Student Involvement Complex renovated

A $2.1 million renovation completed in the fall involved nearly the entire lower level of the Student Involvement Complex in UWSP’s University Center.

The project began in May and student organizations were able to begin moving back into their offices in early October. The architect for the project was Ron Howard of Madison.

A new entrance to the lower level was added on the south end of the building to allow direct access to the complex without stairs. Twelve new offices bring together student organizations previously located across campus.

The offices have large, storefront windows along a brick walkway, giving it a “Main Street” feeling.

Student Employment recently merged with Student Involvement in a $2.1 million renovation of the office complex in the lower level of the University Center.

Services offices more visible and accessible,” according to Rob Manzke, assistant manager of Student Employment. “We hope to involve as many students as possible in some aspect of university life.”

The Student Involvement/Employment Office is a clearinghouse for work opportunities on- and off-campus, providing career experience as well as financial support for students. The new area provides computers for students to search job listings which are posted on the Internet. Community businesses and individuals can post jobs and receive a list of interested students. The office also periodically provides leadership workshops and job skills training for students.

In addition, the Student Involvement/Employment Office coordinates the activities of the more than 160 student groups represented in the complex and across campus.

A ribbon cutting by Chancellor Thomas F. George was held for faculty, staff and students in December.

Alumni chapters launched

The Alumni Association is launching “chapter programs” across Wisconsin in areas with the most concentrated populations of UWSP alumni.

“We made a decision to begin this program when we realized that 75 percent of our alumni population lives in nine geographic regions of Wisconsin,” says Brant Bergeron, director of Alumni Relations. “The program will provide a way to stay in touch with alumni and have them reconnect with UWSP.”

Bergeron reports that more than 80 alumni volunteers came forward to launch chapters, plan events and develop activities. Alumni Relations staff members met with each of the chapter groups during January and February to plan for the coming year.

The areas that are the focus of this program are Dane County, the Fox Cities, Marathon County, the Milwaukee Area, Northeast Wisconsin, Portage County, Waupaca County, the Wisconsin Rapids area and the Marshfield area. One event has already been held in each of these areas and another event is planned for each area during 2001. Invitations will be mailed preceding each event.

“We will not forget our alumni in areas where we have fewer members,” Bergeron says. “We will host events in areas like Rhinelander, the Lakeshore and La Crosse, but perhaps not every year. We also will have events in places like the Twin Cities, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and so on. When we plan events, every alum in that region will get an invitation.”

Alumni who are interested in volunteering to plan chapter activities may call the Alumni Relations Office, 346-3811, 1-877-POIN701 or send e-mail (alumni@uwsp.edu). An updated calendar can be seen on the Internet (www.uwsp.edu/alumni).
Greetings from the UWSP Alumni Association,

I’d like to take a look at UWSP and our alumni association “by the numbers,” to steal a phrase from our friends at Sports Illustrated.

9  UWSP alumni chapters created in Wisconsin in 2001
78  Alumni volunteers in those chapters
173  Wins earned by Dick Bennett and his teams at UW-Stevens Point
8,500  Students enrolled in 2001
11  Taverns on “The Square”
38  Percent of UWSP’s budget funded by Wisconsin taxpayers
42,950  Pointer alumni households with addresses in our database
10,842 (24%)  Living Pointer alumni who have financially supported UWSP over the years
13  Percent of alumni who made a gift in 2000—THANK YOU!!
100  Percent of Pointer alumni whose lives were changed because of their experience at UWSP
77  Percent of Pointer alumni who will make a gift in 2001

Best wishes from UW-Stevens Point,

Brant Bergeron, ’85
Director of Alumni Relations

Spoerl urges alumni to reconnect

Bob Spoerl, ’82, Waupaca, began a two-year term as the 17th president of the UWSP Alumni Association on February 3. A member of the board since 1993, he succeeds Bruce Bay, ’65, Eureka, Mo., in taking on responsibility to oversee all activities of the 47,000-member association. Spoerl has been president of Premium Brands of Stevens Point, Inc. since 1988.

Greetings.

Like many other UWSP alumni, I didn’t know what lay ahead when I graduated from UWSP in 1982. At that time, becoming president of the UWSP Alumni Association wouldn’t have made my “top 100” list.

Nevertheless, when I returned to the Stevens Point area six years later, I became involved with the Alumni Association. Not until then did I realize how meaningful this university is to its graduates.

During my two-year term as president, it is my goal to share that meaning with our alumni, the heart and soul of UWSP. The Alumni Association has already taken several steps to provide opportunities to re-connect through reunions from Denver to Washington D.C., including nine new chapter gatherings in Wisconsin. It is at these reunions that alumni bring back memories of their education as well as their personal experiences at UWSP.

Part of the vision of this association is to continue to foster the relationship between the university and its alumni. While the Alumni Association has reached out to thousands of graduates, we believe countless more would like to share in that relationship.

In the coming months, if you have a chance to attend an area reunion, please do so. You will find the staff gracious and genuine, and you will enjoy the chance to meet with fellow Pointers.

Best wishes from the UW-Stevens Point Alumni Association,

Bob Spoerl, ’82
President

Check your address label one more time

If there are any problems with the address label on this publication, we would appreciate your help to correct it.

The Alumni Relations Office and the UWSP Foundation have nearly completed a merge of more than 80,000 address records using new computer software.

“Because of this project we may have included names on labels that are no longer up-to-date, such as an ex-spouse or a loved one who has passed away,” said Brant Bergeron, director of Alumni Relations. “We are working to correct all this information and appreciate your cooperation and patience.”

When the project is complete, there will be less duplication in mailings and more accurate updating of information sent to either office.

“Information we have received in the past year has significantly reduced our mailing costs and provided valuable information for us,” Bergeron said.

If you would like to change the information shown on the label of this publication, if you are receiving duplicate mailings, or if you do not want to receive mail from Alumni Relations or the UWSP Foundation, please contact the Alumni Relations Office by calling (715) 346-3811 or 1-877-POINT01 or by email (alumni@uwsp.edu).

UWSP Alumni Association
208 Old Main, 2100 Main St.
Stevens Point WI 54481
alumni@uwsp.edu
(715) 346-3811
1-877-POINT01
(1-877-764-6801)
Fax: (715) 346-2561
www.uwsp.edu/alumni

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Vice-President, Shannon Luethie, ’93, Minneapolis, Minn.
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Contributing Writers
Caroline Heilger
Tom Miller
Jim Strick

Editorial Assistants
Virginia Cranell
Mary Sipiorz
Shirley Wul

Student Assistants
Ellen Dugdale
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Brant Bergeron

Director of Alumni Services
Sally Clanton
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Graphic Designer
Meas Yang

Photographers
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Virginia Cranell
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point practices equal opportunity in employment and programming.
Planning at UWSP will be driven by three major themes during the next few years. The themes are student-centered excellence, technology-enhanced learning and partnerships. Following these ambitious guidelines, we believe that UWSP can become the best institution of its kind in the county—a regional university serving a network of small urban areas.

When I came to UWSP in 1996, I named faculty-led improvement as a priority that has influenced our direction in the past four years. Now we are ready to adjust our focus to student-centered excellence, a concept that also is based on high standards and accomplishments, and which depends on faculty and students working together.

I am particularly interested in establishing and nurturing both on and off-campus partnerships. We have seen an increase of 70 percent in UWSP's endowment and a huge gain of 250 percent in annual giving of unrestricted gifts through the UWSP Foundation. Partnerships between the university and its benefactors help to enhance our financial base, provide funding for many institutional initiatives and represent the underlying support of the university's future.

Campus partnerships include faculty-student research projects, interdisciplinary majors and minors such as international studies, peace studies and women's studies. Interdisciplinary courses involving faculty from several departments have been well received and I have urged our faculty to develop more collaborative curricula in the future. The Freshman Interest Group program partners Academic Affairs and Student Affairs in helping first-year students adjust to campus life, both academically and socially.

Off-campus initiatives include the nearly three-year-old Collaborative Degree Program. This partnership among UWSP and the two-year colleges in Marshfield and Wausau provides a four-year degree to residents of Wood and Marathon Counties. Participants who attend classes without ever leaving their hometowns can obtain a major in general studies or the original business administration major. In the future, majors in computer information systems and technology and new media arts will be added to the collaborative offerings.

Last summer in response to needs identified by area businesses and their employees, UWSP, Mid-State Technical College and the Portage County Business Council agreed to establish a state-of-the-art education, training and services center at the Portage County Business Park. With the help of outside funding from several sources, this center will include distance education capabilities and a 30-student computer lab where a wide range of instruction will take place.

In charting UWSP's future path, we plan to involve campus leaders, faculty members, students and the community in forging a shared vision of the direction UWSP will take. If we embrace these goals, UWSP will soon be recognized as the best regional university in the nation.

Alumnus returns scholarship many times over

Nearly every December since 1986, the Alumni Relations Office has received a $50 check for the Thomas Meiers Scholarship Fund from David and Tamarah Floyd. Omaha, Neb. David, a 1970 graduate of UWSP, received the $100 scholarship in 1969. This year's check will mean he has paid back the amount he received six times over.

Mary and Richard Meiers set up the scholarship in memory of their son, Tom, who died in an automobile accident on December 11, 1964. The scholarship is awarded every December. His brother and sister, Richard Meiers and Rita Canning, also have made significant contributions to the fund.

"Both Richard and I appreciate the Bloyd's contributions to the scholarship in Tom's name," says Mary Meiers. "David and Tammy are remarkable people. David has worked hard for what he has and we've been very impressed with him."

Now an $1,800 award, the scholarship is given to a senior male student, preferably a veteran as Meiers was. To put the figures in perspective, in 1969 tuition and fees cost $196 for one semester; in 2000 the cost was $1,982.

"It's not about how much money he received, Floyd says. "Measured in money it may seem like I've given a lot compared to what I received. But receiving the scholarship was very important to Tammy and me."

After the Bloyds were married in 1963, David served in the Navy before starting college. As a nontraditional student, he believes he had a greater commitment and dedication to college than if he had started immediately after high school.

After receiving his bachelor's degree at UWSP, Floyd earned a master's degree at Illinois State University at Normal. He is now an assistant vice president at Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, where he does sales promotions, agency advertising, communications and publications for field representatives.

Bloyd has kept in touch with the Meiers family, especially at Christmas. "I've enjoyed watching their children grow through pictures," Mrs. Meiers says. "I just hope what I have given back will help somebody else," Floyd says.

This year's award went to Jodi Cherwenka, Merrill. She plans to attend college after high school and enter the business world. Bloyd and Meiers both feel this award is part of their personal legacy, which is to give back to their community.

Mary Ann Nigbor and Bennett Katz

Nigbor was an ex-ottico member of the foundation board from the early 1980s and past president of UWSP's Alumni Association. In 1988 she was awarded the UWSP Distinguished Alumnus Award. The area of fine arts is one of her key interests at the university. She is co-founder and co-chair of First Nighters, a group of patrons who attend dinner and opening nights of the Department of Theatre and Dance mainstage productions.

Richard Meiers and Rita Canning, also have made significant contributions to the fund.

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Mary Ann Nigbor and Bennett Katz
Women’s soccer advances to Final Four

_Pointer women’s soccer got the new decade off to an impressive start by advancing to the NCAA Division III Final Four for the first time._

UWSP women’s soccer has been one of the school’s most successful athletic programs during the 1990s, especially when the Pointers became the sixth school in Division III history to win at least 22 matches in a season with a 22-5 overall record. They also brought the nation’s longest winning streak into the semifinals at 16 straight wins before falling to Tufts University, Medford, Mass., 1-0 in overtime.

UWSP’s amazing run to the semifinals included another Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title, marking the team’s eighth championship in nine seasons and running its NCAA record conference winning streak to 44 straight matches. The Pointers knocked off three top 10 ranked teams to reach the semifinals, beating eighth-ranked Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., fourth-ranked Wheaton, Ill., and 10th-ranked Salisbury State, Md., along the way.

Senior Marie Muhvic, Stevens Point, was named the WIAC Player of the Year and the WIAC Scholar Athlete after scoring a conference record 30 goals. She finished her career with conference records of 74 goals and 173 points.

Senior Abby Rabinovitz, Green Bay, had the fifth lowest goals against average of any goalkeeper in Division III history at 0.23. She allowed just four goals in 1,586 minutes played this season and finished her career with the 11th best goals against average in Division III history at 0.52 goals allowed per game.

Members of the Pointer women’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division III semifinals, with a long winning streak, ending the season with a 22-5 overall record.

It started out to be another exciting winter for Pointer sports fans.

The tennis team placed sixth at the WIAC championships and finished 3-6 in dual meets. Senior Jen Derse, Portage, placed third at number five singles to lead the Pointers.

The golf team was fourth at the WIAC championships, led by senior Kathryn Carlson, Chippewa Falls, who earned All-WIAC honors for the second straight year.

Volleyball

The volleyball team finished 12-22 overall, but had a strong second half for the season. The Pointers even won 15 straight games at one point, including sweeps in all four matches to capture the team title at Kenosha’s Carthage College Invitational.

Men’s basketball

The men’s basketball team opened the season 9-1, capturing the tournament titles of both of their pre-season classics. The Pointers were ranked as high as third in the Division III national poll.

Women’s basketball

The women’s basketball team opened the year 7-0 and entered the holidays with an 8-2 record. The Pointers won the Terry Porter Tipoff Classic and enjoyed a perfect nonconference season.

Men’s hockey

The men’s hockey team entered its holiday break with an 8-4 record and was ranked sixth in the country. The Pointers claimed the Elmira, N.Y., tournament championship and defeated defending Division III champion Norwich, Vt.

Women’s hockey

It was a successful start as Julia Rochford, Eden Prairie, Minn., scored the first goal in Pointers’ history and UWSP swept a season-opening series from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. The team is enjoying a stellar inaugural season with a 5-4-1 record to open the year. All four losses have come to teams in the top seven of the national rankings, including two overtime losses.

Swimming and diving

The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams both finished off the first half of the season with perfect 4-0 dual meet records. Both teams won the WIAC relays for the second straight year. The men were fourth in the first national rankings, while the women were ranked eighth.

Cross country

The women’s cross country team had its best season in several years, finishing ninth at the NCAA Division III championships and tying its best finish ever at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) meet with a second place performance.

Senior Leah Juno, Brillion, was the WIAC individual champion and placed 16th at the national meet to earn All-American honors for the second straight year. She also was honored as the WIAC Scholar Athlete in cross country.

Sophomore Becky Lebak, Burlington, finished second to Juno at the WIAC meet and was eighth at the Division III championships.

Senior Jesse Drake, Rhinelander, was the WIAC men’s cross country individual champion for the second straight year. He also finished third at the Division III championships.

Football

It was a frustrating season for Pointer football, but the team ended the season on a high note, winning two of their last three games, including the “Border Battle” at the Metrodome.

UWSP finished 2-8 overall and 1-6 in the WIAC, beating UW-Platteville and Winona State, Minn., at the close of the season. Winona State was the champion of the Division II Northern Sun Conference and the Pointers beat the Warriors 30-25 in front of a regionally televised audience.

Tennis

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Wrestling

The wrestling team was ranked 10th entering the holidays and opened its season with impressive performances at the UW-Stevens Point, Augsburg and UW-Parkside Invitational. The Pointers had three individuals nationally ranked in their respective weight classes as well.

Check out the Official Home Page of UW-Stevens Point Athletics (http://www.uwsp.edu/athletics/) or phone the Pointer Sports Hotline: (715) 346-3888, press 4 for sports information.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women’s field hockey team began an 18-year tenure at UWSP, Marjorie Spring not only coached the team, she also developed the track and field program for women. She brought adapted physical education programs to campus and was instrumental in developing the elementary physical education curriculum. After her retirement in 1983, colleagues established the Marjorie Spring Adapted Physical Education Scholarship. In May, she will be able to personally present a $500 scholarship to a student who has a specific interest in working with special needs children in adapted physical education.

Shortly after coming to Stevens Point in 1965, Professor Spring discovered some women’s field hockey equipment in a storage area. A team at Stevens Point Normal School had used it from 1917 to 1939. She started a women’s field hockey team and gradually replaced the antiquated equipment.

The team enjoyed its finest season in 1969, during their coach’s 13-year tenure with them. They compiled a 9-0-4 record and outscored opponents 24-5. Coach Spring is particularly proud of the fact that her team beat La Crosse, her alma mater, twice while tying claim to the championship.

In 1968 and 1969 Professor Spring was among several women in the state who laid the groundwork for the formation of the Wisconsin Women’s Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WWIAC). In about 1997, WWIAC merged with the men’s Wisconsin State University Conference to become the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

She also started the women’s track and field team from scratch in 1970, sending female student athletes into the WWIAC competition. For the first time, the pioneer of women’s athletics took her players across the state and Midwest in a converted school bus, fondly referred to as “green machine.”

She ended her coaching career in 1972 in order to finish her doctoral degree at Texas Women’s University. From her work in the classroom, she created several programs that still provide teaching opportunities for university students, including working with 120 to 150 children from the community.

She developed the “Friday program,” which allows undergraduate students to work with physically and mentally challenged children from the Stevens Point School District. The program evolved from her work with Marie Wolf, who came to her at the request of a local doctor. Her work with Wolf demonstrated the motor patterns of a youngster for university classes. At the request of parents in the community, more children were referred to the program and it became a hands-on opportunity for students to work with challenged children.

“It was important to me that students learn about the children in the age groups that they wanted to teach,” the professor said. “Hands-on experience helps students decide which age groups they want to work with.”

Another class she created brings third to sixth grade children from nearby St. Stanislaus Elementary School to campus for physical education classes. The university students work in teams, taking turns teaching and videotaping each other. By working collaboratively they learn how to improve their teaching of physical education classes.

A third class brings three- to six-year-olds to campus to work on motor development one-on-one with elementary education majors.

The School of Health, Exercise Science and Athletics (HESA) is still teaching these classes that are the cornerstone of our physical education curriculum in essentially the same manner created them more than 30 years ago,” said Fred Hebert, head of HESA. “That speaks volumes to her awareness of what matters in developing future teachers. Her vision has allowed all of our future teachers to have many opportunities to work with students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. In these classes these provide the community with valuable programs.”

In 1980 Professor Spring joined five others from the university and community to form the Women’s Athletic Fund to help meet the financial needs of the rapidly growing program. The fund is still a vital support system for women’s athletics.

For her contributions to women’s athletics, in 1986 Spring became the first woman inducted into the UWSP Athletic Hall of Fame.

Her former students and friends may assist both the Marjorie Spring Adapted Physical Education Scholarship and the Women’s Athletic Fund with gifts to the UWSP Foundation, Room 212 Old Main, 2100 Main St., Stevens Point 54481.

Schmeckle adds oak acreage

At last fall’s homecoming celebration, a parcel of land was dedicated as Berard Oaks, the newest addition to Schmeckle Reserve.

Robert “Pat” Berard and members of his family attended the event with university and community members. The property honors the memory of Hatch’s late wife, Mary “Pat” Berard.

“Hatch had a marvelous gift,” said Victor Phillips, dean of the College of Natural Resources. “It will definitely enrich the experience for UWSP students.”

The 54-acre addition contains red, white and pin oak trees, several of them estimated to be 200 years old. Berard donated a portion of the land and the remainder was acquired and donated by the city of Stevens Point.

During the next five years, the area will be restored and it will be used in the same way it once existed in Portage County, according to Schmeckle Reserve. The restoration will be accomplished through controlled burning and planting prairie grass. The oak trees will remain, Zimmerman said.

The Green Circle hiking trail will be expanded from where it crosses the new addition to connect with the visitors center and other points in the area.

McKenna named top music educator

Gerard McKenna, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, was recognized for distinguished service to the profession by Teaching Music magazine.

McKenna was named among the state’s outstanding music teachers by the Wisconsin Music Education Association in a recent issue of the national publication. The magazine asked each state association to select educators “worthy of special recognition for their teaching skills and their efforts to advance music as a key element in the education of young people.”

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In addition to his administrative role at UWSP and his statewide community arts involvement, McKenna continues to teach an arts management class at UWSP each fall and spring. He has revised UWSP’s arts management curriculum, the only major of its kind in the UW System.

He also wrote the textbook for the introductory course. He estimates he has missed only four or five semesters of teaching since 1965.

“Teaching is something I really enjoy,” McKenna says. “Being in the classroom also makes certain that I have that very necessary interaction with students.”

He has taught music at the elementary, high school and college levels. Prior to joining UWSP in 1989, he was the associate dean of UW-Milwaukee’s School of Fine Arts and chairperson of the Department of Music.

Since 1992 he has managed ArtsWorld, an interdisciplinary summer program for high school arts students at UWSP. McKenna also was honored with the 2000 Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education Arts Career Award. In 1992 he was awarded the Wisconsin Music Educators Association’s Distinguished Service Award.

Chappell twins publish book

For four years during the height of the Korean War, identical twins from rural Ohio put their hopes, fears and concerns in letters to their parents back on the dairy farm.

Corpsmen: Letters from Korea written by Gerald Chappell, emeritus professor of communicative disorders, and the late Richard Chappell, is a compilation of more than 300 letters sent back home. The Chappell twins were medical corpsmen serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Published by Kent State University Press, this personal account chronicles their experiences of the Korean War from boot camp to the front line. These letters bring to life the U.S. Marine Corps and are referred to as the “forgotten war.” The book includes 55 photographs and two maps.

“I finally seeing our story in print means a lot to me,” Chappell said. “I’m sure if my brother were here, he would say the same thing because he was the real catalyst for the book.”

The book can be ordered from Kent State University Press, c/o Bookmasters, Inc., 30 Amberwood Parkway, Ashland, OH 44805. The softcover is $21 plus $4 for shipping.

Jerry Chappell retired in 1993 after 31 years of service to UWSP. He was UWSP’s first communicative disorders teacher, establishing a new concentration in speech and hearing therapy. He also served as clinical director of the department.

Richard Chappell was an audiologist for many years, and then served as an executive director of the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He also was an insurance agent with Pennsylvania Farmers Association. He died in 1998.

Political science alumni issue challenge

Three 1968 political science alumni have created a scholarship to honor Professor Emeritus Mark Cates. Their challenge to fellow graduates to raise pledges for the fund met with resounding success.

John Prais, Stevens Point; Dewey Sebold, Medford; and Jack LeDuc, De Pere, provided more than half the funds needed to create the endowed scholarship.

“We wanted to raise a minimum of $10,000, so we succeeded in essentially the same way Marge created them more than 30 years ago,” said Fred Hebert, head of HESA. “That speaks volumes to her awareness of what matters in developing future teachers. Her vision has allowed all of our future teachers to have many opportunities to work with students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. In these classes these provide the community with valuable programs.”

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The Department of Biology has honored two emeritus professors by naming collections for them. The Vincent A. Heig Ornithology Collection and the Charles A. Long Mammalogy Collection were recently dedicated.

A native of Slayton, Minn., Heig came to UWSP in 1967 and retired in 1998. He was the first curator of the ornithology collection that he established more than 30 years ago. The collection contains more than 4,000 bird specimens.

In addition to his work at UWSP, Heig organizes an annual spring Audubon Society bird count. He consistently received praise from students and his ornithology course had the reputation of being the best in the state. Besides introductory zoology courses, he worked with graduate students on research projects.

Charles Long established and was curator of the mammalogy collection, which contains more than 10,000 specimens. Long also founded the Museum of Natural History, which he served as director for 15 years. Long, who came to UWSP in 1966 and retired in 1996, established the museum techniques academic minor in 1974 and organized and taught a museum methods class. UWSP is one of only four institutions in America to have such a museum-oriented undergraduate program, Long said.

Long has published numerous scientific and scholarly publications, including three books on mammals. He has published articles in numerous American and foreign scientific journals on diverse subjects including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, evolution, anatomy, ecology, paleontology, socialism, Art Nouveau antiques and poetry.

Collections named for professors

Biking and hiking tours planned

Top dog wins advertising contract

North honored for lifetime achievements

Largest-ever grant awarded at UWSP

Abby, a yellow Labrador retriever owned by Professor Richard Wilke, appears in magazine ads for Purina Dog Chow. The photo is one of Abby leaping into the water to make a retrieve as she would in a field trial.
Rita Youmans

Raymond Anderson

Raymond Anderson, professor emeritus of wildlife, died Sept 26 at age 72. A renowned environmentalist and one of the nation's top bear experts, he played a major role in the reintroduction of elk in Wisconsin and is credited with saving the prairie chicken from extinction.

He grew up within sight of the Nicolen National Forest and arrived on campus as a freshman in 1950. He received a bachelor's degree at UWSP, a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from UW-Madison. As a graduate student he worked with Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom, two of Wisconsin's most famous environmentalists.

He developed the curriculum for the wildlife management major, a program that has become one of the largest and best known in the U.S. He founded the Wildlife Society and advised the student group Wildlife Management Association, one of the nation's leading voices on higher education.

He was active in Faculty Senate, chaired the University Professional Development Committee, and served on the North Central Accreditation Review Committee after her retirement. She chaired the Institutional Review Board, a UWSP administrative committee that reviews research proposals involving human subjects. She also was chair president of the Wisconsin Coordinating Council of Women in Higher Education.

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Snakes, frogs and lizards are his forte

Tom R. Johnson, ’70, became interested in herpetology at the age of six, chasing and capturing snakes in a vacant lot near his house in Chicago. Just before he retired, he wrote and illustrated the second edition of Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri (2000), a book that will be used by scientists and children alike throughout the state.

His horizons were broadened at age 11 when the Johnson family moved to a farm in Central Wisconsin. “As I’ve said to friends over the years, ‘this is where I bloomed,’” Johnson recalled. “This was really wild country to me, and, instead of having a few tiny, empty lots to search for animals, I now had a vast countryside of woods, sandy fields, old farm buildings, bogs, marshes, ponds, lakes and trout streams as my hunting grounds.”

When he was 15, he discovered “THE book,” A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of the United States and Canada East of the 100th Meridian by Roger Conant. By the time he entered Wisconsin State University at Stevens Point, following a four-year stint in the U.S. Navy, Johnson was a seasoned collector of amphibians and reptiles.

At the university he met Emeritus Professor George Becker, who accepted Johnson’s collection of preserved animals on behalf of the biology department and added them to his large collection of fishes. This collaboration became the Ichthyology and Herpetology Museum and Johnson became Becker’s student assistant.

“George Becker became my mentor and we developed a friendship that has lasted to this day,” he says. “The valuable time I spent working with him helped mold me into the person I became.” During his college years Johnson supplied many drawings for Becker’s publications. He credits Becker with pushing him to hone the skills of photography and drawing that later became an integral part of his own books.

Johnson began his professional career at a zoo in Louisville, Ky., followed by a four-year stint in Topeka, Kan. After moving to the St. Louis Zoo, he helped to start the St. Louis Herpetological Society and wrote and illustrated The Amphibians of Missouri, published by the University of Kansas.

In 1977 he joined the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Natural History Section as a herpetologist, a job that he describes as “made in heaven.” He served the state for 23 years, retiring last June after completing the second edition of his book. The second edition is dedicated to Becker, “a very important person” in Johnson’s life. He took 193 color photographs, drew 108 maps and did 103 line drawings for the book.

Johnson’s photographs and illustrations have appeared in numerous other publications, including the third edition of Amphibians and Reptiles of Eastern and Central North America, the Peterson Field Guide Series. This book was written by the same Roger Conant who influenced him as a teenager.

Johnson’s new book will not only provide facts and pictures, as he was influenced by Conant, it will be used by the seven universities in Missouri that teach herpetology and by professionals in the wildlife field.

Reynolds travels the world

Chad Reynolds, ’94, was assigned to the security detail for the Middle East peace talks last July. His five-day assignment to Camp David lasted three weeks. Then it was off to Bangkok, Thailand, for a two-week assignment followed by a trip to Rome.

Reynolds works for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the security and law enforcement branch of the U.S. Department of State. The bureau’s mission is to provide a secure environment for the conduct of American diplomacy.

His assignments at the bureau can be as varied as investigating passport fraud to working at the United Nations to protecting the Secretary of State. Agency officers like him are stationed at every embassy overseas with more than 1,500 employees worldwide.

Agents must have a college degree and attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga. Reynolds also studied at the Diplomatic Security Training Center in Washington, D.C.

Reynolds was an international business major at UWSP and went overseas with International Programs for one summer. He says his Spanish minor was helpful, though not essential, in getting the job. He especially remembers the course, “Spanish for Professionals,” taught by Emeritus Professor Roberto Assardo.

“That trip got me going on international travel,” Reynolds says. “My language, business and international programs experience opened some big windows for me and showed me there was a lot more out there to shoot for.”

When he was approached for his first trip overseas in January 2000, he was asked, “Have you ever been to South America?” He said he hadn’t been there, but would like to go. He was told to pack a suitcase and be at the airport in three hours.

“IT’s that fluid,” Reynolds says. “You have to be ready at a moment’s notice to go anywhere in the world. That’s what makes it exciting.”

While on assignment he also gets time to relax. In Columbia he hit the beaches, in India he went shopping for rugs and in Italy he toured the Vatican.

“No one assignment is like another—the variety keeps us going. We are always visiting different countries and different cities,” Reynolds says.

“UWSP taught me to widen my scope when looking at opportunities and challenges,” he says. “I’ve continued to maintain the enthusiasm that was generated during my college years and have carried it into my personal and professional life. I can truly say that I don’t think I would be where I am today without the influence of UWSP, its programs and its faculty. UWSP has had a tremendous impact on my life.”

Reynolds most recent assignment was in Pristina, Kosovo—“I spent the winter in a war zone,” he says, but notes that he can’t say what he was doing there.
Excellence in Teaching

Beverly David, lecturer in French at UWSP since 1991, taught Spanish for the first time last year. She has developed a course about French language and culture in Africa and the Antilles. A native of French Guiana, David has taught in Ontario, Canada, Guyana and Bordeaux, France. “The Foreign Language Department is truly fortunate to have a colleague like Beverly David, who is concerned not only that her students begin their language experience on a positive note but that they continue to develop a strong knowledge they can carry with them,” said Marcia Parker, associate professor of French.

Excellence in Teaching

Mary Day, clinical associate professor of communicative disorders, has taught graduate and undergraduate courses and supervised students in an on-campus clinic. “When Mary talks about her experiences, her animation and humor reflect the joy that students find in her interactions with students and clients,” said faculty colleague Cynthia Forrest. “She is professional and sensitive to the students’ needs and learning styles, as she assists them in applying theoretical information to the clinical setting.”

University Scholar

Since coming to UWSP in 1990, Shelley Jansky, ’86, professor of biology, has received nearly $500,000 in grant funding. Her research focuses on the development of potato varieties that can be grown with reduced chemical input. She has been recognized by trade organizations and professional societies for her work. Jansky involves students in her research, encouraging them to do independent study projects and to be coauthors of presentations with her. She has devoted time and effort to promoting science careers among high school girls and mentoring college women. She received the excellence in teaching award in 1992.

University Scholar

Robert Friedmann, professor of biology and curator of the herbarium, began organizing the UWSP herbarium when he arrived on campus in 1968. He has contributed more than 30,000 specimens to the plant collection that now numbers 200,000 and is second only to the plant collection at U-W-Madison’s Botany Department. He has been a consultant for the U.S. Forest Service in Wisconsin and Michigan, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army, private companies and local governments.

Academic Staff Spirit of Community Service

John Zach, career development coordinator in Career Services, came to UWSP in 1983. Among one of his achievements is a career exploration course for computer information systems students to help them become aware of career options. He also designed a career assessment system that is available to all students and alumni. “I found that John is always available to lend a helping hand in any area of need,” said Roger Lambert, associate director of the Center on Education and Work, which sponsored the Career Conference.
Well-known Wisconsinites honored as distinguished alumni

Two well-known Wisconsin personalities have been named distinguished alumni at UWSP—Dick Bennett, '79, recently retired head coach of UW-Badgers basketball, and Frederick “Fritz” Wenzel, ’56, former executive director of Marshfield Clinic and Marshfield Medical Research Foundation, were selected by the UWSP Alumni Association for the honor.

Bennett called outstanding coach, teacher, gentleman

Bennett retired in November after 24 years of coaching in the UW System, the last six as head coach of the UW-Madison Badgers.

He capped his career by reaching the 2000 Final Four, leading the Big Ten in scoring defense each of the last four seasons. Bennett’s last two Badger squads have each won a school record 22 games. No Wisconsin club had ever won more than 20 games prior to Bennett’s tenure.

A coach for 35 years, he also taught English and coached high school basketball at five different high schools including West Bend and Eau Claire compiling an impressive 168-60 record.

Bennett is an outstanding teacher, an outstanding motivator and just a totally outstanding man,” said Dick Vitale in a special report to ESPN. “He really meant so much to college basketball. I wish him the best in his retirement.”

Columnist Jay Bilas called him a “true gentleman” and “one of the finest tacticians and strategists” in college basketball.

Bennett earned his master’s degree at UWSP in 1979, then coached UWSP men’s basketball until going to Green Bay in 1985. He compiled a 451-257 overall record in collegiate basketball.

Under his leadership, the Pointers compiled a 174-79 record and became one of the strongest National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics programs in the nation.

He spent much of his childhood in Wisconsin and was a standout athlete in baseball, basketball and football at Clintonville High School. As an undergraduate at Ripon College he excelled in all three sports and earned nine varsity letters.

Two of his children followed him into coaching; Kathi, the Indiana University women’s basketball coach, and Tony, a UW-Madison assistant coach. His younger brother, Jack, is head coach at UWSP.

Marshfield native excels in his hometown

Wenzel, a native of Marshfield and 1956 graduate of UWSP, was executive director of the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation associated with Marshfield Clinic for more than 40 years. Since 1973 he has been a member of the UWSP Foundation Board of Directors.

During his tenure, he and now-retired clinic physician Dean Emanuel did extensive research in farmer’s lung disease and triple bark disease that brought international attention to the clinic.

“Fritz led the clinic in directions that no one had thought of before,” Emanuel said. “He took the whole organization a huge leap toward, not only from the standpoint of research, but in organizing and shaping the greater organization.”

Wenzel oversaw development of the regional locations that now comprise half of the clinic’s system. He established the clinic’s health maintenance organization and helped plan the Melvin R. Laird research facility.

After retiring from the foundation, Wenzel began a second career as executive vice president and chief executive officer for the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), the MGMA Center for Research and the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

He has settled into a third career as a professor at the University of Saint Thomas in Minneapolis. In addition, his service continues as advisor to the president of Marshfield Clinic and on the clinic’s National Advisory Council.

Wenzel has published papers in numerous professional journals on a broad range of topics including heart disease, snowmobile accidents and prepaid health insurance. He has made hundreds of presentations to professional organizations and universities on topics including management training, distance education and physician leadership. He has served as a consultant to medical organizations and clinics across the country.

An avid mountain climber, he has scaled 14 mountains over 14,000 feet on three continents, including the 19,000 foot Mt. Kilimanjaro. He intends to climb to Mt. Everest base camp in April and Mt. Elbrus, Europe’s highest mountain, in August to bring his total to five continents.

Anthropologist brings clean water to small town in Ecuador

The residents of a small town in Ecuador are drinking clean water, thanks to the efforts of a UWSP faculty member and the philanthropic support of her parents.

Social anthropologist Barbara Butler, who regards Huaycopungo, Ecuador, as her “second home,” took a potable water system to indigenous people in the highlands north of Quito, Ecuador. Her efforts were financed by the Thomas and Clara Butler Foundation, a charitable organization established by her parents, residents of Durham, N.H.

Because of Professor Butler’s personal and research efforts in Huaycopungo for more than two decades, the foundation has funded several projects there. Butler has been studying the changes in the community and its indigenous people during the past quarter century.

Butler, who is considered a godmother of the community for her work on behalf of its residents, returned to the U.S. with plaques commending her and her family for their support. She anticipates finishing the first draft of her book-length manuscript about Huaycopungo this fall, then seeking a publisher for this study of the people she has known so long and who have now made her an honorary member of their community.

Butler is also a director of the Maquipucuna Foundation, which is working on an ambitious project to set aside forested land. The project will create a biological corridor from Quito to the Colombian border, connecting the Maquipucuna Reserve, other reserves and a major national park. The corridor protects the flora and fauna of the rain forest’s 965-acre reserve that is supported by Maquipucuna and the Nature Conservancy.

Professor Butler brought the Maquipucuna Foundation’s founders and directors to campus last spring during Earth Week.

Poetry anyone?

“What’s your favorite poem?”

That’s the question English Professor Emeritus Richard “Doc” Doxtator has for the 7,000 UWSP alumni who studied with him. Please e-mail your title and tell him how the poem came to be your favorite (doxtox@wetley.net).

He’ll share your stories at Favorite Poem Presentations here in Stevens Point this spring and summer.

Dick Bennett

Professor Barbara Butler, right, was invited to participate in a celebration symbolizing her service to the Ecuadorian community of Huaycopungo. With the support of a charitable organization, she was able to take a potable water system to indigenous people in the highlands north of Quito, Ecuador.

Richard “Doc” Doxtator
"Special thanks to Byron Shaw and the Environmental Task Force Lab for helping shape my career goals." -- Matthew Hudson, '00

Albert Frohlich, '00, Springville, Calif., is a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He would like friends who are in Southern California to send e-mail (friloch@hotmail.com).

Annie Blaha, '00, Milwaukee, began working as a volunteer in Investments in the Urban Economy Fall 2001 and will stay for a total of 13 months.

Mary (Herbst) Burazin, '00, Oak Creek, is a programmer at tmp worldwide.

Matthew Hudson, '00, St. Paul, Minn., is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. He sends "special thanks to Byron Shaw and the Environmental Task Force Lab for helping shape my career goals."

James Croq, '00, Fitchburg, is a process engineer at International Paper. He and Cassandra (Pietz), '99, were married in July.

Fang to dance at Sentry Theatre

Adriane Fang, '94, New York, N.Y., will perform at UWSP with Doug Varno and Dancers on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Sentry Theatre. A relatively new company based in New York, the Doug Varno Dancers have quickly become known throughout the world. A member of the ensemble since 1996, Fang has taught and performed in the U.S. and abroad, and continues to perform with the Doug Varone and Dancers Dance Company.

She has taught master classes at UWSP with her former professors and continues to perform with the Doug Varone and Dancers Dance Company. Fang to dance at Sentry Theatre

2000s

2000s

Kent Wodicka, '99, Stevens Point, is the Wisconsin coordinator for the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program, which originated at UWSP. She was a BOW instructor for two years before becoming coordinator and is a third generation woman hunter. She has lifelong experience in hunting, fishing and back-packing. "My parents were involved in conservation efforts throughout my life, and this is part of what brought me to UWSP," Wodicka says. BOW workshops are held in 46 states and seven Canadian provinces and offers classes in a variety of topics. For more information on BOW or upcoming workshops call Kelly (715) 346-4151.

Jonny Baesen, '99, Boulder, Colo., is employed by the U.S. Geological Survey. She received a master's degree in the University of Minnesota in August and is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Colorado.

Rachel (Aggene) Cook, '99, London, England, is pursuing a doctorate at the University of London, studying human herpes virus 8 transmission patterns among families in Malawi, Africa. She met her husband, Matthew, while on a semester abroad program in London. He was working in the residence halls where UWSP students stayed.


Kate Brimblecombe, '98, Stirling, Scotland, recently was published in two anthologies, "In-between Days" by the International Library of Poetry and "Nature’s Echoes" by Poetry.com. She will also have works in a collection of the year’s best poets for 2000. She previously was published by The International Famous Poets Society.

Shelia Kuffel, '98, is pursing a bachelor's degree in nursing at UW-Madison with plants to graduate next year and go into emergency room or intensive care nursing.

Shawa Zenun, '98, Fillisburg, is a hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin Department of Commerce under the Site Review Section of the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund, overseeing contaminated sites throughout the state.

Sandra Dykes, master's, '98, Almond, received the recognition of Science Teacher of the Year award at the 73rd National FFA Convention. She was given $1,500 and a plaque in recognition of her skills in teaching science principles and emerging technologies related to agriculture. Sandra has taught agriculture at Weyasaga-Fremont High School and advises the school's FFA. Her program has been recognized as one of the best in Wisconsin. Of about 350 students in the high school, 100 are actively involved in agriscience or FFA.

Micah Eberman, '97, is an interactive Web site designer at Hoffman York, a Milwaukee-based, full-service Web site designer at Hoffman York, a Milwaukee-based, full-service

advertising agency. He will be instrumental in designing, programing and implementing an Intranet and client Extranet for the company.

Heather Kaiser-Hahn, '97, Sugar Land, Texas, recently completed a master's degree at UW-La Crosse and moved to Texas with her husband, Todd.

Bryan Reddermend, '97, New York, N.Y., is the operations manager and sales trainer for Forest Laboratories. He continues to mentor for the Sales and Marketing Association (SAMA) at UWSP and returns annually to speak on campus.

Aaron Mithum, '96, La Vale, is athletic director, varsity baseball coach and math teacher at the Western School District.


Karen Sprague, '98, Germain, Wis., received a bachelor's degree in Nursing at UW-Eau Claire and is pursuing a master's degree in Nursing at UWSP. She currently works in a oncology unit in a large hospital in Milwaukee.

He wants to be a millionaire

David Coulburn, '90, Wausau, was a contestant on the ABC TV game show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," in October.

Although he didn’t make it to the "hot seat," he had a great part participating in the show. His experiences are described on his Web page (www.beerpigs.com/ weruth.html). The page is linked to the homepage of the Beerpigs, the UWSP Trivia team that gave Coulburn his start in trivia mania. "I think it would be great if the show saw a wave of contestants coming from the ranks of 90 FM trivia teams," he says.

When he’s not immersed in trivia, he works for the advertising and marketing firm, Creative Consultants.

Campbell, '96, Corcoran, Minn.; traveled together to see the ruins of Monte Alban outside Oaxaca, Mexico, in July.

Scott Hellrung, '95, Germantown, Wis., is on the staff of Vivax Blum and Company, accountants and business advisers. He encourages friends to send e-mail (shellung@vy-13.com).


Laurie (Pries) Thompson, '94, is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in social work at Austin Peay State University. They have two children, a dog and a cat.

Kristine Skarzkwik, '94, is director of public relations for Weisbrot, an online business in Bellevue, Wash., that supplies specialized Web content and information services to businesses and individuals. Before joining Weisbrot, she was corporate public relations manager for Laplink.com, Inc.

Michelle Thorpe, '94, master's, '97, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is a speech and language pathologist at the Dubai Center for Special Needs.

Julie Summers, '94, Ironwood, is pursuing a master's degree in public administration at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and is pastor of St. Paul's and St. John's Lutheran churches in Ironwood.

Jay Joseph, '94, Los Angeles, works in the product planning department of American Honda Motor Company where he develops future vehicles and overseas market on new models. He and his wife, Theresa Lu, who were married on May 5, 2000 (Cinco de Mayo), live in the friendly Los Angeles neighborhood of Westchester with their black lab, Lucy.

Ahmet Ahliball, '93, North Bergen, N.J., is a project manager in the information technology group at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in New York. He was recently married.

Mark Simmonson, '94, Jefferson, is a forensic scientist and a firearm and toolmark examiner for the Wisconsin Department of Justice crime lab in Milwaukee. He is among 400 full-time examiners in the U.S. and 1,000 worldwide.
Tonya Beckman, ’93, Cleveland, Ohio, recently performed in the critically acclaimed Look Back in Anger at Charenton Theatre in Cleveland, The Giving Star at Charenton Theatre in Lansing, Minn., and will spend the spring with Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chicago, Mich., working on Orphan Train. She recently left the acting company of Cleveland StageProject to pursue freelance work and teach acting and dialects in the Cleveland area.

Daniel Retzki, ’93, Stevens Point, is activities director in the Wisconsin Dells School District. He taught social studies at Mosinee High School for six years. His wife, Nicole (Zabel), ’96, is a dietitian at St. Joseph’s Hospital, Marshfield.

Eric ’93, and Diane (Ronhausen) Nienhaus, ’94, Burlington, were married recently. Eric is a master plumber and Diane teaches second grade at Riverview Grade School in Burlington.

Lynda (Spaia) Hrezinski, ’93, Winona, Minn., works in the Counseling Center at Winona State University, assisting students with their personal, academic and career concerns. She recently received her doctorate from the University of Utah. She and her husband, Robb ’93, have no children but have connections with some UWSP friends.

Christine (Ritter) ’92, and Brian James, ’92, Milwaukee, moved back to Wisconsin from Denver, Colo., in September 1999. Christine is marketing and sales coordinator for the Madison Athletic Club. Brian is a sales representative for Wellington Equipment Corp. Their daughter was born one year ago.

Steven Schmidt, ’91, Theresa, is a publications information specialist for the Wisconsin Industrial Relations Commission, a commercial and consumer equipment division. He, his wife, Brandy, and their two children are avid outdoor enthusiasts and have many pets. He particularly enjoys sports, especially football. His pet cocker spaniel, Ruby, is his constant companion.

Chuck Nelson, ’91, Rhinelander, is territory manager for Sheldon’s, Inc. He and his wife, Debbie, ’93, have two children.

1980s

“My UWSP prepared me to become the best elementary school teacher that I could be.” – Gretchen (Mattson) Dekker, ’88

Beau (née) Westlake, ’89, strength trainer with the Cleveland Indians, works year-round with major and minor league baseball players. He works out of the Sportshealth Center of Lutheran Hospital in Cleveland.

Dale Armstrong, ’89, Vero Beach, Fla., is a senior forester in a six-county area around Lake Okeechobee in South Florida. He and his wife, Christine, ’86, have three children.

Gretchen (Mattson) Dekker, ’88, Gallup, N.M., teaches second grade in the Desert View School District. The school where she teaches uses the “Balanced” program, and will become a model school for educators from across the state. “I am very proud to say that I am the basic elementary school teacher that I could be,” Dekker says.


Norte Hurt, ’89, Westlake, Ohio, is the strength and conditioning coach for Cleveland Browns football team.

David Ayden, ’87, Sussex, has been an assistant for Waukesha’s park and recreation forestry division since June. His wife, Teri (Silverston), ’85, is a senior food scientist for International Food Solutions, a subsidiary of Brettwood in Germany. They have two children.

Brad Soderberg, ’85, Prairie du Chien, is selling used baseball coaching for UW-Madison following the resignation of Dick Bennett three games into the season. He played with Coach Bennett at UWSP and has assisted him for six years. He is married to Stephanie Ahlman, ’85, Ariz., is a water resources administrator for the Tohono O’odham Nation, working on the second largest reservation in the U.S., located in Southern Arizona, with almost 110 miles of border with Mexico

Michèle (Bontini) Colliegwood, ’84, Decatur, Ill., works part time as an athletic, free-lance coach and a dance teacher as well as a substitute teacher in her children’s schools. She and her husband, Greg, have two children.

Paul Aekeson, ’84, Rapid City, S.D., was the only two teachers nationally to win the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit award for National History Day. A history teacher and social studies co-ordinator for D.C. Everest Schools in Schiedel, he introduced the National History Day program in 1997. Ten years later, all eighth grade students in the district participate in the program as part of the curriculum. He has worked with teachers across the state, speaking at forums and sharing curriculum material to broaden the horizon of learning and enthusiasm for the program.

Gregory Ludvik, ’83, Minneapolis, Minn., is an operations security assistant for the FBI. He ran in the Oshkosh Marathon in April, with a finishing time of 3:41.14. His wife, Kay (Merkel), ’83, is an investment operator and service representative for Wells Fargo Brokerage Services. They have one son.

Michele Schenk, ’84, Crandon, is a grant specialist at Nicolet Area Technical College in Crandon. She completed a master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College in 1996.

Robert (Dave) Panetti, ’89, Bloomington, Minn., and his two children are embarking on the “adventure of a lifetime,” a one-year teacher exchange to Australia. Dave teaches high school social studies in Prior Lake, Minn. He exchanged grades and homes with a family from Fenny Creek in suburban Melbourne. They took two weeks in New Zealand in December and started the school year Jan. 30. Old and new friends can keep in touch with davepanetti@hotmail.com or karipanetti@msn.com.

Michael Herrington, ’89, Basking Ridge, N.J., is executive vice president of sales for his office home of Time Incorporated, Manhatthan, New York. He started with Time Home in 1990 and has various management positions in Milwaukee, Berkeley, Houston, Seattle and St. Louis. He and his wife, Christine, have three sons.

Robert (Bob) Ritzki, ’89, Stevens Point, and his two children, embarked on a relationship I have with my wife, Deborah. “I could be. “ – (Rymer) Sorensen, Clarendon Hills, I.I.

Diane (Rosenbaum) McCloskey, ’86, Appleton, is a dietitian at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed a master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College in 1996. The project received this year’s excellence award in the local organization category from the North American Association for Environmental Education. The highly competitive international award recognizes outstanding work in environmental education. For eight years, the project has helped Minnesota schools and community members look at values, skills and citizen action. Using local natural areas, the group seeks to improve the environment through grants, training and support.

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Brad Sobolewski, ’87, Eau Claire, is a source unit leader and planning specialist with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for eight years. He and his wife, Diane (Ritzer) ’88, Stevens Point, and their two children, have two children.

Leslie Tietjens, ’87, Milwaukee, is a sales representative for Wells Fargo Brokerage Services. She completed a master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College in 1996.
1970s

“I have been teaching music continuously since 1977, thanks to a great education at UWSP” – Alan Paulson, ’77

Mary Lou (Koch) Santorve, ’78, is a free-lance writer and editor, covering topics as varied as credit unions, minimums and higher education. She recently co-authored the book 1001 Commonly Misemploi Words. What Your Spell Checker Won’t Tell You published by McGraw Hill. She and her husband, Rich, live in Madison.

Alan Paulson, ’77, Phoenix, Arizona, is a music teacher at Washington High School, Washington, Ariz. School. He has been a teacher for 25 years. Teacher of the Year for one son. He has been teaching music continuously since 1977, thanks to a great education at UWSP,” he says.

Dale Holen, ’76, Dalton, Pa., recently received tenure as an associate professor of biology at Pinn State University, Worthington Scranton campus. He would like old friends to send e-mail (dahl18@psu.edu)

Valerie (Hemmeter) Strege, ’75, Wisconsin Dells, is theண�tron with the Charleston, W.Va., Police Department. She and her husband, John, live on Scobedale acreage where they unwind after work by watching ducks in the backyard. Their children are in college. They would love to get mail from friends at Rt. 1 Box 229B, Walton, WV 25286 or e-mail (valstark@juno.com).

Robert Radtke, ’74, Seoul, South Korea, is an electronics systems design specialist for the U.S. Army. He is the staff representative for communications and computers and lives on the 18th floor of the housing building in downtown Seoul.

Phil Whitford, ’73, ’76, Berkeley, Ohio, teaches at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, where he has been a professor for 17 years. He was a final Endowment recipient for research in excellence and teaching in the sciences. He also chairs the psychology department at the university and writes frequently for popular national magazines and has his articles published in arcane journals.

Alice Aro, ’72, received a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a real estate broker.

And the winners are... Eight members of Sigma Phi Epsilon talked to Armstrong, Ontario, Canada, for a fly-in fishing trip and their annual reunion. They are left to right, Barry Noreen, ’68, Jim Minot, ’70, Jim Richardson, ’65, Bob Divere, ’65, Mike Schilleman, ’65, Bob Woelfl, ’69, Jim Tippel, ’69, and Dan Leider, ’65. They have remained close friends since their days at UWSP, even though separated by great distances, and have renewed their friendships every year with a variety of trips. A past adventure took them to Wyoming for a horseback excursion. Noreen, Minot, and Richardson, who are sales representatives for Abbott Labs, Martin, Minot, is a teacher at Mosinee High School. Richardson, Bob, was a program manager at Hamilton Sundstrand Aerospace. Divere, Las Vegas, Nev., is a professional comedian. Schilleman, Layton, Utah, is director of quality assurance for 1-Simp Corp. Tippel, South Port Washington, Tippel, Wausau, is district manager for Wausau Insurance. Leider, Ringle, is a real estate broker.

Stephen Williams, ’71, Grand Marais, Minn., is sales administrator on Gunflint Ranger District. Superior National Forest. He has been a forester for 17 years, including a blowdown storm of July 1999 that resulted in thousands of acres. Moving more than the Mt. St. Helens’ eruption, Hurricane Hugo is this one in 1,000-year event. Williams’ responsibility is to administer sales of legs resulting from creating away debris. His daughter, Erin, is a freshman at UWSP studying natural resources. "I am extremely proud to send my daughter to Stevens Point, which I believe to be an outstanding school,” he says.

If you would like further information about any of these items, call the Alumni Relations Office at (715) 346-3811 or toll free at 1-877-PONTOI (774-6601).

Classnotes
Eskritt family celebrates mother’s legacy

The Harry E. Eskritt family has held reunions every Thanksgiving for the past 30 years, and since 1979 the gathering has been an opportunity to select recipients for a scholarship honoring their mother, Lenice Christine Merrill Eskritt. Lenice, a homemaker and mother who passed away in 1963, was much beloved by her family. Her sensitivity and compassion to her fellow human beings served as an example to all who knew her. A very intelligent person, she was not able to continue her education beyond high school. This scholarship honors her by recognizing others in similar circumstances who can be financially assisted in developing their potential through education.

Her husband, Harry, enjoyed meeting the students who were selected and awarded the scholarships to them. He passed away in 1995. The award is given to nontraditional students at UWSP who show financial need and hold at least a 3.0 grade point average. During its first years the scholarship was a $350 award and in 1985 it was increased to $500. This year, family members have again awarded four $750 scholarships to commemorate their 30th reunion. Including this year’s awards, they have distributed 60 scholarships for a total of $30,145.

This year’s recipients are Thomas Brocken, Stevens Point; Christine Estrella, Rosholt; Michelle Krieg, Wausau; and Catherine Triplet, Tomahawk. The family includes Ellis Eskritt, Glendale, Ariz.; Harry H. Eskritt, ‘70, Junction City; Myrna (Eskritt) Holdridge, ‘79, Stevens Point; Nyles Eskritt, ‘62, Waupaca; Jim Eskritt, ‘71, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Judy (Eskritt) Leitzke, West Bend.

More information about the scholarship is available from the Alumni Relations Office, 208 Old Main, 2100 Main St., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by calling (715) 346-3811 or toll free 1-877-764-6801.

Keep in touch

John Jury and Jerry Wilson love their jeeps and their UWSP logo license plates. jury is the administrator for the University Centers and Wilson is residence district manager for Chartwells, the university’s food service provider. Jury got JWUWSP for his new jeep and then I bought an older used jeep and put the JUWSP plate on it.” Jury said. “I just thought it would make him laugh. It did.”

Since 1990 a scholarship fund to assist talented incoming UWSP students has benefited from money collected as part of the fees for the plates. The university plate offers the option of choosing a personalized message of up to six characters like the ones chosen by Jury and Wilson. A $20 tax-deductible fee goes directly to the scholarship fund. There is an additional $15 Wisconsin Department of Transportation fee for cars that do not already have a personalized plate.

Applications for personalized jeep plates can be picked up at local driver licensing stations, the Alumni Relations Office in Old Main or by calling the Department of Transportation Special Plates Unit at (608) 266-3041.

John Jury, left, and Jerry Wilson have matching UWSP logo license plates on their jeeps.

Uphoff named Woman of the Year

UWSP swimmer Becca Uphoff ‘00, has been named Wisconsin’s NCAA Woman of the Year. The award honors outstanding female student-athletes who excel in academics, athletics and community leadership. Uphoff was selected among all senior female student-athletes from NCAA schools in all divisions in Wisconsin.

One of UWSP’s most decorated female swimmers, she is the Pointer’s first state winner in the 10-year history of the award. She holds 10 school records and was a four-time Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion in the 200 freestyle and 200 backstroke, while also winning three straight 500 freestyle titles. Last season, Uphoff won three WIAC relay titles and became a five-time All-American.

Her individual feats helped the Pointers capture their first-ever WIAC women’s championship and earn their highest Division III finish at 11th place.

Uphoff was a Judy Kruckman Scholar Athlete for WIAC women’s swimming and was named a third-team Academic All-American by GTE and CoSIDA. A May graduate, she majored in communicative disorders with a minor in psychology, posting a 3.83 grade point average. She has begun graduate courses at UW-Madison.

Becca Uphoff

The University Store in the lower level of the University Center is now online. They can be “browsed” at www.uwsp.edu/centers/bookstore/ any time.

During the academic year hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.
1950s

Lila (Krause) Kimball, '59. Pine River, Minn., died Oct. 24 at age 81. She taught rural elementary schools and high schools in Wisconsin and North Dakota. She was director of the North Dakota Rural Education Association and was an advisor to the Council for Rural Education. She also worked at Camp Gordon, Ga., for seven years.

Verna (Schaefer) Freiberg, '54, Santa Clara, Calif., died July 9 at age 86. She taught high school in Fredrick, Md., for a few years, raised a family, and then worked part-time teaching for the University of Wisconsin and for various churches until her retirement in 1993. She received the Wisconsin Education Association's Distinguished Service Award in Education.

Judith (Seymour) Iris, '67, Janesville, was a master's degree student at UWSP, and three daughters.

Daughters, Margaret (Kasper) Lindsay, '65, Neillsville, Wis., and Gayle (Landowski) Ganser, '67, Neenah, died. Margaret was employed as a carpenter by Kimberly Clark for 32 years. She is survived by her husband, Allan, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Gayle was employed as a carpenter by Kimberly Clark for 32 years. She is survived by her husband, Stewart, and two daughters.

Lorraine Slawski, '59, Eagle River, died Oct. 26 at age 85. She taught elementary school at Tripoli for many years and then at St. Germain, Wis. She was survived by her husband, Lyde.

Margaret (Kasper) Lindsay, '65, Madison, died March 20 at age 85. Margaret was employed as a nurse at the Wisconsin Hospital for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She was active in community organizations.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Oshkosh and in her children's sports, volleyball and softball team. She was a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Association and a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Association and a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Association.

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A reunion in the Department of Art and Design during Homecoming 2000 included members of the first class to graduate from the department in 1965. They are, left to right, Kathy (Koschak) Parkel, Stoughton; Kenn Spatz, Manitowoc; Cathy (Clark) Spatz, Manitowoc; Jerry Shafranski, Cleveland; Frank Parkel, Stoughton; Marianne (Feutz) Walker, Los Angeles; and Professor Emeritus Dick Schneider.

Members of the Alumni Association Board traveled in style in a fire truck converted by Premium Brands. Alumni Association Board President Bob Spoerl drove while board members and others tossed candy, mini-footballs and Point H2O bottled water to the crowd along the parade route.

The annual UWSP Athletic Hall of Fame induction banquet and alumni dinner concluded with seven outstanding Pointers joining the UWSP Athletics Hall of Fame, left to right, Coach Red Blair, Theo Blanco, ’89, Uppsala, Sweden; Tim Naegeli, ’90, Racine; Jeff Stypel, ’91, Menasha; Tom Moris, ’90, Onakama, Mich.; Nina Pisciotta, ’92, Denver, Colo.

With a temperature of 70 degrees and plenty of sunshine, it was a great day for the annual Homecoming parade. The alumni band was 50 members strong when it was joined this year by members of the Pointer pep band who wore purple striped polo shirts. The group followed the parade with a picnic on the lawn outside the Fine Arts Center.

Activities during the week leading up to the Homecoming celebration included students and alumni competing in the annual Prom Dress Women’s Rugby game. This annual clash pits the “rookies” against the “veterans.”

Continuing a tradition, academic departments held reunions in conjunction with Homecoming. The College of Natural Resources celebrated its 30-year anniversary with a program at Schmeeckle Reserve Visitors Center. In addition to hundreds of returning alumni, attendees included, left to right, Ron Zimmerman, Schmeeckle Reserve director; Milo Harpstead, emeritus CNR faculty member; Alan Haney, professor of natural resources; and Bernard Wielig, emeritus CNR faculty member. Other departments holding events included art, communication, political science, history, chemistry, education and interior architecture.

In September, a group of alumni from the Wisconsin Dells area enjoyed dinner at the Great Wolf Lodge and Resort built by brothers, Turk, ’68, and Jack Waterman, ’67.

The Alumni Association provided refreshments for UWSP students, alumni, faculty and staff members who attended a Wisconsin Association of Environmental Educators Conference at the Perlstein Resort in Wisconsin Dells in October.