Message from the Dean

Two years ago, our campus began developing a Strategic Plan to guide us in fulfilling our mission of providing local access to the University of Wisconsin. We have already successfully accomplished a number of key goals and continue to refine the plan.

Through the pages of this Report to the Community we are pleased to share with you our accomplishments and recognize our successes over the past year. Using the Strategic Plan as a guide we are pleased to report on our progress in three key areas:

Strengthening Community Partnerships - This year we have initiated a service learning or community based learning program at UW-Fond du Lac. Faculty, staff and students have enthusiastically begun working with community organizations. A service learning component is included in at least four different courses and plans are under way for a UW-Fond du Lac Service Learning Day in April of 2005. Through a grant from AmeriCorps VISTA we were able to hire a service learning coordinator who assists in integrating community opportunities with classroom experiences.

Providing the Best Start for Student Success - The Strategic Plan commitment to being a learner centered community is reflected in the availability of summer and Winterim session courses, an Associate Degree Evening Program and the first ever International Study course at UW-Fond du Lac. We have also established a comprehensive program, Engaging Students in the First Year (ESFY), which focuses on helping new students successfully transition to the college environment. Additionally, we continue to offer support services through our Student Work Zone and provide the best technology possible.

Enhancing Life Outside of the Classroom - We recognize that college is not just about what happens in the classroom. UW-Fond du Lac offers a dynamic array of opportunities in student government, student activities, athletics and more. Many of our students have received statewide recognition and awards for their accomplishments.

What’s next? We plan to continue to establish positive and collaborative relationships in our community. We feel that it is through the connections with our community that we have been successful, and will continue to be successful in providing access to educational opportunities to students in our service area.

Clearly, it is the combined efforts of a committed faculty and staff, the financial assistance of the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation as they help ensure student access, along with our supportive community, that makes possible the high quality University of Wisconsin experience right here in Fond du Lac.

We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continued success in the future. We value and thank you for your support of our campus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel J. Blankenship
Dean and Chief Executive Officer
Service Learning

Campus-community partnerships are being formed and strengthened through UW-Fond du Lac’s service learning program. Service learning can involve students working as volunteers, informally or as part of a course experience, or university faculty lending their expertise to an organization. The community benefits from having specific needs met and the students benefit from having a chance to practice skills in a “real world” setting.

For example, members of the Student Government Association (SGA) and other students are participating in a community one-to-one mentoring/tutoring program that assists educationally disadvantaged elementary school children. And, recently the UW-Fond du Lac Vocal Jazz group visited Parkside and Riverside elementary schools to discuss and demonstrate various music styles.

Through the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program, a Service Learning Coordinator, Julie Barber, came to UW-Fond du Lac seeking to form partnerships between the university, the K-12 schools and local community service agencies.

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, our 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. Majors are offered by UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Stout.

Continuing Education

In addition to the degree-seeking students, many community members enhance their skills, participate in professional development or take an enrichment class through UW-Fond du Lac’s Continuing Education Office. Participants in Continuing Education programs, services and partnerships range in age from elementary school children who enroll in College for Kids or athletic programs, to senior citizens who enroll in a wide array of personal enrichment, professional development or cultural enrichment non-credit courses. Continuing Education’s for-credit offerings include courses aimed at high school seniors striving to get a head start on their college education and study abroad opportunities for regularly enrolled students.

Diversity Circles

The Fond du Lac Area Diversity Circles project is a proactive and pioneering effort to encourage an atmosphere of communication, understanding and hope among an increasingly diverse population in greater Fond du Lac. The Diversity Circles project is coordinated through the UW-Fond du Lac Continuing Education and Cooperative Extension offices and managed by representatives from education, children services agencies, healthcare, city and county offices and concerned citizens.

From Fundraisers to Festivals...

UW-Fond du Lac welcomed an array of community fundraisers, special events and activities during the past year. The university was the site of the Fondy Acoustic Music Association Folk Fest, Free Spirit Riders benefit concert, Humane Society murder mystery dinner, Arboretum Committee’s Prairie Fest, Hospice Hope’s Mourning Has Broken event, Lutheran Homes and Health Services’ Woven Threads day and Fond du Lac Children’s Museum fundraiser.

The Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce hosted several events on campus including the annual Business, Industry and Education Day. In June, UW-Fond du Lac was the site of the Walleye Weekend kick-off event.

UW-Fond du Lac’s classrooms, meeting room and computer labs are increasingly used by area businesses for employee training and by area high schools for testing. The campus grounds were also used as the site of a regional cross country meet hosted by Winnebago Lutheran Academy.

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UW-Fond du Lac’s first international study course combined classroom instruction with a ten-day trip to Italy featuring the cities of Rome, Florence and Pisa. Twenty community members joined 13 students for the travel portion of the course and gathered in front of the Neptune fountain in Rome for this group photo.

Cultural and Academic Enrichment

UW-Fond du Lac has, as part of its strategic planning process, identified as a key component of the university’s mission its responsibility to encourage and facilitate life-long learning opportunities and provide cultural enrichment opportunities for the community.

Some of the events offered to the community last year by UW-Fond du Lac included the Winter Evening of Jazz concert, an astronomy lecture by Dr. Donald G. York of the University of Chicago, an Emily Dickinson portrayal by Lori Garbisch, a lecture on Savant Syndrome by Dr. Darold Treffert, a Shakespeare workshop presented by Robert Quinlan of Milwaukee Shakespeare, “the end of racism tour” presented by Preacher Moss, an Antarctica lecture by Jennifer Radtke of UW-Fond du Lac and several music department concerts and performances.

The theater department at UW-Fond du Lac presented the Neil Simon comedy “God’s Favorite” and the classic “Antigone” by Sophocles in the Prairie Theater.

Numerous opportunities for thought-provoking debate and discussion were held on campus in 2004 including a service learning forum involving 30 community and university participants, a presidential debate viewing and discussion forum, the showing of “The Fog of War” documentary film followed by a discussion forum, and a listening session regarding the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR).

Many of the events on campus are coordinated by the UW-Fond du Lac Fine Arts and Lecture committee. To keep events affordable, or often free, funding is provided from both on campus and off campus resources including the Student Life and Interest Committee, the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation and the Fond du Lac Area Foundation.

Gottfried Arboretum

The Gottfried Arboretum, located on the UW-Fond du Lac campus, completed its final phase of planting in the fall of 2004. A generous Stewardship grant, financial support from Fond du Lac County along with hours of volunteer support made this final phase possible. A nearly half-mile long walking and biking trail was completed connecting the north and south ends of the prairie.

The Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners group continues to partner with UW-Fond du Lac in enhancing the campus grounds. A new rain garden was created in the fall of 2004 as an educational project for the community.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Brenna Garrison-Bruden was awarded the first ever UW-Fond du Lac Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. Garrison-Bruden was elected to the Fond du Lac County Board ten years ago and currently serves as Board Chair. When her own children went to school, she became a classroom volunteer. This experience convinced her she should return to school and earn a degree in education. She attended the campus in 1981 and then again as a returning adult student from 1992-1997. She completed her foundation courses at UW-Fond du Lac before transferring to UW-Oshkosh where she completed her degree in education. She currently teaches at an elementary school in Oshkosh.
The Best Start for Student Success

UW-Fond du Lac continues its commitment to enhancing the overall academic experience of our students. Supporting student success inside and outside of the classroom is a top priority. Our expertise at educating freshmen and sophomores is clear in the data that shows UW Colleges’ students transfer and then go on to graduate with bachelor’s degrees at higher rates than transfer students from anywhere else – other UW schools, technical colleges or private schools.

Expanded Opportunities for Learning

The strategic commitment to building a “learner centered community” is reflected in the new breadth of learning opportunities available to suit the busy schedules of today’s students.

The Evening Associate Degree, available at UW-Fond du Lac since 1999, has been expanded to include the freshman-sophomore courses needed to meet requirements for students majoring in Business, Education and Nursing. Evening students are frequently employed full-time during the day, have families and are committed to their community. This expansion of the Evening Associate Degree opportunity permits these students to move toward their bachelor’s degree goals over a three-year period of part-time enrollment.

A well-designed Summer Session with a rich selection of classes has become the expectation of not only UW-Fond du Lac students, but their counterparts enrolled at other colleges across the nation who return home for summer. UW-Fond du Lac serves almost half as many students during the short Summer Session as it does during the average academic semester.

Building on the growing student participation in Summer Sessions, UW-Fond du Lac launched another series of short session classes this year. Winterim 2005 appealed to current UW-Fond du Lac students and community members with a course list which varied from Introduction to Film to College Trigonometry.

International Study

For the first time, a three-credit international study course was offered in the fall of 2004 through UW-Fond du Lac’s Continuing Education Office. The Culture of Italy course taught by Patricia Eby, UW-Fond du Lac music professor, culminated in a ten-day tour to Italy and the cities of Rome, Florence and Pisa. Community members were invited to join the students in the travel portion of the class.

Engaging Students

Engaging Students in the First Year (ESFY) is a UW Colleges’ wide effort that focuses on first year students as they make the transition from high school or post high school experiences to college.

The focus is on engaging students in activities geared toward enhancing academic and life skills; familiarizing students with campus resources and how to use them; fostering the development of positive relationships among students, faculty, staff and administrators; and preparing students to become lifelong learners and contributing members to society.

The UW-Fond du Lac campus is piloting a creative and ambitious ESFY initiative that includes six faculty members and over 140 students. The initiative includes the incorporation of a “Student Success Passport” that students will use as they participate in student life, university sponsored cultural activities and the Mockingbird Project which involves the UW-Fond du Lac campus in partnership with the Fond du Lac Public Library’s Community Read of “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

Student Work Zone

The Work Zone is an academic center that provides support activities for students in reading, writing, math, science and learning strategies. It promotes active, cooperative learning in a comfortable atmosphere. Free tutoring, study skills counseling and peer mentoring are offered which further support UW-Fond du Lac’s commitment to improve, strengthen and further the career goals of each student.

Technology

UW-Fond du Lac offers 150 computers in 11 different labs for student use. With the installation of new video equipment in classrooms, almost every classroom on campus will have the latest technology for computer and video projection deployment. Wireless access is available in “Hotspots” on campus including the University Center Commons and the library.

“When deciding on a college that would fit all of my needs, I realized that UW-Fond du Lac was the best place for me. It was close to home, saved me a lot of money, and in the UW system. UW-Fond du Lac really impressed me in my first semester here. The class sizes were small enough for the professors to know you, but big enough for you to meet many new friends. I am saving tons of money by attending UW-Fond du Lac and I still am getting a University of Wisconsin education. UW-Fond du Lac was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made in my life.”

Julie Twohig
Hometown: Saint Cloud
Chancellor’s Award

UW-Fond du Lac is extremely proud of its Student Government Association (SGA) which was awarded the 2004 UW Colleges’ Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Student Government.

Throughout the year, SGA members were actively involved in activities such as a “What’s Your Cause?” rally, volunteer fair, one-on-one mentoring/tutoring program with educationally disadvantaged elementary school children, and the formation of a subcommittee to study the problem of smoking on campus grounds.

The 2003-2004 SGA officers were Stacie Thyrion, President; Charity Jahnke, Vice President; Tracy MacKinnon, Executive Director; Ryan Towne, Treasurer; Anoush Greylord, Diversity Director; and Sean Zoch, Public Relations. The advisor is John Brown, student services coordinator.

All-State Choir

Twelve UW-Fond du Lac students were selected to be part of the Wisconsin Choral Director’s Association (WCDA) All-State Collegiate Choir. A total of 120 of Wisconsin’s best young singers were selected from 16 colleges to perform at the WCDA Convention in January 2004.

Singers accepted from UW-Fond du Lac were Josh Borowski, Michael Brown, Vonn Gohr, Evan Kraus, Scott Larson, Chris Peterson, Nicollette Shirkey, Holly Sternitzky, Lauren Seyfert, Elise Thelen, Paul Thompson and Diana Wagner.

UW Colleges’ Student Governance Council

Two UW-Fond du Lac students were elected to a state-wide student governance organization in 2004. David Herrick has been elected vice president and Sarah Kurer has been elected secretary of the UW Colleges’ Student Governance Council (SGC).

The SGC is the voice of students in shared governance at the institutional level. The Chancellor of the UW Colleges meets regularly with the SGC and seeks their advice and counsel. Through this forum, students are able to adopt an institutional position regarding various policies and procedures.

Athletics

The UW-Fond du Lac women’s volleyball team made its first trip to State since 1986. Team member Jackie Koepke was named to First Team All Conference and Beth Starks and Kendra Seidl received All Conference Honorable Mention. Adam Ludvigsen was named All-Conference for the soccer team.

Allison Sinnen was named to First Team, Amanda Saeger-Frei was named to Second Team and Kendra Seidel was Honorable Mention in the Wisconsin Collegiate Conference Women’s Basketball. Eric Koenigs was named to First Team in the Wisconsin Collegiate Conference Men’s Basketball.

Health and Fitness

A brand new Fitness Center, located in the Physical Education Building, opened in the fall. Over 15 weight training stations and nine cardiovascular machines are available to UW-Fond du Lac students and campus employees. Funding was provided by the State of Wisconsin as part of the final phase of the campus renovation.

Student Awards

The UW Colleges’ August Derleth Prize for Creative Writing was awarded to Anoush Greylord.

Open Notebook Creative Writing Awards were presented to Jessica Bartow, Elizabeth Brenner and Anoush Greylord.

Seventeen students were honored with Outstanding Student Achievement Awards at the 2004 Commencement ceremony: Megan Hanke, anthropology/sociology; Christine Thomsen, astronomy; Stacie Thyron, chemistry; philosophy, physics and student government; Randy Veeser, English; Renee Geiser, geography/geology; Sean Zoch, history; Tracy MacKinnon, journalism, student activities; Christopher Peterson, music major; Lauren A. Seyfert, music participant; Sheila Runge, student activities; Anoush Greylord, student government; Charity Jahnke, student government; and Angela Bruflat, theater.
Promoting excellence,
Investing in the future,
Making a difference!

Our community has much to be proud of when it comes to UW-Fond du Lac. With beautiful, state of the art facilities, a nationally recognized faculty and staff, and a first class UW education, UW-Fond du Lac offers those who attend excellence in learning. Those are just some of the reasons that the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation is honored to help promote and support UW-Fond du Lac.

Supporting UW-Fond du Lac strengthens our community by educating the young people who will be the local workforce of the future. Statistics demonstrate that those students who are educated here are more inclined to remain in the area to live, work, and raise their families. In fact, over 3,000 UW-Fond du Lac alumni live in the area, and over 8,000 live in Wisconsin.

The students who attend UW-Fond du Lac are our friends and neighbors. Almost all of the 720 students live within 20 miles of the campus and generally work full or part-time in the Fond du Lac area. Those same students, through the generosity of community members, businesses, alumni, and other friends of UW-Fond du Lac, received over $23,000 in scholarships in 2004. In addition, the Foundation provided professional development grants to faculty and staff for activities that created a positive impact on student learning and funding for economically disadvantaged youth to attend campus coordinated summer programs.

The support of local businesses and friends, such as you, helps UW-Fond du Lac provide excellence in learning. In fact, your contributions help strengthen the community by providing an affordable, high-quality education and facilities for today’s students and the future leaders and workforce of tomorrow. That is something we can all be proud of!

Warmest regards,
Christa Williams
Executive Director

Are you a member of the UW-Fond du Lac Alumni Association? You are if you have attended at least one semester at UW-Fond du Lac. The Alumni Association was established in 2004 to provide a communication channel between the campus and its alumni.

We would love to hear from you - visit the alumni website at www.fdl.uwc.edu/foundation/alumni

We know how important the time you spent at UW-Fond du Lac was… and that you may be looking for a way to connect with the faculty, staff and friends you remember from your time on campus. The alumni website provides you an opportunity to:

- Nominate an outstanding alum for the annual Distinguished Alumni Award
- Tell us your news
- Help support UW-Fond du Lac
- Update your contact information
- Find out what is going on at UW-Fond du Lac today

Contact the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation
By phone: (920) 929-7657
By fax: (920) 929-7640
By e-mail: uwfdlfoundation@uw.edu
Website: www.fdl.uwc.edu/foundation/alumni

Our Mission
The mission of the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac Foundation is to promote excellence at UW-Fond du Lac while enhancing the educational and cultural opportunities available on its campus.

Our Alumni
“Fond du Lac is such a wonderful community. As a life-long resident and UW-Fond du Lac alum, I am honored to serve on the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Board of Directors. I believe that UW-Fond du Lac is a tremendous asset to our community and to the residents who live here. I know that I got an excellent, affordable start on my education at UW-Fond du Lac.”

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