

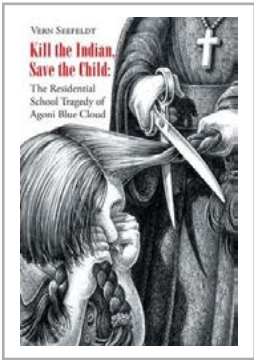


UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

# CLASS NOTES

JANUARY 2025

CLASS NOTES SUBMITTED OCTOBER 15 - DECEMBER 15, 2024



'55

**Vernal Seefeldt**, distinguished professor emeritus at Michigan State University, has authored and published a book, "Kill the Indian, Save the Child: The Residential School Tragedy of Agoni Blue Cloud." A work of historical fiction, the book follows the lives of First Nations people who were forced to adjust their existence to meet governmental regulations on land ownership and their children's education.

'82

**David Rusch**, assistant football coach at Hartford Union High School in southeast Wisconsin, was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Rusch, who was also named the 2022 Assistant Football Coach of the Year in the North Shore Conference, has coached football 43 years and counting.

'86

**Loren Caulum**, former instructor of information technology at Western Technical College, is retired. He enjoys playing golf, woodworking, lasers and traveling.

'92

**Carla (Gjefle) Lundeen** is the director of Great Rivers 211, a crisis care line offered through Emplify Health by Gundersen in La Crosse.



Jonathan Delagrave

'96

**Jonathan Delagrave** was posthumously awarded the James R. Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health. Delagrave, a lifelong resident of Racine County, dedicated much of his professional life to improving communities there. He started with the Racine County Human Services Department in 2003, becoming director in 2010. He was elected county executive in 2015 and was re-elected in 2019 and 2023. His legacy includes leadership and support of economic development, infrastructure development and mental health services in Racine County.



'10

**Via Vang** continues to collect awards and accolades as one of the country's best rising chefs. Vang, who was featured earlier this year on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," has been named chef of the year by Esquire magazine. Known for his creative takes on Hmong cuisine, Vang also earned praise when his Vinai restaurant in Minneapolis was named to the New York Time's Restaurant List.

'22

**Kati Thompson**, clinical manager of behavioral health at Gundersen Health System is using the practice of forest bathing to support those struggling with substance. Thompson, who has studied forest bathing – the therapeutic practice of connecting with nature – for several

years, recently became a certified forest bathing guide through a Gundersen Medical Foundation grant. Thompson is using this certification to help clients from the Unity House for Men work toward sobriety.

'23

**Mara Yates** is a client relationship manager in financial services for Morgan Stanley in Gilbert, Arizona. A finance major, Yates recalls seeing alumni career information displayed in Wittich Hall. "It was truly inspiring and motivated me to keep striving," she says.

# In Remembrance

## Alumni

1948 – Adolph Lindahl, Stoddard, Wis.  
1956 – Kenneth Beighley, Platteville  
1956 – Dick McLoone, La Crosse  
1959 – Darlene (Wolfe) Burrows, Holmen  
1959 – Diana (Severson) Siedel, Lexington, Ky.  
1959 – Verna (Witt) Smillie, La Crosse  
1961 – John Fadness, Chippewa Falls  
1961 – Douglas Schroeder, Sparta  
1963 – Jim Riniker, Hudson, Wis.  
1964 – James Hamilton, La Crosse  
1964 – Joanne Swanson, Viroqua  
1965 – Merle Sweet, Madison

1970 – Noel Sutherland, Stoddard, Wis.  
1972 – Joseph Engels, Stoughton, Wis.  
1972 – Sharon (Ebner) Pagel, Skokie, Ill.  
1972 – Monty (Bridgeford) Peterson, Eau Claire  
1972 – David Rudrud, Trempealeau  
1974 – Thomas Tyler, La Crosse  
1974 – James Werth, Onalaska  
1979 – Jim Adkins, Sparta  
1984 – Rosalind (Rossing) Krajewski, La Crosse  
1993 – Jean Hammes, La Crosse  
**No year listed:** James Bennett, La Crescent  
**No year listed:** Gary Stuhr, Onalaska

## Faculty & Staff

### Rosalyn Baumgarten

Rosalyn Helen Baumgarten, of Onalaska, died Oct. 3 at age 75. Baumgarten had worked at UWL for many years as a program assistant.

### Martin Devine

Martin Devine, of La Crescent, died Dec. 1 at age 59. Devine was a clinical assistant professor in UWL's Physician Assistant Program until his retirement in 2019. In retirement, Devine enjoyed spending time with his family, keeping a garden where he grew ingredients for his favorite recipes, learning new hobbies and caring for his dogs.

### Gale Grimslid

Gale G. Grimslid, of La Crosse, died Nov. 13 at age 89. Grimslid formerly served as the director of Admissions at UWL.

### Dick McLoone

Richard (Dick) J. McLoone, of La Crosse, died Oct. 11 at age 91. A teacher turned stockbroker, McLoone was actively involved in the La Crosse community, serving on various boards and contributing philanthropically. He also shared his knowledge as a guest instructor in business and finance at UWL, Viterbo University and Western Technical College. McLoone and his wife, Bev Scheel, whom he met while attending UWL, were among the inaugural members to establish the UWL Alumni Association, now part of the UWL Alumni & Friends Foundation. They continued to support the university throughout their lives.

### Judith Shepherd

Judith "Judi" Shepherd died Nov. 26 at age 81. Shepherd spent 30 years working in various departments at UWL, before retiring to spend more time with her family. Shepherd was an animal-lover and a frequent volunteer at the Coulee Region Humane Society, an organization she supported throughout her life.

### Arlene Wiese

Arlene Mae Wiese, of La Crosse, died Oct. 31 at age 94. Wiese worked many jobs over the years, including time as a custodian at UWL's Murphy Library, where she established many friendships. Wiese was passionate about sewing and quilting. She and her husband, Reuben, also raised a large garden and would often can food for their family.



### Judith Kuipers

Judith Kuipers, who left an indelible mark at UW-La Crosse as the first woman to serve as chancellor, died Oct. 15 at age 87.

Kuipers became the eighth leader in school history in 1991 and went on to lead UWL until 2000 – a transformative decade that saw the university reach new levels of excellence and become a rising star in the Universities of Wisconsin system.

"We know that Judy's legacy will continue to endure here at UWL and we have nothing but the deepest gratitude for all she accomplished and the way she led this fine institution," Chancellor James Beeby says. "She was a role model and

mentor to so many and clearly a transformative chancellor."

Major accomplishments during Kuipers' tenure include establishing the La Crosse Health Science Consortium, constructing and renovating several campus facilities, adding eight new majors and other academic offerings, and kickstarting the university's undergraduate research program.

In 2000, friends and colleagues established the Judith L. Kuipers Scholarship at UWL in her honor.



# Submit UWL Class Notes

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[www.uwlax.edu/foundation/connect/whats-new-with-you](http://www.uwlax.edu/foundation/connect/whats-new-with-you)

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## Class Notes Policy:

Class notes and obituaries are published online in January, April, July and October.  
The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the month of quarterly posting.

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