2010 Report to the Community

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Fond du Lac
A Campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges

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Dear Friends,

UW-Fond du Lac is an exciting place. I can say that with some authority because I’ve had the unique experience of being the UW-Fond du Lac Campus Dean/CEO twice. I served as Dean from 1993-2002, at which time I retired. Now, seven years later, I have returned to serve as Interim Dean while the campus searches for a new Dean/CEO.

What I have found here is a growing, vibrant, beautiful campus. Student enrollment has grown dramatically since I first began here in 1993. The school’s impressive academic program and the major campus renovation of ten years ago (which made the campus a state-of-the-art facility) have made UW-Fond du Lac a first choice for many area high school graduates, as well as for returning adults.

In addition, the online courses and collaborative bachelor’s degree programs, which were in their infancy when I left seven years ago, have been expanded and enriched, so that our students today have an even greater variety of courses, schedules, majors, and modes of learning than they did before.

You will see all of this and more as you look through this year’s report: opportunities to study abroad used to be limited largely to four-year campuses, but our students now have that opportunity, as you will see in looking at former student Teale Greylord’s experience participating in a Spanish language immersion program in Mexico. Other UW-Fond du Lac students have had important experience working on films by UW-Fond du Lac communications instructor Frances Perkins, whose work has won numerous national and regional production awards. Campus students also serve the community in important ways. Katie Ayer and Karen Kilmer tutored local elementary students in reading and math, through the federal College Work-Study program called America Reads and America Counts.

And the stories of Fond du Lac families who have come to our campus for generations continue with that of Paul Thelen, a multi-talented local musician. He started on our campus in 1977 and went on to Silver Lake College’s business-music program. Two of Paul’s daughters, Elise and Eva, likewise began their college careers at UW-Fond du Lac. The campus’ music program has been one of its strongest assets throughout its 40-year history, and the Thelens are among the proudest examples of that fact.

In our “you get what you pay for” world, it’s rare to find top quality at affordable cost, but that is the case at UW-Fond du Lac. Not only is tuition thousands of dollars less than at the four-year UW campuses, but because most of our students live at home, they also save an average of $5,000 a year in room and board. (Parents, an additional plus: parking is free!) Over the seven years that I’ve been gone, the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation and Alumni Association have continued to provide vital support, and the continued investment by Foundation donors to students and the campus as both an institution of higher learning and a community resource is appreciated.

Returning to the campus has been a real joy and privilege for me. As I look toward retirement once again, I know that I leave a campus which is an even better educational bargain, of world-class quality, than I did before. And I know that I will be leaving it in the hands of a carefully selected new campus leader, who can face the upcoming challenges with fresh energy and a reservoir of ideas and experiences that he will put to the service of our campus. I know that you will welcome him and give him all the support you have always so generously given to the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Judy Goldsmith
Interim CEO and Campus Dean

New Dean set to take leadership of campus in July

Dr. John N. Short has been named the next dean and chief executive officer at UW-Fond du Lac effective July 1, 2010. His selection is the result of a national search that began in early September 2009 and produced a pool of 70 applicants.

Most recently the dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Millersville University in Pennsylvania, Dr. Short succeeds former Dean Daniel Blankenship who accepted a position at Cardinal Stritch University in July 2009 after seven years at UW-Fond du Lac.

Dr. Short holds a D.A. (Doctor of Arts) in government from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn.; an M.A. in political science from State University of New York at Albany and a B.A. in political science from Penn State University.
By Monica M. Walk

Knowing how international study shaped her own life, a UW-Fond du Lac professor spent a part of summer 2009 exploring a Spanish language immersion program in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Assistant Professor of World Languages Valerie Mumm, M.A., traveled to the Encuentros campus which hosts a study abroad opportunity for students each January during the three-week Winterim term.

Mumm chose to use professional development funds provided by the Department of World Languages and the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation to familiarize herself with the program.

Personal and professional growth

“I want to know how to lead students through the program,” Mumm explained, noting that faculty leaders do not teach at Encuentros; instead, they ensure that students of all speaking abilities are correctly placed in language classes, determine course completion and grading, and provide counsel.

“I got to know students there, and got their perspective about what they enjoyed and what they didn’t. I was able to have interesting conversations, and it will help in the future to know the struggles students face and prepare them for it.”

The educational setting and immersion in Mexican culture also afforded Mumm personal and professional growth. In a one-on-one teaching situation, she was able to gain a deeper understanding of the pre-Hispanic history of Mexico, a topic that often comes up in classes she teaches at UW-Fond du Lac. “There are two blended cultures in Mexico,” she noted, “and to understand the past is to understand the present.”

Participating in an advanced language class helped refine her use of regionalisms and phrasing, which can differ significantly from the Spanish language Mumm experienced in previous study in Spain, Costa Rica and Peru. Classroom knowledge was bolstered by speaking with colleagues and students, in the markets, and with her host family.

Like most language immersion students at Encuentros, Mumm chose to live with a local family to continue learning outside of the classroom. Off-campus learning also included dance lessons, market shopping, and excursions to the National Palace and Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, generally tied back to classroom discussion.

Mumm knows she will use her new knowledge and mementos of the trip as she teaches Spanish in Fond du Lac. “I am very passionate about study abroad,” she said, “and use my own experiences in lessons. There is nothing here—in a 50-minute lesson—comparable with being put in real-life situations. You get into interesting conversations and analyze culture—your own and theirs. You are asked deep questions, so you have much self discovery.”

Student’s Winterim experience

Former UW-Fond du Lac student Teale Greylord speaks with similar passion about her own Winterim 2008 experience at Encuentros. “It was one of the best experiences of my entire life,” said the UW-Oshkosh senior Spanish major, who is spending the Spring 2010 semester back in Mexico, studying in Xalapa Veracruz.

Greylord had assumed study abroad could happen only on a four-year campus and worried about the cost. “I knew I wanted to go to Mexico. This was attainable, at a reasonable cost,” she said of the Winterim experience. “It was a dream come true.”

Greylord’s student experiences and activities were similar to those researched by Mumm on her trip. “I did all the ‘extras,’” Greylord said, in addition to three hours of daily advanced language study. “It was intense, real pieces of history. It was amazing.”

Faculty also commented on her increased Spanish skill when she returned to UW-Fond du Lac. “I think everyone should study abroad,” Greylord said, “whether for one week, three weeks or a semester. I come from a family on the low end of the poverty scale: if someone like me can do it, anyone can. It is achievable.”

more info: www.uwc.edu/academics/abroad

Student Leadership Summit

In the first collaboration of its kind, the four institutions of higher education in Fond du Lac County jointly sponsored a free Student Leadership Summit on October 7, 2009, at the UW-Fond du Lac campus.

Approximately 275 students from Marian University, Moraine Park Technical College, Ripon College and UW-Fond du Lac participated in this conference featuring regional and state-wide experts on the topics of diversity and leadership.

The Student Leadership Summit was coordinated by the Higher Education Diversity Initiative Task Force which included faculty, staff and student members from each school. The keynote “Leading on Diversity in the Twenty-First Century” was given by Jamie Washington, a nationally known consultant and trainer with more than 25 years of experience in education.
Summer film projects focus on education

By Laurie Krasin

Several students from UW-Fond du Lac and UW-Oshkosh were working long, unpaid hours during the summer of 2009 and loving every minute of it.

They were working on the sets of two film projects by UW-Fond du Lac communications instructor and local filmmaker Frances Perkins and her husband/director and UW-Oshkosh radio/TV film professor Troy Perkins. This husband and wife team offers a unique form of film education which has students working side-by-side with film professionals who volunteer their time and come back year after year.

Learning from the pros

In exchange for their long hours, the students gain invaluable hands-on experience. There are many places that coordinate seminars and charge fees to students for the chance to work on a film production. The Perkins’ film shoots provide essentially the same experience—for free.

“We don’t charge and we don’t limit the number of students involved,” said Frances. “A Perkins production is quite a bargain.”

Alana Berthiaume, a second year UW-Fond du Lac student from Hartford said she “jumped at the chance to be involved” after taking a few of Frances’ classes.

“It was definitely a great experience,” said Berthiaume. “It was definitely a great learning experience and a great way to find out for sure whether or not you’re cut out for the world of film production.”

After working on the summer film projects, Berthiaume knows she definitely wants to be involved in future projects and that she’s chosen the right major for her.

Campus connections

Scenes for the film “Billfold” were shot at UW-Fond du Lac. And, a campus connection to the second film project “Birthday Girl” comes from the participation of UW-Fond du Lac alumnus Dan Bell (‘69-‘71) who portrays one of the leads, the uncle.

The Perkins team said it was a pleasant surprise to find one of their leads so close to home. “We held auditions in Minneapolis and Dan (Bell) heard about them and contacted us,” said Frances. “We found the actor for this film right in our own backyard.”

Bell, who lives in Mayville, is an avid actor. He has starred or co-starred in numerous productions for the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre and in 30 independent films. He has won four classic “Telly” statuettes. Bell also portrayed the role of Dr. Gibbs in UW-Fond du Lac Theater Department’s 40th anniversary production of “Our Town” in November 2008.

“Birthday Girl” is the first scene of a feature-length film that Frances and Troy hope to complete in the summer of 2010 if they are successful at raising the needed funds.

It is the story of a young teenager from Chicago sent to live in rural Wisconsin with her uncle, a man she barely knows. Frances described the uncle as a “modern day Hunchback of Notre Dame—rough on the outside, sweet on the inside.”

Working long hours

First-time crew members were introduced to the long hours required to make a professional film project. And, while working with a mix of professionals and students can have its challenges, actor Bell said that the crew on “Birthday Girl” was “the most conscientious, compassionate, helpful group ever. It made my job easy.”

Bell remembers that during his first film the director explained that movie making is like watching paint dry.

“Yes, it takes a lot of hours, but in the end, the professional and successful project is realized,” said Bell.

The Perkins are always thinking ahead to their next project and both agree that the inspiration for their films is about characters and story together.

“The plot may come easily, but if the characters within that plot aren’t interesting, different and people we can relate to, then the plot won’t work,” said Frances.

Previous films and videos by Frances and Troy have won numerous national and regional production awards and have been official selections into film festivals around the country.

For more information on the Perkins’ projects visit the web site: www.northtownproductions.com.

For students and alumni

Recognition Award

Robyn French, a member of the UW-Fond du Lac student services team, was recently selected by the UW Colleges as a recipient of the Outstanding Classified Staff Member in Student Services Award for the 2008-09 academic year.

French has been at UW-Fond du Lac since 2005 assisting students through the admissions and financial aid process and supervising the student work study team. This annual award is recognition from her peers of the exceptional service and support she provides students, the student services office, and the campus community.

Articulation Agreement

UW-Fond du Lac and Marian University sign agreement to ease transfer of credits

Judy Goldsmith (left), campus executive officer/dean at UW-Fond du Lac and Dr. Deborah Golas, CSA, vice president for academics at Marian University signed an articulation agreement between the two institutions on Aug. 14, 2009, as Dr. Jeffrey Reed (standing), dean, School of Business, at Marian University, looks on. The agreement provides students at UW-Fond du Lac, and all of the UW Colleges across the state, assurances about the transfer of their credits to Marian University to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Under the agreement, Marian University will accept up to a maximum of 64 credits in transfer if the student has completed all requirements and received an Associate of Arts & Science degree from UW-Fond du Lac or another University of Wisconsin Colleges campus. Those students will have satisfied all Marian University general education liberal arts core requirements except the basic Theology requirement.

Photo courtesy of Marian University
Hmong story cloth dedicated

By Laurie Krasin

A unique piece of art has been welcomed into the campus artwork collection to honor the Hmong people.

The intricately hand stitched Hmong story cloth, depicting the ancestral journey of UW-Fond du Lac alumna Mai Yeng Xiong (’06-’08) and her extended family was acquired by the campus Multicultural Club with the help of Mai’s family.

Mai says that some of her best memories of UW-Fond du Lac were while she was a member of the Multicultural Club which made the dedication ceremony special for her. “It shows that the campus cares about the people in the community and wants to understand them. That is the most important thing about having the story cloth.”

Honoring the Hmong

For several years, the Multicultural Club has been buying international flags to display in the University Center Commons to represent the countries of origin of students, staff and faculty.

Paisley Harris, UW-Fond du Lac history professor and club advisor, said the group realized that a story cloth would be a way to honor and represent the Hmong students.

“We felt it would not be appropriate to have a Laotian flag to represent the Hmong, even though that is the country they are from,” said Harris. “They are an oppressed minority there.”

Harris explained that a special feature of the UW-Fond du Lac story cloth is the border with many figures representing everyday activities of the Hmong and their dispersal to different countries in the world. The story cloths are often made in the refugee camps and sent to the United States to sell.

“We understand that two people who still live in Thailand (where many Hmong had to flee at the end of the Vietnam War) worked on the cloth for at least a month,” Harris added. “The depiction of the Mekong River on this piece is much more detailed than most which took many, many hours of hand sewing.”

What it represents

From a distance, the 7’ x 10’ story cloth looks like a beautiful quilt made from different types of fabric sewn together in an array of colors and patterns. Examine it more closely and the cloth reveals images of homes, people, soldiers, the Mekong River, the villages and the refugee camps.

It depicts the story of the Hmong people—from their beginnings in China, their dispersal to Burma and Laos, their work with the CIA helping to fight the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, their flight across the Mekong River, life in refugee camps, and, finally, the beginning of their emigration to the United States. The villages featured on this story cloth represent those of Mai’s extended family.

A good day

Mai’s uncle, Nhia Neng Xiong, president of the Fond du Lac Hmong community, spoke at a special dedication ceremony at UW-Fond du Lac on March 19, 2009, and said that it was “a very good day for the people of the Hmong culture.”

Dressed in his military uniform, he spoke proudly of his people’s role in aiding the United States during the Vietnam War and explained the importance of these story cloths to help future generations understand the history and struggles of the Hmong people. “Because the Hmong people have no written past, they needed a way to tell their story. It (the story cloth) lets the youth born in refugee camps understand, lets future generations know what happened to us.”

The story cloth is displayed on a wall in the University Center Commons between the Prairie Theater and the music suite near the display of international flags.

The Multicultural Club also sponsors activities throughout the year to promote the breakdown of barriers that separate cultures. Just a few examples of the types of activities the club sponsors on campus are international potlucks, a Black History Month display, an Autism Awareness display and Coming Out as an Ally Week.

Top Photo: Mai Yeng Xiong (left) along with her uncle Nhia Neng Xiong (right) explains the importance of the story cloth at the dedication ceremony in March 2009.

Bottom Photo: Nhia Neng Xiong points out a part of the story cloth to Paisley Harris, history professor and Multicultural Club co-advisor.

UW-Fond du Lac Multicultural Club Mission Statement

Opening minds instead of building walls, while working towards a more diverse campus.

Gottfried Arboretum and Prairie updates

The July 2009 Prairie Fest, held at the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum, was a huge success. An estimated 1,000 people enjoyed many activities for the entire family.

During 2009, the Arboretum received a grant from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation for educational programming. With this assistance, the Arboretum was able to offer several programs, including a class on landscape design with natives, and prairie seed collecting. Over 100 people attended the arboretum programs and tours.

The Arboretum continues to work toward a goal of adding more trees to the formal arboretum. Several new trees were planted in 2009, and about 100 more are planned for the future. Eventually, woodland wildflowers will be planted in groupings under the trees.

more info: www.fdl.uwc.edu/arboretum
New faculty members named

**UW-Fond du Lac welcomed two new tenure-track faculty members in 2009**

**Maggie May**, assistant professor of mathematics, has been an instructor on the campus since 2007. Prior to that, she taught at Marian University and UW-Milwaukee. Professor May studied Geometric Topology at UW-Milwaukee and received her Ph.D. in 2007. Known for making math a vibrant and exciting subject, May was a recipient of the Ernst Schwandt Award for Outstanding Teaching Performance at UW-Milwaukee.

**Tirza Shulman**, assistant professor of psychology, taught psychology at UW-Marinette for three years prior to coming to UW-Fond du Lac. Professor Shulman earned her Ph.D. from Kansas State University. Her primary area of interest in psychology is the relationship between the Big 5 personality traits and emotion regulation.

**Kaplan Award**

UW-Fond du Lac has named its 2009-10 Kaplan Award recipients. Through this award, individuals or teams are recognized for significant and innovative improvement in instruction and service to students.

This award honors Arthur M. Kaplan, who retired in 1993 as vice chancellor of the UW Colleges.

Recipients of the award receive a $250 grant that can be used to further enhance their creative approaches to education. The UW-Fond du Lac Foundation provides a matching grant.

**Patricia Eby**, associate dean and music professor, was recognized for her significant teaching and service innovation in arranging for a performance by the Berliner Cappella from Berlin, Germany. She incorporated the choir’s visit and performance into her classes and brought a taste of internationalism to the community, the campus and her students.

**Richard Gustin**, communication and theater arts professor; **Eric Boos**, philosophy professor; **Michael Nofz**, sociology professor and **Erika Strauss**, English lecturer, share an award for their innovative interdisciplinary collaboration in the theater department’s spring 2009 production of the play “Doubt” by John Patrick Shanley. Gustin led this collaboration in which students in several courses read the play, attended the campus production, and utilized the play in their classes—approaching the play creatively from their respective disciplines. The collaboration culminated in a large group discussion by all students and professors.

**Tutoring partnership benefits students at UW-FDL and Lakeshore**

By Monica M. Walk

A novel work study program has two education majors earning both income and career experience.

UW-Fond du Lac students Katie Ayer and Karen Kilmer are employed in a College Work Study (CWS) program called America Reads and America Counts. While most college work study jobs are on campus, these positions pay the women to work as tutors at nearby Lakeshore Elementary School.

The opportunities at Lakeshore School are part of a special version of the federal College Work Study program, in which all post-secondary schools receiving federal funds expend a portion of the funding in off-campus community service. The America Reads and America Counts programs concentrate on supporting schools and other non-profit agencies in their efforts to strengthen literacy and mathematical skills development.

When Ayer began tutoring in September, she knew she wanted to be a teacher. Her ongoing experience in fourth grade classrooms has widened her career path while expanding her interest in the age group she wants to teach.

“I am so thankful for this opportunity,” Ayer said, noting that she initially was focusing on early childhood education emphasizing Kindergarten and first grade. “I wasn’t used to this age group. After working with this age group, I am now more interested in teaching them. I like fourth grade a lot.”

Ayer provides support in three Lakeshore classrooms twice a week. She mainly helps children with reading skills, often one-on-one with struggling students, but jumps in wherever her mentor teachers need her. “Reading is an area of interest, but elementary teachers teach all subjects,” she said.

Along with the benefit of applying her growing teaching skills, Ayer taps the combined expertise of three supervising teachers “I am seeing three different teaching styles,” she noted, “and learning classroom management skills. The teachers share notes on what they do and why. I have learned so much.”

Kilmer also brims with gratitude and excitement for the onsite learning. “This experience means a lot: this is what I want to do and I will continue with my major,” she said. “I am very grateful I’ve been given this opportunity. I love it.”

At Lakeshore, Kilmer tutors a variety of ages in the Homework Club that meets prior to the start of the school day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She follows that with in-class, mainly one-on-one, help in a second grade classroom and then heads to the UW-Fond du Lac campus for her own classes.

Now pursuing a dual major in elementary education and emotional/behavioral disorders (EBD), Kilmer recognized her career path while volunteering at her daughter’s school and returned to college at age 40. “I was an at-home mom who volunteered at school. After working with the EBD kids, I found I was drawn to them,” she recalled. “I told my husband I was going back to school. He said, ‘Great!’”

Both tutors average 6-10 hours weekly at Lakeshore, throughout the 2009-10 academic year.

Assistant Campus Dean for Student Services Tom Martin facilitated the program with Lakeshore Elementary Principal Michael Mockert. “We are always interested in having qualified, reliable ‘instructional helpers’ work with students and teachers here at Lakeshore, so this seemed like a great opportunity,” Mockert said.

“This program is a resource that has been mutually beneficial for our school and for the education majors who are getting a very valuable experience,” he continued. “This program is a win-win, without question. We appreciate the opportunity!”
The Wisconsin GEMS (Girls Engineering Math Science) program developed through UW-Fond du Lac’s Continuing Education Office is helping middle school girls across the state identify rewarding career options in the math and science fields by providing information, role models, activities, follow-up hands-on learning activities and math tutoring.

Initiatives in Fond du Lac so far have targeted middle school girls which has created quite a bit of interest from both the girls and the parents according to Leanne Doyle, UW-Fond du Lac continuing education director. With these programs successfully in place, Continuing Education is now looking at expanding the awareness efforts to other students.

The next focus will be to work with past GMSO participants who are now in high school. “They have requested we continue to offer something for them,” said Doyle. “We’ve also had requests to create a similar STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) conference for middle school boys. The committee has done programmatic work and with funding we will be well on our way.”

Based upon the extremely successful pilot GMSO (Girls+Math=Opportunities) conference held for several years in Fond du Lac, similar programs are being held at UW-Colleges campuses in Waukesha, Manitowoc and Menasha under the name GEMS.

At the same time, an after school math tutoring element has been added to the Fond du Lac GMSO program.

The programmatic niche is focused on the whole girl, explains Doyle. “As already proven by the Fond du Lac pilot program, Wisconsin GEMS will successfully address the academic and the social issues encountered by middle school girls.”

Components of the GEMS initiative are:

**GMO (Girls+Math=Opportunities) math tutoring:** this program has provided over 200 hours of one-on-one tutoring at Sabish Middle School for their students and at UW-Fond du Lac for area high school girls. Tutoring has been provided in pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and Calculus. A letter of acknowledgement in support of this initiative was sent by Wisconsin’s First Lady Jessica Doyle to the GMO math tutor, Liz Quant, current UW-Oshkosh student and a UW-Fond du Lac alumna.

**Fond du Lac GMSO conference:** Since the first GMSO conference was held in 2005, 946 girls have participated in this one-day event. In 2008, there were 230 participants, a 15% attendance increase from 2007. The girls who attend the GMSO conference find it very rewarding, with 96.4% of the participants indicating they would recommend this conference to a friend.

The GMSO conference has recently started offering workshops to the parents as well. The response was so overwhelmingly positive that the 2009 parent offerings were expanded. The founding sponsors for GMSO are Agnesian HealthCare, Moraine Park Technical College, UW-Fond du Lac and UW-Extension Continuing Education.

**GEMS Conferences:** The GMSO conference first held at UW-Fond du Lac has been replicated as one-day GEMS conferences held in the past year at UW-Fox Valley, UW-Manitowoc and UW-Waukesha. While each conference has its own particular flavor, the branding and goals are shared and all draw upon extensive local collaborations.

**more info:** [www.fdl.uwc.edu/ce](http://www.fdl.uwc.edu/ce)  
[www.wisconsingems.org](http://www.wisconsingems.org)

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**Athletic Department highlights**

**Falcon 5K Run/Walk:** Competitive and amateur runners, joggers, walkers and families participated in the first Falcon 5K run/walk on October 24, 2009. More than 65 participants braved a cold and windy fall day and raised $500 to benefit the athletic department. Organizers plan to host this run/walk annually each fall.

**County Fair:** Students, alumni, faculty and staff volunteered their time at the Noon Optimist stand at the Fond du Lac County Fair in July 2009 and raised $2,500 for the athletic department. This was a partnership between UW-Fond du Lac, B104.7 and the Noon Optimist club.

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**2009 Golf Team Conference Champions**

The UW-Fond du Lac 2009 golf team members were the conference champions! Pictured above, left to right: Coach Tom Clausen, Chris Holmes (4th - First Team All Conference/All State), Tyler Meyer, Dana Majewski; Nick Winters (Medalist – 1st Team All Conference/All State). Missing: Jason Seiberlich and Coach John Scotello.

**2009 Men’s Basketball Team Eastern Division Champions**

The 2009 Men’s Basketball team won the Eastern Division for the Wisconsin Collegiate Conference (WCC) for the first time in over 20 years! Front row, left to right: Craig Szyninski, Brandon Wilder, Eric Patterson, Josh Weir. Back row, left to right: Head Coach Jason Collien, Craig Obry, Dustin Andrus, Mike Hunter, Dominic Cross, Will Stroede, Eston Burns, Karl Huth and Asst. Coach Lee Dardis.
Family Harmony: Father and daughters find Best Start for music degrees at UW-FDL

By Monica M. Walk

Attending UW-Fond du Lac struck a chord with the Thelen family. Class offerings and faculty have resonated through two generations of this local musical dynasty.

Paul Thelen already had traveled from his New Holstein childhood home to Fond du Lac for piano and organ lessons for much of his youth. His teacher suggested he look into the Fond du Lac campus, where Ray Wifler was then in charge of the music faculty.

Music clearly was Paul’s talent and his career: He had been playing for pay—in bars—since the fifth grade. As a fourth grader, he already could handle the intricacies of the pedals on the church organ, but his big break came when an adult accordion player didn’t show up for a party at the old Elite dance hall. Paul’s parents and other dancers knew the fifth-grader could fill the musical gap: accompanied by a high-school drummer, he played his first paying gig. From then on, young Paul could count on his supportive father to haul him and his portable organ to area venues.

He had years of steady employment. And the good sense to keep it, while pursuing higher education. “I knew too many bar-room players, and that was not a goal or a career path,” said Paul of his decision to seek a college degree. “I knew I wanted a music degree.”

After ascertaining that UW-Fond du Lac would indeed provide solid music coursework, the “convenience factor” clinched Paul’s decision to enroll in 1977.

“I was at UW-Fond du Lac just a year, but I am happy where I am now, and successful, and that was a huge piece. It was the start of my college career, and essential to what I do now.” —Paul Thelen

“I played every Saturday night with a three-piece group. We were booked every weekend,” he recalled. “The cost was good—I lived at home and turned a profit while I was in school. I bought a new car and paid cash for school.”

He took both general education—his- tory, weather and climate—as well as major courses in music history with Ray Wifler and theory and piano with Roger Wiley, while performing in jazz band and choir during his year on campus. Realizing business acumen would play an important role in managing his career, he made a smooth transfer to Silver Lake College’s music-business program. While there, he met his soon-to-be wife Julie,

also majoring in music.

Julie’s change to social work and enrollment at Marian College (now Marian University) brought the couple home to Fond du Lac, where they have raised daughters Elise, Eva and Ellie steeped in music.

Like Dad, like daughters

Each daughter is a musician in her own right: eldest Elise is known as a vocalist, middle daughter Eva long played violin and has also become a singer, and youngest Ellie is considered a stellar high-school saxophon- ist. Like their father, the two oldest daughters are pursuing professional music careers. Also like dad, they began their college studies at UW-Fond du Lac.

Elise felt connected to the campus while growing up. As a 14-year-old, she successfully completed the competitive audition for the college-community Chamber Singers, di- rected by Patricia Eby, whom she had met via church choir. She had an additional positive experience participating in a campus-based jazz workshop while in high school.

“I knew from a young age—probably four or five—that I was going to sing. It has always been my passion, as well as my natural talent,” Elise said. “I knew that I wanted to be a music major, but wasn’t sure exactly which field; I was switching between performance and education. My dad suggested UW-Fond du Lac in order to complete music credits that I would need, whichever path I chose.”

Her coursework at UW-Fond du Lac (2002-04) included Chamber Singers and vocal jazz with Eby, music theory and aural skills, and piano lessons from Helene Schran- kler. Voice lessons with Grace Jones were a favorite: “She was very inspiring to me, and the first and only vocal teacher I’ve ever had,” Elise noted. “She really made me into the performer that I am.”

Elise cites the opportunities made available through her education: “I have been hired by several professional musical groups to be a guest soloist; I am starting to make learning-track recordings for choruses and soloists; I have been able to work with several wonderful musical professionals; I have traveled to Europe to sing; and—I met my husband!” Now Elise Estes, she moved to the Nashville area in 2007 with her hus- band, former Fond du Lac High School and Children’s Choir director James Estes, current music specialist for the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Same school, different score

Eva is charting her own musical path; her choices mirror those of her older sister, but were made after considerable contemplation.

“I looked at bigger colleges,” she said, “but all the pieces seemed to fit better for starting at UW-Fond du Lac. I knew people in the department—I’ve known Pat Eby since I was 12—and in music it can be important who knows you, so you don’t have to start from scratch. I also knew I wanted to study music, but wasn’t sure what I’d do with it. I’d studied violin with Gloria Schroeder since I was four years old until I was 18, but I didn’t know if I wanted to continue with violin or voice. The determining factor was that I could save money, get things done and buy some time while I made decisions for later.”
As a four-year-old, Eva’s introduction to a symphony elicited the response, “I could play that,” as she pointed to the first-chair violinist. A week later, she began. Since age 11, she played violin at weddings, while Elise sang and dad Paul played piano. But, as she explored her options in college, she felt an intensified pull to sing. Her two years at UW-Fond du Lac (2006-08) offered choices and support for that interest, including voice lessons with Grace Jones and ear-training with Cara Davis.

“UW-Fond du Lac showed me options, and led me to make decisions that influenced my eventual career,” said Eva, now completing a major in voice and minor in jazz at Marian University. “I like vocal performance better than violin. I always wanted to do this and, at UW-Fond du Lac, I learned it was attainable.”

Like their dad, the sisters continued to earn income by performing throughout college, and both expect to continue performance in their careers. All three know and share working relationships with many of the same musicians in the area, and the sisters have the educational bond of shared teachers and coursework at two schools their parents attended.

“It’s a thrill to have so much in common with them,” said Paul, noting that even their iPod playlists are similar. “I felt good about them going to the place I did. I thought that was neat.”

In addition to nurturing his own family band, Paul’s post-college music career included a nearly seamless combination of musical positions, beginning with a stint in a touring country rock band and branching out to include selling pianos and organs, teaching keyboard, recording as a sound engineer, writing and producing radio jingles, accompanying college and church choirs—always with several additional bands that focused on evening and weekend entertainment.

His youthful organ work landed him the position as organist at St. Louis Church and then director of music at St. Joseph’s Church in 1983, which grew into the role of Director of Liturgy and Music for the Holy Family Parish and a 27-year career as a musician in the Fond du Lac Catholic community. He describes his combined work schedule as typically being 12 hours a day, six days a week.

“I’ve been unemployed only two days in my whole life,” he laughed. “I think my goal in college was to open a recording studio or music store, and I did pieces of those along the way. When I began teaching at Fond du Lac House of Music and at St. Joe’s, I started applying the skills I learned in college and realized it was the right thing to do.

“I am happy. I love everything I do,” he said. I was at UW-Fond du Lac just a year, but I am happy where I am now, and successful, and that was a huge piece. It was the start of my college career, and essential to what I do now.”

The all-student cast of “The God Committee” from left: Phillip Alvarado, Rachel Reinbold, Lake Scorcio, Chris Navis, Lia Sabtke, Joe Birschbach, Anna Peterman. The play was staged during the fall 2009 semester in the UW-Fond du Lac Prairie Theater and raised awareness of the issues surrounding organ donation. Photo by Richard Gustin.

Fine and performing arts at UW-FDL

UW-Fond du Lac is uniquely positioned with a state of the art theater, expansive Commons area and a thriving art, music and theater department to offer cultural opportunities to the community throughout the year.

Art Department
The free Art Momentum event held in May of each year invites art lovers to the campus to view and purchase student created works—paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculpture and digital media.

The students commit to donating half of the proceeds from each item sold at this event to the art scholarship fund created by the UW-Fond du Lac Art Students League. In 2009, the students raised $2,000 and awarded a $600 scholarship.

New last year was the addition of a live auction of items donated by professional artists.

Music Department
A special performance by the 55-voice Berliner Cappella choral group from Germany captivated the audience gathered in the University Center Commons in October 2009. This was one of three Midwest performances on their U.S. tour. A mixed choir of non-professional singers, they have been a part of the musical life of Berlin for more than four decades.

The life of a music program is celebrated in its performances. There was something for everyone in 2009 as the music department presented an array of events including a Celtic Concert, Pops Concert, Jazz Cabaret, and Holiday Concert.

Two of the ensembles housed at UW-Fond du Lac, the Chamber Singers and Community Concert Band, include community members as well as students. UW-Fond du Lac music students also perform each semester in a department concert.

Theater Department
Two thought-provoking dramas were presented by the theater department in 2009. “Doubt” by John Patrick Shanley was presented in the spring semester. This production explored a timely social issue when a strong-willed Catholic nun and a charismatic priest clash over the suspicion of an inappropriate relationship with a student.

In the fall, the theater department took on the issue of organ donation in its production of “The God Committee” by Mark St. Germain.

The moral, ethical and emotional debate surrounding these decisions were illustrated by a fictional transplant selection committee debating who should receive a healthy heart that is unexpectedly available.

The students involved in this production also teamed up with area health care organizations on campus and at each performance, to increase awareness of the importance of organ donation.

more info: www.fdl.uwc.edu click on “Sign up for our fine arts mailing list”
**Sandi Roehrig**

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Sandi enrolled at UW-Fond du Lac in 1969, attending for one year before transferring to UW-Oshkosh where she earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education and health. She has been an active volunteer in the community for youth sports, education and public service.

At UW-Fond du Lac, Sandi met fellow student and her first husband, Joe Braun, who sadly passed away in 1982. Sandi raised their three sons, Joe, Rocky and Mike. In 1995 she married Bob Roehrig.

Sandi has been with the Fond du Lac Area Foundation since 1992 and has served as the executive director since 1995.

In the community, Sandi has served as president of the YMCA Board of Directors, vice-president and secretary of the Quarterback Club Board of Directors, former president of the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation and is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Fond du Lac Arts Council.

She is the recipient of the Wisconsin Cluster of YMCA’s “Key Leaders Award” and serves as a member of the Fond du Lac YMCA Board of Trustees.

The UW-Fond du Lac campus not only impacted Sandi Roehrig’s life, it also impacted several members of Sandi’s family. Her sister Cheri Royea Basler, her brother Rob Royea and her sons Rocky Braun and Joe Braun, all attended UW-Fond du Lac.

**First campus student recalls novelty, independence and leadership**

It was only across town, but it was a different world for Dale Boyke.

“It was overwhelming,” said the Goodrich High graduate. “The campus was new, everything was new: the college layout and program were so different from high school. Finding classes was new. There was construction dust. Meeting professors for the first time was new…they acted differently and treated students differently than in high school. I felt like I was thrown into the adult world.”

Students were new, too. Boyke was cited as the first male student enrolled at the Fond du Lac campus. He recalls sitting on a podium with dignitaries and officials during the cold and windy opening ceremonies. He remembers the pride of his father, Clarence, who had once served on the County Board so instrumental in creating the campus.

“You are talking to a farm kid who had no money, nothing in those days,” said Boyke, now an engineer and vice president celebrating 35 years of employment at Olin gear, a Milwaukee-based maker of integrated electro-hydraulic systems.

“I had to work at home and live at home, and save money. I chose (UW) Fond du Lac because it was local. But, I looked at it as something really special. Not everyone went to college. I really appreciated it.”

The new campus seemed big as Boyke walked between classroom buildings. Transferring to Madison to complete his engineering studies (B.S.M.E., Dec. 1972) put size into perspective.

“A city block, versus a mile,” he laughed.

In addition to independence, college offered another new and meaningful life experience: sports. In high school, Boyke skipped all extracurricular activities in order to be home for farm chores.

As a college freshman, he made the varsity basketball team. Along with that came the inspiration and guidance of Coach Richard Knar and the friendship of teammates who called themselves “The Family,” and did everything together: work, study, play.

“Coach Knar taught us a lot. I appreciated him and his skills of building people,” said Boyke, who regularly contributes to the Knar Scholarship Fund at UW-Fond du Lac.

“You could idolize that man. I was used to working hard on the farm, and I respected my father and Coach in the same vein. I’ll never forget that man…that’s why I support his name and the scholarship.”

To add your support to the Richard C. Knar Scholarship fund, contact the UW-FDL Foundation office at (920) 929-1335.

**Past Award Recipients**

2008 Oscar Kraus  
2007 Robert (Bob) Carew  
2006 Paul Rosenfeldt  
2005 Don Noe  
2004 Brenna Garrison-Bruden

**Making a Difference**

Through the generosity of many individuals, businesses, and service organizations, such as the Fond du Lac Noon Rotary, deserving students at UW-Fond du Lac receive scholarships that help make college affordable and encourage academic excellence.


Every gift makes a difference at UW-Fond du Lac. We welcome and encourage gifts at all levels. It is through the support of the community, alumni and friends that the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation makes a difference by providing scholarships, awarding grants for professional development to faculty and staff, sponsoring educational and cultural events for the entire community to enjoy, and supporting campus initiatives that would not otherwise be possible.

Contact the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation today to find out how your gift makes a difference at UW-Fond du Lac.  
**Phone:** (920) 929-1335  
**E-mail:** uwfdlfoundation@uw.edu
How many times do you donate to a cause and never know how the funds are used or who receives them? When we give to UW-Fond du Lac, we always know who receives our donation and feel good about the long term investment we are making in the life of another person. One of the highpoints of our year is the annual scholarship reception at UW-Fond du Lac, at which time the donors and scholarship recipients have a chance to meet.

Last year we were able to meet Brittani Schmidt, an incoming freshman to UW-Fond du Lac. We learned that our scholarship really made a difference in her life and is supporting her on her path to becoming an elementary teacher. After meeting her, we have no doubt that Brittani will positively influence many young people through her teaching career.

We are also pleased to support scholarships at UW-Fond du Lac because it directly benefits so many young people from our local area. These are students that continue to live and work here while attaining their education. We consider this an investment in our young people and our community that is needed so much in these times.

Our personal philosophy of charitable giving is “give while you live.” We feel fortunate to be able to make this annual gift to support scholarships at UW-Fond du Lac. And, we have the added benefit of actually seeing how those gifts are helping others.

James and Virginia Gilmore

2009-2010 scholarship recipients

| Daniel Anderson | Michelle Kuczkowski | Brittani Schmidt |
| Kathryn Ayer   | Zachary Lefeber     | Luke Scorcio    |
| Alana Berthiaume| Brandon Michels     | Josh Tessner    |
| Ashlianne Ehlers| Annie Morgan        | Robert Ullsperger|
| Tanya Gassner  | Eric Pamperin       | Victoria Voigt  |
| Nicole Gonyo   | Austin Peterson     | Kelsey Waldschmidt|
| Andrea Huhn    | Amy Pinno           | Jesse Weber     |
| Luke Joswick   | Megan Robotka       | Crystal Weinkauf|
| Ashley Kraus   | Allyssa Sabel       | Robert Woods    |

Brittani Schmidt (center) was a recipient of a 2009 scholarship supported by a gift from James and Virginia Gilmore.

Scholarship truly appreciated by recipient

This past summer I received news that would present me with the opportunity of a lifetime. After applying to attend college at UW-Fond du Lac and being accepted, I started filling out scholarship forms, not knowing what the outcome of that would be.

Then one day I got a letter back in the mail that stated I received a scholarship from Virginia and James Gilmore from their scholarship fund. This news was the best news I could have hoped for. Their scholarship gave me the chance to attend college this year and the opportunity to have a very bright future.

I will be forever grateful to the Gilmores because their donation has changed my life. Scholarship donors will never truly know how much their donations mean and how many opportunities they are really truly creating for students in need of a helping hand.

Thank You,
Brittani Schmidt
Husband and wife juggle family and education

Today, they would be part of the burgeoning “Returning Adult Student” population highly represented on campuses locally and across the nation; but, back then, Oscar and Delores Kraus were ahead of the curve.

By Monica M. Walk

It was a scene from daily life, but one demanding careful choreography and timing: Oscar Kraus would head to classes at UW-Fond du Lac while his two oldest children were at elementary school. Several hours later, Delores Kraus would arrive on campus for her own classes, meet husband Oscar in the gym parking lot, and pass him baby Peter to take home.

This couple had “course scheduling” down pat.

Already running a busy household with three young children, the Krauses ramped up their organizational skills when both adults decided to continue their educations on the still-new campus. Grandparents and the occasional sitter filled the childcare gaps when classes unavoidably overlapped.

Oscar initially blazed the family trail to UW-Fond du Lac, enrolling in fall 1969. The Marine Corps vet and Giddings & Lewis employee arrived for his first semester of six credits with a personal and focused agenda. “I wanted to prove to myself that I could do college work,” he recalled during a recent visit to campus.

Oscar had trained in electronics in the service, and had completed correspondence courses primarily in electronics from DeVry Institute in Chicago. His work at G & L led him from the shop assembly line into time study work, where his interest in numbers began to bloom. Recognizing that chances for further advancement were slim, Oscar contem-"plate the future.

He overheard fellow employees talk about the opportunities at the new local campus, and began to realize how his second-shift job would allow him to remain employed while taking classes via the GI Bill during the day. Giddings & Lewis also offered generous financial incentives to employees who earned high marks. Oscar Kraus was 30 years old when he stepped onto this new path. There were a few others his age in the classrooms, but generally the young campus was filled with equally youth-ful students.

He still easily recalls the names of the professors who encouraged and educated him: Heil, Griffiths, Wifler, Bowser, Ness, Tinker, Greisch, Firkens, Kostad. “I enjoyed it,” Oscar said of college. “or I would not have followed through. I did want to prove to myself that I could do it. And the GI Bill was a big factor.”

Close to home

“The campus being here was the biggest factor of all,” Delores interjected. “When they built the campus, we weren’t thinking about going. But then it hit us: It was handy and we could do it.”

That accessibility led Delores onto campus on Oscar’s heels; both attended classes at UW-Fond du Lac. (Daughter Lisa attended MPTC and son Peter—the baby once passed between classes and parents in the campus parking lot—studied at UW-Oshkosh and schools in Minnesota.)

Paul, youngest of the siblings by 11 years, went on from UW-Fond du Lac to earn a degree in computer science from UW-Eau Claire.

Julia’s time at UW-Fond du Lac provided a strong base for completing undergraduate studies at UW-Oshkosh, and then pursuing two master’s degrees at Penn State, one in solid state science and one in business.

The UW-Fond du Lac Student Activities Committee (SAC) put up a gift tree in the University Center Commons during the holidays and collected supplies and money to be donated to the Fond du Lac Humane Society. The proceeds were presented by (from left) Dee Dee Miller, president of SAC, and Megan Robotka, public relations director of SAC, to Renee Webb, Humane Society shelter manager.

Members of the UW-Fond du Lac Student Government Association presented a check to campus United Way representative Paisley Harris, history professor, after a week of fundraising activities including a parking spot auction and Halloween costume contest. Pictured left to right are Jesse Weber, William Zavis, Ilya Piyanzov, Joshua Tessner, Paisley Harris, Jeanna Zuelke. Back row: Nate Puetz, Joe Kobs, Brian Cooper.
in June 2009. Delores missed teaching and yearned to return to the classroom, but teaching requirements had changed during her nine years at home with her own children. Initially, Delores took classes at Marian College, near their home.

“But I found out the classes I needed were offered here,” she said of UW-Fond du Lac. While she may eventually have found a way to complete teaching requirements at other institutions, Delores firmly credits the existence of UW-Fond du Lac for Oscar’s education and ensuing career. “Oscar wouldn’t have a degree today without UW-Fond du Lac,” she stressed.

The spouses each completed a degree at the Oshkosh campus, Delores in elementary education in 1972 and Oscar in accounting in 1974. After layoffs and a renewed determination to complete his degree, Oscar parted ways with Giddings & Lewis and focused on college full-time. Delores was able to work as a teacher’s aide in the Fond du Lac School District while Oscar finished school.

Next steps

School itself had been such a goal, that it was only during his last semester at Oshkosh that Oscar began to contemplate his career options. “I talked with big firms, but they weren’t interested,” he said. “They wanted 21-year-olds.” An employment ad led him to apply for a budget accountant position at St. Agnes Hospital.

After his second interview with the controller, Sr. Kathleen, Oscar began working part-time for the hospital while finishing coursework, and stepped into the position full-time upon graduation. The hospital was beginning a major building project, and Oscar was laying the foundation for his own professional success: He remained with St. Agnes for 24 years, culminating in his retirement from the controller position in 1998.

Along the way, he also volunteered with ASTOP, Blandine House, Noon Kiwanis, FDL Area Children’s Chorale, Loaves and Fishes, the Boy Scouts, and his parish council at Sacred Heart Church. Oscar was recognized for his accomplishments and named UW-Fond du Lac’s 2008 Distinguished Alumnus during the campus’ 40th anniversary celebration.

Delores also retired at age 60, after 21 years of employment in the Fond du Lac School District. She taught primary grades at Rosenow, Lakeshore and Chegwin schools. She remains active in the FDL Area Retired Educators Association, and volunteers at Holy Family Parish, whose newest church is located on farmland once owned by Oscar’s parents.

Reflections

“Our degrees provided more income, and I had the summers off with our children,” Delores reflected. “We were certainly able to do things our parents never did, working on a farm and in a canning company...like travel.” The Krauses have traveled extensively throughout the U.S., and to Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland and Italy.

“Attending UW-Fond du Lac improved our lives,” Delores said.

In the fall of 1968, Dr. Willard Henken stepped foot on the campus as the first Campus Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac where he remained until his retirement in 1987. Some might say he has never really left his role as ambassador of UW-Fond du Lac.

Former students, faculty and community members share fond memories of their interactions with this kind-hearted Dean who is passionate about what UW-Fond du Lac offers its students and this community.

For his love of education, his unending support of UW-Fond du Lac and for the many ways that he has contributed to educational excellence at UW-Fond du Lac, the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Board of Directors honored Dr. Willard Henken as the recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Excellence Award. The Spirit of Excellence Award is presented by UW-Fond du Lac Foundation for exceptional commitment to making UW-Fond du Lac an excellent learning institution. Previous recipients of this award were Harold (Danny) and Charmaine LaShay. It seemed only fitting in a year celebrating the 40th anniversary of UW-Fond du Lac, that Dean Henken receive this honor.

Not only did Dean Henken lead a fledgling educational institution and watch it grow and mature over the 20 years of his leadership, he was also instrumental in founding the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation as a way of supporting scholarships for deserving students. Dean Henken and his wife, Dolores, have given generously of their time, talents and gifts to support the work of UW-Fond du Lac and students.

What your gift can do at UW-Fond du Lac

No gift is too small. Your financial commitment, regardless of the dollar amount, contributes to making UW-Fond du Lac affordable for local students and impacts the overall well-being of this educational institution and our community. Together with many others, each gift makes a difference.

An annual gift of $1,000 provides a scholarship to a deserving student. An endowed gift of $12,000 provides more than $500 annually to support a designated interest area at UW-Fond du Lac. A gift of $23,000 could support a $2,000 stipend every year for faculty/staff development that enriches the learning experience of students on this campus.

Gifts come in many sizes, are given for a variety of reasons and support a range of needs. Many times, in joy or sadness, gifts are made to UW-Fond du Lac in memory or honor of a special person. Depending on the size of your gift, you may be able to establish an endowed fund, such as a scholarship or professorship that will carry the name of the person you choose to honor.

All gifts can be designated to a particular area of interest or to the UW-Fond du Lac (unrestricted) Fund. Gifts to UW-Fond du Lac Foundation play a vital role annually in supporting unmet needs for scholarships, professional development, programming and areas of need on campus that are not funded in other ways.

Wherever you direct your gift, you’ll be helping impact one of our students and this community. Your gift does make a difference.
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Assistant Campus Dean for Student Services Tom Martin (left) congratulates graduating student Peter Capoyianes at the 2009 Commencement Ceremony.

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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.

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