

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

CLASS NOTES

July 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.



'Best House'

The women of "Best House" in the '60s continued their annual get-togethers in fall 2012. Among them, from left, Sonja (Pfaff) Haske, '66 & '90; Gayl (Gutknecht) Christensen, '66; Sue Hickey, '67; Darryle (Damon) Clott, '66 & '71; and Shirley (Walsvik) Merrill, '67. Unable to attend was Andi (Elstad) Sosalla, '67.

Into their 90s



Three graduates from the '40s celebrated their 90th birthdays in Marco Island, Fla., in January. They included, from left, Tim Nugent, '47, Champaign, Ill.; Toby Ruth Rolsted Keppel, '44, Marco Island, and Loudon, Tenn.; and Jim Seri, '48, Prospect Heights, Ill. Nugent developed the first rehabilitation education program for those with disabilities at the University of Illinois. Keppel, who married John Keppel, '47, was a physical education teacher and athletics promoter throughout her career. Seri taught in Cashton and Burlington before completing his career teaching and coaching at De Paul University in Chicago.

50

James and Yvonne (St. Dennis) Boscanny, both '50, live in Monroe. They were married while seniors in college. James taught and coached for three years then received a scholarship for physical therapy at UW-Madison. He retired from a PT career after 30-plus years. Yvonne retired from teaching

physical education and health for more than 30 years in Monroe. Now both fully retired, they're staying active — James with hunting, fishing, golf and woodworking; Yvonne with yoga, gardening, reading and housekeeping.

58

Don Kollath, '58 & '66, Sheboygan, was recognized during a surprise pep assembly in October 2012 to honor 50 years in education. Kollath taught physical education and coached in Sheboygan schools from 1972-93. He also made an impact in the community. Among his involvement, he founded the Sheboygan Youth Football Organization, managed and coached the Sheboygan County Redwings semi-pro football team, was Sheboygan's city-wide physical education chair from 1980-98, and co-founded Lake Country Academy. In his 70s, he continues to be involved at Lake Country Academy as instruction supervisor and trainer.

62

George W. Schubert and Arline F. Short-Schubert, both '62, live in Grand Forks, N.D. They visited UW-L in April and were "treated like royalty." They visited with Chancellor Gow, faculty members, Alumni Office staff, and as a bonus were able to have lunch and spend time with Dr. Carl Wimberly. They spent a lot of time at the Veterans Hall of Honor, "which is outstanding." They also visited Doug and Sally Martin. Doug played basketball for UW-L and served as an assistant coach. "The campus is beautiful and the students, staff and faculty are very helpful and friendly," says George. "We plan on returning to the campus within the next few months."

63

Chuck P. Stusek, Menasha, is retired. He still exercises a lot and is working to lose about 30 pounds, which he gained after a stroke 3 1/2 years ago. He was lucky enough to have no long lasting problems. Four years ago Stusek climbed Mt. Killimanjaro in Africa. He is also getting back into running to help lose weight. He and

his wife, Mary, are distant members of a ski club located in Boston and have skied in Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, France, and Canada. In 1996 he ran the Bay to Breakers race in San Francisco. Mary started a non-profit called "Kenya Works" about 10 years ago. It started a lot of improvement for schools, small businesses and other things. They have four sons. One is a music professor in North Carolina, one is an architect in Annapolis, Md., one is in sales and management, and one is a hair stylist in Neenah. Stusek and his wife have traveled around the world. "It all started at UW-La Crosse," he says. "It has been a great life."

70

Ariys Radke Oelke, De Forest, retired from Rio Middle/High School in 2011 after teaching French and English in the district for 16 years. Prior to that, she taught at Abblotsford Middle/High School as an English/French teacher for 15 years. She and her husband, Virgil, '73, have recently moved from Pardeeville to De Forest.

78



Lisa Herb, Eau Claire, was inducted into the UW-Eau Claire Claire Blugold Hall of Fame in October 2012. Herb retired as the university's volleyball

coach in 2007 following 22 seasons with the Blugolds. She is an associate professor of kinesiology at UW-EC.

79

Sandra (Partridge) Wiggert, La Crosse, has retired after 33 years of teaching French (and Spanish several years) at Onalaska High School. She also coached volleyball and softball, and was a Fulbright teacher in Epinal, France, from 1998-99. She plans to stay in the area until her daughter graduates from high school before moving to the Villages, Fla.

82

Steven L. Tietz, Milwaukee, still works as a journalist. He's been active in the industry for 31 years and is still happy to go to work everyday, currently working for NOW newspapers in Waukesha. Steven has been married for 13 1/2 years to the "lovely and patient" Cathy. He gives a hearty "hello" to former Racquet, Focus and Yearbook staff, as well as a special thank you to Professor Parker, Britt and the Blue Wing Reservation kids who pulled out the best in him. "To all the others who crossed my path and helped me along the way, thank you," he continues. "Those were grand, complicated and amazing days and I wish nothing but peace and joy to all of you."

86

Susan Jans-Thomas, '86, and **Robert M. Thomas**, '87, live in Pensacola, Fla. Susan has been awarded the 2012-13 Distinguished Teaching Award to the University of West Florida where she is the coordinator for the doctoral program in curriculum and diversity studies.

87

David Hey, '87 & '93, San Luis Obispo, Calif., says he has worked in almost every sector of health education — YMCA, middle school teacher, high school teacher, university instructor and faculty member, Nevada State Department of Health, the US Air Force — but thinks he really has finally found a home at Cal Poly. Six years ago, they started planning for an obesity research center housed in the kinesiology department. He's grateful to the community and school health faculty at UW-L for supporting his interest in obesity prevention and control way back in the mid-'80s. "They truly solidified my future success," he says. "Thanks, La Crosse!"

Julie A. Smith-Taylor, Oceanside, Calif., is the 2013 Western District Chair for the Public Relations Society of America. As chair, she leads an executive board and represents more than 2,000 public relations profes-

sionals within 10 chapters throughout Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, California and Hawaii. Smith-Taylor has been a member of PRSA since 1992. She is the president of Taylor PR Inc., a full service public relations consulting firm in Southern California.

88

Lauren J. Lieberman, Brockport, N.Y., has been promoted to Distinguished Service Professor at The College at Brockport, the highest rank in the SUNY System.

90

Andrea (Roble) Darling, Jordan, Minn., earned a master's in business administration from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., in December 2012. She is a claims manager with MMIC Group.

91



Lisa, Koenecke, Fitchburg, was named the 2013 Educator of the Year by The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools

(GSAFE) in May. The award is given to an outstanding Wisconsin K-12 educator who has demonstrated a commitment to promoting safe, respectful and just schools for LGBT youth and their allies.

94



Kirk E. Peterson, Rock Island, Ill., has been named interim president at Urbana (Ohio) University. Peterson has served as

faculty member, department chair, college dean, and associate provost. At Urbana, he served for the past three years as senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. Along with a bachelor's degree from UW-L, Peterson holds two master's of science degrees and a doctorate from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

97

Susie (Flynn) Walsh, Chicago, recently completed the 39.3 Mile Avon Two-Day Walk with her sister **Julia (Flynn) Plotke**, '93, and their team The Rack Pack in memory of her mother-in-law, Patricia Walsh. Susie and her husband, Michael, have three daughters Lileigh (8), Moira (6) and Tess (2). Susie has been teaching in Glenview for the past 14 years.

00

Paige Rohman, Minneapolis, has taken a position as Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Vice President for University Services at the University of Minnesota.

08

Gregory S. Drusch, '08 & '09, married Chelsea Colling June 9, 2012. They live in Appleton. Greg continues to work as marketing manager for Cypress Homes Inc., a Fox Cities homebuilder.

10

Aron E. Voss married Laurence B. Watson, Jr., Aug. 12, 2012. They met on the Naval Air Weapons Station in Ridgecrest, Calif., where they were co-workers in the U.S. Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department. Two weeks after getting married, they moved to Japan. Aron accepted a job, once again, working for the U.S. Navy MWR department as the Aquatics Manager on Naval Air Field Atsugi in Ayase-shi, Japan.

Class of 20??

Stacy A. (Gramentz), '05, and Kyle Collins, Waseca, Minn., a son, Korbin Maddox, Jan. 31, 2013. He joins brother Keenan (2).

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.
- 1981:** Rex E. Patelski, Lansing, Mich.
- 2004:** Deborah MacCallum, Sparta

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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