



LANTERN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



**GOING
FOR
GOLD**

FEATURES

On the cover: Through the decades, UWL alumni, faculty and staff have coached, competed or contributed to the Olympics. Before the Summer Games kick off, find out how they left their mark on the world's greatest sporting event.



9

FACULTY FAVES



10

POWERFUL POTENTIAL



26

'MORE THAN A SCHOOL'

LANTERN

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CLASS NOTES ONLINE

Go to uwlax.edu/alumni for complete class notes each quarter. Click on "News," then "Class Notes."

Class notes policy: The UWL Alumni Association publishes class notes and obituaries online in January, April, July and October. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the quarterly posting. See uwlax.edu/alumni for details.

OLYMPICS: MUCH MORE THAN SPORTS

My first memory of the Olympics came in the third grade, when I stayed up to watch the opening ceremony for the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

I remember the spectacle — elaborate dance numbers, unbridled patriotism following 9/11 — and the long wait to see Team USA emerge from the darkness and be introduced as the host nation.

I was glued to TV that winter, enthralled with sports I had known little or nothing about: curling, luge, speed skating.

That's what I appreciate most about the Olympics. Even now, they have a way of drawing me in, of making me care about sports — no offense to luge — I would usually blow right past.

The Olympics are more than a sporting event. They're a pinnacle of human athletic achievement. A melting pot of nations. A force for peace and diplomacy. A source of pride in one's country.

And, every so often, they're a chance to see UWL represented on a global stage.

With the Summer Olympics set to kick off July 23 in Tokyo, I interviewed five alumni and faculty who have participated in the Olympics — as an athlete, a trainer or physiologist, or one of the countless people working behind the scenes to ensure the Games run smoothly.

What stands out is the reverence they hold for this time-tested tradition. Whether their Olympic involvement lasted four decades or 44 seconds, they each cherish the memories, experiences and friendships the Olympics helped them create.

As someone who has made many Olympic memories of my own — albeit from the couch — it was a thrill to discover how UWL has contributed to the Olympics' rich history.

I hope you'll feel the same way.



Kyle Farris

UWL University Relations Specialist





TENNIS, ANYONE?

Eagles tennis players are taking to a new court across town. UWL is partnering with the City of La Crosse, Coulee Region Tennis Association, and La Crosse Aquinas Catholic Schools in creating a community tennis complex. The 19 tennis court site at Green Island includes 13 outdoor courts and six inside a year-round dome. The \$1.3 million outdoor courts (above) were completed last September with lights to be installed in the future. Construction of the \$2 million indoor courts is set for 2022. Fundraising continues. Discover more at: couleeregiontennis.com/green-island-park-projectdonation.cfm



TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHER:

RENEE REDMAN

UWL Biology Senior Lecturer Renee Redman, shown in this 2018 photo, has received a 2021 Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award — a distinction given to just two instructors annually in the UW System. "I work with such dedicated, creative and phenomenal teachers," Redman says. "I do believe this is a reflection of the work that is done in my department and at UWL."



A view of the fieldhouse project from the bleachers of Roger Harring Stadium at Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex.

FIELDHOUSE RUNNING ON TRACK

Construction of the new student-funded fieldhouse is almost a year in and remains on schedule. The \$49 million project east of Roger Harring Stadium will be used for student recreation, track and field competitions, and teaching exercise science classes. The facility is set to open in August 2022.



TOP ALUMNI NAMED

THREE EARNING '21 DISTINGUISHED HONORS

Alumni from the '80s through 2009 have earned top awards bestowed by the UWL Alumni Association for 2021. They're being honored for distinguished service and successful careers.

Distinguished alumni awarded in 2020 and 2021 will be honored virtually this fall or during in-person events in 2022, if possible. When recognized, the alumni will speak with students, take part in a panel discussion and be recognized during a ceremony. A virtual program for some of the recipients is set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021.

Get details from the Alumni Association calendar.

uwlax.edu/alumni/connect/calendar-of-events



Margaret Van Bree, '82

The Maurice O. Graff Distinguished Alumni Award

Recognizes outstanding achievement of alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the university. Long-time administrator Maurice O. Graff instituted the honor in 1977.

Margaret Van Bree, '82

- Revered health executive, educator; collaborator; mentor.
- Recipient of Exemplary Leadership Award, Ronald McDonald House of Providence; Career Achievement Award, Providence Business News; Houston's 50 Most Influential Women, others.
- Retired president of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital.
- Bachelor's in community health education; master's in hospital administration, University of Minnesota; doctorate in public health, Tulane University.

(Will accept award in fall 2022)



Anna Hatch, '09

Rada Distinguished Alumni Award

Recognizes alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years, achieved professional distinction and taken part in humanitarian activities. Professor emeritus Ron Rada and his wife, Jane, created the award in 2002.

Anna Hatch, '09

- Renowned scientist in biomedical research, science diplomacy and science communication.
- Recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship; P.E.O. Scholar Award.
- Currently program director for the Declaration on Research Assessment at the American Society for Cell Biology in Rockville, Maryland.
- Bachelor's in biology and chemistry; doctorate in biochemistry, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

(Will accept award in fall 2022)



Scott Noet, '90

Burt and Norma Altman Teacher Education Award

Honors and recognizes outstanding educators and the significant contributions they make to children and communities. Professor Emeritus Burt Altman and his wife, Norma, long-time supporters of teacher education, created the award in 2015.

Scott Noet, '90

- Dedicated and respected long-time educator.
- Recipient of the Goethe Institute Transatlantic Outreach Program Fellow of the Year; Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Minnesota Teacher of the Year; state and school Teacher of the Year; others.
- Currently a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher at Owatonna, Minnesota, Public Schools.
- Bachelor's in history; master's in education, Southwest State, Marshall, Minnesota.

(Will accept award in fall 2022)

For you. For La Crosse. For a lifetime.

The *La Crosse Experience* is something that stays with you long after you leave campus. It's an experience full of opportunities, special memories and lifetime connections.

The UWL Alumni Association helps you maintain those unique connections through vital outreach, along with great programming and events that provide special UWL ties. Become a member and reap opportunities to meet, engage and continue to build those lasting relationships.



NEW PERK ALERT!

The latest benefit in Alumni Association membership is a unique UWL wall calendar full of campus photos and facts to help you reminisce about the good ol' days. Become a member by Aug. 31 to be eligible to receive your — FREE! — 2022 calendar.

To join, visit www.uwlax.edu/alumni.

MARK'S FAVES

MARK
GIBSON

**Professor and Director of Graduate Community Health and Public Health Programs
At UWL since 1985; retired spring 2021 | Degrees : Bachelor of Science: Health Science;
Master of Science: Athletic Administration; Master of Science: Physical Therapy**

- **Favorite class to teach:** I taught 27 different courses in the athletic training program, and the departments of Exercise and Sport Science, and Health Professions. My favorite were my rehabilitation courses and administration courses in athletic training. I was always the most comfortable teaching in the clinic, so I also enjoyed teaching non-athletic trainers about the profession in my care and prevention course.
- **Favorite class in college:** My two athletic training courses (the full extent of an approved curriculum at the time) and all the required clinical and fieldwork experiences.
- **Favorite spot at UWL:** The west side of Roger Harring Field at Veteran's Memorial Stadium has the best views of the bluffs in both fall (football) and spring (track & field).
- **Plans for retirement:** My wife, Barbara, '78 and emeriti gymnastics coach 1985-'16, and I plan to hike Wisconsin and Minnesota state parks, along with travel the country.
- **Favorite place to visit:** Any international destination. We have been to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Dublin, Madrid, Barcelona, Frankfurt, DE, and others. Each is considered a favorite place, so we, hopefully, will be adding to our list!
- **What else:** UWL was a great place to grow a career. I am blessed to have had great colleagues and many opportunities to serve my profession because of La Crosse.



POWERFUL POTENTIAL

ALUMS INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION THROUGH UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM



quartet of alumni are helping La Crosse area high school students realize their dreams of a college education.

The Upward Bound staff — Shaundel Spivey, Jazz Holland, Caleb Colon-Rivera and Meki Aneke — all attended UWL before returning as young professionals. Now, they run the university's federally funded TRIO program that supports eligible high school students transitioning to college.

“As a little Black kid in the city of Milwaukee, I had various mentors in my life who pushed me and shaped me,” says Spivey, '12 & '15, director of the program. “I want to give back to the community and local youth, and Upward Bound is a great program that can give them the tools to not only excel, but also be able to navigate their way through society.”

Upward Bound serves more than 60 students in La Crosse County by offering weekly tutoring sessions, test prep, personal and career advising, leadership, college and career exploration, and more. The program also helps students struggling with the ACT and college application fees, and other higher education expenses.

Upward Bound staff say they enjoy their work for many reasons, but especially for the chance to harness the powerful potential of young people.

“One thing we always say is that we are the students' cheerleaders. We help them help themselves and give them the tools to be great,” notes Caleb Colon-Rivera, '18,



A quartet of alums are helping La Crosse area high school students realize their dreams of a college education through the Upward Bound. They include, from left, Jazz Holland, '15; Caleb Colon-Rivera, '18; Shaundel Spivey, '12 & '15. and Meki Aneke, '16;

program assistant. “Once they have the tools to successfully navigate the world and have a firm foundation with a community that supports and believes in them, they can do anything.”

Meki Aneke, '16, lead advisor, says he loves his job for the same reason.

“Being able to guide and follow the student through their journey of high school all the way to entering college ... is the best part of the job,” he says. It’s fulfilling to “watch them make great decisions and take charge of their future.”

Two members of the team — Spivey and Holland — are uniquely qualified. They were once Upward Bound students themselves.

Spivey participated in Marquette University’s math and science program, while Holland was with UW-Milwaukee’s math and science program.

“Upward Bound was one of the best experiences of my life,” says Holland, '15, assistant director of the program.

Upward Bound eased her anxiety about college, she says, while giving her parents, who have nine other children, a well-deserved break.

“I was able to travel all across the nation, meet amazing students from my city and was paid for working hard to accomplish my goals,” she explains. “I am still connected with some of my Upward Bound friends today. I encourage all students who qualify to join their local Upward Bound or pre-college program.”

For Spivey, Holland, Colon-Rivera and Aneke, UWL was the perfect fit — a place where they could pursue their passions and be part of a tight-knit campus community.

“I absolutely loved it,” Colon-Rivera says. “It had the small-town feel, but was big enough to always meet someone new.”

Holland agrees.

“I decided to come to UWL because there was an Admissions counselor, Vickie Sanchez, who really made me feel welcomed and wanted at the institution,” she says. “This was different from what I had received from other schools, where I felt more like a number rather than a person.”

ATHLETICS NEWS

2020-21 TEAM FINISHES

TEAM	WIAC FINISH	NCAA III FINISH
WOMEN'S TENNIS	2ND	---
SOCCER	---	---
VOLLEYBALL	---	---
WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY	---	---
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY	---	---
WOMEN'S GOLF	2ND	---
FOOTBALL	---	---
WRESTLING	1ST	CANCELED
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	CANCELED	CANCELED
WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	CANCELED	CANCELED
MEN'S BASKETBALL	2ND	CANCELED
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	TIED 3RD	CANCELED
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	---	---
GYMNASTICS	CANCELED	CANCELED
MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD	CANCELED	CANCELED
WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD	CANCELED	CANCELED
MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1ST	5TH
WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1ST	2ND
SOFTBALL	TIED 3RD	---
BASEBALL	TBA	---
MEN'S TENNIS*	---	---

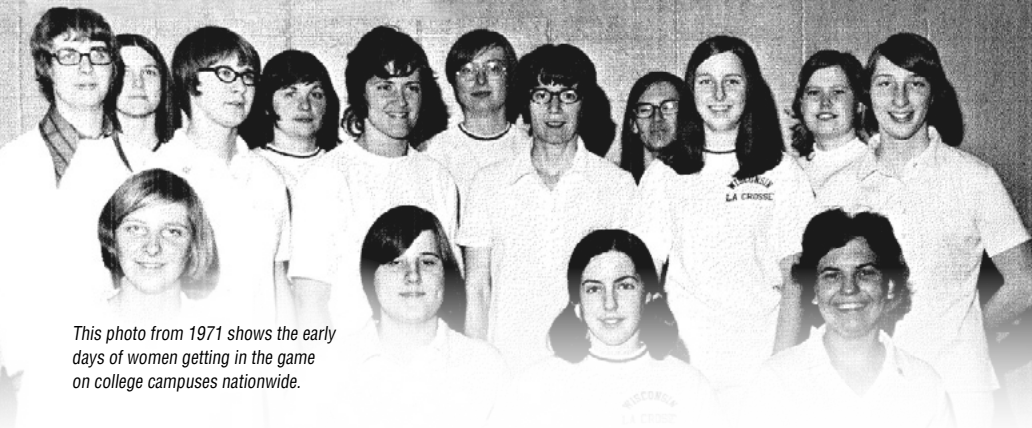
* Competes in the New Jersey Athletic Conference



Eagles player Ava Kramer with a drive during the pandemic-shortened season held in the second semester.



Eagles Pitcher Brady Schmitt delivers a pitch at Copeland Park during the 2021 spring season.



This photo from 1971 shows the early days of women getting in the game on college campuses nationwide.

It was June 1972 when Title IX was signed into law, essentially allowing women to get in the game of competitive collegiate sports.

UWL Intercollegiate Athletics will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX during the upcoming 2021-22 season. The Eagles will host a variety of special events throughout the year, highlighting top moments in women's sports history, along with sharing other events in athletics history.

Stay updated at:
uwathletics.com.

What is Title IX?

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is a federal law that states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."



Who must abide?

Title IX applies to all education institutions, both public and private, that receive federal funds. Almost all private colleges and universities must abide by Title IX regulations because they receive federal funding through federal financial aid programs used by their students.

Why athletics?

Athletics programs are considered educational programs and activities. There are three basic parts of Title IX as it applies to athletics:

- **Participation:** Title IX requires that women and men be provided equitable opportunities to participate in sports. Title IX does not require institutions to offer identical sports but an equal opportunity to play.
- **Scholarships:** Title IX requires that female and male student-athletes receive athletics scholarship dollars proportional to their participation.
- **Other benefits:** Title IX requires the equal treatment of female and male student-athletes in provisions of: equipment and supplies; scheduling of games and practice times; travel and daily allowance/per diem; access to tutoring; coaching; locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities; medical and training facilities and services; housing and dining facilities and services; publicity and promotions; support services; and recruitment of student-athletes.

UWL's College of Business Administration has seen a lot in 50 years.

Since being founded in 1971, it's adapted to radical shifts in business and technology — from the advent of the internet to globalization and a world-altering pandemic.

Along the way, CBA faculty have instructed and inspired thousands who have gone on to successful business careers. And it promises to do so for another 50 years and beyond.

“This is a great time to reflect on the CBA's commitment to excellence and everything the college has accomplished over the past half-century,” says Interim Dean TJ Brooks. “And the future looks incredibly bright. With a state-of-the-art facility, outstanding students and faculty, and close partnerships with the local business community, we're in an excellent position to build upon all our success.”

The history of business education on campus begins long before the college's founding.

It's roots date to the economics program in the '50s. With majors added throughout the 1960s, by the end of the decade momentum was building for a full-fledged business school. The School of Business Administration — later renamed the CBA — was created in 1971.

As globalization and new technology transformed business in the '80s and '90s, the CBA transformed as well.

“We were adding courses, growing the college and adapting to the world,” notes Dean Emeritus Bill Colclough, whose 35 years with the college included 10 as dean. “There was a continuous effort to identify critical learning outcomes and enhance the curriculum around topics like globalization, information systems, ethics, leadership, communication skills, sustainability and engagement.”

A GREAT TIME TO REFLECT



The newly refurbished Wittich Hall is the new home to the College of Business Administration.

The CBA also developed partnerships to enhance learning and support local businesses. The most prominent example is the Small Business Development Center, which provides various services to local business owners and entrepreneurs.

“The SBDC’s work in the community is a very tangible demonstration of the impact the CBA and the university has in the region,” notes Anne Hlavacka, ’84, SBDC director. “It’s rewarding to be able to assist an individual with an idea and support the initiative to create and grow a business.”

In CBA history, there have never been more opportunities or challenges than in the past two years.

The Menard Family Midwest Initiative for Economic Engagement and Research — supported by a \$2.1 million gift from the family of John Menard Jr. — is providing students and faculty with hands-on learning opportunities.

The new home of the CBA, Wittich Hall, is modernizing education.

Meanwhile, faculty have pivoted to the pandemic, moving courses online and finding creative ways to reach out to students and the community.

“The CBA has shown a remarkable ability to evolve with the changes and challenges we see in the world,” Brooks explains. “We’re excited to see what will come in the next 50 years.”

Time to celebrate Get all in for 50 years forward!

Join the CBA on campus Oct. 22 and 23 to celebrate the college’s 50th. Take part in the Wittich Hall Ribbon Cutting, brunch, a Third Street pub crawl and more! Details at:

uwlax.edu/cba/50th-anniversary

CBA: 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Above, left: Ronald Greenwood, who taught in the Management Department in the '70s and '80s, leads a lecture in Wimberly Hall, circa 1979-80.

Above, right: Two business students use a computer at UWL, circa 1983.

Left: Professor William Wehrs leads a class in a computer lab in Wimberly Hall, circa 1998.

Images courtesy of UWL Murphy Library Special Collections.

GOING FOR GOLD

Alums, faculty reflect on their Olympic experiences

One helped manage the feud between figure skaters Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan.

Another sprinted his way toward Olympic gold just two months after graduating.

Through the decades, UWL representatives in the Olympics have coached, competed or contributed otherwise.

Before the Summer Games kick off July 23 in Tokyo, here's a look at how a few of the many UWL Olympian-affiliate alums and faculty left their mark on the world's greatest sporting event.



Andrew Rock, '04, shows his gold medal from the 2004 Summer Olympics. He's the only alum to medal at any level in an Olympics.



Robert Richardson

Curling provides straight path to the Games

Robert Richardson

Professor emeritus, 1990-2009

When the International Olympic Committee announced Salt Lake City would host the 2002 Winter Olympics, Robert Richardson and his wife, Silvana, knew they wanted to experience the Games — but not as spectators.

Richardson, then a professor of educational studies with an athletic background in luge and curling, showed up at Olympic headquarters in Salt Lake City looking for a role. They had one for him — sport administrator of curling — but it came with a catch. Due to extensive on-site

responsibilities, he needed a Utah address.

Without batting an eye, he agreed. The couple purchased a condo to make it official.

As the curling sport administrator, Richardson's job was to ensure the Olympics' curling competition ran as smoothly as possible.

He helped create local curling clubs in Utah so he would have skilled curlers who could manage test competitions.

When the testing ended and the real matches began, he was responsible for making certain the officials were in place, the flower ceremony was in order and a hundred other things were ready to meet demand.

Meanwhile, Silvana, a professor of nursing at

Viterbo, headed up the curling medical team.

In addition to their roles, they both pursued post-doctoral study at the University of Utah.

Richardson says it was an intense time, but also rewarding and memorable.

He had lunch with Kristi Yamaguchi, frequently bumped into Salt Lake Organizing Committee President Mitt Romney, and even got to carry the Olympic flame through Eagle, Colorado.

"It was electric," he says. "I can remember every moment of it."

The Olympic experience was well worth the price of a condo, Richardson says. The couple maintains it in hopes that Salt Lake City will host the Winter Olympics in 2032.

Continued on next page

The speed skating scientist

Carl Foster

Professor of exercise and sport science, 1998-2021

Carl Foster and speed skating were an unlikely pair, but they couldn't have been a more perfect match.

A Texas native with no previous knowledge of the sport, Foster fell into the world of speed skating after beginning his career as an exercise and sport scientist at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center in Milwaukee.

Foster spent time at the oval in Milwaukee, where many top speed skaters trained with their coaches. He absorbed everything he could

and soon realized the sport was relatively unexplored by scientists and researchers.

In the runup to the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, Foster was giving advice to U.S. speed skaters and coaches, hoping to give them an edge. The American skaters racked up five gold medals and eight overall medals during the 1980 Games — both more than any other country.

In the years that followed, Foster became a fixture of U.S. speed skating, using cutting-edge science to help the country's top skaters perfect their craft.

He went on to chair the Sports Medicine/Sports Science/Drug Testing

committee for U.S. speed skating and received a research grant from the International Olympic Committee to conduct studies (along with fellow UWL professor John Porcari) at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

By the time he scaled back his involvement in the mid-2000s, Foster had built a reputation as one of the sport's most influential scientific minds. He was elected to the U.S. Speed Skating Hall of Fame in 2020.

"It was a pleasant surprise, because there aren't many non-skaters like me in that club," Foster says of the hall of fame. "This is a nice pat on the back, and everyone likes a pat on the back."



Carl Foster

An icon on ice

Gale Tanger

Alum, '68

Gale Tanger owes her career in figure skating, at least in part, to her fashion sense.

Growing up, she admired the bright white skates figure skaters wore on TV.

“I’d been speed skating since I was five or six, and I told my dad I wanted to wear white skates,” recalls Tanger, ’68. “But my dad told me that speed skaters wear black skates, and figure skaters wear white skates. Eventually, my parents bought me white skates and gave me figure skating lessons.”

The rest, as they say, is history.

Over the past 50 years, Tanger has built a reputation as one of the most influential and innovative voices in the world of figure skating. She has judged countless international competitions, built lasting friendships with the sport’s brightest stars, and held key leadership roles in several Winter Olympics.

For the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway — her father’s home country — Tanger served as the U.S. team leader for figure skating. One unexpected task was managing Tonya Harding’s infamous feud with Nancy Kerrigan and the public relations crisis that ensued.



Gale Tanger, '68

“Even though there were challenges with Tonya and Nancy, it was an incredible opportunity and a great Olympics,” she notes. “And it was such a great place for it. Where else could you have such a pristine Olympics? The snowflakes were like diamonds coming out of the air. To me, it was just wonderful.”

Another highlight came in 2002 in Salt Lake City, when Tanger was assistant chef de mission of the entire U.S. Olympic Team. It was a thrill, she says, to serve during the Olympics in her home country.

In recognition of her outstanding career, Tanger was named to the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2021.

“Even though there were challenges with Tonya and Nancy, it was an incredible opportunity and a great Olympics”

— Gale Tanger

Continued on next page

Running for gold

Andrew Rock

Alum, '04

Andrew Rock had one shot at Olympic glory.

He made the most of it.

Rock, '04, UWL's only Olympic gold medal athlete, achieved that feat in the men's 4x400m relay at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens.

He had spent the preceding months working with UWL's track and field coach, Mark Guthrie, trying to peak for the Olympic trials in Sacramento. Rock placed sixth, good for a spot on the team.

Several weeks later, the fresh-faced college grad was

absorbing the dreamlike spectacle of the opening ceremonies.

"That's when it hit me that I was at the Olympics," he recalls. "I mean, I was a kid from a town of 1,500 people, a D3 school. It was surreal."

Before the qualifying heat, with 80,000 fans packing the stands, Rock thought about something Guthrie had said: "This might not feel like just another race. But the moment you get the baton, it's exactly the same."

Rock, the third leg of the American team, upheld his end of the bargain, advancing the United States to the medal round. The team cruised to victory in the final, earning the gold.

"It's one of those things where the competition is so tough, you don't want to let your mind go there," he explains. "Then when it's over, it's like: 'Wow! We just won the gold medal!'"

Rock, who now coaches at Bethel University in Saint Paul, ran competitively for several more years but never qualified for another Olympics.

His Olympic moment may have been fleeting, but it was much bigger than a single race.

"I only ran for 44 seconds at the Olympics, but I poured my life into those 44 seconds," he says. "I learned a lot about myself just trying to get there."



*Andrew Rock, '04
with former coach
Mark Guthrie*

Skiing goes anywhere but downhill

Topper Hagerman

Alum, '68

Topper Hagerman used an unorthodox approach to prepare the U.S. men's alpine ski team for the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo: He got them off the snow.

As the team's trainer, Hagerman, '68, made sure the skiers had plenty of time on the slopes with their coaches. But for training, he kept things fresh and engaging by introducing them to water polo, basketball and football.

"I had the opportunity to basically set up my own programs," Hagerman explains. "It was a lot of fun. They spent so much of their lives on snow. I wanted to give them a break from it."

Hagerman, who had a sports physiology background, was also responsible for treating injuries. Remarkably, in a sport that involves hurtling down icy slopes at 70 mph, the team had no significant injuries leading up to the Olympics.

Shortly after the Games began, a snowstorm swept



Topper Hagerman, '69, left, and U.S. Alpine Olympic Team Men's Head Coach Konrad Rickenbach.

into Sarajevo, cancelling the first two days of downhill training.

Some of the European teams, wanting to stay sharp, returned home to practice.

Hagerman, staying true to form, had a different plan.

"We found a basketball court, and I told the guys, 'Full court, let's go,'" he remembers. "All these other teams flew back to their towns, and here we were playing basketball. That's just what we did. We were a little bit different."

It's hard to argue with the results.

The U.S. men had a breakout performance, claiming three medals — two golds and a silver — after winning just one in 1980.

"We were very excited with everything that happened," Hagerman says. "It was quite the experience for us."

View the online Lantern for more information about these UWL Olympians

uwlax.edu/alumni/lantern

50 YEARS STRONG



The Eagle Battalion won the annual Northern Warfare Challenge on Grandad Bluff. The winter event tested the endurance and strength of a record 29 teams from throughout the country in February.

Military program marches on

It was the foundation for 1st Lt. Alastair Keys, '17, who captured first place in April's 37th annual Best Ranger Competition determining the best two-man U.S. Army team.

It created the Northern Warfare Challenge that attracts nationwide ROTC brigades — won in February by the home team in a hard-fought victory in snow, ice and frigid temperatures.

It's home to Sgt. 1st Class JoAnn Wampole-Swanson, named the No. 1 instructor in the Midwest Brigade and the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

The U.S. Army ROTC's Eagle Battalion has rallied its troops to success during the

past half century. Its cadets have marched a long way from humble beginnings during the Vietnam War, when it was questioned whether an ROTC program should be allowed on campus.

It was in 1966 when WSU-La Crosse initially endorsed and filed a request for a ROTC program. But there would be six years of discussion and push-back by faculty, students and others on whether a military program should be approved on campus amid Vietnam.

In early 1971, following the Kent State Shootings a year earlier, the Board of Regents approved a La Crosse ROTC program after an endorsement from the 5th Army Headquarters in Chicago.

“Personally, I am delighted. It provides additional opportunity to our students, as many of them go into the service when they graduate,” WSU-La Crosse President Kenneth Lindner told a Racquet reporter after the approval. “Philosophically, I want to see Army officers trained at universities, such as ours, where they will get a good background in the workings of democracy. It would be bad if future officers were trained in one school and were produced as an elite corps.”

Since, students have developed leadership traits imperative to success in both the military and civilian life. They discover firsthand what it means to lead and manage, along with utilizing keen analytical skills for short- and

long-range planning while excelling in interpersonal management skills.

“We produce quality leaders with the skills to excel, both in the workplace and in today’s Army,” notes Lt. Col. Erik Archer, professor and chair of the Military Science Department.

Students hail from a wide variety of academic programs, as well as from other area campuses — Viterbo University, St. Mary’s University and Winona State University.

The UWL program took its orders and continues to successfully follow them.

Anniversary celebration

The ROTC Eagle Battalion will celebrate its first half century with stories and photos of

graduates over the past 50 years. These include Purple Heart recipients, three-star generals and those excelling in all walks of life. The 50th anniversary Military Ball will be held in April. See more at: uwlax.edu/rotc.

Stay involved

To stay involved, ROTC alumni may contribute to the Eagle Battalion Alumni Fund, volunteer for current ROTC events and activities, or visit campus to be a guest speaker. For details contact zlarson@uwlax.edu.

See more about the first years of UWL’s ROTC program from this Murphy Library digital collection. uwlax.edu/go/rotc50strong

BY THE NUMBERS

67

First-year students taking Military Science 101 in the ROTC’s inaugural semester, fall 1971. It was the third largest ROTC first-year student enrollment that year among 31 schools in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota.

3

Military personnel — two majors and a sergeant — who arrived on campus in April 1971 to prepare and begin working on military curriculum for the fall semester.

\$0

Cadet monthly pay for their first two years in the program. Advanced cadets received \$50 a month.

2

Students who earned the program’s first two commissions: Thomas Bond and Ronald Allen. (See photo.)



Ron Allen, left, and Tom Bond pose in their military fatigues.

See more about ROTC’s history at: uwlax.edu/alumni/lantern

MAKING COLLEGE

May graduate realizes childhood ambition: to become a scientist

DREAMS COME TRUE

“Every day that I am alive I am amazed by the human brain. How do electrical signals jumping around the mass of tissue in my skull create my reality? How do vibrations from across a playground become the sound of children laughing?”

These are questions from Laura Zinnel. She has always been curious like this.

“In elementary school I would tell people that I wanted to be a scientist,” recalls Zinnel.

In high school, she decided on a professional career in neuroscience.

Although her family had no money to help her pay for college, she kept dreaming about it — even out loud.

“Most people would respond: ‘OK, but what’s your back up plan?’” she recalls.

Today, Zinnel still doesn’t have a “back-up plan.” But it appears she doesn’t need one. This past spring she completed her third and final year at UWL with a double

major in mathematics and psychology. Next fall she will attend graduate school at Iowa State University with a goal of earning a doctoral degree in mathematics and neuroscience.

Zinnel says while some have doubted her college aspirations, others have been an inspiration. Her mother was always supportive of her college dream. Her older sister, Brittany, was living proof of what a college education could do.

Brittany attended UWL about seven years earlier, received scholarships to help pay her way, and is now a physician assistant at Gundersen Health System.

“She made it clear to me that it is possible for us to go to college and pay for it. It

doesn’t matter what anyone else thinks,” says Laura. “We can do it.”

Brittany never questioned whether she would attend college — even as the first in her family to go. “We came from a very poor background and being able to have a better and more secure lifestyle has been a huge motivator,” she says.

Finding a financial path to college

Laura and Brittany’s college education has been possible largely because of scholarships.

Brittany, valedictorian of her high school class, received several large scholarships for the honor. Laura applied to

about 30 scholarships coming into UWL, and relied on them to pay for her first year.

“Something my parents and I agreed on was the importance of adjusting to school first before getting a job,” she explains. “I didn’t want to have all that money thrown away because I failed my classes.”

Not working had a positive impact on her grades, but it put a dent in her savings. She completed her first year at UWL with only \$52 dollars left to her name. The following two summers she made up for it working part-time jobs that helped pay for her remaining two years.

Because scholarships supported her part-time work, she didn’t miss out on the college experience. Laura has been a part of Psychology Club, intramural soccer, Math and Stats Club,

Screaming Eagles Marching Band (SEMB), Womxn and Minorities in Mathematics, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and undergraduate research in math and psychology. She received a dean’s distinguished fellowship, an undergraduate research and creativity grant, and a spot in the McNair Scholars Program, which helps prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies.

Laura says growing up without a lot taught her an important lesson about life: You get out what you put in. Her advice for others wondering if they’ll make it, is to apply that lesson whether seeking scholarships or paid research opportunities.

Now Laura and Brittany’s younger sister, Gabrielle, is also a UWL student.

Both Brittany and Laura are thankful for the opportunities

college has presented, and the support they have received from generous people to make their education possible.

Each gift has meant more than just money, says Laura.

It’s another voice telling her that “back up plan” can continue to stay on the backburner. She will be a scientist one day.

She’s a Maroon Tycoon

College has been possible for Laura Zinnel through hard work and scholarships. She earned a spot on the distinguished “UWL Maroon Tycoon” honor roll her senior year. This select group of students has dedicated their time and effort to finding and applying for scholarships, and each has been awarded more than \$10,000 in **scholarships** in a single academic year.



Laura Zinnel



Brittany Zinnel

MORE THAN A SCHOOL

Dairyland Power
leaders credit
UWL for success,
connections

Deb Mirasola, Katie Thomson, Jenny Kuderer Radcliffe and Jennifer Shilling all hold key leadership roles with Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse. And, all credit the same source for launching successful careers.

“I think we all value the experience we had as students at UWL, the lifelong friendships we made, and the opportunity to pay it forward and continue supporting the university,” says Shilling, '93, the former Wisconsin Senate minority leader and now Dairyland's government relations manager.

“For me, UWL is a great way to connect with people and share stories,” she says. “UWL is a lot more than bricks and mortar. It's the people and professors and experiences that really tie you to the university.”

Mirasola (director of communications and marketing), Thomson (manager of strategic communications), Kuderer Radcliffe (economic development representative) and Shilling are not the only UWL alums at Dairyland — a La Crosse-based wholesale energy cooperative serving western Wisconsin and

parts of Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

But they are among the most prominent examples of Dairyland leaders who embrace their UWL roots, and serve as an inspiration for young people, especially young women, aspiring to similar leadership.

While their stories are unique, all four say their UWL experience helped shape them, teaching them lessons they use today.

Mirasola, '87, remembers founding a student chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators



UWL alums working at Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse include, from left, Katie Thomson, '95; Deb Mirasola, '87; Jenny Kuderer Radcliffe, '03; and Jennifer Shilling, '93.

and asking local business leaders to speak on campus.

“That really taught me how important it was for businesses to be involved with the university,” she says, noting Dairyland’s strong support of UWL. “A couple years later, I joined Dairyland just down the road and kept those lessons about community engagement with me.”

UWL is also where they developed skills to be strong, confident leaders.

Thomson, ’95, worked at the Racquet as a reporter and later assistant editor — useful experience for her career as a manager and communicator.

Kuderer Radcliffe, ’03, interned under Jan Gallagher, former director of the UWL Small Business Development Center.

And Shilling, at the urging of professor emeritus Joe Heim, won a seat on the

La Crosse County Board at age 20.

“Having come up in a male-dominated field like economic development . . . I’ve had to prove myself among people with much more experience,” Kuderer Radcliffe explains. “The most important thing is to do your homework, be firm but professional, and don’t apologize for bringing forward your ideas and expertise.”

Adds Thomson: “Another simple piece of advice is to read and listen to what other women are saying. Listen to TED Talks, check out your LinkedIn feed, find a mentor and make connections and grow from that. You can learn a lot from just being willing to listen.”

In many cases, these leadership skills have been a benefit not just to Dairyland, but to UWL and the broader community.

Kuderer Radcliffe, for example, chairs the UWL

Foundation board and has recently advocated for phase two of the Prairie Springs Science Center.

Mirasola serves on the Alumni Association Board and has long been involved with the L-Club, a group that supports UWL athletics.

For this quartet, UWL is more than a place they spent four or so years of their life. It’s where they grew into adulthood, met friends and husbands, learned lifelong skills, and had memorable moments in and out of the classroom.

And it didn’t end there.

“My husband and both of our sons are graduates of UWL. So are both of my sisters and one of my daughters-in-law,” Mirasola says. “They loved the campus like I did and built those connections, too. It’s more than a school to us. It’s part of our family.”



During a record-setting career in the hammer throw, UWL's Andrew Jarrett made his mark on the field. Now, the 2020 graduate is making his mark in the field of law enforcement.

After graduating from La Crosse Logan High School, Jarrett knew he wanted to work for the City of La Crosse. Pay, schedule and the police department itself were all considerations. But Jarrett had other rationale.

"The main reason I wanted to work for the City of La Crosse was because I grew up here," says Jarrett. "I was born here and developed relationships and positive experiences with the people who live here. I wanted to



THROWING OUT SERVICE

Andrew Jarrett at home with La Crosse police force

invest back into my community by becoming a police officer who serves it.”

The geography major with a criminal justice minor says every working day is a privilege to serve the community and work toward a better, safer La Crosse. At risk of sounding cliché, he chose law enforcement to help people and make the world safer.

“When people reach out to us, it’s often during a stressful and impactful moment in their life,” Jarrett explains. “As a police officer, I get to make a positive impact on other’s lives.”

Being a student-athlete helped him balance his academics with athletics. Jarrett quickly discovered he was capable of much more than he originally thought.

“I learned how to manage my time and developed a good work ethic,” says Jarrett. “I also gained the mindset of someone who is a champion, someone who focuses on a goal and works hard to achieve it.”

And Jarrett earned a number of championship titles. He won his third straight weight throw title at the 2020 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships, becoming

the first in conference history to capture three weight throw championships. He was selected the National Collegiate Athletic Association III Men’s Athlete of the Week during the 2020 indoor season.

“Our coaches ingrained in us the mentality of someone who strives to be a champion in sport, in school, and in life”

— Andrew Jarrett

Earning three career NCAA III All-America honors in the weight throw, Jarrett captured the national title in 2018, and placed third in 2017 and 2019. He holds UWL’s record (71-2 $\frac{3}{4}$) in the weight throw, second in NCAA III history. And, he won the hammer throw at the 2019 WIAC Outdoor Championships after finishing second in 2018 and sixth in 2017.

To reach his dream job, Jarrett completed several background checks and interviews. He then attended police academy and received

additional department-specific training and coaching.

“The process is a long one and it takes commitment,” notes Jarrett. “I’m blessed to have many people who supported me along the way, including members of my department.”

He credits his student-athlete experience for his initial career success.

“Being a student-athlete taught me how to work well with others in a team setting, how to work hard, and, most importantly, gave me the mindset of someone who sets out to continuously improve upon themselves,” says Jarrett.

He says Athletics’ motto of being a champion in sport, school and life is much more than just a saying.

“During track and field, our coaches ingrained in us the mentality of someone who strives to be a champion in sport, in school, and in life,” he says. “I have carried that mentality into my career, and it will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

lasting legado

Alum's impact
lives on through
scholarship

A new scholarship for UW-La Crosse marketing and management students honors a successful business owner who was one of the first women to graduate from the College of Business Administration.

Charlotte Markos, '69, was a trailblazer in the truest sense of the word. While earning her business degree from UWL — rare for women at the time — she continued to work at the family business, Salem Markos & Sons, Inc., at 313-315 Pearl Street in La Crosse.



Charlotte Markos, '69,

After an outstanding career and active retirement, Charlotte died on April 28, 2020. She leaves a legacy of kindness, generosity and community involvement that serves as an example for future business leaders.

“Charlotte was an intelligent, successful, generous and modest woman who made a difference in the lives she touched,” says her sister Joan R. Markos-Horejs on behalf of the family. “Charlotte made a positive impact on her family, friends, church and the La Crosse community.”

campus and/or in the La Crosse community.

“Charlotte valued the education she earned at UWL and wanted to give back by establishing this scholarship endowment fund,” Joan notes.

Joan recalls Charlotte saying, “My hope is for the recipients of this scholarship to be proud of their accomplishments and to become successful and happy in their lives.”

Many knew Charlotte from her time as vice president and co-manager of the Salem Markos & Sons, Inc., retail clothing stores. She co-owned the three stores at Pearl Street and Valley View Mall in La Crosse and Center 90 in Onalaska with her brother, Salem, and sisters Regina, Jane and Joan.

Charlotte and her siblings were the last generation to continue to operate the family business. When they retired in 2005, the business retired with them.

“Charlotte often remarked that she and her siblings’ greatest joy was serving four generations of customers, many with whom they developed and nurtured long-lasting friendships,” Joan says. Joan remembers Charlotte saying, “We took pride in the family business and what we were able to accomplish.”

Beyond her career, Charlotte’s legacy lies in her

campus and community involvement. She was a member of the International Fraternity of Delta Sigma (Eta Rho chapter), served on the CBA’s Advisory Board and was a charter member of the Silver Eagles, a group of 25-year CBA graduates.

Through her work with the Silver Eagles, Charlotte participated in the CBA’s Take an Eagle to Lunch program, mentoring young women pursuing degrees and careers in business.

“She was pleased to support and encourage them to earn their degrees and pursue their career paths,” Joan explains. “By sharing her experiences and expertise in the business world, she was able to provide guidance and instill confidence in those she mentored.”

Charlotte’s parents, Mark S. and Julia M. Markos, believed in the value of a good education. Her father, brother, Salem M. Markos II, and sisters Regina M. Kilbey, Jane M. Simmons and Joan R. Markos-Horejs all attended UWL.

Joan earned her master’s degree in education, graduated magna cum laude and taught education courses at UWL.

Joan stated, “Charlotte’s life was truly an example of a life well lived. The Charlotte M. Markos Scholarship Endowment Fund will continue her legacy.”

Through the Charlotte M. Markos Scholarship Endowment Fund in the College of Business Administration at UW-La Crosse, that positive impact will continue.

The fund, created by Charlotte, endows three \$1,000 scholarships for marketing or management students each year. Recipients must be enrolled full-time at UWL, be a junior or senior, have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and be female. Special consideration will be given to students actively involved on the UWL

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LAST LOOK

“One of my favorite images I took last year was this drone shot of Hoeschler Tower during a sunset. The pandemic brought many challenges, including my work as a university photographer. I challenged myself to get out and capture the quiet beauty of campus and share it. During shutdown, I was the eye on campus to show alumni, prospective students and families its beauty and the life-changing UWL Experience. Going to UWL changed my life. I’ll forever remember my amazing time here.”

Michael Lieurance, '02

Award-winning University Marketing & Communications Photographer