The Verdict is in:

Beyond a reasonable doubt, alumni lawyers shine in high-power careers

MAY 2008
Greetings from Green Bay's University of Wisconsin!

And welcome to another issue of Inside magazine. This one celebrates the great success achieved by UW-Green Bay graduates in the legal profession, and also takes note of an institutional milestone.

I’ll start with the law. Two years ago, I posed pre-ceremony (above) with William Hanrahan, Class of ’82, then an assistant state attorney general and now a Dane County judge, just before he delivered our mid-year commencement address. Bill actually spoke twice here that year, the other occasion his acceptance of our Distinguished Alumni Award. Each time, I was impressed by his powerful affirmation of the value of a UW-Green Bay education.

Our problem-focused, interdisciplinary experience is excellent preparation for the rigors of law school and high-level legal careers. Not only for Bill, but for more than a hundred other alumni lawyers including those featured on these pages. Our graduates also serve as reminders of the wide range of career opportunities available to those who pursue a legal education. Many of those with law degrees have gone into positions in public service, business and other fields.

Judge Hanrahan and his colleagues are, of course, part of a much larger story. This month, our 25,000th graduate will cross the stage at spring commencement.

The University hears frequently from business and community leaders. Four decades and 25,000 graduates into our journey, their verdict is clear: They greatly value UW-Green Bay and its alumni. They are insistent, however, in reminding us they need even more graduates to help their businesses grow and flourish. That is why UW-Green Bay must continue to grow, and why the Growth Agenda is so vital to this region’s future.

Thank you for all you do to support your University,

Bruce Shepard

Notes from 2420 Nicolet…

25,000 graduates later, the verdict is in

Editor’s note: In late April, too late for full coverage in this issue, it was announced that Chancellor Bruce Shepard had been confirmed as the new president of Western Washington University, an institution of about 13,000 students located north of Seattle. UW-Green Bay anticipates appointment of an interim chancellor and a national search to identify Shepard’s successor. The campus website (www.uwgb.edu) has details.
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A school for law

Know someone considering “pre-law” studies? Do them a favor: Whisper the words “UW-Green Bay” in their ear. The University has sent an impressive number of graduates on to top law schools and award-winning legal careers. The majors vary — Social Change and Development, Urban and Regional Studies, and Public and Environmental Administration, to name a few — but the common denominator is interdisciplinary, problem-solving experience at the undergrad level. Our graduates testify to that.

Jason Hellwig ’96

Securities, finance, transactions law
New York, N.Y.
Hometown: Wauwatosa
UW-Green Bay Major: Social Change/Development
Law School: University of Wisconsin ’00

Jason Hellwig ’96 is a young attorney with a Park Avenue office and a practice in midtown Manhattan involving some of the world’s most recognizable corporations, investment banks and insurance companies.

A rising associate with the international firm of Winston & Strawn LLP, Hellwig specializes in capital markets, the issuance of securities, and the financing of both existing and start-up companies.

Fortune 500 companies and major utilities dot his firm’s client list. He has represented global investment giants Morgan Stanley and Deutsche Bank in several complicated joint ventures and cross-border financings.

He also helped lay the foundation, in a sense, for the new Yankee Stadium. Winston represented the underwriter providing financing to the New York Yankees for their construction of the new stadium to open next April. Hellwig helped delve into issues relating to ticket revenue, luxury-box sales and baseball’s prospects for labor peace in order to help assure success for the bonding of the billion-dollar project.

“The day-to-day intellectual challenges make the job enjoyable,” Hellwig says. “You’re problem-solving on a daily basis.”

A primary task for any attorney is making sure risk and exposure are adequately understood and minimized. To do that, Hellwig needs a clear understanding of both the client’s business and long-term goals. The desired conclusion is smooth and successful, satisfactory to the parties involved, and one that avoids disputes which might lead to future litigation.

“As a transactional attorney,” he dryly notes, “you try to avoid that.”

Recent shocks have altered the landscape. Winston’s offices look down the street to Bear Stearns, the formerly high-flying investment bank sent crashing by speculative excess and the credit crunch. Their meltdown, he says, only affirms the need for cautious representation by attorneys vigilant in protecting their clients’ interests.

“The complexity of today’s financial products has also resulted in the practice of law becoming increasingly complex,” Hellwig says. It’s a trend reinforced by the intricate interplay between the U.S. economy and world markets. It helps, he said, that from UW-Green Bay he enrolled in a master’s program at the London School of Economics, and studied international relations. “There were students there from nearly every country in the world,” he says, “and the opportunity to learn with them, and understand international issues through their eyes, was valuable.” Hellwig’s international education continued in law school, where he spent a semester exchange at the European University Institute in Italy.

“I took almost every class in Social Change and Development during my time at UW-Green Bay. Professors Kaye, Craig Lockard and (the late) Tony Galt were great teachers and mentors. I use the skills learned through the department’s interdisciplinary focus and problem-solving approach every day. A phenomenal experience.”

Time as student government president:
“(Former) Dean of Students Jerry Olson was a great example of an administrator/educator. He was a strong supporter of student governance and the University as a whole… He helped instill a sense of professionalism and respect in student government because he demonstrated those same traits with students.”
Barth Wolf ’79

Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary
Integrys Energy Group Inc.
Green Bay/Chicago
Hometown: Green Bay
UW-Green Bay Major: Social Change/Development
Law School: University of Wisconsin ’84

High-power attorney?
Yes, as a matter of fact,
Integrys VP is exactly that

Barth Wolf’s company keeps the lights on and the machines humming in his hometown and beyond.

Wolf is chief legal officer, vice president and corporate secretary for Integrys Energy Group Inc. Integrys is a major player in the nation’s energy delivery system. It is the parent company for six Midwest utilities including Wisconsin Public Service.

It’s been an interesting professional journey for Wolf, who admits he never gave electricity and natural gas a thought during his days as a UW-Green Bay commuter in the late 1970s. “I had plenty of time to think, too,” he says now. “I took the bus in those days and it was a full hour ride from the West Side.”

He worked his way through college — like many of his classmates — and balanced studies with 30 hours a week at Lieber’s Home Center.

After law school he worked for a time with Fort Howard Paper Company doing environmental law and employee benefits and after that he worked a short time with the Hanaway Ross law firm, doing “a little bit of everything.”

He signed on with Wisconsin Public Service Corp. in 1988, initially in the purchasing area, handling contract matters, and then in insurance and risk management area.

In the years to come, promotions brought more experience with the intricate tangle of state and federal regulations governing public utilities and energy. Meanwhile, corporate legal issues also grew in complexity, as consolidation in the industry ushered in an era of mergers, acquisitions, stock deals and complicated Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

Today, Wolf heads a team of 34 people including seven attorneys and various other professional staff, and he contracts with outside firms as circumstances demand.

His major areas of responsibility begin with serving as a member of, and advising, the executive team. He also oversees companywide legal matters for Integrys and its employees (say, if a work crew is involved in an accident) and he’s the point person on corporate governance and SEC matters. In addition, he has the title of chief compliance and ethics officer.

A major accomplishment came this February, when Wolf was at the center of finalizing the merger involving two New York Stock Exchange-traded companies — WPS Resources Corporation and Peoples Energy Corporation of Chicago — that resulted in the birth of Integrys.

“Completing the merger with Peoples Energy had been two years in the making,” Wolf says, “including a two-week period where we worked almost around the clock to negotiate and ‘paper up’ the final agreement.

“The result is to operate more efficiently, and save our customer’s money. That’s what we have been working hard on as we integrate the two companies. There’s a great feeling of accomplishment to be part of that.”

Memorable instructors: “I remember Dan Spielmann and Sharon O’Brien teaching law courses. Gary Greif was another. He taught philosophy, very good courses, radical ways of thinking, challenging.”

Funny memory from law school: The Homecoming Game cane toss is a UW Law School tradition. The graduating class take the field at Camp Randall just before kickoff in front of nearly 80,000 fans. Decked out with bowler hats and canes, they sprint to the far end zone to toss their canes through the goalposts in a mad scramble. Catch your cane, the legend says, and win your first case. “I caught my cane,” Wolf recalls, “but then I sort of jumped for joy. I came down wrong and twisted my ankle. My wife, Mary Jo (Brosig ’80) had to take me to the emergency room, but at least I already had a cane.”
Setting the bar high:  
Wisconsin judges prepped for bench at UW-Green Bay

Judge William Hanrahan ’82, urban studies, earned his J.D. at Hamline University in St. Paul, and presides over Dane County Branch 7.

Hanrahan earned a full, six-year term by winning election in April. First appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle in January of 2007, he was previously an assistant attorney general for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and an assistant DA in Milwaukee County. In his own words:

“I’ve enjoyed every day, and I’m challenged both intellectually and emotionally. It’s draining work, particularly the juvenile court system, where we handle delinquency, abuse and neglect. I’ve achieved success if I never see these people return. Certainly, we get kids back on track, back to school, take them out of dangerous and often times terrifying environments… Juvenile courts are special places where hope still resides… I never give up the belief that people can reinvent themselves.”

On learning: “I was driving a delivery truck in my hometown, Milwaukee, when I decided, ‘this is not how I plan on contributing to society.’ … UWGB was different, original and had unique concentrations and not majors. In urban planning I studied planning, populations, sociology, political science, environmental science and was exposed to a wide variety and an eclectic mix of voices that were significant to honing my critical-thinking skills.”

Judge Patrick Madden ’71, modernization processes, earned his J.D. from UW-Madison and has served on the Iron County bench for 22 years.

Madden also assists with cases in Langlade, Oneida, Price and Marathon counties. He is remembered on campus for his days as the crusading first editor of the Fourth Estate student newspaper, and his respectful disagreements with founding Chancellor Edward Weidner (who later became a mentor, friend and Madden’s “hero”).

On his humbling career: “I am trained to help others solve problems. Too often we use the judicial hammer and hit the problem. If we can’t involve the person in the solution we are creating sausage, grinding people up and wrapping them in a case.”

Proudest moments: “Adoptions. A four-year-old girl made me an adoption cupcake with lots of love and lots of frosting. A sweet girl named Lilly sent me a picture from her adoption. If I get stuck on a problem I ask myself, what would make Lilly proud?”

‘GB Proud: “I was educated to be a problem-solver. Law is the best mechanism for helping people over life’s rough spots, even if it means sending someone to prison because they are a danger. Chancellor Weidner, Dr. Don Harden, and Ija Kornor were my mentors. I could not imagine better role models.”

Judge Nancy Krueger ’75, regional analysis, earned her law degree at UW-Madison in 1979 and was appointed judge for Outagamie County Branch 2 last August.

Krueger (maiden name Zingsheim), the first woman judge in the history of Outagamie County, won election handily this April. Her 28 years of legal experience includes more than a decade as senior staff attorney for American Family Mutual Insurance Company.

Role model: “It is an honor to be the first woman judge in Outagamie County’s history. I hope I can serve as a role model for girls and young women. I think qualifications, however, rather than being a woman, was the basis for my selection.”

Loved it: “I loved my experience at UWGB. I can’t imagine a better place to have done my undergraduate work… Although I wasn’t extroverted, the experiences and learning style at UWGB prepared me well for trial and helped me bring a large variety of perspectives from many different disciplines.”

Her husband, Dr. Michael Krueger ’75, “fell for her” here: “We were riding from Wausau with a mutual friend. The seats in the back of the VW van had been pulled out and replaced with lawn chairs. A sharp corner sent him flying into me. I think he felt bad, and asked me to a movie.”
Kim Wacek '84

Barrister
London, England
Hometown: Green Bay
UW-Green Bay Major: Public and Environmental Administration
Law School: Hamline University '87

Kim Wacek had her own Green Bay practice for 17 years when she returned to her profession's roots, English common law, and moved to London.

“I just said, ‘I’m going to do it,'” she recalls, and she did, right through the lengthy “pupillage” (apprenticeship) and seven-day equivalent to the bar exam.

Celebrating her fifth anniversary of being called to the British bar, she dons the traditional horsehair wig, the formal collar and $3,000 robe that mark her as an elite and respected barrister (trial lawyer) practicing in the United Kingdom.

The attire is part and parcel of a tradition that also doesn’t allow for yellow pads and manila folders but instead commands lawyers to “bundle” their legal papers with pink ribbons.

“(It all) commands a respect for the profession,” Wacek says.

There’s respect too, for a woman from the States who has achieved her position. “I can honestly say I have never once been looked down upon as an outsider,” she says. “Actually, I had a divorce case where my client was taunting her spouse beforehand, ‘Ha, ha, I have an American.’”

By now, of course, Wacek quite naturally peppers her speech with “bloody hells” and “mums,” and she’s “chuffed” when she’s honored and “brilliant” when she’s feeling good.

Criminal cases are a favorite.

Days are long, dockets are heavy and in the British system, by the time a case reaches a barrister, there is no turning back.

“We (the barristers) will look at one another and say, ‘Crack on.’ Let’s go.”

Memorable case: “There was a bit of signed Princess Diana memorabilia donated to a charitable auction, sold for 40,000 Pounds Sterling ($80,000), and turned out to be a forgery. A member of Parliament was involved. That case was a lot of fun.”

Ma ‘Manee’ Moua ’99

Twin Cities attorney, former assistant attorney general
UW-Green Bay Major: Philosophy
Law School: UW-Madison ’02

Ma Manee Moua ’99 was the first Hmong American hired as an assistant attorney general with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and the first AG of Hmong heritage in any state justice office across the United States.

“I am proud, but I just see it as working hard and living my life... Sometimes I feel like I’m a leader by default, but I feel that anyone can accomplish their dreams,” says Moua, who counsels younger students that with dreams and passion, goals are attainable.

As an assistant attorney general, Moua defended the State of Wisconsin from lawsuits, working primarily in areas of civil rights, medical cases and workers compensation enforcement. She stepped away from the position at the end of March following the arrival of baby daughter Hope Kajlug Antonie to return to her native Minnesota, near family.

Moua won’t give up law, nor working on behalf of civil rights. In fact, she is in the process of completing the Minnesota Bar application, and is working as an attorney in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. She recently applied for a position with the U.S. Department of Justice as an assistant U.S. attorney.

For more, see Inside online.
Sara Streblow has never been one to let a disability handicap her ambitions... among them a bachelor's degree in business and a law degree. "I've adapted to my surroundings," she explains, "instead of expecting my surroundings to adapt to me."

Such was the case at UW-Green Bay, a campus she chose because of the course system, which allowed her better mobility with crutches and, when longer distances required, a scooter. In the classroom, nothing slowed her down. She discovered a particular propensity for numbers, which served her well in law school, as well.

"I remember specifically a weeklong unit on torts (law lingo for civil wrongdoing), and using statistics to figure out the probability of damages unforeseen. The thought of all those numbers made my classmates and teacher shudder, but it was fun for me."

After law school Streblow joined the family business, Gillett Cement, founded by her grandfather and run by her parents. When her family sold a few years ago, Streblow stayed on, working to make sure customers pay for materials purchased and placing liens on property when they don't.

It was "pro bono" work for a local daycare center that she regards as a great professional accomplishment. Housed in an old church building, it was sued for noncompliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Streblow negotiated the first-ever ADA settlement between a daycare center and the federal government. It allowed the daycare to work toward compliance efforts and stay in business.

Streblow is looking ahead to more law work, but recent spinal surgery has her concentrating on rehab. She retains her good humor, nonetheless.

"I guess it is in my nature," she says. "I think everyone has something to deal with, mine is just more visible. I believe that you need to deal with whatever hand you are dealt. If you have certain goals, it may be more challenging to achieve those goals, but I don't see a disability as an excuse."

Sidebar: Guilty or Not Guilty, They Seek Justice as Result

UW-Green Bay grads sit on both sides of the aisle on criminal cases. Examples are Bob Holmes ’87, political science, the principal trial attorney for the Isabella County Prosecutor’s Office in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and John Zadrazil ’73, regional analysis, an assistant public defender in Appleton.

The Prosecutor
Bob Holmes is on the side of the law, he says.

“When you go into court it’s a ‘good guys vs. bad guys’ kind of mentality,” he says. “I just see a lot of people who are hurt by crime and are unable to have any other recourse for justice other than to rely on the prosecutor’s office.”

Cases run the gamut, from the simply silly, where people walk into the grocery store and pour themselves a free cup of coffee too many times, to the tragic, “where you do child abuse cases where it just wrenches on you.”

Holmes has been called “The Tin Man” (no heart) by defense attorneys who also joke he’d prosecute the Bible’s three wise men for stalking, if he had the chance. Not true, Holmes responds, with a smile.

The Defender
John Zadrazil understands his clients are in jail because they are suspected of doing something wrong, and many times are rightfully there. Those who need the services of a public defender are the less fortunate, the indigent.

“You try to build up a personal relationship with all of them to find out what their cases are about,” he explains. “Even if a person has a case where it looks like he’s guilty, you still try to see what you can do to minimize what his disposition is going to be.”

Zadrazil feels good about helping clients through situations that are sometimes more hard luck and poor choices than hard criminality.

For anecdotes and more from Holmes and Zadrazil, visit Inside at www.uwgb.edu/univcomm/news/page/inside.htm.

Sara Streblow ’89
Attorney
Hometown: Gillett
UW-Green Bay Major: Business Administration
Law School: University of Wisconsin ’92
Tim Nixon ’87

Commercial, business law
Partner, Godfrey & Kahn, S.C., Green Bay
Hometown: Two Rivers
UW-Green Bay Major:
Public and Environmental Administration
Law School: University of Wisconsin ’90

Successful attorney lays down the law for next generation

Over two decades, Green Bay attorney Tim Nixon has built a thriving practice with clients nationwide, an exceedingly impressive resume, a list of awards, community achievements and legal accomplishments a mile long…

And yet, when all is said and done, some of his most rewarding moments might have occurred only recently — and are, in fact, likely to reoccur this fall — in a classroom at UW-Green Bay.

Nixon teaches the University’s course in administrative law. He has been an ad hoc instructor for eight years.

“There’s something about going back to your undergraduate institution, looking out at the students and engaging them in discussion,” he says. “It’s closing a loop.

“I get a tremendous kick, when we’re covering difficult material, of seeing the lights go on when they ‘get it.’ I understand why cartoonists used to draw light bulbs above people’s heads. You can actually see it. They just light up with ideas.”

Nixon’s students quickly learn at least two things. One, he believes fervently the American legal system, though often bashed, is unique, strong and most often effective. Two, he is an enthusiastic, outgoing fan of his alma mater.

Occasionally, a student will wander up to Nixon and innocently inquire, “Can you get into law school from here?” Can you? Prepare for his favorite lecture.

“I tell them, ‘Listen, I travel widely and my degree has cache everywhere I go.’ UW-Green Bay doesn’t have a football team, but it does have an excellent academic plan. Princeton, Yale... if you go on to any law school you’ll hold your own with anybody. The professors here are as good as any you’ll encounter... the hands-on opportunities and community projects are first-rate.”

He speaks from experience. He attended the UW Manitowoc center and the Great Lakes Maritime Academy before pursuing his bachelor’s. (His pilot license and years aboard Great Lakes ore freighters provided additional maturity and perspective.) By the time he finished at UW-Green Bay, having done out-of-classroom research on emergency management, bus routes and solid-waste issues, he was sold.

Today, you’ll find his name on numerous “best lawyers” lists both state and national. He’s a prolific author and frequent speaker on bankruptcy and financial restructuring. He has given back to the community through service on school boards, the chamber of commerce, the water commission and more.

A lot of it, he says, ties back to things he first learned in college.

“Cost-benefit analysis, in all its different forms, is something we’re doing all the time,” Nixon says. “And organizational theory — that’s far and away the single most useful thing I’ve ever studied. How human beings relate to one another in an organization.”

**Other take-aways from UW-Green Bay:**

Problem-solving skills. The theory of stochastic process (that there’s a degree of randomness in all complex systems). Dan Alesch was a favorite professor.

**His specialty:** Nixon works with financially distressed companies. Maybe they’ve lost a big contract, suffered a major setback. “We try to keep it from failing, or make the crash landing as comfortable as possible, so people can pick up the pieces and move forward... I love looking at a company that is now highly successful, but when I was brought in they were about to close their doors... If we do thing’s right, nobody has to notice.”

**Laughter is best medicine:** At Nixon’s firm, people laugh a lot. It’s fast-moving with plenty of stress, but the effect is a little like the old TV show M*A*S*H*, with humor and serious business going hand-in-hand. “It’s also,” Nixon adds, “a little like charging headlong off a cliff like Wiley Coyote used to do. He never fell until he stopped running and looked down. I tell people here, ‘keep running, don’t look down.’”

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**At UW-Green Bay, pre-law is internships, liberal arts**

At UW-Green Bay, the institution’s commitment to multiple perspectives and hands-on learning — across all majors — makes the term “pre-law” applicable to almost any student, in any field of study.

“An attorney’s job requires written and oral communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, analysis, information literacy and more,” says Scott Furlong, dean of liberal arts and sciences. “It’s a liberal arts education. We believe ours is particularly effective.”

Furlong has worked with numerous UW-Green Bay students who have gone on to law school.

“Many participated in legal internships with area law firms, the district attorney’s office... The comments from the internship supervisors have been stellar, often asking for additional interns from our programs... We’re proud of the fact students are well-prepared to take their passion for the law, social justice, the environment, whatever it might be, and be very successful in their careers.”

May 2008
earlier this spring as economists tiptoed around the word “recession.”

“This economy has brought bad news for many, many people,” he says. “If there’s a positive, in my position, it’s that we’re doing something constructive in helping restructure distressed companies to find solutions that try to maintain jobs and keep the assets productive. There can be good in that.”

Campus memories: “The quality of the classroom teaching... I had terrific professors in history, political science and psychology. Prof. Jerrold Rodesch was one of the best teachers I ever had. Later on, at Duke Law School, I remember thinking the UWGB professors were every bit as good.”

Old Shorewood Club: “A movie, frozen pizza and pitcher of beer for $3. None of us had any money back then. Usually it was a 1950s European film, Ingmar Bergman, something you wouldn’t see at the old Bay Theatre. My wife, Jane (a ‘73 grad in history), and I were regulars. For $3, that was living large.”

Indoor work: “My office has a classic California view. I’m looking at the Hollywood sign and Dodger Stadium. My ‘tan’?

I have two skin tones: pale white and sunburn orange... I live 20 miles from the beach and haven’t been there in 25 years. My work is indoors.”

Attorneys — and alumni attorneys are no exception — hear ‘em all the time. Even from their mothers.

“For my birthday, my mom sent me a card with ‘the 40 best lawyer jokes,’” says Barth Wolf ‘79, who dearly loves his mother, thinks a few of the jokes are funny, and mainly shrugs it off as part of the job.

Jason Hellwig ‘96 doesn’t pay much attention, either, but notes colleagues at his New York City firm aren’t above tacking the occasional cartoon (New Yorker magazine’s are favorites) to their doors.

“It’s conventional folklore, exaggeration, and most everybody understands that,” offers Tim Nixon ’87, who also suggests a serious source. “There are always clients who can never accept they’re actually guilty or liable. It’s easier to blame the lawyer.”

A few alumni lawyers say they do save the occasional “good” joke. Some say they much prefer plumber or doctor or accountant jokes. And then there’s Kim Wacek ‘84 of London, where barrister jokes just aren’t cricket: “The law is never joked about here. There’s too much history, tradition, formality.”
Barbara Polich ’72
Commercial litigation, intellectual property lawyer
Salt Lake City
Hometown: Green Bay
UW-Green Bay Major: Personal major in urban analysis
Law School: University of Wisconsin ’76

High-profile attorney, civic leader, avid birder and art lover, Barbara Polich is proud to say her life today rests in part upon undergraduate experiences of more than 35 years ago.

Start with her legal career. She’s a partner in the Litigation Department and a member of the Intellectual Property Group for Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll LLP, a national firm. A winner of Utah lawyer of the year honors, she is among the nation’s leaders in her field.

With the economy’s transition from manufacturing to knowledge, her specialty — patents, trade secrets and intellectual property — expands at broadband speed. Polich points to Green Bay’s interdisciplinary emphasis as “a real gift.”

“As a trial lawyer in commercial cases you’re always dabbling in other people’s areas of expertise,” she explains. “Maybe it’s the electrical bus-bar system at Kennecott’s refinery, or chemistry related to a coal-mining analysis, perhaps attention deficit in kids. “At UWGB I had math, social sciences, fine arts… just a wonderful range. That doesn’t make you an expert, but I do have a baseline to dig in and learn more.”

She is active in Salt Lake City fine arts. Also benefiting from her participation are the University of Utah’s College of Nursing, Health Sciences and College of Fine Arts. Polich makes the case her lifelong love of birding and art have UW-Green Bay roots, as well. She recalls the winter a snowy owl took up residence near the Bay Apartments, thrilling nature-loving students. And just maybe it was that philosophy course, where she was encouraged to explore in-depth a favorite piece of modern art, that set her toward becoming a serious collector.

“I had a remarkable experience at UWGB,” she says. “I knew it at the time, and my appreciation only grows. To this day, I tell everyone I know how special it was, and is.”

Expert in intellectual property, she values UW-Green Bay above all

Erin K. Russell ’01
Environmental, product liability and transportation law
Atlanta
Hometown: De Pere
UW-Green Bay Majors: Political Science, Public Administration
Law School: DePaul University ’04

Erin K. Russell ’01 is an associate with the firm of Hawkins & Parnell, Atlanta. She is also a “Super Lawyers’ Rising Star” based on nomination by her peers.

“I work a 100 percent litigation practice, so in addition to court, much of what I do is brief writing, conducting litigation, taking depositions, et cetera,” she says. The work can be not only challenging, but deeply affecting.

“In one case, I was defending an apartment complex on a toxic mold case, with a large number of women and their children living in Section 8 (federally subsidized, low income) housing,” she recalls. “You see stuff that you don’t see in day-to-day life… even as the defense attorney, you want a humane outcome, too. We ended up settling those cases and those women received a great deal of money that you hope will better their lives.”

The greatest thing about being a lawyer, the “Rising Star” concludes, is solving problems.

“I think of my profession as the application of reason and logic,” says Russell. “Usually people I’m involved with are very upset and completely convinced that they are right. Only if they are detached can they look at the concern with reason and logic.”

UW-Green Bay connections: “Frances Carleton was wonderful! He taught us to not be afraid to leave and follow our dream. Also Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges was fantastic and modeled great character; and when I had to take Social Science Statistics, I was like, ‘Oh no!’ but Laurel Phoenix made it fun, and now is a personal friend.”
Young attorney has big presence

**Greg Babcock ’03**

General practice lawyer, Antigo, Wis.

UW-Green Bay Majors: Public Administration, Political Science

Law School: Marquette University ’06

At 6-foot, 11-inches, Greg Babcock was an imposing figure when he was on the court as a center for the Phoenix men’s basketball team.

At 6-foot, 11-inches, Greg Babcock is an imposing figure when he is in court as a lawyer for the team of Sommer, Olk, Schroeder & Payant LLP.

“What it does in the courtroom is it gives you more of a presence,” Babcock said of the height advantage he has over most everyone else. “People do comment on that. People should take to that and listen to what you’re saying, which I think happens, but I can’t say for sure. You never know what a jury is thinking about what you’re saying.”

In his basketball days, Babcock was an all-Horizon League academic honoree and was named the Anson Mount Scholar-Athlete Award Winner by a national publication. His GPA (in the 3.5 range as a double major) rivaled his shooting percentage (at .587, the second best in school history).

Now married, he moved to the Northwoods two years ago after earning his law degree. He finds the work rewarding.

“A lot of times, when clients come to you, they have major, serious problems in their lives,” Babcock said. “Some are very emotional and can’t handle problems on their own. I enjoy helping them through that.”

He thinks his sports background has been a plus.

“You have to be competitive when practicing law, like you do on the basketball court or for any other sport,” he said. “You need a competitive attitude. You’re asserting your clients’ rights, and representing your clients assertively.”

On being a lawyer: “Many times, there is a lot on the line. When you lose, you feel really bad, but you tell your client, ‘That’s what the facts were, we did our best and sometimes you can’t avoid it.’ You have to move on and do the best for them in the future.”

Proudest moment as an attorney: Babcock won his first-ever jury trial last October. He represented a contractor in a civil case over payment for services rendered.

Time at UW-Green Bay: “The best thing? I thought all my professors did a lot to prepare me. (Professors) Scott Furlong and Denise Scheberle were very good. They taught a lot of classes I took with respect to law. My experiences there helped me in pursuing a legal career.”

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**Current player sees law as way to help**

UW-Green Bay senior Ngosong Fonkem, 22, has his eye out for the underdog.

The former men’s soccer team midfielder wants to graduate and become a civil rights attorney. He believes that, too often, society favors the privileged and forgets the poor. He interned at a public defender’s office and observed that wealth can make a difference.

“That’s really not justice. The same standards should be held across the board for everybody,” said Fonkem, who studies political science and social change and development.

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**Still on a winning streak**

Amy (O'Brien) Bruchs ’90, women’s basketball, went from winning on the court to winning in court. An employment and labor law attorney with Michael Best & Friedrich in Madison, she is undefeated in six cases before the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. “I chose a field that requires a desire to be competitive and to perform under pressure. Those are things that become engrained in you playing competitive college sports.”

Handling success “The ability to handle both wins and losses is important. Sports teaches you that,” observes Kurt Wanless ’95, men’s tennis. Wanless has earned recognition as a “Rising Star” attorney under age 40. He practices general business and corporate law at the McCarty Law Firm in Appleton.

**On guard for his clients**

Jeremy Pfister ’00, men’s basketball, specializes in corporate law and business planning for Baker & Daniels, Fort Wayne, Ind., managing corporate mergers, acquisitions and contracts.

Setting her sights on the goal Stacy Krueger ’01, women’s basketball, less than a year away from her law degree at the University of Toledo, is considering a career in real estate law or estate planning.

Phoenix lawyer Darin Allen ’95, men’s tennis, is a Phoenix working in Phoenix, Arizona. A four-year captain of the men’s tennis team, he’s an attorney for the American Arbitration Association’s Phoenix branch. He works with companies to resolve disputes out of court.
Former UW-Green Bay coach Dick Bennett was recognized in February when the spacious new auxiliary gym (inset) at the Kress Events Center was named the “Dick Bennett Gym.” Friends and former players contributed to and are leading the ongoing naming-rights campaign. The facility is the first in Wisconsin honoring the man who led the Phoenix to three NCAA and two NIT bids. His 40-year career included time as a high school coach, as architect of UW-Stevens Point’s great NAIA teams, as a Final Four coach for the Badgers, and leader of the Washington State program now headed by his son, Tony. Dick acknowledged the tribute at a men’s game halftime program.

Attorney John C. Heugel, ’71, regional analysis, is incoming president of the Founders Association, the community group supporting UW-Green Bay. Active in a range of volunteer initiatives, Heugel was one of the first to be honored with the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, in 1995.

Founders Association
“Tradition. There’s a tradition that this community supports its university. Because we’re newer than most UW campuses, and state budgets have been so tight, we’ve had to be entrepreneurial. We accomplish things on our own. The Founders are proud of that.”

UW-Green Bay
“Tremendous community resource. When you look at all the cultural and sporting events, the lectures and conferences, the summer camps for children and LIR for retirees, and continuing education for adults... the programming array is phenomenal. The biggest thing is generating even more alumni and bachelor’s degrees for our region. I whole-heartedly support the Chancellor and the Growth Agenda.”

Hopes for the future
“There is more competition today for people’s charitable support. As an alumnus and Founders member, though, I have always thought ‘meet-the-student’ events are our secret weapon. Once donors see them in action, they’re sold. As we seek to grow giving for things like student scholarships, the student-community bond is central.”

Memories
“Teachers. Wonderful professors. I can rattle off names from 35 years ago as if it were yesterday: Frank Byrne, George O’Hearn, Moran, Sager, Gandre, Jim Murray, Bill Laatsch... Great educators stay with you for a lifetime.”

The University and its students lost a friend with the January passing of Green Bay philanthropist Betty Rose Meyer. “She dedicated herself to making this community and our University a better place,” commented Chancellor Bruce Shepard, “and she succeeded.” Celebrated locally for leading the campaign to refurbish what is now the Meyer Theatre, she was a longtime member of the Founders Association at UW-Green Bay and supported development of the Weidner Center for the Performing Arts and the Kress Events Center on campus. She was perhaps most proud, however, of a 1997 donation of $400,000 that, at the time, was the University’s single largest scholarship gift. With a populist touch, Mrs. Meyer stipulated that the resulting financial awards go not to the “gifted and talented,” but rather to the “ambitious, dedicated, average students” who because of family finances would otherwise be unable to afford college.
Capital Campaign turns corner on $21 million

A steady flow of gifts for new student scholarships and academic enhancements has pushed the Campaign for UW-Green Bay past the $21 million mark.

Individuals, corporations and foundations are demonstrating increased interest in the Capital Campaign’s Phase II, which emphasizes centers of academic excellence. Says Steve Swan, assistant chancellor for university advancement, “We’re finding increasing interest among donors who appreciate they can make a major difference with gifts targeted to a particular academic program or initiative.”

The Capital Campaign has an overall goal of at least $25 million. The more than $21 million raised thus far includes $11 million for the new Kress Events Center and capital and annual gifts since July 1, 2003.

Howe, Nair, et al have posted… how ’bout you?
Faculty members past and present are posting at a new campus blog site, “Growing Academic Excellence: Sustainability.” The conversation began in January when Chancellor Bruce Shepard challenged the campus to renew the pursuit of regional and even national prominence in targeted academic areas. One longstanding area of excellence, he noted, has been environmental sciences and policy. Faculty members have drafted a vision statement for what they’re calling the Institute for Environmental Management and Business. Alumni and friends are invited to learn and post at https://blog.uwgb.edu/excellence/.

From A to ‘Zine’: Cofrin Library adds fun collection

Some might see libraries as never-ending stacks filled only with vintage books, scholarly journals and important articles they may one day need for a research paper.

They offer much more, of course, and this spring the Cofrin Library added to the variety with a lively new zine collection. Zines (pronounced zeens) are handmade magazine or mini comic books about anything you can imagine, from favorite bands and movies to subcultures and personal confessions.

“We need to engage our students in conversation and their intellectual development. The zines project is a creative way to do this,” says library assistant director Mark Hyatt. “Students often don’t use library research materials, so this is another way for us to engage with students.”

Faculty members have donated zines, and students have contributed as well, resulting in a collection of 70 or 80 zines. They reflect the diversity of students and faculty, says Hyatt. In addition, the library has contributed to the collection.

All of the library’s zines were donated from the personal collections of Sarah Detweiler, a professor of Arts and Visual Design, and Stephen Perkins, academic curator of art. Both have written articles for, or authored, their own zines.

“Reading zines allows the reader to engage in and with the diverse voices within society and culture,” Detweiler says. “Some people might not use a library in the traditional way, but they would be interested in zines.”

You can find the zines on the fourth floor of UW-Green Bay’s Cofrin Library.

— text by Megan Gustafson, 2008 Alumni Relations intern, Sheboygan, Wis.
At Tijuana, Cruz bridges barriers to good planning

More than 50,000 commuters cross the international border daily between San Diego and Tijuana for work, shopping and school. When UW-Green Bay Prof. Marcelo Cruz was called in to help with ongoing transit improvements, the issue was cultural. He had to figure out how to get Mexican and American planners to cooperate for best results.

“In American culture, you don’t mix business and pleasure,” he says. “In Latin culture, you fuse the two. You socialize with your workmates and you work with your workmates.”

Cruz is a specialist in urban and regional development, particularly in ethnic identity and land use. On an occasional basis over four years, he has consulted with Tijuana and San Diego transportation planners to build an understanding of cultural differences while they built a road and rail infrastructure connecting two cities in two countries.

Work schedules were much different, with Americans working 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Mexicans working from morning until late evening with a long mid-afternoon break to be with family. Also, Americans lean heavily on contract law while Mexicans tend to favor handshake agreements with people they know.

“These are the kinds of cultural aspects I was brought in to get together and to break those barriers,” Cruz says.

Hammersmith accepts top job at Metro State

Sue K. Hammersmith, who as provost and vice chancellor is UW-Green Bay’s chief operating officer and top academic officer reporting to the chancellor, has accepted the position of president of Metropolitan State University.

The quality of UW-Green Bay’s annual Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute, a summer training program for government officials, has been honored by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Program director Kassie Van Remortel, Outreach and Extension, received the group’s 2008 Award of Excellence.

Dave Dettman ’95 of the library staff was awarded the 2008 Information Literacy Award from the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians. The award praised his focus on library instruction as a way to boost academic success among new freshmen.

Leftovers from vegetable processing may be turned into energy as a result of a $30,000 grant from the Midwest Food Processors Association, Inc. to Prof. John F. Katers ’91 and ’93, Natural and Applied Sciences. The study will evaluate anaerobic digester options for waste generated at Del Monte processing facilities in Wisconsin. Prof. Michael Zorn ’95, a chemist, will also participate.

Aileen Yingst, a planetary geologist and director of Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium, contributed to a women-in-science milestone on Feb. 22. Working from her Environmental Sciences Building computer, she directed a camera on the Mars Rover “Spirit” more than 35 million miles away. Yingst and about three dozen colleagues nationwide made up NASA’s first all-female science team to command a daily mission.

Tributes poured in, scholarship donations were made and the state Assembly passed a memorial resolution as campus and community mourned the passing of Prof. Anne Kok, chairperson of the Social Work program. Kok died Feb. 4 in a Door County traffic accident. friends remembered her warm manner and work as an educator, as an international volunteer in Jordan and Ethiopia, and as an engaged citizen in Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay. Scholarship donations are still being accepted; colleagues and students past and present shared memories online at www.uwgb.edu/memorial/.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Cydie Shepard has been appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle to the statewide Advisory Board for the Wisconsin Covenant, which promises a spot in a Wisconsin college or university to any eighth-grader who agrees to maintain a B average. The Governor credits Shepard and her husband, Chancellor Bruce Shepard, for inspiring the Covenant with the success of Phuture Phoenix at UW-Green Bay. The pre-college program targets schools in low-income neighborhoods and encourages children to graduate from high school and pursue higher education. A popular component is the annual campus tour day for local fifth-graders.

The UW System has recognized the contributions of Diana Borrero-Lowe, coordinator of the American Intercultural Center, with an Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award.

Lucy Arendt ’87 and ’90, Business Administration, is part of a seven-member team of engineers and social scientists awarded a $1.5 million National Science Foundation grant to explore strategies to protect buildings and their contents in earthquakes.

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CONNECTING LEARNING TO LIFE? IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, IT’S PAR FOR THE COURSE

When Associate Prof. Regan Gurung won UW-Green Bay’s Founders Award for faculty scholarship last fall, his reputation as a prolific researcher and widely published scholar who engages students in high-level projects made him a solid choice.

Those qualities also make him a solid representative for the academic unit he chairs, Human Development.

Human Development emphasizes active research in bringing psychology, biology, anthropology and sociology to bear on understanding of the human life cycle. It’s one of UW-Green Bay’s most popular programs. Between the interdisciplinary major and its largest disciplinary subset, psychology, degrees are awarded to roughly 200 students annually. A sampling of highlights from the past year:

- Nearly one-third of all student exhibitors in April’s campuswide student showcase were advised by Human Development faculty.
- Gurung, a sought-after presenter at national conferences, has been invited to next month’s American Psychological Association gathering to help create a blueprint for future undergraduate education.
- Erika Linzmeier, research assistant to Prof. Illene Noppe, won a scholarship to the 2008 Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, in Montreal.
- Profs. Gurung, Ryan Martin, Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges and Kris Vespia led an unprecedented delegation of faculty and nine student co-presenters to the American Psychological Association meeting in San Francisco. Topics ranged from teaching and learning to gender in advertising and managing stress.
- Assistant Prof. Jill Collins White, a specialist in children and immigration, is one of only three dozen scholars from the United States and Mexico invited to present at a June conference in Philadelphia.
- Prof. Emeritus Fergus Hughes received the Founders award for institutional development.
- Martin was selected a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow. In a Packers-crazy year, he also became a “go-to” media source for his observations on the region’s “Pack mentality” and football-season psyche.
- The program hosted a national workshop for high school teachers from across America last July on the teaching of biopsychology, or the study of brain, nervous system and biological bases of behavior. “If you have to get (this) across at the high school level,” explains Gurung, “teachers need some tricks in their bag.”

Camp supports kids after loss

Camp Lloyd, a day camp for children ages 7 to 13 grieving the loss of a loved one, returns to UW-Green Bay the week of June 23-27. The camp provides summer-camp fun for kids who understand what their fellow campers are going through. They also spend time exploring their feelings by creating memory boxes, planting a memorial tree or releasing balloons (photo).

Prof. Illene Noppe of Human Development, a specialist in death and grief issues, started the camp last year. She named it for her husband, Prof. Lloyd Noppe, who at age 8, lost his father in a traffic accident, something that years later led both Noppes to reflect on childhood tragedy and coping. Human Development students help plan the camp and serve as counselors. Unity Hospice of Green Bay is a partner. For details, visit www.uwgb.edu/camplloyd.

AGE 40 TO 100: THERE’S A STUDY FOR YOU, TOO

The Human Development program’s communitywide Health Perceptions Survey is going strong. Project director, Associate Prof. Dean VonDras, is seeking volunteers ages 40 to 100 to complete a mail survey with a brief story and questions inquiring into the participant’s perception of illness symptoms as well as questions asking about the respondent’s own health and lifestyle. If interested, inquire at vondrasd@uwgb.edu.

Toddlers go ga-ga for research

UW-Green Bay is inviting toddlers to college. So far, kids and parents are having a blast.

The Language Learning Lab has opened its doors for the first local study of how children learn to talk. Assistant Prof. Jennifer Zapf says more than 50 families have volunteered thus far, with more welcome.

Basically, the research is child’s play. The parent guides the child through a few simple exercises while Zapf or a student assistant looks on. The toddler gets a book or toy as a gift.

“Our students are so excited,” Zapf says. “They’re seeing the same things in these 2-year-olds — that children understand way more than they can say — they’ve been reading about in their courses.”

Zapf intends to add studies of puzzle-solving abilities to the ongoing language work. The mother of two young children herself, she tells parents, “Sign up any time… three months to 3 years old… we’ll contact you when he or she is the right age for one of our studies.” Learn more at www.uwgb.edu/learnlab.
ART MUSEUM LURES TALENTED GRAD BACK TO WISCONSIN

Last fall, Green Bay native Dan Keegan ’72 and his wife, Janne’, had it figured out. They would stay in California where the weather was mild, friends were plentiful, and their careers were flourishing.

What they couldn’t have anticipated was a call from the Milwaukee Art Museum asking Dan to become its next executive director. “Let’s see,” Keegan says, “… nationally recognition with international notoriety, fabulous art collection, great professional opportunity, and we would be returning home (Janne’ was also born in Wisconsin). We thought about it for about two seconds before saying ‘yes.’”

Keegan started his new position in March 2008, leaving the San Jose Museum of Art, where he had gained recognition as an arts and community leader and talented executive director. Previously, he was director of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Mo., and before that, a successful practicing artist and faculty member.

The foundation, Keegan proudly proclaims, was undergraduate work at UW-Green Bay: “UW-Green Bay helped my career, by setting a tone, laying a foundation, encouraging me to explore, examine and take creative risks…”

It was an invitation from his brother John, a UW-Green Bay student, to “play in the clay” at the campus studio (an old warehouse near Main Street), that sparked Keegan’s interest in art. Soon he was leaving behind his microbiology interest at UW-Madison, and enrolling as an art major at UW-Green Bay. What followed, he recalls, was an honor roll of faculty members and favorite courses… Bill Prevetti for drawing, Bruce Grimes for wheel throwing, basic design with Davey Damkoehler.

“The teachers were fantastic, different, robust,” Keegan recalls. “They inspired us to go on to graduate schools. Davey, in particular was a great mentor. He was a mentor/model of living and breathing a lifestyle of art. He would hang out at Kaap’s (downtown restaurant) with us students and talk art. What better experience could he provide than that?”

Ceramics, both wheel-thrown and hand-sculpted, became both Keegan’s method for creativity — “it was magic”— and the medium that would gain him national visibility as an artist and small-college faculty member.

As he worked through campus administrative positions, chair of the art department, director of public relations and the like, he saw how fine arts and leadership could meld as a successful career.

“I’ve come to love both the creative activity and the problem-solving,” he says. New to his current directorship, Keegan has yet to spell out a plan but hints at a major project and a new visitor experience, which he hopes will inspire fellow UW-Green Bay alumni to plan a trip to the Milwaukee waterfront.

1970s

James Van Dyke ’71 regional analysis, is a specialist for the Appleton Department of Development.

Susan (Brandenberg) Lebergen ’72 modernization processes, retired from Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee in 2005 after more than 17 years, and splits time between Chandler, Ariz., and Pewaukee.

Daniel Rathbun ’73 urban analysis, earned a certificate of merit from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam, for “great contributions to the development of standardization, metrology, and quality work.” He is project director for the Support for Trade Acceleration Project, Hanoi.

William Patzke ’75 regional analysis, is director of planning and economic development in De Pere.

Lynne Cunningham ’74 urban analysis, is executive director of The Enterprising Kitchen, Chicago. The nonprofit enterprise makes natural soaps and spa products, and provides workforce development and support services to women working toward economic independence.

Terry Machut ’74 managerial systems, is a financial adviser for Morgan Stanley in Milwaukee.

Colin Michaud ’74 urban and regional analysis, is the owner of Columbia Design in Vancouver, Wash.

Wayne Mickesch ’74 managerial systems, is a board member for St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay.

Larry Wahlstrom ’74 population dynamics, formerly of Jewel-Osco, is now president of Shaw’s Grocery Stores based in Boston. He remains part of the Super Valu family of stores.

William Chauvoir ’75 science and environmental change and regional analysis, is executive director for the Door County Business Development Center. His wife, Cheryl (Froelich) Chauvoir ’92, works at The Lake Companies, as a systems analyst.

Anne Lubbers ’76 science and environmental change, was promoted to professor of biology at Centre College in Danville, Ky. She serves as chair of the college’s environmental studies program.

Debbie Scray ’76 humanism and cultural change, is a real estate agent who sells commercial real estate for Seidl and Associates and residential properties for Shorewest Realtors in Green Bay. She is a volunteer for the YWCA of Green Bay-De Pere, the Green Bay Boy and Girl Choirs, and the Friends of the Green Bay Symphony.
Karen (Mancl) Antosch ’77 science and environmental change, had her work in China, “The Beijing Experience,” featured on Ohio State University’s homepage. She is a professor of food, agricultural and biological engineering; director of the graduate program in environmental science; and co-director of the soil environment technology learning lab. To see a video, visit www.osu.edu/features/2008/china/.

Larry Antosch ’77 science and environmental change, is the director of environmental policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau.

Bruce Mommaerts ’77 regional analysis, is executive director for the Oconto County Economic Development Corporation.

Nicki (Blatchford) Schuh ’77 managerial systems, is the CEO and owner of Heartfelt Charity Cards, Mundelein, Ill.

Richard Fischer ’78 business administration, is a senior accountant at Factory Card and Party Outlet in Naperville, Ill.

Melodye Lehnerer ’78 social change and development, is a full-time instructor for the College of Southern Nevada.

Paul Linzmeyer ’78 humanism and cultural change, works for Revolution Inc. and recently organized the first Eco-Summit Conference at St. Norbert College. The event drew more than 125 people and offered a forum for Northeast Wisconsin companies to explore how they can deploy sustainability principles in their business.

Ann Wuerger ’78 communication and the arts, is an administrative assistant for Schreiber Foods in Green Bay.

Joshua Cline ’79 regional analysis, is executive director of New Hampshire Rivers Council, an organization committed to the conservation and ecologically sound management of the state’s rivers, watersheds and related natural resources. (Manc) Antosch

Paul Charles ’80 business administration, is a co-owner of Advantage Office Solutions in Howard, a locally owned and operated full-line office equipment dealership.

Jeanne M. Harper ’80 thanatology (death education and counseling), was this year elected the first woman President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Green Bay Diocesan Council. A counselor and specialist in thanatology (grief and death counseling and education), Harper is pursuing a new track in spiritual direction and life coaching, and seeking a spiritual director certificate through the Daughters of Charity, a Vincentian order.

James Schlies ’81 regional analysis, is the vice president of economic development for Fox Cities Economic Development Partnership.

Rita Thackeray ’82 nutritional sciences, is a clinical dietitian for Fulton State Hospital in Fulton, Mo.

Dan Boncher ’83 business administration, is the senior systems engineer for Tushaus Computer Services, Green Bay.

Timothy Siebers ’83 business administration, writes that he is one of the senior marketing consultants for WBAY TV-2 in Green Bay, with two decades of experience in advertising and marketing. He has been married to Sue (Jordan) for 27 years.

Dave Willems ’83 communication and the arts, was selected an officer for The Business Resource Center of the Fox Cities. He will serve as vice president. The Business Resource Center provides one-on-one counseling and assistance and offers monthly education seminars for area businesses.

Laure Lesperance ’84 business administration, is a grants coordinator for Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to helping troubled teen-age boys.

Theresa Okokon chose to take the road less traveled. Instead of applying for a full-time job like most of her classmates, she signed on as a Peace Corps volunteer. “I wanted to open my eyes to what else was out there, experience life from a different direction, find out what I was made of, and find out what the world was made of,” she says.

Okokon has been in Ecuador since last June and will remain there until September of 2009 — a total of 27 months. She spends most of her time in an inner-city community called Calle Ocho working with Mujeres

Cynthia (Wnuk) Hollins ’85 associate of arts and sciences, is self employed as a small business owner in Spencer, Mass.

Michael Petersen ’85 communication and the arts, is co-author of a law review article detailing past problems in legal education and proposing strategies for improvement. The article, “A Legal Education Renaissance: A Practical Approach for the Twenty-First Century,” can be accessed at www.wmichell.edu/ler.

Bobette (Nelson) Plendl ’85 science and environmental change, is an environmental engineer and scientist for The Boeing Company in Everett, Wash.

MaryJo (Sciabaras) Stern ’85 business administration, is a mortgage systems administration manager for Resource Mortgage in Virginia Beach, Va.

Greg Wilkey ’85 business administration, is president of Fisher-Barton Inc. in Watertown, Wis. Fisher Barton consists of five independent companies working together to offer a broad mix of metallurgically engineered materials and processes, with diverse products including lawnmower blades, agricultural knives and coatings, bronze gears, and engineered coatings for products from medical instruments to pump seals and shift forks.

Social worker, traveler, realist, she connects to Ecuadorians
Jefferey Spindler ’87 business administration, was re-elected to the board of directors at First State Bank, New London. He is a vice president of business banking.

Christopher Tolan ’87 human biology, is a facial plastic surgeon at Midwest Facial Plastic Surgery, Woodbury, Minn.

Sherri (Spielman) Valitchka ’87 communication and the arts, is the public relations chair of the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. She is employed by the YMCA of Green Bay.

Michael Cuene ’89 business administration, is one of Broadway Automotives’ owners and managing partners.

Jane (Washatka) Frantz ’89 communication processes, is the marketing director for Community Living Solutions, Appleton.

Barbara Holly-Fox ’89 business administration and social change and development, is an attorney at Menn Law Firm.

David Leemon ’89 psychology, is the senior software engineer for Avista Inc., Dubuque, Iowa. The company provides safety- and mission-critical software engineering services.

Craig Tebon ’89 environmental planning, is executive director of Ripon Main Street.

Rhonda Hartline-Knoespel ’90 music, received certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She is a choir/music teacher at Lombardi Middle School.

Mary Conard ’90 art, is the owner of Conard Creative Group LLC in Green Bay. She oversees the design and creation of business communication tools including brochures, letterheads, posters, invitations, annual reports, catalogs and web sites.

Paul Northway ’90 business administration and political science, is the regional market president for Baylake Bank. His responsibilities include customer and community relationships through the nine Baylake Bank financial centers in the Green Bay area.

Donna (Kuczksdorf) VanBuecken ’90 general studies, is executive director of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers in Appleton, a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

Dean Haen ’91 environmental policy and planning and environmental sciences, is the port manager for the Port of Green Bay.

Laurie (Ledving) Olson ’91 business administration, is vice president of commercial banking for The Business Bank of Green Bay. She has 18 years of banking experience.

Maggie Bishop ’91 a graduate who works for Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River, is seeking potential partnerships with UW-Green Bay and its alumni. (Prof. Ganga Nair brings his forest ecology students twice a year to the Eagle River forest to study white pine blister rust.) Bishop relays that there are many workshops, programs and offerings alumni might appreciate. Those interested can e-mail Bishop at maggie@treesfortomorrow.com.

Tony Bennett ’92 humanistic studies, posted his second consecutive 26-win season as head basketball coach at Washington State. Last year’s NCAA coach of the year led the Cougars to a Sweet 16 appearance this March. He reportedly turned down an offer to become the head coach at Indiana University.

Jodi Brennan ’92 human development, is owner of First Trophy and Laser Engraving, New London.

Lisa (Woelfel) Cribben ’92 managerial accounting, is an accountant with Wipfli LLP. She also lends her financial expertise to not-for-profit organizations like the YWCA to help analyze financials and provide strategic direction.

Timothy Felner ’92 business administration, is a senior account executive for Tushaus Computer Services of Green Bay, an independent, full-service provider of computer services and products.

Scott Horack ’92 business administration, is assistant national sales manager for Raymond James Financial in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Karla (Steiner) Oswald ’92 human development, is a senior search consultant for Management Recruiters of Green Bay.

Eric Zwart ’92 history, is a systems administrator for Bay Verte Machinry Inc., Green Bay, which specializes in the sale of new and used machinery to the metalworking and woodworking industries.

“I don’t believe in changing the world,” Okokon says. “Making even small changes that stick can be difficult. I do believe, though, that those small changes really do help people.”
Cindy (Pieper) Haven ’93 public administration and environmental policy and planning and ’96 environmental science and policy, is an environmental manager for Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton. She writes that she had a baby boy in March 2007.

Sharon (Benter) Johnson ’93 human development, is a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes School in De Pere.

Robert Scheffen ’93 social change and development, is a probation and parole agent for the state of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

Barbara (Shimek) Voltmer ’93 social change and development, is a software developer for Elation Technologies, LLC in Tampa.

Mark Belinske ’94 business administration, is associate general counsel for Kraus-Anderson Construction Company in Minneapolis.

Steven Janke ’94 environmental sciences and biology, is a plant ecologist for the USDA Forest Service in Lakewood, Wis. Bert Lehman ’94 business administration and communication processes, a journalist for more than 10 years, recently joined Journal Community Publishing Group in Waupaca.

Jason Helgeson ’95 and ’02 human biology and master’s in administrative science, is the service line director for musculoskeletal and rehabilitation services for Prevea Health. He is a licensed athletic trainer and certified strength and conditioning specialist.

Shaun McKeefry ’95 business administration, was elected secretary for the Volunteer Center of Brown County’s 16-member board. He works for Smet Construction Services.

Martin Tirado ’95 urban and regional studies, is executive director for the Snow and Ice Management Association Inc., based in Milwaukee.

Cheryl (Develice) Beyer ’96 communication processes, is a systems tester for Humana.

Cole Buergi ’96 communication processes, is an account executive for Leonard & Finco Public Relations, Green Bay.

Ryan Kauth ’96 human biology, works for Investors Community Bank, Manitowoc, as a commercial lender representative in the Lakeshore region. He recently earned an MBA.

Michelle (List) Schoen ’96 communication processes, is a human resource generalist (benefits) for Community Bank and Trust, Sheboygan, and has recently earned certification as a human resources professional.

David Allen ’97 human biology, is the store manager of U.S. Cellular in Fond du Lac.

Joseph Carroll ’97 human biology, received a $200,000 career development award from the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind. He plans to use the award to further his research on retinal disease.

Matthew Castor ’97 communication processes, is a project manager for Savoy Studios in Portland, Ore., a design firm specializing in large-scale art glass installations.

Business blooms for Eco U era grad

When winter’s white has gardeners dreaming of the rainbow colors still to come, Marty Schaefer, Class of 1972, has them looking to Siberians.

Siberian irises, that is. The showy perennials are the specialty of Joe Pye Weed’s Garden, the mail-order plant nursery Schaefer runs with partner Jan Sacks in Carlisle, Mass.

The couple has won national awards for hybridizing Siberians, the slender, elegant and, arguably, easier-to-grow cousins to the bearded iris.

Schaefer made his first cross in 1985 and was soon contributing to his field’s “how-to” literature. Breeding for attractive new color combinations and ruffling, he and Sacks won the top Siberian iris prize in 1999 for Roaring Jelly, a bloom of purple and mauve with yellow veins. Other winners — Careless Sally, Riverdance and Ships are Sailing — soon followed.

At UW-Green Bay, Schaefer’s home was the communication-action concentration. His major research project — establishing and promoting an organic garden near campus (left) — was in keeping with the new University’s environmental mission.

That garden also foreshadowed his eventual career choice. Joe Pye Weed’s Garden (named for the widely known wildflower) also involves wholesale and flowershop sales in addition to the catalog business. Their website is www.jpwflowers.com/. 
Rebecca Kundert ’97 human biology, is a project consultant for Mauce Claims Enhancements.

Ingrid (Ross) Kunding ’97 human development and psychology, is executive director for West Madison Senior Coalition, which states its mission as providing seniors with programs that improve the quality of their lives.

Robert McDonald ’97 political science, is the vice president of sales for House of Harley in Milwaukee. He and his wife, Melissa, have one son, Hayden Robert.

Georgia (Lorenz) Meulemans ’97 public administration, is a business manager for All About Packaging in Appleton. She has 12 years of experience in the field of human resources and earned certification as a professional in human resources.

Lori Ritter ’97 English, as manager of the Advance Business Development Center, was involved in the design, development and move to its present location. She also serves as the secretary of the Wisconsin Business Incubation Association, and sits on the events and training committee of the National Business Incubation Association.

Julie Srenaski ’97 elementary education, received a Golden Apple Award for educator excellence in April. She is a teacher at Franklin Middle School, Green Bay.

Jeffrey Bein ’98 information and computing science, is the technical support manager for Liberty Mutual Group in Wausau.

Debra (Erno) Kees ’98 communication and the arts, is an architect with Sala Architects Inc. in Minneapolis.

Paul Knuppel ’98 business administration, is a mutual funds customer service representative for Thrivent Financial in Appleton.

Wayne Walker ’98 business administration, is the new customer service manager for University Ticketing, Information and ID Services in the University Union. Walker, a former Phoenix basketball standout, had worked previously as customer service manager for WG&R Furniture of Green Bay.

Amy (Griffin) Childers ’99 human development and psychology, is a claims processor for Humana-One, Green Bay. She married Steve in July 2007.

Jennifer (Adamovich) Cruz ’99 human development, was promoted to assistant branch manager with Guaranty Bank in Sheboygan where she has worked since August 2006.

Wendy (Dote) DeSando ’99 communication processes, was honored for the second consecutive year in her position as a senior banker for Harris Bank in Huntley, Ill. She announced the birth of her daughter, Alessandra, born in November 2007.

Matthew Greget ’99 communication processes and environmental policy and planning, is the co-owner of Daisey, an eclectic marketplace in Princeton, Wis., offering earth-friendly products.

Sara (Kleinhaus) Suwalski ’99 human development, is the leadership development program manager for UW-Oshkosh.

Mark Mueller ’99 business administration, is a sales representative for Orv’s Pizza in Kaukauna.

Ryan Ruzziconi ’99 public administration and political science, is an assistant general counsel for Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Co., Inc. in Wausau.

Susan M. Zellner ’99 communication and the arts, shares word that she received the 2007 Rising Star Award at National Philanthropy Day in Wilmington, Del., hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Brandywine Chapter. The award recognizes a fundraising executive with five years or less experience who shows strong leadership potential. She is employed at the Delaware Art Museum as the manager of major gifts.

Katie (Karcz) Eastman ’00 communication processes, is the marketing coordinator for STS Consultants in Green Bay. She assists with public relations, marketing and internal communication efforts.

Michael Glime ’00 urban and regional studies, is a program manager for Algoma Main Street, a community improvement organization.

Susan (Doughty) Moumblow ’00 communication processes, is the career center and K-14 relations manager at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Katherine Short-Olp ’00 business administration, is an account executive for Gannett with the Post-Crescent, Appleton.

Chad Pelishek ’00 environmental policy and planning, is the economic development manager for the city of Sheboygan.

Aaron Richardson ’00 business administration, will serve a two-year term as chairperson of the city of Fitchburg Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission.

Anne Schauer ’00 environmental science and ‘02 environmental science and policy, was featured in Marquette Engineering Magazine, Fall/Winter 2007. She is working on her doctorate in environmental engineering, studying ways to get more methane production from the breakdown of agricultural waste. Read the full story at www.marquette.edu/engineering/pages/GettingInvolved/Engineering_magazine.html.

Nicole (Moore) Stockman ’00 human biology, works in the medical records department for the Department of the Navy in Groton, Conn.

Heather (Dorne) Trevathen ’00 computer science, is the owner of Ellipse Fitness in Green Bay.

James Scharfenberg ’01 environmental sciences, is an approvals manager for Pollution Control Industries in East Chicago, Ind. PCI works to collect, process, recycle, reclaim, treat or dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

Michelle Schoen ’01 business administration, was promoted to human resource generalist (benefits) at Community Bank and Trust in Sheboygan. She has earned professional designation in human resources.

Ashley Booth ’02 urban and regional studies, is a senior planner for HNTB Corporation of Milwaukee.

Kristy Deeg ’02 business administration, is an co-owner of R. Lang Fireplace in Darboy. The company installs and services gas fireplaces, pellet stoves, gas stoves, wood-burning inserts and gas lines.

Troy Graverson ’02 business administration, is a resort manager, partner and owner of Village Inn Resort in Two Rivers.

Mike Heine ’02 communication processes, is the new coordinator of media relations and video/audio news for UW-Green Bay. He returns to campus from the Gazette newspaper in Janesville, where he contributed to his newspaper’s transition to online video/audio and also served as a news analyst for radio station WCLO-AM.

Justin Hilgemann ’02 accounting, is a financial analyst for Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, specializing in industrial automation control and information solutions.

Michael Zalubowski ’02 communication processes, is a customer service specialist at Humana Dental.

Melissa (McCutchan) Brockman ’03 history, is a pharmacy vendor business analyst for Shopko. She recently moved back to Green Bay after living in Austin, Texas.

Andrea (Jordan) Cook ’03 human development and psychology, is a resident at Spectrum Prosthetics and Orthotics in Des Moines, Iowa.

Aaron Curtis ’03 business administration, is a financial accountant at Schreiber Foods, Inc.

Diane Glasser ’03 nursing, is a clinical instructor for the Career and Technical Center in Lebanon, Pa. Although retired from full-time nursing, she says she “just cannot give it up” and continues to work in patient care and as a clinical instructor for student nurses. Having completed a short story, she is working on a nursing article.

Chris Hagerty ’03 communication processes, writes that he and his wife Shelli have finished building their new log home in Antigo where they live with their two sons.

Sandra Hayes ’05 business administration, is a human resources manager at Pinnacle Services, Inc. in St. Louis Park, Minn. The organization provides services to persons with disabilities and older adults.

Abigail Kiener ’05 urban and regional studies and environmental policy and planning, is an urban planner for the city of San Francisco. She writes that when she married Kurt Kober ’01 business administration, in September 2007, Dr. Bill Laatsch was the officiant. Abigail and Kurt have both settled into their new jobs and “West Coast living” as well.
Karen (Misdorf) Krause ’03 political science and public administration, is a human resource coordinator for Sonic Foundry Inc., Madison, a media communications and knowledge management company.

Monica (Schultz) Larkin ’03 communication processes, was promoted to billing clerk supervisor for Holter Brothers Inc., De Pere.

Marcy Levine ’05 master’s of science in applied leadership for teaching and learning, received certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She is a first grade teacher at Doty Elementary School.

Derek Neumann ’05 business administration, is an admissions representative for Rasmussen College in Lake Elmo, Minn.

James Phelan ’05 business administration, is an associate attorney for Maki, Ledin, Bick, and Olson, S.C. in Superior. He graduated cum laude from Baylor University in April 2007.

April (Rasmussen) Soyk ’05 elementary education, announced the birth of her daughter, Emma Jo, in June 2007 in Ames, Iowa.

Anita (Vanderhoof) Resch ’03 interdisciplin ary studies, is the Nicolet National Bank vice president, trust officer. She administers personal trust accounts and assists with the estate settlement process. Resch is also a graduate of the Cannon Financial Institute personal trust program.

Adam Thill ’05 computer science, has been promoted to senior programmer analyst for Acuity.

Katherine (Canadeo) Thompson ’03 business administration, married Ryan Thompson in November and resides in Appleton. They are both practicing attorneys in the Fox Valley.

Matt Bramschreiber ’04 urban studies, is the assistant general manager of Country Inn and Suites, Green Bay.

Dawn Breuer ’04 human biology, is a fitness consultant and Fitness Together Magazine director for Fitness Together in Wauwatosa.

Ryan Foote ’04 business administration, is a senior project analyst for supply chain at Kohler Company.

Lucas Godshall ’04 urban studies, is the land use planner for Kenosha County Planning and Development.

Nicole (Dederig) Kiss ’04 political science, is the high school liaison for Manitowoc County schools at Lakeshore Technical College.

Renée Kresl ’04 interdisciplinary studies, is the president of the Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce.

Nancy Le Hardy ’04 nursing, is a staff nurse and chair of Nursing Quality Council for Nash General Hospital. She is also a part-time nursing instructor at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount, N.C.

Michael Marshall ’04 business administration, is a trade desk specialist with Associated Wealth Management, Green Bay.

Nikki Prinbow ’04 communication and the arts, is a newly elected member of the board of directors for Volunteer Center of Brown County. She works for Element Creative.

Melissa (Damsteegt) Reinhold ’04 business administration, is an accountant for Brilllon Iron Works.

Julie Reinemann ’04 human biology, is continuing her education at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. She and her husband plan on moving back to Green Bay to open their own chiropractic office after her graduation. They are expecting a child in May.

Vicki Zellner ’04 business administration, works for Associated Bank as a financial analyst.

Kerry (Kassie) Blondheim ’05 communication processes and Spanish, is the human resources director for Innovative Services, Inc., Green Bay.

Shawn Budiac ’05 business administration, is a category specialist at Batteries Plus, Hartland, Wis.

Joshua Burton ’05 business administration, was promoted to senior credit analyst for First National Bank Fox Valley.

Brandon Cacek ’05 social change and development, is an advertising and marketing consultant for Beckett Media in Dallas.

Melissa (Gloudemons) Diedrich ’05 mathematics, is a branch manager for Anchor Bank in Neenah.

Anna Swanquist ’05 psychology, is an account manager for Schreiber Foods, Inc.

Amanda (Gauthier) Hanson ’05 elementary education, is a birth-to-3-year-old educator in Oconto County. She is married and shares her first house with her husband and two dogs.

Sara Hebel ’05 business administration, is the manager of clinic operations at Aurora Health Center in Pulaski. She is also a former Phoenix cross country runner who coaches in both Pulaski and Bonduel. He married Ashley Vander Zanden last June.

Joshua Keenan ’05 urban studies, is a firefighter and paramedic for the Caledonia Fire Department in Caledonia, Wis.

Crystal Kindler ’05 human biology, is an account executive for Valpak of Northeast Wisconsin in Appleton.

Nancy Krueger ’05 master’s in social work, is the health and wellness coordinator for the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Green Bay.

Deanna (Kratzke) Maurot ’05 business administration and information and computing science, is a transportation analyst for Schreiber Foods.

Jenna (Retzlaff) Osborn ’05 English, is a high school English teacher for Gresham Community School, about 40 miles west of Green Bay.

William Strutz ’05 human biology, is a cytotechnologist for the Metropolitan Medical Laboratory in Davenport, Iowa.

Johnathon Yoder ’05 theatre, is the director of marketing for Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York, N.Y.

Larry Cornell ’06 is an analyst for Eastbay Inc. and Footlocker.com. He has a master’s degree in environmental science and policy.

Jamie Gassner ’06 business administration, is the human resources coordinator at Markel American Insurance Company in Waukesha.

Tina Jacobsen ’06 human biology, is the health promotion and disease prevention supervisor for the Oneida Tribe of Indians Community Health Center. She writes that she completed a dietetic internship with the University of Delaware and became a registered dietitian in September 2007. She created and implemented a “wellness coaching” service called Twatakalits, which in Oneida means, “We make ourselves healthy.” Additionally, she is working on a diabetes prevention program through partnership with a UW-Madison research project.

Christopher Hendricks ’05 elementary education, is a fifth-grade teacher in Pulaski. He is also a former Phoenix cross country runner who coaches in both Pulaski and Bonduel. He married Ashley Vander Zanden last June.

Tracy Kranzusch ’06 English, teaches English at Clinton High School in Clinton, Iowa.

Leslie Larson ’06 accounting and business administration, is an auditor and CPA for Frasier, Dean, and Harris in Knoxville, Tenn. She has also completed certified public accountant training.

Jacob Magnuson ’06 psychology and human development, announces the birth of his daughter Lucy Rose Magnuson on October 11, 2007.

Melissa Metzger ’06 human development and psychology, is a substitute teacher for the Grass Lake School District. She also writes that she is a full-time graduate student at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and continues to work part time in Green Bay as a line therapist for the Fox Valley Autism Treatment Project.

Amanda Peanosky ’06 communications, is a logistics agent for Tom, Joy & Son, Inc. in Peshtigo. She writes that she is engaged to Jason Jacobson ’99 business administration, and that their wedding will be in August of 2008.

Robert Radloff ’06 elementary education, is a fifth-grade teacher for the Rice Lake Area School District.

Sarah Scidmore ’06 music, is a music teacher and office assistant for Reek Elementary School in Lake Geneva.

Leah (Fayas) Suazo ’06 social work, is the family self-sufficiency coordinator for Integrated Community Services, Inc. She is also an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Jennifer (Bowers) Becher ’07 business administration, is an account coordinator and assistant for Element Creative in De Pere.

Kristine Bely ’07 accounting and business administration, works for Schenck Business Solutions as a staff accountant.

Amber Bradford ’07 art and communication and the arts, is a graphic designer for the merchandising department at Menards, Inc. in Eau Claire.

Roger Dier ’07 master’s in applied leadership for teaching and learning, received the national Amy Hertz Advocacy Award for outstanding advocacy and education in smokeless tobacco prevention and control. His work with the UW includes advising healthcare providers on new research and best practices. He also runs StopSpitUSA — a national listserv.
Krystal Dorn '07 business administration, is a financial aid counselor for Bellin College of Nursing in Green Bay.

Melissa Frier '07 Spanish, is a carrier onboarding representative for Schneider National.

Heather (Wochinski) Hagen '07 social work, is a skills specialist for ChristieCare in Oregon City, Ore.

Kirsten Hoffman '07 accounting, is a staff assistant with Schenck Business Solutions.

Rachel Krueger '07 psychology, is a professional recruiter for Pinstripe in Brookfield.

Angela Krumpos '07 accounting, is a staff assistant with Schenck Business Solutions.

Erica Millspaugh '07 art, placed in the MFA First-Year Exhibition lineup at the Des Lee Gallery at Washington University in St. Louis.

Ever the activist, alumnus returns as honored speaker

David Kriebel ’77, a summa cum laude graduate of UW-Green Bay and a leader of the student environmental movement in the 1970s, is returning to campus to deliver the May 2008 commencement address.

Kriebel is today a full professor on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He co-directs the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, which collaborates with industries, agencies and unions on the redesign of systems of production to make them more environmentally sound. His research focuses on the prevention of workplace injuries, cancer and non-malignant respiratory disease.

“I was a high school eco freak… determined to devote my life to improving the planet and reducing human suffering.” That’s how the Philadelphia native recalled his teen-age decision to head west to the then-new UW-Green Bay. He studied biology and helped organize environmental research and action initiatives including the Union of Young Environmentalists, a national student organization. He continued on to Washington University in St. Louis and the Harvard School of Public Health, where he received his master’s degree in physiology and doctorate in epidemiology.

Kriebel was among those profiled (above) in the May 2007 environmentalists issue of Inside UW-Green Bay.

That ’70s photo

An alert reader e-mailed to help us date the classic UWGB photograph of Earth Ball games on the lawn (cover, “Eco U” issue, May 2007). Though the issue’s theme was 1970s activism, the photo most likely dates from spring 1980, or perhaps later. Writes Michael J. Cassidy of Kohler, Class of 1982, environmental science, “I’m pretty confident the girl facing the camera… under the big earthball… is Patty Reinhard…” His friend and classmate, now Patricia Reinhard Summers ’84 of Milwaukee, confirmed that ID. Cassidy thinks another former classmate, Bruce Forrest, who attended through 1983, is to her left in the photo. Earth Ball was an iconic element of warm-weather campus life in the early years. Prof. Jack Frisch rolled it out as a lesson in new and cooperative games for his popular class Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication.
Vanessa Moran ’07 elementary education, is a first-grade teacher at Tigerton Elementary School.

Lori Nolan ’07 elementary education, is a kindergarten enrichment teacher for the Knowledge Learning Corporation in Glenview, Ill.

Tyler Pensis ’07 biology, is a teacher for the Shawano School District.

Jenna Pucker ’07 accounting and business administration, is a tax associate at the Oshkosh office of Clifton Gunderson.

Ashley Raygo ’07 social work, is a social worker for the Menominee County Health and Human Services Department.

Patty Schmitz ’07 interdisciplinary studies, works in accounts payable for Oshkosh Truck Corporation.

Erin Sigler ’07 English, is a substitute teacher for the Port Edwards School District.

Marriages & Unions

Terrence Brennan ’06 to Aubrey (Sutter) Brennan ’07
Heather (Wochinski) Hagen ’07 to Wesley Hagen
Steve Jandt ’01 to Shelley (Reif) Jandt ’00
John McCrackin ’01 to Megan (McDonough) McCrackin
Andrea (Jordan) Cook ’05 to Jeremy Cook
Amber (Pyne) Aussem ’05 to Michael Aussem
Christopher Hendricks ’05 to Ashley (Vander Zanden) Hendricks
Katherine (Canadeo) Thompson ’05 to Ryan Thompson
Kelley (Pedersen) Tutas ’07 to John Tutas
Tyler Pensis ’07 to Brittany (Brunner) Pensis ’07
Abigail (Kiefer) Kober ’03 to Kurt Kober ’01

A Knote from the Knipples

Kristy Knoblock ’02 writes, “In November 2007, I married Thomas Nipple (UW-Platteville grad) and we combined the spellings of our last names to become The Knipples. Since the K in Knoblock is silent, it is still pronounced nipple and I encourage laughing because I too think it is a funny name.”

Quest for Vonnegut

was a real trip

For some 1970s graduates of UW-Green Bay, memories of an unlikely, spur-of-the-moment field trip flooded back last April with news of the death of a legendary American author and satirist. Here’s the story:

Crammed in a red Ford pickup with a camper on the back and a spare tire rolling up and down the aisle, a group of UW-Green Bay students headed to New York City in March 1974 to visit their favorite novelist, Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

Participants in their new university’s “Experimental Learning Community,” they were living the ideal of innovative education.

“I saw in that community some of the best learning I’ve ever seen and also some of the worst,” recalls Dave Galaty, professor emeritus, who puts the memorable road trip among the former.

That’s Earl Madden, top left, and Lisa Simonds, lower right, among the road-tripping UW-Green Bay students paying a visit to their literary favorite, Kurt Vonnegut, outside his New York City home. This snapshot, incidentally, was obligingly snapped by Vonnegut’s future wife, the noted photographer Jill Krementz.

Recognize anyone else in this photo? Call and let us know at (920)465-ALUM.

The small group, a subset of the larger community, chose to study the works of Vonnegut, a prolific writer in the 1960s and ’70s who by then had published the likes of Slaughterhouse-Five, Cat’s Cradle, and Breakfast of Champions. The students had questions and boldly decided they should go directly to the source, and seek a meeting with the popular Vonnegut for the answers.

“With too much coffee and too little sleep, the next thing you know we’re on the phone putting it together,” says Lisa Simonds ’77.

Earl Madden ’75 got hold of Vonnegut’s agent by phone and the group headed east to meet Vonnegut in his lower East Side brownstone.

“He was chain-smoking Pall Malls the whole time,” says Madden, who remembers snacking on Wisconsin cheese and cheap wine the group brought along. “He was incredibly personable. Great sense of humor. He asked us many questions. We were all probably a little too naïve to be in awe.”

Simonds remembers Vonnegut’s unique slants on life. “That has stuck with me for a long time. I can still see myself there sitting and listening to him.”
We’re 25,000 strong!
That’s right... during May commencement the 25,000th graduate of UW-Green Bay will receive his or her diploma. That’s 25,000 smart and engaged advocates making a difference in your community and ours. In celebration, a special newspaper section in the Green Bay Press-Gazette and the Appleton Post-Crescent recognizes “alums to know,” and other “25s” of note. (Chancellor Bruce Shepard’s note, inside front cover of this issue, offers additional perspective.) We’re UW-Green Bay proud of our 25,000 alumni and we hope you are, as well.

Did you work in student government? Drop us a line!
Did you serve the Student Government Association during your time at UW-Green Bay? Did you continue your passion in politics post-UW-Green Bay? Were you part of a history-making movement, or did you help draft a controversial bylaw? Did you spend way too much time in the SGA offices, and not enough in labs and libraries? What are you doing now? Inside editorial staff would like to hear from you for an upcoming issue. Give us the scoop at alumni@uwgb.edu.

It’s summer. Send your kids to campus
You will find every camp imaginable at www.uwgb.edu/camps/. For sports camps specifically, go to uwgbathletics.csstv.com/camps/wigb-camps.html.

Our author collection is growing
Many UW-Green Bay alumni are published authors... are you? Add to our list, and to our author display located near the Garden Café in the Library Alcove. Send us your published book or novel or see the growing list at www.uwgb.edu/alumni/notes.

FORE! Scholarships... register today!
The Alumni Association’s FORE scholarships golf outing is Friday, June 13, with a 10 a.m. shotgun start at Royal Scot Golf Course in New Franken, just minutes from campus. We promise a day of fun, including 18 holes of golf, beverages, hors d’oeuvres, hole events, a putting contest, raffles, a reception, power carts and more! Teams play a four-person scramble format. Prizes will be awarded to the team with the lowest scores and handicap winners.

Cost is $85 per golfer/$320 per foursome. Sponsor a tee or green for $125 each or both for $200. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. Contact us at alumni@uwgb.edu or (920) 465-2586 to request a registration brochure or to find out more.

Dining with Professionals
About 100 students traded their blue jeans for business attire to attend last month’s Etiquette Dinner, hosted by the Alumni Association and Career Services. Deborah Thomas-Nininger, a national presenter on etiquette, gave the soon-to-be graduating students lessons on dining, socializing, name tags, handshakes and more. In addition, corporate representatives had the opportunity to meet potential new hires in a formal atmosphere at the Weidner Center’s elegantly appointed Fort Howard Hall. The event, say organizers, was a hit!
A little wine and a little Dave Steffen (in person!)

Join your Alumni Association at Trout Spring Winery, from 4 to 7 p.m., Sunday, August 24. Two members of the Dave Steffen Band (Dave and Craig) will be playing. It’s sure to be a blast. Sign up for our e-newsletter at alumni@uwgb.edu or watch the website www.uwgb.edu/alumni as we firm up the details.

Association Honors Top Alumni

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Alumni Association honored four graduates at the annual awards night in April. Receiving the highest honors, Distinguished Alumni Awards, were David T. Muench and Mary M. Kabacinski.

Muench, of Appleton, graduated in 1972 with a degree in Regional Analysis and received a master’s in Environmental Arts and Sciences in 1979. He was an award-winning community development specialist for UW-Extension before accepting a position with EcoEnergy as a wind power educator and advocate. He is a former president of the Alumni Association.

Kabacinski ’71, Humanism and Cultural Change, was a classroom math teacher who returned to UW-Green Bay and earned a degree in accounting and CPA status in 1981. She went on to become chief financial officer for School Specialty, Inc., the largest distributor of school supplies in the country. Recently retired, she is active with the Fox Cities community foundation and various service organizations.

Recognized with Outstanding Recent Alumni Awards were Rachel (Neff) Greenley, assistant professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee; and U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Amy Roznowski, a Cobra helicopter pilot who was on active duty and preparing for a new mission. Roznowski (inset) accepted her award via a videotaped acceptance speech.

There’s a link to more details at www.uwgb.edu/alumni/index.asp.

Bookmark us!

For more photos and the latest on new benefits and activities, check out our revised Alumni website at www.uwgb.edu/alumni.

A little wine and a little Dave Steffen (in person!)

Join your Alumni Association at Trout Spring Winery, from 4 to 7 p.m., Sunday, August 24. Two members of the Dave Steffen Band (Dave and Craig) will be playing. It’s sure to be a blast. Sign up for our e-newsletter at alumni@uwgb.edu or watch the website www.uwgb.edu/alumni as we firm up the details.

Spring/Summer Alumni events

MAY
Sat. 17 – Commencement Reception, Titletown Brewing, Green Bay
Sat. 18 – Cellcom Marathon, Alumni Association water station sponsor
Tues. 20 – Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting, on campus

JUNE
Fri. 13 – FORE Scholarships Alumni Golf Outing, Royal Scot Golf Course, New Franken

SEPTEMBER
Wed. 10 – Open House, renovated University Union (tentative date)
Melissa Merkovich

Meet our definition of excellence

- A triple major earning highest academic honors
- Selected to display her research at the Academic Excellence Symposium
- Interned at White House, Office of Presidential Correspondence
- A future graduate student at American University
- A young woman with big dreams from a small Wisconsin town (Franksville)

One more thing...

She may not have been able to achieve these things without your help.

Like many of our star students, Melissa is a recipient of a Founders Association scholarship, made possible by contributions from alumni, community leaders, faculty and staff. Thanks to your help, the Founders Association provides financial support to hundreds of students like Melissa each year.

Consider a gift today

www.uwgb.edu/advancement/give/
P.S.

MILESTONE
The first came on June 1, 1970. It took nearly four decades for the next 24,900 or so. Now, with the arrival of No. 25,000 in May, UW-Green Bay plans big doings. See page 23.