

# FRIENDS & ALUMNI

## News

University of Wisconsin-Waukesha  
Summer 2007

1500 N. University Drive

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188

Issue 54

### Join the NEW Friends & Alumni Association

The purpose of the UW-Waukesha Friends & Alumni Association will be to foster, promote, and advance the interests and welfare of UW-Waukesha by encouraging and facilitating strong relationships between the campus and its alumni as well as the community as a whole.

This group will also provide an opportunity for those who would like to maintain an active and enjoyable connection to UW-Waukesha without having to commit to time-intensive obligations. The level of involvement will be an individual choice.

A chairperson of the Association, also acting as convener, idea-generator, and organizer, will be chosen by members and will work closely with campus staff in these capacities. Other members will be asked, or will volunteer, to chair or coordinate specific events or activities. Ideas and suggestions will of course be welcome from the entire membership. The Association will meet as an entire group only once or twice per year.

In general, meetings will be held only as needed, and mainly as smaller groups doing event- or activity-connected work. Most communication will be handled through e-mail.

#### Some activities might be to:

- Serve on the Scholarship Committee
- Select the Outstanding Alum each year

- Help implement the annual scholarship event (Sweet Rewards)
- Help with various Foundation events; e.g. the Festival of Trees, the Golf Outing
- One member will act as liaison to the UW-Waukesha Foundation Board and make reports through e-mail
- Have occasional lunch or breakfast meetings with the Dean
- Organize and advertise a Friends & Alumni summer social at the Field Station
- Provide articles for the Friends & Alumni Newsletter and/or Web site
- Participate in campus beautification (gardening and/or art displays)
- Other activity involvement as needed or desired

**Membership** is open to all alumni, to all students, and to everyone who has an interest in an involved connection to UW-Waukesha. New members will be asked to choose their area/activity of interest as well as their desired level of involvement and will be called upon accordingly.

If this sounds like something you'd like to be a part of, or if you'd like to know more, please contact Lynn Knight at (262) 521-5445 or e-mail [lynn.knight@uwc.edu](mailto:lynn.knight@uwc.edu)

## Here's Your Chance to win \$1,500!

The UW-Waukesha Foundation is sponsoring a CASH tuition raffle. *Need not be a student to win!*

Grand Prize:  
**\$1,500 in CASH**

Drawing Held:  
September 13, 2007

Ticket Prices:  
One for \$10 or  
Three for \$25

To purchase your tickets contact the UW-Waukesha Foundation office at (262) 446-3328 or at [katie.miller@uwc.edu](mailto:katie.miller@uwc.edu)



### Second Annual Festival of Trees

Save the Dates  
**November  
17-18, 2007**

This weekend event will feature dozens of fully-decorated holiday trees and wreaths on display. They will be auctioned off to benefit the students and programs of UW-Waukesha.

If you would like to help with this wonderful event, donate a decorated tree or wreath or receive further information about **The 2007 Festival of Trees**, please contact Foundation Director Katie Miller at (262) 446-3328 or [katie.miller@uwc.edu](mailto:katie.miller@uwc.edu)

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# Alumni Updates

**Heidi R. Bacon** (91-95) lives in Tucson, Arizona. She has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in language, reading and culture at the University of Arizona and will study adolescent literacy and youth culture.

**Chris Becker** (81-82) lives in Waukesha. At UW-Waukesha he played basketball and was inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame. He received an undergraduate and master's degree in education from Sul Ross State University in Texas. He is the executive director of the Waukesha YMCA and is married to Nancy. They have two children: Halee (19) and Brinn (14).

**Bonnie Birk** (74-77) long-time member of the Friends & Alumni and the UW-Waukesha Foundation Boards. She and her husband, Dave Helling, recently received the 2007 Celebration of Giving Award, one of the highest recognitions offered by the Waukesha County Community Foundation. The two led a \$3.5 million fund raising effort for the Women's Center of Waukesha County. The campaign resulted in a new facility for public shelter.

**Todd Bjerke** (76-77) lives in Onalaska, Wisconsin and was just elected Circuit Court Judge in LaCrosse County. He received an associate degree from UW-Waukesha; a BA in political science and psychology from UW-Madison in 1979; and his JD from Hamline University in St. Paul in 1984. From 1984-1987, he was on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. Since 1989, he has been in the U.S. Army Reserve. His current assignment is Staff Judge Advocate for the 88th Regional Readiness Sustainment Command, headquartered at Fort McCoy, responsible for 50,000 reserve soldiers. Recently, he worked in the LaCrosse County District Attorney's Office. In addition he is a board member of the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals and the Asian Gang Investigators Association. He's a judge advocate for the Onalaska American Legion Post and trains Wisconsin Narcotics Officers. He's married to Karen Kroll and has three children: Benjamin, Emily and Amanda.

**Peter C. Blado** (66-68) lives in Tacoma, Washington. He was a member of the first UW-Waukesha class held at Mt. St. Paul Seminary. He received his BS in zoology and mathe-

tics in 1971. Married Susan Link in 1969 and had two daughters, divorced and remarried twice. He's worked 42 years in the printing industry. He was certified in production and inventory management (CPIM) from the American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) in 1986 and recertified in 2005. In 1987, he moved to Tacoma, but still has family living in Waukesha.

**Gina Blanchette** (96-99) lives in Milwaukee. She added her e-mail to the alumni web page. She is the marketing coordinator at Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

**Monique Conley** (98-00) lives in Wauwatosa. She graduated from UW-Milwaukee in 2003 with a BA in international relations-foreign policy. She interned in 2005 at Miller Brewing Company in the Corporate Social Responsibility Department and helped with the Brew-ha. Currently, she's finishing up an AAS degree in Travel Management from the Milwaukee Area Technical School and has been hired by Midwest Airlines in Reservations.

**Stephanie Kucan** (04-06) lives in Waukesha. She earned an Associate Degree in 2006 and is employed as a final document mortgage specialist at US Bank.

**Joseph Doherty** (04-07) lives in Oconomowoc. He's attending UW-Whitewater and is employed as a shift supervisor at Ace Hardware of Oconomowoc.

**Bryan Erickson** (01-03) lives in Waukesha. He graduated from UW-Whitewater this May and is engaged to Erin Curry (01-03) also an alum.

**Kristopher Harnack** (-07) will be attending UW-Whitewater this fall and will be majoring in operations management. He was recently married to Karissa Foat.

**Jeff Hopper** (81-83) lives in Waukesha. He's recently been hired as the new head girls' basketball coach at Waukesha West. While at UW-Waukesha he played basketball for coach **Dick Luther**. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from UW-Whitewater, a Masters degree in Teacher Leadership from Silver Lake and an administration license from Marian College. He's finishing his 6th year as the at-risk coordinator at Park View Middle School, Mukwonago. He's married to Laurie and has five children:

Jena (21), Abby (20), Joel (18), stepson Luke Nabak (18), and Isaac (15).

**Russell Jones** (67-69) was active in orchestra, jazz band with **Jack Whitney** and a member of the Madrigal Singers. He played the mandolin at the Christmas dinner and sang in the choir. Since then, he's been a professional musician playing the lead guitar and violin and has performed on the Grand Ole Opry. He has performed with artists Bill Monroe, Charlie Daniels, Willie Nelson and more. He has also participated on many studio recordings, radio and TV shows. He appeared numerous times on the Ralph Emery show and the old TNN in Nashville. He toured with bands including Jeannie C. Riley, Dave Dudley and Faron Young and in 40 states and Canada. He is currently semi-retired from the music industry venturing out occasionally to perform with friends. He also teaches at a middle school in the Metro Nashville Public School system and was Teacher of the Year in 2006. In addition, to his musical talents, he played basketball at UW-Waukesha and is an Athletic Hall of Fame inductee along with his wife, **Dolores Jones**.

**Kathleen (Cech) Kutner** (96-99, 00 and 06) lives in West Allis. She listed her e-mail on the alumni Web page. She attended UW-Milwaukee and is married to alumnus, **John R. Kutner** (1999). She's a homemaker and mother of two.

**Nichole Merckes** (02-04) lives in Bowler, Wisconsin. She received an associates degree while at UW-Waukesha and graduated in May from UW-Green Bay majoring in English with a minor in First Nations Studies.

**Angela Meyers** (99-00) listed her e-mail on the alumni web page. She lives in New Berlin. In 2002, she completed a BA at UW-Milwaukee and is now pursuing a master's degree in library science there. She is also working full-time at the Mental Health Association of Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee where she is the webmaster and database manager. She's married to Jeff and has two dogs.

**Christie (Lauder) Nelson** (84-86) has listed her e-mail on the alumni web page. She recently sang in a Celebration Concert Series at Alliance Bible Church with her three sisters.

*Continued Next Page*

One of them is also an alum, **Susan Launder-Becker**. Christie received a degree in medical transcription from WCTC in 1997 and was hired at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital. She is married to Eric.

**Kathleen (Burchell) Roberts** (90-93) lives in East Troy. While at UW-Waukesha she was active in Madrigals, the chorus and minstrels. She teaches in Delavan in a bilingual 4K classroom. She's married to Dean and has two sons: Denver and Logan.

**Ivy (Phelps) Sturgen** (84, 88-89, 95, 99-03) lives in Waukesha and earned an Associate Degree. At UW-Milwaukee she earned a degree in sociology and will attend graduate school this fall.

**Emily Zehren** (04-06) lives in Watertown. She earned an associates degree at UW-Waukesha, was a scholarship recipient and was employed in student development doing public relations for the Activity Coordination Team for five semesters. She's attending UW-Whitewater majoring in general business. She's employed as the Head Guard and teaches swim lessons at the Watertown Park and Recreation Department.

**Jim Zeirke** (72-74) recently retired from the City of Waukesha Fire Department after 26 years of service. He retired at the rank of Equipment Operator. Jim is now self-employed doing commercial and residential inspections for the insurance industry.

**Sarah Zweifel** (00-02) lives in Waukesha and was recently promoted to Relationship Marketing Production Specialist at Bader Rutter & Associates in Brookfield. ■

## Rodriguez and Skryja Retire

**Cecilia Rodriguez**, Associate Professor of World Languages, and **Dave Skryja**, Professor of Biological Sciences, will retire from UW-Waukesha this summer.

Rodriguez taught Spanish at UW-Waukesha since 1985. Skryja has been at UW-Waukesha since 1976. ■

## Dean's Column

by Patrick Schmitt



Every once in a while, when I'm out in the community, I'm asked a question: Why should I give money to UW-Waukesha? I pay my taxes—what more do you want?

Here's what I tell them: A private college depends heavily on its students for support. A small college with a modest endowment derives almost 100% of its budget from tuition. If the school needs more money, it has only a few sources to look to: it can increase enrollment, which might mean spending a lot of money marketing itself; it can increase tuition, which hits students in the pocketbook, and tends to limit higher education to the well-to-do; it can seek grants, but not only does that put it in competition with every other school in the country, grants have been drying up for a number of years; or it can go out and raise funds from individual donors.

While public higher education in Wisconsin depended in part on those same sources, our major source of income was from the state budget. Wisconsinites for many, many years recognized public higher education not only as a public good but a great public investment. The "ROI"—Return On Investment—from public higher education was extraordinary. Spreading the burden of supporting public higher education to all the citizens and all the enterprises in the state made great sense. Wisconsin citizens could look at their public colleges and universities and know that they were sources of prosperity and pride.

A few years back, though, the state began to fall on hard times. One of the responses was a cut in state support for public higher education; throughout the UW system, the burden began to shift to the students. There's a rueful

acknowledgement of that shift in a well-known saying in higher education: "We went from state-supported to state-assisted to state-located." We're not at the "state-located" phase of this saying yet in Wisconsin. But the balance has shifted from the majority of our support coming from the state budget to a majority coming from our students, in the form of tuition. We're now up to about 62% of our academic programs budget coming from our students, with 38% coming from state taxes. In 2002-2003, those percentages were almost exactly reversed.

It's become harder for our students to pay for an education. That means fewer students from lower-income families are coming to UW-Waukesha. The doors to opportunity are slowly closing across the state.

And so we turn to private citizens who understand that the dollars they give for scholarships and program support are wise investments. We look to people like you who understand that a dollar given today means a brighter tomorrow for everybody and that public higher education is the infrastructure of the future.

Please join me and make a contribution to the UW-Waukesha Foundation. Your donation provides assistance to local students. Contact Foundation Executive Director Katie Miller at (262) 446-3328 for more information about helping to educate the next generation of leaders at UW-Waukesha. Please help us to give these students and Wisconsin a bright future. ■

## MANY THANKS

The UW-Waukesha Foundation wishes to thank the following sponsors of our 2007 Golf Outing which raised \$8,000 to support the students and programs of UW-Waukesha.

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# The Three Bully Goats Griff



**DATES:**  
Monday-Friday,  
July 23-27  
**and**  
July 30-August 3, 2007

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

a **children's theater** production by  
The University of Wisconsin-Waukesha

a light-hearted, funny show  
that also teaches a lesson about bullying

Phone (262) 521-5494 for tickets

The Friends & Alumni News

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Bambi Butzlaff Voss

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

Please send us your news and alumni updates. If you know of an alum not receiving this newsletter, please have them contact us to be added to our mailing list.

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