



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

CLASS NOTES

APRIL 2019

'62

Arlan Hilgendorf,

Janesville, was inducted into WISTCA Hall of Fame Feb. 2. Hilgendorf served as head track coach at Wausaukee for two years (1963-64) and La Farge for four years (1965-68) before serving as Parkview High School's coach from 1969-94. He taught chemistry, physical education and drivers education. He coached the Orfordville village's WIAA Class B state team champions in 1979 and 1980. He coached seven individual state champions and two athletes who set three state records. Parkview won two regional and one sectional championships, along with winning six Rock Valley Conference championships. His teams had a record of 146-27 with two ties, winning 26 straight dual meets. Hilgendorf coached 74 conference champions and 51 state qualifiers. Three of his athletes became college All-Americans. He was inducted into the Parkview Hall of Fame in 2016 and the school's athletic field was

named "Hilgendorf Field." Hilgendorf also coached wrestling for 31 years, football and cross country for nine years each, and basketball for two years.

'65

William Heineke,

Gillette, Wyoming, received an Outstanding Healthcare Award during the 13th annual Black Cat Ball, which raises funds and celebrates healthcare in Gillette and Campbell County. Heineke has served more than 40 years in individual and family therapy and mental health services in Gillette, including establishing the Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center in 1979. He was a founding member of the Campbell County's Child Protection Team and developed a summer program for high-risk children. Heineke's resume includes education teaching, volunteerism and memberships, as well as president of the Wyoming State Archer Association.



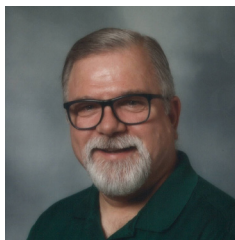
Robert J. "Bob" Nelson

'74

Robert J. "Bob" Nelson

was inducted into the Wisconsin High School Tennis Coaches Association (WHSTC) Hall of Fame Feb. 15, 2019. Nelson played tennis for UWL in the early to mid-70's and in 1974 was named to the Academic All-Conference Team. A coach for the tennis program at Roncalli High School in Manitowoc for 37 years, Nelson has many accolades, including only two losing seasons from 1999-2018, 11 conference titles, conference coach of the year three times, consecutive state appearances from 1988-93 and 2008-13 and more. He was inducted into the

Lakeshore All-Sports Hall of Fame in 2008, and was named Realtor of the Year for Manitowoc County in 2018.



Dutch Lawson

'77

H. Dutch Lawson, '77 & '79, has lived in Arizona for nearly 20 years, following growing up in Wisconsin and 20 years in Alaska. Lawson spotted an elementary physical education position in Kodiak, Alaska, the day he presented his master's thesis on campus. He taught in Kodiak for 20 years — six years of elementary physical education, two years of 5th grade, followed by another 12 years of physical education. He also helped start the high school girls' volleyball team, later becoming head coach.

After retiring in 1999, he and his wife moved to Mesa, Arizona. Lawson found office work, but in three years returned to teaching, which lasted until 2018. In his 37 years of teaching, he believes he stood in front of more than 14,000 students, including 2,700 kindergarteners. In 2018, he was inducted into the Appleton East High School Hall of Fame as a member of the 1971 State Volleyball Championship Team. "The riches I gained from having gone to UWL will not put me in the monetary group with Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, but I loved what I did," he explains. "Because of that, I feel I didn't work a day in my professional life." He hopes to visit campus soon.

'84

Debe (Beaver) Kortness, Eau Claire, has moved back to Wisconsin after 10 years in the bush in Alaska. Kortness says it's nice to be by family, but she

misses the cold and snow from above the Arctic Circle!

Duane Nelson, Peoria, Arizona, is in his fifth year of teaching middle school science. Nelson worked almost 30 years in the recreation field before going back to school to get a master's in elementary education.

'85

Dave Fink, Middleton, president of Settlers bank, and Settlers bank CEO Tom Spitz were named Small Company Executives of the Year by In Business Magazine. The awards, presented in February, celebrated exemplary business executives based on leadership, innovation and company success.

'91

Mark J. Jefferson, Arkdale, has been named executive director of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. He previously served as the party's executive director from 2001-11.

Jefferson most recently worked with the Republican National Committee as a regional political director and director of majority retention.



**2019 Shaundel Spivey
Martin Luther King Award**

justice expanded to youth in the La Crosse community. He was the cultural liaison for the La Crosse School District until being named College Connections Manager at Western Technical College in December, where he provides leadership and oversight for admissions, registration, orientation and K–12 relations.

systems enrollment specialist and program administrator in the Global Education Office at George Mason University.

'94

Julie (Marsh) Lemon, Onalaska, has received a promotion to director of Marketing and Communications at Western Technical College, where she has worked for 15 years.

'05

Carol Van Handel, Middleton, has been promoted to assistant director of the Respite/Youth Resources Program at United Cerebral Palsy in Madison.

'12

Shaundel Spivey, La Crosse, has received the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award in La Crosse. After graduation, Spivey's commitment and passion for social

'18

Bryanne E. Brandl, '18, and her husband, **Tanner J. Boos**, '17, live in Sun Prairie. Brandl works remotely from home for INSPIRE Brands, the parent company of Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW), Arby's, Sonic and Rusty Taco. She recruits for BWW and Arby's restaurant managers in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Brandl started her career with BWW as a server in 2015 in Onalaska, was a talent management intern for BWW at their home office in Minneapolis from June 2017 through graduation in May 2018, and is now full-time with the company.

'14

Kelsey Kanyelis, Eau Claire, recently started a new position as assistant director for advising at UW-Eau Claire.

'16

Samantha Sonkowsky, Alexandria, Virginia, is a study abroad

Abby Glaus, Maplewood, Minnesota, has been accepted into Marquette Law School, where she will begin to attend in fall.

Keeping it in the family

Kathy (Piacsek) Block, '89, left, and Corey Block, '89, middle, are proud parents of two UWL freshmen. Charles, left, and Gunnar headed to UWL following their graduation party in Hartland, Wisconsin, in June 2018.



In Remembrance

- 1943** — Marjorie M. (Craig) Reinhard, Middleton.
- 1952** — Joanne Bruha, Spring, Texas.
- 1953** — Ted Levenhagen, Milwaukee.
- 1953** — William C. Reed, Blackburg, Virginia.
- 1956** — Patricia (Pickett) Stordock, Menasha.
- 1956** — Elaine Wheeler, Beaver Dam.
- 1957** — Emil O. Schultz, Mahtomedi, Minnesota.
- 1959** — Thomas Hirsch, Romeoville, Illinois.
- 1959** — John Jenks, La Crosse.
- 1964** — Barbara Chrisan, Onalaska.
- 1965** — Alan F. Larson, Madison.
- 1966** — Marlene Lake, La Crosse.
- 1966** — Dianne Wolf, West Salem.
- 1968** — Mark T. Simon, Wausau.
- 1970** — Frank O. Johnson, La Crosse.
- 1971** — Larry Grady, Little Chute.
- 1973** — Harlan Olson, Coon Valley.
- 1973** — Walter Price, Billings, Montana.
- 1973** — Mary Xavier, Ellendale, Minnesota.
- 1974** — Loretta Betz, Viroqua.
- 1974** — David Kautz, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1975** — James P. Scharfenberg, Jefferson.
- 1977** — Steve Johnson, La Crosse.
- 1978** — Richard E. Callaway, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 1999** — Chad Harris, Denver, Colorado.
- 2003** — Misha (Welch) Bolstad, La Crosse.

Faculty & Staff Remembered

Misha Bolstad

Misha Ruth (Welch) Bolstad, 39, La Crosse, died Feb. 16, 2019. She was a 1998 graduate of Tomah High School and went on to receive a bachelor's in art with an emphasis in printmaking at UW-La Crosse in 2003. Bolstad received a Master of Fine Arts in studio art and critical theory in 2005. She taught in the UWL Art Department from 2014-18. Bolstad is survived by a daughter, Daya, parents and a sister.

John Jenks

John Jenks, 86, La Crosse, died March 17, 2019. Jenks earned his bachelor's degree on the GI Bill at UWL in 1959. He returned to campus in 1965 to help create the Mass Communications Department, which grew to more than 300 student majors under his leadership. He brought his passion for radio to campus and led the drive to create radio station

WLSU-FM. He shared his expertise in media and marketing beyond the classroom through regular seminars, workshops and consultancies for businesses, governments and non-profits statewide. He retired in 1996. Jenks is survived by his wife, Rita, two sons, daughter and four grandchildren. Memorials may be given to the UWL Foundation.

Soon Heung "Curtis" Kang

Soon Heung "Curtis" Kang, 95, Onalaska, died Feb. 2, 2019, in La Crosse. Curtis was born in Korea in 1924 and escaped from North Korea to the U.S. in 1948. Through his own strong-willed determination, Kang taught himself English, then embarked on his journey pursuing higher education. He served as a professor in the History Department from 1976 until retiring in 1990. He is survived by step-children.

William Nieckarz

William "Willie" Nieckarz, 79, La Crosse, died Feb. 4, 2019. He joined the UWL chemistry faculty in 1969, founding the department's highly successful nuclear medicine technology (NMT) program and serving as its director from 1969-93. He also was acting director of UWL's Radiation Center from 1969 until his 1999 retirement. He returned for three years after retiring to teach CHM 461—Nuclear Chemistry. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and two children, both UWL alumni, Greg, '91, and Janet, '93.



BIG
BIRTHDAY
BASH

UWL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 26

Submit UWL Class Notes

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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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