Gary L. Miller is driving for an innovating, transforming and regionally focused UW-Green Bay and engineering, healthcare, music, theatre and more.

ALL BUSINESS

and engineering, healthcare, music, theatre and more

MAY 2015
Greetings!

In fall 2015, UW-Green Bay will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

We’re planning reunions, an open house and programs on campus and in the community that will recall our history and thank our supporters. We’ll offer fun ways for 32,000 alumni to reconnect and for 6,500 current students to embrace tradition. We’ll welcome back founding faculty and our earliest graduates, and we’ll marvel together at how Edward Weidner’s dream has become a modern, highly respected university.

Our 50th isn’t merely about nostalgia, however. It’s about the future.

At its founding in 1965, UW-Green Bay was one of America’s most innovative institutions, organized around the idea that students should tackle great problems. In the global knowledge economy of today, we must reinvest in our innovative roots to power education and economic prosperity for our region and the nation.

We’ll do this by focusing our energies on the three Powers of the Phoenix: the Power of Innovation, the Power of Transformation and the Power of Place. You’ll be hearing more about this vision and our progress in the coming year.

With inspiration from our past and from the Phoenix itself — a mythical bird that is periodically reborn or regenerated — we at UW-Green Bay will use our anniversary as an opportunity to reshape our University for the future.

Go Phoenix!

Gary L. Miller
Chancellor
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on the cover
The newly remodeled headquarters of InitiativeOne were the setting in late April for a gathering of business and political leaders who heard UW-Green Bay Chancellor Gary L. Miller announce details of a partnership that gives the University a presence in downtown Green Bay.
One other thing: Gary L. Miller stays on message.

From his initial weeks as chancellor and first major speech last fall through to his congratulatory remarks to this May’s graduating seniors, Miller has adhered to a message and vision now familiar to those on campus, local news media and many in the Green Bay community.

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, he says, for reasons both external and internal, is soon to be a different institution than it is today.

It will be bolder, more nimble and, ultimately, larger. It will arrive there by harnessing what he calls the “Powers of the Phoenix” — innovation, transformation and place.

Not even the specter of a record budget cut obscures the long-term vision.

When the fiscal year begins July 1 UW-Green Bay is likely to have a $4 million hole to patch, its share of the hotly debated plan introduced by the governor to slash up to $300 million from the annual UW System budget.

Miller has been blunt in advising the campus community that layoffs, program consolidations and service reductions are all but unavoidable. At the same time, he invariably adds a note of reassurance.

“We’re going to get through this,” he’ll say, “and emerge stronger.”

Innovation

We are living in an interdependent world and a growing innovation economy. To prosper, our students must be entrepreneurs in their careers. They must exhibit extraordinary creativity, collaborative abilities and flexibility. They must not fear the world and its complexity.

— Miller inauguration remarks, November 2014

Miller joined UW-Green Bay last August after serving previously as the chancellor of the University of North Carolina Wilmington. One of his first actions in Green Bay was to appoint a University Planning and Innovation Council, similar to the internal faculty/staff advisory panel he had at Wilmington.

He has asked for more and better data-driven analysis of the way his new school, UW-Green Bay, deploys its resources.

From business practices to student recruitment to the way Academic Affairs delivers programs, he directed a critical review of current practices. He floated a new plan for academic dean reporting lines.

He stirred the pot with a campus essay suggesting the time was right to think about moving on from UW-Green Bay’s traditionally untraditional academic structure. (He was questioning administrative configuration, not the foundational idea that student and faculty inquiry be unrestricted by disciplinary boundaries. Nevertheless, the essay prompted plenty of discussion.)

“To teach our students to be innovative, we must be innovative ourselves,” Miller says. “Doing things differently isn’t necessarily a bad thing.”

In a mid-May memo to employees, he said he is likely to announce executive-level reorganization by the end of June affecting external operations, marketing, communication, development and, down the line, student affairs. With an eye on enrollment and growth, Miller suggested the Enrollment Services and Adult Access units could see changes. The way faculty time is apportioned for student advising and unit leadership is being reviewed.

Transformation

Today, more than 60 percent of the students who join us at UW-Green Bay come from families with no tradition in higher education. We serve over 600 returning adults... more than 300 veterans... the Phuture Phoenix program is an opportunity for us to transform the lives of hundreds more underserved students in our region... the need for access to the opportunity at UWGB is immense...

Miller speaks often of the great transformative power of higher education, and the role of UW-Green Bay in helping its region navigate change. The University helps students reach their potential and transform themselves and their world.
Miller, continued...

Northeastern Wisconsin needs more of this, not less.

“The University is going to get bigger,” Miller says. “There will be a great, energizing diversity from people who don’t normally go to college, or haven’t in the past, or not in the numbers we expect in the future.”

The growth is likely to be fueled by returning adults, transfers seeking to finish degrees or add a new credential, people of color who will make up a greater share of the region’s demographic mix, and those attracted by an updated program array.

University leaders have identified programs related to health care and data science as demonstrated growth areas. The Cofrin School of Business, already with the most majors on campus, is another. “Our business school is small for an MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) of this size,” Miller says.

He also mentions programs across campus — Theatre and Music as just two examples — where strong facilities, faculty or other factors might provide competitive advantages.

Place

This is a place with special potential. The UWGB of the future will embrace Green Bay and this region. We will look outward.

Miller drew extended applause at his first major campus/community address, six months ago at the Weidner Center, when he turned to Mayor Jim Schmitt, a previous speaker seated on stage, and pledged his commitment to “extending our physical presence in some way to a vibrant and growing downtown Green Bay.”

Since then, the University has moved quickly to roll out a new business school partnership with InitiativeOne, downtown, and engage local industry in three newly added, long-sought majors in engineering technology (see stories facing page).

“You’re going to see a wave of community engagement for this University,” Miller told an audience of civic and business leaders recently.

Longtime local executive Tim Weyenberg agrees, saying “Initiative One is just the start… there are a number of other things in the pipeline, downtown and elsewhere.”

Weyenberg should know. Appointed last year as the first Executive-in-Residence for the Austin E. Cofrin School of Business, he’s a resource for faculty, students and administrators and a key liaison to the community.

“It’s obvious this chancellor understands that UW-Green Bay’s role in regional economic development is crucial and core,” Weyenberg says. “He’s the real deal in understanding the need to reach out to the business community. Some of that has happened in the past, of course, but now there’s a greater sense of urgency and action.”

Overcoming the challenges

Even during spring Commencement week, probably the happiest time of the year on the UW-Green Bay campus — a record 950 or so students are celebrating degrees this May — there’s a mood of anxiety among employees.

Veteran faculty and staff have been through previous rounds of belt-tightening. This time, given the magnitude of the likely reduction, concerns about downsizing are more widespread. A freeze on filling vacant positions, in effect since February, has stretched some departments thin. Voluntary separation packages were offered in April to 150 employees over the age of 55, about one-quarter of the workforce. Thirty-eight expressed interest. Any departures will yield temporary salary savings that buy time to restructure programs and positions for the long term.

Miller has been visiting academic units and meeting with various employee groups this spring to continue soliciting creative cost-saving and revenue-enhancing ideas. He thanked faculty and staff for their “courage and optimistic spirit” and concern for the impact on students and co-workers.

“I understand the anxiety,” the chancellor told a campuswide forum in February. “It’s hard to talk openly with a challenge this big. But we have to do that if we want to come through this with most of us here, with a University that can grow, and a University that can continue to be a great university.”

Student government president Hannah Stepp, a member of the campus planning team, is encouraged. “He’s always asking, ‘How will this affect students?’ As the student rep, that’s gratifying to hear.”

Miller says he is confident the UW-Green Bay Foundation Board and Council of Trustees, an influential, 30-member group of business executives, civic leaders and alumni, some with national and even international profiles, will remain a strength.

Chairperson Lou LeCalsey praises Miller’s businesslike approach and leadership.

“In my view, he’s handled a serious situation well,” LeCalsey observes, “by preparing for the worst-case scenario — significant cuts that could damage the University — all the while looking for ways to preserves the institution’s ability to recover, and continuing to make the case for budget relief.

“We’ve had more than 50 separate meetings involving Trustees and legislators, where we’re advocating for the University and asking our elected officials to reconsider the level of these cuts. There is tremendous support for UW-Green Bay.”

— Christopher Sampson

“This community has huge expectations. People are interested in the programs we offer, the experiences our students get here, our ability to reach out in the community, and the capacity of our graduates to contribute to their businesses, organizations and neighborhoods.”

— Chancellor Gary L. Miller
Engineering Technology
has industrial-strength fan base

The executives, educators, plant managers, industrial designers and engineers filling the presentation room turned their attention to UW-Green Bay Chancellor Gary L. Miller as he stepped forward to begin his briefing.

Miller paused at the outset to mark the moment.

“Every chancellor in the history of UW-Green Bay has wanted engineering, and worked to get it,” he began, sharing credit with predecessors and partners. “Well, finally, here we have it.”

To be precise, the University has engineering technology — and a trio of newly approved majors that, beginning this fall, will enroll students pursuing engineering technology bachelor’s degrees in electrical, mechanical and environmental engineering.

The April informational session, on location at the De Pere-based engineering and science firm Foth, attracted about 60 participants and was the second of two well-attended community sessions this spring. Industry partners asked questions and offered input on curriculum. They were reminded of opportunities to host internships, to consider joint projects with faculty and students, and to publicize the program’s availability to their workforce.

“We have faculty who are strong teachers and who also have the desire to be on the factory floor, out in the engineering environment,” Miller said. “It is very beneficial to have them out there working and connecting to business.”

The new program promises seamless transfers and multiple points of entry from member schools of the region’s NEW ERA consortium. An important UW-Green Bay partner is Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, which has an existing two-year program and what Miller describes as “some of the finest engineering teaching facilities you’ll see.”

Mark Weber, NWTC dean of trades and engineering technology, estimated there are more than a thousand working professionals in engineering technology and related careers in the region, and a solid pool of potential bachelor’s degree applicants.

Weber described engineering technology as a field with a focus on applied, hands-on, problem-solving skills. Increasingly, he said, employers are building design staffs by hiring equal numbers of engineering tech grads and those with bachelor’s of engineering preparation.
Area of Concern?

Actually, Cat Island work, UWGB research demonstrate big new optimism on lower bay

These are upbeat times on the body of water that gives the city of Green Bay and its public four-year university their names. There is work under way that has birdwatchers and fish managers, student and faculty researchers, private citizens and water-quality experts excited and eager to see what comes next.

There is optimism about nature restoration being given a boost by man and machine in the form of a stone wave barrier reaching two-and-a-half miles into the lower bay — a mega-scale project $22 million and 30 years of planning in the making.

There is quiet confidence UW-Green Bay, the original “Eco U,” is today making scientific contributions as valuable as any in its rich, 50-year history of working to restore and ensure the health of one of America’s most ecologically significant freshwater estuaries.

At UW-Green Bay, one of this year’s budget bright spots came when Profs. Bob Howe and Amy Wolf of Natural and Applied Sciences heard yes on their application for external funding for a comprehensive assessment of the bay.

At the heart of the matter is “de-listing,” potential removal of AOC (Area of Concern) designation applied to the southern bay and Fox River below the dam with respect to fish and wildlife populations. The local site is one of 43 Great Lakes Areas of Concern designated by the International Joint Commission of Canada and the United States in a 1987 water quality agreement.

UW-Green Bay, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, is getting $471,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to pass judgment on the waterway’s health, and recommendations moving forward.

The Howe-Wolf team includes staff and more than a dozen undergraduate and graduate students (the sort of high-level student involvement that is a source of pride for UWGB faculty) who will divvy up the workload.

They’ll look at field data, access previous studies, analyze the historical record, go in-depth in documenting the current state of the bay including what has worked and what hasn’t, and tie it together for a recommendation regarding de-listing. There’s a sense the Green Bay process can be a model.

“Although the ‘Area of Concern’ is still clearly degraded, more and more evidence has shown that this is a world-class site for freshwater fish, colonial and migratory birds, and other wildlife species,” says Howe, who is among many who believe a healthier bay means a healthier Northwestern Wisconsin.

“I view Green Bay as comparable to Chesapeake Bay on the East Coast and San Francisco Bay on the West Coast — places where natural resources have experienced degradation, but places where these resources are still very much alive and are vital to the future local economy and quality of life.”

“This project is important for our region because it will yield one of the most, if not the most, specific plans for improving fish and wildlife habitat in the bay and river.”

— Professor Bob Howe, with co-investigator Amy Wolf
Wanted: a new Cat Island Chain

The bay is an ecosystem that, whatever the new AOC analysis reveals, has come a long way. For most of the 1900s, even though the Fox and other tributaries delivered industrial, municipal and agricultural waste and runoff by the ton, the vast lower bay was resilient. Eventually, swimming would become iffy (the city closed Bay Beach by the 1940s) but hunting and fishing remained productive. Areas just offshore were alive with submergent and emergent aquatic vegetation and vast flocks of migratory waterfowl.

In 1973, though, wildlife habitat absorbed a hit still felt today.

A late-spring snowstorm with gale-force winds pounded floodwaters into Green Bay’s northeast side neighborhoods. The millions in property damage prompted an immediate fix: public-works construction of a protective dike along the bay-shore from the mouth of the Fox River to Mahon Creek near UW-Green Bay.

There was no such protection out on the bay, of course. Little noticed and arguably under-appreciated at the time was the washout of most of the historic Cat Island Chain — a string of low-lying barriers guarding the mouth of the Fox. Subsequent years of rising water levels, along with wave and ice scouring, finished the job.

With wave action unchecked, the huge stands of rushes and cattails at the bay’s southwest corner — near the mouth of Duck Creek, still bearing the local name “Peats Lake” on some maps — were doomed. Over-abundant carp rooting the bottom for food muddied the water and further inhibited submerged plant growth.

Proposals to rebuild the barrier islands began to emerge by the late 1980s, with the DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service expressing interest. It would take until 2012, however, for an agreement that would allow construction.

Long-term plans: Breakwall into islands

Because of distance and low-lying shoreline, what is for now the state’s longest open-water breakwall is a little hard to see.

It’s easily visible, of course, to passing planes and also boaters (who are kept at a respectful distance by shallow water). Distant glimpses are possible from heights on the far shore including the upper floors of the UW-Green Bay Cofrin Library or, closer, from passing vehicles on the I-43 harbor bridge.

Birders hoping for nature hikes along the barrier, or a prime perch to get up-close with rarely seen species making a return, are so far disappointed. The gravel road is posted and gated. State and federal agencies are managing the site as a limited-disturbance refuge, for now.

Over the next decade, additional rip-rap will be trucked out to create a series of cells that will link to the breakwater like charms from a bracelet. Clean dredge spoils from the outer harbor will be piped in as fill. The cells will be topped off in order, from farthest to nearest, with connecting sections of the breakwater removed and the road severed as work progresses toward shore.

Once complete, the restoration will create hundreds of acres of islands and at least two square miles of potential shallow-water fish nursery and wildlife habitat on the protected south side.

Another UWGB project gives nature a boost

The southern bay is resilient, but recovery isn’t assured... at least without help.

A 2013 sampling in the vicinity of the new breakwater found little vegetation and a virtually bankrupt seed bank of desirable species. Native plants including bulrush, water celery and wild rice might be slow to reestablish, if at all.

Enter, again, a UW-Green Bay research team. One of the principal investigators, Associate Prof. Matt Dornbush, told Wisconsin Public Radio the scope of the challenge makes for “amazingly unique” science.

“This type of stuff really hasn’t been done,” Dornbush said. “What we’re hoping to do is really try to develop restoration strategies. How do you actually restore these marsh communities to an area this big?”

They’ll start by planting and monitoring. They need to determine what size plantings are optimal, at what water depths, and the best methods (seeding or plugs) for re-establishing native species.

Dornbush, Howe, Wolf and UW-Extension’s Patrick Robinson are the primary researchers, with UW-Green Bay students again taking part. The work is possible through a $225,000 federal grant to the University in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, courtesy of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

continued...
Return of the birds

Tom Prestby’s trail camera and in-person observations have already confirmed the Cat Island restoration is a bonanza for birds.

Over two seasons, the UW-Green Bay graduate student in Environmental Science and Policy has found 30 species of shorebirds and 150 total species using the manmade point. That’s double or triple the numbers recorded at other sites he monitors along the bay.

Piping plovers, red knots and Hudsonian godwits — rare shorebirds that are endangered, threatened and declining — are back. The 35 nesting pairs of Forster’s terns in 2014 were the first lower bay colony in decades. Prestby has added the parasitic jaeger, red phalarope, longtailed duck, red-necked grebe and eared grebe to his list.

Last winter, at least 15 different snowy owls habituated the Cat Island zone. Bald eagles, too, at least 50, were in the area, sometimes feeding on ducks clustered in spots kept ice-free by current or warmwater discharge.

Allowed access for his research, Prestby has spent at least 400 hours counting birds in-person, and countless more examining the 80,000-plus images captured by his trail cam, pre-set to photograph every five minutes.

By carefully comparing his in-person records with the trail-cam evidence shortly before and after his visits, Prestby might also give site managers a basis for an eventual decision on how much public access is optimal, especially for rare or reclusive species during breeding season.

(For his part, over a thousand visits, Prestby says no matter how quietly he closed the car door or stealthily approached the remote viewing spot, he invariably put at least a few birds on the move.)

In any event, Prestby is grateful species such as American white pelicans, Caspian terns and gulls are abundant and, so far, predators are not.

“They foxes and coyotes haven’t figured it out yet,” Prestby says, “which is good, because until those road sections are removed, nesting fledglings would be like an all-you-can-eat buffet. Hopefully they will continue to shy away from making the trek out to the islands.”

For UW-Green Bay, bay research is natural

The UW-Green Bay review of whether the time is right to de-list lower Green Bay will take until August 2016. It will keep Howe, Wolf, their students, and staff members Erin Giese, Michael Stiefvater, Kimballie McKeefry, Bobbie Webster and graduate assistant Stephanie Beilke busy on top of other, ongoing duties.

It also keeps them on a path long-traveled by campus researchers.

As far back as the 1960s, Prof. Emeriti Bud Harris and Paul Sager compiled baseline research on the bay’s health, and Robert Wenger and Jack Day, among others, contributed important systems analysis and mathematical modeling.

Harris helped craft the first remedial action plan, and he was local coordinator of a $13 million EPA study that tracked the dispersal of toxic pollutants through the ecosystem. The findings — that PCBs could not be brought under control until contaminated upstream sediments were addressed — led to Fox River dredging work only now nearing completion.

Over time, the work of Harris, Sager, Wenger, Day and later, the late David Dolan served to counter what was once common public sentiment around the time of the 1972 Clean Water Act: water pollution was primarily a point-source, industrial problem.

They and current-day researchers including Dornbush, Paul Baumgart, Kevin Fermanich and Michael Zorn (the latter two with their own $225,000 grant) have advanced a watershed message urging private citizens to be mindful of runoff in their own towns and backyards, even miles inland.

Today, the focus is finding best practices to reduce phosphorous-rich sediment from reaching the bay, where oxygen-robbing algae blooms raise concerns about sporadic, seasonal “dead zones” that send fish fleeing. The web of partners includes UW-Green Bay, UW Sea Grant, the DNR, UW-Milwaukee and the metropolitan sewerage district’s research arm, NEW Water. (Our October 2013 magazine spotlighted those connections and the exhaustive research of NEW Water’s Tracy Valenta, a UWGB alumna. It’s archived at Inside Online.)

Meanwhile — in keeping with veteran professor Howe’s assessment of the prolific, damaged yet rebounding ecosystem as a glass half-full — still another UWGB researcher and his students are netting new surprises.

Assistant Prof. Patrick Forsythe, hired three years ago to start a fisheries program, is finding evidence the bay’s recovery extends beyond the trophy muskellunge, walleye and smallmouth bass fishing that already draws anglers nationwide.

Testing Green Bay tributaries this April, Forsythe, post-doc Chris Houghton and their students were the first to capture tiny, wriggling, larval evidence that another cornerstone species, lake whitefish, has fully returned to the Menominee River.

“They had been gone from that river for at least one hundred years... It was exciting for our students to be part of that research.”

— Professor Patrick Forsythe, Green Bay researcher
Excerpts of Aldrete’s prepared remarks to the Regents:

I’m an ancient historian, and I’d like to begin my brief comments by sharing a bit of trivia about antiquity and the discipline of history itself.

The very first time that the word history was used with its current definition of “a record of past events” was by the Greek writer Herodotus, who lived over 2,000 years ago, in the opening sentence of his famous account of the wars between Greece and Persia. However, the Greek word that he (used), “historia,” did not originally mean “a record of the past.” Prior to Herodotus’ usage in that sentence, “historia” had simply meant “asking questions.” I have always been very strongly attracted to this original meaning of history as an act of asking questions, and, in fact, view it as being squarely at the core of my philosophy, both of teaching and of doing research.

To me, the essence of teaching is the methodology pioneered by another famous person from the ancient world, Socrates, whose pedagogy consisted entirely of posing questions to his students and getting them to formulate and defend arguments.

I employ no textbooks in my classes. In all of them, the reading consists entirely of material written by the actual people that we are studying. And when I read these ancient texts with my students, we are not passively absorbing information. We actively engage the texts, we aggressively interrogate them, we rip them apart and look both for the meanings that the author intended to convey as well as those he or she did not. We consider issues of bias, and think about what sources the author had to draw upon, and we always ask, “Can we believe what the author says, and why, or why not?”

When we begin to examine historical events, it is not a matter of memorizing what happened, but rather exploring WHY things happened, trying to understand how earlier events influenced later ones. We look at history not as an inevitable succession of discrete events, but rather as a complex network of interrelated paths taken and not taken. Discussion, argument, and analysis play a key role in these investigations, and I always try to encourage lively debate in the classroom.

There are three fundamental sets of skills that I try to emphasize in all classes: First, information management: how to collect, organize, and assess information. Second, communication skills: how to express yourself clearly and persuasively, both in speech and in writing. Third, critical thinking: developing the habit of constantly evaluating information according to rigorous, objective standards, and being open to re-assessing your own beliefs according to those same standards.

These are skills that are essential and useful in any career, not just ones directly related to history or the humanities, and even more than that, these are valuable and beneficial to being an engaged, happy, and productive citizen, and making a positive contribution as a member of society generally.

As you are all too well aware, we live in a moment when, across the nation, the value of a university education, and especially, the value of the humanities within that education, is being challenged.

You are the Board of Regents, and the future of the UW System is in your hands. In whatever ways this wonderful education system ends up being transformed or changed over the coming years and decades, I hope that we never lose sight of the original core function of the university, which was to be a place in which informed, thoughtful citizens are forged, and above all, as a place, where questions are asked.

Thank you for your time.

In his own words:
Wisconsin’s top prof talks teaching

UW-Green Bay Frankenthal Professor of History Gregory S. Aldrete thanked his students, colleagues and his wife, Alicia, when he received the 2015 statewide Teaching Excellence Award at the UW System Board of Regents meeting in Waukesha on April 10. He also shared a lesson on the value of history and the humanities. In receiving the prestigious award, Aldrete joined other esteemed UW-Green Bay faculty similarly honored in recent years: Clifton Ganyard, Humanistic Studies (2014) and Regan A.R. Gurung, Human Development (2011). The UW-Green Bay Professional Program in Education received the UW System department of the year honors in 2011.
Skogens share lessons, success with UW-Green Bay
Father and son Dave and Mark Skogen have piloted the growth of Festival Foods from relatively humble beginnings to 22 stores with more than 5,000 employees today. Dave took over the business from his father, Paul, and transformed what was a small chain of IGA stores into Festival Foods in 1990. Mark became President and CEO in 2006, and through his leadership, the company has grown into an industry leader. Dave, now Chairman of the Board, was named “Wisconsin Grocer of the Year” in 2005, and he and his wife, Barb, were named their region’s Outstanding Philanthropists for 2007.

Dave published a book in 2013, Boomerang! Leadership Principles that Bring the Customer Back. He shared his wisdom with students as keynote speaker at UW-Green Bay’s Business Week dinner this spring. Mark serves as a member of the UW-Green Bay Foundation Board and also with the boards of the Green Bay Packers, Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay. He is a devoted Phoenix fan and active member of the Phoenix Fund.

For more on the Skogen’s see INSIDE online.
Dr. Herbert and Crystal Sandmire are active ambassadors for UW-Green Bay, its students and programs. They’re also quiet exemplars of the idea that private citizens can be terrific difference-makers for public higher education.

The couple announced last fall a $1 million scholarship gift for continuing UW-Green Bay students who intend to pursue careers in medicine or related medical fields. That it attracted local media attention wasn’t the point, but it did serve a larger purpose.

“Quite a few people have approached us to talk about it,” Crystal says. “Whether at church, out in the community, with neighbors, at family gatherings… we’re happy because it draws attention not to us but to UWGB and the students.

“It’s a chance to talk about the students and programs there. Also, if it happens to prompt someone else to think about what they can do to support the community and University, that’s a positive, too.”

The Sandmires aren’t done, either. Later this year, they will make their annual donation to their hometown university. It will mark an amazing 47 consecutive years of charitable giving to benefit UW-Green Bay, since 1969.

It’s the longest uninterrupted string of annual giving among the thousands of private individuals who have supported the University and its students over the years.

The million-dollar scholarship donation supplements their earlier contributions to the Herbert F. and Crystal J. Sandmire Scholarship, established in 1987. The seven-figure addition is expected to yield dozens of new scholarship awards annually.

“This gift provides a tremendous boost for our Human Biology program and related areas in helping to prepare the medical professionals of tomorrow,” said UW-Green Bay Chancellor Gary L. Miller, who stressed the importance of healthcare to Northeastern Wisconsin’s economy and quality of life.

Miller also noted the Sandmire gift comes at an important juncture, as UW-Green Bay partners on the new Medical College of Wisconsin satellite campus at St. Norbert College.

“Many of our students wish to remain in the area, and the new MCW campus will allow them to do that,” the chancellor said. “Herb and Crystal’s generosity will help these students pursue their dreams, which truly benefits us all.”

The Sandmire donation tied a record for the University’s largest-ever single scholarship donation. In 2008, the family of Capt. Craig A. Mueller gave $1 million for scholarships, in accordance with the late alumnus’ wishes.

An award-winning doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Sandmire was a UW-Green Bay community lecturer in Human Biology from 1968 to 1989.

“I have always been impressed with the quality of this institution’s faculty,” Herb Sandmire said, “and the many students who have gone through the laboratory instruction and pursued careers in the health sciences or medicine.”

Crystal started college in her youth at UW-Madison and stopped out until her five children left for college themselves. She enrolled at UWGB as a returning adult student and earned her Communication and the Arts degree in 1980. She was a charter member and officer of the UW-Green Bay Founders Association.

The Sandmires received UW-Green Bay’s highest community honor, the Chancellor’s Award, in 2006.

“We know it’s going for a good cause. When I started college I had two scholarships, so I have always known how important they can be. Education is paramount.”

— Crystal Sandmire, Class of 1980, and co-author of a $1 million scholarship gift
Linc Darner knows about defense. He played Big Ten basketball for Gene Keady at Purdue, after all.

He knows the UW-Green Bay program he inherits has a rich defensive tradition. The winningest seasons in 46 years of Phoenix men’s basketball, after all, came with Dave Buss and his matchup zone in Division II and Dick Bennett and his suffocating man-to-man in Division I. More recently, Green Bay won 24 games and made the NIT each of the last two years with a defense ranked among the best in the Horizon League.

Darner is confident his teams’ style of defending — pressing, attacking and disruptive — can be equally effective, and a perfect complement to fast-breaking, up-tempo, bombs-away offense.

That combination worked so well at Florida Southern College this past season that the Moccasins went 36-1 and ran away from everyone to win the NCAA Division II Championship.

Darner was named Coach of the Year.

Darner became a hot prospect for open D-I positions and the No. 1 choice of UW-Green Bay Athletics Director Mary Ellen Gillespie as the seventh coach in Phoenix history.

“From the very start of our search process, Linc’s experience as a head coach impressed all of us,” Gillespie said.

“He has had tremendous success as a basketball coach and will be an outstanding coach and mentor for our student-athletes. He is a proven winner, and on top of the wins, he runs outstanding programs.”

Darner, 43, has 292 career victories and a .714 winning percentage in 13 seasons. He transformed Florida Southern into a national power, making the NCAA tourney eight out of nine years, and enjoyed similar success in his four years with St. Joseph’s College in Indiana.

Darner replaces Brian Wardle, who compiled a 95-65 record and one Horizon League regular-season title in five seasons before accepting the top job at Bradley.

Wardle’s best Phoenix teams liked to run, but Darner’s blueprint is unlike anything seen previously at the Resch Center or, before that, at the Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena.

Last year, Florida Southern averaged 88 points per game and 10 three-pointers per 40 minutes. In an era when both critics and fans think slow play might be hurting college basketball’s popularity, a faster tempo stands out.

“It’s a great style to coach, because we let guys play,” Darner says. “If guys are open and it’s a good shot for them, we let them shoot it. We don’t say you have to make five, six, seven passes first… The style we play has been a great attraction for the kids.”

Darner’s former teammates at Purdue include NBA star Glenn Robinson and current NCAA coaches Matt Painter (Purdue) and Cuonzo Martin (California Bears). Painter thinks Green Bay made a great hire.

“He has been a proven winner at every stop in his career,” Painter says. “He will bring an exciting brand of basketball to Green Bay.”

“I’m a basketball junkie and I watch college basketball,” Darner says. “Growing up in the Midwest, I know how good the Horizon League is, how good the teams are, so when the Green Bay job opened up I just thought it would be a perfect fit.”

Darner will be joined in Green Bay by his wife Kristen, their daughter, Layne (14), and son, Tate (9).
Apps from city climb thanks to donors, Phuture Phoenix

Through the generosity of private donors, more than 100 high school students from the city of Green Bay have applied to UW-Green Bay for free this year.
Since the fall 2015 application period opened, the standard $44 application fee has been waived for students at three Phuture Phoenix partner schools – Green Bay East, West, and Preble. Students were also able to take advantage of “Hit Submit” application assistance sessions, lunch events and other programs designed to make it easier for students to apply to colleges and universities.
The numbers are rising, too, as UW-Green Bay expects more applications from local schools into the early summer.
The application offer is funded by several longtime donors and friends of Phuture Phoenix. It’s the latest initiative for the award-winning program, which already sponsors fall tour days to bring fifth-graders from Title I schools throughout Northeastern Wisconsin to campus, and arranges mentoring for students in grades 6-12.
UW-Green Bay has seen significant gains from East and West high schools. Applications from West total more than 50 this year, double last year’s total.

UW-Green Bay is getting some much-valued recruiting assistance from a powerful teammate with a championship reputation and winning record: The Green Bay Packers.

A Lambeau Field tour complete with skybox stop (above) and locker room visit was made possible in April for high school students who have been admitted to the University but won’t be official until they register for classes in June.
The idea is to make this fall’s new freshmen feel welcome, to generate a little Titletown excitement, and also to ensure that applicants accepted by multiple schools follow through and enroll at Green Bay.

PH.D. FOR FOUNDING PHUTURE PHOENIX

UW-Green Bay awarded an honorary doctoral degree to community advocate Virginia (Ginny) Riopelle during the University’s commencement ceremonies in December at the Weidner Center. Riopelle, a longtime UW-Green Bay Trustee, fundraising leader and the co-founder of the University’s award-winning Phuture Phoenix program, received a framed Doctor of Laws degree from Chancellor Gary L. Miller (right) and Associate Provost Greg Davis. The citation noted that in the years since earning her teaching certification at UWGB, Riopelle has been a tireless champion for students in K-12 and higher education. Most notably, she is the creator and co-founder of Phuture Phoenix, which in little more than a decade has shown more than 15,000 local schoolchildren that education matters, and college is possible.

Lambeau Field tours help SEAL the DEAL for newcomers

UW-Green Bay and other colleges and universities in the Upper Midwest have been dealing with a falloff of traditional-age freshmen in recent years as a temporary demographic dip moves through the high school pipeline. This year, with a concerted recruitment effort, the UW-Green Bay Admissions Office reports progress in reversing that trend. Admits are up more than 5 percent.
The Phoenix Night at Lambeau attracted about 100 visitors. Reaction was positive.

One parent of a potential freshman wrote back in an email the next day, “My daughter is now very excited about attending UW-Green Bay in the fall. I was pleasantly surprised by all of the faculty, staff and students who were there sharing their experience and excitement for our campus... after all of the encouragement and her ability to see how much she can be a part of the campus, my daughter is very happy with her decision.”

Chancellor Gary and Georgia Miller hosted the reception, held in partnership with the Packers on the fourth floor balcony overlooking the Lambeau Atrium. Staff members from UW-Green Bay’s offices of financial aid, registration, orientation, study abroad, athletics, diversity and others were part of the resource team and fair.
The president and CEO of the Packers, Mark Murphy, is a strong supporter of UW-Green Bay and serves on the Foundation Board and Council of Trustees. Murphy says the Packers view UW-Green Bay as an important ally in maintaining and building a strong economy in the team’s home city.
Best College Towns to Find a Job? Try Green Bay

The California-based jobs service ZipRecruiter posted its research this spring on America’s top twenty college towns for finding a job. Green Bay, Wis., was No. 5 on the list! ZipRecruiter says it looked at its database of millions of job postings, calculated the ratio of job applicants to open positions, and ranked U.S. college towns according to the level of competition. ZipRecruiter’s top five, in order, are Fargo (North Dakota State), Boise, Idaho (Boise State), Fort Collins (Colorado State), Madison (UW-Madison) and Green Bay (UW-Green Bay).

BY THE NUMBERS: 17 straight, 28-5, 600, No. 2 in academics

Even with 17 straight conference titles and a 15th trip to the NCAA tournament, it never gets old for the UW-Green Bay women’s basketball team.

Each year brings a new crop of players. This year it was a relatively young Phoenix team that went 28-5, flirted with the AP Top 25 all year and gave Kevin Borseth his 600th career win.

Youth prevailed in the Horizon League Championship game at the Kress in March as the Phoenix took the gold ball and the automatic NCAA bid with an overtime thriller vs. Wright State. Tournament MVP Tesha Buck, a sophomore, had 24 points, and two reserves — freshman Allie LeClaire (17) and sophomore Sam Terry (16) — came up big, as well.

In the NCAA tournament, Green Bay gave undefeated Princeton (31-0) all it could handle but fell late, 80-70. Sophomore Mehryn Kraker had a game-high 21 points and junior Kaili Lukan added 17. The Phoenix loses only two seniors, Megan Lukan and Ellen Edison, from this year’s roster.

One more point of pride for 2014-15: The national publication Inside Higher Ed put its annual twist on the Field of 64 by judging each game in the tournament on academics as measured by the NCAA’s team-by-team classroom performance metric, and the graduation success rate. The Phoenix swept through to the finals, finishing second only to DePaul among the 64 major college schools that qualified for the NCAA tournament.

First Fan takes in first Phoenix game

President Barack Obama was in the house March 21 for the opening game of the 2015 NCAA tournament between No. 8 seed Princeton and No. 9 Green Bay at the Xfinity Center in College Park, Md. Obama was seated with fans from Princeton, where his niece is a reserve forward. Phoenix coach Kevin Borseth shook hands with the POTUS — “I thought it was pretty cool” — just before tipoff, and ESPN cut away often to presidential reaction shots. Phoenix star Mehryn Kraker tried to make sure Obama’s presence wasn’t a distraction. “We just said ‘focus.’ A couple of our freshmen were a little starry-eyed coming out, and we were like, ‘let’s go!’ It’s a big deal, don’t get me wrong, but we needed to focus on the game.”

SINGING THE PRAISES OF STUDENT WORKER

It was a busy and eventful year for UW-Green Bay senior Cassie Alfheim. The Green Bay native learned in April of her selection as both the UW-Green Bay Student Employee of the Year and the state winner of the same recognition. Alfheim works in the campus Grants and Research Office, where she assists professional staff in ensuring timely and smooth transmission of all grant proposals and serves as a lead liaison for the UW System Posters in the Rotunda event in Madison (see page 20). Alfheim majored in Arts Management, Spanish, and Vocal Performance. She had the honor of being chosen to perform at May 2015 commencement at the Kress Events Center, singing both the “Star-Spangled Banner” to open the program and the “UW-Green Bay Alma Mater” to close it.

TENNIS POWERS TO NCAAS

The Green Bay men’s tennis team continues to make inroads at the NCAA’s highest levels. The Phoenix won another Horizon League title to claim the program’s second straight bid to the Division I Tournament. For the first time, a Phoenix player — senior Michael Tenzer of Neuried, Germany — cracked the national rankings of the top 100 singles players. Tenzer and Leopold Gomez Islinger were first-team all-conference. Coach Mark Thomas’s team had a distinct international flair, with five players from Germany, two from England and one from Spain on the 10-man squad.
PR champions!

UW-Green Bay Communication students earned top prize in one of the region’s most prestigious student public relations competitions earlier this spring. The campus chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America was judged to be No. 1 at the Edelman Case Studies Competition in Chicago hosted by Loyola University and Columbia College. During the case study competition, students competed in teams to find the best solution for the proposed client. Teams then presented to a judging panel of executives from Edelman Public Relations, the world’s largest public relations firm. Communication major Taylor Thomson, president of the UW-Green Bay PRSSA chapter, headed a team that included executive board and chapter members William Canzoneri, Leah Christianson, Sally Henne, Michael Kinscher, Emily Schuh, Kate Lyn Staaben and Katie Vlachina. Faculty adviser is Danielle Bina.

Artwork provides window to REFLECT ON ‘FLAG’

When student Gena Selby affixed adhesive vinyl to the exterior windows of the Mary Ann Cofrin Hall atrium to create her public art installation, titled simply “Flag,” it made an oversized statement in one of the University’s most heavily-trafficked areas.

The giant representation — measuring 30 feet long by 16 feet high — grew out of Selby’s own history of military service and an assignment in Assistant Prof. Alison Stehlik’s Intermediate Sculpture class.

Once her professor cleared the project with campus Facilities Management, designer Selby and family members cut vinyl on-site, climbed ladders and devoted three days in April to installing the piece.

Her choice of a matte-black finish was intentional, of course, “in order to invite the viewer to pause and consider their response to flag imagery.”

In her artist’s notes, Selby observes that the U.S. flag is an unmistakable icon the world over, evoking powerful emotions pro and con. Even in the United States, the widely shared view that the flag symbolizes the great “land of opportunity” is tempered by concern in some quarters that social inequality is a rising problem. Whatever the perspective, Selby writes, “Flag” dominates its space, and passers-by see themselves reflected in the window (and flag) as they view the work.

Some veterans were reminded of a combat soldier’s infrared (IR) flag patch, an identification aid that appears gray in daylight but pops out in vivid detail when viewed through night-vision goggles. Responds Selby, “I didn’t design it with the IR flag in mind, but I am pleased to count this interpretation among the many possible responses.”

Selby knows the military life well. She deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and around the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion she’s known as Major Selby, commander of C Company.

A senior pursuing double majors in Art and Arts Management, she was selected to exhibit at this spring’s Academic Excellence Symposium, spotlighting the research and creative abilities of top UW-Green Bay students. There she showed prints and etchings inspired by industrial landscapes of the city of Green Bay.

— CS

UWGB STUDENTS TOP ADDY AWARDS

UW-Green Bay Art and Design students scored big at the local Addy Awards program hosted earlier this spring by the Fox River Ad Club chapter of the American Advertising Federation. Graphic design student Logan Sprangers — who has freelanced professionally in motion graphics and cinematography — won three awards, including two Gold Awards for animated promotional spots. Design and web intern Neil Ropson snared a Silver Ball for his conceptualization of an illustrated brand package for a hypothetical line of Converse sneakers (left).
Pound for pound, biology student among AMERICA’S STRONGEST

It’s not a secret, but according to Human Biology major Kimmy Johnson, most people don’t know about her success outside the classroom. This April, Johnson tested herself against some of America’s top powerlifters in the USAPL Collegiate Powerlifting National Championships in Atlanta, competing in the 57 kg (125 pound) weight class.

With a bench press of 240 pounds, roughly twice her weight, and a dead lift of 385 (you do the math), she not only took first in her weight class, she was named the meet’s best female lifter for her pound-for-pound performance.

“Everything seemed to fall into place perfectly even though it was my first time competing out of state,” says Johnson, who with her win earned an invite to represent America in an international meet in the Czech Republic in September.

Johnson took up powerlifting in high school to gain strength for softball. She placed fourth in state her junior year and then took gold at the prep powerlifting nationals her senior year.

Johnson works at the Kress Events Center as a weight room attendant, group fitness instructor and personal trainer, and she’s active across campus in the Dietetics Club and student fitness club. With travel for competitions, it’s a hectic schedule.

“My professors helped me move my test dates because I had to miss a few for Nationals,” she says. “Other than that, I don’t think many people know what I do.”

After graduating in December 2016, Johnson hopes to use her experiences to help others improve their health.

— KS ’15

Diverse programming finds an audience

In a year in which UW-Green Bay is enrolling record numbers of students of color — about 800, or 12 percent of total enrollment — programs aimed at promoting diversity are finding an audience. Justin Mallet, the University’s director of diversity, intends to expand the capacity of the next Soul Food Dinner to 325 because this February’s event hosted by the Black Student Union was at capacity. The Intertribal Student Council’s Pow Wow in April generated good attendance. Also at or near capacity was an April panel discussion on “Race Relations and the Local Police,” which yielded positive media coverage.

CHANCELLOR, AD EARN KEY NCAA POSITIONS

In the coming years, UW-Green Bay will be represented on two influential NCAA committees — the one that passes judgment on possible rules violations and the one that selects the field for the NCAA women’s basketball tournament. Chancellor Gary L. Miller learned in May that he has been appointed to a three-year term on the Committee on Infractions, which is charged with deciding infraction cases involving D-I member institutions and their employees. Earlier this year, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Mary Ellen Gillespie was appointed to the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Committee. Her five-year term on the 10-member panel will begin Sept. 1. Miller called the appointments “fantastic recognition” for UW-Green Bay and Phoenix Athletics.

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WPS helps brighten the Weidner

Chancellor Gary L. Miller poses with Chuck Cloninger, president of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, to celebrate the latest act in the Green Bay-based utility’s long record of support for the Weidner Center and UW-Green Bay. The Wisconsin Public Service Foundation donated $100,000 that will go toward technology upgrades for the high-performance theatrical lighting in the 2,000-seat Cofrin Family Hall.

SWEET YEAR for UW-Green Bay scholarships

The UW-Green Bay Foundation, Inc., had another banner year in 2014, collecting $5.7 million in private philanthropic support for the University, and $2 million in pledges.

One growth area has been donor-endowed scholarships, where a flurry of gifts has boosted the named-and-annual scholarship payout to more than one-half million dollars.

Spread over several hundred deserving recipients, the scholarship program typically provides awards in the $500 to $1,500 range, although some are more. For most, the money isn’t enough to cover all or even half of a semester’s tuition, but it can help with the cost of books, free up time for studying by allowing students to cut back on outside earnings, and add the prestige of scholarship selection to a resume.

Student Jordan Marty, a senior Biology major from Green Bay, is among this year’s recipients. Marty earned the Ganga and Elizabeth Nair Endowed Scholarship for Natural Science, established in 2010 in memory of longtime UW-Green Bay professor and world-renowned forest pathologist Ganga Nair.

It’s customary for grateful recipients to write thank-you cards to their donors, but Marty made an additional gesture. He presented Nair’s widow with a Mason-jar of pure honey collected on campus through the new student beekeeping club, of which he’s a member.

“I did it because it was difficult to express my feelings of gratitude by words alone,” Marty says. “This was my first scholarship award, so I hadn’t experienced that kind of generosity before.”

HISTORY REMAINS

The Green Bay Symphony Orchestra’s 100-year collection of music scores will remain available for community use via the Cofrin Library’s Area Research Center. The youth and orchestral music libraries were purchased and donated by physician Herb Coussons after the GBSO disbanded as a professional organization. The Youth Symphony, Civic Symphony and music programs at UWGB and St. Norbert College retain access to the collection that also includes photos, news clippings, season program books and historic audio recordings of concerts.

‘BIG DATA’ BRINGS DATA SCIENCE MASTER’S

UW-Green Bay has partnered with UW-Extension and five other campuses on a new 36-credit online master’s degree in data science. Grads will help decision-makers make better use of the flood of information from a growing number of sources: online user-input data, computer-generated log data, supplemental databases accessible from external sources and the web, and a rapidly expanding network of remote electronic sensors now commonly embedded in strategic locations, products or systems.

MSW ENTERS NEW ERA

UW-Green Bay, operating for the first time as its own free-standing program, will enroll approximately 85 students this fall in the “new” Master of Social Work program. The degree isn’t exactly new, though: For a dozen years previous, UW-Green Bay partnered on a collaborative MSW with UW-Oshkosh. New this year, and thanks to the success of the joint venture, the UW Regents authorized each school to operate independently.

Cofrin School of Business, Nursing get positive reviews

The Cofrin School of Business, pursuing elite recognition with accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, had its self-study report approved, a key step in a multi-year process. Also this spring, reviewers from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education reacted favorably to the Nursing program’s bid for re-accreditation at the undergraduate level and initial accreditation for the online master’s in Nursing Leadership and Management in Health Systems.
UW-GREEN BAY FACULTY, GRADS EAGER FOR MEDICAL COLLEGE DEBUT

Professors including Amanda Nelson and Craig Hanke (above, with student) are eagerly anticipating, even more so than usual, the start of fall semester classes.

The twist is that they’ll begin teaching in August, and not at UW-Green Bay but across town in De Pere, at the location of the new Medical College of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Nelson and Hanke are counted among the ten UW-Green Bay faculty members who will join five from St. Norbert College in teaching part time with MCW-Green Bay, the medical college’s first branch campus outside Milwaukee.

“I think there is a lot of excitement,” says Hanke, who will continue to spend the majority of his time teaching physiology and neurobiology for UW-Green Bay’s Human Biology program.

“Our students here recognize an opportunity for more seats in medical programs, and we have a lot of students who apply to medical school. To be able to go to medical school in a region where they’ve grown up and potentially to transition right into a clinically-based practice in this area, makes it that much more exciting.”

Nelson, who teaches courses in anatomy, physiology and kinesiology at UW-Green Bay, sees benefits not only for current students who are interested in med school, but for the region as a whole.

The first cohort of about two dozen students arrives in July, and classes begin in August The MCW-Green Bay classrooms will be housed on the St. Norbert campus, but students also will use MCW facilities at Bellin College. When students begin their clinical rotations, they will receive training at partner locations including Bellin Health, Hospital Sisters Health System, Prevea Health, and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Milo C. Huempfner Outpatient Clinic. MCW has also recruited instructors and mentors from among the ranks of local physicians.

“UW-Green Bay officials note that the University’s four-year undergraduate program in Human Biology has a long and successful track record in preparing graduates for healthcare careers and medical school admission.

Scott Furlong, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, says UW-Green Bay faculty teaching at MCW will have even greater insight to share with bachelor’s degree students here who are contemplating medical careers.

About 400 new physicians graduate annually from Wisconsin’s two medical schools, MCW and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. MCW reported earlier this year that it already had 7,000 students apply for admission to the highly rigorous and selective program.

MCW Green Bay will use an entirely new, accelerated model that eliminates summer breaks and cuts down the time and cost to students earning a medical degree.

UW-Green Bay faculty members selected to teach in the MCW-Green Bay program are:

- Craig Hanke, Ph.D., Human Biology
- Dennis Lorenz, Ph.D., Psychology
- James Marker, Ph.D., Human Biology
- Daniel Meinhardt, Ph.D., Human Biology
- Brian Merkel, Ph.D., Human Biology
- Amanda Nelson, Ph.D., Human Biology
- Debra Pearson, Ph.D., RD, Nutrition
- Uwe Pott, Ph.D., Human Biology
- Dean Von Dras, Ph.D., Psychology
- Sarah VanderZanden, DVM, Human Biology and practicing veterinarian

“We have a shortage of primary-care physicians in this area... This (program) is going to keep some of our best students in the area, right in our own backyard.”

– Professor Amanda Nelson
Seven hand-picked student researchers from UW-Green Bay joined more than 125 other undergraduates from across the state in exhibiting at the 12th Annual Posters in the Rotunda spotlight event at the State Capitol in Madison on April 22.

The UW-Green Bay students posed pre-event with faculty and administrators making the trip including Chancellor Gary L. Miller and Profs. Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz and Jennifer Lanter (top row, above).

Undergraduates from each of the System’s 26 campuses filled the rotunda with poster displays to share the findings of their diverse research subjects which, in many cases, are the culmination of multiple academic years of study and collaboration with faculty mentors and community partners throughout Wisconsin. UW System officials say the event demonstrates to legislators, state leaders, alumni and others that the state’s public universities are national leaders in undergraduate research.

Lidia Nonn, director of the Office of Grants and Research at UW-Green Bay, has been to every “Posters” since its inception in 2004. She said this year’s UWGB delegation was again strong – the University prides itself on its problem-focused curriculum – and the students selected represented a variety of academic interests. (See profiles on these pages.)

“The legislators who visited, the alumni, and people from other campuses who browsed the exhibits came away impressed by the range of subjects, and the depth and quality of our students’ work,” Nonn said.

UW System President Ray Cross made a point of visiting each presenter and engaging the students in discussion about their projects.

“With every year, and at every UW System institution, research becomes a more essential part of our students’ experience and success,” Cross told a reporter. “The state of Wisconsin grows and benefits, too.”

**Bilingualism in healthcare**

Julia Rose Shariff, a graduating senior from Green Bay double majoring in Human Biology and Spanish, presented her research on the topic *The Lost Connection: Benefits of Being a Bilingual Professional in the U.S. Healthcare System*. Shariff has been accepted into the first-year cohort at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Faculty adviser: Cristina Ortiz, Humanistic Studies.
Tracking birds at a lakeshore refuge

Lindsay Hansen of Kiel, a graduating senior in Biology, displayed a poster describing her ornithology research at ecologically important sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Its title: *Monitoring the Importance of River Mouth and Shoreline Habitats for Migratory Birds at Kingfisher Farm and Nearby Natural Areas in Manitowoc County*. Faculty adviser: Robert Howe, Natural and Applied Sciences.

How do children learn plurals?

Katharine Bright of Green Bay and Kayla Hucke of Hartland, graduating seniors in Human Development and Psychology, pursued their joint project by way of child’s play — and serious research with toddlers — at the UW-Green Bay Language Learning Lab. Their poster was *Impact of Phonology and Number on Children’s Novel Plural Production*. Faculty adviser: Jennifer Lanter, Human Development.

Mapping Marinette-area groundwater

Christa Kananen of Sobieski, a May graduating senior in Geoscience, shared her research poster *Drawdown of the Potentiometric Surface in the Cambrian-Ordovician Aquifer in Marinette County*. Her work earned this year’s UW-Green Bay Sager Scholarship for Scientific Writing presented to the undergraduate who best demonstrates excellence in scientific writing. Faculty adviser: John Luczaj, Natural and Applied Sciences.

Replicating a cancer-fighting compound

Seniors Lauren Anderson of Green Bay and Noel Craig of Shawano shared the results of their chemistry-focused *Efforts Directed Toward the Synthesis of Obo-lactone*, part of ongoing work to mimic an anti-cancer compound found naturally in a tree native to Southeast Asia. Faculty adviser: Julie Wondergem, Natural and Applied Sciences.

How do children learn plurals?
Education master’s takes to the road (and finds success) following Act 10 shakeup

Two years ago, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Master’s Program in Applied Leadership for Teaching and Learning had to adapt in the wake of Wisconsin Act 10. The legislation rewrote the relationship between the state’s local school districts and teachers unions. District funding of professional development, and pay scales that rewarded post-baccalaureate degrees, were no longer guaranteed.

For UW-Green Bay, the answer was a new model: Take your education master’s on the road and on-site, partnering with the Plymouth School District as a pilot.

Fast-forward to this spring. About 15 teachers from the first cohort at Plymouth graduates have finished their master’s degrees, and a dozen more expected to complete their degrees over the summer. In all, the 33 educators receiving graduate degrees in May were the largest-ever graduating class for the Master’s in Applied Leadership for Teaching and Learning.

Meanwhile, Plymouth has committed to another cohort of 20 beginning in fall of 2015.

“It went unbelievably well,” said Tim Kaufman, former chair of UWGB’s education program, who worked with faculty member Linda Tabers-Kwak and staff members Carmen Leuthner, Amy Bartelme and Mary Valitchka.

There was no attrition from the 27 educators who started two years ago — Pre-K to 12th grade teachers, social workers, psychologists and student services personnel, as well.

“The board and the Plymouth district committed to paying the tuition and to building in incentives,” Kaufman said. “Since the candidates were doing actual school research, they fit very nicely into school and district goals.”

From left: school board members Jamie Gambrell, Sally Isley and Bob Travis; Dan Mella, Plymouth School District assistant superintendent; Claire Emley, adjunct instructor, UW-Green Bay Outreach and Adult Access; Timothy Kaufman and Linda Tabers-Kwak, UW-Green Bay associate professors of Education; Carrie Dassow, Plymouth superintendent; Todd Hunt, Plymouth, principal of Horizon Elementary. Not present: Carmen Leuthner, Outreach and Adult Access.

In January, management professor David Radosevich of Business Administration became the first UW-Green Bay faculty member awarded the prestigious Austin E. Cofrin Chair in Business. The endowed chair supports work honoring the innovative legacy of Austin E. Cofrin, founder of Fort Howard Paper Company.

Prof. Laura Riddle has been honored with the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s highest regional award, the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion. A member of the Theatre and Dance faculty, she was lauded for her extraordinary contributions to the teaching and production of theatre and dedication to ACTF. Since 1993 she has directed more than 30 productions including seven invited to regional competition, most recently Avenue Q in 2014.

Regan A. R. Gurung, professor of Human Development and Psychology, has been selected to serve on the American Psychological Association committee charged with identifying models for improving undergraduate education in psychology nationwide.

Elected to a three-year term on the national Council for Undergraduate Research is Jennifer Lanter, an associate professor in Human Development and Psychology.

Physics Prof. Heidi Fencl of Natural and Applied Sciences is among six faculty members from across the state selected to lead the UW System’s Faculty Collaboratives project, part of a larger national effort to gauge student success by “learning outcomes and proficiencies.”

Two retiring academic staff members were granted emeritus status. Gary Fewless, longtime lecturer and curator of the University Herbarium — now renamed in his honor — was recognized for his “unrivaled devotion to science, students and the priceless environmental diversity of our region.” Former Registrar and academic adviser Michael Herry was honored for service to students, community and “the power of higher education.”

Lucy Arendt, associate professor and director of the Cofrin School of Business, is co-author with Prof. Emeritus Daniel J. Alesch of the book Long-Term Community Recovery from Natural Disasters. The 2014 book The Fight For the Four Freedoms: What Made FDR and the Greatest Generation Truly Great by Prof. Harvey J. Kaye of Democracy and Justice Studies was named to Bill Moyers’ year-end list of important reads. Getting a ninth printing just in time for Earth Day was Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century, co-edited by Prof. Emeritus Michael E. Kraft, marking the 25th anniversary of its first edition. Another popular text updated for new audiences was the fifth edition of The New Urban Sociology, co-authored by Sociology Prof. Ray Hutchison of Urban and Regional Studies. Hutchison is coordinating an international conference this July in Florence, Italy, that will address rapidly increasing diversity and urbanization in metropolitan areas.

Coral Lee Mackey, academic adviser from 1971 through her retirement in 1998, died April 7 in Milwaukee at age 86.

Donna Dacey, longtime assistant manager and textbook director for the campus bookstore, passed away Dec. 25 at the age of 89. John O. Kalies, 77, a power plant operator for 30 years starting when the Shorewood site was new, died Dec. 9. Former Wisconsin Poet Laureate Ellen Kort, 79, an ad hoc poetry instructor, died April 21 in Appleton.
After a “horrendous” high school career, Justin Connaher found meaning in his life by joining the military. He loved the structure, and the challenge of being a parachute infantryman.

Connaher’s visions of a long U.S. Army career ended abruptly in 1997, however, when a serious parachuting accident left him partly disabled.

From there, he took an entirely new path — one that led back to his hometown university and a 2004 UW-Green Bay degree in Communication and came full circle with his award-winning work as a military photojournalist.

Connaher was selected the 2012 and 2014 Air Force Civilian Photographer of the Year.

Headquartered with the 673rd Air Base Wing, public affairs division, at the Elmendorf-Richardson base in Anchorage, Alaska, Connaher works for all five branches of service. His photos have been featured on the Air Force, Army, and Department of Defense websites, in external publications and the Military Times newspapers, and in national and international media, print, broadcast, and online editions. He captures images that tell the story and stir emotion.

“If people don’t feel something when they look at your work, what was the point? If they feel nothing, you have failed,” Connaher says.

His introduction to the field came when a VA rehabilitation counselor told him the military was in need of journalists and would pay for a camera, so he gave it a shot. A visual competency course at UW-Green Bay opened his eyes to his own passion and aptitude for good photography.

The Army challenged him physically; his education at UW-Green Bay challenged him intellectually.

“My favorite class at UWGB was photography with Prof. Sarah Detweiler. It was a rewarding experience because she pushed me to communicate visually. I learned the true science behind photography and that to be a great photographer, you had to hold a true understanding of how to use and develop film,” Connaher says.

Connaher joined the staff of the Fond du Lac Reporter and earned more than two dozen Gannett, state and national awards before he accepted the Elmendorf-Richardson job in 2011.

— Daniele Frechette ’11

Nancy J. Makuen ’70 communication, who was Nancy Leicht Lambeau when she joined 77 classmates and crossed the stage at UWGB’s first commencement, died Nov. 30 in Ellison Bay at 89. She carried the famous Lambeau name through her marriage to Curly’s son. A guidance counselor, she later married Don Makuen, a UWGB administrator.

A half dozen UW-Green Bay alumni now serve in the Wisconsin State Legislature. The veterans of the group are Senators Dave Hansen ’71 (D-Green Bay) and Rob Cowles ’75 (R-Allouez), who are midway through their latest four-year terms. Frank Lasee ’86 (R-Ledgeview) won a second Senate term last fall. Also re-elected in November to a third, two-year term in the Assembly was state Rep. Scott Krug ’09 (R-Rome). Newly elected to the Assembly were Romaine R. Quinn ’14 (R-Rice Lake) and Tyler Vorpagel ’07 (R-Plymouth). Quinn, 24, is the former mayor of Rice Lake. Vorpagel was previously an aide to U.S. Rep. Tom Petri.

Deborah (Rosenthal) Hood ’77 population dynamics, has co-authored chapters in two new books: Bringing Better Healthcare to the Community: Lessons from a Public-Private Partnership for Cancer Care and Dyad Leadership: When 1+1 Equals More Than 2. She retired as VP of the National Oncology Service Line for Catholic Health Initiatives, Denver.
ALUMNI NOTES

David Kriebel ’77 human biology, visited campus in March to receive the 2015 Earth Caretaker Award presented by the Environmental Management and Business Institute. Director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, Kriebel has been on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Lowell since 1988, where he teaches courses in epidemiology, risk assessment, and research synthesis.

If power industry executive and children’s book author Barbara (Bielmeier) Nick ’83 ever pens a memoir about her atypical career arc, the chapter on her college experience will be central to the story.

Nick is CEO and president of Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, which provides wholesale electricity to 40-plus member cooperatives and municipalities in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

Nationally, she’s one of only a few female chief executives in her industry. Her start in the tech-heavy field, 35 years ago, also sets her apart. It came in communications.

At UW-Green Bay, Nick tutored in the writing skills lab, worked as a linguistics researcher with Prof. Donald Larmouth, and offered English-as-a-Second-Language assistance to international students.

In 1981, she saw a card posted on the job board in the Student Services Building, Wisconsin Public Service Corp., the local utility, was looking for a technical writer. Having studied with the exacting Larmouth, she knew she was qualified.

Karen (Chervenka) Derbique ’81 associate of arts, is the associated director of financial science, has been appointed executive director of Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Door County. As director of camps and conferences for UW-Green Bay she contributed to the growth of the school’s popular summer youth camp program.

Kriebel

Mona Christensen ’80 music and ‘96 administrative science, has been appointed executive director of Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Door County. As director of camps and conferences for UW-Green Bay she contributed to the growth of the school’s popular summer youth camp program.

Margaret Mary Gerhard ’81 master’s of environmental arts and sciences, continues to make appearances in her “Mother Nature” persona as an educator and advocate for recycling, smart land and water use, and natural landscaping. The former classroom teacher turned anti-lawn crusader will lead a workshop on the advantages of “yardening” this June at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association’s annual fair in Custer, Wis.

Liza (Grosskopf) Schneider ’84 human development, owns her own history/writing service, Escrivez par la Baie, Green Bay.

Nadine ’Dene” Hellman ’85 extended degree, is the author of The People Under the House, which tells the story of her late husband, a Nazi death camp survivor, their marriage and his post-traumatic stress disorder. She started the book three decades ago when Prof. Peter Kellogg requested students write a memoir for class. She lives in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Nancy (Rose) Sweetland ’83 bachelor of general studies, is a freelance writer with Writing That Works, Green Bay, and an instructor for the Institute of Children’s Literature. She recently published her third novel, The House on the Dunes.

1980s I

Karen (Chervenka) Derbique ’81 associate of arts, is the associated director of financial aid for St. Norbert College, De Pere.

Margaret Mary Gerhard ’81 master’s of environmental arts and sciences, continues to make appearances in her “Mother Nature” persona as an educator and advocate for recycling, smart land and water use, and natural landscaping. The former classroom teacher turned anti-lawn crusader will lead a workshop on the advantages of “yardening” this June at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association’s annual fair in Custer, Wis.

Nick got the job, and finished her bachelor’s with a major in Communication and minor in Business Administration. Years afterward, she would complete Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program.

At WPS, she was a fast learner and rose through the ranks, ultimately becoming senior vice president of energy delivery and customer service. When she left, in 2014, she edited a management book, Lenses of Leadership, A Call to Action, and wrote two Bella the Dragon children’s books. (For the latter, she cites the inspiration of former Prof. Joan Thron of the Education faculty.) Her “retirement” was brief, however, when Dairyland offered a new opportunity.

“I love the industry, especially the people — they’re extremely smart, very technical and capable — and the service we provide is so important to our customers, members and their communities.”

— CS

Energy, good writing POWER her success

Energy, good writing POWER her success
Paul Knepper ’85 social change and development, is a professor of criminology in the School of Law at the University of Sheffield, in England. His academic specialty involves the history of criminal justice, particularly in frontier and colonial contexts and the rise of crime as an international issue. He is the editor of the European Journal of Criminology, and has been a visiting fellow at Oxford, the University of Malta and the University of Lausanne.

Cristina Danforth ’88 social work, delivered the commencement address in December, sharing an Oneida perspective and encouraging grads to give back to their communities. A recap can be found at http://bit.ly/danforthGB

Kimberly Kampschroer ’89 social work, is the supervisor of school social work services for Milwaukee Public Schools.

Alison (Van Duyse) Walker ’89 psychology, is a vice president and financial adviser for Baylake Bank in Sturgeon Bay.

1990s

Christopher Renard ’90 business administration, is the owner of Renard’s Cheese in Door County.

Luc Francillon ’91 accounting, returned to campus last fall to talk about his career as chief financial officer for a division of Mars, Inc.

Tony Bennett ’92 humanistic studies, had his Virginia Cavaliers men’s basketball team in the AP top five most of the season. The team finished 30-4 and earned Bennett ACC coach of the year honors for a second straight year — not bad in a conference that includes Mike Krzyzewski, Roy Williams, Jim Boeheim and Rick Pitino.

Sarah (Osterberg) Inman ’92 political science, is the vice president of community investment and strategic impact for Brown County United Way, Green Bay.

April VandenPlas ’92 Spanish, is an engineering technician for the city of Mankato, Minn. She’s also one-half of The Sassy-Pants Sisters, a “pirate wench comedy duo” that made its debut at the 2014 Des Moines Renaissance Faire.
Misty Brueckner ’02 psychology and human development, is a program coordinator for Howe Community Resource Center in Green Bay.

Andrea (Fischer) Pope ’02 human biology, is a clinical researcher with the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research in Muskego, Wis. She received her master’s in criminal justice from Boston University in 2007.

Jill (Wunrow) Walsh ’02 communication processes, is a gift processing and development coordinator for the Pat Tillman Foundation in Chicago.

Sandra (Hayes) Elvebak ’03 business administration, is the director of human resources at Options Residential, Inc. in Burnsville, Minn.

Adam Hatfield ’03 political science, is the manager of media and communication for Gundersen Health System, La Crosse.

Tammy (Rosenow) Wyrobec ’04 accounting, is the chief financial officer for Mohican North Star Casino Resort, near Bowler, Wis.

Joshua Keenan ’05 urban studies, is a firefighter and paramedic with the Chicago Fire Department.

Dana Langhoff ’05 business administration, is the facility operations manager at Floral Plant Growers LLC in Denmark.

Rachel (Kraemer) Monfills ’05 and ’12 social work and master’s in social work, is an intensive permanence services specialist for Anu Family Services, Green Bay.

Stephanie Blavat-Vesely ’06 business administration, is the director of marketing and business development for Simon Property Group-Bay Park Square Mall in Green Bay.

Terrence Brennan ’06 music, is communications coordinator for Faith Lutheran Church and the performing and creative arts coordinator for the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, Green Bay.

Michelle Lambert ’06 political science, is a counselor for State Farm in Bloomington, Ill. She is on the board of directors for the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

Jason Mattison ’06 nursing, is an RN and current master’s of nursing student honored with the 2014 Carol and Robert Bush Excellence in Nursing Award presented by Bellin Health. Mattison joined the Bellin intensive care unit as a staff nurse in 2007.

Melyssa (Keil) Behnke ’07 and ’13 human development, psychology, and arts management, is a box office manager and volunteer coordinator for the Capitol Civic Centre, Manitowoc.

Molly (Weber) Canan ’07 communication, is special events manager for the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Jennifer Feyen ’07 elementary education, is a kindergarten teacher with the CPES consolidated parochial school district serving the “Holyland” area of east central Wisconsin.

Jill Leisgang ’07 English, is a 7th and 8th grade language arts and social studies teacher for Darlington (Wis.) Community Schools.

Michelle (Backhaus) Neuberger ’07 human development, is a talent acquisition coordinator for Rockwell Automation in Menomonee Falls.

Molly Aylward ’08 English, is an 8th grade language arts and reading teacher for the Green Bay Area Public School District.

Justin Bingham ’08 political science, is a commercial lines underwriter for Acuity Insurance in Sheboygan. He earned his MBA at Lakeland College.

Molly (Waldschmidt) Jaster ’08 communication, is an online marketing account manager for E-Power Marketing in Oshkosh.

Timothy Kowols ’08 communication, works in news and social media for Nicolet Broadcasting’s Door County Daily News.

Shelley (Damos) DeGrave ’09 music, is an elementary music teacher for the Green Bay Area Public Schools.

Amanda Gilpatrick ’09 political science, is a paralegal for Mallory, Lapka, Scott & Selin in Lansing, Mich.

Lavesa Glover ’09 communication, is an assistant basketball coach for Southeast Missouri State University.

Kari (Petrashek) Hagenow ’09 biology and environmental science and master’s in environmental science and policy, is a Door Peninsula land steward for the Nature Conservancy in Sturgeon Bay.

Adam Hopfensperger ’09 humanistic studies, is with Agency Technology LLC, a travel management software company, based in Denver.

Jessica (Maass) Hopp ’09 communications, is the alumni and development coordinator for Bellin College in Green Bay.

Rebecca Oswald ’09 elementary education, is a cognitive disabilities special education teacher for grades 5-8 for the Valders Area School District. She earned her cross-category special education degree from St. Joseph’s University in 2014.

Phoenix pride? Davis ’81 wears it on his sleeve

Doubt his passion for higher education, his hometown or its public university and Greg Davis delivers a visual forewarn smash to anyone who could possibly question his loyalties. Davis custom-designed the new Phoenix tattoo prominently visible whenever he rolls up his sleeves and gets down to work — which is every day in his busy leadership role as UW-Green Bay’s interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. His bird isn’t an exact replica of any past or current University emblem. Instead, its greens, reds, yellows and oranges are drawn from family birthstone colors. He chose the inscriptions “Improve the Human Condition” and “Search for Truth” from the famed Wisconsin Idea rallying call that the UW must benefit every citizen. A Green Bay native, Davis received his UWGB bachelor’s in 1981 and earned master’s and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He joined the faculty at his alma mater in 1987, and taught courses in math and environmental sciences for nearly three decades before accepting his administrative appointment last summer — CS.
WATER SCHOLAR goes with the flow: NY to UWGB to Mexico to Texas to SoCal

Vivienne Bennett, Class of ’75, is a respected author, teacher, Ph.D. and authority on water conflicts in the United States and Latin America.

The California State University San Marcos faculty member is also someone who views her work through an interdisciplinary lens. It’s a skill she learned from her professors while pursuing her Humanism and Cultural Change major at UW-Green Bay.

Bennett grew up in New York as a first-generation American, the daughter of Holocaust refugees from southern France. She came to Wisconsin primarily as a favor to her father’s best friend, Ija Korner, a professor recruited to help start a public university in Green Bay.

Korner lobbied Bennett to get away from the big city. She agreed, but having been accepted to both Williams and Middlebury colleges closer to home, planned to transfer back east.

After Bennett’s first year at UWGB, it never occurred to her to leave. The environment was exciting and intellectually stimulating. She noticed that with office space on the under-construction campus at a premium, it wasn’t uncommon for professors from different fields to share a workspace. She loved the idea of sharing knowledge.

“It was a unique time, a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” she recalls, and her parents’ friend was particularly influential. “Dr. Korner’s ideas were four decades ahead of most traditional educators at the time.”

Korner’s “Experimental Learning Community” of 40 students had Korner, Michael Murphy, Gary Greif, and Dave Galaty teaching as a team and working collaboratively with students — no rank pulling allowed — to devise the curriculum.

Another Korner favorite was the Social Services Collateral that served as Bennett’s minor. The program involved a full year of school, multiple faculty and teams of students volunteering 10 hours or more a week at local agencies of their choice, observing, working and advocating improvements where possible. Bennett’s group chose the Brown County shelter for runaway children.

Bennett worked alongside Edward Weidner’s daughter, Karen, and the two young women became friends and campus roommates. Spending time with Karen at the chancellor’s residence on Bay View Drive, Bennett often crossed paths with UW-Green Bay faculty in a social and less formal setting.

As graduation neared, Bennett took inventory. She knew three languages — English, her parents’ French, and Spanish — and had enjoyed a UWGB trip to Mexico with Weidner, but had little interest at the time in becoming a teacher. Prof. Elmer Havens convinced her to use her love of Spanish as a tool, not a focus. She pursued an independent study — and eventually, a personally designed major — based on her work with local migrant workers.

Post-UWGB, Bennett worked for a year in southern Mexico, near the Guatemalan border. She enrolled at the University of Texas, Austin, “the place to be for Latin American Studies,” and completed her master’s and doctoral degrees.

She built her dissertation and first book, The Politics of Water, on her experience in Monterey, Mexico with water rationing that was ineffectively administered by local government.

Her second book, Opposing Currents, came two decades later and stressed the importance of successful water management and its relationship to gender bias and equity: Women in water-poor regions of the world are often shut out of decision-making. Bennett has lectured on the topic at Cornell University Law School and been a featured speaker at the international Stockholm Water Symposium.

Enduring Reform, Bennett’s latest, published in December, examines corporate responses to progressive activism in Latin America. It focuses on the value of bringing together businesses, social groups, and governments to work within the system for social change… something she first realized at UWGB.

“The Social Service Collateral was instrumental in teaching me humility, patience, the value of listening and observation. It showed me that there can be real limits on what is possible in terms of social change and social justice… sometimes it simply is the wrong moment for change to happen.”

Bennett says her years at a fledgling university in Green Bay were good preparation for her current job in San Marcos (located just north of San Diego), where she has taught since 1994. She is chair of the Academic Senate, and has served as chair of the liberal studies department.

“CSU-San Marcos is very much like UW-Green Bay. It’s a university made up of motivated working class students. I was one of the original faculty members on this campus, much like being one of the first cohorts at UWGB.”

—DF
The recipe for pizza dough is relatively simple… flour, sugar, yeast, salt, water and a little olive oil.

The recipe for a successful and growing wholesale pizza-crust company is a bit more complicated. Randy Charles, a 1987 UW-Green Bay Business Administration graduate, keeps that recipe close to the vest.

Charles is CEO of Alive and Kickin’ (A & K) Pizza Crust, a company steadily on the rise since its 1989 founding by Charles, his father and two other partners. Randy became president in 1991 and CEO in 2011. The company has a workforce of 300-plus and has expanded its sales throughout North America.

It is the continual development of product lines that keep the company growing and relevant. Charles calls it “customized manufacturing,” with expansion and diversification, particularly in products such as frozen self-rising, par-baked and deli take-and-bake crusts.

Charles had envisioned his career cutting a different path when he graduated three decades ago. His marketing emphasis and classes with Prof. Robert Obenberger and Don McCartney inspired him to move to Milwaukee for grad school and work in brand management.

But in 1989, his father made Randy an offer he couldn’t refuse… return to Green Bay and help him build the company (then Port City Bakery) from the bottom up. Now, his days are filled with walking the balancing act of a CEO — maintaining credibility with customers though diversity and quality of product, demonstrating company growth to his shareholders, ensuring a positive corporate culture, and securing the company’s future.

“What I continue to carry with me day-to-day from UWGB are the courses that challenged me to view problems from multiple perspectives and across disciplines,” Charles says.

“Even though I was a business student, I found other areas of study, such as the science requirement, both challenging and rewarding. The one-on-one attention of professors and the small class sizes allowed for great discussion and problem-solving. It was an incredibly well-rounded education.”

For more on Randy Charles ’87, see Inside online. — SB

Kimberly Vickman ’09 environmental science, is a health-care sustainability specialist at Stericycle in Pittsburgh.

Timothy Hansen ’10 business administration, is the executive chef for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers in Appleton.

Darren Holzer ’10 elementary education, is a second grade teacher at Random Lake Elementary School in Random Lake, Wis. He was nominated for the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program for administration.

Eric Plaushines ’10 psychology, is a training facilitator with BMO Financial Group of Wisconsin.

Valerie (Baughman) Roemer ’10 human development, is the talent acquisition coordinator at Providence Health and Services in Renton, Wash.

Tammi Schroeder ’10 business administration, works in sales and brand development for the Green Bay Packers.

Jessica (Hopp) Bar ’11 psychology and human development, is a data analyst with NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, based in Washington, D.C.

Amy Brown ’11 economics, is the contract sales project manager for Wheeler Hardware Company in Roseville, Minn. She is a chapter officer of the Door and Hardware Institute Northcentral Chapter.

Stacy (Hehn) Dreweck ’11 environmental policy and planning, is an admissions counselor with UW Oshkosh.

Morgan Gantz ’12 environmental science, spent most of 2014 at the Rice Lake and Tamarac wildlife refuges in Minnesota as a fellow with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Conservation Experience program.

Sui Generis ’12 social work, is a medical care coordinator for the Community Involvement Programs in Minneapolis.
Kimberly (Connaher) Gould ’12 human biology, is a nutrition coordinator for Elderly Services of Marinette County. She completed her dietetic internship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in June 2013.

Chloe Scheller ’12 communication, has joined the staff of Red Fan Communications, a full-service public relations firm in Austin, Texas, as an account executive.

Carly Smith ’12 business administration, is the dining room manager for Oneida Golf and Country Club in Green Bay.

Daniel Terrio ’12 and ’14 interdisciplinary studies and master’s of science in applied leadership for teaching and learning, is the learning facilitator at Humana in Green Bay.

Susan Exworthy ’13 and ’14 social work and master’s in social work, is a substance abuse counselor for Independent Assessment and Counseling, Green Bay.

Mysty Kepler ’13 communication, is the marketing coordinator for DriSteem industrial humidifier systems in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Jacob Leigh ’13 biology and environmental science, is an intern for Campus Crusade for Christ International.

Brittaney (Kat) Mertig ’13 elementary education, is a kindergarten teacher for the Oshkosh Area School District.

Andrew Thyes ’13 interdisciplinary studies, is a transportation analyst for Schreiber Foods, Green Bay.

Elizabeth (Heidtke) Boche ’14 elementary education, is an ESL teacher for the Green Bay Area Public School District.

Alec Brown ’14 business administration, recovered from a shoulder injury to play the second half of the NBA Development League season with the Bakersfield Jam, the Phoenix Suns affiliate.

Kimberly (Kosovich) Gehrig ’14 nursing, is a registered nurse for Aurora Health Care, Milwaukee.

Justin Grunes ’14 communication, is a patrol officer for the Fox Valley Metro Police Department, Little Chute.

Samantha Haucke ’14 business administration is a marketing associate at Parallel 44 Vineyard and Winery in Kewaunee.

Christian Krah ’14 crossed the Weidner Center stage in December as recipient of his first bachelor’s degree awarded through UW-Green Bay’s new Health Information Management and Technology program. The degree responds to growing demand for professionals able to use new technology and data management tools to improve health care delivery. Krah’s internship with a local hospital helped develop software applications to improve service to patients.

Jacob Ledvina ’14 environmental policy and planning, is an insurance account representative for State Farm Insurance in Appleton.

Heidi Ross ’14 communication, is a communication specialist for the UW-Madison Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering.

Florecia Gutierrez ’14 accounting, is a tax analyst for The Manitowoc Company in Manitowoc.

Andrea Herrmann ’15 business administration, is a recruiting agent for Schneider National, Green Bay.

Valerie Hilkert ’15 communication, is a service administrator for Oshkosh Corporation in Oshkosh.

Patricia Trepot ’15 integrative leadership studies, is the director of youth and family ministry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Menominee, Mich.

Nicole Whitty ’15 accounting and business administration, is a financial accountant at Schreiber Foods, Inc. in Green Bay.

Biology grad finds homes for abandoned exotics

Jamie Kozloski, a 2011 graduate in Biology, has a soft spot for birds...and reptiles...amphibians, small animals and invertebrates, too. Kozloski is the founder of the non-profit organization KAEAR — Kingdom Animalia Exotic Animal Rescue — based in De Pere. She has taken in more than 900 animals and educated thousands of people on their care and conservation. She got hooked while attending UW-Green Bay, interning at the NEW Zoo and serving as the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary’s exotic animal resource. She gained experience as a pet store and animal control worker and then decided “to take my growing hobby and make it into my career.” Along with caring for animals, Kozloski uses them in educational programs communitywide. She promotes pet amnesty days where people can surrender their unwanted exotic and aquarium pets to a good home. Looking to the future, Kozloski thinks KAEAR could build a statewide name in rescue and education. The organization currently exists with the help of program fees, adoptions, donations and fundraisers. Go to www.kaear.org to learn more.

— Story by intern Katelyn Staaben ’15
Destination wedding, MAC style

He’s not the first person to choose a scenic spot on UW-Green Bay’s beautiful campus for his wedding ceremony, but he certainly had the least distance to travel. Prof. Bryan Carr and his fiancée, Pang Yang, opted for Mary Ann Cofrin Hall’s airy Vista Conference Room. The space overlooks campus and is mere steps down the hall from Carr’s office in the Information and Computing Science department. The couple had considered the county courthouse for their mid-day December ceremony but found a meaningful alternative in the Vista. Says Carr, “It has a beautiful view, a lot of sunlight, and it was convenient for my fellow faculty members to attend!”
CELEBRATING 50: GRAD NO. 1 IS IN! HOW ABOUT YOU?

In June 1970, Nancy Deprey of Green Bay — then Nancy Ably and first in line thanks to alpha order — crossed the stage to receive her bachelor's and enter history as the first graduate of the new UW-Green Bay.

Now semi-retired, Deprey (above) has already cleared her calendar for this fall’s big golden anniversary celebration.

The opening day of fall semester 2015 will mark 50 years to the day since Gov. Warren Knowles signed legislation creating a new four-year university for Northeastern Wisconsin. Commemorative events here on Wednesday, Sept. 2, will begin with a public reception with music and food and a short program on the University Union Plaza from 11 a.m. to noon.

Activities throughout 2015-16 will relate to the theme “50 Years of UW-Green Bay,” with special plans for the annual Alumni Reunion Days weekend on Oct. 16 and 17, and a yearlong lecture series beginning in fall. Check out the calendar at http://50.uwgb.edu/.

ALUMNI MARK 50 WITH $50K GIFT

Your UWGB Alumni Association is first in line to support UW-Green Bay in its 50th anniversary year. Most of a $50,000 gift has been earmarked to fund a series of anniversary-inspired scholarship awards. Some will go to sponsor special celebratory events. If interested in learning how you, too, can support UW-Green Bay, visit https://secure.qgiv.com/for/uwgb/.

SHARE YOUR UWGB STORIES

UW-Green Bay is engaging alumni, students and the community in opportunities to share their photos, mementos or memories. A “Share Your Story” page is part of the 50 Years website at http://50.uwgb.edu. A special August edition of the University magazine, Inside UW-Green Bay, will celebrate the milestone.

Reminder: Golf

Register today for the 35th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing from 8 to 4 Friday, June 12, at Royal Scot, and enjoy a fun, relaxing day of golf with friends and fellow alumni. It’s 18 holes with power cart, friendly low gross and handicapped team competition, lunch, raffle, hole events, hors d’oeuvres reception and more. Cost is $90 (per person) and $360 (foursome) if registered before May 29, and $115 and $480 thereafter. Visit www.2015uwgbgolfouting.eventbrite.com to register.

STAY IN THE KNOW

The Alumni Relations office sends out a monthly Alumni E-newsletter and regularly communicates about events, news and special benefits available only to UWGB alumni. Approximately 10,000 alumni stay connected through email but in order to receive these email communications, you need to subscribe. Please send a “subscribe” message to alumni@uwgb.edu.

VOTE: All-time starting five

The crew here at Inside will help mark the 50th by publishing polls on big moments, favorites places and memorable individuals in UW-Green Bay history, starting with all-time Phoenix basketball standouts. Our online ballots are based on team success, individual honors, record books, Hall of Fame inductions and a cross-section of eras. The men’s nominees are Tom Anderson ’78, Nate Barnes ’83, Tony Bennett ’92, Alec Brown ’14, Tom Brown ’83, Jeff Nordgaard ’96, Ron Ripley ’79, Mike Schachtner ’09, Richard Sims ’88, Keifer Sykes ’15, Ray Willis ’71 and Dennis Woelflerr ’73. Vote at http://50.uwgb.edu/poll-mbb-starters/.
On September 2, 1965, a legislative act authorized the creation of a new university in the Green Bay area. The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB) was established.

On September 2, 2015, UWGB hosted a day-long celebration to mark its 50th anniversary. The day featured a Color Run, alumni volunteers needed, and a day of activities both on campus and in the Greater Green Bay area.

- **UWGB's 50th Anniversary Kick Off** at UWGB Campus from 8 am to 1 pm.
- **Alumni Volunteers needed** for events throughout the day.
- **Color Run** at UWGB Campus from 8 am to 1 pm.
- **Alumni Volunteers needed** for events throughout the day.
- **Event at Green Bay Bullfrogs** at Joannes Stadium at 7:05 pm.
- **UWGB Alumni Business Lunch** at Ameriprise from 11:30 am to 1 pm.
- **UWGB Alumni Family Day** at Bay Beach from 11 am to 3 pm.
- **Move In Day** at UWGB Campus from 8:30 am to Noon.
- **Alumni Volunteers needed** for events throughout the day.
- **Grandparents University** at UWGB Campus from 8 am to 5 pm.
- **Alumni Volunteers needed** for events throughout the day.
- **Maino Classic Golf Outing** at Royal Scot Golf Course, New Franken from 8 am to 5 pm.
- **Associated Bank/UWGB Alumni Business Reception** at Hyatt on Main from 5:30 to 8 pm.
- **Cellcom Marathon** at UWGB Campus from 7:30 to 11:30 am.
- **Brewer Baseball Game** at Miller Park, Milwaukee at 7:05 pm.
- **Madison Mallards Baseball Game** at Warner Park, Madison at 7:05 pm.
- **Phoenix Friday on the Fox with Big Mouth** at BlueWhale Coffeehouse at 6 pm.
- **Granparents University** at UWGB Campus from 8 am to 5 pm.
- **Alumni Volunteers needed** for events throughout the day.
- **졸업 50주년 기념축하** at UWGB Campus from 8 am to 5 pm.
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Alumni Reunion Days 2015
Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17
SHARE YOUR MEMORIES!

It’s as easy as firing us an email or quick note via an online form. UWGB marks its golden anniversary this fall with reunions, special events and an invitation to friends and alumni to help make history by sharing your stories. See page 29.

50.uwgb.edu  #uwgb50