

## Designing Woman

*Leslie Hill-Clatworthy*

A career in architecture was Candice Peters' ultimate dream. As a high school student in Portage, Wis., Candice, '77 Interior Design, loved the idea of building and creating. She loved her drafting and design courses and blueprint drawings. She loved architecture and planned to pursue a career in it. That is until a high school teacher told her that her math skills weren't strong enough. She chuckles at the memory. "Now I do all of the estimating for my company and I use math every day from reading blueprint measurements to figuring out angles to estimating bids."

In the early 1970s, it was harder to work in the building industry because of the stereotype that it was "man's work." So, Candice found a way to foster her love of design by pursuing an Interior Design degree at Western. "[Western] had the degree I wanted, plus the community was smaller, which I was looking for, too," she says.

Her first job after graduation was at United Building Center in La Crosse, where she was the first female employee. For her first six months, she did blueprints and drafting. Then they built a new building and asked Candice to design their showroom. "I selected the paint, wallpaper, and cabinetry," she says. She was the kitchen and bath designer for three years, then went to La Crosse Plumbing Supply where she also did kitchen and bath design for three years.

Then she stayed home to raise her children, working part-time as a floral

designer at Bachman's at the mall and at her own floral design business, creating arrangements for weddings, friends, and family.

In 1991, she moved to Rochester, Minn., where she worked first as a floral designer at HyVee North, then for a plumbing wholesaler as a kitchen and bath designer, and finally at a plumbing wholesaler where she worked with plumbers, building contractors, and clients, building new homes, helping them select products, and doing design work.

In 1996, she answered an ad in the Rochester paper for a new construction salesperson. "I had always wanted to work for a builder, never really thinking I could actually be the builder," she says. "It was a little scary because it was straight commission and I was used to having a salary plus a commission. But my husband was my huge supporter and he kept saying that I should just go for it, so I did."

Within two months, health issues caused the builder to leave the building business, so Candice and two coworkers, Mike Hortop and Gary Zander, bought him out. Aspen Custom Builders was born.

They formed a corporation as three equal partners, with Candice serving as president of Aspen Enterprises of Rochester, Inc.



*Photo: Bruce Defries Studio Group*

Each brought his or her strengths to the group, and became what Candice calls "the three-legged stool." "We all had different strengths that we brought to the business and together as a team we were that much stronger," she says. They have now been building homes for nearly 13 years, with nearly 300 built in the Rochester area. In 2006, Gary retired, and now Mike and Candice are equal partners.

An interior design degree may not seem like an obvious choice for a builder, but it fits very nicely. All of her professional career has been in construction. Plus, she adds, "I've always had a passion for design. My nose

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# Hello Western alumni!

We know we have a great following of alumni that look forward to our semi-annual newsletter, *Connect*. Now, we will be able to reach even more alumni with the launch of E-Connect, our electronic newsletter. E-Connect is scheduled every two months to keep you informed of the latest news and upcoming events for Western alumni. If you want to ensure you are receiving E-Connect, please send us your email address.



**Sally Emerson**

I would like to introduce you to new alumni board members that began their term this past summer. **Jeff Fancher** '81 Electronics, '86 Supervisory Management, is currently an electronics instructor at Western Technical College. **Gulshat Sharipova**, '08 Practical Nursing, is a student at Western, completing her associate's degree in nursing. Both have been great additions to the alumni board, sharing their enthusiasm and varied experience.

The division reunions have been a hit with Western alumni, as was evident at the Family and Consumer Sciences reunion this past fall. Now we are asked, "When is mine?" In this issue, you will read about the Business Division and their upcoming reunion on Saturday, September 19. This includes the technology, marketing, management, and financial program areas. Start contacting your classmates or let us help you find them. And, it's not too early to start thinking about the Health and Public Safety Division reunion on September 25, 2010.

It was very heart-warming for us at Western to hear responses to last fall's Annual Alumni Phonathon. This is the time we call our alumni and ask them to consider a gift to help support scholarships and programs at their alma mater. During this difficult economic time, several alumni expressed their regret in not being able to give as much this year. Yet, when all was done, we experienced a 50% increase in the number of pledges. We hope we have the same results when more alumni are called in the coming weeks.

Thank you, Western alumni, for stepping up to help others achieve their educational goals just like you!

*Sally Emerson*

Alumni Relations Coordinator

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

**Western Technical College President:** Lee Rasch, Ed.D.

**Writer/Editor:** Leslie Hill-Clatworthy

**Alumni Coordinator:** Sally Emerson

**Photography:** Bruce Defries Studio Group

**Art Designer:** Sharon Burchardt '93

*continued from cover*

was always in a plan book or a design book looking for new and different ideas." Her many travels throughout the United States, in Central and South America, Mexico, Canada, Europe, and many different islands gives her a unique perspective as well. "My eye is always looking at the design and structure of buildings and building practices, as well as the creative interior design elements. That's my passion and my love!"



To say Candice wears a lot of hats is an understatement. In addition to her interior design work, she does the bidding, sales, and advertising for the company. She designs the models for Aspen and helps with the structural design of most of her clients' homes. She works in conjunction with another draftsman because of time constraints, but loves the structural design element of her job, finding wasted space and creating niches, recess coves and architectural details that make interesting and unique spaces that would otherwise go unused. "I also like to design a WOW factor in my homes with arches, columns, unique ceiling treatments, lighting, fireplaces, etc.," she says. Being a woman is an advantage as well. "Being a mom of five kids helps me relate to others with children and what their needs are," she says.

Her keen design eye helps create a cohesive home for her customers. "It can be a real benefit to have an interior designer involved from the beginning," says Candice. Her skills in design and space planning, as well as home staging and decorating are an asset. In the past 12 years, her designs have won 10 first place awards and 3 people's choice awards for design excellence and

craftsmanship in the Rochester Fall Showcase of Homes.



On average, Aspen builds between 10 and 12 houses each year. The average cost is between \$300,000-700,000, with some topping \$1,000,000.

It takes an average of 43 subcontractors to build a home. "It takes a lot of people to build a custom home," she says. "But, when it all comes together, it's fun!"

Candice credits her start at Western, her drive to succeed, and the support of her husband Bob with getting her to this point in her career. "Bob has always let me follow my dreams and encouraged me to want to be my best." And, while she confesses she wasn't a great student, she notes that her passion helped her excel. And that passion and drive is something she's instilled in her children. "I tell them to never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. You just have to believe in yourself and believe you can do it. If you have that, you can do anything you want to do!"

# Western News

## Parent Child Center Earns National Accreditation

Western's Parent Child Center (PCC) has achieved its seventh continuous accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation's largest organization of early childhood educators. NAEYC administers the largest and most widely recognized accreditation system for all types of early childhood programs and child care centers.

To achieve NAEYC accreditation, early childhood education programs volunteer to be measured against more than 400 rigorous national standards on education, health and safety, curriculum, and relationships. Of the 136 accredited child care centers in the state of Wisconsin, PCC is only one of three centers in the area that has achieved NAEYC accreditation. The PCC attained its first NAEYC accreditation in 1988.

In addition to its role as a child care center, the PCC is also a learning site for Western's Early Childhood students. Students going into the center function as assistant teachers, volunteers, or observers.



## we are futuremakers

Wisconsin's Technical College faculty, students, and graduates are the foundation on which the future is built. Our faculty and staff foster potential. Our innovative programs offer essential training for Wisconsin's workforce, and our students go on to make a real difference in the world today and tomorrow. That's what being a futuremaker is all about.

That's what the Wisconsin Technical College System's new campaign, **We Are Futuremakers**, celebrates.

As a graduate of Western Technical College, you are a futuremaker. You bring your essential experience to the workplace every day, helping create the future for your employer. You are the person doing the work, sharing the cutting edge knowledge and skills you learned here. You are the backbone of the next generation workforce.

Learn more about how the Wisconsin's Technical Colleges are shaping the future at [wearefuturemakers.com](http://wearefuturemakers.com).

## Associate of Science Liberal Arts Transfer Degree

Students now have the opportunity to earn an associate of science liberal arts degree from Western. Upon completion of the AS degree, graduates will be eligible to transfer with junior status to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, Winona State University, or other universities. The degree is being offered in collaboration with UW-L with students taking humanities and foreign language courses at the university. Students in the program will enroll at and receive financial aid through Western. For more information on this degree option and admission requirements, contact Maria Strong at [strongm@westerntc.edu](mailto:strongm@westerntc.edu) or 608.785.9841.

## Area Royalty Have Ties to Western

This year's Mrs. Oktoberfest **Robyn Tanke** (on right) and Miss Oktoberfest **Katie Ekern** are connected to Western. Robyn Tanke is a 1988 graduate of Supervisory Management. Katie Ekern is a 2008 Dental Hygiene graduate. *Congratulations!*



**FOCUS  
ON**

# Business

With a long history at the college, the **Business Division** (*once known as the College of Commerce*) is one of the larger divisions on campus in terms of graduates. Sixteen programs range from Information Technology to Accounting, and Marketing to Supervisory Management. Fall 2009 will mark their first divisional reunion. We're excited to welcome all those grads back to campus.

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

Western Technical College  
**Business**  
Division Reunion  
September 19, 2009

## Program Outcome Validation

**How advisory committees help guide Western's programs**

*Denine Rood, dean of the Business Division*

As part of a college-wide effort to increase transparency in learning outcomes, business programs are enlisting the help of their advisory committees to revalidate their program outcomes.

A "Program Outcome" describes a major occupational skill expected of all graduates of a particular program. These must be measurable, and are non-negotiable learning objectives. Think of the program outcomes necessary to become an airline pilot.

They must be able to:

- 1) take off safely,
- 2) fly to the correct destination, and
- 3) land the plane safely.

There are literally thousands of skills that a pilot must learn to do these three things accurately, but these are the measurable non-negotiables (*at least for any flight I'm on!*).

Once these program outcomes are determined, through the assistance of our advisory committees and significant research, we can begin mapping each course, and individual skills taught within the course, to a particular program outcome. We can identify gaps in what we are currently teaching, or redundancies in our curriculum. Making changes accordingly allows our business programs to accurately respond to business and industry needs by providing graduates with the skills necessary to be successful in their occupation.



## Community Partnership Helps Grow IT-Network Specialist Program

*Don Thesing, IT Network Specialist instructor*

In the spring of 2007, the Network Specialist program, based on input from our Advisory Committee, added VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) training to our curriculum. VoIP is a technology that allows you to make voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular (or analog) phone line.

After doing some research, I found that the Nortel Company offered a training curriculum. Nortel is a vendor for CenturyTel, so I contacted Western's sales representative who worked with Nortel to provide Western with Nortel's training academy curriculum. In fact, we received an early copy of the training material for the class.

CenturyTel, in order to enhance student learning, loaned the lab equipment, including routers, switches and, IP phones. They also developed and designed a realistic network design and installation. The loan of equipment allowed us to start the program immediately. We were then able to purchase lab equipment at the Nortel Academy discount price. CenturyTel then installed the new equipment and provided a technician to work with us to set up the equipment.

This partnership allowed me to learn the new system in a fraction of the time. Plus, it gives our students training in the latest technology, making them a valuable asset to area employers.

## Longtime Accounting Instructor Set for Retirement

After 28 years, **Linda Lueck**, Accounting instructor, will retire in June 2009. Her perspective on the college and the accounting industry brings an added dimension to the classroom, which will be missed. "When I started teaching, there were typewriters, but no desktop computers," she says. "And the college was considered high tech because we had six microcomputers."



She's watched the evolution from pencil and paper accounting to computer-based programs like Quickbooks and Peachtree. "Payroll used to be done by hand in the smaller companies," she says. "Now it can be done electronically."

Lueck's seen major changes in the classroom too. She no longer uses a blackboard and chalk or overhead projectors. Now, it's smart boards that allow you to project a computer-screen image onto a whiteboard.

What she'll miss most are the students. "I love teaching," she says. She estimates that she's taught 6,000 students in her 28 years, including mothers and daughters, and a former high school classmate.

# Family & Consumer Sciences Division Reunion



Current food service students and faculty got to show their stuff as they served a great meal for alumni.



Food Service alumni



Interior Design alumni reminisced with former instructors.



It was great to see so many current and former faculty back on campus.



Instructional Assistant alumni

## OTA Reunion

In August, Occupational Therapy Assistants celebrated 10 years of their program with a panel presentation by grads of the first class and picnic at the park.



# Establishing a Scholarship

You've made the decision to establish a scholarship at Western. Great! Now what do you do?  
Follow this easy process to create your own scholarship.

Contact Peggy Langreck, development manager, to discuss your scholarship options. She can be reached at [langreckp@westernnc.edu](mailto:langreckp@westernnc.edu) or 608.785.9261

[westernnc.edu](http://westernnc.edu)

Determine if it's a general or endowed scholarship.

A general scholarship is an annual gift to the Foundation. A \$500 minimum is recommended.

An endowed scholarship requires a \$10,000 minimum, which will be designated as the principal. It can be paid over a period of time. (i.e. \$3,333 for three years) The award is based on earnings. The principal will remain untouched, guaranteeing the endowment in perpetuity at Western Technical College.

The total amount is awarded to the student.

Determine the scholarship criteria. It is typically based on demographics: age, program area, GPA, full-time or part-time students, etc.

The endowment is in place at least one year before scholarships are awarded.

Once criteria is agreed to, both parties sign an agreement form.

Scholarship is established and a student is helped, thanks to you!



## Scholarship Reception

More than 180 scholarship donors and recipients attended the annual scholarship reception held each spring.

Recipient Gulshat Sharipova (*left*) with Peggy Langreck, Foundation development manager.

# Classnotes

## 1960

**Marlin Buchner**, Tech Plumbing, retired in 2005 after 45 years as a semi driver.

## 1967

**Cheryl (Chapman) Dunlap**, Tap Operator, married her husband, Joseph, in 2003.

## 1968

**Alan Hesselberg**, Mechanical Design Tech, was in the Air Force for 4 years.

## 1969

**Olin Ladwig**, Electronics, retired from UPS last summer.

## 1970

**Darrell Dahl**, Foods-Institutional, has had a successful business for the last 21 years thanks to his experience at Western.

## 1971

**Lamont "Monty" Gilbertson**, Electronics, received the 2007 Pillar of the Industry Award from the American Lighting Association.

**William Linsmeier**, Feed, Seed, & Farm Supply, is employed at Karl Schmidt Unisia, Inc. and has been a manager for 37 years.

## 1972

**John Karis**, Accounting, retired from Centurytel as a plant technician, September 2, 2008.

## 1973

**John Malin**, Feed, Seed, Farm Supply, has worked in agriculture since graduating from Western. He went on to earn a BS degree from Park College and is currently VP Feed Sales for Farmers Cooperative in Ames, IA. He and his wife, Carlene, have four children and two grandchildren.

**Ric Pace**, Graphic Design, is starting his 20th year in business and is the owner/partner of Go East, a brand building firm in St. Paul, MN. In March 2008, the company received the "Celebrate Business Success" award from the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, which recognizes business leadership and best practices that enhance the economic vitality of the Saint Paul/East Metro area. He and his wife, Nancy, live in River Falls, WI.

**Mary Springer**, Health Unit Coordinator, is a customer service representative for Auto Glass Specialist in La Crosse.

## 1974

**Paula (Nyre) Bongartz**, Interior Design, is Director of Hunter Douglas Alliance & Training at Warren Steven Window Fashions in Minneapolis, MN.

**Jeff Claude**, Electronic Servicing, entered the Air Force in 1976 and is now a disabled veteran. He currently enjoys storm chasing and scouting basketball teams while living in St. Paul, MN.

**Daniel Due**, Welding, believes a trade school is a great place to start.

**Ronald Galvin**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech, is a member of an Advisory Board at Western.

**Stephan Itnyre**, Accounting, is teaching part-time for Strayer University.

**Richard Rumpel**, Graphic Design, after studying art briefly at UW Eau Claire, decided to focus on a more specific career. Studying Commercial Art at Western gave him an entry into advertising, publishing, commercial printing, and now variable digital printing. He is the Digital Marketing VP at Sells Printing Company/Traxion Division in Waukesha. "The career path that got me here really started at WWTI, as it was known then. I'd love to hear from old friends from those years. John Wooden, Steve Bartelt, Todd, Jeff, etc. you know who you are!"

## 1975

**Richard Buehler**, Feed, Seed, & Farm Supply, coaches high school wrestling and girls softball in La Crescent, MN.

**Kathy (Cook) Johnson**, Legal Secretary, is grateful to Western for the education she received which has helped her throughout her career.

## 1976

**Garold Becker**, Chemicals and Fertilizers, started his business, Beck's Crop, LLC.

**Barbara (Sesvold) Larsen**, Secretarial Science '76, Supervisory Management '91, accepted the "Copeland Harlan Award" from the Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education.

## 1979

**Jane (Suchla) Brecht**, Interior Design, worked at Ashley Furniture as furniture designer 1980-1997 and freelance designer 1997-1999. Moved to Charlotte, NC in 1999 to start a design department for a laminates company, OMNOVA Solutions, directing and managing design development for surface laminates.

**Nelson Kenter**, Commercial Art, has published a book of his photography of Montana valleys, called "Missoula Impressions," released May 2008.

## 1980

**Connie Knutson**, Ceta Clerk, was married to George Smith October 25, 2008.

## 1981

**Tim Bronk**, Diesel & Heavy Equipment, continued his education and today is the superintendent of Darby School District in Darby, MT. This is his 19th year in the field of education.

# Annual Alumni Phonathon



Each year, alumni are called to update their contact information, share their latest news, and to financially support Western. If you prefer, you may send your gift today and we will not call you this year. Give online, buy a brick, or learn more about supporting Western at [westerntc.edu/foundation](http://westerntc.edu/foundation).

**Shelly Hobson**, Nursing, has a new grandson, Jackson Paul Maxwell.

**Linda Kiefer**, Nursing, has been a family practice RN with the U. W. Medical Foundation for 20 years; she is also a CPR instructor.

**Richard Klug**, Machine Tooling Tech, was married to Carolyn Klug in December 2007, and will be promoted next year to medical device designer.

**Patrick Lawrence**, Wood Tech, is a first time grandpa; his middle daughter has a daughter, Sylvia Grace.

## 1982

**Richard Carter**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech, has been married for 20 years and has 2 sons, age 16 and 18.

**Ricky Folkers**, Finance, works for HoChunk Nation Treasury as an accountant.

**Lori (Simon) Lund**, Interior Design, has a new granddaughter, Taylor Ann.

## 1983

**Richard Guldenaar**, Auto Body & Paint Tech, owns his own business, Rick's Auto Body.

**Maureen (Baker) Richardson**, Accounting, obtained a BS degree in Business and a MS degree in Management & Organizational Leadership. She is currently a comptroller for the Army.

## 1984

**James Arneson**, Graphic Design, is married to Diane.

**Dave Teela**, Electronic Servicing, is the manufacturing transition manager at Plexus in Neenah.

## Classnotes cont.

### 1986

**Steven Capper**, CIS Programmer/Analyst, has been married to Darice for 15 years.

**Matthew Hegge**, Commercial Art, is the IT manager at GEM Minneapolis, Inc. in Edina, Minnesota.

**Ann Kopp**, Dental Assistant, encouraged her son to attend a technical college because of her great experience at Western.

**Valerie (Babcock) Kuehl**, Nursing, is a hospice nurse at Tomah Memorial Hospital; she is attending school for motivational speaking and fundraising. Valerie is a mother of 3 and grandmother of 3.

### 1987

**Diane Bell**, Office Assistant, has 3 grandchildren, Madison, Elai and Alania.

**Melisa (Waldera) Goergen**, CIS Microcomputer Technician, and her husband, Dan, have been married 17 years; together they have 4 children.

**Eileen Hales**, Foods-Institutional, celebrated her 20th year at Memorial Medical Care in November 2008.

### 1988

**James Johnson**, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician, was married to his wife, Linda, November 4, 2008. James is a business owner.

## Order an Alumni Windshirt



Visit  
[westerntc.edu/alumni/pdf/  
JacketOrderform.pdf](http://westerntc.edu/alumni/pdf/JacketOrderform.pdf)  
for an order form and help support  
the alumni scholarship

### 1989

**Steven Ingram**, Mechanical Design Technician, has 3 children, Jason 8, Ashley 6, Corey 8.

### 1990

**Bart Arndt**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech, owns his own business, Arndt Heating and Air Conditioning.

**Doreen (Von Ruden) Brueggeman**, CIS

Microcomputer Tech is an administrative assistant at Sacred Heart School and is really enjoying her job.

### 1991

**Paulette (Bork) Finucane**, Accounting, welcomed her first grandchild in 2008.

**Kevin Kraft**, Nursing, is a clinical services manager at Duke Hyperbaric Center in Roxboro, NC. He would like to connect with his classmates and welcomes an e-mail to [kraft001@mc.duke.edu](mailto:kraft001@mc.duke.edu).

### 1991

**Deana (Martin) Ambrose**, Medical Assistant, is going back to school at Western to become a registered nurse.

**Julie Arneson**, Feed, Seed, & Farm Supply, and her husband, Nate, celebrated their 12 year anniversary

**Monica (Peterson) Bessette**, Early Childhood Education, graduated from Cardinal Stritch University in December 2007 with a bachelor of arts in business management.

### 1992

**JoAnn D. (Kruck) DeClute**, Health Unit Coordinator, is a health unit coordinator at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse. "Never think you are too old to make a change. I was in retail, and one day decided I'm making a change and went to WWTC at age 55. I did it, so can you!"

**Michael Drexler**, Visual Communications, is a market electronics merchandiser for Wal-Mart and lives in Oshkosh.

**Eileen (Restle) Harris**, Paralegal, recently completed a bachelor of independent learning with concentrations in business and sociology from Viterbo University. Eileen, her husband and four children live in La Farge.

### 1993

**Richard R. Bailey**, Central Service Tech, Surgical Tech '95, is a CVOR surgical technologist at Kaiser Permanente - Santa Clara. He and his wife live in San Jose, CA. He will be going back to school for nursing.

**Jeffery Farnsworth**, Bio-Medical Electronics, is employed at Phillips Medical as a skill service engineer, and has been running MRI tests the last 7 years.

**Dawn Grimsled**, Medical Assistant, is working for Gundersen Lutheran as a medical assistant in the infertility clinic.

**Gary Hess**, Mechanical Design Tech, completed his 2nd tour in Iraq in 2008.

**Linda Kimpel**, Nursing, is loving her life and is doing great.

**Carla (Wagner) LaPoint**, Medical Assistant, is studying Spanish to better communicate with her son and granddaughter who live in Costa Rica.

**Marlene Trausch**, Nursing, has worked in the VA system for 18 years. After graduation, she worked at the Tomah Memorial med-surg unit in addition to the VA Hospital in ICU and acute care. Since 2001 Marlene has since been at the Capt. James A. Lovell Medical Center (formerly North Chicago VA) in the step down/rehab/hospice unit. Her husband, Bob, passed away in 2003. She has a daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren.

### 1994

**Robin Ahler**, Accounting Bookkeeper/Legal Assistant with Skolos, Millis & Matousek, S.C. and lives in Whitehall.

**Paul Bagniefski**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech, has two children with another due February 2009.

**Sherry Bjerke**, Graphic Design, has a 2 year old son, Jake, and has been working in the printing industry since she graduated from Western.

**Deanne Kendhammer**, Medical Administrative Spec '94, Nursing '00, has been married for seven years to her husband Clay; they have 2 children

**Robin Lee**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech, graduated with a bachelor's degree from Viterbo University, December 2008.

### 1995

**Denise (Dahl) Corrigan**, Early Childhood Education, earned a master's degree in education, May 2008.

**Beth Ericson**, Medical Administrative Specialist, and her husband Pete, have three children, Alex 16, Ellen and Brian 10, and Seth 8. She also is a member of Western's Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

**Thomas Wink**, Graphic Design, since graduation has worked in the graphics field, at Northern Engraving in Holmen for a couple years then moved to Houston, Texas where he worked at Kinkos for four years as a manager in signs and banners department. In 2004 he left corporate America to start his own business called Virtuoso Graphics. Services include, banners, plastic and metal signs, vehicle graphics, MDO and real estate signs, stickers and posters, 3-d cut logos, off-set printing, postcards, business cards, graphic and web design, and much more. "If it wasn't for my education at W.W.T.C., I most likely would not have started my own business."

## Classnotes cont.

### 1996

**Josef Banasik**, Auto Mechanics is married with three children ages 9, 6 and 2.

**James Beaver**, Tech Plumbing, is a semi-retired journeyman plumber with the Hillsboro Farmers Co-op. He and his wife, Judith, live in Hillsboro.

**Douglas Brown**, Nursing, has 2 grandchildren.

**Darcyz (Kokott) Grulkowski**, Office Assistant, welcomed a son, Alec, November 24, 2007.

**Lori (Kneifl) Johnson**, Early Childhood Education has a baby girl, Brenna.

**Ben Kripps**, Marketing, in 2004 started his company, ClearView Sunrooms & Windows, in Madison. He married Karen in 2003 and lives in Marshall. "I was a member of the Wisconsin Marketing & Management Association (WMMA) when attending Western and believe all students should be involved with clubs related to their degrees. WMMA allowed me to obtain 4-year degree positions with a 2-year degree."

### 1997

**Molly (Ingwell) Andrews**, Graphic Design, was promoted at Lands' End from embroidery artist to web designer.

**Corinne (Lloyd) Byom**, Police Science Tech, has 2 children, Mesa 7 and Presley 3.

### 1998

**Laura (Voss) Bystrek**, Radiography, has adopted a son, Ian, from Guatemala.

**Daniel Grass**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Technician, is celebrating working at Schneider Heating and Air Conditioning for over 10 years.

**Mark R. Swanson**, Police Science and **Kim (Bates) '96** Early Childhood, have 2 children and live in Florida. Mark graduated from Winona State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He has been in Florida law enforcement for 8 years.

### 1999

**Megan Anderson**, Office Assistant, graduated May 2008 from the Supervisory Management program at Western Technical College.

**Mary Brown**, Physical Therapist Assistant, was promoted at Wild Bluff Medical Center to rehab coordinator.

**Sherri Cain**, Medical Assistant '99, Practical Nursing '06, Nursing '08, is working for Franciscan Skemp Healthcare as a RN in the new Emergency/Urgent Care facility.

**Danielle Deibert**, Electroneurodiagnostic Tech, was married to Jason Reysen in 2005.

**Jamie (Longmire)**, Medical Assistant, was married to Jason Thomas on July 7, 2007 and they live in Coon Valley.

### 2000

**Diane Batten**, Accounting, and her husband, Eugene, were married Aug. 7, 1999. They have a daughter, Allison, born June 4, 2002.

**Luke Burch**, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, has 2 boys, Ethan 5 and Seth 1.

**Toni Furlano**, Interior Design, is studying for a bachelor's degree, majoring in interior design.

## Phil Brochhausen is retiring after 40 years of teaching in the graphics area!



A scholarship has been  
established in his honor.  
Would you like to say,  
"thank you, Phil?"

Send your contribution to:  
Western Foundation  
400 7th St N  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**Sheila (Larry) Rhodes**, Accounting, and **Eugene Rhodes '07** Medical Assistant, are proud to announce the arrival of son, Michael Eugene, June 23, 2008 at 8:34 p.m., 8 lbs. 3 oz., 20.75" long. Sheila is a cashier assistant/billing clerk at Western Technical College. Eugene is a certified medical assistant at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center.

**Shelly (Buenzli) Rider**, Microcomputer Specialist, was married to Michael, June 2006 on Mackinac Island, MI. Shelly is an Information Management Systems Associate at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital.

### 2001

**Amy (Robertson) Beaman**, Medical Administrative Specialist, has one child, Andrew, 5.

**Paul Check**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, was promoted to supervisor at City Brewery; his 2nd grandchild, Bowen, was born April 2008.

**Kayle Finn**, CIS Microcomputer Specialist, was married to Meghan, August 8, 2008.

**Karin (Peterson) Hansen**, Occupational Therapy Assistant, welcomed a daughter, Molly, September 5, 2008.

**Erika Henry**, Dental Assistant, welcomed a daughter, Elesi, born summer 2008.

**Anthony Kirchner**, Wood Tech, received the luxury division award for the July 2008 Parade of Homes.

**Marsha Ledman**, CIS Microcomputer Specialist, was hired May 2007 at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in medical photography.

### 2002

**Michael Anderson**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, is engaged to be married May 9, 2009. He is the father of a son, Aiden 2, and daughter, Alayna 2.

**Josh Baker**, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech, has a daughter, Heidi, born August 2008. He has also received his masters (electrician license).

**Mari (Rollins) Brown**, Interior Design, welcomed a daughter, Vivian Rose, in August 2008. Her fifth wedding anniversary was September 27, 2008.

**Amy Delimat**, Supervisory Management, was married to her husband, David, May 19, 2007.

**Terri (Lund) Luchtie**, Supervisory Management, was promoted this past year at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, and has a daughter enrolled at Western.

**Kim K. Klug**, Dental Assistant, is a dental assistant with Cook Dental and lives in Caledonia, MN.

**Krista Klug**, Administrative Assistant, was married June 2006 and her daughter, Kaitlyn, was born March 2007.

**Kendra Mitchell-Wettig**, Graphic Design, was married Dec. 20, 2003 to Kevin. They have sons Gavin 5 and Grant 3. Kendra is a student at Fox Valley Technical College in the practical nursing program.

### 2003

**Catherine (Stelpflug) Adrian**, Physical Therapist Assistant, graduated May 2008 with a bachelor's degree, major in criminal justice.

**Karmen Bernacchi**, Marketing, is adopting a child from China.

**Brian Bufton**, Emergency Medical Services '03, Practical Nursing, Nursing '07, is a RN in Critical Care at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center.

## Classnotes cont.

**Rickey Christianson**, CIS Programmer/ Analyst, has a 3 year old son named Logan.

**Craig Foster**, Paralegal, is a Consumer Specialist/ Investigator for the Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection, Eau Claire Region, in which he mediates consumer complaints for the state of Wisconsin. Craig is retired from the military after 22.5 years of service.

**Sharon Frenz**, Marketing, started her own business on October 1, 2008 called Fashion Hair Nail Studio.

**Meagan Juracich**, Nursing, has 4 daughters.

**Anthony Smith**, Clinical Lab Tech, is a lead medical lab technician and works with the client services call center at The Children's Hospital in Colorado.

### 2004

**Susan Ames**, Instructional Assistant, is on the board of directors for the Minnesota School Employees Association.

**Jessica (Hofer) Davidson**, Graphic Design, and **Mitchell Davidson '02**, Automotive, live in Winona, MN. Jessica recently completed her bachelor's degree in Marketing at Winona State University and is in Graphic Design and sales support with Hiatt Mfg, Inc. Mitchell is an auto technician for Walz Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick-GMC.



Plans are underway for an event you won't want to miss, including program gatherings, tours, food and fun! Meet with current and former faculty, learn the latest trends in your profession, and connect with old and new friends. If you are interested in contacting your classmates or helping with the reunion, the Alumni Office would like to hear from you.

Register online at

[westerntc.edu/alumni/reunion](http://westerntc.edu/alumni/reunion)

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**Adam Foye**, Culinary Management, is the general manager of Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches and opened a new shop in November on La Crosse's southside.

**Patrick Hall**, CIS Network Specialist, believes school made his life easier and his dreams come true. Patrick is in the process of building a house in Black River Falls, WI.

### 2005

**Heather Betsinger**, Medical Assistant, welcomed her first daughter, Karina, August 2008.

**James (Sammons) Davis**, Automotive Tech, was recently promoted to store manager of Bryle Auto Parts. He and his wife welcomed their first son, Jaxon.

**David Dooley**, Supervisory Management, was recognized as the top selling resident agent in the area last year.

**Ryan Harrigan**, Marketing, is the president of Advanced Property Management in Port Washington.

**Laura Kraemer**, Instructional Assistant, graduated in December 2008 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education with hopes of teaching in the St. Paul, MN area.

**Michael LaVelle**, Instructional Assistant, is a teacher assistant with the La Crosse School District, working with children with cognitive disabilities.

**Sara (Fiebelkorn) Leick**, Nursing, welcomed a son, Brady, August 24, 2008.

**Jennifer (Thomas) St. Mary**, Administrative Assistant, moved to Dodge Center, MN in October 2005, was employed by McNeilus Truck & Mfg as a receptionist and now as an Accounting clerk. She married Derek St. Mary in September 2007.

### 2006

**Kristi Doll**, Early Childhood Education, welcomed a baby girl in April, 2008.

**Christine Dull**, Paralegal, celebrated her son Shawn's marriage this year.

**Mem-gween Hernandez**, Accounting, has 2 children, Chelsea 7 and Tanner 4.

**Katina Kiesling**, Culinary Management, was married in 2007 to her husband, Roger.

**Brian Krubsack**, Network Specialist, was married September 8, 2008.

**Jeremy Mitoraj**, Paramedic, and **Ann (Mischka) '06** Paramedic, were married on November 21, 2008 in La Crosse. Both are critical care paramedics for Tri-State Ambulance and are Teacher Assistants for the Western EMT-B and EMT-P courses as well.

### 2007

**Dawn Boayuc**, Medical Assistant, is currently attending Western to earn an associate's degree

**Jennifer Boldt**, Medical Coding Specialist, will be attending Southeast Technical College in Winona in the transcription program.

**Rosa Dilley**, Nursing, completed a bachelor of science in nursing degree at Viterbo University.

**Caleb Feine**, Fire Protection, was recently hired October 9, 2008 by the Rochester Fire Department

as a firefighter. He is the third youngest ever to be hired.

**Heidi Fremstad**, Nursing, welcomed a daughter on September 25, 2008.

**Christopher Gaede**, Automotive Tech, was recently married to his wife, Michelle.

**Kevin Hintz**, Supervisory Management, is operations manager for Per Mar Security Services. He and his wife, Christie, live in Madison.

## Archives

Thanks to **Donna Allen**, wife of **Leslie Allen '01**, as well as **Mary Nelson**, who works at the nursing home in Arcadia for contacting us to help solve last issue's archive photo mystery. Left to right, unidentified student, an instructor, **Joe Rossa, Jr.**, and **Kim (Bautsch) Suchla '87** (Donna's niece). Nursing students were training in a nursing home approximately 1986-87.



**Amanda (Kiekhofner) Hooverson**, Dental Assistant, was married September 27, 2008 to Travis Hooverson.

**Katherine Konze**, ITC Leadership Essentials, has been promoted to a new position at the Sparta Vet Clinic.

**Joel Ludowitz**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, is engaged to Trena Langer, whom he met as a student at Western.

**Kim Tucker**, Health Information Tech, has worked at Mayo Clinic in Rochester since graduation as a coding specialist. She just returned to school and is seeking an associate's degree in Cancer Information Management. Upon completion, she plans to transfer to Mayo's Cancer Registry. She is looking forward to the arrival of her first grandchild.

### 2008

**Riley Auna**, Physical Therapist Assistant, was married to Mikki Galbraith, July 12, 2008.

**Tami (Flynn) Cahak**, HR-Business Administration, was married July 5, 2008, relocated to Sun Prairie and joined QBE Regional Insurance (a.k.a General Casualty) as their Recruitment Administrator. "Western supplied me with such a great foundation to have a successful career in the Human Resource field. I am well on my way...and I am very thankful for that!"

**Katie Ekern**, Dental Assistant, '06, Dental Hygienist '08, was crowned the 2008 Miss Oktoberfest. She sang "I Can't Do it Alone". Her platform is "Give a Child a Smile." She won a \$3,000 cash scholarship and received the Sally Stinson Community Service and the Spirit of Miss America awards.

## classnotes cont.

**Jenna Erickson**, Physical Therapy Assistant, is employed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center as a physical therapy assistant.

**Rosemarie Ferguson**, Accounting, would like to thank her teacher, Lynette Teal, for her gracious ability to inspire students.

**Aaron Haase**, Welding, started an organic dairy farm in 2008.

**Angela Horge**, Disability Support Specialist, is a Scheduler/Community Living Specialist, at Lutheran Social Services. She and her husband, Michael, live in Onalaska.

**Jennifer Kneifl**, Medical Lab Technician, is employed as a medical lab tech at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare.

**Kelley Schallert**, Clinical Lab Technician, is a medical lab technician at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. She and her husband, Terry, live in La Crosse.

**Colleen Sibert**, Nursing, is a registered nurse at the VA Medical Center in Tomah.

**Donna Silbaugh**, Accounting, has joined the Housing Authority Division of Hawkins, Ash, Baprie & Company, LLP as a financial accountant. She has extensive experience in the banking industry, most specifically in investor accounting, reporting, and in residential and consumer lending.

## In memoriam

**Lorin N. Dahl**, 2/12/08  
'84 Foods - Institutional

**Therese A. Thompson**, 3/20/08  
'82 Nursing - Associate Degree

**Ruth Rosenberg**, 4/28/08  
'75 Interior Design

**Mary Duckett**, 7/8/08  
'91 CIS Microcomputer Technician

**Angel L. Tarjeson**, 7/9/08  
'94 Early Childhood Education

**Gary L. Hoyum**, 7/12/08  
'04 Farm, Business & Production Management

**Lonny Canard**, 7/18/08  
'85 Air Cond, Heat, & Refrig Tech

**Kellie J. Ritter**, 7/20/08  
'99 Human Resource-Business Admin

**Ross E. Scheppa**, 7/26/08  
'95 Food Service Management

**Aletta M. Pendleton**, 8/10/08  
Electronics

**Reed A. Peterson**, 9/2/08

**James A. Manske**, 9/27/08  
'82 Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician

**Douglas W. Strangstalien**, 11/28/08  
'75 Welding, '04 Mechanical Design Tech

**Dolores Reichelt**, 12/3/08

**Mark Lathrop**, 12/15/08  
'79 Plumbing Apprentice

**Danny Hysel**, 12/29/08

**Irma J. Engh**, 12/31/08  
'46

**Michael Johnson**, 1/2/09  
'74 Auto Mechanics

**Lola Dull**, 1/4/09  
'74 Practical Nursing

**Richard Gasper**, 1/5/09  
'77 Accounting

**Dwain L. Redalen**, 1/7/09  
'80 Marketing

**Patrick G. Lawrence**, 1/9/09  
'06 Health Information Technology

**Barbara Everson**, 1/12/09  
'80 Personnel Technician

**Susan Baker**, 1/18/09  
'71 Commercial Art

**Richard W. Reys**, 1/19/09  
'90 Business Administration

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# Remember When...

This issue's photo from the archives features students from the Business Division.



Do you know what group this is?

Do you recognize any faces?

Who are these students and what was the occasion?

If you know the people, the year, or the event, contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@westerntc.edu](mailto:alumni@westerntc.edu).

**Do you have a photo to share from the past?** Send to: Alumni Office, 400 Seventh Street N, La Crosse, WI 54601