

FRIENDS & ALUMNI

News

University of Wisconsin-Waukesha
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1500 N. University Drive

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Issue 51



Associate Dean **Phil Zweifel** presents Governor's certificates to retirees **Betty Gygax** and **Fran Kritzer** at the campus retirement party. See page 2 for more.

In Memory

Cathy Bengtson, 50, died in May from cancer. She started at UW-Waukesha as a student in 1989 and tutored in what then was the Learning Lab. She earned a BS from UW-Whitewater in 1996 and joined the Study Center as a math specialist in 2000. In 2005 she received her master's degree in education from Carroll College. Awarded a UW Colleges Kaplan Fellowship in 2003, she was recognized for her outstanding contributions as an educator.

She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Roger, and their two children, Brian (Amy) of Madison and Christine of Waukesha.

A campus scholarship has been set up in her honor. Contact **Tony Landowski** about how to contribute to this fund. (tony.landowski@uwc.edu)

Ed Jackamonis died last January from cancer. Ed was one of the founding UW-Waukesha Political Science faculty members and taught here from 1966-1970.

A native of New Britain, CT, he graduated magna cum laude in 1962 from Northeastern University in Boston and earned a Master's from UW-Madison.

In 1970, he ran for Wisconsin State Assembly – and got elected, despite being on the Democratic ticket in a solidly Republican community. His colleagues elected him Assembly Speaker in 1977 and kept him there until he left office in 1982.

Jackamonis advised a very active group of Young Democrats on campus. **Robert Dills** said, "He was a good Democrat, while I was a good

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Alumni Updates

Kurt Andussies (81-83) lives in Eagle River and is a builder/general contractor. He and wife Diane have two children.

Heidi R. Bacon (91-95) lives in Tucson. She earned an MA in Language, Reading and Culture from the University of Arizona. She is an Arizona Reading Specialist and her areas of interest are retrospective miscue analysis, adolescent literacy and workplace literacies. She teaches 9-12th grade at Pima Partnership High School in Tucson, AZ.

Michael Benkstein (94-97) lives in Lansing, Michigan. He graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a BA in 1999 and worked at the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department until 2002 and then went to law school at Michigan State University. He received his JD in 2005.

Bonnie Birk (74-77) earned a PhD (2004) in religious studies from Marquette University. Her book was published by Marquette University Press in 2005 – *Christine de Pizan and Biblical Wisdom: A Feminist-*

Theological Point of View. She occasionally teaches a Women & Theology class at Mount Mary College and is currently collaborating (with **Ellen Langill**) on a book on The Women's Center of Waukesha in commemoration of its 30 years of serving the community.

Chuck Brehmer (97-00) lives in Durham, North Carolina. He graduated with a business degree in finance from UW-Whitewater in 2003. He recently moved to Durham and is working in Informational Technology.

John Paul Conway (99-01) graduated from Winona State University and works for Target Corp. He married Samantha Ruppert in June.

Mark R. Dethardt (02-05) lives in Mayville. He's pursuing a BS at UW-Oshkosh majoring in criminal justice with a minor in psychology. He's employed by the Wisconsin Early Autism Project in Green Bay and is a line therapist working with autistic children.

Hilda Graham (-95) was first runner-up in the *Milwaukee Journal/*

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Campus Retirements

Fran Kritzer's teaching career spanned nearly 30 years when she decided to retire this spring. A Fort Mill, SC, native, she accepted her first teaching position at North Augusta, SC, High School after graduating from Columbia College, SC, with degrees in English and French.

The campus celebrated her 19-year tenure at UW-Waukesha and her service to students at a retirement party in June.



Fran Kritzer

After she earned her master's degree in English from Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC, she moved to Augusta (GA) State University,

where she was an instructor and, significantly, where she met her husband, Paul Kritzer. "He's steadily moved me north," she says. They hop-scotched up to Washington, D.C., then to Iowa, and to Wisconsin.

While her children were growing, Kritzer gave whatever extra time she could to community involvement. She served on the YWCA Board of Directors, and actively worked with the Waukesha Symphony and the United Way.

She was also a member of the Fox River Development Committee, became vice president of the Waukesha Symphony (2001-2003) and, at the same time, president of the Board of Directors of the United Way in Waukesha County. In addition, she chaired the Waukesha Police and Fire Commission from 1999 to 2005 and currently is president-elect of the Ideal Club.

"I never got up in the morning not looking forward to a day of teaching. I like making students feel better about being able to write." The part of her job she won't miss is "sitting in airports with papers [to grade]." In fact, this is what she sees as the only downside of teaching – time used to correct papers instead of reading a good book.

Some of the thank-you notes from past students have been both gratifying and revealing. One student from 1992, **Heidi Bacon**, wrote some years later: "Having developed a reputation as a good writer, I directly relate my academic success to the learning that I experienced as a student in your classroom. It helped me across the curriculum." Another former student gained the self-esteem that comes from knowing how to do something right: "The little note you wrote. . . promised that I would feel more confident about writing and would do it more often. Certainly, that promise has been fulfilled! . . . I'm very glad my first class at UW-Waukesha was your English class!"

After listening to John Gardner, a national leader in student retention who made a presentation at UW-Waukesha, Kritzer initiated the Freshman Seminar on campus in 1997. The class orients new students to college and to campus life. Freshmen who have enrolled have been less likely to drop out of school. UW-Waukesha will offer 16 sections of the course this fall, with many of the instructors mentored by Kritzer.

Perhaps she was able to start such a course because she could identify with many of the students' tastes, she hypothesizes. "I like the same music, go to some of the same concerts, and listen to the same radio stations." With tastes ranging from symphony to rap and hip hop, Kritzer mingles comfortably with faculty and students alike.

Leaving teaching and UW-Waukesha will be "bittersweet," she feels. "It's hard to look at the list of classes [for next fall] and not see my name." Of course, she will find plenty of new ways to occupy herself. Immediate travel plans center on family – spending time with her parents, who are in their 80's, in Rock Hill, and at her and husband Paul's vacation home in Charleston, both in SC; visiting daughters Erica in Boston and Carrie in Chicago; and traveling together on his business trips. Now she can take along a book. And do some writing.

"I've got a couple writing projects I'd like to do." A relative from the 1600's left a diary, which is a great jumping off place for further research and interesting story-telling. And, the southerner who moved north wants to write a cookbook for her family.

When she was hired in 1967, **Betty Gygax**, was UW-Waukesha's first faculty secretary. She retired last January as so much more.

While her title then was lead typist, for many years her main duty centered more on uniting the disparate members of the faculty and staff and, as functional social director for the campus family.

Not surprisingly, she landed her position at the year-old campus by finding connections and piecing them together. Times were hard, and Wisconsin Job Service, where she worked, was cutting its budget. She



Betty Gygax

was slated to move to the Milwaukee office, miles from her Pewaukee home. Taking job orders as they came in, she spotted the opening at

UW-Waukesha and selected that one for herself. **Bill Dehnel**, the business manager at the time, hired her immediately, starting a 38-year career.

"I had the best view in Northview (Hall). I could see Holy Hill from my office," she said. That didn't last long, by the time Gygax moved to an interior office, she already had become minister of fun. Faculty and staff from various disciplines gathered to enjoy the camaraderie and discuss sports, politics, current issues, academics, and nonsense.

She assumed a duty to welcome newcomers, questioned them about their interests, and introduced them

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Gygax Retirement Continued

to others on campus. In a sense, Gygax learned how to be a mother at the university. When her son, Rodney came along in 1974, she was well practiced.

She also ran a first aid station - supplying necessities from band aids to aspirin. She stocked tools, paper plates, and a variety of other materials to meet an array of needs. When faculty, staff, or students placed a call for help, Betty took care of the problem. Once she picked up a student whose brakes had locked up, getting him to school in time for an exam. She has gone to the airport to get a stranded faculty member.

As computers were phased in, her official job changed. She became

a document production specialist, working with a with a new set of equipment. Gone are the long-carriage typewriter, the mimeograph machine, and the stencils ("with liquid that would make you high"). "I don't miss doing carbons," she said. Instead, she took charge of other office machines and, since 1994 has handled mail processing as well. Students and staff knew her as the go-to person for anything they couldn't easily find.

"There have been so many good people to work with. They always made my work fun," she said. "I will miss them tremendously." They have become a part of her life and she a part of theirs. "I've gone to the wed-

dings of students and of children of the faculty," rejoiced when their grandchildren were born, mourned when loved ones died.

Gygax became a mother and a grandmother during her tenure at UW-Waukesha, and she shared those joys with co-workers, too. Her first grandchild, Olivia, was born October 9, 2005.

For awhile, her retirement will mean old-fashioned mothering - care of her granddaughter so her daughter-in-law, Jennifer, can return to work. She and husband Carl hope to spend more time at their place in Eagle River.

Alumni Updates Continued

Sentinel's Nurse-of-the-year award. She has her BSN degree from Carroll and is working on her master's through Regis College. She's worked at Froedtert since 1997 and is now a rapid response nurse and a photopheresis nurse for the Medical College. She works with bone marrow transplant patients. She is married to Billy and children are Jordan and Will.

Shane Heyel (-93) lives in Fleetwood, England. He transferred to UW-Stevens Point after UW-Waukesha and completed a BS in Land Use Planning in 1996. After working a few odd jobs he started a permanent position with the DNR in Sturtevant as a Water Regulation and Zoning Specialist for Racine County. In 2004, he joined his girlfriend in England and completed his MS in Hydrology and Water Quality. He is now working as a Sustainable Drainage Systems Engineer for Atkins, one of the largest consulting firms in the United Kingdom.

Sue Hopfensperger (96-98) lives in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2004 she earned her BA in Information Systems from the University of Richmond in Virginia summa cum laude and was honored to be chosen to receive the Jean Proffitt Service Award upon graduation. She is now working at Belmont University in Nashville as the executive assistant

to the dean and technical support coordinator for the College of Business Administration. She and her husband, Ralph, are church youth group leaders. They have a two-year-old granddaughter living in Michigan and are expecting a grandson this summer.

Christine (Fuchs) Kulinski (89-91) lives in West Allis. She recently gave birth to her second child, a girl named Allyson. Allyson has an older brother (by less than 11 months) Michael.

Donald H. Nguyen, MD (75-77) now lives in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Ryan Ohrmundt (-96) an Army Reserve Sgt. has been deployed overseas to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Katie Reiter (90-93) lives in Waukesha and added her e-mail to the alumni web directory. waukesha.uwc.edu/alumni/email.html

David Reesor (-91) lives in Monrovia, California. He is the regional sales coordinator at Aflac in Arcadia and is engaged to Cynthia Luquin. They are planning a summer 2007 wedding.

Renee Schneider (01-03) received her BS in Architectural Studies from UW-Milwaukee. She is an assistant at the Facility Planning Architect Office there. She plans to begin graduate school at UW-Milwaukee this fall.

Jamie Starks (95-02) moved to Charlotte, NC to head the Central Piedmont Community College bookstore. He has been manager of UW-Waukesha's bookstore owned by the same company.

Christopher Washebek (00-02) recently received the Distinguished Student Leader Award for 2005-2006 from UW-Whitewater. This is the highest student award given by Whitewater and includes a cash award. Chris also won an Award for Excellence in Student Leadership at UW-Waukesha in 2002. He is a GIS Intern at Waukesha Water Utility this summer.

Christina M. Wiegel (03) lives in Mukwonago. She attended UW-Stevens Point and graduated from Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville in 2005. She is employed as a physical therapist assistant at Willow Crest Care Center in South Milwaukee. She's engaged to Craig R. Smith of Portage and they plan to marry this summer.

Dana Zeman (00-03) lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. She graduated from UW-Madison with a BS in Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations. She is the Director of Marketing for LevRose Real Estate in Scottsdale.

Little Red & the Hoods



DATES:
Monday-Friday,
July 24-28
and
July 31-August 4, 2006

TIMES:
10:00 a.m. **and**
1:00 p.m.
\$3 general admission

Phone (262) 521-5494
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a **children's theater** production by
The University of Wisconsin-Waukesha

featuring an interactive update of a delightful fairy tale, with
lessons about judging others and dealing with strangers

Epecially for children under age 10

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Penny Kelsey and
Bambi Butzlaff Voss

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Jackamonis Continued

Republican. He was smart, knowledgeable, and loved to debate political and economic issues."

Jackamonis, 66, leaves a widow, Barbara, two children, April Sutrick and Jason; a grandson, Jack Sutrick, who was the apple of his eye.

A scholarship has been set up in his memory. Donations can be made to the F&A Foundation at the campus address.

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