

*University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

# CLASS NOTES

*January 2017*

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED OCT. 1-DEC. 15, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**

## *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.

## 60

**Al Poser**, Stoddard, was inducted into the Wisconsin Wrestling Hall of Fame Nov. 4. Poser, the first collegiate national wrestling champion from Wisconsin, won the national title as a UWL sophomore at the 1966 NAIA championships at 191 pounds.

## 77

**Marianne M. (Schoenfeld) Thompson**, Bolingbrook, Illinois, received the John Philip Award in October at the Association of Bookmobile & Outreach Service conference in Covington, Kentucky. The award recognizes outstanding contributions and prominent leadership in bookmobile and outreach services. Thompson is president of ABOS, an affiliate of the American Library Association. She is the outreach services manager for Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook and has worked there for 28 years in management. A librarian for 38 years, Thompson started her career in 1978 at the La Crosse Public Library as an extension services librarian working on the Bookmobile.

## 82

**David J. Rusch**, Hartford, is a world record holder of age group pull-ups for 50-54 in Dale Harder's book of world records. Rusch was inducted in the football coaches' hall of fame with the Positive

Influence of Coaching Award in 2008. He retired from football in 2016 after 35 years of coaching, 24 years as the head coach. His school has established an award named after him, the Dave Rusch Character Award. His three daughters are married and employed in education. Two of them and their husbands graduated from UWL.

## 83

**Kathryn Keppel**, Milwaukee, has been elected as a fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation. Wisconsin Law Foundation Fellows, selected annually, are recognized for outstanding attainment in professional, public, or private careers for devotion to the welfare of their community, state, and nation, and advancing the legal profession. Keppel is the firm's lead appellate attorney and has authored many appellate and trial court briefs in all areas of practice. She has successfully briefed winning appeals in matters as diverse as contract interpretation, spousal support, criminal and civil rights cases and procedural matters. She also handles a large percentage of the firm's pre-trial litigation obligations, including product liability defense and a variety of civil and criminal matters.

## 86

**Wynne P. Laufenberg**, Waterford, has been appointed Racine County Circuit Court

judge by Gov. Scott Walker. Laufenberg has practiced law in Racine, concentrating in family, guardianship and juvenile law, since 1997. Before that, she worked in the Racine County Public Defender's Office for seven years performing trial work in juvenile, misdemeanor and felony courts. Laufenberg will fill the remainder of retiring Judge Gerald Ptacek's term that expires in April 2018. She intends to run for a full term. Laufenberg, a Chippewa Falls native, received a juris doctorate from Marquette University Law School.

## 87

**Doug Geiger**, Chicago, began a new position as vice president of Academic Affairs at Resurrection University in September 2016.

## 88



**David Schaper**, Chicago, is an NPR national desk reporter based

in Chicago. He covers news in Chicago and around the Midwest. Additionally, he reports on a broad range of social, cultural, political and business issues in the region. Prior to joining NPR, Schaper spent nine years working as an award-winning reporter and editor for Chicago Public

Radio's WBEZ-FM. For three years he covered education issues. Since beginning his career at Wisconsin Public Radio's WLSU-FM at UWL, Schaper has worked in Chicago.

## 90

**Patricia Kestell**, Jackson, was named president of the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education at the association's annual convention in October. Kestell teaches physical education at Thorson Elementary School in Cedarburg where she is heavily involved in promoting healthy active lifestyles for children and families. Kestell received a Kohl Fellowship, and was named WHPE and Midwest District PE Teacher of the Year in 2012, National PE Teacher of the Year in 2013, Fuel Up to Play 60 MVP Ambassador, and a national MVP school video contest winner in 2016.

## 93



**Jennifer Hansen**, Mequon, owner and president of The Anderson

Group in New Berlin, was featured in the October 2016 issue of Milwaukee's BizTimes, <https://www.biztimes.com/2016/10/03/managing-the-transition/>.

## 94

**Jennifer O'Rourke**, Eagan, Minnesota, has worked in Gopher state politics and policy since graduating. She stayed busy at home raising their boys, 12 and 14, while working full-time outside the home. She would like to connect with UWL political science/public administration alums, especially those in Minnesota and Wisconsin.



**Jeremy Richter**, Chicago, received an award for film excellence in

Cannes, France, in October. Richter is founder and owner of Richter Studios. "My company (Richter Studios) and our amazing creative team stood tall alongside the other winners, including BMW, Samsung and Porsche," notes Richter.

## 96

**Erik McNeill**, Arlington Heights, Illinois, was named IAHPERD Secondary P.E. Teacher of the year for Illinois at the state convention. In October, McNeill was also awarded the Northeastern District teacher of the year for secondary physical education teachers. He is in his 21st year of teaching at Maine West High School in Des Plaines. Along with teaching, McNeill

is an Instructional coach, senior leader supervisor and assistant athletic director.

## 97

**Heidi M. Olson** has been married to Andrew Stoltmann for 15 years. She is a financial adviser with Edward Jones. They live in Rosemount, Minnesota, with their two kids, Kariagh (11) and Kole (7).

## 01

**Cora Dillin**, Mauston, has been named District III Athletic Director of the Year by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. She was also a finalist for the Athletic Director of the Year Award. Dillin has served as Necedah High School Athletic Director for 11 years.

## 05

**Brian Wopat**, Holmen, has received the 2016 Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers Recognition of Merit Award, presented annually to those who have demonstrated excellence in teaching or who made significant contributions to the language-teaching profession. Wopat, who teaches French at Onalaska High School, organizes and leads student exchanges and trips to France, serves as French Club and French National Honor Society advisor, and coordinates the Global Education Achievement Certificate program.

# 07

**Naomi Dow**, Bangor, is a technical analyst with Trane/Ingersoll Rand in La Crosse. She and her husband, Jason, have a daughter.

# 08



**Andrew Troxel**, West Point, Iowa, was named a top five finalist for the Iowa Teacher of the Year award for 2017. The Iowa Teacher of the Year award, established in 1958, is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature. Honorees serve as ambassadors to education and act as liaisons to schools, higher education, and state organizations.

## ALUMNI REMEMBERED

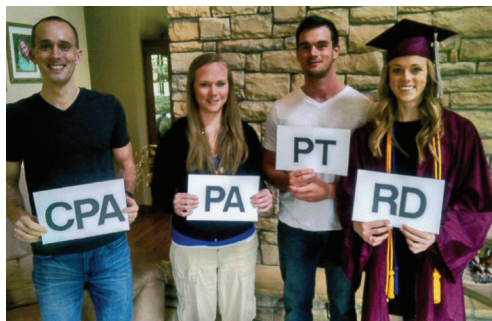
- 1938:** Henry Thomas James, Golden Valley, Minnesota
- 1941:** Lena Willcox Kamerer, Eastanollee, Georgia
- 1955:** Hollister Jansen, Green Bay
- 1961:** Peter Flock, Lake Elmo
- 1961:** Bev Thornburg, Temecula, California
- 1965:** Mary Jane Gill, Pewaukee
- 1967 & 75:** Alfred "Ace" Stadthaus, La Crosse
- 1969:** Clayton Jorgensen, Grantsburg
- 1972:** Tamara Scholl Nowland, La Crosse
- 1976:** Russell Stenslien, La Crosse
- 1982:** Donnie Ray Vedder, Madison
- 1984:** Robin Sommer, Rochester, Minnesota

## FACULTY/STAFF REMEMBERED

### ALFRED "ACE" STADTHAUS, '67 & '75

Alfred "Ace" Carl Stadthaus, Jr., 73, La Crosse, died Nov. 6, 2016. He played basketball at UW-Madison before transferring to UWL. Stadthaus helped lead UWL to the conference basketball title in 1965, the last UWL conference basketball title until spring 2016. In his two years on the team, he led in rebounding, setting the season school rebounding record that stands today. Upon graduation, Stadthaus began working at UWL in the newly formed student financial aid department, eventually leading the department as its director until retiring 34 years later. In 1975, he earned a master's from UWL in student personnel services. He was involved in UWL activities, attending different athletic events, being active in alumni organizations, and running the clock at basketball and football games. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette, '67, their children and grandchildren. Send donations to the UWL Foundation, 615 East Ave. N., La Crosse.

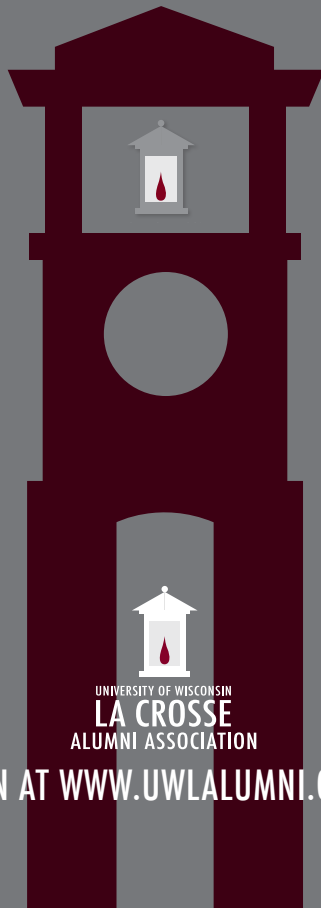
## All in the family



A May graduation brought the number of alums in a family to four. Michelle Meinking, '16, not only works with sports teams, she's part of a UWL family team. The May 2016 graduate, right, teamed up with her siblings for a photo displaying the alums' disciplines. They include, from left, Brian Losching, '03; Melissa Meinking, '14; and Ben Meinking, '12. "UWL gave them a strong, solid foundation to further pursue their future aspirations," says mom Linda Meinking.

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