

“Dorm Girls” Return to Hixon House

Leslie Hill-Clatworthy

Sixty years after they last stayed in Hixon House, 14 of the original 17 “dorm girls” attended an afternoon tea and reunion, hosted by Hixon House. These young women, from small towns throughout the region, were students at the La Crosse Vocational School (now Western Technical College) in 1946-47, studying bookkeeping, office machines, and secretarial science.

A New Concept

The 1946-47 school year was the first year Hixon House was used as a dormitory. The house had been turned over to the college for use as a cooperative house by Mrs. Alice Hixon, widow of Frank Hixon, and had been empty for several years. But in 1946, the house was brought to life. Seventeen girls came to live there as part of their college experience under the guidance of Mrs. Bessie Bacon, house mother.

Hixon House was their home away from home. The downstairs of the home was where the common areas were. There was a large front parlor where the girls received visitors and gathered to sing and play the piano before dinner. The back parlor is where they studied. The downstairs also contained Mrs. Bacon’s room, which was off-limits to the girls.

Much like residence halls today, the girls shared rooms in the upper floors of the house, sometimes with six girls to a room. By day, they attended classes, and in the evenings they performed chores like cooking, washing dishes and clothes, dusting, and cleaning. Loraine Hagen remembered cleaning nights vividly and how they ate their morning meals together and sat with trays on the lawn during nice weather.

The Western Alumnae reminisced as they toured with a docent and shared their experiences as students while living at Hixon House.



Western President, Dr. Lee Rasch, welcomed the “Hixon House Girls” at their reunion in September.

*Back row, from left: Marie Anne (Joers) Memn, '47; Doris (Zerbel) Kleckner, '47; Elaine (Hammond) Price, '48; Jane (Peterson) Richgruber, '48; Arlene (Hammond) Leibold, '48; Norma (Kronberg) Arttus, '48; Dr. Lee Rasch
Front row, from left: Loraine Hagen, '48; Valeria (Hart) Barton, '48; Ramona (Baumbach) Wing, '46; Lavinne (Olson) Eng, '46; Irma Jean (Rude) Eng, '46; Pat (Trapp) Peterson, '46; Doris (Carr) Calhoun, '48*

Bringing Back the Memories

The tea gave them the chance to tour the house and remember the great times they had when they were students. Many visited their old bedrooms and reminisced about who slept where and how they managed to get around the “no smoking ban” in the bedrooms. Ramona Baumbach remembered that they’d lie on their stomachs in their bedrooms with their heads in the hallways.

continued on next page

Hello Western alumni!



Sally Emerson

Meet your new Western Alumni Association Board by reading the article on page four. This wonderful, enthusiastic group represents the diverse divisions, eras, and professions of our Western alumni so that they can represent you in their plans and activities. They will be looking to you, their fellow alumni, for support and direction as to how the Association can best meet the needs of alumni and Western Technical College alike. Don't hesitate to make suggestions, ask questions, and get involved.

What a great feeling it was to have the first meeting of the board take place after several months of planning and anticipation, then within a week, to hold the first division alumni reunion at Western. It was invigorating to meet so many talented alumni and former faculty of the Industrial Technology Division, sharing their stories from their Western days as they met and reminisced with old friends. The tours were a hit as attendees had the opportunity to see all the changes on campus and in their classrooms while learning more about trends in the industry. Check out the photos in this issue.

We are equally looking forward to the next reunion for the Family & Consumer Sciences Division alumni on September 20. Thanks to committee members Josh Berg, Cinda Vingers, Patti Fetting, Sabra Mumford, Tracy Craker, Denise Diestler, Deb Klug, and Dianne Hoffman, it should be a splendid event—don't miss it!

Best wishes in 2008!

Sally Emerson

Rich Westpfahl, Karen Larson, and Sally Emerson joined John and Jacklyn from CC106 radio to promote the Industrial Technology Reunion on the Country Fried Fishing Show.



WesternConnect is published twice a year for alumni of Western Technical College.

Western Technical College President: Lee Rasch, Ed.D.
Editor: Leslie Hill-Clatworthy
Alumni Coordinator: Sally Emerson
Photography: Bruce Defries Studio Group, Patrick Kelly
Art Designer: Sharon Burchardt '93

continued from cover

Valeria Hart recalled that one Sunday evening they were late returning from the Concordia Dance Hall and had to sneak in the front window. Curfew during the week was 9 p.m. but on Friday and Saturday nights, it extended to midnight. "Of course," she said, "we had to sneak by Mrs. Bacon's room to get upstairs. After that though, the front window was locked!"



Doris (Calhoun) Carr and Elaine (Price) Hammond check out their old bedroom they shared.

While the Hixon House served as a residence hall for only two years, several delighted in the fact that the house had helped them develop lifelong friendships. Loraine Hagen and Valeria Hart met at Hixon House, and while they weren't roommates, they developed a close friendship that's lasted for 60 years. "I'd come from Galesville and Valeria was from Black River Falls, and it was the first time we'd met, but we became fast friends," said Hagen. In fact, after graduation, they lived in various apartments throughout La Crosse and bowled together for years after that.

"It was a great experience to live there," said Hagen, "and it was great to have the reunion." ♡

Archives

Thanks to Patty (Raymer) Newman '85, Becky (Opelt) McDonald '91, and Stacey (Weber) Mentzel '91 who helped identify our archive photo. After combining all the thoughts, we believe this photo was during the 1990-91 school year in what used to be the smoker's lounge in the Kumm Center. In the second row are Food Service Management students Brad Sime, Deb Theaker and Stacey Weber. In the third row are Commercial Art students Mark Henker, Brad Harder and Jodi Peterson.



Western News



Bob Milisch Named State Respiratory Therapist of the Year

Bob Milisch, Respiratory Therapist program head/instructor at Western, was named Wisconsin Respiratory Therapist of the Year by the Wisconsin Society for Respiratory Care (WSRC) at this year's North Region Respiratory Care Conference. Milisch has been teaching at Western since 1984.

Milisch was chosen for his work on both the state and national levels. He has held several board positions in the WSRC and served nationally as a Wisconsin delegate to the American Association for Respiratory Care's (AARC) House of Delegates. In addition, he was recognized for his work with the La Crosse Partners of the American Lung Association and for his 20 years of work as the director of Wishland Pony Express, a local wish-granting organization for seriously ill children.

Additionally, in 2006, Milisch was the first therapist in the state to be hired and trained by the Department of Health and Human Services as a federal disaster response therapist. He has recently served on the state Expert Panel on Ventilator Surge Capacity, which has developed a plan for coping with increased ventilator demands in the event of a disaster or pandemic. He also has developed the state's Mass Casualty Ventilation Training program for respiratory therapists, which will train up to 1,000 therapists in the use of state and federal purchased ventilators, understanding disaster ethics, and following state's strategic plan for disaster response. ▶

Western unveils new Automotive/Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology Center.

Last fall the ribbon was cut for the new Automotive/Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology Center in La Crosse's Industrial Park. The Diesel and Heavy Equipment Center is a 23,000-square-foot facility that was remodeled to provide additional classroom and lab space. The 36,000-square-foot automotive facility accommodates the Automotive Technician program classrooms and labs, as well as faculty offices. The Automotive program was previously located at Western's main campus in the Coleman Center, but now joins the Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technician program facility in the industrial park. ◊



New transfer degree option for Western students

Students at Western's Mauston and Viroqua campuses can start an Associate of Arts and Science (AA&S) degree there and then complete their degree at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County or UW-Richland respectively. This partnership allows Western and the UW-Colleges at Baraboo/Sauk County and Richland to provide four-year university access to students in regional areas which was difficult in the past. ▶



Representatives from Western Technical College and the UW-Baraboo/Sauk County and Richland Campuses signed the agreement in Mauston. From left: Deborah B. Cureton, dean of UW-Richland; Dr. Lee Rasch, president of Western; Dr. Thomas Pleger, campus executive officer and dean of UW-Baraboo/Sauk County; Dr. David Wilson, chancellor of the UW Colleges; and Dr. Peg Boudreau, vice president of instruction at Western.

Alumni Board

The first meeting of the Western Alumni Association board took place in September and the enthusiastic alumni members have really taken the lead establishing an association that will benefit both alumni and Western. This year's officers are President Cinda Vingers, President-elect Chad Dutton, and Secretary Tina Johns.



Mary Jo Klos '80, chairperson
Tina Johns '91

Communications Committee shall be responsible for publications and public relations, providing input on *WesternConnect* and web pages, as well as researching electronic newsletters.



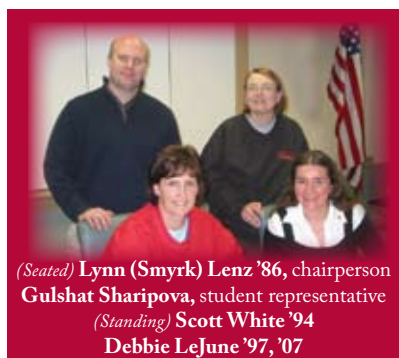
Cinda Vingers '77, '88
Josh Berg '06, chairperson
Patty Fetting '80

Special Events Committee shall be responsible for awards, reunions, and social activities, including the division reunions, Distinguished Alumni Award, and student orientation.



Bob Marconi '74, chairperson
Chad Dutton '92

Services Committee shall be responsible for networking opportunities, career resources, new alumni benefits, and online directory opportunities.



(Seated) Lynn (Smyrk) Lenz '86, chairperson
Gulshat Sharipova, student representative
(Standing) Scott White '94
Debbie LeJune '97, '07

Advancement Committee shall be responsible for fund raising issues, including supporting and advising existing programs and exploring new opportunities.

Bricks

We've got our brick, do you have yours?



Don't forget to take this rare opportunity to buy a brick for the new courtyard between the Kumm and Coleman buildings as part of the Lunda Center project. Many alumni have stepped up to show their support and at the same time leave their footprint on the Western campus, perhaps honoring or memorializing someone important in their life.

Visit the web to order your brick today: westerntc.edu/lundacenter/brickorder.asp

Now available!! Embroidered Alumni Windshirt

A project of the Western Alumni Association to support scholarships



\$35

(including shipping)

Orders will be mailed by May 15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Email _____

_____ check enclosed, payable to **Western Alumni Association**

_____ credit card: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

_____ Exp. date ____/____

| Qty | Color | Size S-XXXXL | Cost |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| | Red w/ black | | |
| | Black w/white letters red line | | |
| Order total | | | |
| \$35 each | | | (includes shipping) |

Return by **April 15** to: Western Alumni Office, 304 Sixth St N, La Crosse, WI 54601 or call **608.789.6083**

Alumni, former and current faculty, and friends of the **Industrial Technology** division came together in September for the first reunion of its kind on the Western campus. Approximately 150 guests enjoyed tours of the campus, reminiscent displays of earlier days, and especially the opportunity to socialize with classmates and mentors. 🍷

IT Reunion

September 2007

Current and former faculty visit in the display area.



Lunch in the TC Café



Campus Tours



Industrial Technology



Graphic Design alumna, Erin Green '02, and friend visits with instructor Brian Kanable.



Bob Maas visits with two of his first women mechanical design grads, Jane Erickson '76 and Darlene (Rundhaugen) Torgerson '76.

Social at Howie's



FOCUS ON

Family & Consumer Sciences

With a focus on caring for people, whether through design, food, or education, the programs within **Family and Consumer Sciences Division** give students the opportunity to pursue careers that can be personally rewarding and can help to make a difference in someone's life.

In this issue, we focus on the five programs within the division and highlight some of their latest achievements and activities.

Culinary Management/ Food Production Specialist

For the 17th year, students in the Culinary Management and Food Production Specialist programs provided good eats for the La Crosse Campus's Holiday Food and Drink Sampler. This event celebrates the season with music, food, and non-alcoholic drinks. This year's event



featured a variety of hors d'oeuvres as chosen by student managers Kelly Longmire of Holmen and Gisela Pett of La Crosse, second-year students in the Culinary Management program's Catering class.

"The Holiday Food and Drink Sampler has always been well received and grows in participation each year," says Deb Klug, program head/instructor for the Culinary Management program. "It has been an excellent experience for our students, giving them an opportunity to apply classroom theory to a real-life catering event."

DisAbility Support Specialist

Once known as the Community Development Disabilities Associate

program, the DisAbility Support Specialist program has seen more than just a name change in the past year. With the retirement of Mike DeYoe, a new instructor and speech-language pathologist, Mary Wirkus-Pallaske, started this fall, bringing her knowledge and years of experience in autism and assistive technology to the program. She has created a certificate for education and health professionals to help them effectively live and work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Wirkus-Pallaske was most recently with CESA 4, where for the past 14 years she worked with teachers, parents, and administrators as the director of speech-language, autism, and assistive technology program.

Students in the program were also introduced to the disability services available in Russia this fall when eight delegates and two interpreters from Russia spent the week in La Crosse as part of the Open World—World Services of La Crosse exchange program. This organization brings young professionals from Russia to the United States to help promote a better quality of life. It is the first time Western has hosted this event. Denise Diestler, program head/instructor served as the group's liaison.

Most of those who visited work with children or people with special needs, including group home or children's center

employees, an administrator from a nurses' school, a lawyer who works for the rights of kids and adults, and a

construction company owner who wants to build more accessible homes.

While in La Crosse, Diestler took the group bowling with participants from Riverfront, to Southern

Bluffs where they learned about early childhood intervention, to Chileda for a tour, and on in-home visits. "Wherever we went, one of our grads was there," said Diestler. "It was very cool to see."

Interior Design

If holiday decorating left you feeling a little lackluster this year, then consider having the

Interior Design students deck your halls next year. For the past four years, students have been decorating area homes, using the owners' already-



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existing decorations and displaying them in new ways. "It's a neat opportunity for students and it affects people's lives," said Sandy Schultz. "One client had had back surgery and was unable to decorate on her own this year."

Homeowners are asked for a minimum donation of \$70 for two hours. Donations are used to help fund scholarships and other educational opportunities for Interior Design Student Club members.

Early Childhood Education

After 28 years of teaching students at Western, Mary Henthorne, program head and instructor, has retired. Mary's career at Western started in the Parent Child Center daycare center, where she spent seven years. "While there have been many changes over the years, childcare hasn't really changed," said

Mary. What has changed, however, is the increased demand because of single parents and dual-income families. Mary has also seen the Parent Child Center become nationally accredited, which she notes is a high mark of quality and a great model for our students. The Center is being reaccredited this spring.

Instructional Assistant

A new weekend/online cohort option is opening doors for people who work full time, but want to earn a college degree. In addition to the traditional day program, students can now earn an associate's degree in just two years by attending class one weekend a month and online. Graduates (known as paraprofessionals) gain employment in a variety of positions working with students of all ages and ability levels to ensure a quality education.

Shelly Bauer, instructor/program head, finds that although her students are

all different ages with different backgrounds and educational goals, their common goal is the desire to make a difference in the lives of students. "My goal is to give each student a positive hands-on experience and share with them the rewards that come with being a teacher," says Bauer. ▶

Future Reunions
(tentative dates) – it's never too early to plan!

Business Division
September 19, 2009

Health & Public Safety
September 25, 2010

*Would you like to help make it the best reunion ever?
Contact the Alumni Office
at 608.789.6083 today!*

Family & Consumer Sciences



Plans are underway for an event you won't want to miss, including program reunions, tours, food and fun! Meet with current and former faculty, tour your old classrooms and see what is new, and connect with old and new friends. Who do you want to see at the reunion? Contact them today and let them know you hope to meet them at the reunion.

If you are interested in contacting your classmates or helping with the reunion, the Alumni Office would like to hear from you.

agenda

Saturday, September 20, 2008

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration & Social

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Campus Tours

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch with updates from the college

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Program Reunions & Open House



Register online at westerntc.edu/alumni/reunion

or call the Alumni Office at **608.789.6083**

**Did you graduate from one of these programs?
Attend Reunion 2008!**

Apparel Arts

Culinary Management/Food Service Management

DisAbility Support Specialist/Community Developmental Disabilities Associate

Early Childhood Education/Child Care and Development

Food Production Specialist/Institutional Foods

Homemaker/Home Health Aide

Instructional Assistant

Interior Design

See a favorite teacher or meet your friends for all or part of the activities that are planned.

Classnotes

1958

Elwood Harebo, Accounting, is retired, but is currently the oldest referee in the state of Wisconsin for high school sports.

1966

Norman Dippel, Electronics, is happily retired and living great!

1972

Joe Amberg, Data Processing-Machine Operation, is the store manager of Hillsboro Farmers Co-op in Hillsboro.

Gerald Kramer, Accounting, has been the business services supervisor for Kemps in Waukesha since July 2006.

1973

LaVonne (Olson) Block, Secretarial Science, made a career change from secretary/office manager to going into business for herself as a massage therapist. She loves helping people every day.

Tom Kirchoff, Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Tech, worked in refrigeration until his retirement in 2003. He and his wife, **Helen '74**, live in Auburndale.

Inez Severson, Medical Coding Spec, has been employed by Franciscan Skemp Healthcare since 1974 in a clinical setting. She has two grown children, Nicole and Bart, and two grandsons.

1974

Gary Jump, Machine Tool Operation, is an engineer manager at Necedah Screw Machine Products, Inc. He has four sons serving in the armed forces, one each in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines.

1975

Michael Grimm, Visual Communications, is a certified Apple computer instructor and lives in Pennsylvania.

Ron Konsela, Marketing, teaches in the Menominee School District, and has two children, Samantha and Eric, who were both married in 2007.

1978

Michael Oswald, Auto Mechanics, is service director of VanderMeer Chevrolet and lives in Sparta with his wife, Mary.

1980

Rhonda (Bishop) Luebke, Health Unit Coord, has been the owner of Rhonda's Daycare in Trempeleau for four years.

Glenn Miller, Data Processing-Programming, worked as a COBOL programmer in the early 1980s; a PC user support specialist while pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota; a database user support with the federal government; a LAN Administrator for state, county, local government and University of Minnesota, 1991-95; embedded 8051 microprocessor Avionics programmer from 1998-present. He has been a born-again Christian believer 25 years.

1981

Paul Fisch, Visual Communications, has a son in his first year at Western in graphic design.

Teri (Heineman) Jacquart, Printing, has been married to Michael for 25 years; they have sons, Alex 20 and Arik 15. She has worked in every aspect of the printing industry since graduation, starting as a keyliner and working into a small press operator. She moved to Colorado in 1984 and worked for a small quick print shop then moved back to Wisconsin in 1985 returning to Image Copy Print in Winona. In 1988 she worked for the Winona Printing Company in their prepress department to learn what commercial printing was all about. In 1989 she worked for St. Mary's Press in Winona, in a prepress environment but working with books. Because she missed customer relations and versatility she went back to Image Copy Print, which she eventually owned and operated for 4 years. Since 1996 she has worked at Fastenal managing their in-house print shop which has given her an opportunity to continue her love for print, until retirement!

Patricia (Raymer) Newman, Marketing, Retail, Fashion Merch, and her husband Royce live in Sparta. She is a business analyst with McCracken Financial Solutions.

1982

Mitch Curtis, Retail Marketing, has been the owner of Metro Check Cashing and Action Check Cashing since 2001. His wife, Tracy, passed away on May 21, 2006. He has three children, Max 13, Georgia 11, Sophia 9.

1983

Kathy (Golly) Esch, Nursing, is a registered nurse at Aurora Sinai Samaritan Hospital in Milwaukee.

William Gaines, Welding, and his wife, Karla, have been married since September 1997.

Shayne Mara, Wood Tech and **Cindy (Kuester) '83** Medical Secretary, have been married for 23 years and have two sons, Zach 18, Ryan 15.

Lawrence Van Abbema, Commercial Art, is a freelance artist in New York City.

1984

Lisa (Sullivan) Brueggen, Dental Asst, has been married for six years.

David Egge, Data Processing-Machine Operation, is a program manager for Comtech Mobile Datacom in Texas. He thanks Western for the education that has gotten him to where he is now.

Kerry McGuire, Medical Asst, has three daughters age 35, 22, 20 and a grandson. She has been at Gundersen Lutheran for 22 years, spends one month each year in Florida, and currently takes classes at Western for pleasure and enjoyment.

Kent Selbrede, Industrial Electronics, has obtained a bachelor of science degree in computer science from North Carolina State and a business degree from Letourneau University. He currently lives in Sammamish, WA and is a Customer Operational Director for Nortel.

1985

Shirley Eggett, Accounting, has been happily retired for ten years.



David Gostisha, Visual Communications, is a video producer at MSNBC.com and works with the following websites: condensedmovies.com and ziptrivia.com.

1986

Darla Johnson '86 Childcare & Development, '88 Health Unit Coordinator, is married with three children. She is a quality assurance analyst for Weather Shield Manufacturing in Medford and even though she is not employed in her program area, credits her education for where she is today.

Debra (Hutzenbuehler) Kramer, Ceta Clerk, and her husband, Rich, have two children, April and Jake.

Valerie (Babcock) Kuehl, Nursing, is a hospice nurse at Tomah Memorial Hospital. She has three grandchildren, Sidney, Kayla and Jacob.

1987

Debbie (Dienger), Interior Design, married Bill Barr on December 30, 2006. Debbie works in the Family & Consumer Sciences Division at Western Technical College.

1988

Jeri (Klohs) Baldwin, Nursing, started her nursing career as a nursing assistant before going back to school. She has been at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tomah for 31 years.

Mary (Pyka), '88 Medical Secretary, and **Jonathon Bisek '97** Farm, Business & Production Mgmt, have been married for 15 years and have three children ages 12, 9, and 4.

Bradley Burke, Machine Tooling Tech, has been married to Kimberly for 12 years and they have three children.

1989

Michelle (Hover) Grimm, Commercial Art, is a new realtor with Prudential Lovejoy Realty, Inc. in the La Crosse area.

Chad Hofstien, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, has worked at St. Joseph's Equipment for 18 years and is now the service manager.

1990

Sara (Nackers) Adamovich, Commercial Art, has two children, Gavin 6 and Avery 4.

Diane Clark, Paralegal, loves her job with the Federal Government, getting finger printed for the first time in her life and having the FBI investigate her past, contacting friends and family. She has 9 grandchildren. Diane has lost 171 pounds and feels like a teenager again. She plans to continue working with the government, taking advantage of advancement opportunities within the USDA utilizing her accounting, office management, and legal assisting skills, plus having been a farm wife for 20 years. She is currently in the business management program with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Classnotes cont.

Craig Young, Visual Communications, has been married to Aleta for 14 years and has 2 children, Alex 11 and Carrie 6. He has been in the education field for 15 years and loving it! His job utilizes his degree from Western, but also involves computer duties such as email accounts, web page design and filtering.

1991

Doris Bernette, Nursing, is a nurse recruiter for Veterans Hospital in Tomah. She received a BSN from Viterbo University in December 2007.

Kevin Kraft, Nursing, has worked at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina for 17 years and has been the nurse manager in the Hyperbaric Center for 4 years.

Stacey Weber, Food Service, completed a business administration degree at Viterbo University and was recently employed by Pragmatic Marketing, Inc., consulting and training marketing professionals in high tech companies.

1992

Anita Beck, Accounting, is retired and enjoying her winter home in Florida.

Vicki Christianson, Office Asst, was employed at Midwest Security Insurance in Onalaska and La Crosse County Courthouse before getting married and staying home to care for their seven children. They celebrated the birth of a daughter on April 15, 2007.

Andrea (Grunz) Dornbusch, Medical Admin Spec, has two children ages 8 and 3.

Thomas Fanzen, Human Resource/Business Admin, has been married for five years, owns a home and has a 15 year old step-daughter.

Sheilah (Winkler) Huogom, Administrative Asst, celebrated the birth of a son, Noah Robert, on July 2, 2007.

Mark Kampa, Criminal Justice, recently purchased and operates the Village Bar in Madison.

1993

Craig Lundt, Graphic Design, is a manager at Premier Sign & Graphics. He celebrated the birth of a daughter, Haven, on July 19, 2007. She joins a brother, Caden 5 and a sister, Araya 3 at home.

1994

Alan Graffunder, Bio-Medical Electronics, is a biomed specialist at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire. He is the proud father of three children.

Ronald Litsheim, Food Service Mgmt, has a son, David, who is a U.S. marine.

Scott White, Paralegal, is a financial planner with Mutual of Omaha. He and his wife, Chris, live in La Crosse with their son, Merek, born December 12, 2006.

Stanley Wise, Automotive Tech, and his wife Shelly recently moved to Black River Falls from Racine. He is an automotive tech at Rick's Certified Auto.

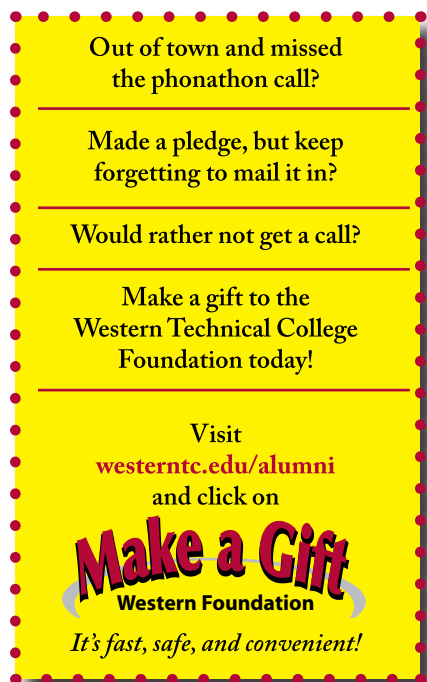
1995

Kristina Baldwin, Nursing, completed a BS in nursing at Viterbo University in 2005 and currently works at the Tomah VA Hospital. She has two children in college and another starting in the fall.

Traci (Robinson), Early Childhood Education, was married to Mike deGroot on July 21, 2007. She works in dietary services at Fairhaven Retirement Community in Whitewater.

Christine (Hart) Jones, Community Developmental Disabilities Assoc, is an instructional aide with Bismarck Public Schools and has a daughter born October 2, 2005.

Jennifer Krueger, Farm, Business & Production, and her husband Byron, own Hidden Valley Dairy in Melrose, with 350 cows.



1996

Brandon Becker, Wood Tech, was married to Becky in April 2006. They have a daughter Meah 2 and step-daughter Makena 6.

Cheri (Sampson) Brudos, Accounting, is the head of the bookkeeping department at The Accountant's Office in La Crosse. She and her husband, Dan, have two children, Dylan 4 and Caleb 2.

Kathy Gabriel, Electroneurodiagnostic Tech, has a granddaughter and lives in Blair.

1997

Jennifer (Foss) Eickhoff, Administrative Assistant-Information Processing, celebrated the birth a son, Lyland, on July 25, 2007.

Lonnie Knoble, CIS Microcomputer Spec, has worked for La Crosse Footwear, Inc. for 12 years, relocating to Portland, OR when the corporate office moved from La Crosse.

Heather (Atkinson) Puckett, Marketing, welcomed a son, Braxton, on April 9, 2007.

1998

Tina Hudson, Accounting, celebrated the adoption of a 14 month old son, Andrew, from Guam in February 2007.

Carolyn Kiesau, Dental Asst, has two grandchildren, Jonathan 4 and Sophia 2.

Jeff Schmidt, Finance, graduated from UW Madison Graduate School of Banking. He has been with the First National Bank of Bangor for 13 years since participating in the first Youth Apprenticeship program in finance at Western and is currently the bank manager at the Holmen Branch.

1999

Nickoli Helstad, Welding, is the owner of Nick's Welding & Fabricating in Hixton. The business recently became incorporated and they have built a new shop.

Kari (Fish) Hauser, Nursing, was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing at the Morrow Memorial Home in Sparta.

2000

Samuel Judd, Graphic Design, is currently an E-6 (Sgt) in the US Army and has served two tours in Iraq. He was recently awarded a prestigious assignment in teaching leadership to E-5's (Sgt) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Brian Knutson, Commercial Art, Printing & Publishing, is an account executive on the La Crosse Tribune staff. He recently graduated from Viterbo University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Susan (Frosch) Erickson, Nursing, is teaching in the associate degree nursing program at Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical in Winona.

Anne Johnson, Occupational Therapy Asst, and her husband Tim, have two children, Ethan 3 years and Dylan 6 months.

Earl Lewis, CIS Microcomputer Spec, and his wife, Sarah, celebrated the birth of a son, Jonathan Lyle on June 4, 2007. Earl works full-time at Steel Craft Corporation in Hartford, WI.

Rebecca (Gilbertson), Agri-Business, married Theron Solberg on October 8, 2005.

2001

Jamie Barclay, Medical Asst, has three children, ages 9, 2, and 1.

Aubrey Bowman, Commercial Art, recently completed a special education licensure program at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and is currently working on a master of science degree in social responsibility.

Julie Dunnun, Human Resource-Business Admin, has recently built a home in Westby. She is employed by Hamburg, Stark Insurance in payroll and human resources.

Holly (Steuck) Retail Mgmt, and **Benjamin Gerling '02**, CIS Network Spec, have a 1-1/2 year old son, Benjamin Joseph. Holly is a CPHIT pharmacy tech at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare and Benjamin is a network tech analyst at Kwik Trip.

Classnotes cont.

Jill (Purdy), Marketing and **William (Bill) Raven '02**, Wood Tech, were married July 7, 2001. They recently opened a real estate agency, J. Raven Realty, Inc. at 321 S. 4th St. in La Crosse. They are also the owners of Raven Homes, Inc. which specializes in building custom homes.

Elisabeth Robinson, Medical Asst, is a podiatry technician/MA with Spectrum Healthcare. She and her husband, Jeffery, live in Fort Bragg, NC.

2002

Angela (Kviz), Medical Asst, was married October 6, 2007 to Brian Anderson.

Heather (Schubert), Administrative Asst, and **Jamie Brice '01**, CIS -Microcomputer Spec/Network Spec, were married on September 15, 2007. Heather is an instructional secretary with the La Crosse School District and Jamie is a computer specialist with River States Truck & Trailer.

Jane, Health Information Tech, and **Brian Hanson '78**, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, work for Gundersen Lutheran and Pepsi respectfully. Their youngest child, Emily is in the Army and serving in Germany.

Casey Klug, Wood Tech, has a daughter, Camryn, age 2 and is awaiting the birth of a second child in February.

Tasha (Zimmer), Administrative Asst, married Mark McRaniels on July 7, 2007. Tasha is a Patient Accounts Specialist at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare.

2003

Catherine Adrian, Physical Therapist Asst, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Crystal (Miller), Finance, and **Dustin Byl '04**, Accounting, were married June 30, 2007. Crystal is an Enrollment Services Assistant at Western Technical College and Dustin is in the accounting department at Organic Valley Farms in La Farge.

Benjamin Fletcher, Human Resource/Business Admin, was married to Abbey in May 2007.

Matthew Hundt, Emergency Medical Serv, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree.

Sharon Kabat, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, wishes the criminal justice class of 2003 all well!

Lisa (Pronschinske), Dental Asst, married Phil Lipinski on May 15, 2005. They have a son, Cameron, born November 29, 2006.

Josie (Justin), Radiography, was married to Roger Papenfuss on August 18, 2007. She is a radiologic technologist RT(R)(M) at Olmsted Medical Center. They reside in Chatfield, MN.

Scott Pooler, CIS Microcomputer Spec, is the technology coordinator for Blair-Taylor

School District. He will be starting courses towards a technology information bachelor's degree at Franklin University in winter 2008.

2004

Sara (Chitwood), Human Resource-Business Admin, married Aaron Adamson on August 5, 2006.

Jennifer Geary, Nursing Asst, is married with a child born July 2006. She is a CNA at Vernon Memorial Hospital in Viroqua.

Craig Halvorson, CIS Networking Spec, and his wife Judith have a son Luke. Craig is a network administrator with Ashley Furniture Industries in Arcadia.

2005

Virginia (Senne) Averhoff, Medical Asst, is a medical assistant at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and is the proud grandmother of a one year old.

Heather, Medical Asst, and **John Betsinger**, Electrician Apprenticeship, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Justyne on June 30, 2006.

Heather recently started working at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in OB/GYN as a medical assistant.

Benjamin Harrison, Visual Communications, has worked for Carnival Cruise Lines as a video services manager for two years.

Jenica Lanners, CIS Microcomputer Spec, is married and welcomed a son in April 2007.

David Lawrence, Central Service Tech, '07 Radiography, is a radiographer tech at Winona Health in Winona, MN. His wife, Tammy, is an RN at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse.

Kathy (Waldera), Interior Design, married Robert Manka on June 2, 2007. She is a wedding and event coordinator at Stoney Creek Inn and shares, "it was one of the best decisions in my life to return to school to make a career change."

Lorie Oldenburg, Graphic Design, is a graphic designer at Insty-Prints of La Crosse. Her design was chosen for the 2007 Oktoberfest button.

Jeremy Saddison, Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Tech, was one of four team members that won first place in the 2007 ASHRAE Student Design Competition for HVAC system design. The design featured energy efficient equipment and was the best in terms of sustainability and green design. He graduated in May (Summa Cum Laude) from Ferris State with a B.A.S in HVAC Engineering. He is employed by J.F. Ahern Co., a mechanical contractor headquartered in Fond du Lac and works in their Milwaukee office as an Assistant Project Manager.

2006

Phyllis (Witmer) Amstutz, Nursing, has recently moved to Idaho to begin working as an RN at Kootenai Medical Center.

Robert Arlt, Electromechanical Tech, is employed at Walker Stainless Company of New Lisbon in document control.

Carmen (Hatfield), Human Resource-Business Admin, married David Devine in August 2006.

Mary Dow, Supervisory Mgmt, is an administrative assistant with Community Development Alternatives in Prairie du Chien.

Erin Fitting, Marketing, welcomed a son on April 19, 2007.

Jeremy Mitoraj, Paramedic Tech and Ann Mischka '06 Paramedic Tech, purchased a new home spring 2007 in La Crosse and are both full time paramedics at Tri-State Ambulance.

Jennifer Wilson, Interior Design, is employed at Slumberland Furniture in Madison as one of a few select sales associates.

2007

Warren Bjorge, IT-User Support & Training, and his wife, Andrea, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ella, on December 14, 2006. She joins two sisters at home.

Dawn Boayue, Medical Asst, is a medical assistant in physical medicine at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. She is attending Western part time working toward a nursing degree. She is married and has two children.

Travis Householder, Paramedic Tech, is a paramedic with Tri-State Ambulance.

Carrie Hubler, Nursing Asst, recently joined the air force in the medical department.

Jeanne Kraus, Nursing, is an RN at Vernon Manor in Viroqua.

Ashley Nau, Supervisory Mgmt, is a product planner at Ashley Furniture. She recently completed her BS degree in organizational management at Viterbo University.

Miranda Saxton, Surgical Tech, began working at Mayo Clinic as a Surgical Tech in June 2007. She was engaged on her 21st birthday in August and will be married October 11, 2008. She lives in Rochester, MN.

Watch for details soon!

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In memoriam

Richard C. Hooverson, '47 Agriculture & Farm Training, 7/25/2007

James H. Lunde, '61 Electronic Servicing, 4/22/2007

Gary Jaekel, '61 Electronics, 2/13/2007

John E. Turner, '67 Electronics, 8/19/2007

Kenneth G. Pierce, '68 Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Technology, 11/14/2007

Gary E. Stelzig, '68 Data Processing, 7/18/2007

Shirley J. Kilmer, '71 Medical Assistant, 11/18/2007

David Hanson, '71 Production Agriculture, 5/22/2007

Larry Thompson, '72 Accounting, 5/19/2007

Ronald Neinast, '75 Accounting, 8/26/2007

Clifford Anderson, '75 Farm Training - Certificate, 8/5/2007

Lori M. Hoyum, '78 Fashion Marketing, 8/7/2007

Jerry Holstad, '78 Production Agriculture, 10/30/2007

Roy Filla, '78 Production Agriculture, 10/31/2007

Duane Moilien, '79 Farm Business Management, 11/30/2007

Craig S. LeVay, '79 Printing & Publishing, 9/2/2007

John A. Engebrecht, '80 Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician, 10/19/2007

Betty J. Leitz, '81 Supervisory Management, 7/6/2007

Douglas W. Strittmater, '84 Accounting, 8/9/2007

Robin Eitsert, '84 Computer Programming, 11/26/2007

Clarence Moilien, '90 Farm, Business & Production Management, 11/10/2007

Donna Falconer, '93 Nursing - Associate Degree, 9/26/2007

Sandra J. Pierce, '95 Office Assistant, 10/27/2007

Amy A. Kowitz, '00 Occupational Therapy Assistant, 6/20/2007

Mark A. Schaitel, '02 Computer Programming, 12/2/2007

Patrick L. Lybert, '02 Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement, 6/21/2006

Elizabeth A. Klees, '04 Radiography, 3/20/2007

Danielle M. Meyer, '07 Nursing Assistant, 11/1/2007

Paul E. MacFarland, Printing, 9/11/2007

Nicholas R. Hoff, 7/29/2007

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