

Task Force Meets Challenge

Leslie Hill-Clatworthy

The Western Alumni Association took a major step forward this spring. Four alumni board task force members—**Cinda Vingers**, '88 Supervisory Management; **Tina Johns**, '91 Medical Administrative Specialist; **Lynn (Smyrk) Lenz**, '86 Respiratory Therapy Technician; and **David Christensen**, '05 Human Resource/Business Administration—completed a strategic plan and bylaws, providing structure for the Alumni Association. The next task will be creating an alumni board to provide direction to carry out the mission of the association. These steps will facilitate greater involvement with Western and create new opportunities for alumni.

Tina Johns agrees. "It really made me feel more connected to Western. I enjoyed reading the alumni newsletter, so when I was approached about getting in on the ground level of the establishment of an alumni board, I was excited about the opportunity. Plus, I met a great group of people!"

Cinda Vingers viewed it as another way to give back to the college as an alumna. After serving on the task force, she sees the future as very bright. "I'm very excited about the alumni association after serving on the task force. The task force has established a strategic plan and bylaws for the alumni association, so when the new board is formed, the board can hit the ground running, supporting Western's alumni." she says. "I'm sure there have been many missed opportunities where current students and the college itself could have benefited from their alumni. It is

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Mission Statement

The Western Technical College Alumni Association will support the mission of Western Technical College by developing a lasting and mutually beneficial relationship between the college and its alumni.



photo: Bruce Defries Studio Group

Alumni Board Task Force: Cinda Vingers, Sally Emerson, Tina Johns, Lynn (Smyrk) Lenz, and David Christensen

Hello Western alumni!



As you can imagine after reading our cover story, this is an exciting time for the Western Alumni Association! With the completion of a strategic plan and bylaws, the alumni association is ready to move forward with the establishment of an alumni board to provide direction and leadership for the association. Now is the time for you as a Western alumna or alumnus to think about how you might serve and become involved with your alma mater, whether as a board member or in some other capacity.

As I have had the opportunity to meet with many alumni during this past year, the one thing that is clear is Western alumni appreciate their educational experience—whether it was the instructor who provided direction or the program that opened doors to a new career. Volunteering for your college is a great way to thank Western and ensure that these opportunities continue for generations to come.

We are pleased to also announce a new benefit for alumni—Downtown Mainstreet, Inc. discounts! If you would like to take advantage of savings available at over 30 businesses in downtown La Crosse, contact the alumni office for a card.

Thank you to all of the alumni who have been involved with Western this past year, including those serving on advisory committees, donating through the alumni phonathon, or assisting with reunions. We can't do it without you!

Sally Emerson

P.S. Don't forget—keep your contact and employment information up to date in the alumni office.

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

very exciting that Sally Emerson has been hired as the alumni relations coordinator, which shows the College's support and recognition of the importance of their alumni."

"I think the alumni association is moving in a very positive direction," says Johns. "I'm definitely excited about the future of the alumni association after completing this process."

If you are interested in becoming part of this groundbreaking group, contact the alumni office at 608-789-6083 or emersons@westernnc.edu.

The following goals and objectives were established by the taskforce. They outline an exciting future for Western's Alumni Association!

1 To develop an alumni association which supports the mission and goals of the college and foundation.

- Develop effective communication with alumni.
- Provide opportunities for alumni to network and interact with the college, students, and communities served.
- Engage a broader base of alumni by promoting services and support.
- Promote the alumni association and develop a relationship with current students in order to encourage their involvement as alumni.
- Educate alumni about the value and opportunities for philanthropic support.

2 To create a responsible and productive alumni association board, which sets strategic direction and brings value to the work of the association.

- Recruit enthusiastic and committed board members, representing the demographics of Western graduates.
- Develop accurate and functional bylaws.
- Create productive committees to support the purpose of the alumni association and increase alumni engagement.
- Develop high quality and effective programs for alumni.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Debra Limberg

This year's Distinguished Alumni Award winner is a prominent businesswoman in downtown La Crosse. As owner of The Wedding Tree, **Debra Limberg**

has quadrupled annual sales and grown the store from 2,500 to 17,600 feet since purchasing the business in 1996. The Wedding Tree is now in the top 20 percent of all wedding stores in the nation for annual sales and square footage.

A 1990 graduate of Western's Marketing/Retail program, she maintains a relationship with the college, acting as an advisory committee member for the program, teaching business courses for the college, speaking to student groups



about her experiences, and hosting student visits at her store. In addition to her professional responsibilities, she has been involved in hosting two annual black tie fundraising events to benefit local bereavement services and SIDS research. She is also devoted to her three children and has acted as a coach for her daughters' basketball and soccer teams.

To honor her professional achievements and the role she plays as an advocate for Western and its students, Debra was recognized with Western Technical College's 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award.

We're looking for our next Distinguished Alumni recipient. Who do you know who has made a difference in his/her career and community? Recognize his or her accomplishments by following the criteria and instructions by following the [criteria and instructions by following the westerntc.edu/alumni/distinguished.asp](http://westerntc.edu/alumni/distinguished.asp). Please submit your nomination by December 1, 2007. 📧

Important Alumni Contacts

Alumni Office
608-789-6083

Business & Industry Services
608-785-9232

Campus Shop
608-785-9140

Counseling
608-785-9585

Foundation
608-785-9487

Library
608-785-9142

Lifelong Learning
608-789-6100

Registrar
608-785-9149

Student Employee Services
608-785-9440

Wellness Center
608-785-9443

Why I Give

For **Rose (Mader) Levendoski**, '70 Business Machines/Accounting, and her husband, **Mike**, '76 Electronics, philanthropy is second nature. So when the couple received a call during the Foundation's phonathon, they donated to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Why? "It's important that when you get to a certain point in your life when you can help, you should," says Rose. "If you believe the college has helped you or your family, you should consider giving." Besides, she continues, "we're partial to education."

And now they are considering establishing a scholarship themselves to help even more students at Western. Says Mike, "everyone needs a little help nowadays." 📧



Logistics Health Event

Western Technical College is grateful to the many businesses in our district that hire our alumni and support our programs. This spring, the Western Alumni Association sponsored an appreciation event at Logistics Health, Inc. (LHI) to say "thank you," complete with food and door prizes. The many alumni attending the event received an update on the college from President Rasch and greetings from Don Weber, LHI chairman and CEO. 🍷



PTA '95 Reunion

Thanks to **Rachel (Sauder) Menter**, friends from her Physical Therapist Assistant class of '95 gathered in June to tour the program facilities, meet with their former instructor, **Mary Ann Herlitzke**, enjoy an afternoon in the park, and gather for dinner. If you would like to organize an event for your class, contact the alumni office.



Photo (from left): Mary Ann Herlitzke, Rachel (Sauder) Menter, Teri Lee

Continue Your Education at Viterbo University

If you're ready to pursue a bachelor's degree, Viterbo offers several degree programs for the busy adult who needs flexibility and convenience. All of your associate's degree credits transfer to Viterbo and many students qualify for financial aid.

Transfer your associate's degree and earn a Bachelor of Business Administration degree or build your own degree through the Bachelor of Individualized Learning program. With your completed Bachelor of Business Administration degree, enter the Master of Business Administration program or choose to continue your education with the Master of Arts in Servant Leadership program.

Transfer your associate's degree in business and earn a bachelor's degree in accounting, computer information systems, management, or marketing.

Transfer your Nursing-Associate Degree and earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. With your completed BSN, enter the Master of Science in Nursing program.



For more information, contact the School of Adult Learning at **608-796-3370**, **1-888-VITERBO**, or adultlearning@viterbo.edu.

**Register
today!**

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



Industrial Technologies Program Areas

The following program areas are a representation of the educational programs that have been a part of the Industrial Technologies Division at Western.

Agriculture
Automotive/Diesel
Electronics
Graphics
HVAC
Machine Tool
Manufacturing
Mechanical Design/
Drafting
Welding
Wood Tech

agenda

Saturday, September 22, 2007

- 8-9 a.m.**
Breakfast for agriculture alumni
- 9-11:30 a.m.**
Campus and department tours
- 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
Historical display
- 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
Lunch
- 2-3 p.m.**
New Automotive/Diesel Training Center
Open House
- 3-6 p.m.**
Social at Howie's Hof Brau & Loons

Register online at
westerntc.edu/alumni/reunion
or call the Alumni Office at
608-789-6083

Attend Reunion 2008!

*Are you a graduate
of the Family and Consumer
Sciences Division?*

**Plan now to attend
Reunion 2008!**
September 20, 2008


*Would you like to help make it the best
reunion ever?*

Contact the Alumni Office
at 608-789-6083 today!

Western News

Step Up to the Plate!

When spring arrives at Western, it signals the beginning of the baseball season and the last few weeks of the academic year. It also means that the annual employee campaign kicks off to help show our commitment to excellence in learning, continuous improvement, student success, employer satisfaction and community partnerships.

This year's campaign, Step Up to the Plate, lived up to its name. Nearly 50 percent of the staff donated more than \$43,000 to help Western and its students. "Every year we see more and more of our staff donate to the campaign," says Peggy Langreck, development manager. "Every year it grows, which means every year we can do more to help students." 



photos: Bruce Defries Studio Group

To wrap up this year's baseball-themed campaign, a staff wiffleball tournament was held that featured the top four teams who had the most number of donors.



photo: Bruce Defries Studio Group

Western Adds Two New Programs

The Business Division has added two new programs to its extensive list of quality programs. The **Business Management** program is an associate's degree that provides a broad background and practical applications in business management theory and practices, human resources, marketing, e-business, finance, accounting, planning and budgeting, and business and employment law. This program is designed to give students a broad range of skills to take to the workplace or the opportunity to transfer their degree to a four-year university.

The **Accounting Assistant** technical diploma program prepares students to perform entry-level bookkeeping and accounting work. Both day and evening, and some online, classes are available.

For more information, contact the Business Division at **608-785-9168**. 



Community & Corporate Training Center Takes a Step Forward

Julie Lemon

The Corporate and Community Training Center at Western's La Crosse Campus is now one step closer to becoming reality. A generous donation from Milt and Lidy Lunda of Black River Falls and the Lunda Charitable Trust puts the College at \$2 million raised. The facility, which will be located at the current Coleman Center site at 304 6th St. N., will be named the Lunda Center.

"We are very fortunate to have good neighbors like the Lunda family who support education," said Lee Rasch, president of Western Technical College.

The Lunda family operates Lunda Construction Company, a construction business based in Black River Falls that specializes in transportation projects. They have supported Western with previous donations, including funding for distance learning initiatives and 30 technical education scholarships that are awarded annually. The company also makes use of Western's training opportunities to keep its employees current with changing technology. "I have faith in the people at Western Technical College," said Milt Lunda. "I think they are doing a good job for the students and the businesses that they serve."

If fundraising efforts continue as anticipated, construction will begin in early spring 2008. ▶

Paving the Way for Students

As part of the project, the courtyard area between the Coleman and Kumm Centers will be redesigned. The space will be paved with bricks, and accented with stars, which creates an opportunity to memorialize a friend or loved one; honor a teacher, child or parent; celebrate a special achievement; recognize your business; create a lasting memory of your time on campus; or congratulate a recent graduate.

Bricks will be available for purchase beginning September 1. Two sizes are available for \$100 or \$250. In addition, stars will be available for \$3,000 and \$5,000.

For more information about purchasing a brick or star, contact Sally Emerson at 608-789-6083 or emersons@westerntc.edu.



Classnotes

1966

Harland Thorson, Mechanical Design, graduated from the Coleman Technical Institute and played on its first basketball team. He has worked as a draftsman at Trane Company for 41 years.

1973

Marilyn Kepler Morton, Interior Design, after graduation worked at W.A. Roosevelt Showroom in La Crosse, moved to Mason City, IA in 1975, worked in clothing and jewelry sales plus designed displays; A.C. Neilson Marketing Research; 10 years in home daycare; 9 years as special ed paraprofessional in elementary and middle school to the present. She has been married for 34 years and has 2 children.

Linda Pfaff, Data Processing, is the director of development for the La Crosse Community Theatre.

David Scholze, Accounting, was an accounting supervisor in La Crosse and Duluth, MN for 30 years and has recently retired.

1974

Dennis Pederson, Feed, Seed & Farm Supply, was listed in the "Who's Who in American Business 2006."

Steven Quandahl, Marketing, has been a housekeeper at Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center for 32 years.

1975

Mike Sebion, Feed, Seed, Farm Supply, started his own business, Mike's Feed Supply in Westby in 1978.

1976

David Nehring, Agri-Business, is part owner and operator of a bar in Eau Claire.

1977

Douglas Miller, Clinical Laboratory Technician, recently became a physician assistant with Franciscan Skemp Healthcare.

1978

Leon, Agri-Business/Science Tech and **Debra (Halverson) Primmer '79** Accounting, are married and have three children ages 8, 11, and 13.

Patricia (Douglas) Trudeau, Electroneurodiagnostic Tech, is president of the Central Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists and employed by Marshfield Clinic.

Sheri Breidel, Accounting, is employed by TCI Architects/Engineers/Contractor, Inc. in accounts payable.

1979

Larry Neustel, Commercial Art, has been the manager of art production at the Kohler Company for six years.

1980

Anita Neumman, Medical Secretary, is a medical transcriptionist at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse where she has been employed since 1989.

Ginny Oliver, Mechanical Design, just retired in April from the WI Department of Transportation. Her husband, Philip, is a retired teacher.

1981

Rick Klug, Machine Tool, is working as a medical device designer for Becton Dickinson and recently received an award for outstanding achievements and performance.

Donald Peterson, Automotive Technician, has been married for 12 years and has two children, Kayla and Haley.

1982

Kimberly Pongratz, Radiography, has two children that have also graduated from Western, **Tyler '06** IT Programmer/Analyst and **Jessica '05** Dental Assistant.

Gene Ruetten, Industrial Engineering Tech, has a three-year-old granddaughter, Brooklyn.

Richard Yunk, Police Science Technology, retired from Monroe County Sheriff's Department after 29 years as a Lieutenant Detective.

1983

Edward Potaracke, Wood Tech, is the father of nine children.

Donna Rodenberg, Early Childhood Education, has been a teacher at Red Balloon Child Care Center for 24 years.

William Skrzymowski, Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Tech, is a professional engineer at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Wendy Tranberg, Graphic Design, has been married since 1983. She has traveled the U.S. & Europe. She has one son, Kyle, who now attends Western in the Accounting program.

Gennean (Strupp) Vetrano, Commercial Art, is a designer/artist for Genuine Vision Studios and has a 13-year-old daughter, Jessica.

LoriAnna (Kostuch) Young, Accounting, obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has been the owner and operator of Krown Computers & Services in Adams-Friendship, WI for seven years. She is also married and has one child.

1984

Beth (King) Baumbach, Office Assistant, is an experienced radiology technician seeking a teaching position in a radiology program.

Chris Beeman, Feed, Seed, & Farm Supply, has been the manager of the feed department at Hartland Cooperative in Marshfield for 20 years.

Karen Corcoran, LPN, has four children ages 16, 18, 20 and 28 and a 3-year-old grandson.

Linda (Lewis) Lebakken, Dental Assisting, married Brad Lebakken in 1995. She has been an orchestra teacher for Onalaska School District since fall 1995; they have sons Trygve 6 and Nels 3.

Sara Miller, Accounting, celebrated the birth of a daughter in May 2006.

David Olson, Surgical Tech, since graduating has worked with a rescue squad, in nuclear medicine for 3 years, and has served 3 hospitals in Eastern Wisconsin.



Daryl Rattunde, Machine Tooling Tech, is the engineering manager at Mauston Tool.

Lisa Schnepfer, Nursing-Associate Degree, is an associate professor at Winona State University Master's nursing program and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing. She presented at a symposium in July during the nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International Research Conference in Vienna, Austria, based on her abstract "In Giving We Receive: Community Engagement of Nursing Students with Culturally Diverse Populations."

Mark Warren, Marketing, and **Brenda (Cipra)**, Data Processing, are married and have two children, Christina 20, and Lucas 16.

1985

Richard Schreier, Auto Body & Paint Tech, has opened a new business, Becker Collision & Glass in Becker, MN.

1986

Ted Carley, Wood Technics, has been with Interior Systems Inc. Fond du Lac, WI for over 17 years. He recently accepted 2nd shift supervisor job after working in the shop.

Stefanie (Kokott) Matchey, Food Service Management, has two sons, age 12 and 16.

Brian Vick, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration, celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary this summer. He and his wife have two children, Brandon and Brianna.

Renita Williamson, Marketing, was promoted to court treasurer for the village of Coon Valley in February.

1987

Ken Tran, Bio-Medical Electronics, is the lead engineer for MKS Instruments in Massachusetts, designing high power/frequency electronic switch mode resonant converters/inverters for use in plasma generation for the semiconductor industry.

Karen Waldera, CIS Microcomputer Tech, will be getting married to Brian on September 15, 2007.

Blake Young, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, is working for FABCO Caterpillar as a service technician.

1988

Jon Moldenhauer, Machine Tooling Tech, is married with four children.

Vickie (Fisher) Snyder, Bio-Medical Electronics, is currently working on a bachelor's degree and plans to begin a master's degree soon.

1989

Cindy (Schmitz) McDonald, Health Information Tech, has three children.

Bernard Ziegeweid, Farm Business & Production Management, is an agent with The Insurance Center.

classnotes cont.

1990

Susanne (Solberg) Mlsna, Nursing-Associate Degree, has two granddaughters, Kaydan and Lauren, and two grandsons, Andrew and Elijah.

Pamela (Subra) Pettis, Respiratory Care Practitioner, is celebrating 17 years in respiratory care at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire.

Melissa (Schroeder) Schultz, Legal Secretary, provides secretarial services through her business, Melissa's Administrative Coordinating & Services. She provides multiple services for businesses without the overhead while also coordinating projects for her clients. The business has been growing substantially since she started in 1998 thanks to her degree at Western. She is married and has two children, Ryan 12 and Katie 8.

1991

Dan Nerison, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, celebrated the birth of a daughter Haley on February 6, 2006.

Michael Paletta, Mechanical Design, was recently hired by RM WT as a contract engineer.

Jerome Shepard, Industrial Engineering Technician, retired from Trane in 2006.

1992

Shawn Mayberry, Fabrication Welding, is married and has four children.

Diane (Olson) Niedfeldt-Thompson, Dental Assistant, has been a certified dental assistant for 15 years.

Tanya (Bergsrud) Ryan, Interior Design, has three daughters, Shelby 16, Shyanne 13, and Shaysie 9.

Sandra Sass, Graphic Design, is working on a bachelor's degree in education, majoring in science and social studies and certified as an art instructor. After graduation she plans to pursue certification in international education.

Robert Soucek, Welding, and his wife, Jill, have three sons, Zach 12, Matt 11, and Andrew 9.

Cory Mahutga, Mechanical Design, is an engineer and owner of Arrowdynamics.

Thomas Mauss, Automotive Tech, is married and has three daughters.

Kate Ott, Feed, Seed & Farm Supply, has worked at the Hillsboro Farmer's Co-op for 14 years. She has a daughter, 4, and a son, 18 months.

Kimberly (Sawyer) Selepa, Office Assistant, is married and has two children.

1994

Michelle Pasch, Early Childhood Education, has three children, Trenton 10, Taylor 6, and Tegan 1.

Angela Pfaff, Early Childhood Education, is co-owner of Kids at Play Child Care Center which serves the greater La Crosse area.

Stacy Polodna, Police Science Tech, married Cari in September 2000 and has two daughters, Abby and Alivia.

Chad Waldenberger, Marketing, has been married for nine years and has three children, Jessa 8, Grace 2-1/2, and newborn Josie.

Lisa (Ames) Willie, LPN, is an urgent care coordinator at the New Richmond Hospital and wishes to say "hi" to her classmates.

1995

Melissa (Zillmer) Oliver, Medical Secretarial, has an eight-year-old son, Dillon.

Dennis Parmenter, Electronic Servicing, is a service tech with Kubicek Office Products. He, his wife Lori, and daughter Allison live in Sun Prairie.

Laurie (Winkers) Radke, Physical Therapist Assistant, celebrated the birth of daughter, Alyssa, June 23, 2006.

Michael Whiteaker, Auto Mechanics, is married and has two children, Ethan 4 and Dylan 1.

Out of town and missed
the phonathon call?

Made a pledge, but keep
forgetting to mail it in?

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Western Technical College
Foundation today!

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westernrtc.edu/alumni
and click on

Make a Gift
Western Foundation

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1996

Jessica (Apfel) Miller, Fashion Marketing, owns an interior decorating business in Onalaska called Rooms by Jess.

William Niebeling, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, has two daughters, Cora 4 and Ellie 1.

Susan Sorrentino, Nursing-Associate Degree, is working on her BSN at Viterbo University.

Erin (Herold) Strittmater, Interior Design, is a designer at Mid-State Supply in De Pere, WI.

Kristie (Hansen), Paralegal, and **Trent Thompson**, Police Science Technology, celebrated the birth of a son Avry on May 18, 2007.

1997

Theresa (Gelhouse) Brown, Paralegal, was married to her husband, Brian, in 2003. She is in the US Navy, currently stationed in Great Lakes, IL. She is enrolled at Columbia College working towards her bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Corinne (Lloyd) Byom, is married and has two children, Mesa, age 5, and Presley, age 1.

Arnold Cannady, Institutional Foods, '98 Health Unit Coordinator, works as a health unit coordinator in the heart stroke unit and as a monitoring tech for cardiac rhythm strip at North Memorial Hospital in the Twin Cities area.

Jerome Mattison, Farm Business & Production Management, has been married for 22 years and they have two children.

Brian Pederson, Electronic Servicing, celebrated the birth of Amelia on April 6, 2006.

Jeremy Southworth, CIS Microcomputer Specialist, was married to Vanessa in 2002. They have a son, Gavin.

Arthur Strand, Farm Business & Production Management, is converting his farm business from dairy to beef.

Rick Velasquez, CIS Microcomputer Specialist, continued his education, obtaining both a MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) and a BS in Information Technology. He has a great appreciation for the quality of the program at Western, especially because it was great to have people in the industry teaching the courses.

Deidre Wehrs, Community Developmental Disabilities Associate, welcomed a son, Desmond, on June 11, 2006.

David Weichert, Nursing-Associate Degree, is the director of patient care/internal medicine at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse.

Jennifer (Pientok) Woychik, Early Childhood Education, and her husband, Charles, have three children.

1998

Tina (Noonan) Hudson, Accounting, is currently living and working in the Washington D.C. area. She married Casey Hudson in October 1998 and has one son, Andrew, born September 2006.

Kelly (Finnigan) Johnson, Occupational Therapy Assistant, was married to Darrick on September 21, 2002. They have two daughters, Dana 4 and Kyla 2.

Kathleen (McCulloch) Oliver, Community Developmental Disabilities Associate, had a heart transplant in 2000.

Julie Perkins, Physical Therapist Assistant, graduated from massage school and together with her knowledge from her Western degree worked with massage clients who have spinal cord and orthopedic injuries. Hello to the PTA instructors and '98 grads!

Dawn Ramer, Supervisory Management, and husband Gene have 3 children, ages 27, 23, and 6. They also have grandchildren ages 2 and 3.

Shawna Stovey, Administrative Assistant, celebrated the birth of a daughter on February 23, 2007. She joins a brother age 5.

1999

Adam, Agribusiness/Science Tech, and **Nikki (Klopotek) Emerson '02** Human Resource/

Classnotes cont.

Business Administration, were married July 8, 2006. Nikki has been employed at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare as an HR assistant since March 2003. Adam works in the dairy at Kwik Trip.

Anne Murray-Olson, Nursing-Associate Degree, is a registered nurse at Black River Memorial Hospital where she works with Western students; however, she would be happy to see more!

Mariette (Brendel), Administrative Assistant/Information Processing, and **Jason Stefferud '97** Wood Tech, celebrated the birth of a son, William "Will" Paul on April 28, 2007. Will Stefferud is also the grandson of Bill Brendel, Dean of Industrial Technology division at Western. Jason is completing a bachelor's degree in Construction Management at UW-Stout and had apprenticeship experience this summer with TCI in La Crosse. Mariette is an accountant at Wipfli in Eau Claire and has completed her CPA. Jason, Mariette and Will live in Eau Claire, WI.

Grace Stemper, Office Assistant, celebrated the birth of a son, Isaac Mathew, on November 21, 2004.

Krista Weigel, Administrative Assistant/Information Processing, has a two-year-old son.

Kim (Gaarder) Woggon, CIS Microcomputer Specialist, and her husband, David, own a franchise-consulting business. They work under the name FranChoice and help people find franchise opportunities.

2000

Diane (Shepard) Batten, Accounting, has a daughter born in June 2002.

Aaron Boyer, Marketing, celebrated the birth of a son, Mayes, in July 2006.

Elizabeth Lee, Medical Assistant, graduated from UW-Oshkosh in December 2006, and passed the NCLEX-RN exam in February 2007 to become a registered nurse.

Dena Merow, Health Unit Coordinator, was married on September 15, 2006 to Tim O'Keefe.

Christopher Meyer, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration, and his wife celebrated the birth of a son on April 12, 2006 who joins another sibling at home.

Jason Young, Bio-Medical Electronics, is a technical assistant administrator at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center.

2001

Peter Herold, Auto Tech, '04 Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, was married in October 2006. He and his wife, Jessica, have a two-year-old daughter and a second child was due in August. Peter is self employed in Gays Mills.

Timothy Urbanek, Community Developmental Disabilities Associate, since graduating has married and moved to Omaha, NE where he teaches children with special needs.

2002

Brittnie (Eckman), Graphic Design, and **Mike McMahon**, Marketing, were married on September 4, 2004. They celebrated the birth of a son, Austin, on September 30, 2005 and were expecting a second child in May.

Ben, CIS Network Specialist, and **Holly (Steuck) Gerling '01** Marketing/Retail Management, celebrated five years of marriage this past May. They have a son, BJ, age 1. Last year Holly received her pharmacy tech certification.

Lynn (Lamb) Kuehl, Supervisory Management, graduated from Viterbo University with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Angela (Drone) Newman, Marketing, was married to Nick in 2001 and they have two children, Ethan and Charlie.

Jennifer (Diekman) Polus, Graphic Design, is married and has a son, Mason.

Kristin (Mattke) Smith, Administrative Assistant, married Shawn on March 19, 2004. She is a chiropractic assistant with LSM Chiropractic in Jefferson.

2003

Amanda Barilani, CDDA, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in special education at Edgewood College in Madison. She has been employed at Royal Oaks Elementary in Sun Prairie, WI as a special education assistant since 2005.

David Leuck, Agri-Business, and Melissa were married on April 28, 2007 in Cashton.

Roy, CIS Programmer/Analyst and **Jessica (Schaller) McGough**, Early Childhood Education, are expecting their first child.

JaNae Pernsteiner, Graphic Design, currently works for a major label company, preparing customer labels for printing. She also makes the plates and prepares them for press use. She enjoys her job and thanks to Western, "I have the skills to perform my job to the best of my ability."

Thomas Robillard, CIS Network Specialist, started a business in 2000 called Paradox, which provides PC and networking solutions in La Crosse.

John Ryan, Graphic Design, joined Gensler Information Solutions as a graphic designer in January 2007.

Dana Schmidt, Interior Design, works for Lighting Design by Wettstein's and has received an advanced light degree.

Aaron Smith, Automotive Tech, was married on June 10, 2006.

Are you a graduate of Western?

As an alum, you have much to offer your alma mater, its students, and the community in which we live.

Get involved at Western

Share your career and experience with students

Serve on program advisory committees

Volunteer for on-campus activities and events

Establish scholarships to assist deserving students

Interested in learning more?
westerntc.edu/alumni
or call 608-789-6083

Western Technical College
THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE



Alisha (Barbian), Early Childhood Education, and **Dominic Sowle**, Mechanical Design, were married on June 7, 2003. They live in Viroqua with daughter Jordan, 2. She is currently at Western in the Medical Coding Specialist program and graduating December 2007.

2004

Emily Kernin, Visual Communications, has recently been hired by Community Bank in Destin, FL, to work in their public relations department. She will continue part-time as manager of Tops'l Resort, also in Destin.

Karen Mann, Physical Therapist Assistant, since graduation worked at an outpatient clinic, a stilt nursing facility, and is currently a full-time PTA at Alliance Rehabilitation in Arizona.

Tiffany Morrell, Nursing-Associate Degree, is working on a bachelor's degree at Viterbo University.

Justin Rank, Supervisory Management, is the owner of a recently incorporated company, Construxit which does light construction.

Tiffany Schmitz, Nursing Assistant, has worked as a CNA for four years. She obtained her massage therapy licensure in Eau Claire in 2006 and is currently enrolled at Southeast Technical College in Winona to pursue a nursing degree.

Katherine Schroeder, Administrative Assistant, welcomed a son, Collin, in June 2006.

Tracy (Strittmater), Nursing Assistant, married Larry LaFleur on May 6, 2006.

Mara Waldera, Visual Communications, graduated in May with a liberal arts degree and sociology and religious study minors.

Michelle Yttri, Nursing, is a traveling ICU nurse with Golden Valley.

2005

Bobbie (Stall) Close, Nursing Assistant, has a one-year-old son, Kayden.

Robynn (Luedtke), Human Resources/Business Administration, was married in April 2006 to Alan Brandner.

Opal (Matlock) Manders, Practical Nursing, was married on July 7, 2007.

Nicki (Nickelotti), Administrative Assistant, married Matt McCallson June 23, 2007. She is an administrative assistant at Western Technical College in the General Studies Division.

Nicole Olson, Nursing Associate Degree, recently received her PCCN (Progressive Care Certified Nurse) certification in acute care nursing.

Classnotes cont.

Cheryl Roscovius, Accounting, had been laid off from her job after 33 years when she decided to go to school at Western and receive her degree at the age of 59. She has celebrated her 2nd anniversary as an employee at Organic Valley.

Amy (Shelton), Physical Therapist Assistant, married Alan Olson September 2005. They celebrated the birth of Mia in July 2006.

Pamela (Kingswan) Snowball's, Nursing Assistant, husband came home from Iraq in November. They were married February 14, 2005.

Jasmine Vatland, Interior Design, is an autocad operator at Walzcraft in La Crosse.

Kimberly (Nelson) Williams, Administrative Assistant, and her husband Benjamin celebrated the birth of a son, Lucas James, on December 31. He joins big sister Abigail who is 5.

2006

Kathleen Kennedy, Graphic Design, is on the creative staff for Apple Computer in Minneapolis.

Kenneth Pett, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, is back at Western enrolled in the HVACR program.

Duane Pinter, Wood Tech, has a son, Owen, age 1.

Briann Rizzo, Criminal Justice–Law Enforcement, celebrated the birth of a baby in March 2007.

Nicholas Thompson, Visual Communications, is the director of newscasts at station WGBA-NBC 26 in Green Bay.

Angela Toggensack, Supervisory Management, is working on a bachelor's degree at UW-Stout.

Crystal Young, Supervisory Management, was recognized by the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Labor with the Howard Yackus Memorial Award at the 2006 National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference in Tulsa, OK, for her hard work accomplishing her training goals.

Lisa Antony, Office Support Specialist, is an admissions assistant at Western Technical College.

Bjorn Berg, Architectural Technology, is an architectural draftsman with TCI Architects/Engineers/Contractor, Inc. and lives in Coon Valley.

Kelly Parrish, Accounting, is a bookkeeper at Hartje Lumber in La Valle.

In memoriam

Edith Soules, Secretarial Science, 1/5/2007

Sharon K. Nordness, Administrative Assistant/Information Processing Office Assistant, 2/22/2007

Jerome Hansen, Auto Mechanics, 3/18/2007

Alois E. Roesler, '41, 5/2/2007

Paul W. Knutson, '68 Accounting, 9/27/2006

Timothy J. Johnson, '73 Marketing-Foods, 12/16/2006

Florence M. Strittmater, '74, 5/21/2006

Gerhardt W. Gnirk, '74, 10/16/2006

Leyton Stafslien, '74, 4/20/2007

Dennis L. Ditlefsen, '76 Food Service Management, 1/17/2007

Ronald Schams, '76 Visual Communications, 4/23/2007

Debra J. Gerhardt, '78 Business, 1/22/2007

Daniel L. Skolos, '81 Automotive Technician, 5/19/2006

Timothy W. Klean, '88 Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Technology, 7/29/2006

Victor L. Foss, '91 Farm, Business & Production Management - Certificate, 1/22/2007

David A. Winjum, '92 Police Science Technology, 1993 Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement, 2/13/2007

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Remember When...

Do you recognize any faces? This is the smoker's lounge in the Kumm Center. In 1992, the area was remodeled and now houses the Student Development Office, a student lounge, and the Campus Shop. If you know the people or the year, contact the Alumni Office: alumni@westerntc.edu



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