



FALCON

FEATURES

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS

Fall 2010

Wong How Man:

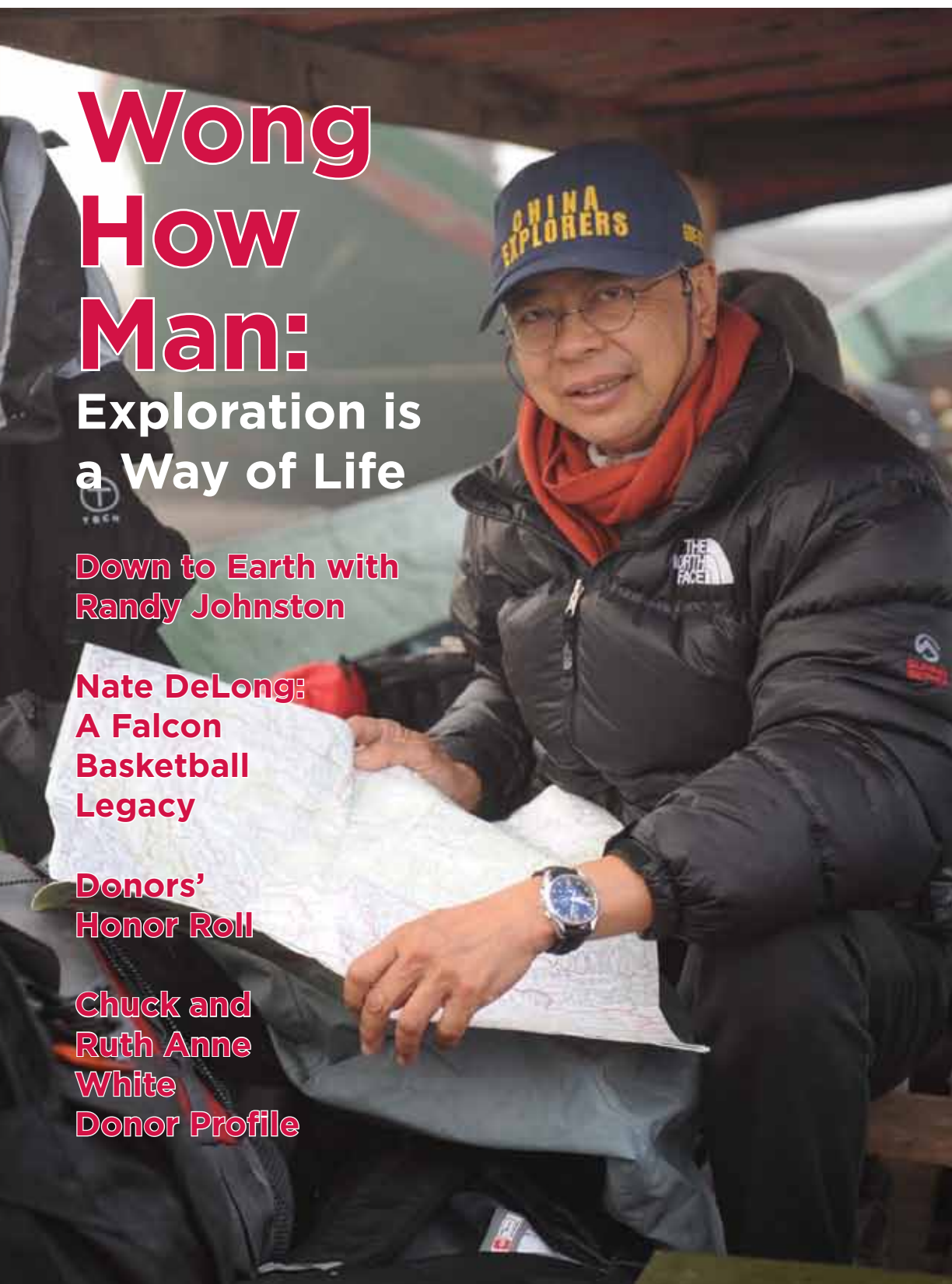
Exploration is
a Way of Life

Down to Earth with
Randy Johnston

Nate DeLong:
A Falcon
Basketball
Legacy

Donors'
Honor Roll

Chuck and
Ruth Anne
White
Donor Profile



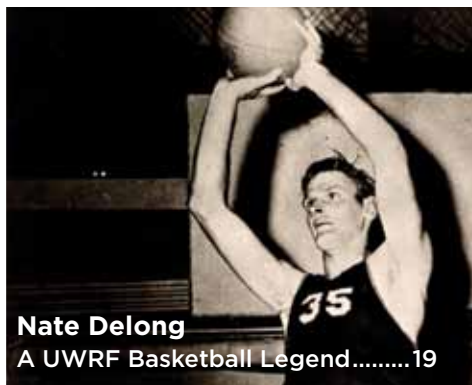
Amp' It Up!



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COMMUNITY MEMBERS PACKED THE WALL AMPHITHEATRE on July 13 to watch musical group The Kids From Wisconsin perform as part of UWRF's summer concert series. Inset, a historic photo of the long-running group performing at the same site in the 1970s.

First conceived of in the 1960s by Professor Melvin Wall, the amphitheatre that bears his name recently underwent a remodel to update and restore the venue. The amphitheatre's shell was repainted, repaired, and additional backstage space was added. The badly deteriorated original limestone seats were replaced with new stone tiers, and wheelchair accessible space was created.

Further remodeling is planned, including the installation of picnic tables, additional trees and landscaping. Barriers to protect the amphitheatre from daily foot traffic will be erected and the space will also be equipped to function as an open-air classroom.

For more information on how to support the amphitheatre renovation project, contact the UW-River Falls Foundation at (715) 425-3505.



up front

With Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

Greetings from River Falls! This summer has been a time of great progress for our campus, with the opening of the renovated Melvin Wall Amphitheater, the completion of numerous landscaping projects, and a major project to replace campus steam lines. More importantly, we have prepared to welcome new

and returning students to campus this fall, and to provide them with educational opportunities of uncommon quality, thanks to faculty and staff who are deeply committed to students and learning.

Looking back, as part of the spring commencement ceremonies in May we honored two of our distinguished alumni profiled in this edition of Falcon Features, Wong How Man and Arlin Albrecht. I found both of these UWRF graduates to be gracious and humble, character traits that make their remarkable accomplishments all the more impressive. Their stories, and those of the other alumni featured in the pages ahead, speak volumes to the quality and value of a UW-River Falls education and the ways in which our graduates take advantage of the opportunities that this education has afforded them.

This fall, the university will be undertaking a bold new venture, the opening of an off-campus educational center in Hudson, Wis. The UW-River Falls Hudson Center will primarily meet the educational needs of working adults by offering classes during flexible hours at a convenient and professional location. Degree offerings at the Hudson Center will include undergraduate degree completion and graduate programs. The Hudson Center will enable UW-River Falls to serve as the learning nucleus of the St. Croix Valley in new ways.

You may have already noticed that this edition of Falcon Features premieres a new design that more heavily emphasizes the school colors of UW-River Falls. This new look is part of a larger marketing campaign that will be launched this fall. We have learned that those who know of UW-River Falls think very highly of the institution and its graduates. The goal of the marketing campaign, which will include outdoor, print, electronic and radio advertisements, is to ensure that more individuals have the opportunity to learn of and share our passion for UW-River Falls.

From all of us at UW-River Falls, best wishes for a wonderful fall season, and thank you for the many ways you support the university!

Dean Van Galen

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Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please contact the Advancement Office at the address below and provide a correct mailing address. If you prefer to call, the number is (715) 425-3505 or 1 (877) 258-6647. We appreciate your cooperation.

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Falcon Features strives to:

- educate readers on significant challenges facing the campus, the region, the nation and the world;
- enlighten readers on the wealth of expertise represented by faculty, staff, students and alumni;
- encourage readers to take an active role in the mission of UWRF; and
- entertain readers with stimulating writing, striking photography and dynamic design.

We welcome your reactions and input. You are encouraged to contact us at the address below.

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along the south fork

A Summary of Noteworthy Events, Milestones, Programs, Happenings.



Regent Kevin Opgenorth with Dale Braun



Regent Betty Womack with Njia Lawrence-Porter



Michael Bilden

Regents Awards

A UWRF staff member and an academic program were honored with prestigious UW System Board of Regents awards in June. Campus Planner Dale Braun received one of two 2010 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Awards. The UWRF McNair Scholars program, under the leadership of the program's Assistant Director Njia Lawrence-Porter, received the only 2010 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Program Award. In congratulatory letters to the recipients, Charles Pruitt, president of the UW System Board of Regents, and John Drew, chair of the Regent Committee for Academic Staff Excellence Awards, applauded "your professional, impressive accomplishments, and outstanding devotion to the quality of education in the University of Wisconsin System." Braun received \$5,000 to support his professional development or other activities of his choice that will enhance a university program or function. The McNair Scholars program's \$5,000 award will be used to support activities that will enhance the university program or function.

Adult Degree Completion

The Adult Degree Completion Program is a new initiative at UWRF within the College of Business and Economics (CBE) designed to meet the educational needs

of working adults in the St. Croix valley. Some of these individuals have received associates or bachelor's degrees, or higher, and some are currently pursuing degrees. A goal of the program is to reduce the bachelor's degree deficit in the state since Wisconsin, as a whole, suffers from a population with fewer degree holding adults than neighboring states. A graduate of the program will earn a bachelor's degree from UWRF in business administration or some other field within CBE. The program includes face-to-face courses taught evenings and weekends; online and hybrid (combination of online and face-to-face) courses; and credit awarded for previous work or life experiences. Michael Bilden coordinates the program.

MBA Billboard

Featuring a recent UWRF MBA graduate and a call to learn more about the program via the university's website, CBE launched a billboard in March in Hudson along westbound Interstate 94. The branded billboard reads "Master your success" and includes a link to more information on the MBA program. A photo of Roseanne Bump, CEO of the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and a December graduate dressed in her commencement garb, graces the billboard. The billboard is part of a UWRF public awareness campaign that is the first phase of the university's integrated marketing communications plan.



Billboard along I 94 in Hudson

UWRF Staffing Updates



Rick Bowen

UWRF Athletic Director Rick Bowen retired June 21. Bowen had been a key component of UWRF athletics for more than 20 years as a coach and administrator. "I have had a great career in the world of athletics," says Bowen. "I have never worked in a better place or with better people. I am proud to say that the best times of my working and personal life have been spent in this town and on this campus." UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen says, "Rick has served as a mentor and educator to generations of UWRF student-athletes and coaches. Falcon athletics has benefited greatly from his quarter-century of leadership."

Spring Falcon Features online – we need your e-mail address!

The *Falcon Features* spring 2011 issue will be an entirely online publication in an effort to support UWRF's dedication to environmental conservation and to decrease costs.

The same alumni features, news items and class notes that regularly appear in *Falcon Features* will be offered at:
www.uwrf.edu/falcon-features

If you haven't already done so, please provide the Alumni Office with your e-mail address so that we can notify you when the next issue is posted. You may send your e-mail address to:
alumni@uwrf.edu

Or go to:
www.uwrf.edu/alumni/feedback.php
to use the online update form.

Be sure to update the Alumni Office of any mailing address changes as the fall issue of *Falcon Features* will continue to be printed and mailed as usual.

See you online in the spring.



Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association (WATA) Hall of Fame

UWRF Athletic Trainer Gary Eloranta was inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame on April 23 in Eau Claire. Eloranta, a graduate of UWRF, has been an educator and adviser to UWRF students for the past 37 years. "This is a tremendous honor," says Eloranta. "It's very special to be recognized by your peers."



Vice Chancellor

Joseph Harboun began his new position as vice chancellor for administration and finance at UWRF on Aug. 18. He comes from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles where he was the associate dean for business operations in the school of education. A native of Lebanon, Harboun speaks three languages including French and Arabic. "Mr. Harboun has an extensive track record of administrative accomplishments," says Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "The university will benefit greatly from his leadership as we continue to pursue administrative efficiencies, develop innovative financial models and prepare for our next strategic planning cycle."



Chief Diversity Officer

Andriel Dees began as chief diversity officer at UWRF on July 7 after serving as the associate dean for multicultural affairs at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn. "Ms. Dees brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position of chief diversity officer," says Van Galen. "She is the ideal professional to build upon the momentum that exists on campus towards fulfilling our strategic planning initiatives in the areas of diversity and inclusiveness."



Athletic Director

Roger Ternes began as UWRF's athletic director on July 19. Ternes came from Dickinson State University in North Dakota where he had been athletic director since 1999. "I'm looking forward to this great opportunity at UWRF," says Ternes. "I'm also looking forward to working with Chancellor Van Galen and the entire athletic staff to move Falcon athletics forward. The opportunity for success at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is limitless. I look forward to working with the students and staff to establish a high level of achievement in Falcon athletics."

PROFile

In April, UW-River Falls professor and chair of the art department, Randy Johnston, was presented with the Distinguished Educators Award by the James Renwick Alliance (JRA). This well-deserved honor from the JRA is the latest acknowledgment of Johnston's talents.

A master potter who has taught ceramics for more than 37 years, including 16 at UW-River Falls, Johnston is a past recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bush Foundation. His work has been exhibited in prestigious museums in the United States and Europe and he has served as a guest artist at more than 70 universities throughout the world. His work is now part of the permanent collection at the Renwick Museum of the Smithsonian.

Johnston holds a bachelor's in fine arts from the University of Minnesota and a master of fine arts from Southern Illinois University. He is also one of the earliest Americans fortunate enough to study pottery in Japan under Shimaoka Tatsuzo, a world-renowned ceramic artist who received the Order of the Rising Sun and was named a National Living Treasure of Japan.

The staff of Falcon Features sat down with Johnston to learn more about the motivations and influences of this award-winning artist and educator.

Q: What first inspired you to become an artist and specifically drew you to pottery?

A: I had to take a general elective class in artistic expression at the University of Minnesota. I took a general elective ceramics class and Warren Mackenzie who, a professor at the time, changed my life. He and I had an immediate connection. I always say it is like catching a bad case of the clay virus. I dearly fell in love with not only working in clay, but also bronze casting and iron casting.

Q: So you then went on to earn your MFA?

A: Actually, under Warren's counseling, I decided I wanted to become a working artist. I drew a 60 mile radius around the Twin Cities. I was negotiating for property in Marine on St. Croix, but one day I drove out here, seven miles east of town, found a piece of property and it all fell in place and I established a studio. About three years later I determined I didn't know very much. I built a kiln based on pictures of a kiln in Japan. I was somewhat angry because my kiln never worked very well. When I went to Japan to study, I went to find where that kiln was and ask what I was doing wrong. They told me the kiln in the picture never worked worth a dime.

Q: You were a working artist. How did the decision come about to teach?

A: In 1981 I was invited to teach at the School of Art in Bergen, Norway and the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, Canada. On the way back from Canada, my wife said I should go into teaching. Ken Ferguson, a contemporary of Warren Mackenzie, invited me to teach at the Kansas City Art Institute. It was a confluence of these experiences that led me to want to teach rather than the architectural construction I had been doing at the time.

Q: For your Bush Fellowship you went to Crete. How do you decide where you go to study art?

A: I don't know if it is part of an overall master plan. I have a strong interest in all art, but specifically, primitive art and how the artistic roots of certain cultures influence 20th and 21st century art.

Q: Is your creative drive always going or is it something you can shut off and relax?

A: It is difficult to switch off. Sometimes I will go home from the university and work in my studio until 10 p.m. While I like to swim and sail, I don't consider going into the studio to be work. I consider it to be a luxury in my life.

Q: What should a lay person look for when buying pottery? What differentiates great pottery?

A: People should support art and artists by buying the things they like. I don't think there is necessarily a right way and a wrong way. Everybody has the capacity to both appreciate art and ultimately make art. The definition of art for me is human expression. The definition of what make a great piece of ceramic art is elusive. I want to put people in the position of thinking about something differently after they have encountered my work. Everyday you might get up and see something different.



An Award-Winning Career Built on a Foundation of Community

by BLAKE FRY

Arlin Albrecht at his home in Red Wing, Minn.

Shortly after graduating from UW-River Falls in 1958 (known then as Wisconsin State College-River Falls), Arlin Albrecht became a reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. He set his sights clearly on obtaining a job in one of the nation's largest media markets.

To obtain experience as an editor and a chance to work with Phil Duff, "one of the best country newspaper editors in Minnesota at the time," Albrecht passed up job offers in San Diego and Hollywood to work in Red Wing, Minn. Still focused on establishing a career in a major media market, Albrecht asked for assurance from Duff that after one year, Duff would provide him with a letter that would help him secure the big city opportunity he coveted.

Nearly 50 years later, Albrecht is still in Red Wing, with an award-winning career that is respected and honored by those who work in journalism, regardless of what size market they work in.

What is it that kept Albrecht in Red Wing all this time and led him to a lifetime of professional and personal fulfillment? He discovered and harnessed the power of community.

Albrecht eventually became and remains chairman and CEO of Red Wing Publishing, which under the leadership of he and his wife Marilyn (a 1956 graduate of UW-River Falls) grew to include 21 daily community newspapers in Minnesota and Wisconsin from Red Wing to International Falls.

Recognizing the futility of trying to micromanage 21 newspapers covering a large geographic area, Albrecht wanted his editors to work independently. He knew the key to making this work was for each editor to engage the communities they lived and worked in through service. Service would increase connections between the public and the newspaper and improve the product Albrecht was selling by ensuring the editors were knowledgeable about their subject matter.

Albrecht's philosophy of community was proven effective when several of Red Wing Publishing's newspapers won "Best in Nation" awards.

Albrecht was speaking from experience when he preached the importance of civic engagement to his editors. Despite his dreams of working in a big city, Albrecht dedicated himself to local service upon his arrival in Red Wing.

Through the years, his commitment to service has affected the Red Wing community in profoundly positive ways.

As board chair and director of Fairview Red Wing Health Services, Albrecht successfully merged a hospital and medical clinic that had previously suffered from a confrontational relationship. He also oversaw the acquisition of land that allowed the newly merged medical campus to expand and therefore better meet the needs of the growing Red Wing community.

Through his involvement in community banking, Albrecht worked to

make sure that local businessman could obtain the capital they needed to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

When the Mississippi River became dangerously polluted in the 1960s, he formed a citizen's organization with the motto, "We can't all live upstream." This organization played a key role in securing federal legislation requiring cities to improve sewage treatment practices.

Today, Albrecht is continuing his commitment to water quality through the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, an ad hoc citizen group seeking to save the lake from sedimentation and phosphorus pollution. Keeping the importance of community in mind, Albrecht is seeking a solution to cleaning up Lake Pepin that respects the realities of all those in the Red Wing community, including the agricultural industry.

"While you have to stop the runoff, there are organizations that want to have zero tolerance. Well, that isn't going to work," Albrecht says. "It is possible to greatly improve conditions in Lake Pepin by reducing runoff by half, and that is what we are asking. The farms have a big stake in this. It is their topsoil that is running into the river, so it is in their interests to stop it."

Additional examples of Albrecht's service to Red Wing include his tenures as president of the Red Wing United Way and Chamber of Commerce, as well as his extended run as director of the Red Wing Area Fund, a philanthropic organization which has invested more than \$11 million in the community since 1980.

When introducing Albrecht as the 2010 UWRF Distinguished Alumnus during Spring Commencement ceremony, Provost Fernando Delgado said, "While his professional accomplishments alone would make him a deserving recipient of this award, Arlin is equally deserving of recognition for his service to others."

There have been times when Albrecht's commitment to Red Wing has led him far beyond the city limits, most notably his decision to become a Vietnam War correspondent for the Red Wing Republican Eagle. "Phil [Duff] and I did a lot of adventurous things," Albrecht says.

Albrecht's bold decision to cover the war on the ground was motivated by a desire to find out what soldiers from Red Wing were actually doing.

"It was the last great war for journalism," Albrecht says. "You could go anywhere you were dumb enough to go."

With a portable typewriter, three cameras and half a dozen lenses, Albrecht chronicled the lives of soldiers from Red Wing and mailed their stories back for publication in the Republican Eagle. These stories took on special meaning for readers, particularly the friends and families of those serving overseas.

In a few tragic cases, Albrecht was the last person from Red Wing to have interacted with the soldiers prior to their deaths. In those

cases, his chronicles took on extra meaning and resulted in strong connections between Albrecht and the soldiers' families.

That he became interested in the field of journalism in the first place was a result of his time as a student at UW-River Falls. Like so many who have attended UWRF, Albrecht was a first generation college student. Originally an agricultural education major, Albrecht chose to attend college only after his high school agriculture teacher insisted that he was up to the challenge.

Albrecht credits his decision to become a journalism and economics dual major to "the country boy seeing the bright lights of the city and realizing perhaps milking dairy cows wasn't what I wanted to do the rest of my life."

Through what he describes as "an unusual set of events," Albrecht was named editor of the Student Voice during his sophomore year. As editor, he worked under the advisement of Professor Wayne Wolfe, a training he describes as more important than any class he ever took.

While working as editor of the Student Voice, Albrecht came to know and work closely with the staff at the River Falls Journal.

"In that era, this whole business was full of characters," he says. "There were line type operators who would intentionally insert typographical errors just to see if this college newspaper editor could catch them." Albrecht was up to the challenge and was hired by the River Falls Journal upon graduating from UWRF.

What advice does Albrecht, a recipient of the Herman Roe Editorial Writing Award and the Al McIntosh Distinguished Service to Journalism Award from the Minnesota Newspaper Association have for today's aspiring journalists who will enter a difficult economic climate?

"Be prepared to be the premier collector of information in your market and diversify how to distribute it," Albrecht says.

"Newspapers will continue to have an important function, particularly in small communities, but you can't ignore electronic alternatives. There is too much focus on competition between mediums. The key is to create a product that is compelling and provides information people can use today."

True to his rich history in the community newspaper industry, Albrecht shared that "the economics of metropolitan newspapers have changed forever. The economics of small newspapers have changed, but I think there's enough flexibility in local distribution so that you can continue to be a successful distributor of information."

"Be prepared to be the premier collector of information in your market and diversify how to distribute it."



To the Horizon and Beyond **Wong How**

by LISA STRATTON





Man



It's no secret that the majority of students at

UW-River Falls hail from within a 100-mile radius of the city. Alumnus and international explorer Wong How Man took a slightly longer route - 7,508 miles, to be exact.

It was perhaps this first journey across the globe that struck a flint to the fire for Wong's life-long passion for what lies beyond the horizon line.

A Hong Kong native, the moniker "River Falls" struck a favorable chord with Wong, evoking peaceful, nature-filled imagery, as it does with many of the undergraduates who choose UWRF.



"When I looked at all the different campuses, River Falls conjured up some beautiful images, unlike all the other names which meant little or nothing to me," says Wong.

Wong came to River Falls in 1969 and double-majored in art and journalism. His academic career was filled with extracurricular activities such as stint with University Theatre, and he led the International Students Organization as their president.

"I learned a lot from UWRF, including even about China in which I developed an interest when I got to River Falls. In my younger days in Hong Kong, we knew little about China, but the library provided information and quenched my thirst about my own identity and culture," muses Wong.

After graduating in 1976, Wong went to work as a freelance journalist for Architectural Digest. His work with the magazine furthered his interest in exploration. In 1982, Wong set out on his first major expedition, one of six for the National Geographic Society.

Soon after, Wong made one of the most important and astounding discoveries of his career. In 1985, he and his group discovered a new source to the Yangtze River, the longest river in Asia.



With his life's course following the path of new discoveries, Wong decided to found his own exploration foundation, and created the China Exploration and Research Society (CERS). The society focuses on exploring remote regions of China while conducting research and implementing conservation projects.

"I don't keep a count of countries I visited, but where there is a good reason to either learn something relevant to our work, or being able to help, that provides my priority of countries to visit," explains Wong. "For now we focus quite heavily beyond China's border, including neighboring countries like Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Bhutan and even recently northern part of India."

Wong is not content merely to cast his gaze upon new vistas and gather information.

"If I am not emotionally involved, I don't touch them. There are plenty of worthy projects and need around the world. I only take up those which offers us a chance for innovation, and some level of creativity," says Wong.

Numerous documentaries have been made with a focus on Wong's work. The Discovery Channel followed his decades-long fascination with the hanging coffins of the extinct Bo people of the Yunnan province of China for their 2004 documentary, "The Mysterious Hanging Coffins of China." In the film, Wong describes his group's efforts to document and preserve the coffins, which the tribe miraculously affixed to the sides of cliffs with no modern technology or climbing equipment.

Wong travels to the most remote areas of Asia, often with his Blackberry as his only link to modern civilization. Some of his most prominent projects include locating buried cities in the sands of the Silk Road using NASA's Shuttle Imaging Radar, protecting the black-necked crane from extinction, restoring a suspension bridge on one of

Tibet's most sacred mountains, and preventing the natural destruction of a remote monastery.

Wong lectures throughout the world about exploration and conservation. He published a series of eight books, of which his 1999 publication, "From Manchuria to Tibet," won the prestigious Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Award.

Awards and recognition have been numerous for Wong. One of the most prominent came from TIME Magazine, who honored Wong as one of 25 'Heroes of Asia,' calling him "China's most accomplished living explorer."

"The most rewarding part of my work is the spirit of exploration. Even when we manage conservation projects, we instill elements of innovation, exploring new ways to fix problems," says Wong.

Even though more than 40 years have passed since Wong first stepped foot on campus, he has continually stayed connected with UWRF. Wanting to share his experiences and knowledge with the institution that had educated him, Wong invited UWRF faculty, staff, and students to become involved with CERS.

Faculty, staff, and students have been able to collaborate with Wong and his group on projects ranging from training Tibetans to make yak cheese to creating documentary films and books on the Tibetan black pottery tradition. Recently, working alongside Wong, UWRF students collected and preserved artifacts from the last remaining Li village on Hainan Island, creating a living museum dedicated to a dying culture.

It all started, Wong says, with a discussion topic not foreign to UWRF – cows.

"I had the opportunity to meet Chancellor Ann Lydecker in 2003 and we discussed sending a dairy expert to help the Tibetans," he says.



The relationship between UWRF students and CERS blossomed and each year, students continue to accompany Wong on his journeys giving them unique and matchless opportunities.

“It is notable that even as his groundbreaking work has been recognized around the world, the university has remained an important part of his life. He has continued to engage our students and faculty in life-changing international experiences,” says Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

Wong says both CERS and UWRF benefit from their partnership.

“Giving is the key to perpetuating friendship and also it is not single directional. It leads to more exchanges, and we too benefit as it becomes a two-way street,” says Wong.

Beyond study abroad opportunities, Wong has gifted the university with some of his most extraordinary photos from his expeditions, displayed for public view in North Hall.

Wong’s belief in the quality of education that UWRF students receive inspired him to send his son, Kaigee, to UWRF for a year to study art.

Wong’s spirit of sharing and his extraordinary accomplishments earned him the title of the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus, and in 2010 he was the recipient of an honorary degree at Spring Commencement.

“It was a true joy to present How Man Wong with an honorary doctorate and to visit with him during Commencement. He is a man of great accomplishment, but uncommon humility and warmth,” says Van Galen. “How Man has changed how many people view the world.”

As he alters how people perceive the world, Wong’s view of the globe is ever changing as well. Whether atop a mountain, standing amongst the ruins of a monastery, or watching majestic birds take flight in their native habitat, his gaze will always wander towards the horizon and the next way to preserve and show people the hidden wonders of the planet.



**My success
is preserving
culture for
future
generations.**

Senior sociology major Kendra Smith believes in the value of knowing your history.

That’s why she traveled to China to help sustain minority cultures for generations to come. Smith and other students joined forces with the China Exploration Research Society (CERS) in just one of the study abroad opportunities available to UWRF students.

“It’s important to study abroad, because it opens your eyes to different cultures and how other people think. We can all try to understand each other more,” explains Smith.

CERS is headed by Wong How Man, explorer and UWRF distinguished alumnus. During Smith’s trip to China, she spent a month helping to gather and carefully catalogue artifacts from villagers in the Li and Lisu Hill communities.

The artifacts were then displayed in traditional homes converted to “living museums” devoted to conserving their ethnic way of life. Community members were trained in the upkeep and operation of the displays.

“We were helping them keep their traditions alive and giving them a source of revenue at the same time,” says Smith. “It was a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Traveling to China wasn’t Smith’s first experience studying abroad. The spring prior to visiting China, she journeyed to Belize with other UWRF students where she spent time immersing herself in Belizean culture and improving her Spanish. Smith also served as a student ambassador with the People to People organization, traveling to France, Italy, and Malta.

Smith says she learned about the chance to travel to China from Professor of Art Lynn Jermal, and worked with her after the trip to bring artifacts to UWRF.

“She has so much passion for studying abroad, art, and teaching,” says Smith. “She makes me want to travel more.”

After graduation, Smith plans to continue to help the citizens of the world by joining the Peace Corps.

“I want to experience the world and help people at the same time doing disaster relief work,” she says.



Rock Solid

Sarah Kolar and husband Tom keep the light sparkling at UWRF.

Sarah Kolar at her storefront in downtown St. Paul, Minn.

by JOE TOUGAS

Sarah Kolar is all about elegance, strength and carrying on traditions.

For instance, there's the move she made in starting her own business, Landmark Jewelers. She opened her jewelry store four years ago in the heart of downtown St. Paul near Kincaid's Steak House and the historic Landmark Center, and it is staffed exclusively by former employees of Bockstruck Jewelers, the family-owned shop first begun in 1883 by a German watchmaker.

Bockstruck is where Kolar worked for more than 20 years and honed her skills as an expert gemologist. When the great-grandchildren of the iconic downtown St. Paul jewelry store decided to wind down the family run business after 123 years, Kolar stepped forward. She created Landmark Jewelers at the corner of St. Peter and East 6th Street. And she brought along her co-workers.

"We all just stayed together," Kolar says. "I opened my own store with everybody. I don't have anyone who works here who didn't work there."

A Spring Valley native who came to UWRF in 1977, Kolar was drawn to earth sciences, as it seemed the best area to indulge in one of her long-held passions: rocks.

"I was really a rock hound my entire life. I grew up looking for agates as a kid," Kolar says. "And I always liked sparkles."

An earth sciences major, Sarah's course work had been fairly scientific until she took a course from Professor Bill Cordua. The course gemology, was a turning point for her.

"And it was tough!" says Sarah. However, it started her down a new path in her life and she has never looked back. While she saw the standard direction that most careers were heading out of mineralogy and earth sciences,

she found herself thinking about something more polished.

"When I got out of school, I decided I really didn't want to work for an oil company at that time. That's really where all the jobs were in the 80s," Kolar says. "So I thought I'd use my mineralogy and put that to good use at a jewelry store."

Rock-hard science, she adds, has been very useful in an industry designed for elegance. She is able to apply mineral compositions, hardness scales and other topics of mineralogy straight into her work in jewelry.

"I don't know anybody else who went that route," she says. "A lot of my friends from college went into environmental science or the more scientific route. I went more the artistic route, but used my science knowledge."

She continues to learn more on the scientific end through seminars and certification with

such industry organizations as The Gemological Institute of America and The American Gem Society.

Moreover, there are other benefits to her line of work that cannot be found in the petroleum business, such as going to annual gem shows in the southwest and being surrounded by beautiful diamonds, pearls and gold every day. Kolar particularly loves the beauty of gemstones.

At UWRF Kolar discovered more than her career. While still a freshmen, she met the man she would marry, Tom Kolar, at the cafeteria in Rodli Commons. They lived in neighboring dorms – Kolar in Johnson and Tom in May – and the two were married in 1983 after they graduated. Tom took his degree in economics and worked for a number of years at large national financial and marketing firms. In 1993, he started his own business, Capital Lending, and has been successfully meeting clients financial needs ever since.

Today the Kolars have created another tradition – giving back to UWRF. They created two scholarships in honor of inspirational professors, Glenn Potts and Brian Schultz.



Tom Kolar adds, “River Falls has the size where it would enable you to really know your teachers. Some of the bigger schools, you just don’t have the opportunity. If I had to say what I liked best about River Falls, it would have to be that.”

“In a larger university,” Kolar says, “you can have the same experience, but it’s just so prevalent at River Falls. It’s been a great thing. It’s fun to see the kids coming and getting the scholarships and getting their thank-you notes. It’s rewarding.”

The Artist’s Touch:

Barb Preston-Broesder found plenty of similarities in art and dentistry.

by JOE TOUGAS



With the edge of the small instrument leading the way, you have just a millimeter or two in which to work. Your hand and your breath need to both remain steady, your aim delicate but dead-on.

This could describe an act of dentistry. Or art. As it turns out, they both apply when you’re describing Barb Preston-Broesder, a woman who moves through life with a steady determination and an always-straight forward take.

She’s taken her share of unpredictable turns, yet somehow the dots connected for a full, enriching picture that began taking shape in art classes at UWRF and ended with her recent retirement from dentistry in the Twin Cities. Her journey between the two was often challenged by old-school thoughts about women and the workplace, especially in the 1970s.

But Preston-Broesder was never the type who was held back by circumstances, and her tools to overcome any obstacle included humor, assertiveness and determination.

At first, her plan was to be a teacher. In her final two quarters, however, she shuffled some of her existing credits around and ended up with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in art.

“I thought that would be a lot more saleable at the time,” she says.

Art kept her spirits high in college. She worked in fibers, glass blowing and wood cutting.

“I had some really good professors there who really intrigued me on techniques and styles. I think that’s so important instead of just learning, learning, learning,” Preston-Broesder says. That’s how I always felt about my artwork – it was me. I owned it. Whether it was good or bad. I owned it.”

It was at a museum in Copenhagen during a study-abroad session her sophomore year that she became interested in dentistry – at least as it pertained to the exhibit of bog people, the naturally preserved corpses found in certain mossy wetlands of northern Europe.

“So many of them had died of dental-related issues, so that kind of intrigued me at that time. That was always kind of a thing in the back of my head.”

After graduating in 1974 and with her husband’s encouragement to pursue what was true to her heart, she started taking

science courses at the local community college. She recalls with a laugh telling her husband of dentistry intentions.

“He looked at me and said, ‘I thought you were going to take another art course.’”

At the University of Minnesota, she was reminded of another aspect of UWRF – the affordability.

“In my first year, the person on the left of me went to Harvard, the person on the right of me went to Yale. I did better than both academically and technically,” she says. “I realized [medical school] was going to be expensive, but they all carried a \$100,000 debt on their back when they got in there. I did not.”

Attending the U while raising two young boys, she worked on the side lifeguarding and volunteered at her kids’ school. She would listen as fellow working mothers with fewer challenges complained more. Preston-Broesder simply took it to mean she had more energy than most.

After her graduation, she negotiated for office space on Lake Harriet in Minneapolis.

Dr. Preston-Broesder will tell you that the fine motor skills of doing woodcuts and working on teeth aren’t too far apart.

“Granted, in dentistry you go backwards and upside down, but in woodcuts your very fine motor skills are there.”

The quickest comparison she can draw is a filling and wood cuts. (In woodcuts, the artist carves into a flat piece of wood with knives and chisels. That parts that aren’t carved out are “inked” and placed on paper for a print.)

Two years ago, she was approached to sell her business and she took the offer.

“Now I pick and choose what I want to do.”

She stays connected with UW-River Falls through contributions to the Foundation as well as providing a scholarship for a student interested in both science and artwork: the Barb Preston-Broesder Scholarship. Through it, she hopes to inspire students to pursue dreams and not accept obstacles posed by small minds.

As for art, she’s more of a collector, or an appreciator with a keen eye for artistry as well as value (she’s patronized several artists whose works have skyrocketed in value). She is interested in getting back into doing wood cuts now that she’s retired.

Despite her instance that she’s no artist per se, she puts a matter-of-fact tone on a phrase describing her experiences that any artist worth their salt could stand by:

“I know what my hands do.”

USING DATA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It's why Google's Michelle Donovan is feeling lucky.

by JOE TOUGAS

Her “a-ha” moment came in an I/O Psych class at UW-River Falls.

All Michelle Donovan knew about her area of study was she wanted to help people through psychology. But it was tough for her to find an area in which to specialize, one that really grabbed hold of her. Clinical, family, child – no area seemed the right fit for the 1990 Anoka High School graduate.

Then she took an Industrial/Organizational Psychology course at UWRF. I/O Psych is the branch of psychology that studies the workplace and how people function best within it – basically the study of people and how they work.

Bingo.

“You study mainstream Americans,” Donovan says from her Google office in Mountain View, Calif. “Finally, I found my niche.”

Donovan works for Google as a member of the People Analytics team, a group devoted to maintaining a top-notch workplace. She works in developing surveys, including the annual one sent to 20,000 Google employees. And she helps translate that data into results to better the work environment for the “Googlers.”

After her 1994 graduation from UWRF, Donovan earned her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. At Illinois, her studies involved creating tests and designing surveys. Her skills at applying the data she accumulated as a student was rewarded not only with publication in the Journal of Applied Psychology, but with an award for that article from the Society of Industrial/Organizational Psychology (SIOP) as the best I/O article published that year. SIOP is the major membership organization for practitioners or teachers of I/O Psychology.

At Google, she's able to realize her original goal of helping people, and she does it through data.

“Every day we make decisions about who to hire, who to promote, who becomes a manager, or who becomes a vice president,” she says. “You want data to inform those decisions.”

An example:

“We did a study here to find out what makes a great manager at Google,” she says. “So we looked at a lot of data, conducted interviews, looked at performance evaluations and came up with eight things our best managers do. Now we go across the Google campus and talk to real managers and say ‘here are eight things you can do.’”

“And we have quantitative data to show that our best managers have much better outcomes, they have lower turnover, they have more productive, happier teams.”

Her skill with data is not just in creating and gathering it, but applying it in ways that make sense to those who aren't in the I/O Psych mind frame.

“The trick is you have to then tell a story with the data, to try to get the executives to think differently. Or to get a manager's attention. Sometimes we analyze survey results and make recommendations and you have to convince the executives: ‘Here's what people at Google want and here's why it would be good.’”

From the time she started with Google, Donovan has been contributing to UWRF's I/O program to help fund a breakfast at the annual SIOP conference. In 2010 the conference and breakfast was held in Atlanta and hosted by Professor Travis Tubre and attended by about 12 students and alumni. Each year Google matches Donovan's contributions.

It's something she is happy to add to the mix – such a trip wasn't available when she went to college. But she's glad she chose UWRF.

“I picked UWRF because it had a strong psychology program and because it was smaller,” Donovan says. “I could have gone to the University of Minnesota, but I wanted to go somewhere where you could meet people and it would be smaller, and that's exactly what I got. I studied psychology and met and worked with fantastic people.”

She credits her UWRF advisors Brad Caskey and Rik Seefeldt as instrumental in getting her to grad school and beyond. “They took a personal interest in me, knew I wanted to go to grad school, and coached me that the way to get in was to have some experience,” she says. “They went above and beyond to help me and others get into grad school, so I wouldn't be where I am today without their interest and support.”

Despite the clinical association one might have with the term “data,” it's precisely what Donovan does with data that makes her a premiere “people person.”

“I love the idea of giving employees a voice,” she says. “My motto is ‘making a difference with data’ and on days when that happens, I go home really happy.”



Remembering ROD NILSESTUEN ('70): 1948-2010

Nilsestuen, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) since 2003, drowned on July 21 while on vacation and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

"Secretary Nilsestuen was not only a great leader, but was also a person of uncommon warmth and high character," says UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "When visiting with Rod, it was clear that he cared deeply about education and UW-River Falls."

Nilsestuen, age 62, had been a frequent visitor to the UWRF campus since being appointed secretary of the DATCP by Governor Jim Doyle. Nilsestuen used each of these visits as an opportunity to discuss ways in which the state, UWRF and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) could partner to benefit the people and industries of Wisconsin.

"Rod Nilsestuen was not only a friend but a visionary and problem solver," states Dale Gallenberg, dean of CAFES. "The agriculture industry and education system in Wisconsin benefited greatly during his time as secretary. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences will certainly miss him and extends our deepest sympathy to his family."

Sustainable agriculture and community development was an area of focus for many of Nilsestuen's on-campus discussions. These discussions included representation from the DATCP, the Council on Rural Initiatives, Philadelphia Community Farm and UW-River Falls' St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD).

"Besides being of the highest integrity in all that he did in personal, professional, and civic life, he was one of the most progressive and savvy of sustainable agriculture leaders in the country," said Kelly Cain, director of the SCISCD.

Gary Rohde, former secretary of the Wisconsin DATCP and dean of



CAFES from 1981-99, says Nilsestuen's legacy will last for generations to come.

"I knew Rod very well. He was a visionary, and an outstanding agricultural leader for the State of Wisconsin," says Rohde. "I think that his legacy is going to be his interest in preserving land for agricultural use here in Wisconsin. It was a passion of his, and he was a strong advocate."

During his time as a student at UWRF, Nilsestuen served in several student leadership roles including as a student senator. Upon completing his bachelor's degree in political science and sociology, Nilsestuen went on to earn a law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

UWRF presented Nilsestuen with the Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturist Award in 1995. The award is given to an individual in the agricultural or natural resources fields who has provided outstanding leadership, service and other contributions to the agricultural community.

**"We will remember
Rod as one of our most
accomplished alumni,
and as a special person
whose life will have a
lasting positive impact
on our university and
the State of Wisconsin."**

UWRF Chancellor,
Dean Van Galen

Falcon Athletics

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Falcons Earn All-American Honors at NCAA Track and Field Meet



Four members of the Falcon women's track and field team earned NCAA All-American honors at the National Meet held in May in Borea, Ohio.

The Falcon 4x400-meter relay team set a school record and placed fourth at the Championships.

The Falcon team of Samantha Nyre, Alyssa Rasmussen, Kali Meurer and Natasha Arnold finished in 3:46.93. They destroyed their own school record of 3:49.77 set at the UW-La Crosse Eagle Open on May 14. The four team members all earned NCAA All-American honors.

The Falcon 4x400 relay team of Natasha Arnold (top left), Alyssa Rasmussen (top right), Samantha Nyre (bottom left) and Kali Meurer on the awards stand at the NCAA National Meet.

The team also earned NCAA Indoor All-American honors in the 4x400 relay at the Indoor Championships held in March. They placed third in the finals in a school record time of 3:54.78.

Nyre is a senior from Mondovi, Rasmussen is a freshman from Delano, Minn., Meurer is a senior from Waseca, Minn., and Arnold is a junior from Stevens Point.

Arnold earned All-American honors with a seventh place finish in the 400-meters. She ran a 55.95 in the finals. In Friday's trials she set a school record with a time of 55.87. Arnold also earned NCAA All-American honors for her eighth place finish at the 2010 NCAA Indoor Championships in March.

Storozuk, Ernst Named CoSIDA Academic All-Americans



Ernst

Hockey player Bo Storozuk and track and field and cross country athlete Chad Ernst have both been named College Sports Information Director's of America (CoSIDA)/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans.

Both Falcon student-athletes had great 2009-10 seasons and careers. And they did that while maintaining high scholastic grade point averages in the classroom. Storozuk is a senior from Swan Valley, Manitoba, and Ernst is a senior from Richfield, Minn.



Storozuk

Storozuk was the starting goalie on the hockey team the last two years. He played in 26 games and had a 15-7-1 record. He finished with a 2.75 goals against average and a .909 saves percentage. He had three shutouts and helped the Falcons reach the NCHA playoff championship game.

Storozuk, who majored in business administration with a minor in environmental science, had a 3.955 grade point average.

Ernst was the cross country team's captain last fall and the track and field team's captain this past spring season. He holds the Falcon cross country record (24:56) and was named to the 2007 All-Midwest Region cross country team. He has placed five times at WIAC indoor and outdoor conference meets in either the 5,000 or 10,000 meter events. He has the second fastest indoor 5,000 (15:05) and outdoor 10,000 (31:43) times in Falcon history.

Ernst, who is majoring in conservation with a minor in criminal justice, has a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Both Falcons served on committees within the university and were deeply involved in projects and events within their major field of study.

To be eligible for Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at their current institution and be nominated by their sports information director.

Visit our new website at
www.uwrfsports.com



When Nate DeLong stepped on to the basketball court...

everyone took notice. The gym in North Hall, where the Falcons played in the late 1940s, became quiet when the big man stepped onto the floor.

At 6 ft. 6 in., DeLong was one of the biggest players in all of college basketball at the time. His mere presence on the hardwood was an intimidating sight to the Falcons' opponents.

DeLong not only had the physical attributes to dominate a game, but his skills on both ends of the court were simply outstanding. He could dictate the pace of the game with his excellent scoring touch, but also with his defensive play and rebounding skills.

There were few players like him in all of college basketball during his career at UW-River Falls and his record setting performances are still in the books today.

The former Falcon great died on May 5 at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, Minn. He was 84.

DeLong played basketball for River Falls from 1943-44, went into military service for two years, then returned to River Falls and played from 1946-50. He finished his basketball playing career with 2,592 points and a 25.4 per game average, making him college basketball's all time leading scorer at the time.

His 2,582 career points remains a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) record. He holds the WIAC record for single game (72 points vs. Winona State in 1947-48) and single season scoring (861 points in 1949-50). During his career, River Falls won four straight conference championships and DeLong was named to the All-Conference team for three straight seasons. DeLong also earned four letters in football at UWRF (1946-49).

In the 1946-47 season, DeLong and the Falcons played in the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB) tournament for the first time in school history. The Falcons lost a 113-80 game to Marshall, W.V. DeLong scored 56 points in the game to set a tournament record. DeLong was named to the second Little All-American team after he averaged 21.1 points a game. The team finished 16-6.

The university yearbook, Meletean, produced several accounts of DeLong's career. "Big Nate" was the backbone of the champion Falcons not only for

his scoring but his rebounding work and defensive play. "Not one to hog the spotlight DeLong was a great team player and above all a true sportsman," read the 1947-48 publication.

The 1947-48 team finished 13-9 and lost to Beloit, 71-61, in the game to go back to the NAIB tourney. DeLong averaged 28.1 points a game during the campaign.

The 1948-49 team finished 23-4 and DeLong averaged 24.1 points per game. The team lost to Iowa State Teachers College, 65-64, in the NAIB tourney. DeLong scored 29 points before fouling out of the contest with 11 minutes to play.

The 1948-49 Meletean boasted "Nate DeLong wrote another brilliant chapter in the annals of River Falls athletic history. The stupendous scoring ace led the Falcons to their third straight conference title and in doing so totaled 650 points in 27 games. We salute you, Nate DeLong, for your splendid achievements and brilliant leadership."

DeLong's senior season in 1949-50 had him set the national career scoring record. In 31 games he scored 861 points as the Falcons finished 26-5. He broke the national record in a 77-54 win over St. John's. He scored his 2,200th career point in the game and that gave him the record.

"This was Nate's Big Night," reported that year's Meletean. "With but a few seconds left in the first half Mr. Swish scored the basket which gave him his 2,200th point. Nate's 27th point was greeted by a constant roar from the crowd."

The Falcons advanced to the NAIB tournament again and opened with a 80-68 win over Eastern Illinois. DeLong scored 27 points in that contest, but the Falcons lost, 75-64, to East Central Oklahoma the next night. DeLong scored 23 points in his final college game.

DeLong, a charter inductee into the UWRF Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977,

also played in the National Basketball Tournament for three years and held the single game scoring record of 57 points for 27 years.

After graduation, DeLong was principal of Hayward High School from 1957-70, and taught algebra there from 1971-86. From 1989-2008 he served on the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors. DeLong died May 5, 2010 at age 84. He is survived by his daughter Dian DeLong, and son Nate W. DeLong of Hayward. DeLong married Donna Wells on Aug. 21, 1948. She died March 22, 2008.



Nate DeLong (35) In North Hall gym.

alma matters

Class Notes. Weddings. Future Falcons. In Memoriam.

Find out the latest news from your classmates—career changes, recent honors, retirements and more

Class Notes

1950s

Ann and Manley Olson 1959, 1959

of Falcon Heights, Minn. received the Andrew Murry Award for outstanding leadership at the Voices of Justice Spring luncheon. Ann and Manley have committed their time, energy, and leadership in many ways to the church and its mission for peace and justice, from the congregation to the national level.

1960s

Earl F. Kammerud 1962

retired after 39 years in local church ministry. Then accepted an opportunity to preach two Sundays a month at Troy Center. During the week he is working at Ronald McDonald House across from the Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. He will be celebrating his 72 birthday and 49 years of marriage.

Tom Knutson 1965

continues his work with the Chitralada Royal Palace School in Bangkok, Thailand, where he has arranged for students from Sacramento State University to serve as English language assistants for the past five years. Chitralada School was founded by His Majesty King Bhumipol and students have won the prestigious Best Foreign Teacher Award at Chitralada each year for the past three years. In addition to his work with Chitralada School, Knutson is recruiting teachers for the IDEAL English Academy in Bangkok. He has also arranged for over 100 Thai and American professors and students to engage in exchange programs to further their research and studies. Knutson is professor of communication studies at Sacramento State University and adjunct professor of interpersonal communication at Bangkok University in Thailand. He received the UWRF Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001 and was recognized by Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars, for his outstanding contributions to international education. He has published over 100 books and papers on intercultural and interpersonal communication. His most recent article, *Effective Intercultural Communication: Research Contributions from Thailand*, was published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Asia Pacific Communication*.

Knutson returned to Bangkok in Dec. 2009, his 43rd trip, and continued his research at Bangkok University and presented a seminar in linguistics and literature for communication at Ramkhamhaeng University. He is working on his next book, "Elephants and Eagles: Why Thais and Americans Talk Differently," scheduled for completion in 2010. Knutson is married to Phat Dattuyawat and lives in Sacramento, Calif.

1970s

Virginia (Ryan) O'Neill 1972

retired from MN ISD#196 as a social studies teacher. Virginia spent two years at Burnsville High School, 17 years at Rosemount High School, and 13 years at Eastview High School in Apple Valley, Minn.

John Gregory Mosher 1975

is a retired federal employee/social security specialist.

Karen (Hanson) Baszynski 1976

recently relocated from El Paso, Texas, to Georgetown, Texas. For the past five years Karen worked for 3M in Juarez, Mexico, as a supply chain supervisor and Six Sigma project manager. She has accepted a position as Global Supply Chain Manager for 3M's Mobile Interactive Division in Austin, Texas.

Peter H. Lanpher 1977

has been involved in the printing industry for more than 30 years. P.H.Lanpher & Associates has been in operation since 1991.

Monti Hallberg 1979

is in his tenth year as superintendent of the Barron Area School District. He is married with four children: Mark who is in his third year as a professional baseball player with the Arizona Diamondbacks and will be reporting to the Major League spring training camp in Tucson, Ariz. in February; Brad is attending college and playing baseball at Ohio State University on a baseball scholarship; Kayla and Ben are teachers in Saudi Arabia at American International Schools.

1980s

Ronald L.Vaughn 1980

Health challenges forced Ronald to retire early

with SSDI/WRS disability benefits. Successful heart and cancer surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. has given him a second chance and he is enjoying retirement. He hopes to do some volunteer work in the local schools and churches. Having the time to reconnect with old friends from UWRF has been a highlight to him. Ronald finished the specialist thesis during his sabbatical, thus completing his final educational goal. Ronald hopes to get more involved with the UWRF Foundation and alumni events in the future. He has recruited for UWRF as a school administrator for nearly 30 years.

Carl Nachreiner 1980

was recognized as the 2010 Wisconsin Certified Crop Adviser of the Year. This award recognizes a certified crop adviser who is highly innovative, delivers exceptional customer service, has shown that they are a leader in their field, and has contributed substantially to the exchange of ideas and the transfer of agronomic knowledge within the agriculture industry in Wisconsin.

Renee (Wurzbach) Vail 1982

was recognized for 20 years of service as the statewide volunteer administrator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in February 2009. More than 30,000 people volunteer with the Minnesota DNR each year.

Daryl Doeher 1984

was recently elected to serve on the board of directors for the Northwest Lumber Association. The Minneapolis based association serves the lumber and building material retailers in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Doeher is a regional sales manager for Marvin Windows and Doors, a Warroad, Minn., based firm.

Vicki (Larson) Burgess 1985

retired in 2005 after 31 years as an English teacher at St. Croix Central Middle School and High School. A couple years after her husband, Tom Burgess ('70 & '78), died suddenly in Nov. 2005, she went back to seminary at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., to work on her certification in Christian education. She has been employed for three years by New Richmond United Methodist Church as the children's ministry leader and

most recently as the director of Christian education. She will marry Rev. Alan George, pastor at New Richmond United Methodist Church in June.

Cynthia (Bahr) Totty Hefley 1985
opened Totty and Associates, a psychotherapy agency in Wauwatosa in 2009.

Will Ruemmele 1985
was named Lake Geneva Lion of the year for the 2009-10 club year. Will and his wife Denise (Clausen), '87, have resided in Walworth county since 1989. Denise recently was named guidance counselor at Wheatland Center School in Burlington, where she has been an elementary teacher for 23 years. They have a son Jake (16) and a daughter Kady (14).

John Oehlke 1985
met NBC-TV's Ross Mathews during a taping of "The Tonight Show" segment during Coca Cola's Spring Break initiative on South Padre Island. John is a senior executive based out of Dallas, Texas.

Gerardo Garcia 1986
is running his own company, www.compucampo.com.mx. The company specializes in development of agricultural projects using IT tools, for example: GPS, Stelital imagery, Internet sites, etc.

Theresa (Gille) Keller 1988
and Doug live on a ranch in Kimball, Neb., with two daughters and two sons. They raise registered angus and club calves. The children enjoy showing cattle and sports. John still runs and enters some local road races for fun.

Bill Everson 1989
developed PureWhiteStones, LLC, an independent consulting company focused on commercial and retail construction project management. He represents owners to manage their projects from inception to completion. He represents contractors as a local resource to interface with landlords, government officials, and the project team. Bill's capabilities include recommendation and selection of architect, engineer, and general contractor. He has external resources to provide real estate selection and space planning services. Bill is able to personally lead projects, or simply provide direction to enhance an existing project team.

Patty (Perdzock) Haas 1989
graduated with an associate degree in nursing from Madison Area Technical College in Dec. 2009. She passed NCLEX nursing boards in

February and is now employed as a Registered Nurse at Nazareth Health and Rehab Center in Stoughton.

Craig Hokanson 1989
was named president of Johnson Bank's northwest Wisconsin Region, overseeing bank and insurance offices in Rice Lake, Hayward, Spooner, Menomonie and Eau Claire.

1990s
Kelly Steinmetz 1990
recently accepted a position of a regional vice president of life insurance with American General Life Companies. Prior to joining American General, he was a regional VP of life insurance with Lincoln Financial Group and before that, Sun Life Financial. Kelly is entering his 17th year working with major insurance carriers to market and distribute insurance products used in estate, business, and retirement planning.

Hindarwati Sudjatmiko 1991
has been appointed as director of center for plant variety protection, Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Indonesia, since 2005.

Betty (Schumacher) Bork 1992
is married with three children. She has taught at Cochrane-Fountain City Schools for 12 years. She loves working with the high school students. She says, "Band nerds are the greatest people of the world."

Aaron Harper, MD, PhD, 1992
just graduated from the University of California - Irvine with his degree of Doctor of Medicine. In June, he started his residency in pediatrics at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital in Loma Linda, Calif. Aaron plans to sub-specialize in neonatology (the care of critically ill newborns).

Chris Wolf 1993
recently received a Master of Arts degree in Nursing from Augsburg College.

John Zhang 1994
is an international sales manager at Malco Products Inc. (Annandale, Minn.). He has been with this company for more than 12 years.

Sally Wakefield 1997
has been appointed interim director of 1000 Friends of Minnesota. Sally majored in geography and has a minor in cartography. She has been heavily involved in the development of public policy regarding the GIS having served on state boards and coordinating groups.

Cathy Schewe 1998
was presented Star Excellence Awards from the Education Foundation of Hudson during the 2010 Senior Recognition Awards Night at Hudson High School on May 19. She is a fourth-grade teacher at E.P. Rock Elementary.

Ann Prescott (Schmitz) 1999
is employed with the USDA Mower County Farm Service Agency in Austin, Minn. as a program technician. She resides in Adams, Minn. with her daughter, Allison, and husband, Joe ('98).

ALUMNI BOOK CLUB



Title: Hoboes: Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West
Author: Mark Wyman
Publisher: Hill and Wang

"Hoboes: Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West" is a critically-acclaimed look at one of the

most misunderstood and overlooked populations of the American Old West. Publishers Weekly calls this latest work by historian Mark Wyman "a richly detailed study of the thousands of workers who followed the booming railroads west during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in order to pick, prepare, and load crops, from cotton, wheat, and hops to apples, beets, and oranges."

Amazon.com offered their endorsement by selecting "Hoboes" as one of their Best Books of the Month in May 2010 and describing it as "fascinating, deeply researched, and groundbreaking." In their review, the Los Angeles Times draws a parallel between those profiled in "Hoboes" and the modern day debate on immigration by stating "these essential workers were never accepted as full members of the communities in which they labored; a problem we still grapple with today."

A former student at UW-River Falls and son of longtime Professor Walker Wyman, Wyman is a prolific author and a highly respected historian. Publisher's Weekly has gone as far as describing him as "a leading source on the American West." His previous works on the American West include "Hard Rock Epic: Western Miners and the Industrial Revolution," "1860-1910 and The Wisconsin Frontier (A History of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier)." All of these titles, as well as additional works by Wyman, are available through all major online book retailers.

ALUMNI BOOK CLUB



Title: Kinnickinnic Country, a Look at River Falls in the 1940s and 1950s
Author: Mark Wyman and Don Richards
Publisher: PrintArt

River Falls Mayor Don Richards is an alumnus of UW-River Falls, a great champion for the university in the community and a resident authority on the history of UWRF and the City of River Falls over the last half-century.

Richards is happy to share stories of North Hall's countless past uses and quick to remind the campus of the correct way to pronounce the names of campus buildings, having personally known the buildings namesakes. He teamed up with former UWRF student and noted historian Mark Wyman to write "Kinnickinnic Country, a Look at River Falls in the 1940s and 1950s."

"Kinnickinnic Country" picks up where "Kinnickinnic Years: 1930s and Early 1940s" by John Prucha and Norman "Bud" Foss left off. The book covers an era that saw remarkable growth and progress at UW-River Falls, in the city and on surrounding farms. River Falls Journal Columnist Dave Wood sung the book's praises and found the chapter on UWRF to be a great reminder of just how much the university has changed since the era when GI's returned home from WWII and headed off to college.

"Kinnickinnic Country" may be purchased in person or online through the River Falls Public Library (<http://www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/kinnicountry.html>). All proceeds from the book will benefit the River Falls Library Foundation.

2000s

Delaney Berrini 2000

is an advocate for neglected, abused, or abandoned animals. She enjoys rescue work and fosters animals of all varieties.

Melissa (Ferlaak) Koch 2001

is the director of education and community engagement for Hennepin Theatre Trust, owner of the historic State Orpheum and Pantages Theatres, overseeing all programs including the SpotLight Musical Theatre Program, Critical View, Access and other engagement activities.

Adam Thoen 2003 and Angela (Gleason)

Thoen 2004

along with their son, Max, have relocated to Blooming Prairie, Minn. Adam is a loan officer at Farmers and Merchants Bank in Blooming Prairie, and Angela is an ELL teacher in Austin, Minn.

Cheril G. Ocasio-Gonzalez 2004

recently obtain a Juris Doctor from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico where she was part of the Honor Society and the Law Review.

Michelle Gryczkowski 2005

has received a two year postdoctoral fellowship in child clinical psychology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The internship will involve doing therapy with children and families in inpatient, outpatient, and medical settings. She will also be doing psychological assessments, consultation, research, and potentially teaching medical students and psychiatry residents. She plans to specialize her clinical work and research in anxiety disorders, particularly obsessive-compulsive disorder. She will be completing her doctorate prior to starting at Mayo in September.

Nicholas Sirek 2005

successfully completed the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and became a National Board Certified Teacher in Nov. 2009.

Kendra Plant 2005

is doing marketing and outreach for SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development in St. Paul, Minn., a nonprofit that uses educational theatre programs and fully staged productions to build self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of community while celebrating diversity in a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere.

Blair James Berger 2007

received the FOX 9 Top Teacher award. He was nominated by Mary Walus, a parent of one of his students who states, "Berger's dedication to his students is unwavering." Berger has been a teacher at Fridley Middle School for 15 years and lives in Fridley with his wife, Jennifer, and two sons, Blake (6) and Ethan (3).

Amy Robak-Bruce 2009

moved to a small town of Gwinner, N.D., to be closer to her customers and get involved with the community. Amy is involved with the local church, 4-H, and FFA chapters. She was recently elected as the local FFA alumni secretary.

Kelly Ellenberger 2009

received the Allard Award from the Wisconsin

School Psychologists Association this year. The \$1,000 award is given to one student from one of seven Wisconsin school psychology graduate programs. Ellenberger will begin her school psychology internship in the fall.

Jennifer Juhlke 2010

was awarded this year's Wisconsin School Psychologists Association Minority Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is offered to encourage and support the growth representation in professional school psychology and is given to one student from one of seven state programs. Juhlke recently completed her master's degree at UWRF and will be pursuing a specialist degree in the school psychology in the fall.

Future Falcons

Julie (Sauber) Antonutti 1996

and husband, Scott, welcomed their third child, Joshua Lawrence, on July 2, 2009. He joins big sister, Rachel (6) and big brother, Joseph (4). The family resides in Esko, Minn.

Teri (Micke) Raatz 1996

and husband Allan welcomed a son, Jacob Allan, on May 6, 2009. Jacob joins a sister, Ella.

Rachel (Weiss) Gray 1997

is proud to announce the birth of her first child, Danielle Ruth Gray. She arrived Jan. 1, and was 6 lbs. 7 oz. and 19 in. long.

Elizabeth (Horacek) Spoelstra 1998

and Jeremy celebrate the birth of a son, Isaac John, on April 14. He joins three brothers: Daniel, Jacob, and Noah.

Gretchen (Westergard) Boulka 1999

and, husband Stephen, welcomed a daughter, Anna Therese, on July 29, 2009. She joins sister Stephanie (4). They reside in Ramsey, Minn.

Andrew and Melanie (Barta) Lucht 1999, 2000

Baby Evelyn joined siblings Gretchen, Gordon, and Nolan on September 4, 2009. Mel is teaching 4K in Antigo and Andy is farming.

Teresa (Baumann) Dvorak 2000

and her husband, Weston, welcomed their third daughter, Landry Emma, on Jan. 12. She joins twin big sisters Audrey and Tessa. They reside on their ranch in Manning, N.D.

Josh and Erika (Zielinski) Goldsmith 2000, 2000

welcomed a son, Lincoln Blake Goldsmith on

Dec. 5, 2009. He joins big sister Harper (2). Erika teaches fourth grade in St. Charles, Minn. and Josh farms on the family farm.

Andy Jarzynski 2000
and wife, Becca, welcomed daughter Kasia Barbara, on Aug. 20, 2009.

Melissa (Ferlaak) Koch 2001
and husband, Wolfgang Koch, welcomed the birth of a daughter, Carmen AnnaRose.

Nick and Lisa (Yoch) Anderson 2002, 2003
welcomed Reese Marie, on Feb. 6, joining brother Caden. Lisa is the administrative support team supervisor at Macy's and Nick is the marketing manager for Apollo Liquor. The couple resides in Rochester, Minn.

Leah (Pohjonen) Smith 2003
and husband, Matt, welcomed their first child, Dylan Bruce, on April 8, 2009.

James and Beth (Sommerfeld) Melby 2003, 2005
welcomed a daughter, Madelyn Jean, on Nov. 12, 2009.

Nicholas and Valerie (Skorjanec) Folk 2003, 2003
welcomed a son, Carson Michael, on Aug. 18, 2009.

Theresa (Doran) Reynoso 2003
and husband, Rolando, welcomed a son,

Guillermo Manuel, on Jan. 16, 2010.

Jamie (Lintner) Beyer 2003
and husband, Reed, welcomed a son, Trent Edward, on May 22, 2009. He joins sister, Emma Marie (3).

Chris and Jennifer (Kern) Sell 2004, 2003
welcomed a son, Ryan Christopher, on Nov. 10, 2009. The family resides in River Falls.

Brian and Angela (Day) Welsh 2004, 2003
welcomed a daughter, Maya Abigail, on Dec. 22, 2009. She joins big brother Logan (2). The family lives in West Virginia.

Christina (Cariveau) White 2004
and Nate White welcomed a son, William David, on Aug. 1, 2009. The family resides in Fairchild.

Katie (Lightfoot) Fagnan 2005
and husband welcomed a son, Bennett Anthony, March 5.

Brian and Jennifer (Dahlke) Hanson 2006, 2008
welcomed their first child, Lincoln Alexander, on May 24.

Joseph and Ashley "Dani" (Salyer) Felber 2009, 2009
welcomed daughter Isobel Grace on July 6.



Jim Saxton ('54)
and his daughter
Patricia Saxton
Blacklock ('83).

Saxton Family Scholarship

In 1924, Mark Saxton graduated from the River Falls Normal School teacher training program. Thus began the first of three generations of Saxtons trained as educators on our campus. Jim Saxton ('54) has chosen to honor his family's legacy by creating the Saxton Family Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to education majors who are following in the Saxton tradition of service. Jim's father was a Pierce County education administrator for 20 years, his mother, Mary Enloe Saxton ('25) became a school librarian, and his uncle Dan ('25), taught Native American children in Montana. Jim taught history, coached and became a high school principal, and his daughter Patricia Saxton Blacklock ('83) coached and taught special education and reading. Jim and his wife, Frankie, believe in the power of education and in giving back. They made their first gift to UWRF in 1961 when they were living 'paycheck to paycheck' and had three very young children. Today they have 12 grandchildren and hope the family tradition of valuing education will continue.

We'd really like to hear from you!

name

name while a student

address

city

state

zip

class year

phone number

e-mail address

NEWS:

About Alma Matters

Send us your latest news. Here's how: 1) complete, then mail this form to Falcon Features, 120 North Hall, UW-River Falls, 410 South Third St., River Falls, WI 54022; or 2) fax a letter to the Falcon Features editor at (715) 425-4486; or 3) submit a form located on our Web site at www.uwrf.edu/alumni/features; or 4) e-mail us at falconfeatures@uwrf.edu. We will print your notes in the next issue. In the interest of accuracy, encourage classmates to send us their news directly—don't do it for them.

Space may allow us to print photos on occasion. Send us your prints, or digital files at 300 dpi actual size. Send duplicate prints; photos will not be returned.

We will not print a death announcement unless accompanied by a copy of a published obituary (such as an announcement from a local newspaper).

Questions on Alma Matters submission policies may be directed to Blake Fry at (715) 425-3771 or blake.fry@uwrf.edu.

Marriages

Natalie (Moreau) Ysker 1997
married Jason Ysker in Playa del Carmen, Mexico on May 9.

Michael and Amanda (Soczka) Altmann 1998, 2003
married on Sept. 12, 2009, in Edgar.

Nicholas and Valerie (Skorjanec) Folk 2003, 2003
married Sept. 27, 2008.

Lance Duey 2001
married Amber Schroeder on Sept. 26, 2009, in Devils Lake, N.D. Lance works for USDA-NRCS as a senior MLRA soil scientist in Devils Lake, while Amber works for Lake Social Service District. The couple resides in Cary, N.D.

John Matthew LaVelle 2002
married Katherine Kane Byrd on March 27 in Orange, Calif.

Jamie (Leger) Rebischke 2002
and Brent Rebischke were married on May 1. They reside in Maple Grove, Minn.

Dale Alan Hanson and Sarah Elizabeth Jansen 2007, 2004
were married on April 24 in Hilton Head, S.C. Sarah is a speech language pathologist at the Hilton Head Area Hospital and has been working there for two years. Dale is the assistant manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car at the Savannah International Airport. They say their life is due to all the opportunities they had at UWRF and friends they made in River Falls that they had a chance to meet, get married, and take the next steps in their lives together.

Cristen Porter 2004
married Kevin A. Incitti on Aug. 14.

Aaron Schroht 2004
married Brooke Schlobohm on Sept. 19, 2009. He currently operates a 75 cow-grazing dairy near Owatonna, Minn.

Hannah (Sheller) Wolsdorf 2008
married David Wolsdorf on May 16, 2009, and is in her second year of teaching agri-science at Tri-County High School and Middle School.

In Memoriam

Marian G. (Bredahl) Boyd 1931
died 2/15/2010

Glee M. (Newell) Enright 1932
died 9/8/2009

Doris I. (Anderson) Gerdes 1932
died 6/22/2010

Evelyn (Arneson) Green 1934
died 2/20/2010

Vivian Afdahl 1935
died 8/2/2009

Elizabeth C. (Hilyar) Schulz 1938
died 2/2/2009

LaVernia M. Jorgensen 1939
died 9/23/2009 (see inset)

John C. Diesing 1940
died 5/9/2010

Robert Hoagenson 1940
died 10/8/2009

Fern G. (Satterlund) Wright 1941
died 12/20/2009

Arthur Herum 1942
died 5/15/2010

Dolores M. (Kramschuster) O'Brien 1942
died 11/19/2009

Merle E. Michaelson 1943
died 12/30/2009

Vale M. (Severson) Lucente 1944
died 7/4/2009

Audrey E. (Gilstad) Roberts 1944
died 9/30/2009

Reuben A. Johnson 1945
died 12/26/2009

Eugene A. King 1945
died 10/10/2009

June A. (Gedatus) Kloeckner 1946
died 5/16/2010

Lois M. (Landberg) Thies 1947
died 3/26/2010

Albin W. Vodak 1947
died 11/6/2009

Wesley I. Spors 1949
died 10/10/2009

James W. Diulio 1950
died 12/11/2009

Wallace Smetana 1950
died 10/26/2009

Richard A. Breyer 1951
died 6/1/2009

Tom M. Hadfield 1951
died 6/24/2009

Paul Rosandick 1951
died 3/5/2009

Dale R. Metcalf 1952
died 6/9/2009

Kenneth A. Ames 1953
died 9/24/2009

Earl A. Johnson 1953
died 10/5/2009

Beatrice M. (Crownhart) Morrall 1953
died 6/10/2009

Robert E. Anderson 1954
died 1/12/2010

Joan (Peirson) Koski 1954
died 6/5/2010

James D. Rupert 1954
died 12/10/2009

Harlan G. Siebrecht 1954
died 1/10/2010

Larry Vollrath 1954
died 6/1/2010

Jerome E. Johnson 1956
died 11/30/2009

Robert P. Spaete 1956
died 8/29/2009

Richard O. Bubolz 1957
died 5/30/2010

Robert L. Butterfield 1957
died 6/10/2009

Verdayne D. Hanson 1958
died 5/18/2010

Merle S. Jarchow 1958
died 6/22/2010

Clement Zidick 1958
died 7/20/2009

Charles H. Nelson 1959
died 8/23/2009



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Saundra L. (Finn) Widmar 1960
died 11/30/2009

Donna M. Alms 1964
died 6/12/2009

Mable E. Hansen 1964
died 1/7/2010

Larry E. Hoskins 1964
died 12/13/2009

Lawrence E. Olsen 1964
died 3/17/2010

Bernice C. Olson 1964
died 4/28/2010

Jewell (Deette) Schwarztrauber 1964
died 8/4/2009

Phillip C. Thurston 1964
died 8/4/2009

Rose J. (Schoepfer) Novak 1965
died 5/13/2010

Ronald K. Schulz 1965
died 4/26/2010

Mary J. (Andersen) Feltes 1966
died 2/20/2009

Duane C. Larson 1966
died 7/8/2009

Margaret S. (Strouts) Erdman 1967
died 4/17/2010

Catherine H. Heller 1967
died 1/14/2010

William M. Kinney 1967
died 7/16/2010

Bruce E. Neuenfeldt 1967
died 7/11/2009

Harvey P. Stower 1967
died 9/29/2009

John S. McGough 1968
died 3/25/2010

George Ritter 1968
died 3/15/2010

Harvey A. Rockwood 1969
died 1/7/2009

Patricia A. (Ianni) Stanis 1969
died 5/9/2010

Randall J. Stanley 1969
died 2/16/2009

Helen P. (Seim) Topdahl 1969
died 1/6/2009

Rodney J. Nilsestuen 1970
died 7/21/2010

John J. Hoffman 1971
died 7/19/2009

Dennis W. Ransom 1971
died 11/19/2009

Leroy C. Anderson 1972
died 6/8/2010

Joyce A. Smith 1973
died 7/18/2009

Robert B. Young 1974
died 4/10/2010

Marianne H. (Heiskell) Cook 1975
died 6/6/2009

Lee T. Milligan 1976
died 1/10/2010

Dennis C. Betcher 1978
died 4/14/2010

Bill A. Garratt 1978
died 2/4/2010

Patricia A. (Pollack) Lonie 1978
died 12/28/2009

Thomas G. Smith 1978
died 4/25/2009

Joan T. Shepard 1979
died 6/9/2009

Eugene R. Gibson 1982
died 1/27/2010

Florence B. (Chaffee) Nickum 1982
died 6/23/2010

Linda K. Schulze 1983
died 2/7/2010

Susannah D. Foltz 1984
died 2/10/2009

Robert J. Ziegler 1984
died 4/23/2010

Judith A. Bohn 1985
died 12/24/2009

Julie A. (Erickson) Hall 1986
died 1/19/2010

Robert A. Zabel 1986
died 11/6/2009

Julie E. (Edison) Johnson 1987
died 4/19/2010

Kimberly F. (Sebeck) Warneke 1987
died 1/11/2009

Renee A. Martini 1991
died 12/27/2009

Theresa M. Swanson 1997
died 8/4/2009

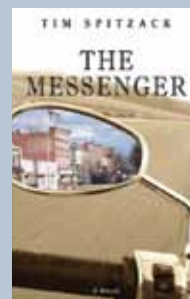
Collin S. Maxwell 2000
died 4/9/2010

Sabine Bugs 2003
died 2/16/2009

Matthew J. Hines 2007
died 5/29/2010

Jacob S. Benesh 2010
died 8/6/2010

ALUMNIBookClub



Title: The Messenger
Author: Tim Spitzack
Publisher: OakTara

In "The Messenger," 1989 UW-River Falls graduate Tim Spitzack translates his real life experiences into a compelling work of fiction. The central character in "The Messenger" is a young

and ambitious newspaper reporter working for the fictional Marquette Messenger. With his sights set on working for a larger newspaper, the reporter finds the task of covering the predictable day to day life of Marquette, Minn., to be mundane. The reporter's perspective on his job and the town changes in the course of covering the story of an elderly German immigrant's death.

Spitzack drew inspiration for "The Messenger" from his 20-plus years of experience in the community newspaper industry, and from an elderly gentleman in his congregation who had immigrated to the United States from Germany. Spitzack has worked in all facets of community newspapers. He currently owns the St. Paul Publishing Company, where he works as editor and publisher. Spitzack explained that "The Messenger" is a celebration of people with whom many community journalists are familiar, people who live quiet lives but leave a life-long impact on those around them.

"The Messenger" is available at most major online book retailers. For more information on "The Messenger," its author and how to purchase discounted copies for reading groups, visit www.timspitzak.com.

Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen, 91 of Grand Forks, passed away on September 23, 2009, at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, ND.

LaVernia was born on March 2, 1919 in Luck, WI, the daughter of George and Alice (Christensen) Jorgensen.

LaVernia was affectionately called "Dr. J" by her students and professional colleagues and friends. A multi-sport athlete in college, LaVernia earned athletic letters in badminton, basketball, softball, volleyball, field hockey and tennis at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and the University of Minnesota.

She later went on to earn her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Indiana University. She joined the faculty at the University of North Dakota in 1963 and retired in 1988 having served 25 years on the faculty.

LaVernia developed the Recreation Minor in the Department of Physical Education that evolved into the Recreation Major in 1974. She was one of the first members of the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association.

LaVernia received the Distinguished Alumnus award from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and is an inductee into their Athletic Hall of Fame. She was one of the founders of intercollegiate women's athletics at UND. LaVernia was the first North Dakotan to be honored with the Fellow Award by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Midwest Region in 1975. She was also the first person named to the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association (NDRPA) Hall of Fame.

Every effort has been made
please contact the



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**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2010

ASSETS

Cash & cash equivalents	\$1,023,078
Prepaid expenses	13,024
Property & equipment, net	44,277
Investments	13,297,331

Total Assets

\$14,377,710

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable	\$9,246
Salaries & related payables	38,152

Annuities payable	179,325
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Total Liabilities	226,723
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Unrestricted	912,009
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Temporarily restricted	3,908,063
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Permanently restricted	9,330,915
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Total Net Assets	14,150,987
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,377,710
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The above numbers are unaudited.

1874 Founders Society

The 1874 Society recognizes the founding of the University and the donors whose cumulative giving over a lifetime has reached \$10,000 or more and they have contributed from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

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University of Wisconsin-River Falls, July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

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to ensure the accuracy of our recognition lists. If you have any questions about your listing, University of Wisconsin-River Falls Foundation at 715-425-3505 or e-mail alumni@uwrf.edu.

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Scholarships

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Foundation is very grateful for 400+ scholarship funds that have been established by donors throughout the years. Listed below are the scholarships that were supported by contributions from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Endowed Scholarships

Dr. William Abbott Memorial Scholarship
 The Department of Agricultural Economics Scholarship
 Earl G. Albert Memorial Scholarship
 Philip S. Anderson Family Scholarship
 Dr. Ray Anderson Scholarship
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 Robert R. and M. Susan Beck Memorial Scholarship
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 John May, A.N. Johnson and Dale Swenson Memorial Scholarship
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Niles Westby Memorial Scholarship

Whitetails Unlimited, Inc. Scholarship
Kurt L. and Ruth G. Wild Scholarship
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Wisconsin Crop Production Association Scholarship
Wisconsin Livestock and Meat Council Scholarship
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Gifts in Honors and Memory

Gifts made in memory of ...

Contributions were made in loving memory of the following family, friends and colleagues.

In Memory of Roger Andrew
Indianhead Polled Hereford
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David Peterson
In Memory of John Hoffman
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In Memory of Alice (Svec) Isley
Dale Isley & Beth Garaas-Isley
In Memory of Marlys M. Laue, '57
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In Memory of Coach Ted Thompson
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Shirley A. Overvig
In Memory of Delores Willi
Saint Croix Valley Music Teachers
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Gifts made in honor of ...

Contributions were made in honor of the following individuals.

In Honor of Rick Bowen
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In Honor of The Class of 1960
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Barbara & Richard Stinson
In Honor of Lisa Wheeler
Davida J. Alperin

MAKING MEMORIES - AND RETURNING THEM

Chuck and Ruth Anne White provide four scholarships to a university close to their home and hearts.

by JOE TOUGAS

He's down somewhere in the alumni books as Class of '46. But the thing is, Chuck White only went to UWRF for one year.

And what a year.

White graduated high school the year WWII ended, 1945. He enrolled at UWRF (then known as River Falls State Teacher's College) because, like law, the university was in his family's blood.

"My father attended there, my late younger brother went there one year. My mother had gone there as a young woman. She was teaching school, and she met dad there."

Then came Chuck, who found his freshman (and only) year at River Falls to be filled not just with action, but triumphs.

He joined the debate team in which he and partner Norris Crist brought home the championship at the Red River Valley Debate tournament in Fargo, ND.

"The President [J. H. Ames] was so excited when we won that tournament that he called a special assembly," White says.

White also was on the university's football team that won not only an important game after a long trek to Decorah, Iowa, but a steak.

"The coach says, 'You win a game, you get steaks. You lose, you get hamburgers.' White recalls.

He also uses some championship terms when referring to some of his instructors of the day. Professors such as history teacher Walker Wyman and English teacher Vera Moss get "immortal" and "legendary" placed before their names when he speaks of their classes.

He would leave River Falls to study law at UW-Madison, graduating in 1951 with a law degree and using it in the military service in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in Korea. He returned home and in 1955 started his general legal practice for "whatever came through the door", he jokes, in River Falls.

White's family tree stretches back to the founding of River Falls itself. It started when J. Spencer White moved to Prescott in 1854 and set up a law practice there. His son, Ferris, would marry a daughter of Joel Foster, a founder of River Falls. Ferris, a trial lawyer, practiced in River Falls until his death in 1940.

Although neither of them graduated from UWRF, White and his wife Ruth Anne embody a living history of the University.



Chuck and Ruth Anne White

Like Chuck's family, Ruth Anne has essentially an alumni association with every family gathering. Her four children all attended UWRF, and her late husband, David Benson, was a UWRF Foundation Board member from 1960-92.

Chuck has taught business law at the university and served as chairman of the Alumni Association.

They've both watched how the university has grown from a few hundred to more than 6,500 today.

"We're proud of it, and it's an integral part of the River Falls community and it always has been," Chuck says. "You can't live here without being involved with the university."

Together the Whites demonstrate that pride by providing four UWRF scholarships, each named for loved ones.

There's the Kenneth S. White Memorial Scholarship, named after Chuck's father and established when he died in 1976. Chuck and his first wife, Patricia, who died in 2000, set up the Charles and Patricia White Scholarship. The David E. Benson Scholarship is named for Ruth Anne's late husband, and, finally, there's the recent Charles and Ruth Anne White Scholarship.

In her working career, Ruth Anne, also a UW-Madison graduate, was an accountant and controller for a stainless steel manufacturing firm in Hudson.

"Through the years we've always been loyal to the university," she says. "Through the University Foundation Scholarship programs, we are pleased to help students receive their education at our great university."

One former student's family was directly involved with the White's generosity. Throughout the 1980s, three brothers attending the university from Thorp were able to get room and board at the White family house - for \$25 a month.

"One of my older brothers was fortunate enough to get in there," recalls Bob Kotecki, a 1986 UWRF grad now living in Chicago. "And then he talked to Mrs. White and she was nice enough to let me live there as well, and another one of my brothers lived there. So the Kotecki family has been a great beneficiary of the White's generosity."

When Helen, Chuck's mother, passed away, family members who took over the house allowed the Kotecki boys to stay until they graduated.

"The generosity of the White family, specifically Chuck's mom and what she did for us, was just above and beyond what anyone had to do."



Upcoming alumni events

ST. CROIX BOAT CRUISE

Thursday, September 30, 2010
Stillwater, Minn.

The annual St. Croix Boat Cruise will kick off the Homecoming weekend festivities. Join us in Stillwater for a university update and reception at the Dock Café beginning at 4:30 p.m., with the boarding of the Andiamo St. Croix Riverboat at 5:45 p.m. The cruise includes a dinner buffet and some amazing views of the fall colors while cruising the St. Croix River.

Cost is \$25/person

R.S.V.P. Deadline: Thursday, September 23

HOMECOMING 2010

"Homecoming of Heroes"

Saturday, October 2, 2010

Parade. Tailgate. Football Game. Those are the staples of Homecoming at UWRF! There are numerous reunions taking place throughout the weekend. Visit www.uwrf.edu/alumni for updates on Homecoming activities.

WRFW SPORTS 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

(All alumni invited and encouraged to attend)

Saturday, October 16, 10 a.m. shotgun start.
River Falls Golf Club

Join WRFW Sports as they host the 1st annual golf tournament in order to assist them in expanding the sports they cover, including more women's sports activities.

Cost for the golf tournament, cart and post-tournament banquet is \$100. The tournament begins at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. Skins, a raffle and other activities will be offered. To register yourself or a four-person team, sponsor a hole, or donate a raffle/door prize, please call Rob Silvers at (651) 468-6907 or by email at robert.silvers@uwrf.edu.

FAMILY DAY 2010

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Bring the entire family and enjoy the variety of events scheduled for the day. Football, movies,

photos with Freddy, children's activities, campus tours, and much more.

Online registration begins in September.

Go to www.uwrf.edu/fye/familyday.htm for more information.

FALL LECTURE EVENT

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, Minn.

The Wide World of Film: Have you Read Any Good Movies Lately?

An overview of the wide world of cinema presented by Gordon Hedahl, UWRF Emeritus dean of arts & sciences and professor of theatre. Join us from 3-5 p.m. for a light dessert buffet, lecture, and discussion. Enjoy free admission to the Minnesota History Center from 5-8 p.m. that evening.

Cost is \$15/person

R.S.V.P. Deadline: Tuesday, October 26

WISCONSIN DELLS ALUMNI WEEKEND

November 12-14, 2010,

Wisconsin Dells

Play Nov. 12-14, at The Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort. For \$109 a night a family of four can reserve a double queen room and receive unlimited access to three indoor water parks and the four-story foam playhouse. Reserve by Oct. 12. Call (800) 867-9453 and mention Reservation Group Name: UW-River Falls and Block Number #905122. Not up for the whole weekend? Join us at the Wilderness Resort for a gathering on Saturday, November 13 from 3-5 p.m. Check the events schedule at www.uwrf.edu/alumni for the exact reception location. No R.S.V.P. required

NORTHWEST METRO NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

CHAMPSS Americana, 2397 Palmer Drive, New Brighton, Minn. (located off 694 and Silver Lake Road NW)

Join other northwest metro alumni from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in New Brighton. Bring your business cards and expect to meet with others in attendance. A database of those attending will

be developed and shared after the event to be utilized for future networking purposes. Door prizes, appetizers and a cash bar featuring happy hour specials until 6 p.m. will be available.

There is no cost to attend this event.

No R.S.V.P. is required.

SPRING LECTURE EVENT

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, Minn.

Professor Eileen Korenic of the Physics Department will present "Parallels: Science, Art, and the Big Ideas."

Throughout history, thinkers in science and thinkers in art have developed new models for their thoughts, often in drastic breaks with the past. Often, these dramatic shifts have happened in parallel without communication between the artists and scientists, as if humanity was simply ready for these changes to occur. In "Parallels: Science, Art, and the Big Ideas" a couple of these shifts where the worlds of science and art made simultaneous parallel strides will be explored. We will also consider the nature of science and art and how we distinguish them.

Join us from 3-5 p.m. for a light dessert buffet, lecture, and discussion. Enjoy free admission to the Minnesota History Center from 5-8 p.m. that evening.

Cost is \$15/person

R.S.V.P. Deadline: Tuesday, February 22, 2011

CLASS OF 1961 GOLDEN JUBILEE REUNION

Friday, May 13: College of Agriculture graduates only

Friday, May 13: Class of 1961 Golden Jubilee Reunion (evening reception)

Saturday, May 14: Class of 1961 Golden Jubilee Reunion, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Details sent to the Class of 1961 during the Fall 2010.