



CAPSTONE

FALL 2014

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING | ACHIEVING | UNITING

PROCESSING PRINTS — AND LIFE

Printmaking professor Joel Elgin's workshop inspires collaboration, creativity and magic

STORY ON PAGE 4 >>

FROM CLS DEAN RUTHANN BENSON



OUR ALUMNI ARE 'AMBASSADORS FOR THE UNIVERSITY'

At graduation each year the university welcomes a new group of students into the family of UW-L alumni. Prior to this very few students have thought about what it means to have alumni status.

It is important for us to always remember that students, both past and present, are the university's greatest assets. And, in a time of economic constraints, alumni are one of the assets that keep on growing!

Our alumni are truly the "Ambassadors for the University." Their success in life plays a large part in building the reputation of UW-L and its degree programs.

They reflect the university's commitment to a world-class education. They are highly effective allies and advocates in support of the institution's mission.

UW-L alumni contribute time, talent and financial support to enable current and future generations of students to obtain college degrees. The value of our alumni can never be underestimated or over appreciated.

Regards,

Ruthann E. Benson

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- www.uwlalumni.org
- UW-La Crosse Alumni Association, Cleary Alumni & Friends Center, 615 East Ave. N., La Crosse, WI 54601



www.uwlax.edu/cls

Features



8

Breaking New Ground

Jeff Kollath, '00, who works at UW Center for the Humanities, is dedicated to creating community spaces to share knowledge.



10

Modern Mom

Professor Jodi Vandenberg-Daves has written "Modern Motherhood: An American History," which provides a comprehensive history about motherhood in the U.S.



18

Top Thinker

Hollie Nyseth Brehm, '08, has landed on the nation's "30 Top Thinkers Under 30." The list includes people across the country that Pacific Standard magazine predicts will have a serious impact on the social, political and economic issues it covers.



27

Running (is) a Business

Throughout his liberal arts education, Tyler Heinz, '10, was encouraged to think not of just what exists, but what could be. Heinz got an idea to start a business dealing with running, and he's run with that idea to a store in downtown La Crosse.

CLS Vision Statement

Championing the enduring values of the liberal arts and positioning them as key to transforming people, ideas and the world.



FROM THE COVER

PROCESSING PRINTS — AND LIFE

Printmaking professor Joel Elgin's workshop inspires collaboration, creativity and magic

A printmaking workshop this summer produced more than impressions in ink. It left participants with impressions about life's direction.

"Something magical happens when you blend all of these different energies," says Printmaking Professor Joel Elgin, about the workshop participants.

Elgin conducted the workshop in the form of a European Atelier, the common setup for European artists from the Middle Ages to the 18th or 19th century. The idea is to gather people of varying experience levels in one shop to create and inspire. Elgin invited UW-L students, alumni and

community members into his studio for two weeks in June and July.

"Everyone comes into this room and has to understand the key is not the technical thing you do, but the content — the story behind each print that you make," says Elgin.

A STORY OF WOMEN, CULTURE AND SELF-REFLECTION

Kate Gray, '04, shared a story of living in Morocco for two years with the Peace Corps. She spoke of Ramadan, riding the bus, a woman wearing a hijab. Some Americans assume it's oppressive, she says, but the women she met didn't think so.

Her art explores what it means to be a woman in another culture.

Since she was in college, her artwork has always centered around women and her social and political beliefs formed through a liberal studies education.

Today it reflects even more than that. "It's formed from experience," explains Elgin.

Gray signed up for the workshop while still living in Morocco. She knew it would be the best way to process her Peace Corps experience. She digs deep, taking a tiny brush to a fresh print. She's processing where she's been the last two years — and even the last 20. "What does it mean

KATE GRAY, '04, WORKS ON A SERIES OF PRINTS THAT FEATURE MOROCCAN HENNA — PRINTING ON THE HANDS AND FEET, WHICH WOMEN WEAR TYPICALLY FOR CELEBRATIONS OR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.



to lose your youth and grow into an adult and come to an understanding that you no longer have those years,” she says. “Yet to also feel like a beautiful and magnificent woman — to feel strong and empowered.”

Everyone has their way of expressing thoughts and ideas. Art is hers. In the studio, Gray and others worked long hours into the night trying to figure it out. They cut wood blocks, etched into stone, pulled prints and dabbed brushes into fresh ink, solving visual problems on the page.

“This is a shop of blood, sweat and tears. Struggle is part of the process. That’s where growth happens,” says Andrew Meyer, '11. “Without the process or the struggle, not much is gained.”

Meyer was working out his post-academia life in restaurant

“I feel like I’ve never left. It feels like I’m in college again for two weeks. There is this sense of camaraderie and teamwork. We all leave the studio with more knowledge, experience and new friends.”

KATE GRAY, '04

management. It has been hard to find a bridge between the creative energy he found as an art major in college and the “cold, bitter real world.”

“It’s probably been a solid year where it’s been hard to find motivation to create ... I was kind of in limbo,” he says. “This workshop rekindles the flame that a lot of people may have lost.”

DISCOVERING A NEW DIRECTION

Meyer pulled a piece of his work that was drying in the back — an abstract print in bright oranges and reds. It was made using a technique he accidentally discovered six years ago. He uses the kinetic energy of water to inspire designs. He calls it a “gift from the print Gods” and an obsession of his undergraduate years. He eventually couldn’t do enough prints. He had to share the technique with others. Every artist interprets it differently and creates prints that don’t resemble his in the least. In the atelier, he



ANDREW MEYER, '11, WORKS ON PRINTS USING A TECHNIQUE HE DEVELOPED ZAND HAS NOW SHARED WITH MANY OTHER STUDENTS. HE CALLS IT "A GIFT FROM THE PRINT GODS."

KIRK BENSON, '12, who teaches K-5 art in Waukesha, returned to experience the collaborative nature of the studio. "It's kind of like a family reunion in here," notes Benson. "I didn't know everyone, but it becomes that way."

shared the technique with UW-L junior Andrea Anderson.

"This is awesome," she says. "One of the reasons I signed up was because people were coming back and a lot of what we do here is learn from each other."

Meyer thrives with this kind of interaction with other artists.

"You really begin to understand that everyone has basic needs in life. Some find contentment and tranquility from everyday things: exercise, constructing things, their work," he says. "What this has really taught me is that perhaps my life in academia is not done."

Meyer says he needs to return to earn his master's degree in fine arts or teaching — a career path that could bring him collaborative, creative environments to work.

Participants taught each other in ways they don't even understand yet. They came a long way, says Elgin. At the same time, the workshop took them back in time.

"I feel like I've never left. It feels like I'm in college again for two weeks," says Peace Corps volunteer Gray. "There is this sense of camaraderie and teamwork. We all leave the studio with more knowledge, experience and new friends."

For more photos of Joel Elgin's printmaking workshop go to <http://goo.gl/Cc10eb>



ALUM RECEIVES GRAFF AWARD

JOSEPH E. NYRE

- Currently president of and full professor at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y.
- Nationally recognized researcher in autism, mental health service delivery and system development; recipient of more than \$44 million in extramural funding.
- Authored and co-authored vital state and federal legislation.
- Member of many boards and service organizations.
- Completed pre- and post-doctoral studies at Harvard Medical School and the University of Kansas. Master's and doctorate from the University of Kansas, master's from University of Missouri and bachelor's in psychology from UW-L, 1991.

An alum who became the first lay leader of Iona College in New York was named the 2014 Maurice O. Graff Distinguished Alumnus.

Joseph Nyre, named the first non-ordained president of the college in New Rochelle in 2011, has been credited for successfully transitioning the institution through that cultural change, says James Hynes, chair of the Iona College Board of Trustees. "He is a humanistic leader well known to our students, faculty, staff and alumni," notes Hynes.

Hynes says students know Nyre because he meets with them often. The president often plays his guitar and sings at a student coffee house.

"Our faculty know and trust

their president because he embraces shared governance, is transparent and leads in the academic community," continues Hynes. "Our staff know their president because he rolls up his sleeves with them to implement strategy. Our alums and donors know him, and believe in him, because he is genuine, engaging, of keen intellect and selflessly dedicated to Iona College."

Stephen Portch, a former UW System administrator who helped recruit Nyre for the Iona position, says Nyre is recognized for this leadership and integrity at Iona. "He has displayed a consistency in his approach to problem solving that surely would make his UW-La Crosse faculty proud," says Portch.

To learn more about the Distinguished Alumni Awards go to www.uwlalumni.org

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Alum engages communities in deeper discussion about history



Jeff Kollath is dedicated to creating community spaces to share knowledge.

“I’ve always had a strong interest in engaging the public — creating forums where people can discuss and share in a welcoming, open-minded environment,” says the ’00 graduate.

Kollath works at UW Center for the Humanities, a branch of UW-Madison that connects with the public on current political, literary, ethical and aesthetic questions.

“There is a true passion among the students, faculty and academic staff to share what they know,” he explains. “They want to teach and learn.”

Previously, Kollath worked for the Milwaukee County Historical

Society and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, engaging people in discussions about history. He brought in sources like veterans in to share their stories.

“That’s what’s exciting about history,” explains Kollath. “History is not just about reading textbooks. It’s about getting your hands on the real deal. Those people and things that tell their life story.”

Multiple accounts of an event spin it into a much bigger story that merits new interpretation, he notes.

“We can always figure out new ways to look at a topic and interpret it,” says Kollath. “There is always new ground to be broken.”

Kollath first learned about the

JEFF KOLLATH

- **Public Humanities Program Manager**, UW-Madison Center for the Humanities, **2013-present**
- **Director of Museum Experience**, Milwaukee County Historical Society, **2012-13**
- **Curator of History**, Wisconsin Veteran Museum, **2004-12**

value of primary sources in history during high school. It was reinforced in a UW-L class on the Vietnam War where his professor invited veterans, anti-war activ-

HISTORY AT UW-L

UW-L now has three topical emphases for history majors



CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

Students study the history of cultural and social forces embodied in movements and organizations; art, literature, and film; areas of human experience including apparel, architecture, and culinary practices; and the various commercial media inundating our daily lives.



PUBLIC AND POLICY HISTORY

While professional historians may study a vast array of time periods, peoples, and topics, Public and Policy History is distinct in that it seeks to spread that research to broader audiences, and also to take as its subject of study those attempts to connect history to the people.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students study the fascinating phenomenon of religion from a variety of disciplinary perspectives from History to Sociology to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ists and Hmong-American immigrants to share about the war. The class showed Kollath “how history can be incredibly open-ended.” The primary sources help people reach their own conclusions, he notes.

In an upper level history course, Kollath was able to help document stories for the first time. For a class project he helped compile a series of oral histories about the environmental history of the Mississippi River, which contributed to a larger documentary on Mississippi River history for public radio. The interviews are part of UW-L's

renowned oral history collection housed at the Area Research Center in Murphy Library.

“It was a great experience to help create a project from scratch and contribute to the environmental history of the Mississippi River,” he says.

His education has helped shape his view of history and the importance of educating each other about what we know. “Get out there, share what you love, and engage the public,” he says. “That’s what we do at the center (UW Center for the Humanities), and we encourage students to do that too.”

‘HEAR, HERE!’



A new UW-L history class is about uncovering the untold, personal stories that make La Crosse's history rich.

UW-L Assistant Professor Ariel Beaujot will offer HIS 393 in fall 2014 and HIS 403 in spring 2015. The classes will show students and community members how to record, edit and package oral histories. In April 2015, the class will launch a location-based mobile phone system that documents downtown La Crosse history.

Students will erect street-level signs where people can see a toll-free number to access someone's story related to that particular location. The project “Hear, Here” will create a powerful and living example of local history in the community, says Beaujot.

“‘Hear, Here’ will demonstrate that we are all a part of history and that the stories we tell can inspire, entertain and inform,” says Susan Hessel, a community member signed up for the course.

Learn more about the course at:
<http://goo.gl/GcicFI>

MODERN MOM



JODI VANDENBERG-DAVES IS A TEACHER, AUTHOR AND MOTHER OF THREE: ALLISON, SYLVIA, 17, AND BRAD, 14. SHE EARNED HER DOCTORATE IN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IN 1995 AND HAS TAUGHT IN THE HISTORY AND WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENTS AT UW-L SINCE 1998.

Professor writes book on the history of motherhood

Professor Jodi Vandenberg-Daves celebrated Mother's Day 2014 with the release of her first book on motherhood.

Vandenberg-Daves, a professor of History and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, wrote "Modern Motherhood: An American History." The book — the first comprehensive history of motherhood in the U.S. — was released May 19 by Rutgers University Press.

The 344 pages explore the multiple and complex societal roles mothers have endured throughout history. Vandenberg-Daves shows how mothers have continued to

innovate new ways to combine labor force participation and domestic responsibilities. She follows their challenge to male expertise in the 1960s on issues from abortion rights to childbirth practices, to confinement of women to maternal roles.

"Being a mother and talking to other women — most find this a compelling topic," says Vandenberg-Daves. "They've absorbed a lot of conflicting messages about motherhood and want a deeper understanding."

Vandenberg-Daves says her interest in motherhood started when she became a mother in 1992. It was

fueled as she developed a course on the history of motherhood at UW-L. Since 1999, she has taught the popular class. She says students' questions have contributed to her continued research and understanding.

During a sabbatical in 2009, Vandenberg-Daves had time to synthesize the topic and realize the need for a comprehensive history. She had an immediate interest from publishers.

"I wanted to put mothers at the center of history and tell their untold stories," explains Vandenberg-Daves.



History Professor Earns Inaugural Yale University Fellowship

Professor Víctor M. Macías-González, History, received the 2014-2015 LGBT Studies Research Fellowship from Yale University. It is the first time the fellowship has been offered.

The fellowship offers scholars from any field who are pursuing research in lesbian and gay studies the vast faculty resources, manuscript archives and library collections available at Yale University. The scholars must live outside New Haven, Connecticut, where Yale is located.

Macías-González, who earned the 2013 Wisconsin Professor of the Year Award, plans to use the resources to study the connections between American homophile activists, American artists and intellectuals who lived in Mexico City and influenced same-sex-attracted men there. This is the subject of Macías-González's sabbatical research project.

Professor Macías-González also directs the college's Eagle Mentoring Program, which helps retain second-year historically under-represented students.

Macías-González will study collections housed in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. It houses a collection of rare homophile publications, as well as collections

of prominent gay American writers who traveled or lived in Mexico City. Macías-González will participate in the scholarly activities of the Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities and of the LGBT Studies Center at Yale.

The experience will impact not only his research, but also his teaching. Macías-González teaches a survey course on world history with a focus on the history of sexuality and also teaches an advanced course on Latin American Women, Gender and Sexuality.

The fellowship provides \$4,000, which is intended to pay for travel to and from New Haven and act as a living allowance during a month in residence there. Macías-González will be on a sabbatical leave from UW-L during spring 2015, and will research at Yale during this time.

EXPOSURE

Photographer's work remains popular

Unique photographs by Associate Professor of Art Linda Levinson continue to get international exposure.

Levinson, who has taught here since 2009, shot images during the Temenos screenings of Gregory Markopoulos's film "Eniaios" in Greece June 29-July 1, 2012. The event marked the third set of screenings of an 80-hour cycle of films left

completed but unprinted upon the filmmaker's death in 1992. The films are periodically shown outdoors in the mountains four hours from Athens.

"I have received a lot of positive feedback about the images," says Levinson. "I photographed it as if I were participating in the event rather than observing it."

The images, in color and black and white, provide great detail of the one-of-a-kind event. They were so stunning that a portfolio of Levinson's works appeared in the Millennium Film Journal, No. 59, an international publication for film scholars and enthusiasts.

UW-L supported Levinson's invitation to photograph the Temenos screenings in 2012 as part of





an International Development Fund Grant. A year later, she received a College of Liberal Studies Small Grant to edit exposures she took while at the event.

This isn't the first time the photos have caught the eye of international editors. Artforum magazine printed one of her Temenos photographs in 2012. Rebekah Rutkoff of City University in New York used many for a

2014 Society for Cinema Studies and Media Conference in Seattle. Oxford University Press has contracted to print one of the photos on the cover of P. Adams Sitney's forthcoming book, *The Cinema of Poetry*.



CLS FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION

FACULTY RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR TEACHING

SARA DOCAN-MORGAN, COMMUNICATION STUDIES

... joined the faculty in 2008 and teaches courses such as Interpersonal Communication, Research Methods, and the Senior Project in Communication. Described as an outstanding teacher, she teaches some of the hardest courses in the department and receives among the highest student evaluations of instruction scores. Docan-Morgan also received the 2014 Provost's Teaching Award.



MARIE MOELLER, ENGLISH

... arrived at UW-L in 2010 and regularly teaches courses such as College Writing, Technical Writing, and Writing for Management, Public Relations and the Professions. Moeller regularly receives excellent student evaluations. Students say Moeller offers them new perspectives and makes "dry" topics interesting. She recently revised the department's Professional and Technical Writing (PTW) minor, pursued partnerships with local and regional businesses to help place students as interns and employees, and serves as the sole advisor for approximately 40 PTW minors.



FACULTY RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR SERVICE

MAHRUQ KHAN, WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES

... is described by colleague Deb Hoskins as a stellar scholar, teacher and campus community member. There is

a strong interconnection between Khan's teaching, scholarship and service, all of which focus on Islam, Islamophobia, sexual orientation and gender.



FACULTY RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESEARCH/CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

Laurie Kinckman, Theatre Arts

... joined UW-L in fall 2009 and serves as production manager and stage manager for the Theatre Department. Kinckman's expertise is in arts administration and stage management, areas of study honed in the University of California, Irvine, M.F.A. program in Stage Management, as well as through working in professional performance companies such as Malashock Dance & Co. in San Diego. She has published a book and numerous peer-reviewed articles.



Heidi Morrison, History

... has been teaching at UW-L since 2009 and studies topics related to the Middle East, women and gender, Arabic autobiography, and childhood. Morrison writes about the history of childhood in cultures where the majority of the population is young, and also about nation building in late-colonial Egypt and in contemporary Palestine. Dr. Morrison has published two books, multiple peer-reviewed essays, and was a Fulbright scholar for ten months in the West Bank.



"CLS Excellence Awards are designed to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contribution made by faculty, staff and students in the areas of teaching, research, service, inclusive excellence and/or academic achievement."

COGNIZED

INSTRUCTIONAL ACADEMIC STAFF RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

MICHELLE COLLYAR, THEATRE ARTS ...



since 2009, Collyar has taught Theatre Appreciation and Theatre Foundations, along with serving as the Costume Lab Supervisor. She is being recognized for creative works and scholarship as a costume designer. Collyar has designed costumes and

makeup for eight university productions and built costumes for 35 productions.

BRUCE HANDTKE, ENGLISH ... has been here since 1990 and is being recognized for excellence in teaching. English Chair Susan Crutchfield describes him as “an invaluable member of our teaching community” and as someone who trusts students to achieve and as a faculty member who respects students.



and as someone who trusts students to achieve and as a faculty member who respects students.

CLASSIFIED STAFF RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

JUDY KING, MODERN LANGUAGES ... is described by colleagues as “kind,” “patient” and “egalitarian.” Dorian Dorado, Spanish Language faculty, says King “performs outstanding work” for one of the “most diverse academic units on campus.” King’s duties range from administrative paperwork, to budgeting, developing brochures



for each language program, to coordinating logistics for visiting scholars.

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Provost Teaching Excellence Winners

UW-L RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING WITH THE SECOND ANNUAL PROVOST TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN MAY. A TOTAL OF 400 NOMINATIONS WERE NARROWED TO SIX WINNERS, WHICH INCLUDED THREE FACULTY FROM CLS.



SAMUEL COCKS, PHILOSOPHY, teaches Asian Philosophy, 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy and Environmental Philosophy. His favorite part of teaching involves seeing students become excited or fascinated by the ideas, and

then reaching the point where they are able to apply them to a variety of complex topics. He also enjoys the sense of community that often develops in the classroom.



SARA DOCAN-MORGAN, COMMUNICATION STUDIES, teaches courses in research methods, interpersonal communication, and race and culture. Docan-Morgan says she always knew teaching was her calling. Her favorite part of

teaching is building relationships with students. “To see them grow intellectually and emotionally, both throughout our time together and after they graduate, is so rewarding.”



JÖRG VIANDEN, STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION, typically teaches History of Higher Education, Administration of Higher Education, Higher Education and Student Affairs Assessment, and capstone writing courses. Vianden enjoys seeing students create community in the classroom based on personal and professional respect, which turns into life-long friendships. He also enjoys when students critically interrogate sources, viewpoints or institutional problems, and arrive at their own well-founded argument. They notice they have gained critical thinking skills in the process.

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Karin Johnson Earns Top CLS Honor



This year's top senior in the college earned three majors: public administration, political science and English rhetoric. Karin Johnson's research included political language, civic engagement and treatment of subjugated populations. Johnson was named the college's new, outstanding alum and received the John E. Magerus Award for the Outstanding

Graduating Senior from the College of Liberal Studies.

As a freshman Johnson was appointed to the La Crosse County Board and kept her seat by election as a sophomore. She served as the youngest-ever vice chair of the Health and Human Services Board and chaired the Family Policy Board Executive Committee.

Johnson served as communications director for two successful political campaigns. She interned with Fulcrum Publishing, Minnesota's Central Corridor Light Rail Project, and LTK Engineering Services. She is a graduate of Emerge, a training program for women political candidates.

Johnson has a passion for bettering lives of the underrepresented. After graduation she planned to enter public policy in Minnesota and pursue graduate studies.

Q Who were your favorite professors?

A Marie Moeller and Jo Arney. I was challenged in Marie Moeller's technical and professional writing classes to think critically about the implications of exchanges we make every day. Those skills have transferred into many different areas of study and especially my interest in analyzing political rhetoric.

I met Jo Arney my sophomore year taking an introduction to public administration class. She encouraged me to become a public administration major by helping me recognize the far-reaching strength of good public policy.

Q What was your favorite class?

A Public Budgetary Processes. It was extremely difficult, but helped me understand a critical part of the public process.

Q If you had the chance, what class would you take over?

A I took a seminar class on elections during the November 2012 election cycle. I think civility in politics and having tough discussions across party lines is extremely important. It gave me a lot of hope for the future of politics to be part of a group of bright, young people on both sides of the aisle willing to constructively understand each other's political differences.

THE JOHN E. MAGERUS AWARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES ...

recognizes academic accomplishments, leadership, and involvement in the campus and community. The award is named for Magerus, who retired in 2004 after 28 years of teaching and serving as an administrator for the college. Recipients, honored during spring commencement, receive \$1,000.

FOUR NEW SCHOLARSHIPS



CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY TO PROVIDE MORE FUNDS FOR STUDENTS



Four of the more than 40 new scholarships awarded for the first time this fall will directly benefit CLS students.

The new funds established during the past year through the UW-L Foundation as part of the "Share the La Crosse Experience" campaign included:

1. JOHN AND ARDIS CLEVELAND FUND:

Faculty emeritus John Cleveland and his wife established this endowment to support continuing students majoring in psychology who have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA and have financial need.

2. MAX WINTER MEMORIAL FUND IN ART:

Provides two awards: one to a student with photography minor and the second with an art major. Academic achievement, personal qualities and financial need are considerations for the awards. Accountancy faculty Ken Winter and his wife, Lynn, established this endowment in memory of their son, Max.

3. ARCHAEOLOGY FUND:

Supports incoming or continuing students majoring in archaeology. Financial need must be considered.

4. MICHAEL ABLAN LAW FIRM FUND:

La Crosse attorney Mike Ablan established this annual scholarship that supports a continuing student who has an interest in the legal profession. A 3.0 GPA is required, along with an essay.

The "Share the Experience" campaign has a \$15 million goal. Categories for establishing funds include merit-based, need-based, restricted and graduate students.

Overall, more than 500 students were awarded nearly \$500,000 for the upcoming school year during the Student Scholarship and Award Reception April 28. Find out more about scholarships at uwlfoundation.org

INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP?

To start a new or contribute to an existing scholarship, contact Jeff Meyer at 608.785.8502 or jmeyer@uwlax.edu

Find out more at www.uwlax.edu/scholarship-campaign

HOLLIE NYSETH BREHM, '08, PICTURED WITH A RESCUER AND HIS CHILDREN IN 2012. "RESCUER" IS THE TERM USED FOR PEOPLE WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE OTHERS DURING THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE.



TOP THINKER

Recent alum's research aims to help predict genocide

When Hollie Nyseth Brehm, '08, came to campus, she had her sights set on medical school. But her life took a sharp turn after taking an introductory sociology course.

Today Nyseth Brehm's sociology research has landed her on the nation's "30 Top Thinkers Under

30." The list includes the top 30 young people across the country that Pacific Standard magazine predicts will have a serious impact on the social, political and economic issues it covers.

Nyseth Brehm, 28, who recently defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Minnesota, studies how genocide

is predictable and may even be prevented.

THE ROAD TO DISCOVERY

Nyseth Brehm recalls becoming fascinated with sociology at UW-L. One assignment in Sociology Professor Enilda Delgado's class was to examine the different



HOLLIE NYSETH BREHM, '08, TALKS WITH A SURVIVOR OF A MASSACRE AT A CHURCH IN EASTERN RWANDA IN 2012. MANY RWANDANS HID IN CHURCHES DURING THE GENOCIDE IN 1994, THINKING THEY WOULD BE SAFE, SO MULTIPLE MASSACRES OCCURRED IN CHURCHES. THIS SURVIVOR WAS A YOUNG CHILD THEN. HIS MOM WAS KILLED, BUT HE AND HIS SISTER ESCAPED. THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN NEAR MASS GRAVES; THE COLOR OF REMEMBRANCE IN RWANDA IS PURPLE, SO THE MASS GRAVES ARE DECORATED WITH PURPLE FLOWERS.

patterns in boys and girls toys on store shelves.

“I had never really thought about why boys’ toys are blue. It’s so simple, but it’s an example of how we socially construct our world, which is taken for granted every day,” says Nyseth Brehm. “Learning what sociology is and its implications changed my entire trajectory in terms of what I wanted to do.”

After graduating, Nyseth Brehm attended the University of Minnesota where she became interested in studying why genocides occur and how they unfold. She analyzed the preconditions of genocide in about 150 countries during the last 50 years.

“I ran into her faculty in Minnesota and their statements to me have been — ‘Can you please send me more students from UW-L like Hollie,’” says Delgado. “I feel enormous pride for her and I think this validates that

UW-L’s program in sociology is extremely strong in preparing its students.”

Delgado and Nyseth Brehm have been in touch since she graduated.

“Hollie has a special place in my heart and I couldn’t be happier for her,” says Delgado. “If anyone can change the world, it’s Hollie.”

CHANGING THE WORLD

For Nyseth Brehm, changing the world isn’t too much of a stretch. She’s already played some prominent humanitarian roles. She has worked with the Rwandan government’s genocide prevention commission and is doing an assessment of the country’s local courts that tried genocide suspects. She co-founded a Minneapolis-based school for Somali refugees and has served as chair of the school

board for the past three years. She also volunteers for non-profits dedicated to human rights.

Ultimately, Nyseth Brehm wants to help understand early warning signs of genocide and inform genocide prevention efforts. She hopes to one day be the United Nations special adviser on genocide.

She looks forward to teaching others about the subject that she fell in love with as an undergraduate as an assistant professor at Ohio State University in the fall. She’d like to encourage a little sociological imagination — like Professor Delgado did for her.

“I want students to question everything — why things are the way they are — whether a child’s toy or genocide,” she notes.

creative imperatives A SUCCESS

Next year's event scheduled for March 1-4, 2015

A spring festival showcased the innovative and thought-provoking work of CLS students, faculty, staff and distinguished guests. Creative Imperatives was held on campus April 13-16.

The program showcased a range of events that contribute to the cultural life the campus and local community, says School of Arts and Communication Director Julia Johnson. "We believe that the arts and communication are

integral to thinking with creativity and flexibility — qualities that help ensure success in every profession and every life experience," says Johnson.

Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Laurie Kinckman, festival coordinator, says attendance for the first-time event was good for major public performances, as well as several of the "Watch-Them-Work" sessions. She says the goal was to put the festival onto the campus and La Crosse area radar. "We

strove to showcase all of our featured guests equally and to invite the campus into our classrooms and studios," she explains.

Kinckman says next year's event March 1-4, 2015, will feature different guests with a more "curated overall approach."

"Last year's focus was a general celebration of creativity," she notes. "Next year we are cultivating a through-line about storytelling in creative work and planning

CREATIVE IMPERATIVES MISSION IS TO ...

- Promote the creative/scholarly works of faculty, students, and staff in the UW-L School of Arts and Communication.
- Invigorate dialogue about arts and communication with regionally, nationally, and internationally renowned artists and scholars.
- Showcase innovative and thought-provoking performances, presentations, lectures, and exhibitions for the greater La Crosse and university communities.

www.uwlax.edu/Creative-Imperatives

events and activities to showcase this in all four departments of the School of Arts & Communication.”

Alumni can offer a valuable perspective about life after graduation during the festival, says Kinckman. “Whether this takes the form of a lecture or discussion about their life or inclusion in an exhibit or perfor-

mance to showcase how their talents have grown, it is a chance to celebrate their successes and allow them to give back to the place where they got their start,” she explains.

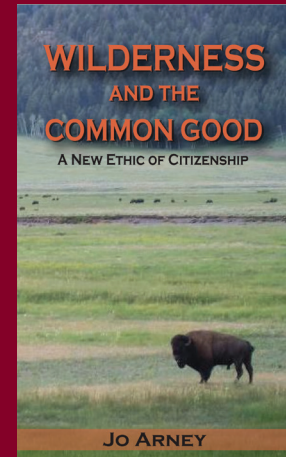
Last spring’s festival included alum Vince Muehlbauer, ’03. “We hope to find more opportunities to involve alumni as the festival grows,” says Kinckman.



CREATIVE IMPERATIVES WAS MADE POSSIBLE . . .

through the work and collaboration of the faculty, students and staff in the School of Arts and Communication. The steering committee consists of faculty from four departments: Kate Hawkes, Art; Dena Huisman, Communication Studies; Tom Seddon, Music; and Laurie Kinckman, Theatre Arts.

PRESERVING THE WILD



A new book by UW-L Associate Professor of Political Science Jo Arney examines underlying values and motivations of citizens who wish to preserve wild spaces. “Wilderness and the Common Good,” to be released in October by Fulcrum Publishing, investigates the symbiotic relationships between wilderness, education and citizenship. Citizens debate the purpose of wilderness, she says, but they share a common view that wilderness ought to exist. The challenge for wilderness advocates today not only lies in convincing Congress that certain areas should be designated as wild, but also in regenerating dialogue about why wilderness areas should be preserved.

Get the book at
www.fulcrum-books.com

AND THE AWARD GOES TO ...

COREY SORENSON, '03, EARNS RADA RECOGNITION

“Chicago Fire.” “Law and Order SVU.” “Numbers.” “NCIS.” “Southland.” Those are just five of the major TV shows in which Corey Sorenson has performed. But he’s known for much more than a working actor in Los Angeles, the most competitive acting marketplace in the world.

“Corey is more than that (an actor),” says Jason Kim, who has served as Sorenson’s manager for five years with Lovett Management. “His creativity, drive and talent are impressive.”

Sorenson shares his love of acting with others. He’s known for his dedication and passion in the classroom at Riverside City College.

“His determination and diligence not only allows him to be one of the most talented, committed and dedicated faculty I have ever encountered, but a competitive one professionally as well,” notes Jodi Julian, chair of the college’s Department of Theatre Arts.

Sorenson interests don’t end there. He has written, directed and produced plays and films. And, he’s an acting, voice and speech coach.

“I have taken the wonderful foundation that I received at UW-L and have built on it exponentially,” explains Sorenson. “I’ve been fortunate enough to both make significant achievements in my field, and also give back to the field by way of teaching and coaching.”



COREY SORENSON

- Accomplished career as a professional actor with performances in more than 50 plays nationwide, numerous TV appearances, films, web series, voiceovers and commercials.
- Network TV acting includes roles on “Chicago Fire,” “General Hospital,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “As the World Turns,” “NCIS” and more.
- Screenwriter; producer; director.
- Lecturer in theater and dance; adjunct professor of voice and theater; acting instructor; voice and acting coach.
- Master’s of fine arts in acting from Temple University; certified in Fitzmaurice Voicework; bachelor’s in theater from UW-L, 2003.

To learn more about the Distinguished Alumni Awards go to www.uwlalumni.org



FAR LEFT: UW-L STUDENT INTERNS WITH JEFF REILAND, CENTER, UW-L ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPIST AT GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM.

LEFT: UW-L STUDENT CORINA COLON PREPARES FOR AN EVENING WITH CHILDREN AS PART OF THE TRIPLE P PROGRAM.

A POSITIVE IMPACT

Students help launch local child program

UW-L students have teamed up with a Gundersen Health System family therapist to help build stronger families in the area.

Jeff Reiland, UW-L adjunct professor of psychology and child and family therapist at Gundersen, recruited the students from various programs to help him with a growing struggle he sees among area families.

“Parents, more than ever, struggle with how to relate to children because there are so many more distractions,” he explains. “Families are increasingly plugged in, but disconnected from each other.”

In fall 2012 Reiland launched Triple P — Positive Parenting Program — for parents whose children have diagnoses such as ADHD or Oppositional Defiant Disorder who are struggling with behavioral or emotional difficulties. However, Reiland was disap-

“Parents, more than ever, struggle with how to relate to children because there are so many more distractions. Families are increasingly plugged in, but disconnected from each other.”

JEFF REILAND,
UW-L ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
OF PSYCHOLOGY

pointed when many dropped out because they had no childcare during program hours.

That’s when he recruited UW-L student volunteers who would join him on the quest to build better families. Eighteen interns volunteered to develop and lead

child programming alongside parent programs offered through Gundersen.

“These students have helped eliminate the biggest barrier to parent education,” says Reiland.

The college students provide not only childcare, but also non-violent, non-competitive games and activities centered around themes such as emotion recognition and regulation, kindness, friendship and problem solving.

In addition to Triple P, a new program is available this year called Parents Raising Resilient Children. The prevention program is open to parents interested in learning effective tools and strategies to raise healthy and resilient children.

“It’s rewarding to work in the La Crosse community and see the change locally,” says senior Alycia Brun, a psychology major and intern with the program.

S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G BEE

An eclectic group of six teenagers vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime took the stage for this year's SummerStage production. Professor Mary Leonard directed the musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Leonard describes the play as silly, but also offering up a lot of "heart and soul." To prepare for the play, actors watched the end of the real national spelling bee on TV and saw the intense process the spellers go through from cramming for the bee to the devastation of elimination. The cast included: Callie Boydston, Lily Cornwell, Olivia Dubiel, Andrew Helman, David Holmes, Quinn Masterson, Aamer Mian, Maddie Napolski, Nirvan Patnaik, Seth Steidl, Kara Shultz and Lewis Youngren.





CLS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Two graduate students and 28 undergrads were honored at the annual CLS Evening of Excellence in April. See undergraduate students who were honored at http://issuu.com/uw-lacrosse/docs/cls_awards_2014_web

CLS GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



BRETT SCHIEVE

STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION, JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

... is a second-year online master's student who spent the last two years as the International Studies Program Coordinator at the University of Dubuque and recently accepted a position as the Cultural Engagement and Study Away Program Manager at the University of Minnesota-Rochester. Schieve, '14, exhibits a commitment to international education academically and professionally. Schieve's Applied Research Project enabled the University of Dubuque to implement an orientation program for students studying abroad. SAA Chair Jodie Rindt says Schieve "is the type of student who we will be proud to say is a graduate of the SAA Department and UW-La Crosse."

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE



CARRIE BERO

STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION, LA CROSSE

... has had a graduate career full of academic and professional success. Bero, '14, held a cumulative GPA of 4.0. She was actively involved on campus as a graduate assistant for the Office of Multicultural Student Services and as a graduate intern in the UW-L Athletics Department. Bero worked with the Campus Climate Office as a diversity awareness intern. Bero completed an internship at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, and accepted a position at UW-Madison in the College of Business as compass program manager.



SARAH JACOBSON

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, FRANKSVILLE, WISCONSIN

... led her graduate cohort with a 3.96 GPA, she presented a capstone project at the NASP 2014 Annual Convention and participated in an assessment of oral reading fluency in local school districts. In addition to strong academic and community service, Jacobson completed a practicum as an emergency school psychologist. According to Program Director Robert Dixon, Jacobson's "positive disposition, strong academic skills, and adept interpersonal skills ... make the type of school psychologist that I am proud to say UW-L had a significant hand in creating."

TYLER HEINZ, '10, DOUBLE MAJORED IN MARKETING AND SPANISH. HE ALSO RAN TRACK AND CROSS COUNTRY AT UW-L.



RUNNING (IS) A BUSINESS

ALUM LAUNCHES LA CROSSE RUNNING SHOP

Tyler Heinz, '10, says throughout his liberal arts education he was encouraged to think not of just of what exists, but what could be — and how it could be better.

Heinz got the idea to start a business surrounding the sport of running while taking a business law class. He had to complete a simple business plan and decided to base it on his life-long passion of running. But when professors told him the plan made a lot of sense, Heinz began to think about it as a potential business venture.

His original plan called for a shop in his hometown of Eau Claire. But after exploring the market more, he saw La Crosse also had a need.

In March 2014, Heinz opened Grand Bluff Running in downtown

La Crosse. He sells running shoes and other specialty running products such as tools to prevent running injury, running apparel and reflective vests. Heinz, who has more than a decade of competitive running experience, and his staff share knowledge and advice about running to customers. They have a free, slow-motion video gait analysis to help customers find a shoe that fits their stride.

Heinz hopes his shop will create a community revolving around the sport of running.



GRAND BLUFF RUNNING

509 Main St., downtown La Crosse | 608.782.8227

www.grandbluffrunning.com

A MAKEOVER

A \$900,000 RENOVATION IS PLANNED FOR THE ANNETT RECITAL HALL IN 2015-16



Students and staff will soon sing praises of a newly renovated campus recital hall. The UW System Capital Planning and Budget Office has approved a \$900,000 renovation of Annett Recital Hall in the Center for the Arts. It's the first major remodeling of the 285-seat recital hall since being built in 1973.

The project will completely renovate the 40-year-old recital hall,

replacing lighting and electrical infrastructure; upgrading the room's mechanical HVAC system; replacing wall and ceiling finishes, along with floor finishes and fixed seating; and installing new educational technology.

UW System Capital Planning has a \$15 million budget for the biennium for projects. The fund received 49 requests totaling \$28 million for

the 2013-15 fiscal year and funded 32 projects across the System.

Planning and design should take place during the 2014-15 fiscal year with renovation in 2015-16. The project will be somewhat similar to the \$1.3 million renovation of Graff Main Hall Auditorium completed this summer.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT GROUPS, LIKE THE UW-L WIND ENSEMBLE PICTURED HERE IN ANNETT RECITAL HALL, WILL SOON BE PERFORMING IN A RENOVATED VENUE. ANNETT RECITAL HALL IS SET FOR A \$900,000 RENOVATION IN 2015-16.