

*University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**

# CLASS NOTES

*April 2014*

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED JAN. 1-MARCH 31, 2014

## *What's new with you?*

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### CLASS NOTES POLICY:

The UW-L Alumni Association publishes class notes and obituaries online in January, April, July and October. The deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the month of quarterly posting. See [www.uwlalumni.org](http://www.uwlalumni.org) for details.

## 62

**George W. Schubert**, Grand Forks, N.D., begins his 50th year of teaching in higher education in fall 2014. He came to the University of North Dakota in fall 1965 as an instructor. In 2000 he retired as a full-time dean and professor, but continues to teach courses in sports business. He teaches part-time and usually teaches sports law courses. George and his wife of 58 years, Arline, have two daughters, both attorneys. Arline is also an attorney and has served as the attorney for UND and has taught business law.

## 63

**Clayton Stone**, Alexandria, Va., retired from the federal government in 2004 after 37 years. His last job was working at the Washington Navy Yard. He was then hired with a consulting company, Acquisition Solutions Inc., as a senior acquisition specialist. He worked with them supporting the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. This required a Top Secret SCI security clearance and included working at the Pentagon. He retired from the consulting company in March 2012 and is currently on the board of directors of the Kensington Courts Homeowners Association in Alexandria while enjoying retirement.

## 64

**James Jevens**, Surprise, Ariz., misses his wife, Donna, who died in June 2010 after a long battle with cancer. He enjoys Arizona and has met many UW-L grads across the country. He travels by air somewhere about once a month. He hopes to help set up an alumni group in the West Valley area.

## 66

**James B. Rose** is retired and living in Titusville, Fla.

## 69

**Steven Pischke**, Westminster, Colo., has retired from the Mountain View Fire Protection District after almost 13 years and 44 years in the Colorado Fire Service. He will continue to work part-time for the Rocky Mountain Fire Protection District, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs, and both the Boulder County Type III Incident Management Team and the Rocky Mountain Type I Incident Management Team.

## 71

**Steve Steinhoff**, Brookfield, retired in 2009 as administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Division of Food Safety. He still works for Louisiana State University and other entities to develop and deliver training to public sector food safety and public health professionals. He is "Still hanging out" with Judy, '72, after 40 years.

## 72

**Paul W. Nielsen**, Ravenswood, W.V., has published his first novel, "The Cambion," released by Glass Page Books Feb. 15. His second novel, "The Second Son," will follow shortly. They will be available on Amazon, Kindle, bookstores and other places. See more at [PaulWNIelsen.com](http://PaulWNIelsen.com)

## 74

**Gregory Staat** is "happily retired in sunny and beautiful Myrtle Beach, S.C. It's like living a year round spring break with all the activities, ocean, beaches, beautiful, year-round weather, good food and friends."

## 73

**Daniel L. Medinger**, Ellicott City, Md., is a candidate for the Maryland state senate. The journalist, publisher and entrepreneur announced his candidacy Aug. 19, 2013. The primary election is June 24, 2014.

## 75

**Dan Roeglin**, Hudson, saw his life take a new twist after 30 years of being a park and recreation director and paid-on-call firefighter, spending 24 years with the City of Hudson Fire Department with time as assistant chief. After working for DHS/FEMA for a year training disaster responders, he spent five years as a public safety training specialist in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system office. In January 2013, he joined the staff at Hennepin Technical College as a fire training coordinator. Roeglin has also taught fire training and emergency management part-time for Wisconsin

Indianhead Technical College for the past 12 years. He lives in Hudson where, when he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his three daughters and four, soon to be five, grandchildren. He calls himself a true "hockey grandpa." Roeglin enjoys annual get-togethers with the third floor Trowbridge Hall gang that, he reports, is still "going strong."

## 77

**Linda Basche Larson**, Green Bay, has been married to Jeff for 36 years. They have four daughters, and three grandchildren. They love to travel and have been to London, France, the Netherlands and Greece

## 78

**Sherri (Taylor) Novak**, Onalaska, has been retired for two years from the airlines. Novak moved to Minneapolis six months after college graduation and worked in six different cities during her career and "loved it." Her three children live in Minneapolis and she enjoys living in Onalaska with her significant other, Calvin King, of 16 years. She just had her first grandchild. "Life is good but it's still too cold here for me, even with global warming," she says. "I have only seen about 10 past classmates since graduation, a long time ago. I truly hope every-one I used to know is well."

**Marcia (Moely) Thurwachter**, Plover, is assistant director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. She was inducted into the Wisconsin Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame at the All-State Banquet held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells in December. Thurwachter coached girls volleyball, and boys

and girls track at Sheboygan Falls High School from 1979-85 while teaching physical education and health. She led the Falcons to the WIAA State Class B volleyball championship in 1983, a third-place finish in 1982 and three conference titles in six seasons at the helm. Thurwachter was inducted into the North Central College (Naperville, Ill.) Hall of Fame in October. She coached and taught at North Central from 1985-2002. During that time she coached women's volleyball (1985-98) leading the Cardinals to the only CCIW Conference Championship title in school history. She also served as the head women's track coach (1986-2002). Her team won five CCIW titles, placed third in the NCAA Outdoor Championships in 1997, and had 106 All Americans. Thurwachter was the associate athletic director and an assistant professor in the HPE department. She currently serves as the meet director for the WIAA's State Track and Field Meet hosted at UW-L.

## 79

**Gary Dunn**, Andover, Minn., retired in June 2013 after 34 years as a teacher, counselor and administrator in the Anoka/Hennepin District. He is grateful for the preparation he received at UW-L and thankful for the friendships of fellow students. He taught at the junior and high school levels, along with coaching and refereeing junior high soccer, basketball, football and softball. His wife, Jane, will retire from teaching in June 2014. They look forward to travel and being rabid football fans of the University of Minnesota. UW-L will always be a special place for him. He wishes all current UW-L students an enriching experience at the school.

## 81

**Tom Brazill**, Eureka, Mo., has accepted a new position with Fruit of the Loom Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway Co. He will manage the Jerzees/Fruit of the Loom Active-wear apparel business and service multiple wholesale customers in the Midwest.

## 82

**Janice (Peterson) Hincapie**, Northbrook, Ill., is a 30-year veteran of the parks and recreation field. She has been the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Village of Lincolnwood since 2006. During that time, her department has secured over \$8 million in grants, completed a Community Center Feasibility Study and Comprehensive Master Plan, updated the strategic plan twice, received accreditation from the American Camp Association, became accredited as an Illinois Distinguished Agency, and was the recipient of two "Best of the Best" Arts in the Park awards from Illinois Arts Council and the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Prior to Lincolnwood, Hincapie served as Leisure Services Director for the Northbrook Park District, overseeing all recreation programs and communications. She also served as Recreation Program manager for the Glenview Park District where she served on the planning team for the state-of-the-art Glenview Park Center. She will serve as the chair of the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Board in 2014.

# 88

**James P. Bria**, Longwood, Fla.,



has been named to the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities' Advisory Council. He is finance direc-

tor of the Georgia and Alabama District at Trane/Ingersoll-Rand.

**Suzan (Sobkowiak) Harkness**, Gaithersburg, Md., is special assistant to the president at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C.

# 89

**Estelle Kelly**, San Antonio, Texas, is an instructor and social media manager for the Sylvan Learning Center. She points to a Chinese Proverb that states: Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. "Thank you UW-L! You began my lifelong love for education and I share that enthusiasm with students and their families every day," she says.

**Cindy Thota**, Muskego, says she has "the best job ever." She makes dream bedrooms for children with life threatening illnesses, changing children's lives one bedroom at a time.

# 90

**Kayla Jean (Thompson) Schaefer**, Whitehall, was recently remarried and has relocated to Whitehall. She has a daughter attending UW-L as a junior studying biology and chemistry. She has another daughter who is a senior in high school and plans to attend UW-Oshkosh in the fall. She has

worked in the Augusta School District for 11 years and enjoys being a teacher.

# 91

**Lisa A. Harsh**, Spearfish, S.D., is the student success adviser at Black Hills State University.

**Thomas C. Pleger**, Reedsburg, has been appointed president of Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He will begin his new post July 1, 2014. Pleger has served as Campus Executive Officer and Dean of UW-Baraboo/Sauk County since 2006. He started his academic career in the UW System in 1993 and has held appointments at UW-Marinette, UW-Madison, UW-La Crosse, UW-Fox Valley, Lawrence University, and UW-Baraboo/Sauk County. Pleger and his wife, Teresa Schaefer-Pleger, '90 & '10, will move to LSSU in June. LSSU blends liberal and technical studies in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The campus overlooks Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the St. Mary's River, and the Soo Locks, the busiest locks in the world. Lake State's Division 1 hockey team regularly plays UW-Madison while the majority of LSSU is part of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Division II.

# 94

**Wanda Kanwischer**, Eagan, Minn., has been named interim dean of students at Normandale Community College in Bloomington.

# 95

**Jessica Tormey**, Fitchburg, has



been named senior special assistant/ chief of staff to University of Wisconsin System President

Ray Cross. She had been UW Colleges and UW-Extension assistant vice chancellor for communications and external relations. Prior to that, she worked in government relations for UW System, serving as a liaison with the state legislature and state agencies, and was chief of staff for 10 years for Wisconsin State Sen. Alberta Darling.

# 96

**Tiffany Bachmann**, Madison, joined the Department of Surgery at UW-Madison in December 2013 as an associate administrative program specialist training grants coordinator.

# 98

**Cassandra "Sonna" (Evenson) Fredriksen**, Safety Harbor, Fla., enrolled at Stetson University College of Law in 2012. She expects to graduate in December 2014. She had been a software quality engineer for Adobe Systems Inc. and an IT director for software in Tampa Bay.

# 01

**Mark Dahlby**, Milwaukee, an



attorney with Hall, Render, Killian, Health & Lyman in Milwaukee, has been named to The Business

Journal of Greater Milwaukee's 40 Under 40 list for 2014. In his work, Dahlby counsels medical device, pharmaceutical and IT companies on a diverse range of FDA and related commercial matters. He frequently speaks on device and drug law, compliance issues and related regulatory and business topics at industry and academic meetings.

# 03

**Kristen (Anderson) and Tony Possley**, both '03, live in De Pere with their two daughters, Harper (3) and Monroe (1). They have started a Limb Difference networking Facebook page and blog (<http://alittlebitofgraceblog.com/>) to bring limb-different families together and to educate, in honor of Monroe.

# 05

**Brad Reinhart**, La Crosse, has been named development director at his high school alma mater, Aquinas Catholic Schools in La Crosse. For eight years he was assistant director of Park & Recreation for the Village of Holmen. He and his wife, Kelly, have three children: Talan, Cameron and Laney.

# 07

**Rachel (Epp) Hanson**, Sun Prairie, is enjoying owning her own business, The Pampered Chef, after pursuing a chemistry career for a few years. She enjoys being home full-time with her son (soon to be sons) and runs an in-home daycare for kids of other UW-L alums.

**Tracy M. Machtan**, Terre Haute, Ind., received the Steven B. Dealph Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority Professional Award at the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Central Conference in February.

# 09

**Nikki C Schuster**, Milwaukee, was elected president of the St. Francis Education Association in 2013.

# 10

**Corinn Ploessl**, Oregon, has been elected president of Madison Magnet Inc., a nonprofit founded in 2004 to unite talented, young professionals from Madison and its surrounding areas. With a board of 15 young professionals, Ploessl is charged with crafting the strategic vision for the organization, assisting and managing the execution of projects and community partnerships, and continuing to grow and develop Magnet. The group focuses on community involvement, professional development and social networking. Its goal is to connect, collaborate, and develop young talent in Madison.

# Class of 20??

**Jon, '98**, and **Natalie Jarosh**, Sturgeon Bay, a son, Camden Joseph, in February. He joins sister Madelyn.

**Matthew, '99**, and **Rebekah Lennon**, Rochester, Minn., a daughter, Katherine, Feb. 27, 2014.

**Dawn (Glaser), '05**, and **Derek Ortiz**, La Crosse, a son, Keagan Ray, July 2, 2013.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

## *Alumni remembered*

- 1942 — Beth (Lawsha) Mortimer, Columbus.  
1943 — Jane H Clausen, Oconomowoc.  
1943 — Jack Finley, Santa Barbara, Calif.  
1945 — Marjorie Zimmerman Nixon, Fort Meyers, Fla.  
1950 — Tom Stoppenbach, Quincy, Ill.  
1955 — John Eifert, Racine.  
1957 — Elmer Mitchell, Portage.  
1959 — William Cahee, Peshtigo.  
1959 — Lawrence Dodge, Brackettville, Texas.  
1962 — Kenneth Cetton, Port Crane, N.Y.  
1962 — Myrtle Sullivan Weber, Cashton.  
1963 — Charles Ehlenfeldt, Burnett.  
1963 — Robert Krautkramer, Steamboat Springs, Colo.  
1964 — Eugenia Kowalkowski, Milwaukee.  
1964 — Ronald Olson, Waconia, Minn.  
1966 — Beatrice E. Jors, Cedarburg.  
1967 — Tom McChesney, Green Bay.  
1970 — S. Kim Jarvis, Fort Meyers, Fla.  
1971 — Janice Nash Fish, La Crosse.  
1971 — Arden Schock, La Crosse.  
1973 — Peggy (Wood) Sasgen, Mason, Ill.  
1978 — Kevin John Kenny, Rochester, Minn.  
1983 — Daniel Eater, Madison.  
1987 — Kelly Kearns-Alexander, Farmington, Minn.  
1993 — Ryan D. Vieth, Sparta.  
1994 — Carolyn Suchy, La Crosse.  
1995 — David Johnston, Lillington, N.C.  
1997 — Kevin J. Arendt, Nekoosa.  
2005 — Jenny Olson, Holmen.  
2013 — Daniel Meier, Hartland.

# *Staff & faculty remembered*

## **DALE C. GRESSETH,**

86, of La Crosse, died Nov. 24, 2013. He worked in libraries in both California and Vermont, but most of his career was in UW-L's Murphy Library. In 25 years as a serials librarian, he served on library and university committees, participated in the Directors of the University of Wisconsin Libraries, and was library department chair. He is survived by a nephews and nieces.

## **JEANIE KATHERINE STUBBLEFIELD,**

99, of McMinnville, Tenn., died Jan. 18, 2014. She taught in the Chemistry department from 1962-1984. She is survived by a son and two grandchildren.

*For complete obituaries on most listed staff and faculty, go to [www.lacrossetribune.com](http://www.lacrossetribune.com).*

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For a lifetime.*

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