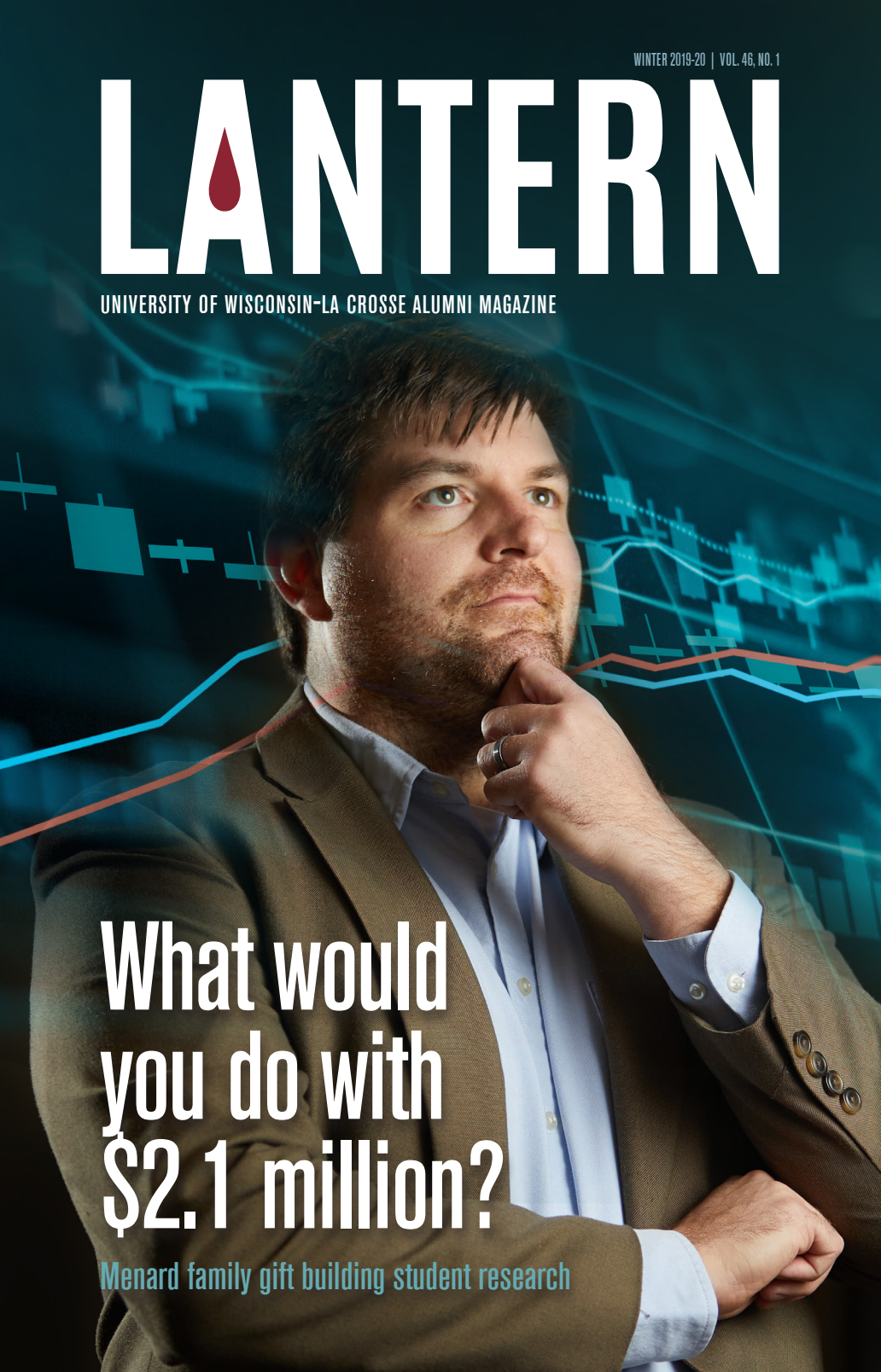


WINTER 2019-20 | VOL. 46, NO. 1

# LANTERN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a brown suit jacket over a light blue shirt, is shown in a thoughtful pose with his hand on his chin. The background is dark with glowing blue and red lines representing financial charts and graphs.

What would  
you do with  
\$2.1 million?

Menard family gift building student research

# FEATURES

**On the cover:** UWL Associate Professor of Economics Adam Hoffer is spearheading the Menard Family Midwest Initiative for Economic Engagement and Research, thanks to a \$2.1 million gift from the Menard family. The initiative will provide students more opportunities to learn economics through hands-on experiences and community engagement. (See page 16)



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## ALUMS ENTER WALL OF FAME



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## APPLE GUIDER

# LANTERN

UW-LA CROSSE ALUMNI MAGAZINE WINTER 2019-20 | VOL. 46, NO. 1

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UWL Murphy Library archives all past issues of the Alumnus/Lantern magazine. See: [digitalcollections.uwlax.edu](http://digitalcollections.uwlax.edu)

## CLASS NOTES ONLINE

Go to [www.uwlax.edu/alumni](http://www.uwlax.edu/alumni) for complete class notes each quarter. Click on "News," then "Class Notes." The UWL 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 quarterly posting.



An open letter from the Menard family

# CELEBRATING THE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AT UWL

**A**nyone who knows the Menard family knows how proud we are of our Midwestern heritage and the principles it's instilled in us. Chief among those is a dedication to hard work and our belief in the power of education to unlock the extraordinary human potential that lies within all of us.

We believe that big dreams can come true for those who are willing to work for them. In 1958 we started transitioning from farming and teaching to build our home improvement business from scratch, building it, as has been reported, "one two-by-four at a time." Since then, Menards' reputation for offering superior value has led to success far beyond our expectations.

We want to share in that success by investing in the future of the communities where our employees, customers and business partners live, learn and work. Our hope is to empower as many people as possible to have the opportunity our family did to use their innate abilities to learn, contribute and succeed.

When one person succeeds, we all succeed. By providing opportunities that help people realize their potential, we drive progress, because the more people who are creating value for society, the stronger we all become. It's a win-win all around.

How do we do that? We think one good place to start is with higher education.

To tackle the tough issues facing this country, that are holding so many people back, requires big, bold ideas. And where do we find those? One place is at universities.

From the beginning of time the one constant in the world is change. Thanks to the technological revolution we are all living through — and benefiting from — today's rate of disruption seems faster than ever, and it spares no one. We don't even cut two-by-fours like we used to.

To stay relevant, all of us need to embrace learning and new ideas so that we can create an America where nobody gets left behind.



## MOVING ON UP

UWL remains Wisconsin's top-ranked public university among peers, according to U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges listing. The popular magazine also lists UWL as the No. 3 public university among Best Regional Universities in the Midwest — up from No. 4 a year ago. It's the 19th year in a row UWL has remained the state's top-ranked comprehensive campus in the UW System and among the Midwest's top 4.



## NEW ERA FOR WITTICH HALL

The \$26.7 million re-do of Wittich Hall continues. The complete interior renovation — opening up skylights and more — will create an iconic, modern new home for the College of Business Administration. Doors should reopen in May 2020. Wittich, built in 1916 as the original physical education building, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.





# A CIVIL AFFAIR

America's Foremost Political Columnist George F. Will spoke on campus Oct. 17 as part of the Political Science and Public Administration Department's Civility in a Partisan Era Series. Will, whose newspaper column has been syndicated by The Washington Post since 1974, spoke on "Civility, Partisanship and Conservatism in America." The presentation was funded by the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership.

CIVILITY  
IN A PARTISAN ERA



## THERAPEUTIC REC EARNS NATIONAL KUDOS

UWL's Therapeutic Recreation Program has received the American Therapeutic Recreation Association Excellence in Education Award. The honor goes to a clinical agency or higher education institution distinguishing itself through outstanding contributions to the recreation therapy and therapeutic recreation profession. Nationally, only one program is cited annually.



More than 80 alumni and friends headed downtown for the Big Birthday Bash's "Happy Birthday Hour Pub Crawl" Friday, Oct. 25. Along with Big A's, the stops included John's Bar, The Helm and The Bodega.

# IT WAS



Past presidents of the UWL Alumni Association headed up a fundraising campaign during the Big Birthday Bash. The \$279,780 raised — well above the \$250,000 goal — allows the Association to offer additional scholarships, enhanced opportunities for relationship building between students and alumni, and increased programming to keep alumni connected to UWL and each other.

## Alumni Association's 50th a success

They celebrated 50 great years. They kicked off the next 50 with a bang. More than 200 alumni and friends took part in the UWL Alumni Association's "Big Birthday Bash" Oct. 25-26.

The Association's past presidents set a \$250,000 fundraising goal to secure the organization's future. During the event, Alumni Association Executive Director Janie Morgan, '85 & '86, unveiled the campaign's total: \$279,780.

"I was ecstatic about surpassing our goal by almost \$30,000," says Morgan. "With these gracious gifts we assure the Association will remain strong well into the future."

With the campaign, the Association can offer additional scholarships, more opportunities for building relationships between students and alumni, along with added programming connecting alumni to campus and each other.

Other events included hundreds of alumni from across the country joining the "Maroon Wave," wearing UWL gear and sharing it on social media with the tag #UWLProud. Alumni artists shared their work in a University Art Gallery exhibition, six were inducted into the UWL Wall of Fame, more than 80 took part in a pub crawl downtown and others did community service.

The Alumni Association plans events throughout the year. Find out what's going on at: [uwla.edu/alumni](http://uwla.edu/alumni).

# A BASH!





# New Alumni Association Board Members



*Kate Constalie, '12*



*Ryan John Crain, '18*



*Deb (Wichman) Mirasola, '87*



*Leanne (Malgren) Poellinger, '86*



## Coach Taylor being remembered

Basketball Coach Rollo Taylor, '56, loved UWL. He had a special place in his heart for former students, players and coaches. And they had a special place in their heart for him.

Many are keeping his legacy alive by supporting the newly formed Rollo Taylor Endowment for Men's Basketball, which will fund coaching excellence, recruiting efforts and team travel. Additionally, The Rollo Taylor Outstanding Freshman Basketball Award has been created to recognize freshman student-athletes

showing leadership, scholarship, character and basketball ability.

Above, Rollo's wife, Kay Taylor, presented UWL Men's Basketball Coach Kent Dernbach with a plaque that will list freshman award recipients.

To donate, visit [uwlax.edu/foundation](http://uwlax.edu/foundation) or email [foundation@uwlax.edu](mailto:foundation@uwlax.edu). A spaghetti supper fundraiser is being planned following the Saturday, Feb. 22, game against UW-Eau Claire. Get details at: [uwlax.edu/alumni/connect/calendar-of-events](http://uwlax.edu/alumni/connect/calendar-of-events).



# Garding Against Cancer

UWL Men's Basketball Coach Kent Dernbach, left, and Badgers Head Coach Greg Gard may have been on opposite sides of the ball during an exhibition game at the Kohl Center in November. But they joined forces earlier in September to battle cancer with Garding Against Cancer. The fundraiser on campus raised \$225,000 given to Mayo Clinic Health System—Franciscan Healthcare, Gundersen Health System, Sparta Area Cancer Support, and the La Crosse County Health Department for skin cancer prevention services, cooling caps to reduce hair loss during chemotherapy, and patient care financial assistance. Garding Against Cancer also allocated \$25,000 for research at UW Carbone in memory of a Sparta businessman.

## 2019 FALL SPORTS

| TEAM                  | WIAC FINISH | NCAA III FINISH    |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY   | 1ST         | 7TH IN NCAA III    |
| WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY | 2ND         | 19TH IN NCAA III   |
| FOOTBALL              | 3RD         | DNQ IN NCAA III    |
| GOLF                  | 6TH         | NCAA III IN SPRING |
| SOCCER                | 4TH         | DNQ IN NCAA III    |
| VOLLEYBALL            | 6TH         | DNQ IN NCAA III    |
| WOMEN'S TENNIS        | 3RD         | NCAA III IN SPRING |



Six former student-athletes were inducted into the university's Wall of Fame Oct. 26. The wall honors former athletes and coaches for exceptional ability and school tradition enhancement. This fall's inductees included, from left, Carlene (Empanger) Knier, '06; Derek Toshner, '04; Caitlin (Schetter) Walgrave, '09; Mackenzie (Hunter) Stutzman, '09 & '11; Jenna (Houle) Peterson, '08; and Jon Lauscher, '94.

# Alums enter Wall of Fame

## **Carlene (Empanger) Knier, '06** **Athlete: 2002-06**

- four letters in swimming; nine NCAA III All-America honors.
- WIAC All-Time Team; 10 individual league titles.
- helped UWL earn three WIAC championships, 2003-05; four top-20 NCAA III finishes.
- UWL record in the 500 (5:01.51), 1,000 (10:39.80) and 1,650 (17:35.85) freestyle.
- bachelor's in chemistry.

## **Jon Lauscher, '94** **Athlete: 1988-91**

- three All-WIAC honors while playing football.
- 1991 American Football Coaches Association All-America First Team.
- helped UWL earn two WIAC championships (1989, 1991) and 1991 NCAA III playoff berth.
- eighth in UWL career tackles (248).
- bachelor's in community health education.

## **Jenna (Houle) Peterson, '08** **Athlete: 2003-06**

- letters in gymnastics; six National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) All-America awards.
- two national titles on the balance beam (2005, 2006); second place in 2004.
- three-time All-America on the floor exercise; second in 2004 and 2005, fifth in 2006.
- UWL record on the balance beam.
- bachelor's in exercise sport science: physical education teacher education, adaptive physical education concentration.

## **Mackenzie (Hunter) Stutzman, '09 & '11** **Athlete: 2005-09**

- four All-WIAC honors in basketball.
- one of two at UWL to earn four all-conference honors.
- 2008-09 WIAC Player of the Year.
- two-time All-America selection; 2008-09 Women's Basketball Coaches Association and 2008-09 D3hoops.com Honorable Mention All-America teams.
- bachelor's in sport management; master's in human performance.

## **Derek Toshner, '04** **Athlete: 2001-04**

- four letters in track & field; WIAC All-Time Team; 11 career league titles.
- helped lead UWL to eight NCAA III championships — indoor and outdoor titles in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- helped UWL run to seven WIAC championships — four outdoor (2001, 2002, 2003, 2004); three indoor (2002, 2003, 2004).
- 10 career NCAA III All-America accolades, four indoor and six outdoor.
- bachelor's in exercise sport science-fitness.

## **Caitlin (Schetter) Walgrave, '09** **Athlete: 2006-09**

- four letters in track & field.
- helped lead UWL to six WIAC championships — three indoor (2007, 2008, 2009) and three outdoor (2007, 2008, 2009).
- two long jump indoor national titles (2008, 2009) and one outdoor (2009).
- 2008 and 2009 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) Indoor Field Athlete of the Year; 2009 USTFCCA Indoor and Outdoor Field Scholar Athlete of the Year.
- bachelor's in communication studies.

WANT MORE UWL  
ATHLETICS STATS?  
NO PROBLEM! GO TO  
**UWLATHLETICS.COM**

**A** former Eagles Women's Basketball standout took her basketball game overseas.

MaKenzie Miller, who earned a bachelor's in health and physical education in May 2019, headed to Australia to play professionally for the Latrobe City Energy in Traralgon, a Melbourne suburb. Miller then went to Denmark with the Lemvig Basketball Club before returning to Australia to play with the Northeast Bushrangers of Wangarratta, Victoria. After taking a year off for family, Miller hopes to play at least one more season. Australia's season is opposite of the U.S.

Miller is keeping busy as assistant women's basketball coach at UWL. "Coach (Karen) Middleton asked me if I would be interested in working with the team while I was back," says Miller. "Obviously any opportunity to be around basketball and UWL was a big yes."

Playing overseas has been an incredible experience both personally and athletically, notes Miller. "One big difference in Australia and Denmark from the U.S. is sport isn't a school-functioned activity. We have school sports teams here, but overseas, sports is a club activity."

Miller used her degree to work in an Australian school.

"It was incredible to be able to experience a language barrier," says Miller.

Miller maintained a 3.60 GPA as a four-time member of the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll. She was on the UWL Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and volunteered with the Motor Development Program and Adult Fitness Program. She was also involved with the Adapted Sports League in La Crosse area high schools.

Named WIAC Player of the Week, a league-high three times in 2016-17, Miller led UWL with 11 double-doubles. She recorded double-doubles in nine straight games, finishing with 22 career double-doubles.

# Star hoopster

**MILLER PLAYS PROFESSIONALLY IN AUSTRALIA**



## Seven decades of residence life

Remember living on campus? Today, 10 of the 14 residence halls in UWL's 110-year history still stand and house thousands.

### Where did you call home?

Halls and the years they opened.

White ('62)

Laux ('64)

Wentz ('64)

Angell ('66)

Coate ('66)

Hutchison ('67)

Sanford ('67)

Drake ('72)

Reuter (re-established in '05)

Eagle ('11)

Baird, Trowbridge and

Wilder halls have closed.

## Seven interesting residence hall facts:

- 1) The first residence Hall – Wilder – opened in 1951.
- 2) In 1987, it cost \$450 to live on campus for a semester. Today, it's \$2,000.
- 3) In 1987, campus housed 2,883 residents compared to 3,313 in 2019.
- 4) Until 1972, res-halls were gender-segregated. Men stayed in halls named after influential male faculty, while women stayed in halls named after influential female faculty. All halls became mixed-gender in 1985.
- 5) For many years, students built their own bunks. Today, bunks are provided.
- 6) When residence halls first opened, only double rooms – two students to a room – were offered. Today, there are triple rooms, quad rooms, apartments and suites.
- 7) Fall 2014 had the largest number of residents: 3,648.

Students catching up outside Wilder Hall in 1952.

# HOME, SWEET DORM

Older residence halls are undergoing renovations. Take a peek at what they look like today: [uwla.edu/reslife](http://uwla.edu/reslife).



# SUE'S FAVES

SUE WHITE, '85 | DIRECTOR,  
RECREATIONAL SPORTS

First year at UWL: 1984 as grad-assistant; full time, 1985 Major: Master's in human performance

### **Favorite activity to lead:**

I love to give tours of the REC to families touring campus with their child. It's fun to show them our facility and share all we offer. They are always amazed the REC is over 20 years old. It's really fun to see their reaction to the new fitness center.

### **Favorite spot at UWL:**

The REC, of course. I love to go upstairs to the track and stand on the first landing. I can pretty much see all of the activity spaces within the REC and watch students having fun.

### **Favorite pastime when not working:**

I love to be outside. I enjoy hiking, biking and gardening. Inside, I love to watch old sitcoms

shows like "Leave It to Beaver," "Andy Griffith," Hallmark movies, the Packers and Brewers.

### **Favorite place to visit:**

North Shore in Minnesota. It is so beautiful with all the hiking trails, waterfalls and state parks. Every season is beautiful whether I'm hiking or snowshoeing.

### **BTW**

After 34 years I will be retiring in June. I have been truly blessed to have worked with so many outstanding students and colleagues over the years. I treasure all the relationships and memories I have made.

# MO'S FAVES

MO McALPINE, '91 | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, RECREATIONAL SPORTS

First year at UWL: 1990 as a graduate assistant; full time, 1991 Major: Master's in human performance

## **Favorite activity to lead:**

One of my most favorite parts of my job is what I call "life laps." It's an opportunity to walk around the REC track or campus with student employees to talk about what is going on in school, work and, most importantly, life. I love hearing their stories and learning about their successes, challenges and families. It's the life laps, experiences and relationships with students and co-workers who make my job so enjoyable and often lead to lifelong friendships.

## **Favorite spot at UWL:**

The REC lobby where there is 360 degrees of positivity! While turning full circle, I can see children as young as 1 on the Campus Child Center playground to over 90 on court 4 (La Crosse Exercise and Health Program), with college students in between who are active and

having fun exercising their bodies and minds. The lobby is also where I interact with our incredible student employees. I feel blessed to "work" every day in a beautiful facility full of positive attitudes, awesome people, fun, and lots of sunshine.

## **Favorite pastime when not working:**

I love hanging out with my family and friends. They make my heart happy!

## **Favorite place to visit:**

Okoboji, Iowa. My family is fortunate to have a cottage on Lake Okoboji that has been home to many wonderful memories. Most precious is the loving memory of my dear mom who found the lake her favorite family place and often said, "Hip, hip hooray, it's an Okoboji day!"

## **BTW**

I still love Taco Bell and Mountain Dew.





+11,00.00

**THANK YOU,  
MENARD FAMILY!**



# big money

## Menard family \$2.1 million gift will give students hands-on experiences in economics

**T**he \$2.1 million gift to UWL this fall is much more than the university's largest single donation. It's a "game-changer" for faculty and students in the College of Business Administration — and the region.

The gift establishes the Menard Family Midwest Initiative for Economic Engagement and Research. It will provide students more opportunities to learn economics through hands-on experiences and community engagement.

Announced during Chancellor Joe Gow's Community Council meeting with business leaders in September, the gift will have an immediate impact.

"This gift is a game changer for the university and western Wisconsin," says Associate Professor of Economics Adam Hoffer. "This is going to provide opportunities unlike any other to our students, faculty and community members."

Gow agrees. "The Menard family gift is a powerful

affirmation of the great work our faculty and staff do each day with UWL students," he notes. "It will strengthen our students' collaborative research projects and hands-on learning for many years to come."

The gift aligns perfectly with the "Advancing Transformational Education" pillar of the university's "Sustaining Excellence" strategic plan.

*Continued on next page*



**The Menard family gift provides opportunities for student scholarships, research fellowships, opportunities to create and participate in research studies, travel to economics conferences and workshops, and the ability for students to engage in economics outside of the classroom.**

“As a result of the Menard family’s extraordinary generosity, our students will have even greater opportunities to have the kinds of dynamic learning experiences that will prepare them well for highly successful careers,” explains Gow. “The Menard family is making this exceptional gift, the largest in UWL’s 110-year history, because they greatly admire the quality of our students and the teaching and research being done by Dr. Adam Hoffer. We are so very fortunate to have him on our faculty at UWL, and to see our students benefit from his impressive talent and dedication.”

### **Menard family: gift provides a critical resource of knowledge on economic issues**

Hoffer launched an experimental economics lab from a Charles Koch Industries grant in 2016. He shared his idea for growing the lab and providing more student-learning opportunities to Eau Claire Businessman John Menard earlier this year. Hoffer says Menard recalls his time in college as opening a new world of possibilities through the exchange of ideas.

From humble beginnings, Menard was a hometown farm kid who used his vision to lead by example. He listened to his customers, studied the economy, changed with the times

and worked closely with his employees.

With continued success, the Menard family has quietly supported education for years, providing opportunities for hundreds of students to enhance their college experiences and helping them prepare for future success.

“We are pleased to support UW-La Crosse students and scholars as they expand their explorations of the issues impacting the state and the nation,” family members said. “The programs and research undertaken by the university’s center will further the school’s position as a critical resource of knowledge on economic issues.”

*UWL Assistant Professor of Economics Adam Hoffer, center, leads an out-of classroom discussion as part of the Menard Family Midwest Initiative for Economic Engagement and Research. The initiative spearheads hands-on experiences, along with community engagement.*



Past Menard family contributions include donations to a variety of university programs and initiatives, as well as university-sponsored community youth programs. This is the family's first Initiative for Economic Engagement and Research.

"We both want to enhance the educational experiences available to our students and engage our community through enriching, interactive experiences," says Hoffer.

### **Gift also provides for lab, lecture series**

The Menard gift will allow UWL to grow its experimental economics lab where students work on answering real-world

economics questions in the lab setting.

The gift will also expand the Sports Economics Symposium speaker series launched three years ago into the new Menard Family Public Lecture Series. The series will feature a mix of leading academic researchers who can discuss academic research in areas like political economy, economics experiments, real estate and sports.

"We will be able to hear from practitioners in these areas who can inform our audience of how business is conducted in these industries," explains Hoffer.

Scholarships and other unique learning opportunities for students to engage with economic ideas outside of the classroom will also be key.

"We will have a weekly discussion group and we have the ability to fund students to attend economics conferences and workshops off-campus," Hoffer notes. "It's critical that students are the major benefactors of the generous gift."

Hoffer's request not only fits well with the university's strategic plan of advancing transformational education, but also efforts to increase community engagement. He's enthusiastic to better engage the greater La Crosse area with the great work being done on campus. He's excited to design programs and market them beyond campus.

# CBA CONTINUES ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH WITH BUSINESSES, ALUMNI



## Gift sparks CBA's 50th

The Menard family gift sets an exciting precursor to the College of Business Administration's 50 Years Forward fundraising campaign. It kicks off later this year to provide long-term support for faculty and students.

"The CBA is filled with amazing faculty who have the privilege of working with incredible students," says Associate Professor of Economics Adam Hoffer. "The Menard family gift is a clear statement that the UWL CBA is exactly the kind of place that our generous community can invest to build our future."



**The CBA is planning a Wittich Hall Ribbon Cutting ceremony Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, along with its 50th anniversary fun Oct. 16-17, 2020**



*Above, left: The CBA Dean's Office, Management Department and Economics Department sponsored a panel discussion with local women and minority entrepreneurs.*

*Top: CBA faculty tour Kwik Trip in La Crosse in October. The CBA continually connects with the business community. Previous faculty field trips have included ventures to major Fox Valley area employers, Ashley Furniture and Harmony Enterprises.*

*Left: Emily Holldorf, left, and Madaline Drewiske, alumni of the CBA's Integrated Core Program, were part of a panel of ICP alumni who returned to campus to speak with current students about how the program shaped their careers.*

## Student's research focuses on making healing drug faster, environmentally-friendly

Curcumin, the ingredient that gives Turmeric its bright yellow color, has long been used in eastern medicine for treating cuts, aches, pains and more. Although still being studied, the ancient drug has shown antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and potentially even anti-cancer properties.

While curcumin has medical potential, it's difficult to get. Current methods of making it in the lab and deriving it from plants are time consuming or involve non-environmentally-friendly chemical reactions.

UWL student Nico Lang is trying a faster and greener approach

to getting curcumin — an important step in its potential climb into the medical marketplace. Along with faculty mentor Valeria Stepanova, Lang is working on a microwave-assisted synthesis of curcumin. He is also studying how to build alternative, similar chemical compounds. Both methods have shown positive results that have made the synthesis of curcumin and alternative similar compounds faster, more efficient and more environmentally-friendly.

In the process, Lang is getting exposure to hands-on skills in research to propel him into graduate school and a career. He aims to work in researching and discovering new drugs.

It was Stepanova, an assistant professor of chemistry, who got Lang interested in studying curcumin. Through office hours and lectures, Lang learned about her line of research and saw how it reflected his own interests in eastern medicine and natural products.

Lang likes the collaborative environment in the lab where he can easily ask for assistance. Stepanova has also been a great mentor, he adds.

"She cares so much about you as an individual and your success," notes Lang. "To build this relationship with her has been fantastic."

Funding for Lang's spring 2019 research on curcumin came from the Prairie Springs Endowment Fund, which supports research and scholarship at UWL in environmental studies and education, wildlife habitat protection, wildlife protection, conservation and ecological technology. The fund was created by a \$2 million gift from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust. The gift also named UWL's new science labs building the Prairie Springs Science Center.

Lang continued to work on the research this summer with funding from the McNair Scholars Program.

"This exposure and hands-on experience is so valuable and having the grants that allow me to do it is fantastic," says Lang. "I know that what I am doing here has real-world health implications."



# Green chem creates an ancient, yellow drug



*UWL Senior Nico Lang holds a bottle of pure curcumin. Figuring out faster and more environmentally-friendly methods of synthesis is key to the ancient drug having broader medical potential. Lang is earning a double major in biochemistry and biology. Funding for his research on curcumin came from the Prairie Springs Endowment Fund.*

# A SHARED EXPERIENCE

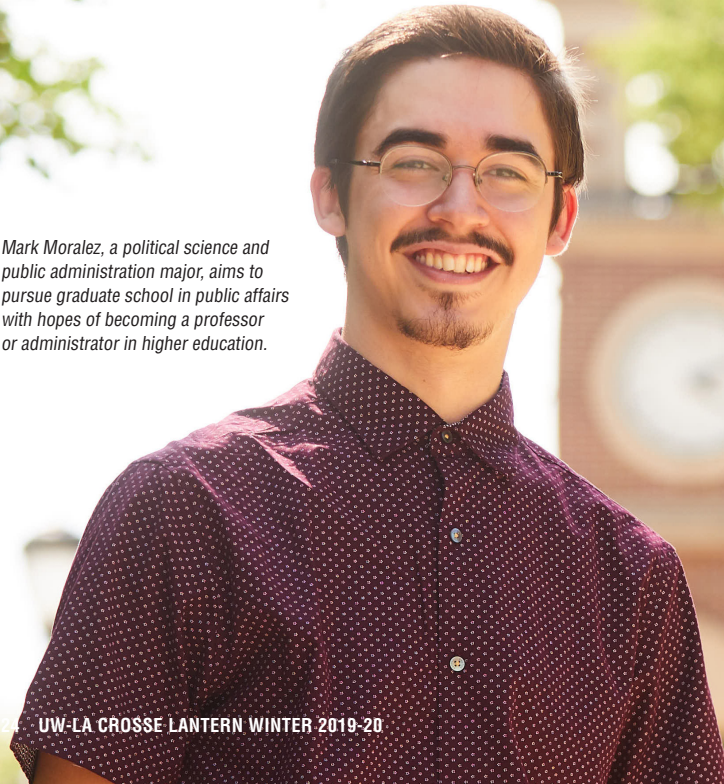
**Donor, recipient share similar paths advocating for social justice in higher education**

**D**onney Moroney, '97, and her family fled Nicaragua when she was 4 years old. The country was embroiled in war and her father, a political figure, was the target of several assassination attempts. The family crossed into the jungles of Honduras until they could safely reach the U.S., settling in McFarland, Wisconsin, where she grew up.

When Moroney started at UWL in the early '90s, she was one of few students of color on her residence hall floor. She recalls how other students weren't familiar with Nicaragua or Latin American culture, and she had a hard time connecting.

On a recent trip back to UWL for a scholarship ceremony in spring, Moroney didn't have that issue. At the table with her scholarship recipient Mark Moralez, they formed an instant connection. Not only did they both experience the

*Mark Moralez, a political science and public administration major, aims to pursue graduate school in public affairs with hopes of becoming a professor or administrator in higher education.*





culture shock of attending a majority white university, they both found support in UWL's Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS). They became heavily involved in campus organizations, pursued political science and public administration, and were campus leaders in advocating for social justice in higher education.

"Growing up in the inner city, I had a pretty rough upbringing, and I've seen things that a lot of people here don't understand," explains Moralez. "It is hard to adjust knowing friends and family back home are struggling."

Moroney remembers how close she came to dropping out her first year when she got the call from Angie (Hamm) Kellogg, '92, former OMSS student services coordinator, asking if she'd like to get involved in multicultural student activities.

Moroney helped Kellogg plan the American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference that year and was elected student coordinator for AMSLC at La Crosse the following year.

"That conference was my introduction to a whole world I wasn't aware of. I was able to understand some of the issues in higher education — such as access and the challenges



*Donney Moroney, '97, set up a pass-through scholarship fund.*

students of color have at predominately white institutions," recalls Moroney. "I thought that was just my story, but I learned it was not something wrong with me. There is a systematic issue, and we need to be part of the change."

Her connections through OMSS led to other involvement. "My involvement is what kept me here and motivated me," explains Moroney, now dean of students and interim vice president for Student Affairs at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. "It was a transformational experience as I was figuring out what to do career wise."

Moroney set up her scholarship — the Donney Moroney COVE Leadership Scholarship — to assist juniors or seniors committed

to social justice through leadership and involvement in student organizations.

Her scholarship is already working. Moralez is a resident assistant in Eagle Hall, as well as a member of Student Association, Black Student Unity, Awareness through Performance and more. Like Moroney, Moralez has gravitated toward higher education policy in college and found a home in OMSS.

With no family financial support, scholarships and grants are the only way Moralez can attend college.

"I rely on scholarships and grants. And I put in the work to get them," says Moralez. "It feels so good to have that hard work pay off and to know that someone is putting their trust in you to do well with that money."

**O**ur internal 24-hour clock — that tells us when to wake up, eat and sleep — plays an important role in our health. Studies have shown long-term disruption of our circadian rhythm, whether regularly munching a midnight snack or working the night shift, is correlated with an increased likelihood of developing Type 2 diabetes or obesity.

A UWL student and his faculty mentor are looking for more answers related to the relationship between circadian rhythms and fat metabolism by studying a tiny insect with a lot of human genetic similarity — the fruit fly.



*Fruit flies — like all living beings — have a circadian rhythm that innately tells them when to wake, sleep and eat. Researchers simulated a shift work schedule by altering the 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark in an incubator.*

UWL senior Harry Soeder, a biology and biochemistry major, is studying the relationship between shift work-like schedules and body

composition in fruit flies. He works under the mentorship of Assistant Professor of Biology Alder Yu.

“I got involved in fruit fly research because fruit flies are simple enough to be easy to work with, but complex enough that we can use them to ask some very interesting questions about body systems,” Yu explains.

While disruption of circadian rhythms is correlated with Type 2 diabetes and obesity in humans, correlation does not mean causation. Other lifestyle choices such as fast food for a night shift worker may be at play. Soeder is looking to tease out some of those answers.

Soeder recalls setting up the experiment with Yu last January. Unlike a structured lab class with step-by-step instructions, the two had to figure out how to run the experiment and account for factors such as the varying sizes of the fruit flies.

“It was a lot of trial and error,” says Soeder. “It’s been a great learning experience.”

Soeder started seeking out undergraduate research as a junior. Many friends were doing research outside of class. He knew it would be helpful with his plans to continue on to graduate school to find a career in the pharmaceutical industry.

Soeder enjoyed Yu’s classes and asked about opportunities to assist with research. He’s glad he did.

“Having more insight into our metabolism and how we gain weight is pretty important,” notes Soeder. “Maybe we can look very far down the road and learn more about how our metabolism is affected by our schedules and the food we eat.”

So far Soeder has found circadian rhythm disruption together with a high-sugar diet increases fat in fruit flies only slightly higher than a sugar diet alone. This raises the possibility that, unlike humans, fruit flies may be resistant to circadian rhythm disruption. It also means additional fruit flies studies could lead to treatments reducing metabolic disease in humans.

Yu enjoys working with undergraduates because of their creativity. “They bring a fresh set of eyes to the research and are great at problem-solving because they think to ask the questions that people who have more experience with the field might gloss over,” says Yu. “Often those questions turn out to be the key to solving whatever problem we’re having!”

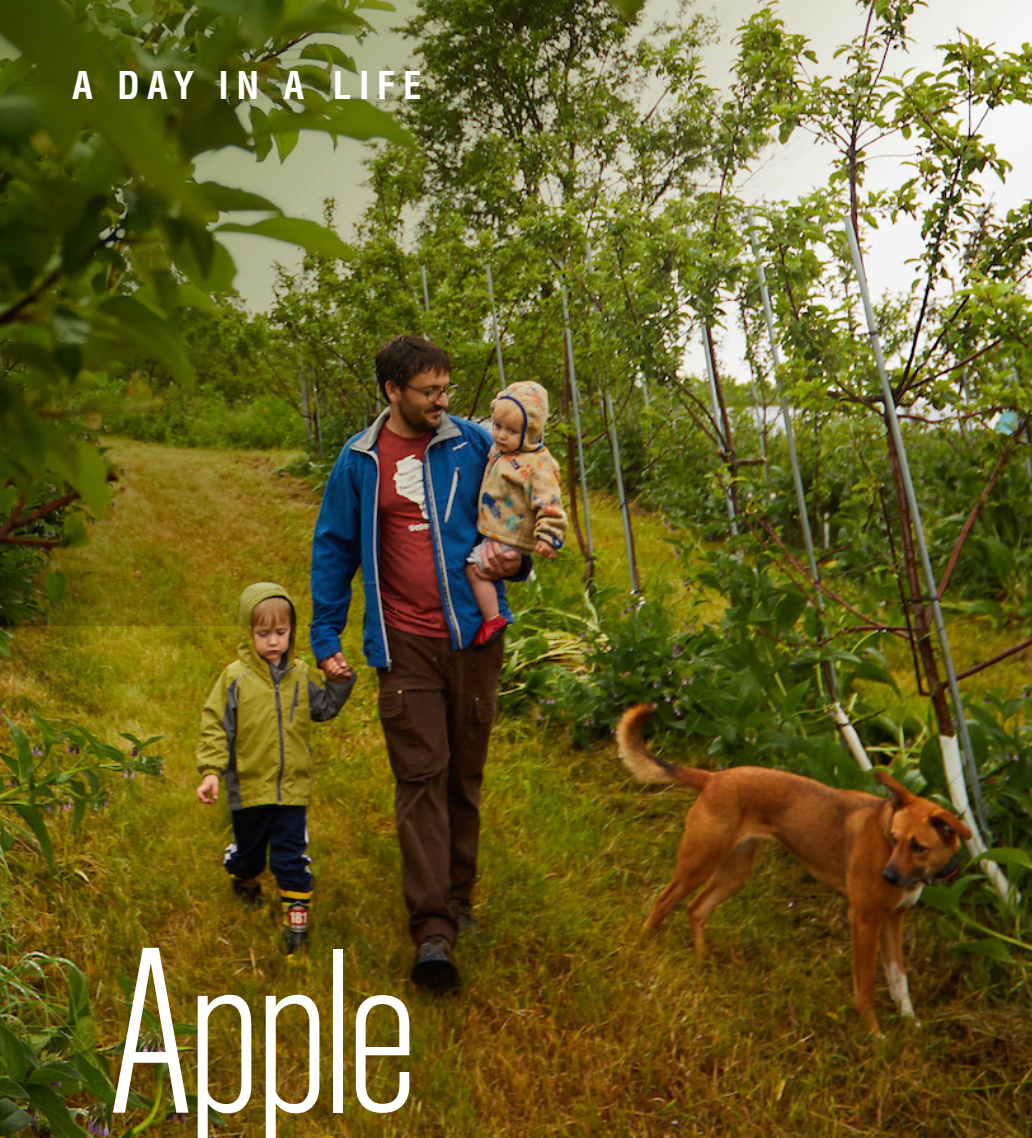
**More than 30 million people**  
— one in every 10 Americans  
— lives with diabetes and 90%  
to 95% of them have Type 2  
diabetes. - Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention.

# TINY SCIENCE PARTNERS

**Fruit fly research aims to answer questions  
about Type 2 diabetes, obesity**

*UWL Senior Harry Soeder is studying long-term disruption of circadian rhythms in fruit flies, hoping to learn more about how this disruption affects humans. Soeder earned a Dean's Distinguished Fellowship to support his summer research.*





# Apple guider

Brix Cider selling  
Wisconsin wares

Matt Raboin, '02, and his wife, Marie, didn't let setback after setback spoil plans to open a cider pub. Not even last January's polar vortex could stop them. (But it did make them push their open date a day late.)

The Raboins own Brix Cider, Wisconsin's first cider pub. They're on the cusp of the state's changing agricultural industry, which is seeing dairy farms vanish. And a walk through their rural Barneveld orchard and Mt. Horeb storefront is rather, uhm, appealing.

(L) Raboin walks through the family's budding, six-acre apple orchard farmstead south of Barneveld with his children and dog. The orchard has more than 1,000 trees starting to produce 110 varieties.

(R) Raboin, his wife, Marie, and their two children in front of their Mount Horeb business, next door to the headquarters of ever-growing Duluth Trading Co.



### Tastes like...

Raboin gathers a taste test of cider aged in whiskey and bourbon barrels for flavoring — some blended to taste like Wisconsin's favored Old Fashioned.

### Hey, hey cider-tender!

Once aged, the cider is ready for Raboin to pour a draft for a customer. Along with cider, Brix Cider features food largely from local farms and food producers.

### Take flight

Variety is the spice of life — and apple cider! The cider showcases apples from 21 farms in southern Wisconsin, with each batch from a single orchard.

### The gold goes to...

When Raboin proclaims his cider is award-winning, he's not lying!

# Much more than art

Alumna's print  
collection,  
financial gifts  
are inspiring



*Kathleen Hawkes,  
assistant professor  
of art, smiles as she  
sees the original print  
"Moon and Half Dome,  
Yosemite National Park"  
by Photographer  
Ansel Adams.*

**A**rt Department faculty gathered in mid-June to unpack two large crates. Their anticipation was palpable as the screws came out of the first box.

A donation of 90 prints, along with fine arts books, from the late Gayle Anderson, '64, a 1980 Graff Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, was appraised at nearly \$65,000.



Gayle Anderson

With works by photographers such as Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Imogen Cunningham, Sebastião Salgado and Paul Strand, the unpacking involved long pauses — holding works out at arm's length to admire.

"Some of the pioneers of art photography and significant iconic images are in this collection," says Linda Levinson, associate professor of art.

Anderson was also a pioneer in her own right. She launched into banking after graduating and became the first woman appointed as bank examiner of a state banking department in the U.S. She was highly regarded in state banking and among California bank executives.

Anderson, who died in 2018, loved photography, collected prints and left them to UWL in her will. She also named UWL a beneficiary of her retirement account. These funds will benefit UWL students through the Gayle A. Anderson Scholarship along with providing contributions to the Robert C. Voight Scholarship Fund, as well as providing unrestricted funds to the UWL Foundation.

"She loved UWL and had a great deal of affection and gratitude for the education she got in La Crosse," recalls Al Trapp, retired UWL Foundation president who visited Anderson in California.

Anderson's friend Suzy Locke got to know her in the mid-70s when they joined a group of women entrepreneurs and business leaders in San Francisco. Amid the Women's Liberation Movement, the two broke glass ceilings — Locke as an entrepreneur and Anderson as the female bank president.

Anderson was an amateur photographer with a passion for collecting prints. "She loved being surrounded by it, and she appreciated it because she knew what it took to do photography," says Locke.

Anderson grew up on a farm where she learned the value of hard work and family. She was involved in politics and cared about the environment. Housebound at the end of her life, Anderson spent long hours in a solarium off of her kitchen. "She faced this wild area and she could see the birds and everything happening outside her door," says Locke. "She took great solace in nature."

The prints that hung inside her home reflected her diverse interests. Now Anderson's love for the works takes on new life.

## Remember UWL

Remember the UWL Foundation in your estate and financial plans and make a lasting difference for the university while opening new doors to future students. Visit [uwlax.mylegacygift.org](http://uwlax.mylegacygift.org) to learn more. If interested in donating a collection or other physical items, contact the UWL Foundation first at **877.895.3863**

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## Last look

The Big Birthday Brunch highlighted activities celebrating the UWL Alumni Association's 50th anniversary. "Watching alumni reconnect with each other at events and hearing their stories of days gone by reminds me of why we exist and how important it is that the Alumni Association remains strong," says Association Executive

Director Janie Morgan, '85 & '86. The entire Alumni Association staff includes, from left, Kelsey Foss, Morgan, Keli Frigo and Vickie Bain.

Keep in touch by updating your contact info at:

[uwlax.edu/alumni](http://uwlax.edu/alumni)

