The best start for the life you want!
Dear Community Members,

The University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac was established as a very unique partnership between the University of Wisconsin System and Fond du Lac County. Because of this partnership, we are able to combine the resources and services of the UW System with the benefits of a small liberal arts campus environment to offer a very high quality, cost effective education to the community of Fond du Lac.

From the day the first students arrived on campus in 1968, the community has benefited from the high quality educational opportunities available locally on our campus. In fact, more than 17,000 students have gotten their “best start” right here and have gone on to successful careers locally, throughout Wisconsin and across the nation.

We are the local access point to the UW System and it is our responsibility to ensure that the opportunities provided by the UW System are opportunities available locally in our community and the surrounding region. We take this responsibility seriously even with budgetary constraints; we keep our role always before us.

Our student body has grown dramatically over the past two years and is becoming increasingly diverse. We have a growing population of returning adult students and our program offerings have expanded to include more evening, distance education courses and collaborative bachelor’s degree completion programs.

This past year we launched four new baccalaureate programs. This brings to five, the total number of UW bachelor’s degree completion programs available to local residents. These partnerships with our sister UW institutions demonstrate our commitment to the community as the access point to the UW System. The community has demonstrated its commitment by working to improve the facilities over the past several years and we appreciate this support. It is essential to our continued success.

UW-Fond du Lac is proud to have the support of a strong and growing Foundation. The UW-Fond du Lac Foundation provides the “margin of excellence” to our students, faculty and staff. Through scholarship opportunities, professional development grants and community outreach programs the Foundation is an important partner in our success. This past year saw the expansion of the alumni association and creation of a Distinguished Alumni Award, recognizing the contributions of alumni from UW-Fond du Lac.

The campus community has engaged in a strategic planning process involving campus constituents and area high schools throughout the past year to ensure that as we add programs and services, we remain committed to our primary mission of providing the freshman/sophomore liberal arts foundation of a bachelor’s degree.

It is an honor to serve the UW-Fond du Lac community and I hope that the information in this report will inspire you to join us in helping to make UW-Fond du Lac even more effective in our mission of service to the area. As members of our community you are essential contributors to our success, and contributors to our future, as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel J. Blankenship
Dean and Chief Executive Officer
Our Students

UW-Fond du Lac students enjoy a myriad of activities on campus and find plenty of opportunities to get involved. On any given day, students can be found rehearsing for an upcoming play, discussing campus policies with Student Government or planning the next event with the Student Activities Committee.

"Falcon Flier" Student Newspaper

After almost 15 years, a student-run newspaper returned to the UW-Fond du Lac campus in the fall of 2003 in cooperation with "The Reporter." Through this partnership, UW-Fond du Lac students have been included in not only the writing process, but also in the layout, design, production and distribution process. The "Falcon Flier" is published monthly in "The Reporter." Students can participate either by enrolling in a two credit News and Information Writing class or by joining the Hound Dog Club.

PRISM

This online student information system was launched for the fall semester. The goal of PRISM (People Soft Relational Information System) is to be a self service program that students can use to view their personal records and faculty can use to record grades, check class rosters, etc. PRISM allows students to register for classes, print class schedules, check grades, verify financial aid awards, make tuition payments and add or drop classes, all at a time and location convenient for them.

Athletics

UW-FDL offers five intercollegiate sports to our students; golf, soccer (co-ed), volleyball, women's basketball and men's basketball. The Falcons are members of the Wisconsin Colleges Conference and the Wisconsin Junior College Athletic Conference and come under the jurisdiction of the rules and regulations of both governing bodies. UW-Fond du Lac also sponsors club baseball in the spring. The university has also expanded its intramural program offerings to include flag football, volleyball, basketball and co-ed softball.

Student Activities

Anxious to get involved in campus life and the community, an enthusiastic Student Activities Committee (SAC) offered many new campus-wide activities including a penny war and bake sale to raise funds for the United Way, a sock collection for the Salvation Army and volunteering for the Volunteer Center.

Bringing in comedians and singers to entertain students was only part of what SAC accomplished during the past year. They also presented speakers and performers that addressed social concerns and expanded students' cultural experiences and awareness.

Gestic Theater offered an interactive performance focused on rape and sexual miscommunication, while Preacher Moss got the audience to listen, laugh and reflect on the differences between racial diversity and racial understanding.

Student Government

The UW-Fond du Lac Student Government Association (SGA) organized many events during the year such as a blood drive, a student “What’s Your Cause?” rally and a “Get out the Vote” campaign. Upcoming plans include coordinating additional blood drives, promoting a Cystic Fibrosis Walk and creating a smoking policy for the university grounds.

Student Work Zone

The “Zone” offers academic support services to UW-Fond du Lac students and promotes active, cooperative learning in a comfortable atmosphere. Free tutoring, study skills counseling and peer mentoring are offered. The “Zone” is a very supportive place dedicated to helping students succeed on both a personal and an academic level.

Enrollment – Fall 2003

716 Students
533 Full-time Equivalencies (15 credits)

257 New Freshmen
299 Men, 417 Women

543 Students age 21 & under
173 Students age 22 & older

454 Students are full-time
262 Students are part-time

Percent of Students Receiving Financial Aid: 36%

Approximately 50% of new freshmen rank in the top half of their high school class.

Faculty

19 full-time professors
The majority have a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree in their field.

17 part-time lecturers
2003 Highlights

Bachelor’s Degree Completion Programs

While UW-Fond du Lac continues to provide the freshman/sophomore liberal arts foundation of a bachelor’s degree as its primary mission, new collaborative partnerships were finalized with other UW institutions during the past year. These collaborative partnership programs offer the option of completing a bachelor’s degree right on the UW-Fond du Lac campus and illustrate just one way the UW System can pool its resources.

Four majors offered by UW-Milwaukee, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Stout joined a bachelor’s degree completion program from UW-Oshkosh that has been in place at UW-Fond du Lac for several years.

Continuing Education

Twenty-eight community members enjoyed a tour to Ireland accompanied by Michael Thorn, UW-Fond du Lac associate professor of history, in the summer of 2003.

In preparation of the need for Fond du Lac County employees to be better able to serve the communication needs of the increasing Latino population, Continuing Education offered non-credit Spanish to 18 Fond du Lac County employees. These employees represented numerous departments.

In response to area employers asking for certificate programming, UW Colleges began offering a non-credit Business Communication Certificate offered completely online. Courses include Constructing Clear Messages, Leading Others Whether or Not You’re the Boss, Problem Solving & Decision Making, Understanding & Managing Conflict, Effective Business Writing, Creating a Motivating Environment and Building and Sustaining Teamwork.

Over 125 people attended the Continuing Education Art Exhibit held in May 2003. In spring of 2004 this exhibit will also include the sale of artwork and proceeds will benefit economically disadvantaged children by providing scholarship opportunities for all UW-Fond du Lac children’s programming.

Fine Arts

The Prairie Theater has provided UW-Fond du Lac with the opportunity to bring cultural enrichment opportunities to the community. Two years ago, the Vienna Choir
Boys were on the stage of the Prairie Theater and last April the Trinity Irish Dancers performed to a sold out audience. The music department has presented several concerts to the public and the theater department has performed "A Midsummer Night’s Dream" and "Master Harold...and the boys."

Poetry readings, art exhibits, forums, lectures, and more are all part of the diverse programming offered to the community.

In addition to university sponsored programming, local theater and music groups and non-profit organizations have hosted events on campus.

**Faculty Receive Kaplan Awards**

Richard Gustin, assistant professor of communication and theater arts and Sayeed Payesteh, associate professor of economics, were named the Arthur M. Kaplan Fellows for 2003-2004. The Kaplan award is conferred to individuals who make significant and innovative improvement in instruction or service to students. The award honors Kaplan who retired in 1993 as vice chancellor of the UW Colleges.

Gustin received the award in recognition of his innovation in incorporating diversity issues into courses and theater department productions.

Through the production of South African playwright Athol Fugard's "Master Harold...and the boys," which included talk-back sessions with community leaders, Gustin worked to deepen the awareness, appreciation and education of UW-Fond du Lac students and the greater community on the important issues of ethnic diversity and race relations.

Payesteh is recognized for his incorporation of information technology into his instruction of statistics and economics. To help students visualize the abstract statistical concepts, Payesteh uses computer programs and simulations along with statistical software.

Students are encouraged to be active participants in the learning process through discussion of the most current economic issues in the news which are included in a class "newspaper." Students discuss questions posed by Payesteh about the news article and share their conclusions with the class.

**Campus Community Dialogue**

A keynote speaker from a national organization and a local panel of respondents were part of a Campus/Community Dialogue on Liberal Arts Education hosted by UW-Fond du Lac in March of 2003.

Dr. Ross Miller, director of programs in the office of education and quality initiative at the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), was the keynote speaker. A panel discussion led by local education, business and community leaders followed the keynote address.

**Tuition Deposit**

A pilot program at UW-Fond du Lac which required students to pay an advanced tuition deposit in July meant fewer no-shows for classes for fall 2003.

Students who had registered for classes were required to pay a $100 tuition deposit by July 15 or have their registration cancelled. UW-Fond du Lac was one of two UW Colleges that participated in this pilot program which has continued for the spring semester. Fewer than 30 student registrations were cancelled for not paying the deposit by the deadline.

In previous years, the average rate of no-shows or drops in the first two weeks of classes was 5.8% at UW-Fond du Lac. This fall, only 1.8%, or 11 students, did not attend the first day of classes at the university. As a result, the campus saw attrition rates in July rather than after the semester began which allowed better prediction of actual enrollments and the best use of available class space. This is an important ongoing strategy to optimize resources amidst ongoing budget constraints.
Strategic Planning Initiative

UW-Fond du Lac began a comprehensive strategic planning process in 2003. The entire campus community came together to provide input which was then collected and refined by the Strategic Planning Committee as they worked to identify the collective vision of the campus. Priorities have been identified as the result of this widespread participation and the work and reflection of many groups on campus. Through this process, the campus has identified four issues as key elements of the strategic plan in the pursuit of our mission and vision:

- **Creating a Diverse Community of Learners**
  - Provide a full range of courses
  - Develop a diverse student population

- **Being an Academic and Cultural Resource**
  - Encourage and facilitate life-long learning
  - Provide cultural enrichment opportunities
  - Foster global awareness and citizenship
  - Provide athletic and recreational opportunities
  - Strengthen community alliances and ensure affordable access to education
  - Expand Foundation partnerships

- **Being a Leader in Learner-Centered Service and Instruction**
  - Provide individualized instruction
  - Expand use of innovative technologies to enhance learning

- **Building and Sustaining a Healthy Campus Community**
  - Maintain and improve equipment, buildings and grounds
  - Improve faculty and staff interaction
  - Provide opportunities for faculty and staff renewal and growth
  - Update campus policies and procedures, including governance

UW-Fond du Lac Mission

- We enhance the quality of life in the area by educating our citizens. We provide a high quality liberal arts and science curriculum for undergraduate associate degree-seeking students to prepare them for baccalaureate programs.

- We value diversity. We respect, appreciate and actively promote diversity on our campus by serving the special needs of minority, disadvantaged, disabled and returning adult students.

- We serve as an educational resource to our citizens. We utilize the unique professional expertise of the faculty and staff to offer lifelong learning opportunities for our citizens in professional development, business and industry, and the liberal arts.

- We offer cultural enrichment opportunities to our community.

- We promote responsible citizenship and foster, in all learners, an enthusiasm for learning. We encourage students to be inherently curious, and responsive to the needs of others, to recognize that ideas are multifaceted, and to acknowledge that they have responsibilities as well as rights.
Dear Friends:

I am deeply honored to write to you as President of the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation. As an alumna of the College and as a parent of alums, the campus holds a special place in my heart. Not so long ago, I was hurrying into the library to work on a paper myself. I think that my dual commitment to the community and UW-Fond du Lac has made my involvement with the Foundation even more meaningful. Because I know firsthand about the quality of educational experience that takes place in the classroom, I am especially happy to work with the committed and dedicated Foundation Board of Directors to provide the margin of excellence that helps to elevate the UW-Fond du Lac experience. It is also very important to me that local residents, businesses, and leaders come to realize and appreciate the tremendous value UW-Fond du Lac adds to this community.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the chartering of the Foundation by then-Dean Dr. Willard Henken. The Foundation exists to support scholarships, professional development for faculty and staff, and community outreach programs. In 2002-03, the Foundation was able to award more than $15,000 in scholarships. Professional development support assists our top-notch faculty and staff to stay current in their fields by helping them attend regional, national and international seminars. The knowledge gained is brought back to classrooms and the community.

In 2003 we marked the retirement of the first Foundation Executive Director John Wright. In November, we welcomed Dr. Prudence Precourt as the new Executive Director. Dr. Precourt has more than twenty years experience in the development field with three other major universities. Her expertise will be very valuable in her partnership with Dean Blankenship and the board to build the resources we need to continue to provide enhanced opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and the community.

It is with a great deal of pride that I look at the exceptional updated facilities at UW-Fond du Lac, the large student enrollment, the outstanding faculty and staff, and the availability of five collaborative bachelor's degree completion programs. The UW-Fond du Lac Foundation looks forward to working with the community to help provide the resources that will keep UW-Fond du Lac as a vital and strong community asset.

Sincerely,

Sandi Braun Roehrig ('69-'70)
President
UW-Fond du Lac Foundation

Calling all alumni!

New Alumni Association and “Distinguished Alumni Award” Created

Staying connected with your alma mater is an important and fun part of being an alumnus of any school. For all those who have attended at least one semester at the University, this year presents an exceptional opportunity to be part of two FIRSTs.

The first of these FIRSTs is the establishment of an alumni association for UW-Fond du Lac. We are actively seeking volunteers who would like to be part of forming the Association that will be responsible for creating ways in which the alumni and the University can stay actively connected.

Also, UW-Fond du Lac is presenting the very first “Distinguished Alumni Award” at the spring 2004 Commencement program. This will be an annual award and provide opportunities for recognition and celebration of our outstanding alumni. For more information on alumni activities, call (920) 929-7657.
Our Vision

UW-Fond du Lac is a diverse community of learners providing affordable access to the academic and cultural resources of the University of Wisconsin by combining technology with personalized service and instruction.