

*University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**

# CLASS NOTES

*April 2017*

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED JAN. 1-MARCH 15, 2017

*What's new with you?*

Go to [WWW.UWLALUMNI.ORG/WHATSNEW.PHP](http://WWW.UWLALUMNI.ORG/WHATSNEW.PHP) to submit your class notes, or contact Brad Quarberg, University Communications, 608.785.8572, [bquarberg@uwlax.edu](mailto:bquarberg@uwlax.edu).

**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 month of quarterly posting. See [www.uwlalumni.org](http://www.uwlalumni.org) for details.

# 51



**John Brodie**, Thiensville, was inducted into the National High

School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame during its national convention in June. Brodie is no stranger to hall of fame recognition. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Janesville Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. "It's the epitome of being a high school coach," Brodie told the Janesville Gazette about his most recent recognition. "You can't get any higher, and for that I'm very humbled." Brodie earned seven varsity letters while playing four sports at UWL, along with being the captain of a championship football team. In his high school coaching from 1958-88, his record was 141-125, 2 ties and four conference championships.

# 54

**Thomas P. Rosandich**, Daphne, Alabama, has been

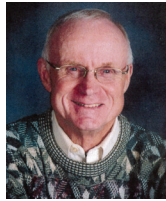


named to the Mobile (Alabama) Sports Hall of Fame.

He was scheduled to be

honored during the 2017 induction banquet April 6. Founded in 1988, the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame honors the city of Mobile's heroes and influential figures in the world of sports. It has honored more than 100 individuals. Rosandich founded the U.S. Sports Academy in 1972 in response to a poor performance by the U.S. Olympic team in the 1972 Munich Games. He recently retired from the academy with the title of president emeritus.

# 61



**Ronald F. Parker**, Rice Lake, was inducted into the Rice Lake Sports

Hall of Fame Dec. 4, 2016. He was a two-year letter winner at UWL in basketball, and went on to teach and coach at UW-Barron County from 1969-1997. He built a highly successful basketball program, earning 166 wins and 84 losses from 1969-81. The Associate Professor Emeritus organizes the Parker Curling Team that won the 2017 State Senior Curling Championship in Madison Jan. 20-22.

# 76

**Rob Cowan**, Vernon Hills, Illinois, retired in 2005 as a health teacher. Since graduating, Cowan got married

in 1979. He and his wife, Christine, have two daughters and three grandchildren. He reports all family members are teachers and have master's degrees. Their youngest daughter won an Emmy in 2016 for a video, "Not Forgotten," about the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation, and received the National Music Award from Deerfield High School. Their oldest daughter received the Foreign Language Award from her high school. Cowan remains an avid Packer and Badger fan. He plays golf occasionally and swims when he can. He shoots pool and rides motorcycle. Cowan has travelled to nearly all states and internationally. He is active in the 100 Club of Chicago and with Illinois State Police. "I have lived a charmed life and happy and honored to have graduated from UWL," he says.

# 81

**David Wambach**, Menomonee Falls, is retiring effective



March 31, 2017, from his elected office as Circuit Court Judge in

Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Wambach has been in public service since July 1, 1985, when he began his career as a prosecutor. He is finishing his last year on the UWL Alumni Association board and winding

up his tenure as a past chair. Wambach is looking forward to sharing his retirement with his partner, Mary Beth.

## 88

**Carol (Gorton) Gardner,** Frontenac, Minnesota, recently completed the Women's Health Clinical Specialist board certification. In 2014 she achieved a biofeedback international board certification in pelvic muscle dysfunction. Gardner works at Mayo Clinic Health System in Red Wing, Minnesota.

## 93

**David Christie,** Maple Grove, Minnesota, was recently promoted to senior director of Target Field Events for the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club. He has been with the Twins since he helped them open Target Field in 2010 and launched this new line of business. Christie and his wife, Cathy (Pierce), '94, have two daughters, Sydney and Alexis.

## 95

**Deborah A. Degillio,** Haddonfield, New Jersey, has been



named president of American Water Enterprises, the market-

based business of American Water, the nation's largest publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. She had been vice president and treasurer for American Water and has 20 years of experience in the utility and energy sectors. In her new role, she will lead American Water's Contract Services Group, Military Services Group and Homeowner Services.

## 01

**Kara Good,** '01 & '12, Onalaska, is engaged to Caleb Orebaugh. An Oct. 14, 2017, wedding is planned at the groom's family farm in Holmen.

## 02

**Mark Johnson,** Kingwood, Texas, is the dean of Business and Technology at San Jacinto College, an urban multi-campus community college in Houston, Texas. He oversees 19 programs, ranging from business management to electrical engineering, and from paralegal to diesel technology. Johnson leads the division's operations and strategic planning. He is also the project director for San Jacinto College's Open Educational Resource (OER) degree grant initiative, developing one of the nation's first OER degrees. He is the former department chair of English and modern language at the college. Johnson holds a bachelor's in

English from UWL, a master's in English from Winona State University in 2004, and a jurist's degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010. He lives in Kingwood with his wife, Michelle, and their children, Ariel (10) and George (10).

## 03

**Marc Westenburg,** Washington, D.C., recently moved from the Chicago suburbs to take a job as director of CASE's Center for Community College Advancement in Washington, D.C.

## 05

**Sarah (Wilson) Wood,** Los Angeles, was recently promoted to a Starbucks Reserve Bar in Los Angeles, the first in LA and 11th in the country. The bar specializes in reserve, small-lot coffees and multiple brewing methods. "It has been quite the privilege to be chosen for this position," says Wood. "My hard work and dedication has paid off. I am excited to see what the future holds." Her husband, Richard, has been working for the TV show, "Ridiculousness." "It has been quite the adventure across the country, but we are enjoying it," she says. "I'm so thankful for the education from UWL and the positive community culture that has helped me become the manager I am today."

# 09

**Norissa (Miller) DeVillers**, Oak Creek, has ben named com-



munity development manager for Premier Medical Staffing Services LLC, a

woman-owned organization that provides healthcare staffing solutions and jobs nationwide. DeVillers will work to identify and partner with technical schools, universities, and colleges that have nursing and allied health programs. She had been an account manager/recruiter with Premier for about three years.

# 11

**Kate E. Hansen**, Winona, Minnesota, — the health and wellness promotions coordinator at Winona State University — successfully passed the Master Certified in Health Education Specialist (MCHES) exam in October 2016.

# 12

**Khou Xiong**, Bayfield, received the 2016 Robert T. Cooney MD



Scholarship for \$500 at the Wisconsin Academy of Physician

Assistants (WAPA) Foundation annual awards banquet and celebration of PA week in November in Elkhart Lake. Xiong, a graduate of the UWL-Gundersen-Mayo PA Program, works in the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's Tribal Clinic. She was drawn to tribal healthcare because of her own underprivileged upbringing. The award is named for Cooney, who devoted 45 years of his life to serving patients in a family practice rural setting.

---

## A view of The U



Alumni and university friends got a tour of the new Student Union from University Centers Director Larry Ringgenberg in mid-February. Pictured, front, from left: Joanne Hubly, '56; Mary Graumann; Mary Haring, '72; and Ringgenberg. Pictured, back, from left: Judy Brown; Kay Taylor, '57; Jeanette Wright; Susan Reiste, '65; Ginny Dockweiler, '56; Jeanette Stadthaus, '67; Pat Mertens, '56; and Bill Graumann.

# ALUMNI REMEMBERED

- 1945** — Mary Heppe, Scottsdale, Arizona.  
**1952 & '60** — Ann “Stash” Batikis, Racine.  
**1953** — Marjorie Christianson Wheeler, Edmonds, Washington.  
**1955** — Joan Solie, Onalaska.  
**1954** — Patricia J. (Gibbons) Okey, Cassville.  
**1956** — Douglas R. Gerber, Lake Geneva.  
**1957 & '89** — Patricia Fleming, Greenfield.  
**1957** — Wilfred Kind, Waunakee.  
**1957** — Ralph Marking, Richfield, Minnesota.  
**1959** — David H. Losby, Park Forest, Illinois.  
**1960** — Beverly (Meyer) Engeliën, Onalaska.  
**1960** — William P. Sheridan, Jr., Madison.  
**1961** — Mary King, Coon Valley.  
**1968** — Doris Gronning Hanson, Viroqua.  
**1974** — Eileen J. Decorah, Tomah.  
**1974** — Lorraine Farrington, Sparta.  
**1974** — James Jacoby, McGregor, Iowa.  
**1978** — Alton Schroeder, Onalaska.  
**1980** — Mary Ellen Spies, Janesville.  
**1986** — Sandra (Burand) Harris, Holmen.  
**1986** — Patricia (Wood) Uhl, Milwaukee.  
**1989** — Joan Ruth Kilbey, Chandler, Arizona.  
**1999** — Christopher Werner, Sheboygan.  
**2001** — Jessica Kaczmarek Lichtie, Holmen.  
**2001** — Jean Nowak, Stetsonville.  
**2007** — Jordan Manthe, Sun Prairie.

---

# FACULTY/STAFF REMEMBERED

**James Arnold Anderson,** 92, La Crosse, died Dec. 18, 2016. He taught sociology at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, from 1954-1960 before moving to UWL that year, retiring in 1988. During his

last four years at UWL he was associate dean of the College of Arts, Letter, and Sciences. He will be remembered as a man who did good work, a man committed to education, a man committed to his

community, a man of faith, and a man who loved and was loved by his family. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth L. Anderson; and four children.

---

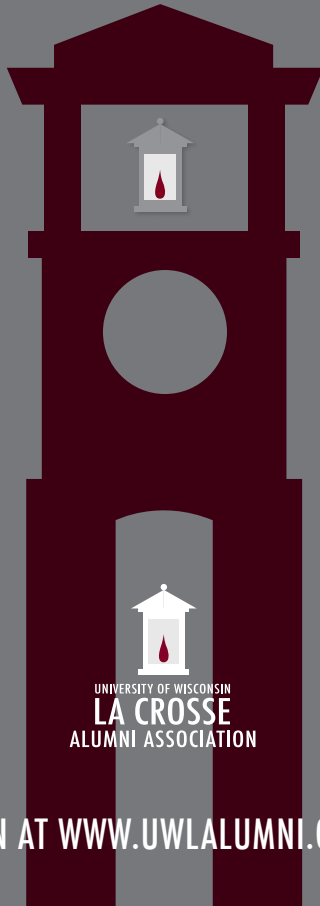
**Sandra Jeanne (Burand) (Terpstra) Harris, 75,** Holmen, died Jan. 26, 2017, in La Crosse. Harris, '86, was news director at 88.9 WLSU (Wisconsin Public Radio-La Crosse) from 1990 until retiring in 2007. Harris was

a private person, a woman of integrity who cared deeply about human rights, truthfulness and equality. Whether she was interviewing for a news story or conversing with a relative or friend, she had a way of making a person

feel important. She will be remembered for her generosity and for her calm, genuine and gracious demeanor. She is survived by her husband, Clarence “Clary” Harris; and two sons.

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

*For you. | For La Crosse. | For a lifetime.*



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JOIN AT [WWW.UWLALUMNI.ORG](http://WWW.UWLALUMNI.ORG)