

# FRIENDS & ALUMNI News

University of Wisconsin-Waukesha  
Fall 2005

1500 N. University Drive

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188  
Issue 49

## Interim Dean Gives Update



Jane Crisler

Seeing brightly colored leaves fall from the trees reminds me that it is mid-term and I must prepare grade reports for my students. The fall semester has been very busy and exciting.

After settling into the classroom with our 2,000 students, we turned our attention to interviewing Campus Dean candidates at the end of September. We were fortunate to have had three very qualified finalists and were pleased when **Patrick Schmitt** was selected. Currently, Associate Vice President of South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois, Dr. Schmidt will arrive on campus in January 2006 to assume the duties of Dean and Campus Executive Officer.

In October we were able to become fully immersed in our "campus read", a common reading project that weaves a theme through credit course work, campus events and

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## Radish Outstanding Alumna

The little girl from Big Bend always knew she wanted to go to college. When she started working on a tomato farm about the time she was reaching puberty, the daughter of a construction worker and medical office receptionist had dim prospects of fulfilling that dream. "I knew the world was larger than Big Bend. I would have sold my soul to get an education," Kris Radish professes.

Fortunately, the cost came in lower. Much lower. "I didn't want to graduate owing money," she said. "I did my research: UW-Waukesha was affordable and had good professors and a student newspaper." These prerequisites and the fact the campus was close to home were all she needed to lay the groundwork for her writing career. Kris Radish enrolled at the UW-Waukesha in 1971 right after graduating from Catholic Memorial High School. The Friends & Alumni of UWW, Inc., provided her scholarships as a student and now has chosen her as the campus' 2005 Outstanding Alumna.

The award is given annually to an alumna/us with at least 10 years distance from the campus and outstanding personal, professional, or volunteer accomplishments. It was presented last September, at the campus' annual Sweet Rewards reception for scholarship winners and donors.

Going to college "opened a wonderful world. I was challenged intellectually and loved the small class sizes and individual attention." No longer feeling like the class wiseacre but more like a nurtured plant being coaxed to blossom, Radish explored a world based on more cerebral labor.



Bob Jozwiak and Kris Radish at Sweet Rewards Scholarship Event

**Bob Jozwiak**, who taught news writing and served as advisor for the student newspaper, *Aspects*, became her main mentor, accepting only the best work she could produce and inspiring not only a "can-do" spirit but a "must-do" attitude.

She became the paper's editor. "My first byline – it was thrilling. I had so much fun! I lived on campus," she recalls.

"College is what you make of it," she advises, and getting involved means taking advantage of a whole array of new opportunities. She also wanted to participate in sports, so she learned to fence. Last February she was inducted into the campus Athletic Hall of Fame and remains grateful to **Jerry Klingbeil**, who taught her the skill.

"After Waukesha, UW-Milwaukee was easy," she says. She graduated with a journalism degree in 1975, two years after transferring from UW-Waukesha. At UW-Milwaukee she was active on the student newspaper.

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## Alumni Updates

**Olaoluwa (Ola) Abimbola** (02-04) lives in Pompano Beach, Florida. While at UW-Waukesha, he was in the Diversity Club, Circle K and was a student ambassador. He's attending Florida Atlantic University majoring in pharmacy. He works at Walgreens as a pharmacy technician.

**Mark Berginz** (78-80, 88-89) lives in West Allis and attended UW-Milwaukee. Currently, he's a Midwest regional manager for Tidewater Group Purchasing in Milwaukee. He's received national recognitions as top executive in 2002 and 2004.

**Elizabeth Casper** (-98) lives in Brookfield and graduated from UW-Milwaukee in 2005 with a B.A. in Communications. She's working as a media director for Celtic, Inc., a full-service ad agency located in Brookfield.

**Janet E. Defnet** (99-05) lives in Mukwonago. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is employed by Hammes Company as a property management assistant. She is married to Gregory Kent.

**Chris Doubeck** (88-90) lives in Stevens Point. He teaches students with learning disabilities at Stevens Point Area Senior High. In addition, he coaches the district's Special Olympics bowling, basketball and soccer teams and is a youth activities coordinator at St. Stanislaus Parish.

**Richard A. Draeger, Jr.** (01-03) lives in Watertown and graduated with a BA in International Studies from UW-Whitewater. He has recently written a book entitled *I am an Air Force Brat*.

**Jamie Graczyk** (99-01) lives in West Allis. She received a degree in English with a French minor from Carroll College in 2003. This fall, she'll start a master's degree at UW-Milwaukee in journalism and mass communication.

**Matthew Groppi** (01-02, 04) is in the US Army Reserves and does military policing. He is an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran and a Purple Heart Recipient. He attended UW-Milwaukee and now attends UW-Stevens Point. He will major in

resource management, environmental law and law enforcement.

**Becki (Meyers) Jump** (96-00) lives in North Prairie. While here she was in PTK and a scholarship recipient. She is currently working at UW-Waukesha as a student development assistant. She is married to Dan.

**Kayla Keeling** (03-05) lives in Madison. She is attending UW-Madison majoring in medical microbiology immunology.

**Karla Luna** (97-99) lives in Chapultepec, Mexico, her country of origin. She works for the hotel and business industry and had opened and operated her own small restaurant in Condesa, Mexico.

**Vickie McBride** (89-91) lives in Waukesha. She has a son, Duncan (2000).

**Aaliyah Muhammad** (02-04) is now attending Marquette University majoring in journalism. One of her stories was published in the *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* where she works. She is also interning in the WTMJ newsroom. In addition, she is a copy editor and writer for *Ya' Heard Magazine*.

**Tim Paschkewitz** (-01) lives in Coralville, Iowa. He graduated from UW-Whitewater with a B.S. in chemistry and is now a graduate student in analytical chemistry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

**Linda Phonprasansack** (01-02) lives in Waukesha. Currently she is attending Northern Illinois University seeking a degree in special education.

**LeAnn Pomerory** (00-04) graduated in December, 2004 from UW-Milwaukee with B.A. in Organizational Administration. She was involved in student government while on campus. Currently, she works in the accounting office of Shorewest Realtors. She also is a leader for a new 4-H club called K-9 Connection.

**Jennifer Rath** (01-04) is studying social welfare at UW-Milwaukee with plans of graduating in May and applying to graduate school.

**Grover Scanlan** (01-05) lives in Waukesha. He was involved in the African American Union (AAU) and

worked in Student Services. He is attending UW-Whitewater majoring in social work and sociology. He is employed by the Oconomowoc Developmental Training Center as a youth counselor and he also volunteers at the Waukesha County Youth Detention Center. He's married to Carolyn Scanlan.

**Aimee (Leamon) Wiley** (-96) lives in Cedarburg and is married with two children: Judah (2003) and Phinehas (2005).

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## Keep us informed

What's new in your life? Let UW-Waukesha Friends & Alumni know. Do you have a new job? Were you recently recognized by your peers? Did you complete a degree? E-mail, editor, Bambi Butzlaff Voss at [bvoss@uwc.edu](mailto:bvoss@uwc.edu) with your news. If you would like your e-mail address posted to the alumni web page, we would be glad to do that, too.

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## Check us out on the Web

Our Web site design has been recently updated. You'll find information about upcoming events, basketball schedules, news, speakers and more. Be sure to check it out at

**[waukesha.uwc.edu](http://waukesha.uwc.edu)**

You can even fill out an alumni update online.

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## Facts 2005-2006

**Founded:** 1966

**Campus:** 86 acres and 98-acre Field Station in Waterville

**Faculty/Staff:** 165

**Accreditation:** Fully-accredited by the North Central Association

**Enrollment:** 2,064

Full-time 61%

Part-time 39%

Women 49%

Men 51%

**Tuition:** \$2,103 full-time resident

**Governance:** One of 13 freshman/sophomore campuses in the UW Colleges

## Dean's Note Continued

speakers. This year instructors and students selected two books to explore the theme of war and its effects on our society: Chris Hedges's *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning* and Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. The highlight of the series this fall was to hear Chris Hedges speak about his experiences reporting from war zones in Central America, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq to the capacity audience of students, faculty, staff and community members who packed the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

We are continuing our campus dialog by hearing from a panel of combat veterans, viewing films, and holding days of discussion. Friends and Alumni are welcome to join our community of scholars in these discussions. Events are announced on our campus Web site:

<http://waukesha.uwc.edu>.

My personal project this fall has been to work with the Board of Regents and the Chancellors of the UW Colleges, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Whitewater on the "Waukesha Study" to identify how the state's public university system can best meet the growing education and research needs of Waukesha County. The UW System invites questions, comments, suggestions and inquiries about how to improve higher educational opportunities in the area. Contact and background information are available at:

<http://www.wisconsin.edu/waukesha/>.

As I wrap up my duties as Interim Campus Dean, it is with enormous gratitude to those who have made the assignment a joyful and constructive experience. I have great enthusiasm for the future of UW-Waukesha. Over the last six months I have met hundreds of "friends" of the campus and connected with generations of alumni. I am honored to be a member of a community that is so sincerely devoted to academic excellence and public service. I thank you all for your friendship.

Sincerely,  
Jane Crisler  
Interim Dean and CEO

## Kris Radish Continued

Radish took positions in Montana, California, Arizona, and did a several-month traveling stint before she moved to Provo, Utah, where she plied her trade and soon was promoted to bureau chief at the *Desert News*. She taught part-time at Brigham Young University and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her undercover series on white supremacists.

National magazines began publishing her articles. When she returned to Wisconsin, she taught writing classes at UW-Milwaukee and served as managing editor for Community Newspapers, Inc. In 1992, she published a book, *Run, Bambi, Run*, on local celebrity Laurie Bembenek, who was convicted of murdering her police officer husband's former wife.

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"I had a terrific start at UW-Waukesha and some very large dreams," Radish said.

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Ten years later, her second book, *The Birth Order Effect*, came out and unleashed the flood of novels that continues to flow. *The Elegant Gathering of White Snows* was published by Bantam Dell in 2003. It has spurred "Elegant" gatherings all over the country. Bantam Dell released *Dancing Naked at the Edge of Dawn* last January, and *Annie Freeman's*

*Fabulous Traveling Funeral* is slated for January, 2006. A January 2007 release of her book, *The Sunday List of Dreams*, is planned, and she recently signed a two-book publishing deal with Random House.

In addition, she writes two weekly nationally-syndicated columns as well as a political column for *Community Newspapers*. She also has speaking, "Elegant Gathering," and reverse bridal shower – a unique emotional session for women – engagements. Her New York-based literary agent recently has contracted with a Hollywood film agency.

"I'm a hard worker," she understates. Besides writing and public speaking, she works on cultivating her own garden: an 18-year-old son and 16-year old daughter with busy activity schedules. Radish, who lives in Oconomowoc, serves on the advisory board for the Milwaukee Women's Center and also mentors numerous young professional women and writers.

"I had a terrific start at UW-Waukesha and some very large dreams," Radish said. "The university helped me nurture those dreams. I never let go of them, and I'm here to tell every single new student that anything, absolutely anything, is possible if you live with passion in your heart and life."

The first story she ever sold was about the UW-Waukesha Field Station.

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## Help us change more lives

Your contribution to the Friends & Alumni Foundation allows us to continue investing in UW-Waukesha students like Kris Radish. Kris received scholarships to help her achieve her college education goals. Those scholarships were donated by people just like you.

Whatever your contribution, it will help other students fulfill their dreams.

Your tax deductible contribution can be sent to:  
**The Friends & Alumni Foundation of UW-Waukesha**  
**1500 N. University Drive**  
**Waukesha, WI 53188**

Thank you!  
Katie Miller, Executive Director of UW-Waukesha F & A Foundation

# Mark Your Calendars & RSVP Today!



As a friend of UW-Waukesha you can be among the first to experience the new Delafield Hotel.

Located in historic downtown Delafield, the Delafield Hotel is the newest hotel in Waukesha County and is scheduled to open in February 2006.

On **Thursday, January 19, 2006**, the Friends & Alumni Foundation will host an exclusive Sneak Preview of the hotel, before it opens to the general public.

From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., guests can explore the hotel, its restaurant and bar while enjoying a light dinner buffet prepared by Andrew Ruggeri, the hotel's owner and chef, and sip complimentary wine, beer and soda. Live entertainment, auctions and raffles will add to the excitement surrounding this event. Proceeds from the Sneak Preview will support scholarships for UW-Waukesha students.

Tickets to this exclusive Sneak Preview are \$35 per person. Reserve yours by contacting:

Katie Miller  
(262) 446-3328 or at  
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*A note to Parents:* If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at home, please let us know.

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