

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

CLASS NOTES

April 2013



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

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SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES BLURB TO:

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CLASS NOTES POLICY:

The UW-L Alumni Association publishes class notes online in January, April, July and October. The deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the quarterly postings. See www.uwlalumni.org for details.

44

John Bernd, Stevens Point, retired from UW-Stevens Point in 1984 and moved to Atlanta where he lived for 16 years before returning to Wisconsin in 2000. He celebrated his 90th birthday in August. He still has fond memories of UW-L faculty from the '40s: President Rexford Mitchell, Morrie Graff, Myrtle Trowbridge, O.O. White and William Glover. He was editor of the *Racquet* in 1943-44. He encourages grads from the 1942-44 period who might remember him to contact him at jmbernd@gmail.com.

54

Gloria Olson Bates, Laguna Vista, Texas, says "retirement is great." She had a December art show at Port Isabel museum with 49 paintings. She says winter Texans love the Gulf of Mexico and Mexican markets, only 20 miles away. She encourages former classmates and others to "come on down for a great time."

Conrad Roth, Olympia Fields, Ill., entered the Navy following graduation. After 30 years, he retired and began working for TRW as the on-scene representative for the Navy, building military ships. After 13 years there, he retired to Virginia. He has three daughters, two in Virginia Beach and one in

Chicago. He currently lives in a retirement villa on the water where he lives with his companion Braveheart, a two-year-old German Shepherd.

56

Mary Alice (Lane), '54, & **Clare**, '57, Longsdorf, Maplewood, Minn., recently moved into a senior housing facility with access to memory care for Clare, enabling Mary Alice to continue volunteer activities. Both have been retired 20 years after teaching 35 years in St. Paul Public Schools.

Judith (Eberlein) Ziemann, Bessemer, Mich., is retired but still enjoys teaching and helping children develop as a substitute teacher in Bessemer, Ironwood and Hurley schools.

62

Jean Chrisan Porras, Parkland, Fla., retired in June 2002 after 40 years as an educator, the last 10 as a sub. "I loved every minute, and am also enjoying retirement!" she says. She visits the local Y three times a week, rides a recumbent bike, and swims in pool and ocean. She has always had pets, currently two ginger tigers, named Jack and Pumpkin. She and her husband, Mario, have a son who resides in Texas and a daughter in Tampa.

64

Neil L. Duresky, La Crosse, is a retired federal tax collector; Wisconsin Air National Guard squadron commander; and American Red Cross chapter executive director. He is a member of UW-L Chancellor's Community Council and UW-L Foundation Veterans Hall of Honor Committee. He currently plays bass in local swing and rock bands. Duresky is a member of the City of La Crosse Aviation Board and the La Crosse Area Flyers Club. He is media director and member of Chapter 307 of the Experimental Aircraft Association. Also, Duresky is American Legion Post 52 past post commander, past member of the American Legion state legislative committee and current Post 52 military honors funeral detail member. He is past commander of La Crosse County 40 et 8 Voiture 830 and current member of the "Locomotive" crew and youth sports director. He is past president of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and president of the La Crosse school board.

Gerald M. Schunke, Antigo, retired as Antigo High School math department chair in 1997. Since then, he and his wife, Joan, winter in Tucson, Ariz.,. They have two grandsons and a step-granddaughter. They will celebrate their 48th anniversary in August.

66

Marty Sobczak, Greenwood, Ill., finished teaching social science at McHenry East High School in 2001, where he started in 1974 coaching wrestling and teaching physical education. He moved to the classroom for U.S. history, geography and political science from 1983-2000. He coached cross country at Woodstock High School from 1984 until November 2011, where there were many good teams and some all-state runners, along with a few state champions. He retired to watch grand kids and do woodworking projects. He and his wife, Lynne, have been married for 48 years.

67

James C. Kaleas, Madison, served two tours of duty in the Navy, 7th fleet in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam, in 1967 and 1968. He married Jean Schneider of Madison in August 1970. They have been married for 42 years and have two grown daughters. Kaleas retired from Sanofi-Aventis as a pharmaceutical sales representative in June 2005. During retirement he has traveled to the Pacific Northwest to visit his brother in Seattle, rode the Wisconsin state bike trails 25-30 times per season, read, worked out at the Sun Prairie Athletic Club, and at other exercise venues. He

does volunteer work at a food pantry in Sun Prairie. He usually drives to La Crosse once every fall to take in a UW-L football game.

71

Ron Gaber, '71 & '72, Kirksville, Mo., retired in March 2012 after nearly 44 years in higher education at UW-La Crosse, Ball State and A.T. Still universities. He is Emeritus Dean of Students and Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs.

72

Lois J. Hill, Hayesville, N.C., taught middle school physical education for 30 years in Bonita Springs, Fla., before retiring in 2003 and moving to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to enjoy whitewater kayaking and hiking. She currently works part time at a nursery selling and maintaining the stock.

74

Gregory Staat, Myrtle Beach, S.C., recently retired from the information technology field. He's living a relaxing, casual beach life in Myrtle Beach, a small coastal community with a white sand beach 68 miles long.

75

Fred Lautz, Brookfield, has been named a top attorney by Wisconsin Super Lawyers for 2012. No more than five percent of total lawyers in the state are selected. Lautz works with mergers and acquisitions for Quarles & Brady LLP, Milwaukee.



78

Mike Lutz, Cameron, took early retirement in June 2012 after 34 years teaching and coaching in two different school districts. He plans to enjoy time at the golf course, working out, and attending as many classic rock concerts as possible. He and his wife, Karen, have a daughter, Kayleigh, and son, Kory. Paul Raley, Lancaster, was chosen as Brook's Most Inspiring Coach of the Year from more than 1,800 nominations nationwide.

79

Danell Haines, Sherrills Ford, N.C., recently retired from The Ohio State University as director of the National Research Institute for College Recreational Sports & Wellness. While at UW-L, Haines was a four-year member and co-captain of the women's swimming and diving team. She was a school record holder in the distant freestyle.

Pamela Opdahl Petroskey, '79 & '85, Palmetto, Fla., was recently promoted to technical expert with the Social Security Administration. She has worked with the federal government for 27 years. She has two children, one step-child and one grandson. She recently traveled to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

80

Jo A. Randerson, Milwaukee, was named head women's tennis coach at The Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in fall 2012.

81

Michael Brooks, White Bear Lake, Minn., is a co-founder of Curenci, developers and integrators of an online payment platform.

82

Kathy O'Neill Topel, Fort Atkinson, has been working as a buyer for Ball Corp. for the past year. She really enjoys it and has learned a lot about aluminum can making. Her commute is now only .8 mile.

87

Robert T. Buss, Briggsville, is an at-risk teacher at Wisconsin Dells High School, where is also varsity assistant coach for football, basketball and baseball. Buss started his teaching career in Milwaukee Public Schools where he taught from 1987-2003 and coached with UW-L alum Jimmy Gosz at Milwaukee Rufus King from 1991-2003. He and his wife, Paula, have three sons: Jalen, a sophomore at UW-Stevens Point; Colyn, a senior considering UW-L; and Braden, a second grader.

88

Dana Schwarzkopf, Jakarta, Indonesia, completed a master's in education in 1993 and has been living and working overseas as a teacher for more than 20 years. Schwarzkopf, who currently teaches grade 6 English and social studies, blames the Valpo overseas study program (a semester in Reutlingen) as part of the desire to live overseas. The continued exposure to the variety of cultures and people

has kept Schwarzkopf interested and always learning.

89

Robert Bender married Sarah Beth Hammett June 19, 2010. They live in Artesia, New Mexico. He published his second book, "Worthy of the Cause for which they Fight: the Civil War Diary of Brigadier General Daniel Harris Reynolds, 1861-1865," in November 2011 by the University of Arkansas Press. He's a tenured faculty member teaching history at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell.

Tim Thorsen and his wife, Lisa, Rhinelander, are on the verge of deciding what to do "when we grow up." Their youngest of four, Tyler, plans to enroll into UW-L this fall. He is the second of the four to attend; sister Kassi plans to graduate from UW-L in May in Spanish. Tyler is planning to pursue physics and physical therapy through the dual degree program. The Thorsens have been blessed with the physical therapy program at UW-L from which Tim graduated. Their practices in the northern Wisconsin continue to be blessed by great student interns (including those from UW-L), PT residents in orthopedics, and by providers who serve clients every day. "Thanks UW-L for the positive impacts you continue to impart individually and collectively," says Tim.

90

Matt Nowakowski, Plymouth, Minn., has been appointed dean of the Graduate School of Business and Technology at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. Prior to serving SMU as interim dean and the MBA program director, he worked in a variety of leadership roles for Thermo Electron Corp. His research centers on the resilient adaptive responses of individual and corporate systems. Along with a bachelor's from UW-L, Nowakowski holds an MBA from Edgewood College, a doctorate from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and is a 2012 graduate of the Buttimer Institute for Lasallian Studies. He and his wife, Christine, have a daughter, Veronica. He spends free time canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

91

Brian D. Fritz, '91 & '93, lives in Middleton with his wife, Tiffany, and three children. After spending over 18 years as a personal trainer that over-lapped more than nine years of teaching part-time at Madison College (MATC), Fritz is now teaching physical education full-time at Madison College.

94

Jason Parr, St. Paul, Minn., owns JSP Properties LLC, which was named Best Property Management Co. in St. Paul for 2012. The company is a full-service property management company offering professional services for residential properties in the Twin Cities.

93

David J. Christie has been promoted to director of Target Field Events for the Minnesota Twins. He and his wife, Catherine (Pierce) Christie, '94, live in Maple Grove, Minn.

95

Jon A. Bushman, Papillion, Neb., was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. in the US Army in October. Later in the month, he left Nebraska for a month of pre-deployment training in Washington, D.C., that culminated with his deployment in November to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He is serving for one year as the Deputy G2 (Intelligence / Information) at the United Nations Force Headquarters for the MONUSCO mission. He keeps in touch with his family via Skype.

James Harris, Keene, N.H., retired from teaching in 2003 after 34 years. He now works for New Hampshire Red Cross and Cengage Publishing proofing high school and college level chemistry supplements. Their son took his own life in December 2009.

Juliene (Riffel) Hefter, West Bend, was recently hired as the executive director/CEO for the Association of Aquatic Professionals.

96

Paul & Amy (Miller) Bremel, both '96, moved to Dorset, Vt., after passage of Act 10 in Wisconsin and are working at Burr and Burton Academy.

00

Kay Case, Naples, Fla., is clinical director for the NOVA Southeastern SWFL PA Program in Ft. Myers, Fla., which graduates an average of 60 students a year. She teaches clinical lab medicine topics, renal physiology/acid base, and co-directs clinical procedures and surgical skills. In addition to her full-time position at NOVA, she works part-time in family practice and makes hospital rounds for a nephrologist. Case still finds time to visit her son and daughter who live in the Minneapolis area. She and

husband Don have three granddaughters there. She would love to hear from classmates at ckay@nova.edu.

01

Angela (Swenson)-Holzinger, Eau Claire, has been an academic adviser at UW-Stout since April 2011 and a Learning Communities coordinator since December 2011.

04

Douglas, DeGroot, Davidson, N.C., has worked in hospitality and recreation in Charleston, S.C., St. Pete Beach, Fla., and Charlotte, N.C. He helps families find homes as a realtor and broker with Keller Williams Real Estate.

05

Jodi Pondiscio married Alexander Antunes, Aug. 4, 2012. They live in Bridgewater, N.J. Following earning her master's, she has been teaching physical education at the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School in New Jersey ever since graduation and is the ropes course specialist.

Joshua E. Schaub, Minneapolis, along with other investors have acquired the Joliet Slammers of the Frontier League and was also named chief executive officer. He will continue to practice law in Minneapolis at Weber Law Group, P.A., where he is a partner.

Sarah (Wilson) Wood, Los Angeles, continues "on a fun journey through life" that has taken her and her husband to California where they enjoy "sunshine and non-stop activity." She is store manager at Starbucks.

06

Justin Russell Bach, Waukesha, is an assistant baseball coach and facilities manager at UW-Whitewater.

Class of 20??

Lea Hansen, '96 & '98, and **Michael Ames**, Soldiers Grove, a daughter, Willow Anne Ames, Jan. 31, 2013. She joins a brother, Hadley Harris George (6).

Corey ('96 & '03) and Stacey (Ansay) ('97) Sjoquist, West Salem, a daughter, Mabel Jane, Nov. 19, 2012. She joins brothers Liam (10), Elliott (7) and Graham (3).

Cristine(Derus), '98 & '03, and **Michael, '99, Rameker**, Fitchburg, a son, Benjamin Will, Sept. 27, 2012.

IN MEMORIAM

TO GIVE A MEMORIAL, SEND A CHECK TO:
UW-L FOUNDATION, 615 EAST AVE. N.,
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

Alumni remembered

- 1934:** Genevieve Koenig, Milwaukee
1937: Joesph Zajac, Oak Lawn, Ill.
1942: Mary Markee, Boerne, Texas
1947: Clarence Scherr, Milwaukee
1948: Mary Ellen (O'Hearn) Hutzenbuhler, Onalaska
1950: Cleo Walter, Placerville, Calif.
1952: Kenneth E. Ripple, Oxford
1958: Elizabeth Beutler Mittelsteadt, La Crosse
1961: Judith A. Quinn, La Crosse
1971: Dewey Stendahl, Middleton
1971 & '73: Harriet Hatz Myers, La Crosse
1975: Scott Gaalaas, Loudon, Tenn.
2004: Deborah MacCallum, Sparta
1981: Rex E. Patelski, Lansing, Mich.

Staff & faculty remembered

JUDITH A. QUINN, 73, of La Crosse died Feb. 20, 2013. Quinn, '61, worked as an academic adviser on campus from 1968-80. She is survived by a daughter and two sons.

For complete obituaries on most listed staff and faculty, go to www.lacrossetribune.com.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

*For you.
For La Crosse.
For a lifetime.*

*Your UW-L Alumni
Association membership
supports many valuable
programs and services,
including this magazine.*

*Help us spread the word
about UW-L and become
a member today.*



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