A special edition dedicated to how people found love at UWP.
The Wilderness Hotel and Golf resort, America’s largest waterpark resort in Wisconsin Dells, is offering a stay and receive one free kid’s breakfast buffet with one paid adult’s breakfast buffet at the Wild Canyon Café.

Room Night Rates:
- $109 per night
- Additional family members are $15 each
- Rooms can be secured with a credit card by calling the Wilderness at 1.800.867.9453
- Group Name: UW-Platteville #827604

Reservation Deadline: April 14

For just $109 per night, your family of four can reserve a double queen room at the hotel and receive unlimited access to the resort’s four indoor waterparks (including one where you can tan year-round!) and four-story interactive play park. Additional family Members are $15 each.

May 14-15, 2010

Hurry! - A limited number of rooms still remain in our room block and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. You can stay one or both nights, but each family must make their own reservations.

Reservation Deadline: April 14

Group Name: UW-Platteville #827604

Bring this flyer with you for your weekend stay and receive complimentary breakfast for one paid adult’s breakfast buffet at the Wild Canyon Café.

If you feel inspired to write your story after reading these please send it to pr@uwplatt.edu

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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 campus activities and events affecting UW-Platteville and its alumni.

This Valentine’s issue of the Alumni Today features alumni couples who met on campus.

FEATURED COUPLES

Josh & Anne Saylor
John & Brenda Jones
Donald & Dorothy Hyde
Aaron & Ellie Olson
Jim & Ann Barklett
Kim & Randy Eigenberger
Janet & Louis Behrens
Richard & Linda Ender
Paul & Mary Killion
Rachel & Ryan Stahl
Nick Bremer & Xiaoqian Zheng
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Dear Pioneers,

Some might consider this issue of the Alumni Today to be unique in that it features “Pioneer couples.” I trust that you will enjoy the stories that have been shared. I suspect that you could name countless others who would also have a story to share.

I challenge you to see this issue as more than a collection of stories about alumni. I would argue, from a philosophical standpoint, that the “true” primary focus of the articles included is about building relationships.

The discussion and importance of relationships, when referencing UW-Platteville, is not unique at all. Three of the “main messages” which define UW-Platteville are:

- Students make lifetime friendships and have the benefit of faculty and staff who know them on a personal level.
- Student receive help when they need it from people who care.
- Student involvement in over 250 clubs and organizations encourages personal growth as well as the opportunity to practice organizational and leadership skills for future careers or graduate school.

We use these as points of distinction when we talk to potential students. I think that you would agree that these statements describe the UWP environment during your student time, too.

It continues to be a goal of this university to build a “connectedness” between and among those in our community. Factors that lead to successful completion of a university education include “engagement” in and with the university. UWP is deliberate in its programming with incoming students – each fall hosting a multi-day orientation program for the now over 1,600 new students. During this period, prior to the beginning of classes, new students participate in activities that provide tips for academic success including the importance of class attendance and participation and techniques for developing good study skills and habits, as well as information about self-management including financial management, AODA education, personal safety and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

UWP also has a well-developed First Year Experience program dedicated to creating opportunities for students to develop the academic and social skills that are necessary to successfully complete their Pioner education. Through the Intro to College Life course, new students learn about the importance of establishing a relationship with an academic advisor and effective ways to interact with instructors. Additionally, Student Academic Success Peer Mentors share what they wish they had known as first-year students, including the importance of making the campus “home” and building a life on the campus.

UWP actively promotes student involvement. There are over 250 recognized campus organizations. Over 200 faculty and staff serve as advisors to these organizations that involve nearly 3,000 students. Additionally, the residence halls, which house about 2,700 students, are the sites of programs that provide interesting ways to meet new people, learn about others and demonstrate the strong connections between classroom and out-of-class experiences. On-campus employment of students also promotes the development of connectedness. At UWP, there are over 1,600 student employment positions, many of which are directly associated with and support academic programs.

In the winter 2010 issue of Leadership Exchange, published by NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, the NASPA Assessment and Knowledge Consortium reported on recently collected data in an article entitled “Involvement Makes a Difference.” Involved students reported studying more hours per week than their non-involved counterparts, with a quarter of the students noting that their grades increased as a result of involvement. Additionally 65 percent of respondents credit participation in campus activities as helping them to learn to balance social activities with academic obligations. Involvement, connectedness, relationships … these are more than words at UWP! These describe a base value that transcends the campus, since its inception over 140 years ago. Relationships are essential for life and for learning.

Carol Sue Butts, Chancellor (interim)

My mother and father met at UWP, classes of ’57 and ’56 respectively, so I had some prior knowledge that college life could lead to a long-term relationship. What tempered that knowledge at the time, 1976, was the ratio of guys to gals on campus. The Exponent of that era ran a weekly cartoon called “Four to One.” The name of the cartoon was a backhand slap at the lopsided gender numbers on campus, and it quite often featured humor related to the trials and travails that the ratio presented.

Move in day for the fall semester of 1976 had me and two hometown friends hugging our belongings into McGregor Hall, first floor west. While everyone moving in, most of the room doors on that wing were open, allowing the afternoon sun to filter into the hallway. The sunlight did not brighten things up nearly as much as the two tanned blondes, one very tall and the other of medium height, that came walking down the hallway of McGregor. They introduced themselves as big Brenda and little Brenda from Spring Green, Wis. They were both dressed in 1970s-era sun dresses and sandals. The epitome of beautiful Wisconsin farm girls! I remember the blue and white check of “little Brenda’s” dress like it was yesterday.

Alas, neither of the Brenda’s, big or little, had the time of day for me that school year. Both were always pleasant toward me and continued to visit friends in McGregor Hall.

My big break occurred at the start of the spring semester during the winter of 1978. Little Brenda decided I wasn’t such a bad guy to spend time with and 31 years of history began. We were blessed with two daughters, one of whom is in graduate school at Montana State University-Billings, and the other presently attending UWP. To this day, I don’t know what has been more important to me: the education I received at UWP that has led to a 25-year career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, or the life partner, little Brenda, that I met while attending UWP. I am sure it is a wonderful combination of the two, but I often wonder about what might have happened had I not been in the hallway of McGregor Hall on that fateful fall day.

by John Jones

Carol Sue Butts, Chancellor (interim)
Donald and Dorothy (Jackson) Hyde met and fell in love at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville when Donald was a junior and Dorothy was a sophomore. Although they were typical students, the way they met was far from ordinary.

In 1952, Dorothy lived in Brigham Hall, the first residence hall built on campus. One afternoon she and her roommate decided to explore the new theater being built. The young women climbed up onto the stage and found a built-in ladder to the catwalk. “Going up the ladder was easy, but neither of us felt we could risk finding the first rung of the ladder to climb down,” said Dorothy. The two girls were stuck and began to joke about living on the catwalk and people “finding the bones up there.” Just at that moment, a fellow student, Donald Hyde, walked by the unfinished theater to investigate. “I heard them saying that they were going to live up there and I thought, well, I better help them down. It wouldn’t have been a hard process except I was afraid of heights,” added Donald.

After that, Don and Dorothy started dating and began to realize that they had seen each other around campus. “On a nice spring day, the ground was very muddy and there was a young woman walking behind me in the mud. I helped her find a way out of the mud and we went our separate ways. I later realized that was the first time I met Dorothy,” said Don.

Dorothy also remembered living in the dormitory and hearing someone whistling early every morning. “There was a road that went right behind the dorm down to the campus farm. I remember my irritation in being awakened so early every morning by someone whistling,” said Dorothy. As fate would have it, that was Don whistling after finishing chores and walking from the barn back to the farmhouse.

The two still remember their first date. “We were going to the junior prom at UWP and we were both working our way through school, so I made my dress myself. I thought it was the most beautiful dress and I was so excited to go to the dance,” said Dorothy. But, they would never make it to the dance. “We went out to dinner beforehand for shrimp. A little after dinner, Don started feeling sick and couldn’t go to the dance. We found out later that he is allergic to shrimp,” said Dorothy.

Don was an agriculture major with a science minor, an “aggie,” said Dorothy. He spent most of his time in the barn doing chores. Dorothy majored in elementary education with a minor in speech. Don and Dorothy dated for two and a half years. Don graduated first in 1955 and taught while Dorothy finished school in 1956.

Don and Dorothy got married the day after Dorothy graduated from UWP. Dorothy remembers it perfectly, “It was an economy wedding. We had just graduated and didn’t have much money and neither did our parents. A woman made my dress for $35, plus materials. There were three bridesmaids, our sisters and a close friend, and they each wore a different pastel-colored dress. We bought the flowers from a shop in Dodgeville and we had the ceremony in a country church I attended while growing up. We were the third and last wedding the church ever saw.”

Don and Dorothy have been married 53 years. When Dorothy got to the church, she saw Don right away, busy ushering at his own wedding because one of the ushers was late. “I should have known this was going to be a unique marriage,” said Dorothy. Don was drafted in July after the wedding and Dorothy taught until she joined him in Georgia before returning to Wisconsin, where they currently reside in Viola.

“Marriage is something you have to work at as a team,” she said. “I think you have to be careful whom you choose to be with and you have to work together to make it successful.” Don added, “Don’t wait for a building with a stage. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”
Love and basketball

by Sarah Quella

Aaron Olson and Ellie Nies met on Ellie's first day of class during her freshman year at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Aaron, who was a sophomore, looked up at her when she entered the classroom, and from that point on, they were friends. Both were dating other people at the time, but they were also lab partners who spent a lot of time studying in the library together and since they both played basketball at UWP, they spent a lot of time together at Williams Fieldhouse.

The semester before his junior year, Aaron was able to get a perfect class schedule, but when he found out that he had no classes with Ellie, he changed it to get more classes with her. At the time, he told her that studying with her was good because he had a crush on her. Their first official date was supposed to be a concert in Dubuque, Iowa, but when it was cancelled, they went to see the movie "And Justice for All," choosing it because it was the only movie that hadn't started its annual banquet and since Ann didn't have a car, she thought she wouldn't be able to go. Jim, who had a car, offered to be her escort for the evening. Even though they weren't dating at the time, the couple considers this to be their first unofficial date. One thing led to another, and pretty soon Ann's boyfriend was out of the picture.

Jim and Ann remember that their first official date was supposed to be a concert in Dubuque, Iowa, but when it was cancelled, they went to see the movie "And Justice for All," choosing it because it was the only movie that hadn't started when they arrived at the movie theater.

Their advice for young couples is to make sure it is the right relationship before deciding to get married and if it is, it will be rewarding.

When she opened her eyes, Aaron was beside her on one knee holding a ring, and on the table was a bouquet of roses and Ellie's favorite kind of cake. In the frosting he wrote "Will you Marry Me? Yes or No," and Ellie took the frosting and circled "Yes." Aaron and Ellie were married at St. Mary's Parish in Bloomington, Wis. They have three children and are both educators in the Wisconsin school system.

Aaron coaches varsity high school girls' basketball for Lomira High School and several of his players have gone on to play for UWP, so the couple attends basketball games as much as they can. Their advice for young couples is to talk about them. If a couple ever has any problems, the best way to resolve them is to talk about them.

When did their relationship begin?

In November of 1979, WSUP had its annual banquet and since Ann didn't have a car, she thought she wouldn't be able to go. Jim, who had a car, offered to be her escort for the evening. Even though they weren't dating at the time, the couple considers this to be their first unofficial date. One thing led to another, and pretty soon Ann's boyfriend was out of the picture.

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by Cassandra Blake

Randi Eigenberger’s and Kimberly Matthews’s first real meeting was one they will always remember. Kimberly, a junior and member of the Sigma Alpha sorority, and Randy, an Air Force war veteran, met in the spring of 2007 at a senior send-off party. Kimberly couldn’t stand being loud, annoying and obnoxious, and kept insisting that he recognized her from somewhere. Kimberly, who had a date for the party, was sure he was mistaken.

“I realized who the party, was sure he was mistaken. Kimberly, who had a date for the party, was sure he was mistaken. According to Kimberly, ‘Unfortunately, four days later I lost my ring in the Gulf of Mexico.”

Kimberly was admiring her new engagement ring when the ship rocked and the ring went flying out of her hands into the deep blue sea. Thankfully, Randy had purchased insurance on the ring, and she received a new ring shortly after the cruise. They were wed on Nov. 14, 2009.

They now live in Cuba City, Wis. Randy is an assistant project manager at Newt Marine Services in Dubuque, Iowa, while Kimberly works at the Dubuque Regional Humane Society as a customer service representative.

by Katelyn Enloe

Richard and Linda (Goke) Enloe met at UWP while taking agriculture classes together. After becoming acquainted, Richard and Linda began sharing rides to and from campus. Richard said, “She asked me for a ride and she’s been riding with me ever since.” After starting to date in February 1980, the couple was engaged the next December and married in July 1981.

Linda and Richard both came from large farm families and looked to continue the tradition. The couple began their life together on Richard’s family farm in Livingston, Wis., and they had dreams of eventually taking over the family dairy business and starting a family. Richard and Linda started milking their own herd that same year. In 1986, they welcomed the arrival of their first child, Abraham. Two years later in 1988, Katelyn was born, followed by Samuel in 1992 and Grace in 1994. Their dreams were complete when they officially purchased the farm in 1996.

In 2009, Abraham graduated from UWP with a degree in agriculture and technology education. Katelyn is currently a student at UWP, double majoring in communications technologies and business administration.

by Janet (Zych) Behrens

My husband and I met at UWP in the 1970s. I was an elementary education major and Lou joined the U.S. Air Force. We were married when he was still in the service, in June of 1974. After the Air Force, Lou completed a degree in engineering at California Polytechnic State University.

We lived overseas during part of the military years and now live in Rochester, Minn. We have two children, one of whom is currently a senior mechanical engineering major at UWP.

A couple of years ago while visiting campus, we checked out the TV studio and were pleasantly surprised to see that it was still there.

The Enloe family at son Abraham’s wedding. (Left to right) Grace, Richard, Emily (Krautsum), Abraham, Linda, Samuel and Katelyn.
Tying the knot at UWP

by Laura Becherer

Over the years, some University of Wisconsin-Platteville students have met their future spouses on campus. And with the remodeling of Ullsvik Hall, many couples are now able to tie the knot on campus as well.

UWP holds wedding receptions, most of which take place in Velzy Commons of Ullsvik Hall. On occasion, couples have requested that the actual ceremony take place on campus as well; ceremonies typically occur at nearby churches or gardens, according to Deb Putnam, assistant director and catering manager of UWP Dining Services.

“The bride and groom request a reservation for Velzy Commons through the UW-P Event Planning and Reservation Office,” said Putnam. “When the reservation is confirmed, the couple contacts the UWP Catering Office.” The catering staff then sets up an initial consultation with the couple to help plan their reception. The event is mostly run by students and is tailored to fit the preferences of the couple. For example, receptions have ranged in size from 150 guests to 500 guests, and have featured both buffet-style and formal dinners.

“The weddings at UWP are beautiful and the coordinating staff is very easy to work with.”

Angella Day

“The staff keeps up with wedding trends by attending conferences, bridal expos and reading trade magazines,” Putnam added.

Couples can also use an independent wedding planning service in addition to the services offered by UWP. Angella (Donovan) Day, UWP alumna, is the owner of Wishes and Dreams, a wedding and special event consulting business in Platteville. When Day receives a request to help plan a wedding on campus, she sits down with the couple and outlines their options based on budget, guest list and other desires. Once a few basics are established, she meets with UWP’s Catering Office and helps with the planning. She also provides essentials like invitations, unity candles and ring bearer pillows.

“The weddings at UWP are beautiful and the coordinating staff is very easy to work with,” Day said. She said that the university includes wait staff, bartenders, linens, and tables and chairs in their very competitively-priced rental fee.

Excellent food and a friendly, courteous staff who pay close attention to detail.

“We were interested in having our wedding reception at the university from the time we got engaged,” Kaiser said. “We had been to a few weddings there and thought it was a beautiful place for a reception.”

Kaiser said that the people involved with the planning process have been extremely helpful.

“I first contacted Deb Putnam, since I worked with her a little during my student years,” Kaiser said. “Heather Faherty has been helping a lot, as has Nathan Maxweller from UWP Technical Services. Jim Mueller, executive director for UWP Auxiliary Services Facilities Operations, was a big help in securing the date and venue, as well.”

At least six other UWP alumni will be involved in Kaiser’s wedding, along with other friends and family.

“We hope our reception is a time to celebrate with all of our friends and family,” Kaiser said. “I think the atmosphere of the venue will be romantic and at the same time allow for relaxation and fun.”

For more information on holding your reception at UWP, contact the Event Planning and Reservation Office at 608.342.1451.
For your eyes only

Paul borrowed Kevin’s car for their first date and they went to see the James Bond movie, “For Your Eyes Only.” Paul and Mary would also go on dates to Karrmann Library because Paul was an engineering major and very focused on his studies. Mary said the library dates didn’t last too long because she was too distracting (as a communications major).

If Mary was going home for the weekend, they would meet briefly in front of the library between classes and Paul would have a card or note ready for Mary to take with her.

Paul and Mary went on many walks throughout the quaint Platteville neighborhoods. If their dates ran late, Paul and Mary, have always had a place in their hearts for UWP. They took their children on many hikes up the “M” and walks down Main Street growing up. “During my senior year of high school, my dad and I took the tour of campus before I made my final decision to attend UW,” said Anne. When they walked past Boebel Hall, Paul pointed and said, “That’s where I saw your mom for the first time.”

Ryan & Rachael Staab

The square root of romance

by Sarah Quella

When University of Wisconsin-Platteville student Rachael Lehr struggled with her Calculus II homework, a resident assistant from Brockert Hall suggested she knock on Ryan Staab’s door for tutoring help. After that meeting in the spring of 2005, they became inseparable.

Rachael and Ryan’s first excursion was a double date at the Olive Garden in Dubuque, Iowa, with two of their close friends. They were together for their entire time at UWP, and they were involved in many activities on campus. Rachael was president, secretary and commissioner for the College of EMS Segregated University Fees Allocation Commission, a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and a student writer for the UWP Office of Public Relations. Ryan was a resident assistant for Morrow Hall, a member of Engineers Without Borders and a campus photographer for the UWP Office of Public Relations.

After completing their bachelor’s degrees, they both decided to continue their education; however, Ryan was accepted to a graduate school in Minneapolis and Rachael was accepted to one in Chicago.

Following graduation from UWP, but prior to graduate school, Rachael and Ryan spent the summer living right off State Street in Madison. A few weeks before they had to move to different cities, they went out for dinner at the Melting Pot. They arrived earlier than their reservation, so to pass time they went to a jewelry store. They had discussed getting engaged all summer and while browsing they saw a few rings they liked, but they decided not to buy anything and went to dinner.

Later in the week, after returning from a bike ride, Ryan took Rachael to a hill overlooking Lake Mendota and just as the sun was setting, he proposed. Ryan had gone back to the jeweler without Rachael to pick up a ring to surprise her. They were married in September 2009. “Our advice to young couples is to compromise and be willing to listen and admit when you’re wrong, overwhelmed, angry or frustrated. Communicate your needs with the other person, and always give each other a hug and kiss first thing in the morning and before you go to sleep,” said Rachael and Ryan.

Rachael and Ryan stay involved with UWP by reading the Alumni Today and visiting the campus during Homecoming. They want to be more engaged in alumni activities, and one of their goals is to be involved with the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science alumni groups in the near future.
Dawn and Ray

Dawn (Mellen) and Ray Banfi met in early 1972. Ray, a basketball player at 6 feet 6 inches, was too shy to ask Darla out at Karrmann Library where he often saw her studying. He conquered his fear one night at the Rendezvous, a hangout and bar in the former Student Center (now Ullsvik Hall), and asked her to dance.

Ray, who was from the Chicago area, and Darla, a native of Platteville, Wis., spent much of their time on campus together. They saw groups like The Carpenters and The Bay, who was from the Chicago area, and Darla, a native of Platteville. They even as her changing positions shuffled her around. By 1989, the two started dating multiple times during the first years of her tenure at UW, but continually saw Tom, even as her changing positions shuffled her around. By 1989, the two started dating and waited to have their first date until that spring when they fell in love.

They married in 1976 and had their wedding reception on campus. Now 33 years later, Darla works on campus as the DLC’s marketing coordinator, while Ray works as a guidance counselor for the Scales Mound (Illinois) School District.

Dawn and Tom

Fresh from graduation in 1983, Dawn Drake took her degree and left Wisconsin, placing herself in the corporate arms of a major corporation in the South. Within a year, she was working in human resources in South Carolina. But the South was not for her and Dawn returned to Platteville, Wis., when a position became available at UW-Platteville.

Meanwhile, Tom Scanlan was hired at UW as a professor of computer science. When Dawn returned, she bumped into Tom on her very first day. Dawn changed jobs multiple times during the first years of her tenure at UW, but continually saw Tom, even as her changing positions shuffled her around. By 1989, the two started dating and waited to have their first date until that spring when they fell in love.

The two were also very involved in extracurricular groups while at UW. Jim was involved in Student Center Advisory Committee, Student Technology Advisory Committee and History Club, and Betsey was involved in the Wisconsin Association for Middle Level Education Students in Teaching. With a little persuasion from Betsey, Jim was involved with the group as well. “Even though he was never an official member,” said Betsey, “he assisted with many activities.”

Betsey also shared some of the couple activities that they enjoyed. “We both loved the $2 movie nights in Doudna Hall, hanging at The Vous, working out in the PAC, and yes, we even spent a couple of nights at the Karrmann Library.” Betsy graduated with an elementary education degree with a reading emphasis in May 2005, and Jim graduated with a degree in comprehensive social sciences with an emphasis in history in May 2003.

Jim proposed to Betsey in August 2005 in Grant Park in downtown Chicago. The wedding followed shortly thereafter. “Our wedding was a blast. We had about 160 people, and those who came still remember it fondly, which makes me happy. We were married in Chicago and our reception was there as well. Our accent colors were orange and blue in honor of UW and we used them as our linen colors on the tables. We also had a Platteville flag, a small toy cow and a UW-P T-shirt on the table with our guest sign-in book.

I can’t forget a final Platteville touch that we had: two other UW alumni stood up for us in our wedding. They both came down from Wisconsin to be with us on our special day. One was my former roommate, and the other was one of Jim’s friends,” said Betsey. The Dusbiber’s have a very simple tip for hopeful couples at UW: “I know it is very cliché … but we would tell them just to take time and not to rush things. If it is meant to be, it will happen.”

Continued on page 25

Q&A with Nick and XQ

Q: How did you first meet?
A: XQ, who came to UWP as an exchange student through the Wuhan, China program, needed to borrow a scale to weigh books for her luggage.

Q: How did you first meet?

Q: What were your majors at UWP?
A: Nick, English; XQ: Accounting.

Q: What was your wedding like?
A: Nick got married in 1976 and XQ was married on Jan. 17, 2009, in her hometown of Yichang, China (Hubei Province). My parents, from Delafield, Wis., were able to make the trip and attend the ceremony.

Q: What are some memories you have of UW together?
A: The beautiful spring weather and scenery we shared together.

Q: What advice do you have for young couples?
A: Find the right person and the relationship will work out no matter the circumstances.
Jennifer and Jens proposed some study time on his thesis and Jenny was starting on hers, Jens proposed some study time together dedicated for thesis working. After Tuescher apologized, Jenny enthusiastically said ‘Wait one more thing.’ ‘The next thing I know, Jens is on one knee and his lips are moving, although I suddenly couldn’t hear anything.’

Because that was where Jens and Jenny first met, Jens thought it would be the perfect spot to propose by including the person who brought them together. “They definitely have had a fairy tale beginning,” said Tuescher.

The following year, 2009, was filled with a busy workload. Jens and Jenny had schoolwork, their practicum, grad assistantships, extracurricular activities, preparation for graduation in May, a thesis to write and of course, the wedding. The couple decided to have their official wedding in Coon Rapids, Minn., (almost exactly a year after their engagement) and a second ceremony and reception in Germany.

Friends from campus attended the local wedding and Jens’ cousin read a biblical script in German and Tuescher read a second reading in English. The bride and groom chose to use unity sand instead of a candle, which is a German tradition. They also decided that Jens’ brother would translate the ceremony, but they would say their vows twice, once in English and once in German.

The second ceremony, in Germany, began with the Polterabend. During this event, every attendee brought a piece of porcelain. Once everyone arrived, the members grabbed their porcelain and smashed it. After all the porcelain was smashed, the bride and groom swept it up together. “The smashing of the porcelain is to bring good luck to the couple,” noted Jens.

His mother arranged for a minister to conduct the ceremony and they enjoyed singing and dancing, “Jens and I got to do the waltz in the middle of it and were toasted at the end,” said Jenny.

As part of the German culture, following the ceremony, Jens and Jenny were given a very dull two-man saw and were told to saw a log in half. This signified their first task as a married couple. Once that was completed, “A server stood in front of us with a tray containing a piece of bread cut in half, salt and a glass of water. We were to put a pinch of salt on each other’s bread and feed it to one another, followed by taking a sip of water. This tradition is to represent being together in good times (the salt) and bad times (the bread),” Jenny explained.

Jens and Jenny both agreed, “Platteville and the university changed our lives forever, through the friends, opportunities, experiences and, of course, meeting each other.” They are currently living in Coon Rapids, Minn.

The chemistry began and the two soon became a couple in March 2008. “They were always together and very supportive of each other,” said Tuescher.

Jens and Jenny planned a trip to Germany to visit his parents four months later. However, because they had formed a special relationship with their advisor, the pair wanted to meet with her before their trip so she could try Jens’ delicious German chocolate mouse. “Realizing we had lost track of time and Kim had to get to class, we all stood up to go and Jens enthusiastically said ‘Wait one more thing,’” Jenny said. “The next thing I know, Jens is on one knee and his lips are moving, although I suddenly couldn’t hear anything.”

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Communication was through letters ... and getting letters into Vietnam and out of Vietnam was challenging.”

Hap and Barb have lived in Platteville, Wis., since 1987, when Barb joined the staff in University Advancement. Currently, Barb serves as special assistant to the chancellor, a position she has held since 2001. Hap is semi-retired and assists with event management in athletics at UWP.

Mick and Rhonda (Rice) Viney, married 1974

Mick, UWP assistant chancellor of Student Affairs, and Rhonda, director of UW Student Housing, didn’t actually meet at UWP. As high school sweethearts, they continued their love at UWP, going to football and basketball games, and even seeing Olivia Newton-John perform in Williams Fieldhouse. Both graduated in 1974 and again in 1979. They have been married for 35 years, and believe that a successful relationship takes effort and a willingness to listen, learn, change and support one another.

“We have fun together and appreciate the strengths we each bring to the relationship and to our lives. We also recognize that various opportunities and challenges are a part of life and we work together to enjoy them,” said Mick and Rhonda.

“We have gotten to know many students over the years and have been blessed to be a part of their lives. We have learned as much from them as we have hopefully taught them,” added Mick.

Mike and Jayne (Redman) Shere, married 1995

Mike, who works in the UWP Information Technology Department, and Jayne, who is an administrative assistant to the UW dean of students and the director of Student Centers, met peculiarly via a presumed prank phone call that lasted a half hour. At the end of the first call, Jayne gave Mike her phone number, prompting another call, which lasted seven hours. They met face-to-face two weeks later and their relationship evolved slowly into what it is today. Both graduated in 1995. They now have 7-year-old twins, Jacob and Sarah, and have been happily married for 14 years, even though an amateur remote control airplane pilot tried to interfere.

“We were at Nelson Dewey State Park, walking up in the hills and having a nice time, and we noticed that there was a man on the opposite hill flying a remote control airplane. Just as Mike got down on his knee to propose to me, the plane came over and hit the tree right above my head, crashing and breaking into a thousand pieces right there. We hoped it wasn’t a bad sign and apparently it wasn’t,” said Jayne and Mike.

Doug and Tammy (Salmon) Stephens, married 2001

Tammy, director of the UWP Women in Engineering Program and Engineering Advising Office, and Doug, who is the UWP campus planner, met back in 1999 through mutual friends. Doug invited Tammy to a movie, but their early afternoon date ended with Tammy falling asleep in the theater, while Doug suffered through the movie. Even so, Doug proposed on Homecoming weekend, 1999, and they married in 2001. They celebrate most anniversaries with a rustic, late-June fishing trip in Canada. Their 7-year-old daughter, Mary Jane, is as glad to be on campus as her parents are to have her there.

“Even before I went to college, I knew I wanted to raise a family in a college atmosphere,” said Doug. “There is great culture, energy, resources like the library and green space for all to enjoy. When we ask Mary Jane where she would like to go out to eat, she frequently says ‘the Pioneer Student Center.’”

“It’s nice with both of us here on campus every day. It helps keep our relation-
From the Archives

A love story: 100 years ago

By James Hibbard, UWP Archivist

Not long ago, the Southwest Wisconsin Room received a donation of materials that included a photograph album. Looking at the album was like stepping into a world long past. In it were photographs of Manfred Frank (Mining School, 1911) and his future wife, Josephine Thue, who attended the Normal School in 1909-1910, taken during their college days. Both of them are obviously having fun. But if you consider what was actually transpiring, these photographs represent the beginning of a relationship, a relationship that occurred because the couple met while going to college.

Manfred came first to Platteville, Wis., arriving in January 1909. The son of Norwegian immigrants, the Franks lived in Duluth, Minn., where Manfred’s father worked as a cabinet maker and his mother raised their nine children. Northeast Minnesota was rich in iron ore, and it would have been natural that Manfred attend the newly established Wisconsin Mining Trade School in Platteville. It had opened its doors the previous January in the old Normal School building (Rountree Hall Apartments today).

Just a couple blocks west on Main Street stood Platteville Normal School’s new Main Building. Josephine Thue attended classes there in the 1909-1910 school year. Josephine had grown up in Deforest, Wis., a small village in northern Dane County. Her parents, like Manfred’s, had also emigrated from Norway. Her father and brothers worked as farmers, while she and her sisters supplemented that income by working as seamstresses.

Sometime during the 1909-1910 school year, Manfred and Josephine met and started dating. What little is known of their courtship and their lives in Platteville at that time must be gleaned from their photographs. Manfred was a prankster, and Josephine was more serious but camera shy.

The Platteville of Manfred and Josephine’s day was simpler. The entertainment center was the player piano, ice cream cones cost 5 cents and most houses still had outhouses. A big civic improvement occurred in 1910, however, when Main and Second Streets were paved with bricks. The other streets remained dirt.

Josephine and Manfred’s relationship eventually deepened and they got married in 1913. For a while they lived in Baraboo, Wis., where Manfred worked in the Calhoon Mine. By 1920, Manfred and Josephine, now with two infants, Lois and Annabel, moved to Hibbing, Minn., so that Manfred could work as an engineer in the iron mines. They lived the rest of their lives in the Hibbing area. Josephine passed away in 1968 and Manfred in 1973.

Josephine and Manfred’s story is not unlike other students’ stories. They came to Southwest Wisconsin seeking educational opportunities and left as professionals. For Manfred it was engineering and for Josephine it was teaching. Along the way they met, fell in love, and their lives changed forever, all because their paths crossed in Platteville.

Alumni Today 2004
Three cheers for love

Jodi Loeffelholz (’90) and Jay McDermott (’91) met when Jodi’s friend Karla invited her to go to a dance at the Vous with a group of guys that included Jay. Jodi is sure that it was the romantic atmosphere of the leaves hanging from the ceiling in the Vous that contributed to her and Jay’s romance.

After that night, Jodi and Jay would continue to go to dances in the Vous and say that he thought it was cool to date a UWP cheerleader who also drove a motorcycle.

“Whatever it was,” said Jodi, “we’ve been married 16 years and have four children.”

Jodi and Jay got married a couple of years following graduation from UWP and they lived and worked in Madison, Wis., before returning to Platteville. “Although Madison was fun, we wanted to move back to the Platteville area when we started planning a family,” said Jodi. Jodi is still close to UWP, serving as the assistant dean for the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture.

Jodi and Jay’s advice for a successful marriage: “Have separate bank accounts,” they said. “I know it’s not for everyone, but for us it prevented a lot of fights over finances — especially since Jay doesn’t like to balance his checkbook.”

A love that Pioneered

While our story did not begin at UWP, it gave us a place to continually develop our relationship and our lives today.

The start of sophomore year brought us together as not only a couple, but also as roommates. Our experience in the dorms is one that we will never forget. It not only enabled us to test our relationship, but to create lasting friendships with our other dorm mates.

We enjoyed doing many things on campus together including Relay for Life, Homecoming events and Grocery BINGO.

When we moved off campus junior year, we were able to experience college life with more responsibility. We also had more freedom to enjoy a more diverse group of people. This diversity helped us to become more comfortable with ourselves, our relationship and with others.

One of our favorite activities was to have cookouts and campfires with our friends. Although we were no longer on campus, we both continued to be involved on campus through coursework and our jobs.

The community at UWP brought our relationship closer. A year after graduating, we were now married and working in Dubuque, Iowa. We both changed our last name to Coyss.

As we still live close, and have friends attending UWP, it is a big part of our lives and we wouldn’t want it any other way.

Against all odds

In fall 2009, there were 4,309 male and 2,290 female students on the UWP campus. Despite the lopsided representation of men and women, over the course of time, just about 4,000 alumni relationships began at UWP. That means about one-fifth of UWP alumni met their spouse while a student here.

Graduates from the Alumni Directory

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A love that Pioneered

ABC’s of love

by Heather (Coyle) Coyss

Do you wish you would have taken that World War II History class, or maybe you always wanted to learn how to fingerprint?

The Alumni Association will be hosting a mini-university event on July 30 and 31. Experience college life again and see what changes have occurred since your days as a student. Choose from a variety of classes to attend and enjoy time with fellow alumni, professors and friends while staying in the newest on-campus housing, Southwest Hall. Visit our website at www.uwpalumni.com for additional information.

ABC’s of love

by Lauren St. John

Fate had a different idea, because the couple met shortly after Dawn transferred. “I remember being at a bar called Studio 54, which I think is Players now, and one of my friends introduced me to a girl in one of his classes. We hit it off right away and after that night we were virtually inseparable,” said Joseph.

Dawn and Joseph dated throughout their time at Platteville and soon after graduating, they were married. They have three children, a son named Nelson, 22, and twins, Jamie and Jake, 20. They currently reside in Morton Grove, Ill., right outside of Chicago, where Dawn is a seventh and eighth grade teacher and Joseph is a firefighter.

“I believe it is important for students to have a real college experience, preferably in a small town atmosphere, so they can get to know their fellow students, especially if they are from a larger city,” said Dawn. “If Joe and I happened to attend a larger university, the likelihood of us meeting would have been slim to none.”

Alumni Today
Absence makes the heart grow fonder

by Sarah Quella

Jeannie Nieß first met Robert Porter while visiting a friend in Dobson Hall, and from that time until they graduated, they were friends. Robert had an ROTC scholarship while at UW-P, and after graduating in May 1992 with a broadcast technology management degree, he was stationed in Korea with the U.S. Army. Before leaving the states, he went to see Jeannie to ask her out on a date. She accepted and the couple maintained a long-distance relationship for the next three years. In 1993, she graduated with a degree in political science and was accepted to law school at Northern Illinois University.

After one year in Korea, Robert was stationed in Fort Knox, Ky., and when Jeannie visited him, he took her out to Louisville for dinner. That night, they saw “Miss Saigon” and he proposed. They were married in December 1996 in Bloomington, Ill., and two weeks after the marriage, Jeannie joined the U.S. Army JAG Corps. She was stationed in Fort Gordon, Ga., while Robert was still in Fort Knox. The couple each traveled four hours to Chattanooga, Tenn., to spend weekends together, and they didn’t live with each other for 10 months until their request to be stationed together at Fort Gordon was accepted. After their time in the Army, Jeannie and Robert moved to Wisconsin to be closer to their families and have since expanded their home with four children.

Their advice to young couples is to do things together as a family, but remember to keep separate interests and friends. “Don’t change who you are as individuals just to be a part of a relationship. Also, don’t forget to do nice things for each other, even after you have been married for a long time. Everyone likes to get a gift or a surprise once in a while,” said Jeannie.

“College and relationships can be stressful enough on their own, but when you combine the two, you still need to devote attention to each one. Remember that you’re both experiencing the same stresses and should be there for each other instead of letting it come between you. School still has to be a top priority along with the relationship, so don’t neglect classes or studying just to spend every second together. You’ll have plenty of time for that after school is done and you’ll have a much stronger relationship from that experience,” said Abby.

Friends and family will gather on May 29, at the church that Abby grew up in to witness the two officially become wed.

Knock three times on the ceiling …

by Jodi Krautkramer

For two young UW-P students, finding a place to live during school was their number one goal. At the time, they never knew that this goal would eventually lead to marriage.

Abby Johnson grew up in Denmark, Wis., and came to UW-P to obtain a degree in civil engineering. Andy Reuter came to UW-P from Lancaster, Wis. with communication technologies in mind.

When searching for off-campus housing, Andy and his roommates ended up choosing the vacant apartment above Abby’s. “Being the charming and friendly girls that we were, we invited the new guys to join in a few of our festivities, and soon trips up and down the stairs were a regular occurrence,” said Abby.

Andy and Abby got to know each other very well and they soon began officially dating.

“They found that their relationship and schoolwork were difficult to balance. “It was tough, but we made it work. We made efforts to meet up for meals if we were too busy with classes and studying, and we would help each other study just to spend time together. Having him in the apartment directly above me from the beginning of our relationship made it easy to see each other,” said Abby.

“College and relationships can be stressful enough on their own, but when you combine the two, you still need to devote attention to each one. Remember that you’re both experiencing the same stresses and should be there for each other instead of letting it come between...”
by Ashley Olson

Some things are simply meant to be.

In fall 1981, Ron and Tana Olson met at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. They happened to be at the same place at the right time when they met in their sophomore year through a mutual friend. Tana was an education major, and Ron was an industrial technology education major. They spent a lot of time together on campus with friends and throughout their remaining years at UWP.

Tana is from Darlingon, Wis., and Ron is from Fennimore, Wis. “Since we both came from small towns, we liked the smaller campus and class sizes. That’s what attracted us to the university,” Tana said.

Ron and Tana dated for two years and then Ron proposed on Valentine’s Day in 1984. They were seniors and got married in June of that year.

“We knew UWP was an exceptional school for an education degree. We are both still educators today and couldn’t be happier with our decision to attend UWP and major in education,” Tana said.

Currently, Ron and Tana live in Portage, Wis. They have three children: Amber, Ashley and Aaron. Amber graduated from UWP in May 2007 with a major in communication technologies, emphasis in multimedia production and business administration. She is a project manager at Laserwords U.S., Inc., located in Madison, Wis. Ashley graduated from UWP with a major in communication technologies, emphasis in public relations and minor in business in December 2009. Aaron is a sophomore at Portage High School.

“We were very happy with both of our daughter’s decisions to attend UWP. We knew it would be great for them,” Tana said. Ron also completed his master’s degree in education from UWP in 2004. “Now the pressure is on Aaron to attend Platteville,” added Ron. Ron is in his 16th year of teaching mechanical design at Madison Area Technical College. Prior to that, he was a design engineer for Penda Corporation in Portage, as well as a high school industrial technology teacher in Illinois. Tana is in her 11th year of teaching preschoolers at The Little School in Portage.

That fall semester over 25 years ago led Ron and Tana to where they are today, spending a lifetime of love as soul mates.

by Suzi Moraat

For Ryan and Kelsey (Klug) Odorizzi, who were both very involved with Heartland Festival productions and Center for the Arts events as UWP students, the passion that they brought to performances onstage also was displayed offstage toward one another.

The first time the two met was in 2004 during a musical revue show. Kelsey was a junior at the time and Ryan was a freshman. One night, Ryan came right up to introduce himself after a performance. They started talking more frequently because of their involvement in theater productions and became good friends. The two had their first date in March 2007 at a Perkins following a choir concert.

After their relationship had progressed, Ryan planned a romantic get-away weekend in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., and anticipated proposing during the trip. “I had it set up to where we would go out to a fancy dinner, come back to the hotel room where there would be candles, flowers, music and champagne waiting and I was going to ask her then,” said Ryan as the excitement of the event came back into mind. “Then, when he realized that she was expecting it to happen that weekend, he put to use his years of impromptu acting practice and caught Kelsey off guard by proposing three weeks earlier than planned. Kelsey said, “He proposed in the middle of my living room! It was completely unexpected and I kept saying, “Oh my gosh!”

Ryan explained the night, “We had music rehearsal for a show we were in, and when we got back to her apartment, I proposed right there.” “I wouldn’t have had it any other way,” said Kelsey with a smile to Ryan.

The wedding was held on Oct. 18, 2008, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, Wis., and the reception was at the Marriott West in Middleton, Wis. There were around 125 guests affiliated with UWP in attendance, including the bride and groom’s parents who are UWP alumni as well. Kelsey recalls from the wedding, “My face hurt from smiling so much. All of our family and friends were there to help us celebrate and we danced well past midnight.”

During Kelsey’s time at UWP, she participated in Singing Pioneers and Chamber Choir and she sang with Cono d’Angeli, Concert Choir, University Singers and Chamber Choir. Kelsey graduated with a degree in communication technologies along with a music minor.

Ryan held offices of both president and vice president for musical theater and also served the treasurer position for Singing Pioneers, Chamber Choir and Pioneer Players, all of which he participated in throughout his education, culminating in his degree in theater.

Kelsey and Ryan shared some of their tips for aspiring couples at UWP. “Remember to communicate and laugh. Don’t worry about fights. They are going to happen, but as long as you can talk about it and laugh it off, it will always work out in the end.”

Greg and Barb Nelson

by Barb (Trost) Nelson

In the spring of 1972, I was interviewing for a job as a resident assistant in the dorms. During the interview, I was questioned by several students that were serving as resident assistants. One participant was reserved and quiet. His only question for me was, “Do you have a boyfriend?” Let’s just say I got the answer.

In fall 1981, Greg and Barb Nelson met at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. They happened to be at the same place at the right time when they met in their sophomore year through a mutual friend. Tana was an education major, and Ron was an industrial technology education major. They spent a lot of time together on campus with friends and throughout their remaining years at UWP.

Tana is from Darlingon, Wis., and Ron is from Fennimore, Wis. “Since we both came from small towns, we liked the smaller campus and class sizes. That’s what attracted us to the university,” Tana said.

Ron and Tana dated for two years and then Ron proposed on Valentine’s Day in 1984. They were seniors and got married in June of that year.

“We knew UWP was an exceptional school for an education degree. We are both still educators today and couldn’t be happier with our decision to attend UWP and major in education,” Tana said.

Currently, Ron and Tana live in Portage, Wis. They have three children: Amber, Ashley and Aaron. Amber graduated from UWP in May 2007 with a major in communication technologies, emphasis in multimedia production and business administration. She is a project manager at Laserwords U.S., Inc., located in Madison, Wis. Ashley graduated from UWP with a major in communication technologies, emphasis in public relations and minor in business in December 2009. Aaron is a sophomore at Portage High School.

“We were very happy with both of our daughter’s decisions to attend UWP. We knew it would be great for them,” Tana said. Ron also completed his master’s degree in education from UWP in 2004. “Now the pressure is on Aaron to attend Platteville,” added Ron. Ron is in his 16th year of teaching mechanical design at Madison Area Technical College. Prior to that, he was a design engineer for Penda Corporation in Portage, as well as a high school industrial technology teacher in Illinois. Tana is in her 11th year of teaching preschoolers at The Little School in Portage.

That fall semester over 25 years ago led Ron and Tana to where they are today, spending a lifetime of love as soul mates.
“Through their scholarship, Roman and Joan have already helped over 30 students continue their education at UW-P.”

Holly Kaiser

“Many years ago, walking in the snow holding hands, Joan (Vosberg) and Roman Borkovec fell in love on campus. Now 55 years later and living in Arizona, the Borkovecs still remember when they used to go dancing, see movies, spend time at the library, stay warm at the Skyline and go for walks in the snow together. “We met in a psychology class we had together,” said Roman. “We joked that we should probably both have had our heads examined.”

Each worked while in college — Roman on farms and at Rudy’s Standard Station and Joan at Bomy Miller’s Restaurant, both in the Platteville, Wis., area.

From the moment they met in psychology class, the two spent much of their time together and graduated in May 1956. They married on June 5, 1956. Both taught school for two years, Joan in Albany, Wis., and Roman in Brooklyn, Wis., until Joan stopped teaching to take care of their children at home. Several years passed and Roman got his master’s degree, worked for Cooperative Extension in Monroe, Wis., and Racine, Wis., then spent the next 35 years working as a banker in Burlington and Manitowoc, Wis. Since then, Roman and Joan have established a scholarship and have helped support many more.

Established in 1996, the Roman and Joan Borkovec Endowed Scholarship for Agriculture and/or Education is a need-based scholarship that also takes into account a student’s grades and campus involvement. More recently, through the Community Scholarship Program, they’ve supported students from Albany and Monroe where they used to work.

“There is a serious need. That is why Joan and I prefer scholarships; people can’t help if they are born into a family with financial constraints. Now that I’m doing okay in life, I feel the responsibility to help others.”

“Through their scholarship, Roman and Joan have already helped over 30 students continue their education at UW-P. This number is going to keep going up because their scholarship is endowed; this means the principal amount is invested and never awarded out as scholarship monies, the interest is what funds the scholarships each year,” commented Holly Kaiser, director of development, major gifts for the UW-P Foundation. “Endowed scholarships, such as Roman and Joan’s, are a great way for alumni and friends to help students well into the future.”

The Borkovecs have supported several other scholarships over the years, including the Beals and Campbell Scholarship and the Richard Loberger Memorial Scholarship.

“Scholarships are probably the best way I know of that alumni can help students get ahead,” said Roman. “If you see someone worthy and in need of aid, I don’t feel you are being a good citizen if you don’t step in and help if you are able. There are so many who can provide for students and I think more would give if they knew more about the tax breaks available.”

Knowing that they want their scholarship to help more students in the future, Roman and Joan have included the UW-P Foundation in their estate plans so that their scholarship will continue to grow even after they have passed away. By doing so, they have ensured that support for need-based students will continue and that their legacy as supportive Pioneers will live on.

Over the years, many families have been represented within the halls of UW-P. Brothers and sisters, mothers and daughters, cousins and distant relatives all have walked the halls as so many have before us. Brothers Robert and Matt Callahan both have passed through the doorways and arches of UW-P, met their wives, graduated and given back to a university that has helped build them into what they are today.

Shy around girls, Robert found himself sitting next to a beautiful young lady named Breanna McGrath in his Magazine Writing and Editing class his senior year during the fall 2003 semester. “The seat by Robert may have been the only empty seat left,” said his now-wife Breanna, who has been happily married to Robert since Nov. 4, 2006. “Then again, there might have been lots of empty seats and I decided to sit down by him because he was so cute.”

The two didn’t talk a whole lot in class, according to Robert, but a class project ignited their romance. Broken up into groups of three, they met at the Bears Den one morning to work on the project. “The other girl in the group didn’t show up, so that was the first time I really got to know Breanna. Now I’m glad the other person didn’t show up,” said Robert.

Robert now works at the UW-P Foundation as a development officer, helping those interested in donating to the university coordinate their gifts to best suit their personal goals and wishes. "Meeting with so many wonderful people has been inspiring," said Robert.

Robert and Breanna chose to support their hometowns through the Community Scholarship Program, supporting Lancaster and Wausau–Steuben high schools in Wisconsin. “There are so many ways you can give back,” said Breanna. “Some people think that you have to give big, but that’s not the case; every dollar counts.”

“Sometimes, especially for new graduates, living paycheck to paycheck can be a reality. Gifts shouldn’t be a strain,” continued Robert. “No gift is too small, but you have to have the means and feel strongly about giving.”

Robert’s younger brother, Matt, graduated from UW-P in the spring of 2005, but not before he met a young lady by the name of Meghan. “Before we actually met, we had several friends in common but neither of us were in the same place at the same time,” said Matt of his wife Meghan (Adams), who he married July 29, 2006.

Long walks through campus and the soft, fresh baked cookies at Glenview Commons took up many of their hours together as they fell in love.

Now a physical education teacher with the Oshkosh Area School District, he and Meghan, who works as a creative designer at 4imprint in Oshkosh, Wis., consider themselves lucky to have been able to find jobs in their field in this current competitive market. “A big part of that was our great education and the practical experience we got while at UW-P,” said Meghan.

“We hope that by giving back, current students will be able to continue to have a good experience like we did and receive a quality education.”

In recent years, Matt and Meghan have given to the Communications Development Fund to keep the computer labs updated, giving students the chance to be more competitive in the workforce. They also plan to give to the Williams Fieldhouse renovation, which will provide improved classrooms and workout facilities.

“People are always curious as to where we went to school. We are proud to have graduated from UW-P and giving just a little can go a long way,” added Matt.
Show your love for UWP by giving back

Farm fences available for sponsorship

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Foundation is continuing the Pioneer Farm Fence Post Sponsorship Project. This initiative, which offers boards, posts and groupings of both to be sponsored in support of Pioneer Farm upkeep and new projects like the new Beef Center, now offers multi-year pledges.

“This project is a way for people to show their support of the Pioneer Farm in a fun and unique way,” said Jackie Bevan, UW Foundation development officer.

Boards, which cost $500 to sponsor, can be paid for over a five-year period, while posts costing $250 can be paid for over a two-year period. Currently, there are 144 boards and 72 posts available for sponsorship.

For more information about the Pioneer Fence Post Sponsorship Project, contact Bevan at 608.342.1864 or zimmermanj@uwplatt.edu.

Stadium steps available for sponsorship

Much like the “M” steps, the steps at Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium will soon be available for sponsorship. Individuals, families, businesses and teams of seasons past will be invited to sponsor one of the 378 steps. Row sponsorships may also be available.

The stadium, home to the Pioneers and Platteville Hillmen since 1972, has hosted football, soccer, intramural athletics and Chicago Bears training camp in its nearly 40 years of existence. Funds raised by the step sponsorships will fund the construction of new facilities in the stadium.

“This is an opportunity for people to become a part of Pioneer Stadium history by ensuring that it will remain one of the premier facilities in Division III athletics,” said Robert Callahan, UW Foundation development officer.

Keep a lookout for future updates in coming issues of the Alumni Today. For more information, contact Callahan at 608.342.6122.

UWP honors outstanding alumni

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville honored three outstanding UWP alumni during a recognition luncheon on commencement day, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009. The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes UWP alumni who have gained excellent professional accomplishment since their graduation in the last 15 years. Tony Everson of Burlington, Wis., Barbara Knox of Madison, Wis., and Kimberly Brown-Pokorny of Waupun, Wis., received awards.

Everson earned his high school diploma from North Crawford High School in Gays Mills, Wis. He earned an associate’s degree from UW-Richland and matriculated at UWP in the fall of 1992. At UWP, Everson served as a resident assistant while completing his bachelor’s degree in education with majors in biology and general science.

Everson has been employed as a teacher in the Burlington, Wis., area schools since 1995. He taught at the middle level for 10 years and served as science department chair. For the past four years, he has taught at the high school and is currently serving as department chair.

Everson has taken Burlington students on many educational trips around the United States. He has directed 14 middle school musicals and was a nominee for the Herb Kohl Teaching Fellowship in 2001, 2008 and 2009.

Everson has worked with Aurora Hospital and with the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago to develop partnership classes and programs for his students. He was named Outstanding Alumnus at UW-Richland in 1999, earned the Wisconsin Hero Award and was named Burlington Citizen of the Year in 2005.

Pokorny earned her high school diploma at Monroe Senior High School. She earned credits at UW-Rock County and started her education at UWP in the fall of 1990. At UWP, Pokorny was active with the Pioneer Dairy Club and competed with the dairy judging team. She assisted with the promotion of the School of Agriculture and with student recruitment as an Agri-Ambassador.

Pokorny earned two degrees from UWP, a bachelor’s in animal science in 1994 and a master’s in agricultural industries in 1995.

Pokorny is the executive director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, a position she has held since 2008. Pokorny’s responsibilities include managing the WVMA government and regulatory agency affairs, serving as liaison with the local veterinary association, American Veterinary Medical Association, and School of Veterinary Medicine at UWP-Madison, managing office staff and working with a volunteer board.

Pokorny received the 2009 WVMA Presidential Award for the extraordinary service she has provided the organization. During her 15-month tenure, she has helped the association implement a strategic plan, grow the membership and improve its educational offerings.

Knox is a 1995 UW graduate who has completed coursework in zoology and geography. At UWP, she served in leadership roles with Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies and with the Biology Club. Knox was the 1995 recipient of the Dean Linden Pioneer Achievement Award, the highest award presented to a UWP student.

Knox earned her medical degree at UW-Madison in 2002. She completed her residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and a fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. In 2007, she joined the faculty at UW-Madison as an assistant professor in the department of pediatrics, school of medicine and public health. Knox is the medical director of the University of Wisconsin Child Protection Program at the American Family Children’s Hospital in Madison.

Knox is chair of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Child Abuse and Neglect and is a scholar member of the Ray E. Helfer Society of Child Abuse Physicians. She is also the vice chair of the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board that administers the Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund.
1965
Vilas Craig, Richland Center, WI, graduated in spring of 1965 along with his mother, Lavina Grindeman Craig. His teachers were W. B. Tietze, William Dennis, Rosemary Clark, Mr. Darrow and others. Bill Dennis was a great inspiration to Craig. “He used to give me a lot of problems as I operated to Craig. “He used to give me a lot of problems as I operated
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2006
Rebecca Gerard and Ryan Baeten were married on Oct. 8, 2008 in Delafield, WI. With a criminal justice degree from Platteville, Rebecca has since finished her master's degree in forensic psychology and is now working on her doctorate. Ryan graduated from Platteville with a civil engineering degree, with an emphasis in geotechnical and environmental engineering and is working in Milwaukee for AECOM Inc. as a solid waste engineer.

Brad Stangel, former UW-Platteville captain and former Wisconsin Badger captain, and two-time All-Big Ten player Sharif Chambliss have joined first-year head coach Jeff Gard’s basketball staff at UW-Milwaukee for the 2006-2007 season. "We very excited to have both Sharif and Brad join the Pioneer family," Gard said. "They have played for Bo Ryan, who is truly one of the best in this profession, and now they bring this tremendous amount of experience to our program to assist our student athletes both on and off the court."

2007
Laura Kochanowski, Sun Prairie, WI, had her first fantasy novel "Landania" published under her pen name Maia Jacomus with Agora International eBooks.

This is her first professional publication, with hopefully more to follow, thanks to UW-PWP writing workshops.

2008
Lori Attoe and Allen Bongert were married on July 25, 2009. Lori is a fourth-grade teacher in Rio, WI. "It’s no leap to love you."

Pamela Messling Schwab and Wesley Schwab both attended UW-PWP and graduated in 2004. They had a baby boy, named Quinten (Quinn for short), on April 5, 2009. They currently live in Sun Prairie, WI.

ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS
We’ll be glad to print photos taken at your events, gatherings, award presentations or of your family trip. Just send them in! They need to be clear good quality pictures.

If sending digital files via e-mail, the images need to be 240 to 300 dpi. E-mail photos to schmelzk@uwplatt.edu. Please identify all people in the picture. If you send several, we’ll pick the best for publication. All submitted photos will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

LAW FIND LOST ALUMNI
These 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 on any of the alumni listed below, please contact the Alumni Services Office at 1-800-897-2386 or send an e-mail to alumni@uwplatt.edu.

1990
Felipe Bessa-Blanque • Lisa Berg • John Bohnenk • Donna Brandt • David Buergert • Enika MARTINEZ Collins • David Crawford • Andres Domecq • Mark Domini • Daniel Drososki • Heidi RUSSELL Edwards • James Farrham • Nancy Farrey • Scott Hartung • Roger Hicks • Patrick Kleising • Brian Krueger • Sharyl QUINLAIN Lindquist • Paul Manning • David Mantsen • Timothy Miller • Gina Nadn • Kimberly THOLE Nigl • Allen Nofode • Keith Pachol • James Pilarski • Cheol Ro • Cheol Ro • John Ralph • Ned Small • L. Thomas • Julie BOYD Tupa • Jennifer Turtile

POLICY FOR PUBLISHING ALUMNI NOTES
• Class Notes: we are happy to announce employment information, changes and promotions; volunteer information/recognition; advanced educational degrees received; awards and other recognition received; and information on your interesting hobbies or travels.
• Future Pioneers: if you have a birth announcement or a photo of your little Pioneer, we are happy to publish it in an upcoming issue of the magazine.
• We reserve the right to edit alumni notes to meet space requirements.
• We will use submitted photos and announcements as space permits.

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?
Send us your alumni notes via:
• E-mail: alumni@uwplatt.edu
• Fax: UW-PWP Alumni Services Office 608.342.1196
• Mail: UW-Platteville Alumni Services, 1 University Plaza, Platteville WI 53818-3099

Policy for publishing Alumni Notes

Future Pioneers
In Memoriam

38  Forever. Pioneers.


Francis Coyne, Chetek, WI
Janet E. Marl, Courtland Grotkin, Greendale, WI
Karen Gessner, Houston, TX
Floyd Linden Nichols, Waldo E. Plourde, Essexville, MI
Robert E. Griffiths, Freeport, IL
Donald G. Peake, Lancaster, WI
Dennis M. Carthew, Portage, WI
Ronald L. King, Appleton, WI
Dennis W. Meintert, Rockford, IL
Mary Lou KEEGAN Pick, Monroe, WI
Helen THOMASGARD Claussius, Richland Center, WI
Gerard W. Gustafson, Hillsboro, WI
Dorothy LUTTERMAN Meyer, Reedsburg, WI
Curtis J. Ginter, Kansas City, MO
James M. Horkan, Reedsburg, WI
William M. Brewer, Boscobel, WI
Douglas R. Schluter, Cazenovia, WI
Dorothy CURNOW Brumbaugh, Kingwood, TX
Thomas J. Rousseau, Asheville, NC
Betsy JOHANNES Tellock, Marietta, GA
Gary G. Robison, Waunona, WI
Patricia KROGMAN Schroeder, Cadott, WI
Cynthia HARTLEY Steil, Freeport, IL

1961
Anona GERDES Jones, Middleton, WI
Albert Hale, Granton, WI
Ruth SOUTHERD Herzog, Shoreview, MN

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Emma BOYD Rodwell, De Forest, WI
Anna JOHNSON Schneider, Monroe, WI
Ruth A. STEWART Christensen, Watertown, WI

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 Corrections: In the fall 2009 edition, we incorrectly stated that Don Wickstrom started Quest Industries four years ago, but it was actually eight years ago. In that same issue, we spelled Sharon Kurieck Verbeet’s name incorrectly. We apologize for the errors.
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**March**

6  Alumni Pub Crawl  
   PSC Brewery, Potosi Brewery, the Annex and Second Street

12  Cubs vs. Brewers Alumni Tailgate  
in Phoenix, AZ

13  Cubs vs. Cincinnati Alumni Tailgate  
in Mesa, AZ

14  Alumni Social at Thunder Canyon  
in Tuscon, AZ

18  Green Bay Social at St. Brendan’s Inn  
Green Bay, WI

25  Engineering, Mathematics and Science Expo  
Ottensman Hall, Platteville, WI

**April**

17  Alumni Social and Tour at Minhas Craft Brewery  
Monroe, WI

**May**

8  Commencement  
Platteville, WI

14  Social at Moosejaw Restaurant  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

14-15  Wilderness Weekend  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

20  Alumni Social in Sheboygan  
Sheboygan, WI

21  Alumni Golf Outing  
The Bull at Pinehurst Farms

*A complete schedule of alumni events can be found online and tickets can be purchased at [http://alumni.uwplatt.edu/events](http://alumni.uwplatt.edu/events)*