Many internal medical stitches nowadays are designed to dissolve after the wound has healed. Professor of Chemistry John Droske has received a sizable grant from WiSys (www.wisys.org) for research to see if the same idea might be applied to something like repairing bones. Droske is working side-by-side with several UWSP chemistry students to identify and make the ideal polymers for the job. Droske writes, “A focus of this research is to prepare porous, adhesive-like materials that will provide strength to damaged bones or other tissues as they heal. The pores will allow the bone / tissue to grow through the material and when it is healed, the polymers will biore sorb, leaving new bone / tissue in its place.” Though these special dissolving polymers are still in the research stages, their possible contribution to the medical field is most exciting. In the future, doctors may be able to “stitch together” both skin and bone using biore sorbable materials.

Professor Droske collaborates with students and other scientists in nearly every aspect of his research. He says the stereotype of a lone scientist quietly conducting experiments in a lab is not a very accurate picture of the way synthetic chemistry research is done. “For me, the main focus is involving students.” He adds, “One of the ways I like to teach is through involving students in research.” Besides the eight UWSP students currently working with Droske, a post-doctoral associate and also a UWSP alum, Robert Pieper, has returned to Stevens Point to join in on the project.

While this biomedical research project is the main focus of his current research, Professor Droske also has worked recently with the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum. As part of the “Save America’s Treasures” Project, Droske helps identify ways to preserve space artifacts with historical significance, such as the Apollo space suits. He also assisted with restoration of a Saturn V rocket at Johnson Space Center. Droske notes the apparent irony of these two current projects. “Save America’s Treasures” is about stopping polymer degradation, while the biomedical research focuses on how to promote and use polymer degradation for a desirable application.

Let’s stay in touch!
Bookmark
www.uwsp.edu/cls
• L&S News •
• Events & Awards •
• Department information •

To the Point | 1
Within the many disciplines of the college of Letters & Science is evidence of our emphasis on helping students develop as global citizens.

The College of Letters & Science, working with the Office of International Programs, provides opportunities for students to learn from other cultures. In addition to the study-abroad programs, individual faculty have acquired funding from Letters & Science that has allowed them to take students to nations beyond U.S. borders. Eric Yonke (History and International Programs) was responsible for History’s International Internship and Field Research Supervision. A number of Biology faculty led students on research trips to countries in Latin America. Erik Wild undertook an International Programs research expedition to the Amazon of Peru with four UWSP students; Virginia Freire and her biology students conducted research in Guatemala and Belize, while Bob Rosenfield led students on a short-term trip to Costa Rica.

Outside of our curricula, our faculty, staff, and students engage in numerous endeavors that expand students’ understanding of the world around them. Stephanie Alemán (Anthropology) is initiating an Amerindian exchange program between UWSP and the Waiwai, a group of Amerindians in southern Guyana. Kathy Lamb (Sociology) is currently working on research related to Latino youth and examining ways of actively engaging them in civic and political affairs during the transition to adulthood. Corinne Dempsey (Religious Studies) arranged for a public lecture given by Sri Chaitanya, who spoke about the deity Shiva. Corinne Dempsey and Matthew Chacko (English) brought in Ravi Shankar, a yogic practitioner and scholar, for an evening lecture.

These exchanges, research projects, and public lectures all contribute to expanding opportunities for our students to be well educated with a global perspective.

Steve Salmon, 1998 graduate of UWSP, has published a book titled The Unusual Writer. The story deals with a writer with cerebral palsy and was written to show students (and people of all ages) how disabilities can be overcome. Salmon has cerebral palsy and uses a voice recognition computer to write. About The Unusual Writer he says, “The novel demonstrates to high school students that nothing is impossible if a person makes a commitment to achieve their dream.” Available online or at book stores.

English Professor James Stokes has retired from UWSP after 28 years. He wants to spend more time researching REED (Records of Early English Drama). Stokes is known for his expertise on the subject. About the works, he said, “I realized I loved the documents as much as I loved the literature. They spoke to me. I woke up one day and I was a historian.”

Why America Fights: Patriotism and War Propaganda from the Philippines to Iraq is the title of the new book written by UWSP History Professor Susan Brewer. This 352-page book, published by Oxford University Press, deals heavily with the illusion and exaggeration of propaganda in war time. It’s on sale now in hardcover for $29.95.
Welcome to our Fall 2009 Newsletter! We hope the information is interesting, stimulating and a reflection of just how proud we are of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. First, I should say that I am very excited to be the new Dean. I want to thank Interim Dean Charles Clark for his great work and effort in keeping the College looking and moving forward and for being a guiding light during the search process. He had no small hand in my deciding to come to Stevens Point, and I can say without hesitation that his sense of dedication, stability and knowledge of the system paid great dividends to a great year, some stories of which are covered in this newsletter.

It is clear from the news pieces in this newsletter that our students are getting exposure to both state-of-the-art laboratory research involving medical issues, and are being given the opportunity to explore the world through class and project trips. Professor Droske’s work with students has resulted in truly remarkable materials, with our students playing a pivotal role in their testing and outreach. This is testament to our commitment to providing the best opportunities available to students wishing to become involved in the sciences. The many opportunities for faculty/student interactions in international trips and experiences is clear from the work of our faculty in leading groups to Latin America and Guyana. Such experiences enhance our reputation for bringing to our students an international and global perspective. Our alumni, retired faculty and current faculty take particular pride in their continuing contributions as shown by the books published by Professor Susan Brewer and 1998 graduate Steve Salmon.

I greatly look forward to the challenges and opportunities which will confront us in the coming months. The current budgetary climate gives us extra incentive to be diligent, seeking and thorough in all of our educational, research and outreach programs. We do plan on moving forward in these difficult times with good news and success stories which will help the friends of the college get a good feeling for just what we are up to! Our donors have continued to think highly of us and been generous in their giving to the College. All of the stories contained in this issue reflect just how profound an impact our college has had on student’s lives, and how they have had an impact on society at large. I want to begin a process whereby we emphasize the College’s status as being at the core of the educational experience for our students, such that we are not labeled simply the “College of Everything Else.” The collection of departments, programs and personnel which make up the College of Letters and Science create a central core of skills, diversity and excellence which are mandatory for all students at UWSP, and which make our college the “College at the Core” for UWSP.

### Remaining 2009-2010 Community/Campus Lecture Series

**College of Letters & Science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker &amp; Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 2009</td>
<td>Dennis Riley, <em>The Obama Presidency at Age One</em></td>
<td>Pinery Room Portage County Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 2009</td>
<td>John Droske, <em>Polymer Research At UWSP: Preserving the Apollo Spacesuits to Developing Biodegradable Bone Adhesives</em></td>
<td>Room 321 Collins Classroom Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 2010</td>
<td>David Williams, <em>Mozart in the Enlightenment</em></td>
<td>Room 321 Collins Classroom Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8, 2010</td>
<td>James Sage, <em>Self-Deception: Rational Failure or Evolutionary Strategy?</em></td>
<td>Room 321 Collins Classroom Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13, 2010</td>
<td>Greg Summers, <em>Thinking Like a Home Owner: A New Ethic of Environmentalism</em></td>
<td>Pinery Room Portage County Public Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Free to all!**

### A Chance to Read in Company (ACORN)

A circle program offered at Stevens Point and sponsored by the English Department. Anyone can join! Split into groups, each group reads a great work of literature and meets as often as desired to discuss it. The beauty of ACORN is how flexible the scheduling is. The featured book for 2009 is *The Maltese Falcon*, by Dashiell Hammett. For more information visit www.uwsp.edu/english/acorn.
Barbara Jane (Dotts) Paul, an associate professor emeritus and the wife of College of Letters and Science Dean Emeritus Justus Paul, passed away on July 18, 2009 after a courageous three-and-a-half year battle with multiple myeloma. Barbara was a UWSP alumna and was employed by UWSP in 1968 as a member of the Library faculty, retiring in 2002 as an associate professor. The Paul's led the semester abroad program in Munich in 1982. Her memory lives on in her husband, Justus, and their three children and three grandsons.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Justus and Barbara Paul Sabbatical fund, which provides financial support to L&S and Library faculty on sabbatical.

UWSP Foundation
Justus and Barbara Paul Sabbatical fund
2100 Main Street, Suite 212
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Or contact Mark Williams
Phone: (715) 346-4211
Email: mark.williams@uwsp.edu

Photo courtesy of Paul family