This issue’s feature examines a few Pioneer alumni who have dedicated themselves, prospered and made their media-related field what it is today.
Campus News
5 Chancellor's letter
6 Palm trees and police tape
10 Rountree Commons
20 Buzz among the faculty
23 Non-trads thriving on campus
26 From the archives
28 Reimagining a mascot
30 Basketball and the Stangel brothers

Feature
11-19 Pioneering Communications

Alumni News
4 Alumni Association Board of Directors
7 Sending compassion to Norway
8 Alumnus' overseas project changes lives
9 Cutting teeth as an intern
22 Outstanding alumni
24 Sharing memories of Germany
29 Sustaining relationships on the rugby pitch
31 The Pioneer link to General Engineering Company
32 Class Notes
34 Alumni gather at annual broadcasters clinic
    Alumni travel to Panama
35 In Memorium
37 Future Pioneers
38 Calendar of Events
The Alumni Today is produced as a service of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Alumni Association. This magazine is designed to keep alumni and friends of the university informed of current activities and events affecting UW-Platteville and its alumni.

Letters to the editor are welcome, as are suggestions for articles and Class Notes. Call or write Alumni Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville WI 53818-3099, 1.800.897.2586 or e-mail alumni@uwplatt.edu.

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Hello Pioneers,

As I write my final letter as the UW-Platteville Alumni Board president, I want you to know how rewarding this role has been for me. I have met so many talented, educated and caring people who, like me, want to see our university flourish. Thanks to all who are currently members of the Alumni Association; your membership has aided us in building relationships that last a lifetime, while also supporting many wonderful programs and services for our university.

Support from dues has awarded scholarships to incoming freshmen, sponsored over 30 events throughout the year, including Homecoming, and brought over 1,000 alumni together over local and regional events across the United States. With your support, we have also hosted Countdown to Commencement, an event to help ease the stress of graduation for those departing seniors. Dues have provided funds for our alumni college chapters to use for events and scholarships as well as their own award programs. Alumni Association membership dues allow us to celebrate the accomplishments of several alumni throughout the year by awarding five different awards including Distinguished Alumni, Outstanding Alumni, Athletic Hall of Fame, Lifetime Pioneer and the Denny Pratt Spirit Award.

As you can see, our association can help you in many ways, and I hope you will take full advantage of the fun events that the Alumni Association sponsors and organizes. Our programs provide a wonderful opportunity for you to connect with fellow alumni and maintain an important connection to UW-Platteville.

The Alumni Association and incoming UW-Platteville students need your support, skills and especially membership. It is your membership dues that make the Alumni Association possible; as you have read, your dues also support so many other programs and services as well. Alumni dues help support Heartland Festival, Student Ambassadors, Creative Communications, Engineers without Borders, Forensic Science Camp, Alumni Career Services and over $5,000 for student programming. Your membership dues are very important in keeping our Alumni Association going strong. Thanks again to all of you that are currently members of our great association. To those who are not members yet, please seriously consider being a part of our UW-Platteville Alumni Association.

Serving as the president of the Alumni Board of Directors has been a great honor and a personally enriching experience for me. As I step down as president and welcome Andy Skwor as my successor, I take great pride knowing he will lead the Alumni Association and all of you not only to continue these great programs and events, but also in building relationships that last a lifetime.

Forever. Pioneers.

Tricia (Kruser) Reuter ’94
Alumni Association Board of Directors President
Dear Pioneers,

Over the past few months, I’ve had the opportunity to meet with many UW-Platteville alumni and friends at alumni events. Each time I speak with our graduates, I’m impressed not only with the number of alumni who continue to be interested and involved in the university and its activities, but with the level of commitment that they show. Our 40,000 dedicated alumni, including you, are what make our university so special and unique.

In January, I met with alumni, friends, retired faculty and staff as well as their spouses at alumni and friends events in Fort Myers, Sarasota and The Villages in Florida. These events allowed me the chance to get to know everyone on a more personal level and update them about what’s happening on campus. Even more importantly, the events gave everyone the chance to network, socialize and reminisce with friends and acquaintances that they may not have seen in years. It was especially good to visit with Chancellor Emeritus David J. Markee and his wife Lou Ann, Professor Emeritus Bob Velzy, Professor Emeritus Jack Kirby, Professor Emeritus Dawson Trine and Provost/Professor Emeritus Ralph Curtis.

Because of the success of these events in bringing alumni together, we will be hosting events like this more often. If you have any suggestions for where we should host an event in the future, please contact our alumni office at alumni@uwplatt.edu or 1.800.897.2586.

Please stay involved in UW-Platteville in any way that you can, whether it be by donating your time, energy, expertise or financial support. I invite you to share some of your personal stories about how your experiences at UW-Platteville helped make you who you are today, both professionally and personally. There is no doubt that our alumni are the cornerstone of this university and the most important asset we have.

Cordially,

Dennis J. Shields, Chancellor
Rebecca Woodworth, a 2008 criminal justice alumna from Oconto, Wis., searched the online postings every day for a job in forensics following her graduation from UW-Platteville. Her persistence paid off when the Florida Department of Law Enforcement selected her for an interview, and then hired her as a forensic technologist in latent prints in their Tampa Crime Laboratory.

“What I do is only a small part in the complete investigation of a crime, but it is important. Knowing that I may have even a tiny part in putting a dangerous criminal behind bars and making everyone’s life a little safer is extremely rewarding.”

Rebecca Woodworth

Palm trees and police tape
Criminal justice degree takes alumna to Florida crime lab

Rebecca Woodworth, a 2008 criminal justice alumna from Oconto, Wis., searched the online postings every day for a job in forensics following her graduation from UW-Platteville. Her persistence paid off when the Florida Department of Law Enforcement selected her for an interview, and then hired her as a forensic technologist in latent prints in their Tampa Crime Laboratory.

“Hands down, the most rewarding part of my job is knowing that I am helping people and aiding in an investigation,” she said. “What I do is only a small part in the complete investigation of a crime, but it is important. Knowing that I may have even a tiny part in putting a dangerous criminal behind bars and making everyone’s life a little safer is extremely rewarding.”

In her position with the FDLE, Woodworth said she works closely with latent print analysts, who transfer evidence submitted by surrounding law enforcement agencies to her for print processing, either through chemical means with Ninhydrin or Super Glue® Fuming, which both react with natural chemicals secreted by the skin, or through a physical process, such as fingerprint powder, to make otherwise invisible prints visible.

“I then have an analyst look at the print to tell me if it is capable of being compared to a known fingerprint standard,” said Woodworth. “If it is, I capture the print using digital photography and enhance it so it can be viewed more clearly. When I finish processing and photographing, I transfer it back to the analyst and they take it from there – often all the way to the courtroom.”

As she looked back on her time at UW-Platteville, Woodworth said there were two things that contributed to her successful job placement after graduation: classes with hands-on experience and her internship.

“I enjoyed every class I had,” she said. “The criminal justice professors at UW-Platteville are phenomenal, and they gave us as much hands-on experience as they could to prepare us for our careers.”

Woodworth added that it was Aric Dutelle, assistant professor in the UW-Platteville Department of Criminal Justice and coordinator of the UW-Platteville Forensic Investigation Program, who suggested she pursue an internship with the Green Bay, Wis., Police Department.

“Not only did I have an absolute blast, but I also had a great experience accompanying their forensic unit on an actual crime scene,” she said. “That was the closest thing I had to actual experience before going out into the work force, and it helped me tremendously. I believe it was one of the key factors in the FDLE hiring me.” –Barbara Weinbrenner
“If one man can show so much hate, think how much love we could show, standing together,” said a young girl interviewed by CNN in the early wake of the two terrorist attacks that rattled Norway and the rest of the world in the summer of 2011. The attacks began as a car bomb erupted outside an executive government building in Oslo, killing eight.

What the world remembers – perhaps more bitterly than the bombing – happened two hours later. Anders Behring Breivik, a 32-year-old Norwegian extremist, disguised himself as a policeman and killed 69 people at an island youth summer camp.

Three days after the attacks, an estimated one-third (approximately 200,000 people) of the city of Oslo, Norway participated in the “flower march,” wielding roses in a showing of compassion through the city streets.

Norwegian blacksmiths, inspired to see a permanent monument to continue the flower marches that occurred, have been hard at work crafting iron roses to adorn the coming memorial. Others have been adding to the collection as well.

Patrick Biggin ’11, a technical education teacher at Delavan-Darien High School, has earned his advanced metals classes statewide attention for their work in support of Norway’s pending memorial. He and his classes have been drafting steel roses for several semesters now, and have garnered notice from media across the state, including stories in the Wisconsin State Journal, La Crosse Tribune, Courier Press in Prairie Du Chien, Wis., radio time out of Janesville, Wis., and even some attention from Fox 11 WLUK-TV in Green Bay, Wis.

Biggin, a blacksmith since 2004, has been making metal roses for some time, and even was selling copper roses while he attended UW-Platteville.

“I was trying to find projects for students to work on and wanted to give them something fun to do, so I thought copper roses around Mother’s Day might be nice,” said Biggin. “A couple of my friends over in the United Kingdom got ahold of me and said I should look at this Iron Roses for Norway project that’s happening.”

After talking to the organizer in Norway and making a presentation about his method, Biggin asked if student work was acceptable as well.

“He said they’d be happy to have them. When I went ahead and showed it to my classes, a lot of the students thought it was a really cool project,” he said. “For a lot of the students, the reason they

Continued on page 19
Raised in Southwest Nigeria, West Africa, Olatunde Olatona understands that access to education is a challenge for many, especially in developing countries. He left his family at age 11 to advance his education, and after years of hard work, self-motivation, diligence and a government scholarship, earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering with high honors from the University of Ilorin, Kwara State Nigeria.

In 2006, Olatona began working on a master’s degree in project management from UW-Platteville, completing his capstone project and graduating in 2011. Along the way, he discovered how small efforts impact the lives of others.

As a well integrity product development manager for Schlumberger, an international oil and gas company with headquarters in Paris and Houston, Olatona recognized that increasing complexities surrounding the business of oil and gas exploration and production require project management skills. After earning his Project Management Professional® credential in 2005, he began working on a master’s degree.

Online learning provided Olatona the flexibility to tailor his learning and meet changing professional demands. “The job provided me a workshop to demonstrate and put all the things I learned online to practical use. It was not abstract; it was a reality,” he said.

Through Olatona’s long-term involvement with Action Missionaire Interafricane, a Christian missionary organization operating in Mali, West Africa, he was aware of the need for a high school facility in Farakala, a remote town in Southeast Mali. Guided by faith and a commitment to help others, Olatona chose a capstone project that aligned with his passion in life: Christian charity work. “It was really involved, and I really enjoyed it because I was able to make a difference in line with what I love to do,” he said.

Working from Houston, with core project team members based in Bamako and Farakala, Mali, Olatona virtually managed challenges including distance (5,000 miles) and time (time zone five hours ahead), language (French) and communication issues, water supply.

Continued on page 18
In 2007, Dr. John Busby and Affiliated Dentists S.C. of Madison, Wis., established a scholarship to support students in the pre-dental program at UW-Platteville. A pre-dental graduate himself, Busby found the academic staff and their guidance prepared him very well for dentistry school at Marquette University, where he graduated in 1978.

Busby believes the dental profession can be enhanced by the pre-dental program’s preparation for dental school and with guidance in professional development through mentorship. The scholarship and potential mentorship are designed to assist prospective students to not only become skilled dental providers but also to become positive members of their communities.

Recent UW-Platteville December graduate Kevin Klar was one such student. This scholarship recipient was also able to learn directly from Busby at Affiliated Dentists during his internship last semester.

“The greatest thing that interning with Dr. Busby and the Affiliated Dentists team has done for me is to confirm my choice of dentistry, and I look forward to continuing my education in this fascinating field,” said Klar. “It was a privilege to watch so many different doctors working.”

Klar plans to attend Marquette in the fall to earn his doctorate of dental surgery. Klar was recently accepted by three top dental schools on the first day of admission: Marquette University School of Dentistry, University of Iowa College of Dentistry and University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

“He has a solid academic background and incredible Dental Aptitude Test scores,” said Busby of Klar. “Kevin was very inquisitive. He asked great questions and was a pleasure to have around. Affiliated Dentists started a scholarship at UW-Platteville with a goal to ‘home grow’ a future dental partner. Because I had a very positive experience at UW-Platteville, our hope was to duplicate that same background. Also our scholarship comes with a level of mentorship; we want to be a resource to help assist in developing that student before, during and after dental school.” –Ian Clark
Construction for the UW-Platteville Foundation Real Estate Foundation's Rountree Commons is on schedule for its August opening. The new residence hall, a block from Pioneer Stadium, will provide room for 600 students. UW-Platteville is also seeking to begin construction on a 400-bed residence hall with a dining service near Southwest Hall and Engineering Hall.
Thousands of Pioneers have gone out and made their own way in career fields that they’ve dedicated themselves to, prospered in and even created with their own hands. This may be an era of high-definition television, broadband Internet, satellite radio, e-books and other kinds of media that are rocketing into the atmosphere of human imagination, but the high standards of Pioneer communication haven’t changed. The following pages outline a few of the alumni who have dedicated, prospered and made their field – locally and across the nation – what it is today.
Carol March McLernon, a 1959 alumna of the UW-Platteville School of Education, recently published her fifth book: “Black Hawk: A Boy and his Vision.” The work, written for children ages 5-10, focuses on the childhood years of Black Hawk, the Sauk leader who led his people in the fight for their land during the 1830s.

“His story is fascinating,” said McLernon, “but we normally only hear about the war. I would also like children to see that he was a child like they are, that he had family and that his community was affected by something they couldn’t control.”

A long-time educator in the Lake Geneva School District, McLernon added that learning Black Hawk’s middle name, Sparrow, which he received following a vision quest he experienced prior to entering adulthood, is what initially motivated her to start researching him.

“I put together all the things I learned about him as a young man, and that eventually became the book,” she said.

McLernon, who is originally from Shullsburg, Wis., is also the author of “String of Hope,” “Samuele: A Man with Many Names,” “Adventures with Jack” and “Lead-Mining Towns of Southwest Wisconsin,” published as part of the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing.

She currently resides on a farm just outside Lake Geneva with her husband, Robert, and their Siamese cat, Zorro, who frequently keeps her company as she writes. The McLernons have three children, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and they all admire her books. –Barbara Weinbrenner
Dean Kallenbach, a 1979 UW-Platteville alumnus, is the senior regional manager of Wisconsin Public Radio. Kallenbach has spent 26 years with Wisconsin Public Radio, beginning as the first regional host and reporter for Western Wisconsin in 1986. In 1990, Kallenbach was promoted to regional manager of the Western Wisconsin bureau, and in 2005, he became the senior regional manager of Wisconsin Public Radio.

Kallenbach has spent 37 years in broadcasting, starting as an announcer at a local radio station while attending UW-Barron County. "As I prepared to earn my Associate of Arts degree, I started looking for schools with a good radio program, and UW-Platteville stood out," said Kallenbach. "The academic program was solid, but what really attracted me was that the student radio station, WSUP, operated like a professional radio station, with focused programming and a strong news and sports presence."

While at UW-Platteville, Kallenbach worked at WSUP, serving as news director before becoming the student station manager of a staff of 70 broadcasters. He also served as editor-at-large of the student newspaper, and worked weekends at WDBQ in Dubuque, Iowa, as a reporter. "I had an incredible experience while at UW-Platteville, particularly in working with the team of student broadcasters at WSUP and in the classroom training I received from great instructors," said Kallenbach. "I have the good fortune to advise student broadcasters at UW-Eau Claire as part of my job, and their enthusiasm and love of radio keeps reminding me that radio remains a vital medium, as it has been for nearly 100 years."

After graduating from UW-Platteville, Kallenbach was hired at WATK-WRLO Radio in Antigo, Wis., as sports director, and was promoted to program director after two months. He then went on to work at WAQE in Rice Lake, Wis., as news director for three years before moving to Wausau, Wis., to work as assignment editor for WSAW-TV. He worked there for two years before taking the job of regional host and reporter for Western Wisconsin with Wisconsin Public Radio.

As senior regional manager, Kallenbach oversees the activities of the six regional offices, located in Eau Claire, Superior, La Crosse, Wausau, Green Bay and Milwaukee. He also serves on WPR’s senior management team along with the director of radio and the directors of content, development, engineering, marketing and budget. Kallenbach is responsible for promoting WPR within the communities he serves, as well as helping with fund raising.

“From the start, I’ve been a radio geek, and my current job lets me stay in all aspects of the business,” said Kallenbach. “It’s fun using my skills and experience to support a product I really believe in. I’m confident that our listeners are being well served by WPR.”

–Molly Markley
Things have moved fast for Ross McAbee, who utilized his education at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to become a producer at WFRV-TV 5 in Green Bay, Wis., less than one year after graduating.

McAbee first worked at an internship for WGN-TV, Chicago, which led to the 5 p.m. weekday producer position in Green Bay. He also produces three weekend shows. Despite growing up in Spring Grove, Ill., he is an avid Packer fan, which makes the new position even better.

“I was kind of blown away when Green Bay called,” McAbee said. “It was just a week after I finished at WGN. There are times I look around and wonder ‘how in the world did I end up here?’”

The fast track continued when the job began. Less than two weeks after starting, McAbee learned of a triple murder-suicide shortly before the 5 p.m. newscast. The producer had to act quickly to tell viewers of the tragic events.

“We had three breaking news stories during the show,” he said. “The show was fantastic, and I received quite a few compliments.”

McAbee learned his skills at UW-Platteville, where he graduated in the spring of 2011 with a communication technologies major, emphasizing in broadcasting with a minor in public relations.

“It’s unusual for a communication student to begin their career in a major media market such as Chicago,” said Dr. Robert Snyder, professor of broadcast production. “However, our program is designed to give students the authentic tools that they need in order to thrive as professional communicators in a digital world.”

“UW-Platteville really prepared me for my career both inside and outside the classroom,” said McAbee. “Having our own news show every Thursday really prepared me for working in a newsroom at WGN-TV.” McAbee worked for the student newspaper, the Exponent, and anchored and produced his own sports show on Pioneer TV, which is also student-produced.

“When I came to visit UW-Platteville, my advisor and professor, Dr. Robert Snyder, really sold me on the hands-on experience I would receive,” he said. McAbee, who played rugby for three years, knew that he wanted a career in communication technologies with his love for athletics.

“I knew that I was really into sports and a big consumer of every statistic and story from the newspaper and Internet. I also enjoyed writing,” he said. “I thought being able to make my own video and write my own stories would be a great career choice.”

“Ross is like many of our students in that he worked very hard at developing his craft through the opportunities he had available to him at the university,” Snyder said. “However, Ross put in many more hours than is typical and that hard work has clearly paid off for him.”

McAbee found the UW-Platteville program to be a positive experience. “When people ask about my experience at UW-Platteville, I always say that college is what you make of it,” said McAbee. “It took me about two years to really realize that it was my passion and after that I ran with it.” –Aaron Zinkle and Paul Erickson
Famous for its bizarre guests, unusual appearances and intense drama, “The Jerry Springer Show” has held sway over a captive audience for the past 21 years with episodes that illustrate the crazier aspects of human life and the weirder connections and relationships that hold people together. To viewers, it is an entertaining break from real life, but to 1993 University of Wisconsin-Platteville graduate Todd Schultz, it is home.

After freelancing in Chicago as a production assistant for a year and a half, Schultz began his career in television by applying to a number of talk shows and eventually taking up his post as a production assistant for “The Jerry Springer Show.”

“Back when I first started, the show had only 13 weeks to get its ratings up before it got cancelled,” said Schultz. “I was there for the first time that the show started drifting to the crazier topics. Nine months later, I became stage manager.”

Schultz now shoots five episodes a week and is in his 18th year with the show. Each episode, he will warm up the audience and tell them how and when to react. He is also well known on the show for his famous greenroom walks where he interviews the more popular guests at the end of the show.

“I love meeting all the people that come on,” said Schultz. “You wouldn’t see our guests on other reality shows. I believe everybody’s got a Springer story in their families or in their lives.”

As such an integral part of the show, Schultz also enjoys a good friendship with the star himself.

“Jerry is the nicest guy you’ll ever meet,” he said. “He likes the Yankees and politics, and he loves to goof around. Every time we tape a show, we always laugh. How many people can say they get to laugh at their job all day?”

Schultz has made appearances on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” and “The Late Show with David Letterman.” He has also made a brief appearance in the movie “Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me.” In addition, he was brought in for two years as assistant director to help launch the Steve Wilkos show.

“Even when I go out sometimes, people who recognize me want pictures and autographs, and I’m always happy to do that for them,” said Schultz. “I’m always humble and always thank the Lord for where I’m at.” – Angela O’Brien
Looking at Southwest Wisconsin
Local photographer reexamines the region after long stay abroad

From Feb. 6 through March 9, photography by Tyler Ensrude ’01 was featured at The Center for Photography at Madison Steenbock Gallery. The University Avenue gallery was filled with Ensrude’s work from his recent project, “Another Look at Southwest Wisconsin.”

Ensrude, a communication technologies graduate and UW-Platteville photographer, had reason to look twice at his home state after moving back to Wisconsin from Japan after nearly a decade.

Ensrude first traveled to Japan after receiving a scholarship through the UW-Platteville Study Abroad program to study Japanese at the Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies. Upon graduating, he moved to Tokyo where he worked as a freelance photographer for several years.

“This project came about when I was searching for a theme, a conceptual epiphany, for my current Master of Fine Arts thesis project and, at the time, I had just moved back to Wisconsin after living in Tokyo,” said Ensrude. “Because I was born and raised in Wisconsin, you could say I was going through a kind of reverse culture shock. American life was something I had to get used to again and many of the images stem from this transition. The project may come off as dark at first, but the intention of these images are more lighthearted. They hold a sense of irony and wonder that I think anyone can relate to no matter where you are from.”

Ensrude is expected to graduate with his Master of Fine Arts this summer. –Ian Clark
The winner of four national awards for best announcer, Julie Amacher is a radio host and producer at Minnesota Public Radio and manages Classical 24®, a nationally syndicated all-live classical music service from American Public Media. Alumni Today staff caught up with the 1982 alumna and put her on the other end of the interview.

What's the favorite part of your job?
I love the creative part. As a manager, it's really hard to leave that behind, which is why I still am on the air. I don't want to lose that portion of it because that's the heart of what we do; we make a difference in people's lives every single day by what we put on the air.

We got this amazing e-mail from a listener recently, inquiring about some classical music. She was making a request for her son who had cancer. When she made the request, he was just finishing up his last cancer treatment, so they were requesting this piece for him, but on top of that, they had taken him to a clinic that had underwritten on our station – our version of commercials – so here we connected with this listener not only through this piece of music but also by helping to provide them with a service during this time of crisis.

How did your education help you get to where you are?
In radio production class, we would have to produce these little five- to seven-minute features, and it was so much fun because I went into the radio station and messed around with that stuff before I even took the class, but this is the kind of stuff I do every week. What I learned [at UW-Platteville] is so applicable to what is happening in the real world and that's one of the things that I think sets Platteville apart; WSUP was run like a real radio station, so when students got out, they had real experience, and that's what employers are looking for.

What's next for you?
One of the things I'm starting to explore is going back for a graduate degree. In this business when I started out, the program managers laughed at me for having a college degree because a lot of the jocks come right out of high school, and all they want to do is be on the radio. I planned on doing a lot more with my career, and fortunately that's panned out. I am looking at programs in nonprofit administration to add another element to my portfolio so if I want to go in another direction or advance to a certain level, I can, but again I love the creative part. It's the day to day that makes a difference in the lives of our listeners, and that's what I'm all about. – Ian Clark
William Shinker, a 1969 UW-Platteville alumnus, is the president and publisher of Gotham Books and Avery Books, imprints of Penguin Books that focus on commercial nonfiction. Shinker founded Gotham Books in 2001, in New York City, and took charge of Avery Books in fall 2008. He has more than 40 years of experience in book selling and publishing, working his way up from a part-time clerk in an independent bookstore. Prior to founding Gotham Books, Shinker was the president and founding publisher of Broadway Books, a division of Random House. He has also worked at Harper Collins, Warner Books and Hearst Publishing in a variety of executive roles.

While at Gotham, Shinker has published a variety of books, covering everything from memoirs to instructional books on golf. "Publishing is endlessly fascinating," said Shinker of the variety of people and subjects he deals with. "You never know who is going to walk through that door. It’s great getting to deal with so many different people, from celebrities to ordinary people with interesting stories."

Shinker credits much of his success in publishing to critical thinking skills he gained as a chemistry major at UW-Platteville. "It may seem odd to have been a chemistry major who is now a publisher, but the training I got at UW-Platteville helped me learn to think logically and be an effective problem solver," said Shinker.

Shinker currently resides in New York City with his wife, Susan Moldow, who is the executive vice president of Scribner, a division of Simon and Schuster. –Molly Markley

A project of passion continued from page 8

shortages, malaria and a lack of a nearby medical facility. Despite these challenges the project was successfully completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

Olatona was later selected as a finalist for the 2011 Kerzner Award. The project managers who win this award typically work on very large projects with budgets and teams that dwarf the resources at Olatona’s disposal.

He plans to continue working on charitable projects. "If everyone in the world would show a little bit more concern and focus on the needs of the less privileged, this world would be a far better place than anyone can ever imagine," he said. "Go out and find people to bless. There are a lot of things you can do. Go out and look, and you’ll find life more richly rewarding." –Denise LaBudda
A 1981 University of Wisconsin-Platteville graduate is bringing praise to the video and audio production emphasis in the communication technologies department.

“Both UW-Platteville’s radio and TV programs are run like a real commercial operation,” said Tom Koser. “There are no substitutes for that kind of college experience.”

While attending UW-Platteville, Koser majored in broadcast management with a business management minor. As a student he worked with both WSUP 91 FM radio and TV 5 broadcasting sports news.

Thirty-one years after graduating, Koser is basically a radio mogul. As CEO of Koser Radio Group, he encompasses ownership and management of 11 different radio stations in Rice Lake, Wis.; Hayward, Wis.; and Escanaba/Marquette, Mich. His current résumé also includes being chairman of the board of the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, which is the largest broadcasting association in the nation with membership of more than 390 radio and television stations in the state.

“I went to UW-Platteville because of the broadcast management program,” said Koser. “I am now doing exactly what I wanted to do when I enrolled.”

Koser is not shy to reference UW-Platteville as “The Harvard of the Midwest” when he talks to others about his college education and the successes that have resulted.

“Those four years have been essential to my lifetime of work,” said Koser. “All communications students should seek a career in broadcasting, because there is a bright future for you that will never get boring.”

–Alyssa Bloechl

Sending compassion continued from page 7

Word spread, and before long students who weren’t even enrolled in Biggin’s class were showing up, hoping to make roses, too.

Since the semester break, Biggin has collected about 40 roses from his classes and plans on meeting his goal of 100-200, given that he can turn out a steel display of compassion in about 45 minutes. –Ian Clark
Buzz among the Faculty
Hives spring up across all three colleges

Last semester, word was buzzing around that two UW-Platteville communications professors had been keeping bees. Mary Rose Williams, associate professor and chair of the department of communication technologies, and her husband Art Ranney, special assistant to the provost, have been keeping bees as a hobby for the past several years.

Recently, the word is that a couple more faculty have joined the beekeeping community.

Valerie Gill-Mast, lecturer in the department of psychology, along with her husband and young son, has been keeping bees for three years now. It all began for Gill-Mast when the fruits and vegetables in her garden were not developing. "It was really frustrating to see my garden not developing," she said.

"I had been going to the farmer’s market for a while and the difference in the honey at the farmer’s market versus that at the grocery store is incredible. Gary Olson, who started the farmer’s market here in Platteville is who really inspired me to start keeping bees," said Gill-Mast.

"Bees are calm, yet very aware of their environment," said Gill-Mast. "If you do something slow and deliberately, they won’t bother you. It’s just when they feel threatened that they get defensive." Keeping bees has been helpful in teaching her son that there is nothing to fear about bees; they are more concerned with the hive than anything or anyone else.

"We really appreciate bees now," said Gill-Mast. "There has been a huge difference in my garden since having started keeping bees and the honey is wonderful. We had about five gallons of honey from just a single hive. It tastes so much better."

Gill-Mast’s husband even created an observation hive and put it right outside their kitchen window so that they can easily observe the bees.

"Beekeeping is something that you have to take seriously," said Gill-Mast. Not only can it be an expensive hobby, but she sees beekeeping as a form of art, where you have to know just how much honey to take from the hive and just how much to leave. If you take too much honey from the hive in the winter, the bees will starve.

Dr. Philip J. Parker, professor of environmental engineering, has also picked up the hobby. After the loss of all his bees this past fall, Parker is looking forward to be able to start fresh with new bees.

"I had a love/hate relationship with my bees," said Parker. "I loved to watch them, to sit by their hives and watch them bring in pollen and nectar, to carry out ‘trash’ from the hive. It’s a flurry of activity and simply fascinating."
Parker also enjoyed the taste of the honey that his bees produced. “The honey tastes great and is different from store-bought honey, as canned corn is from fresh corn on the cob,” he said. “There is no comparison.” Raising his own honey, Parker was free of worry about whether or not illegal chemicals were used by an unethical beekeeper.

“Most frustrating of all is that bees, like small children, can’t tell you what’s wrong with them,” said Parker. “Or it isn’t evident for a while that there is anything wrong with them.” Bees are vulnerable to many diseases and keeping ahead of them is a very challenging aspect of beekeeping.

On top of worrying about how the cold Wisconsin weather will affect their bees, beekeepers also have to worry about infection. Gill-Mast is always concerned about mites in the hive during the winter. Only about half of her bees survive the harsh winters.

Williams and Ranney use their own homemade powdered sugar to encourage the bees to groom themselves, in turn removing mites and decreasing the chance of infections, said Williams.

Williams is getting excited with spring just around the corner. “It is so gratifying and exciting to see them in the spring,” said Williams. “It’s wonderful to watch them because they’re so energetic and busy, and so vital.” Williams and her husband purchased their first group of 9,000 bees about four years ago.

“Mary Rose radiates joy when we work with or talk about the bees,” said Ranney. “I have the most amazing picture of her walking to the car with her first box.”

Parker, too, is excited for spring to come. Spring will give him a second chance at beekeeping.

–Amanda Fisch
Recognizing alumni for their accomplishments is an important part of the UW-Platteville Alumni Association’s mission,” said Kim Schmelz, director of Alumni Services.

UW-Platteville honored four alumni – Tom Laufenberg, Michael North, Jodi Pluemer and Lonny Johnson – at commencement in December 2011.

**Michael North**

North graduated in 1996 with a degree in agribusiness and is currently the senior risk management advisor at First Capitol Ag in Platteville. In addition to his dedication to UW-Platteville and his community, he serves on the finance team of his church, teaches Sunday school and is involved in the men’s ministry.

**Jodi Pluemer**

A 1996 business administration graduate, Pluemer is currently the web merchandising manager for American Girl in Middleton, Wis. Her numerous philanthropic community activities include a position as team captain for Platteville’s Relay for Life and the initiation of the first Platteville Walk to Defeat ALS. She also participates in American Girl’s United Way campaign and raises funds for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Dane County.

**Tom Laufenberg**

Laufenberg graduated from UW-Platteville in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and is currently the regional director for McKinstry, as well as an active member of the UW-Platteville Renewable Energy Advisory Board and the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He has been active in recruiting and hiring full-time engineers and interns from UW-Platteville and established a “M-STEP” scholarship for UW-Platteville students. He has also helped with an ongoing energy savings project on campus.

**Lonny Johnson**

A 1996 mechanical engineering and computer science graduate, Johnson is currently the technical lead of the machine health, diagnostics and prognostics for research and development at Caterpillar Inc. He is also an active member of his community as a Boy Scouts leader, First LEGO League coach and member of his church.
NON-TRADS THRIVING ON CAMPUS

With a fluctuating economy and uncertain job market, many adults are returning to college seeking degrees for a better chance at professional careers. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville hosted about 1,500 non-traditional students this year. Nearly 500 of those students are pursuing an undergraduate degree on campus while about 300 are utilizing distance learning. In addition, there are almost 700 non-traditional students pursuing a graduate degree either on campus or online. At UW-Platteville, most pursue careers in business administration and criminal justice.

“As a professor, my experience with non-traditional students has been different,” said Dr. Arthur Ranney, special assistant to the provost. “Non-traditional students are generally more focused and more goal oriented. As a professor, it is important that you keep their focus or you will lose them.”

The number of non-traditional students has increased since the fall semester of 2004, said Mark Mailloux, UW-Platteville’s institutional research manager, noting that growth of non-traditional students matches the overall growth at UW-Platteville.

Doug Ducklow, who is 48, acquired his bachelor’s and master’s degrees through the UW-Platteville Distance Education program. “My experience at UW-Platteville was great,” said Ducklow, who is a certified homicide investigator and currently works for the Pierce County Sheriff Department in Ellsworth. “I met great professors who challenged me in thinking about the wider scope of critical issues in policing.”

“I always wanted to go back to college, but career and family never offered me the opportunity,” said Ducklow. “The ability to attend distance education classes allowed me to fulfill my dream of having a great degree from a great university.” —Aaron Zinkle
When Wes and Janet (Dreher) Sisson arrived in Germany in late 1978 to teach for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, the country was still divided, the wall was still up and trips to Berlin meant passing through three checkpoints within a specifically allotted, and closely monitored, travel time. As they settled into their apartment in Heidelberg, the Sissons began a three-decade-long teaching adventure that would include travel to countless cities and countries, most often via road trips in their Volkswagen Transporter Camper.

“We both went to UW-Platteville in the 1960s,” said Janet, “but we didn’t meet until we were both teaching in the Milton School District in 1969. We dated for five years, and once we were married we thought, ‘Let’s have an adventure.’”

In all, Janet taught elementary students in Mannheim and then Heidelberg for 31 years and Wes taught social sciences, history, driver education, computer science, coached basketball and golf, assisted in football and track, and served as Heidelberg High’s athletic director for a combined total of 28 years.

Wes added that athletic competition involved taking the military duty train to Berlin, and all-star teams to international tournaments in France.

“We’ve made lifelong friends with the people we taught with,” said Janet. “We not only worked together, but we also did a lot of our socializing together during those years. We even developed our own holiday traditions.”

Wes said one tradition quickly developed due to limited television reception in the early years. “Not everyone had TV reception,” he said, “and it depended on where you lived if you got Armed Forces Network TV, so everyone would gather at the same house and watch the football game together.”

He added that friends who had access to amenities that others didn’t would often offer their use to others if they were going to be away.

In the spring of 1986, several American vehicles in the Heidelberg area were firebombed following the U.S. military’s retaliation against Libya, and Wes said their van was one of them. Fortunately, the Molotov cocktail bounced off and exploded on the concrete, causing very little damage to the vehicle.
“We also had wonderful German neighbors who shared their food and gardens with us,” said Janet. “It was a great opportunity to experience different cultures, religions and ethnicities, but it was also an opportunity to develop strong relationships and a unique camaraderie with the people around us.”

During their time abroad, Wes said he and Janet, with the VW packed full, visited “just about everything you can imagine from world history books,” including stops in Berlin, Paris and Rome, as well as Switzerland and Poland. Longer trips took them to Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, China, Mongolia, Tibet, Nepal, India, Israel, Jordan and Russia.

As they traveled, the Sissons made a point to visit all of the American World War I and II cemeteries in Europe and Asia, and just last year, returned to Normandy, France, to assist staff in placing flags on the graves of the fallen in observance of Memorial Day.

With hopes that the teaching experiences of future educators be as filled with adventure as their own, the Sissons have also recently established two scholarships at UW-Platteville. —Barbara Weinbrenner
The story of the Pioneer Tower began in 1958 with the vision of Bjarne Ullsvik, the new president of the Wisconsin State College at Platteville. To introduce himself to the academic community, Ullsvik wrote a letter entitled “Look Forward,” which was printed in the Exponent in September 1958. In his letter, Ullsvik acknowledged the past, but more importantly spelled out a bold plan for the future, indicating he was serious about transforming WSCP.

Ullsvik’s plan was three-fold. First, he wanted to significantly increase the student body. As Ullsvik wrote, he was “quite amused” to learn from a report that enrollment was predicted to be only 1,200 by 1972. This was not “optimistic” to Ullsvik, and he planned on changing it. Second, Ullsvik recognized the physical campus would have to grow to meet the needs of a larger student body.

The third piece of Ullsvik’s plan pertained to the direction the campus was going to grow. As he wrote, “the center of campus activities will move to the east side of our campus.” In practical terms, this shifted the historic north to south orientation of the university, with Old Main as the anchor, to an east-to-west orientation. This shift ensured future growth would follow an east-to-west pattern, conforming to the configuration of the college’s land.

As Ullsvik had planned, WSCP was transformed during his tenure. Enrollment increased from 1,284 in 1958 to over 5,000 by 1968. Parallel to this, the small campus of six buildings was expanded by over 20 major construction projects during Ullsvik’s tenure. Academically, Ullsvik remade WSCP. In 1958, WSCP consisted of one college with five academic divisions.
By 1971, UW-Platteville was a university with six colleges and a graduate school.

Pioneer Tower was an integral part of Ullsvik’s plan. Approved for construction in November 1966, Pioneer Tower was planned and constructed in conjunction with Karrmann Library. Both buildings were scheduled to be completed by 1968, but delays pushed their completion dates back to 1969. Pioneer Tower opened in September and the library in December. The total cost of Pioneer Tower was $1 million. Once finished, Pioneer Tower, along with Karrmann Library and the Student Center (Ullsvik Hall today), formed the new anchor for the university.

Primarily an office building, Pioneer Tower has been the home of multiple offices: Alumni Office, Public Relations and Media Technology Services, among others. Since the 1970s, it has also been the home of the campus radio station, WSUP, and Pioneer TV. Pioneer Tower, however, has always been the permanent home of the College of Industry and College of Business and Economics. In the 1970s, these colleges became the College of Business, Industry and Communications. Today they are part of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture.

The Pioneer Tower has been a prominent feature on campus for four decades, and at eight stories, is the tallest building in Grant County. When the Tower was built, it became a symbol of growth of the university, but equally significant, it brought Ullsvik’s plan to fruition, providing UW-Platteville with its now familiar east to west building pattern. –James Hibbard
For more than 100 years, UW-Platteville has proudly been called the Pioneers, but for at least half that time has struggled with, "what exactly is a Pioneer?"

A university committee has been charged with introducing a new Pioneer mascot and hopefully ending a debate that traces back to at least 1962. Several versions of mascots have appeared over the years, but none since the mid-1980s when Pioneer Pete met his demise.

UW-Platteville, which still will retain the name “Pioneers” for all its teams, clubs and organizations, conducted a survey this winter to find how to best embody the Pioneer ideal into a mascot. More than a third of the students, faculty and staff responded to the online survey that also drew considerable alumni response. The goal is to have a new mascot in time for the 2012-13 academic year. –Paul Erickson
In September 2011, UW-Platteville Rugby Club alumni reunited on a pitch in Aspen, Colo., to participate in a game they love, reestablish friendships and honor those that have gone before them. It was Ruggerfest 44, hosted by the Gentlemen of Aspen Rugby Football Club, that brought the group together to participate in a tournament with teams from around the world.

The four-day competition, which covered five divisions, was the first time many of the men had played together since their time at UW-Platteville. “We fielded a team in the over-50 age group. It was a terrific opportunity for some of the Platteville ‘Old Boys’ to get together,” said Jim Lindell.

After graduation, the ruggers went their separate ways, pursing individual careers including engineering, business and military service, staying in touch through their UW-Platteville Rugby Club alumni network, e-mails and social media like Facebook and LinkedIn. Some stayed involved in rugby, like Roy Krueger, who played for the United States Army during his military career as an infantry officer; and Barney Johnson, who refereed rugby matches both nationally and internationally across all competitive levels.

Lindell and Kevin Tenpas began making arrangements for Aspen in 2010. “We had a small group that made the first trip,” said Tenpas. “There, we were augmented by a bunch from the rugby network. We were hooked again.” Word spread, and the group grew for 2011.

To prepare for this year’s trip, some of the team played two “Old Boys” matches as part of a tournament hosted by UW-Madison’s Rugby Football Club. Traditionally, a rugby match is made up of two 40-minute halves and there are limited substitutions. “Old Boys” rules shorten the halves to 15 minutes with unlimited substitutions.

The trip was also an opportunity for team’s spouses to get reacquainted. After their matches, the team took time to recognize and toast their fellow teammates who where no longer with them.

“Our intent is to grow the group just like the club grew at Platteville in the early 1980s,” said Lindell. The UW-Platteville Rugby Club traditionally hosts an alumni reunion and matches annually at the end of the spring season, with a larger event on the five-year anniversaries. May 2012 marks the 35th anniversary of the men’s rugby football club at Platteville.

“We look forward to talking to the rugby alumni and encouraging many more to dig out their kit bag and start training for Ruggerfest 45,” said Barney Johnson. “Even if you aren’t able to play, you’re invited to be part of the group.” –Brian Yolitz ’83
Most siblings’ basketball careers together end on the driveway. Some are able to play together in the high school ranks, but a slim few find their way to the college hardwood together.

For Pioneer senior guard Brett, and former player, now assistant coach Brad Stangel, the basketball program has served both as home to their playing careers and where they came together as coach and player.

Brad came to the program during the Bo Ryan era, and was a reserve on the 1998 and 1999 NCAA III national championship teams. While Brad played, a young Brett was often in the crowd watching. “I think the most important thing was that Brett saw what it took to be successful. He saw the hard work and preparation that it takes at this level,” said current Pioneers Head Coach Jeff Gard.

After a successful high school campaign, the youngest Stangel came to UW-Platteville while the eldest was working as a graduate assistant at Edgewood College. Brad returned to UW-Platteville as an assistant coach in 2009, Brett’s sophomore season.

“I was clear right away that there wasn’t going to be any favoritism,” said Gard, “but Brad’s a professional and there were never any problems like that.”

The relationship between the brothers has helped Brett become the team’s leading scorer this season, helping the Pioneers reach the WIAC playoffs.

“He has worked hard to make me the best player that I can be,” said Brett. “He pushes me to work hard in every situation. With him being my brother, he knows how to motivate me more than anyone else.”

“I’ve seen him play since he was in second grade,” said Brad. “I’ve seen him play more often than I’ve ever seen anyone else play in my life. I can tell when things are going well for him, and more importantly when they aren’t going so well. Maybe his shot’s off or he’s frustrated about something else, I think I’m able to calm him down a little bit.”

Brett characterizes that support in two forms. “It’s both coach-player and brother-brother. He is very knowledgeable about basketball, so I know what he is telling me is always the right thing to do. I trust what he is saying is just trying to make me a better person and player,” he said.

Not to be lost in the mix is brother, Bryan, who played with Brad in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. When Brad and Bryan were playing together, the team and each other benefited. “We’ve played together a lot,” Brad said. “So I always knew where he was when he was out there. I could find him a little easier on the floor because I knew where he would spot up.”

Brad reflected on his time coaching Brett as a gratifying family experience. “Basketball has been a great way for us as a family to stay together because we get to see our family twice a week. It’s been great for us to be able to all get together.” —Colten Bartholomew
General Engineering Company of Portage, Wis., first opened its doors in 1912, when H.V. Tennant – creator of the historical landmark, the Portage Levee and city engineer – began offering his engineering and surveying expertise and knowledge to other communities and private clients throughout Wisconsin. One hundred years later, GEC offers diverse services such as consulting and municipal engineering, construction management, building/structural design, environmental services, land surveying, building inspection, grant procurement and administration, and GIS services, and the company is celebrating their much-anticipated centennial.

Comprised of many UW-Platteville graduates, including many past and present principles of the firm, GEC has expanded into a company that employs over 40 skilled professionals. Understanding the value and reputation of UW-Platteville’s engineering programs and education, which embodies the same attributes as GEC, has been a key reason the firm continues to recruit and employ Pioneer graduates and interns. GEC is dedicated to their clients’ best interests, some of which have been continuously served for over 50 years. Today, GEC continues to pride itself on offering quality services at competitive rates, just as it has done for its 100 years of existence.

(Back row: left to right) Scott Richardson ’01; Zach Role ’11; Eric Barclay ’10; Scott Anderson ’02; Erik Henningsgard ’02; Stefany Delifer ’09; (Front row) Mike Kenseth ’71; Brad Boettcher ’96, vice-president; Jerry Foellmi ’77, president; Robert Roth ’96, vice-president; and Kent Fish ’90, vice-president. Not pictured: Mark Degner ’09.

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**THE LINK**

UW-Platteville alumni employed at General Engineering Company
**Class Notes**

**1951**

Vee Grace-McCutchen ’51 has a new sculpture in the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach, Fla. “Professor Strigidae” is composed of two 150-pound sculpted grouper heads.

**1976**

Former UW-Platteville baseball player Ken Pazdernik ’76 and his 55-and-over baseball team won its second consecutive Triple-A national championship in Fort Myers, Fla. on Nov. 12, 2011.

Professional Engineer John Boldt ’76 has been elected chairman of the board at Clark Dietz Inc. at the firm’s annual shareholder’s meeting. Clark Dietz is an engineering consulting firm with offices in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. Boldt, who also retains his current position as president and CEO, joined Clark Dietz in 1994, has held various positions within the company and is actively involved in the development and implementation of Clark Dietz’s strategic plan.

**1982**

Dennis “Vinnie” Vincent ’82 was recently promoted to air traffic manager at the Madison, Wis., air traffic control tower at the Dane County Regional Airport. Vincent has been employed with the Federal Aviation Administration for over 29 years and has worked at several different airports, including those in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Madison. He has also worked the Experimental Aircraft Association’s AirVenture, then known as the Fly-In, in Oshkosh, Wis., for six years, and has served as the manager at the temporary tower in Sheboygan, Wis., for the Professional Golf Association Championship in 2011.

**1983**

The South Dakota State University Dairy Science Department recently welcomed Dr. David Casper ’83 as an assistant professor of dairy science, where he will teach undergraduate and graduate classes in dairy production and will initiate a research program focusing on the efficiency and profitability of nutrient digestion and utilization by dairy cattle. Casper received his master’s degree and doctorate in dairy production from South Dakota State University.

**1986**

Laurie A. Ruchti ’86 has been named vice president of IT Strategy, Architecture and Quality at Telephone and Data Systems, a Fortune 500 telecommunications company headquartered in Chicago, with offices in Madison. Ruchti brings 25 years of experience to her new role leading the strategic direction of TDS’ corporation IT organization.

The names of Alumni Association lifetime members are identified with blue text an annual members are identified with orange text. Thank you to everyone who continues to support us in creating relationships that last a lifetime.

These Pioneer alumni recently gathered together in Milwaukee for an annual Friday night fish fry. Pictured here from left to right: John Boldt ’76, Randy Govier ’76, Ken Fries ’75, Robb Slawski ’77, Jeff Mantes ’76, Gary Blaha and E. Allen “Al” Hancock ’76.
UW-Platteville wounded alumnus recovering

University of Wisconsin-Platteville alumnus Adam Alexander ’11, sergeant in the United States Army Reserve’s 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, was wounded in Afghanistan on Nov. 11, 2011. Alexander, a May 2011 graduate, was serving in Afghanistan when he was struck in the head by small arms fire. He was transferred to Germany in serious condition. Fund-raising efforts were established at UW-Platteville to help Alexander and his family, who incurred immediate travel costs. UW-Platteville Campus Programming and Relations, the Veterans Club and Student Senate collected donations on behalf of the Alexander family to help mitigate travel expenses involved in seeing Alexander once he was transferred stateside.

A silent auction was held in December 2011 at the Platteville VFW to assist in raising money for Alexander. “The auction was very successful,” said Eli Caywood, UW-Platteville veterans certifying official and former student body president. The UW-Platteville campus and community helped raise approximately $9,500 for Alexander. “It was important for the campus community to make donations for several reasons,” said Caywood. “It showed support to Adam and his family and offset costs the family incurred to travel to the Walter Reed Facility in Bethesda, Md. Adam is doing excellent now. He was transferred to a VA hospital in December to begin rehabilitation.”

–Amanda Fisch

2000s

Teresa (Brunner) Davis ’07 and Michael Davis ’04 were married on July 18, 2009 in an outdoor ceremony at the Rod and Gun Club in Ellsworth, Wis. The wedding party was full of UW-Platteville alumni, including Teresa’s maid of honor, Elizabeth Roesler ’07 and all of Mike’s groomsman: best man Mike Hadfield ’03, Nathan Braun ’05, Jason Marks ’05, Ryan Menter ’04, Bryan Potter ’04, Jason Erickson ’05 and ’11, and Aaron Shelman ’07. The wedding reception included a large UW-Platteville group picture as well as a photo of all the engineers showing off their hard-earned engineering rings. Teresa works as a wastewater project engineer for Brown and Caldwell in St. Paul, Minn. Mike works as a design engineer for Engineering Partners International in Eagan, Minn.

Kevin Nestingen ’08 married Kelly Fiedler ’07 on June 11, 2011.

All-time teams and WIAC hall of fame inductions

Former UW-Platteville athletes named to the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference all-time teams will be recognized in conjunction with the conference’s centennial celebration in August.

Ryan Kleimenhagen ’04, Tyler Sigl ’07, Paul Conlin ’93 and Chip Schneider ’98 were named to the men’s cross country all-time team, along with Marcia Taddy ’09 and Keri Wells-Meverden ’99 to the women’s track and field team.

The men’s basketball all-time team welcomed Merrill Brunson ’02, Ben Hoffmann ’98 and head coach Bo Ryan.

Former UW-Platteville swimmer Tom Olson ’69 was recently named to the men’s swimming and diving all-time team.

The WIAC established a Hall of Fame to coincide with the conference’s centennial anniversary. The three chosen to represent the first class from UW-Platteville are Patricia Collins, Rob Jeter ’91 and Bo Ryan. Collins was the Pioneers’ first women’s athletic director from 1971-84 and charter member of the WWIAC. Jeter was a member of UW-Platteville’s men’s basketball team from 1988-91 and led the squad to its first national title. Ryan served as UW-Platteville’s head men’s basketball coach from 1985-99 and amassed a 353-76 record with four NCAA Division III national titles.
Alumni travel to Panama

In February, a group of 10 traveled to Panama through a trip sponsored by the UW-Platteville Alumni Association. “It was a really nice trip with lots of interesting history, sights and experiences, great weather, the best in accommodations and good friends to experience it with. I couldn’t believe we all graduated about the same time, lived out our lives of raising families and completing our careers and now got hooked back together to share this experience. It was a real treat! Thank you for the opportunity to reconnect with our youth!” –Sue Stein

Alumni gather at annual broadcasters clinic

Each year the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the Wisconsin chapters of the Society of Broadcast Engineers hold a technical seminar titled Broadcasters Clinic. I serve on the conference program committee. This year as I looked around the room at the attendees, I realized we had a large group of UW-Platteville alumni. As you can see, a number of graduates of the Radio and Television Broadcasting curriculum are actively involved in the field in our own state.

–Bill Hubbard ’81

Lost Alumni

Those people listed as “Lost Alumni” either graduated from or attended what we now know as UW-Platteville. If you have an address or contact information for any of the alumni listed below, please contact Alumni Services at 1.800.897.2586 or send an e-mail to alumni@uwplatt.edu.

1961 Letha Hewitt • Arthur Palzkill • Mina McCready Gorsuch • Patricia Dutt Ewers • Patricia Armstrong Stoltz • Gary Banker • Thomas Christensen • Robert Church • Mary Bowden • William Cummings • Carol Davies Youmans • Darlene Dopkins Butson • Philip Lenhart • Hailu Hapte • Byong Kim • Young Kimm Lee • Randolph Kobayashi • Robert Muske • Richard Rodman • Gary Ruchti • Bonnie Wilson Severson • Grace Grupp Cole • Shrikishn Khattri • Eleanor Smith • Ceanne Hustad Schmieder • James Klinger • Wallace Monthie • David Stephens

Front row, left to right: Marshal “Pete” Deets ’80, Mike Norton ’92, Vicki (Way) Kipp ’97, Jim Klas ’81. Middle row, left to right: Paul Hying ’78, Matt Mommaerts ’93, Scott Vinson ’93, Bill Hubbard ’81, Mike Kulis ’73, Tom Sibenal- ler ’85. Back row, left to right: Kerry Maki ’79, Evan Stanek ’03, Phil Mikalofsky ’83, Tom Weeden ’79, Mike Hanson ’80, Randy Kroll ’76.

From left to right: Becky and John ’69 Wegmueller, Betty ’71 and Larry ’73 Kalina, Peg ’70 and Mic Walsh, Sue ’70 and Rod ’70 Stein and Susan and Gordon ’68 Gimski.

The Alumni Association has a growing online community.

Join us today!

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UWPlattevilleAlumni or become a member of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Alumni group on LinkedIn.
In honor of the late Matthew T. Rynish’s outgoing and infectious personality, his family and friends recently established a civil and environmental engineering scholarship in his name through the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Foundation.

Rynish passed away in a work-related accident in April 2011 and is fondly remembered by family, friends and the UW-Platteville community because of his warm and friendly nature. Born on April 6, 1984 in Appleton, Wis., he excelled in his civil engineering curriculum at UW-Platteville, was a dedicated American Society of Civil Engineer member and an active participant and leader in Concrete Canoe. He received his degree in 2006 and became a civil engineer in training for Ayres and Associates in Eau Claire, Wis. Rynish met his wife Jacklyn (Voigt) Rynish while attending UW-Platteville. They were married on Dec. 27, 2008 and had their only son, Owen Matthew Rynish, on Jan. 30, 2011.

For more information on the scholarship or to donate to this scholarship, please contact Kim Govier, division coordinator of UW-Platteville Advancement, at 608.342.1243. –Eileen McGuine
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Attach Class Note information and a photo. Mail to: Alumni Services, UW-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville WI 53818-3099

36
Nathan Pliska ’02, along with his wife, Wendy, and daughter, Sadie, welcomed son Carter in April 2011.

Samantha Stanton, 2, is excited and proud to announce the birth of her sister, Ruby Joy Stanton on July 10, 2011. Ruby joined the family after a long delivery at 9 lbs., 2.2 oz. and 21 inches long. Erin Ralph ’03 and Jesse Stanton ’09 are enjoying the girls and the amount of energy and “Pioneer Spirit” they have.

Brian ’07 and Emily (VanNatta) Wolf ’08 announced the birth of their daughter, Elaina Louise Wolf, on Feb. 9. Elaina weighed 6 lbs., 14.4 oz. and was 19 inches long. Brian is a lead product design engineer at AllSteel and Emily is a pre-kindergarten teacher in Muscatine, Iowa.

Jeffery ’05 and Melanie Glass announce the birth of their son, Evan Jeffery Glass, on Jan. 18. Evan weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz., and was 20 inches long. He is the couple’s first child. The family resides in Baraboo, Wis.

Outfit your little future Pioneer with a brand-new onesie from the UW-Platteville Alumni Association!

alumni.uwplatt.edu/store

If you have a birth announcement or a photo of your little Pioneer, send it to us and we’ll use it in future issues of the Alumni Today as space permits.
**April**

**Saturday, April 28**  
Alumni Board of Directors Meeting  
- UW-Platteville campus

**May**

**Wednesday, May 2**  
Professionals in Agriculture Conference  
- Pioneer Farm, Platteville, Wis.

School of Agriculture Scholarship Banquet  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Saturday, May 5**  
Rugby Reunion  
- UW-Platteville campus

Football Golf Outing  
- Platteville Golf and Country Club

**Sunday, May 6**  
Athletic Hall of Fame  
1991 Men's Basketball Team Induction Ceremony  
- Bo Ryan Court, UW-Platteville campus

**Friday, May 11**  
Distinguished Alumni and Commencement Recognition Dinner  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Saturday, May 12**  
One hundred eighty-eighth Commencement  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Thursday, May 17**  
Sheboygan County Social  
- Elkhart Lake, Wis.

**Friday, May 18**  
Southeastern Wisconsin Golf Outing  
- Quit Qui Oc Golf Club, Elkhart Lake, Wis.

**Saturday, May 19**  
Women’s Basketball Golf Outing  
- Lancaster, Wis., Municipal Country Club

**June**

**Thursday, June 7**  
Picnics, Potlucks and Parties (a health conscious cooking class)  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Friday, June 15**  
College of BILSA Golf Outing  
- Platteville Golf and Country Club

**Saturday, June 16**  
Motorcycle Bike Ride  
- Depart from UW-Platteville campus for a scenic loop on the blue highways of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa, with a lunch stop in Bellevue, Iowa

**Saturday, June 22**  
Lovely Ladies Luncheon  
- Pioneer Farm, Platteville, Wis.

**July**

**Thursday, July 12**  
Cheese and Wine Tasting at WineDown on Main followed by Alumni Night at Music in the Park  
- Platteville Downtown City Park

**Mid July**  
Pioneer Socials in Colorful Colorado  
- Colorado Springs and Denver, Colo.

**Thursday, July 19**  
Madison Mallards Baseball Tailgate  
- Madison, Wis.

**Friday and Saturday, July 27-28**  
Alumni Board of Directors Summer Retreat  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Saturday, July 28**  
Celebrating the graduating Class of 1962  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Monday, July 30**  
UW-Platteville Foundation Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner  
- UW-Platteville campus

**Tuesday, July 31**  
Indianapolis Alumni Gathering  
- Indianapolis, Wis.

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**UW-Platteville Alumni Association presents:**

**An Evening in Monte Carlo**

*Saturday, June 2*

- Madison Club, Madison, Wis.

Join us for a warm summer night in Monte Carlo for good food, good fun and good company! All proceeds will support the UW-Platteville Alumni Association.  
For more information, see back cover.
August

Saturday, Aug. 4
Pioneers in Monroe
- Chalet Cheese Cooperative Tour and Minhas Brewery Tour, Monroe, Wis.

Wednesday Night in early August
River Boat Wine and Cheese Tasting
- Milwaukee, Wis.

Thursday, Aug. 23
La Crosse Ice Cream Social
- The Pearl, La Crosse, Wis.

September

Sunday, Sept. 9
Men’s Soccer Reunion
- UW-Platteville campus

Saturday, Sept. 22
Football Reunion
- UW-Platteville campus

Saturday, Sept. 29
Leinenkugal’s Brewery Tour
- Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Look for more information and register to any of these events on AluMnation, alumni.uwplatt.edu/events

October

Saturday, Oct. 20
UW-Platteville Homecoming

Homecoming 2012 is shaping up to be our best yet – come back to campus for a specific reunion, and then join us for the big celebration! We can’t wait to see you, Pioneers.

- Civil and Environmental Engineering Reunion
- Women in EMS Reunion
- Tau Beta Pi Reunion
- Rangerette Reunion
- Student Center Workers Reunion
- Veteran’s Club Reunion
- Student Ambassador Reunion
- Homecoming Hustle (5K run/3K walk)

2012 UW-Platteville Alumni Association Membership Campaign

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewing Member

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Three Year</th>
<th>Lifetime</th>
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<td>$25</td>
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(Please return this form with payment)

☐ I would like to make a gift to the Alumni Association of $ ______

Name __________________________________________________________  Grad. Year __________________________________________________

Major ____________________________________  Distance Ed. Degree ☐ Yes ☐ No  E-mail ____________________________________________

Home Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip __________________________________________________________ Home Phone _______________________________________

Spouse’s Name ________________________________ Is spouse an alum? ☐ Yes ☐ No  Spouse’s Grad Yr. ________________

Make check payable to UW-Platteville Alumni Association OR charge ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover  Total Enclosed $ ______

Card # __________________________________________ Exp. _________ Signature ______________________________

I would like to pay lifetime membership in four annual installments.

Welcome
An Evening in Monte Carlo

June 2 | 8 p.m. | The Madison Club

What’s better than a warm summer night?
A warm summer night in Monte Carlo!

Eat, drink and socialize while trying to beat the odds at blackjack, poker, roulette and craps – and when you stop to woo Lady Luck, place a few bids at our live and silent auctions.

All proceeds will benefit the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Alumni Association. We hope you will join us for this elegant and exciting event.

Early bird registration deadline is May 1

Transportation will be available from Platteville to Madison. (limited seating available)

For more details and to register for the event

www.uwpalumnievents.com

1.800.897.2586 | alumni@uwplatt.edu

Looking to promote your business?
We have a wide variety of sponsorship opportunities available.