award has helped to lessen the financial pressures that come with going to college."

The Class of '15 member says the \$700 award helped her greatly by lessening the financial burden. "I am more able to focus solely on my job as a music education student," Townsend explains. "It's easier for me to accept opportunities that are priceless to my future career, like being able to direct a vocal jazz ensemble on campus and attending professional development conferences."

Another Shannon Scholarship recipient, Chris Barnes, appreciates receiving the award because

it recognizes his hard work and encourages him to do more. "Music scholarships, like this one, have helped in the advancement of my musical ability through teaching and performing," says the Germantown senior majoring in music education with emphases in music performance and theory.

Bill Harnden, a Shannon fan and concert organizer, says he and others honored Shannon because of his ailing health. Crowds were enthusiastic at concerts held in '92, '94, '96, '02, '07 and '12.

"The great support of all the concerts by the fans and musicians makes a statement as to how important of a contribution Lindy made to the local music scene and the lives of everyone involved," says Harnden. Other early organizers included Dan Hanson and Tari Tovsen.

Since the scholarship was created, 53 awards have provided nearly \$23,000 to students. This year after the concert held in September, organizers helped the endowment reach more than \$50,000 — ensuring budding musicians will get financial help for years to come.

Harnden says the final large concert was held in September, but "the door is still open" for smaller shows in the future.



TOP: Lindy Shannon was a popular La Crosse disc jockey during the rise of rock 'n' roll. A scholarship through the UW-L Foundation has provided nearly \$23,000 to students since 1992.

ABOVE: Tiffany Townsend, a music education choral and general emphasis major, is one of the recipients of Lindy Shannon scholarship.

Want to establish or support a scholarship?

Contact CLS Associate Dean Julia Johnson at 608.785.8113

(jjohnson2@uwlax.edu) or

Development Officer Jeff Meyer, 608.785.8502 (jmeyer@uwlax.edu).



Early Childhood-Middle Childhood students (from top, clockwise) Alison Weiler, Megan Culhane and Meaghan Thill explore strategies to facilitate creative expression in upcoming lessons.

A MAJOR UPDATE

Innovative changes make Early Childhood-Middle Childhood major unique

Family demographics. Technology. Dual language learners. These are just three reasons the university's Early Childhood Middle Childhood major has been revised.

"We had a very strong program to begin with," explains Barb Gander, senior lecturer in Educational Studies. "Our overall goal is to make the program even more efficient and current."

That was accomplished with curricular changes in 2011. Among the seven components addressed:

- changing family demographics
- responsiveness to diversity of learners

- dual language learners
- inclusion practices
- response to intervention
- developmentally appropriate technology
- positive behavioral interventions and supports

"There are a variety of ways we're making the program stronger and more streamlined," explains Ann Epstein, assistant professor of Educational Studies who worked with Gander on the revisions. The seven components were integrated across the program's curriculum. And program requirements were streamlined to allow students to complete the

“For our majors to be prepared properly, they need to have a broad range of experiences. We're very deliberate about connecting with our students while they're on campus. And that connection remains when they begin their careers.”

Assistant Professor
Ann Epstein



Professional Development School teacher candidate Megan Blazer reviews student work in her third grade classroom at Viking Elementary School in Holmen.



Early Childhood-Middle Childhood students collaborate to design learning activities that facilitate creativity, as well as critical thinking.

degree in as little as four years, compared with five years under prior requirements.

Revisions to the Initial Educator Standards from the National Association of the Education of Young Children provided impetus for the changes, along with a desire to keep curriculum cutting edge. Gander and Epstein also gathered feedback from teachers and recent graduates.

“The program has gone from earning a grade and completing courses to meeting certification standards through field experiences and preparing portfolios,” says Gander.

The innovative changes have made UW-L’s degree current and marketable. Students become certified for birth through 11-year-olds, allowing them to teach at a variety of settings, age and grade levels. Graduates are hired for teaching positions in elementary schools, as well as teaching and director positions in early childhood care centers and related agencies.

Additionally, the program that enrolls from 175-225 students a semester, now offers more field experience options. The options range from traditional classroom observation to a more structured immersion in a professional development school within a local elementary school. There, students form close relationships with professional teachers and students.

“For our majors to be prepared properly, they need to have a broad range of experiences,” explains Epstein. “We’re very deliberate about connecting with our students while they’re on campus. And that connection remains when they begin their careers.”

Gander says the changes are improving the university’s already reputable teacher education program. “Anecdotally, we hear from principals who seek out UW-L graduates,” she notes.

NEW FIELD EXPERIENCE FINDING SUCCESS

A new field experience for UW-L students in the Early Childhood-Middle Childhood program is giving the majors a unique opportunity to discover what it’s like in the classroom before they student teach.

The Professional Development School at Holmen’s Viking Elementary offers an in-depth immersion into an everyday classroom.

EC - MC students typically spend Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in the classroom learning directly from teachers, while building relationships with the students. Throughout the semester, they also attend faculty meetings; assist with bus, cafeteria and hall duties; work with student groups; teach at least three lessons; and more.

Assistant Professor Ann Epstein, who coordinates the effort, says students benefit greatly from long-time relationships. “Good teaching is based so much on relationships with students,” notes Epstein. “We’re able to focus on them becoming great teachers.”

The Holmen PDS began in fall 2012 with 14 students taking part. The spring 2013 semester has 12 students in the program.

LOTS OF RESEARCH

Students, faculty and staff from 48 states and seven countries will come to campus in April for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Undergraduates responsible for the 3,050 abstracts accepted for NCUR 2013 will bring the academic conference to campus April 11-13.

History major Bret Campion is one of the NCUR participants whose research was selected for presentation. Campion — sponsored by Assistant Professor of History, Heidi Morrison — chose to research the role of social media in the Egyptian revolution and whether historians should collect social media postings as primary sources for historical research.

As Campion prepares for his NCUR presentation, he hopes to go over his results and do further research as conditions in Egypt

UW-L will be hosting NCUR once again on April 11-13, 2013.

continue. He wants to ensure his presentation is both relevant and precise and accurately provides the most up-to-date information about the conflict in Egypt.

Here are some other topics planned for the conference:

- “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Social Media,” Elijah Aulik, Philosophy & Ethics; Samuel Cocks, adviser
- “I Noticed They Were Upset: Talking About Depression Within Romantic Relationships,” Ashley Blair, Communication; Sara Docan-Morgan, adviser
- “That’s so Gay!: Impact of a Gay-Straight Alliance on the Straight Students’ Attitudes Towards the LGBT Community,” Brittany Burns and Victoria Marquardt, Psychology; Bianca Basten, adviser

Ensemble Gets State Invite

The UW-L Wind Ensemble gave concerts in eastern and central Wisconsin on its way to an invited performance at a statewide conference in January. The band stopped in Germantown and McFarland before heading to the National Band Association-Wisconsin Chapter Conference in Wisconsin Rapids.

The Wind Ensemble, under the direction of J. Thomas Seddon IV, Music, draws the most talented instrumentalists at the university. It performs the finest traditional and contemporary wind band literature. The group is open to any UW-L student by audition and accepts around 50 students. Contact Seddon at jseddon@uwlax.edu



So, This is What Band is all About

Eight area high school bands stepped out with the Screaming Eagles Marching Band for “High School Band Day” during the Eagles’ football game Oct. 6. More than 250 high school band students and directors from Bangor, Central, Holmen, La

Crescent, La Farge, Logan, Prairie du Chien, and West Salem high schools spent game day with the Screaming Eagles practicing and performing during the pre-game and halftime shows.

The high school students sat with their collegiate band mem-

bers and took part in cheers and other traditions. “This enables the students to get an idea of what it is like to be in a college marching band,” says Director of Bands Professor Tammy Fisher. It was the second year for the event.



Top Poet Alum Visits

Wisconsin Poet Laureate Bruce Dethlefsen returned to campus one last time as the state’s top poet to read from his works. Dethlefsen, ’70, was joined by Cathryn Cofell, co-chair of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission, for the Nov. 8 reading in Centennial Hall. A retired educator and public library director living in Westfield, Dethlefsen began his two-year term as Wisconsin Poet Laureate in 2011. An author of two poetry chapbooks, he was twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize and served for years as the secretary of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. Two of his poems were featured on Garrison Keillor’s *The Writer’s Almanac* on National Public Radio and several poems appear on yourdailypoem.com.

YWCA Tribute to Outstanding

Two CLS women from UW-L were honored at this year's YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women. Receiving awards were: Mahruq F. Khan for education and Carol Oyster for activism.

The YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women recognizes women in the greater La Crosse area for their high level of accomplishment, as well as contributions to the life of the Coulee Region community. Recipients were honored in November at the La Crosse Center.

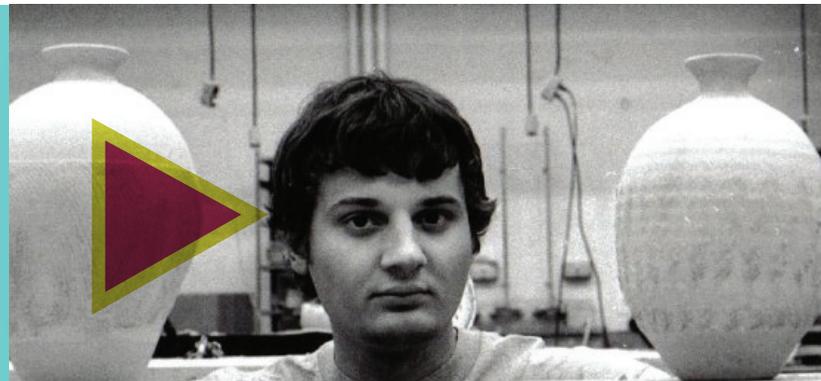
Women are selected from nominations submitted by area community organizations, companies, corporations, small businesses and individuals to receive the highest recognition, an Outstanding Achievement award.



MAHRUQ F. KHAN — EDUCATION

Since 2009, Mahruq Khan has been an assistant professor in UW-L's Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. In 2007, with the support of the Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation fellowship, she received a doctorate in sociology from Loyola University Chicago. Khan's research interests include the social construction of gender, religion and sexuality; human rights; and feminism among Muslims.

CAPSTONE
Comment



ing Women



CAROL OYSTER — ACTIVISM

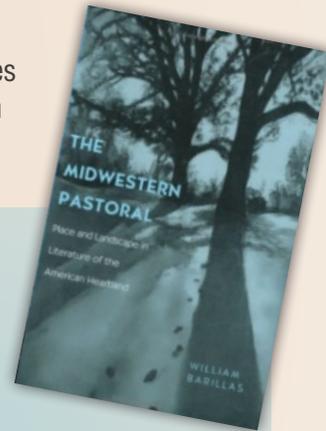
Carol K. Oyster joined the Psychology Department in 1989. She holds a master's in counseling psychology from Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles, and master's and doctoral degrees in social psychology from the University of Delaware. Since 2009, Oyster has been UW-L's director of the Institute for Ethnic and Racial Studies, chair of the Ethnic and Racial Studies Department and adviser to the Student Veterans Association.

English Faculty Earns Literature Award



Assistant Professor of English William Barillas will receive the 2013 MidAmerica Award for distinguished contributions to the study of Midwestern literature. He'll receive the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature honor in May. The award recognizes his career and body of scholarship in the field. His recent book, *The Midwestern Pastoral: Place and Landscape*

in Literature of the American Heartland, takes an interdisciplinary approach to Midwestern writers.



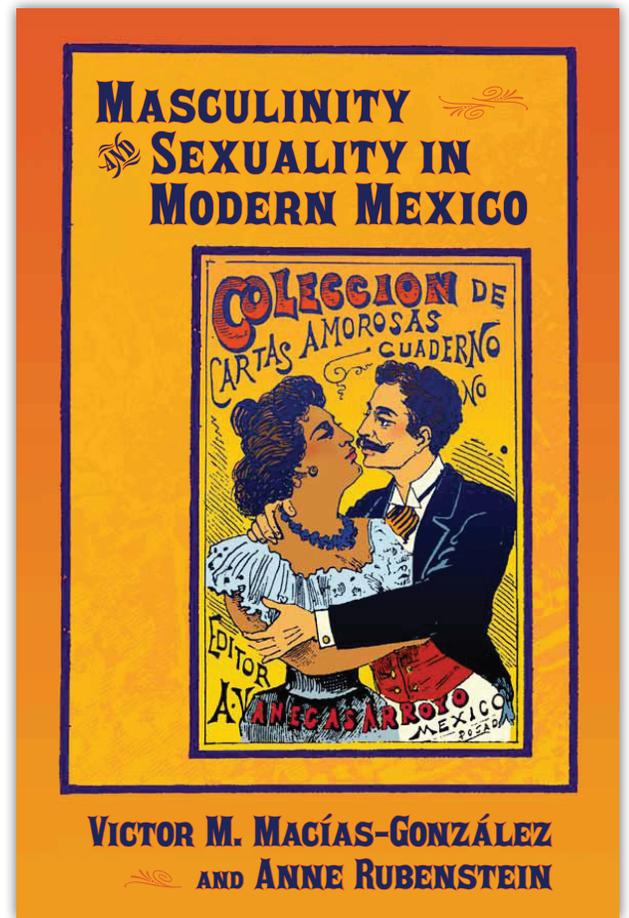
The William Barillas File

- Currently Assistant Professor of English
- Has taught at UW-L since 2000. Formerly taught at Rutgers University and Grand Valley State University
- Earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and a master's and doctoral degree at Michigan State University
- Serves on the editorial boards of the peer-review journal *MidAmerica* and the forthcoming *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume Two*.

Vince Muehlbauer was an assistant in Jennifer Terpstra's campus studio from 2000-03. Now he has his own studio and is the teacher. After "years of frustration working an office job," Muehlbauer says he made the leap in January and bought a pottery studio and gallery, The Potter's Shop, in downtown Waukesha. "I couldn't be happier," he says. A local news reporter visited shortly after the opening. Watch the report by clicking on Vince's picture to the left.

**MUEHLBAUER'S
WEBSITE >>**

Mexican Masculinity, Sexuality Probed



[CLICK ON THE BOOK COVER TO LEARN MORE!](#)

Associate Professor of History and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Victor M. Macías-González, has the distinction of editing the first book on the history of masculinity and sexuality in modern Mexico.

Macías-González co-edited the book, *Masculinity and Sexuality in Modern Mexico*, with Anne Rubenstein, York University (Toronto), after they gave a Latin

American Studies presentation in 2001.

"At that time, Latin American gender and sexuality studies were very hot and a couple of presses were seeking to create anthologies with samples of best work being done," recalls Macías-González.

Macías-González says the most surprising chapter featured women who self-kidnapped themselves to force their boyfriends to marry them.

"That was fascinating stuff," notes Macías-González. "It was in the 19th century and not the kind of behavior you expect middle class women to engage in at all."

The book offers many opportunities to rethink how gender and sexuality worked in the past, says Macías-González.



The Victor M. Macías-González File

- Currently associate professor of History and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies; director of Eagle Mentoring Program.
- Directed Institute for Latina/o and Latin American Studies, 2001-12.
- Nominated for the American Historical Association's Equity Award, recognizing his work on CLS's Eagle Mentoring Program.
- 2013 Campus nominee for the Regents' Teaching Award.
- Started teaching at UW-L fall 2000.



Anthony Rasmussen, left, Tiffany Townsend and John Knepper are three choral students recognized during statewide competition last fall.

Hearing High Praise

Three Choral Music Studies Students Stand Out

John Knepper, Anthony Rasmussen and Tiffany Townsend received high praise at the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association's Next Direction conference. The event brings together outstanding high school students who enjoy choral music to study with college music education students who mentor and chaperone.

Conference organizer Sarah McVeigh was impressed with the three UW-L choral students selected. Among her comments:

- Knepper, from Trempealeau, was "mentioned individually on one of the student's evaluations as being especially insightful and helpful."
- Rasmussen, from Grafton, "built great rapport with students, and built strong relationships with students and staff." He's been asked to join the conference

team next fall.

- Townsend, from Park Falls, was cited for "Her energy, charisma and willingness to take some risks that will take her to great places in this field."

Director of Choral Studies Professor Gary Walth was impressed with those reviews. "I'm very excited that our students received high praise and I'm proud of their work at a statewide venue," says Walth. "They exemplify the high quality students we have in our choral program."

The Music Department enrollment includes more than 100 majors and minors.

**GO TO MUSIC
DEPT . WEBSITE >>**

A Look Back

Visitors to downtown La Crosse in December and January got a peek into the past.

History major Sophia Lorent designed a poster and website highlighting windows from the former Doerflinger's department store. The poster in a kiosk at Fourth and Main streets included a QR code to access a website with more information.

"It seemed logical to do something about the building that's right next to the kiosk," says the history major from Cambridge, Wis., who graduated in December. "The more I looked at the old, historical photos, the more I realized how unique they were."

Window displays were popular through much of the 20th century. Lorent's project focuses on 1929-49. She obtained images and much of the historical information from the Murphy Library Area Research Center.

The display features holiday, fashion and community interest windows. Lorent says the windows not only marketed products, but were art. "In a way, the displays were their own kind of art form, both showing off artistic ideas while promoting products in the store," she notes.

History Professor Chuck Lee proposed the idea after seeing a similar project at a conference on museums and modern technology. He says it's a unique way to connect to the past. "We're actually taking a history display and bringing it to the sidewalk," Lee explains. "It provides an interesting window to the culture of years ago."

**GO TO LORENT'S
WEBSITE >>**

TOP: History major Sophia Lorent, with History Professor Chuck Lee, shows off her fall research project detailing a 20-year period of window exhibits in the former Doerflinger's department store.

