

# WESTERNCONNECT

THE  SSENTIAL EXPERIENCE | A publication for alumni & friends of Western Technical College

August 2017 Volume 14, Number 3

## Alumni Board Celebrates 10 Years



**Our Mission:** *The Western Technical College Alumni Association celebrates and builds traditions and promotes high quality education by engaging alumni, students, and friends of Western Technical College. (From left to right: Cinda, Lynn, Mary Jo, Tina)*

February 2007. That was when the first steps were taken to form an Alumni Association Board at Western, starting with the creation of a taskforce consisting of alumni representing our diverse alumni population. They completed a strategic plan and bylaws for the formation of the new Board, laying the groundwork for the coming decade.

In September 2007, the first Alumni Association Board meeting was held. Ten years later, we asked early members about their memories of that exciting time, the Board's accomplishments so far, and hopes for the future of the Board and Alumni Association.

"Personally, it was an opportunity for reconnection with the college," said Tina (Olson) Johns, '91 Medical Administrative Specialist. "I hadn't been involved since I graduated. I also saw it as a group of alums who could help other alums. It was about having a voice that can impact the future of the college."

When asked what has been achieved, Mary Jo Klos, '80 Nursing and past Alumni Board president reflected, "An increased understanding and awareness of the functions of the Alumni Association and the Board. I recall being a graduate and hearing about the Alumni Association and thinking that was not something for me until 'later' - not realizing all of the potential support and help that was really there for me at the time.

"My hopes and dreams for the future are that this Board and Association has unlimited potential to become even greater," continued Mary Jo. "Interactions with the administration, students, faculty, and community can be even more enhanced and result in members being even stronger ambassadors for the college and all it represents. Sally Emerson, Alumni Relations Coordinator, has been the glue that has kept us together and guided us to grow and strengthen."

"I really like the diversity we see in the Board, in age, gender, program areas, and employer representation," said Lynn (Smyrk) Lenz, '86 Respiratory Therapy Technician. "I also really enjoyed the Western alumni event at Gundersen Medical Center. It was impactful to see how many of my coworkers at the time were Western grads. I had no idea!"

Tina likes connecting Alumni Board members with and students to help facilitate connections and positive experiences for all. "It can be really helpful to have alums talk to students about career paths and job

**"It gives me goosebumps when I think about how the College has grown and changed..."**  
Lynn Lenz '86

opportunities or their experiences post-Western."

"When I graduated, there wasn't an organization like this to keep alumni connected," said Tina. "When I think back on those early conversations, we wanted engagement and I feel that's what we've achieved."

I'm proud of the scholarships that have been developed and enhanced through the Board," said Lynn. "Alums have given more than a million dollars to support scholarships and other initiatives during these ten years."

"For me, said Cinda Vingers, '77 Secretarial Science and '88 Supervisory Management, "it's the alumni newsletter, Connect. It's a great communication tool. When I get it, I'm curious to see what the Board is doing, what classmates and faculty are doing, fundraising efforts, and other alumni events. I think that President Rasch's support of the Alumni Association has been enormous. He recognized the value of instilling pride with our alumni."

Lynn proudly added, "It gives me goosebumps when I think about how the College has grown and changed from the new buildings to the courtyard to our efforts in sustainability. When the community was asked for \$79.8 million in support and people said 'yes,' that says so much about how people view the College and its importance in their community."

"Watching Western grow and change in the 40 years since I graduated has been done with pride. You see the Welcome Center, the Lunda Center, Cleary Courtyard, Union Market, the list goes on. Our college looks so good," said Cinda.

Where will the next decade take us? The Alumni Association Board is committed to continue to meet the needs of the college, its students, and alumni. When all three partner together, only great things are sure to come!





## Hello Western alumni!

Time flies when you are having fun, and fun it has been for the past ten years as the Western Alumni Board formalized and

blossomed. The College has had a great increase in interest and involvement from its alumni as the Board has been committed to reaching out to future and current students, and assisting our graduates as they pursue their careers. It has always been a partnership between Western and its alumni and that relationship will continue to grow and thrive for the benefit of all. Thank you to the 40 Alumni Board members that have volunteered throughout the years and what they have accomplished. It could not have been done without you, your commitment to Western, and your passion to serve.

We welcome Dr. Roger Stanford as our new leader at Western and the Alumni Board looks forward to helping him achieve the College goals. And we welcome our new Alumni Association Board president, Ellen Gianoli '92, as she begins two years of service in this role.



What will the next decade look like? How will technology change our communication with alumni? What needs will our district have that the College and alumni will address? How will financial support bring new opportunities to our students and programs? Can't wait to see what happens next!

Until next time,

*Sally Emerson*

## Welcome President Stanford



After 28 years under the leadership of Lee Rasch, EdD, Western has a new president. Roger Stanford, PhD, of La Crosse, Wis., was selected from a pool of 35 candidates. His tenure began July 1, 2017 as Western's seventh president.

Dr. Stanford was most recently the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Western Technical College, a position he had held since 2015. Previously, he was the Vice President of Instruction at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). He served at CVTC as a faculty member in Marketing and later as the Dean of Business, a Title III Grant Director, the Dean of Curriculum and Staff Development, and the Director of College Professional Development. As a graduate of CVTC, he also served on the Alumni Association Board for many years. He was an adjunct professor/facilitator/research advisor for the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Masters in Professional Education program and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Masters in Education program. Dr. Stanford spent 10 years teaching in K-12 prior to moving into higher education.

Stanford holds a doctorate in philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Capella University, a master's degree in Teacher Education and Professional Development from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a bachelor's degree in Marketing Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and an associate's degree in Marketing Management from CVTC.

"I'm both humbled and honored to have been selected to lead this great college," said Stanford. "Western has a stellar reputation in the district and the state for high-quality education, and has even garnered national attention for leading-edge sustainability efforts. I look forward to sharing my experience and continuing the momentum for many years to come."



# Filmmaker With Ambitious Goals



*Bao Xiong pictured with her award for best script for her work on "Memory" after competing in a Filmmakers Institute at the Cannes Film Festival.*

For generations, Hmong folktales and cultural history have been verbally passed down in the

Hmong language. Western alumna, Bao Xiong, learned the stories of her Hmong ancestors from her parents. However, she soon discovered many Hmong children in La Crosse now speak only English, thus unable to understand their grandparents' stories. Since the stories are shared verbally, it makes them unique and yet vulnerable to face extinction.

Being in the Visual Communications program at Western, she aspired to create a short film, engaging the aging Hmong population by recording their stories then translating to English. In this way, local Hmong students will be able to better connect to their heritage. Her goal is to show the film locally through the school district, college courses, and other community learning opportunities.

After winning several awards for previous work, Xiong was invited to present her film at the Cannes Film Festival in France for future film opportunities, but participation would require funding.

Instructor, Lisa Heise, who helped Xiong raise money, by making and selling egg rolls in Heise's home, brought the additional need to Jacqueline Schreiner of the Western Foundation. Through a funding opportunity with the La Crosse Community Foundation she was awarded a \$5,000 grant to continue her project, Stories We Tell. Other individuals also donated to her efforts.

Xiong attended the Cannes Film Festival in May and had a great experience, networking and connecting with directors, actors, and others in the industry. As part of the Cannes program, she was an intern with Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., where she was exposed to the business side of filmmaking.

Heise shared, "Bao had some big adventures, important networking, and took on leadership responsibilities in her production group. I'm so proud of her." Bao has a bright future ahead of her filled with exciting possibilities!

## Western Technical College Alumni Across the Nation



**226**

Alumni that are current and retired Western employees



**38,140**

Alumni Living



**1244**

Married Alumni Couples



**\$1,101,681**

Total contributions in past 10 years



**30,321**

Alumni receiving this newsletter



**15,930**

Alumni called each year during alumni phonathon



Alumni Business Owners

**1490**



## Western and Ashley Furniture Announce Partnership



Students in Western Technical College's Electromechanical Technology program, as well as incumbent workers, will soon have the opportunity to receive training on state-of-the-art robots and simulated trainers, thanks to a new partnership with Ashley Furniture Industries.

Six robots along with three simulator units will be placed in the Ashley Furniture Industrial Automation Lab inside Western's newly constructed Integrated Technology Center on the La Crosse campus. In addition, a portable training robot will be housed at the Independence Campus.

In addition to the donation of the robots, the Ron and Joyce Wanek Foundation has made a donation to Western's Foundation that will allow Western faculty to become certified on the equipment. Western will be the only technical college in this region with both the automation lab and the instructor certification required to fully train all levels of robotic technicians.

## Western Receives Workforce Advancement Training Grants for 11 Area Businesses



Engineered Products (New Lisbon), and Westby Cooperative Creamery (Westby).

Employees will receive leadership and supervisory training, technical skills in electromechanical maintenance, robotics, project management, and computer engineering and design as part of customized training programs developed for grant recipients. Additionally, a consortium group of long-term care providers in the district will be able to take advantage of CNA and medication aid training for their staff.

Western Technical College will receive \$325,000 in Workforce Advancement Training grants to upgrade the skills of workers at 11 companies in the 7 Rivers Region. Local companies included in Western's partnership, include Advanced Fiber Products (La Crosse), Ashley Furniture (Arcadia), Badger Mining (Taylor), DuraTech (La Crosse), GEA (Galesville), Hi-Crush (Blair), Interior Systems (La Crosse), La Crosse Seed (La Crosse), Norwinn Company (Galesville), Walker



## Student Ambassador Named

Amanda Coughlin has been selected as the 2017-18 Western Technical College Student Ambassador, an official spokesperson for Western and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Coughlin is a second-year student in the IT-Computer Support Specialist program. Coughlin chose Western because of her previous experience with the college. She earned her HSED through Western and enrolled in an academic program to earn her college degree. And while her first program choice was not the right fit for her, she found the IT-Computer Support Specialist program and hasn't looked back.

In addition to her classes, she has held work-study positions in the Media Center and in PC Services, tutors on campus, and works part-time. She has been involved in student government and served as a student club leader. She is also a Presidents Scholarship recipient and mother of one.

## Distinguished Alumni Award



The 2017 Western Technical College Distinguished Alumni Award recipient is Robert Abraham, assistant police chief for the City of La Crosse.

Abraham, of La Crosse, is a 1993 graduate of the Police Science program. He started his career in law

enforcement in 1990 as a police cadet for the City of La Crosse Police Department. In 1993, he became a police officer with the Onalaska Police Department before returning to La Crosse.

In addition to his Western degree, he earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration at Mt. Scenario College. He is a recent graduate of the FBI National Academy at the University of Virginia. He is also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command, and the

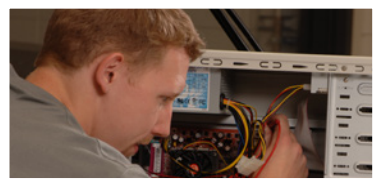
Wisconsin Certified Public Managers program at UW-Madison. He was recognized in 2008 with the Wisconsin Community Policing-Sir Robert Peel Award.

He has served as an instructor for the Wisconsin Police Corps and as an adjunct instructor for Western Technical College. Abraham is a certified assessor for the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group.

Learn more about the Western Distinguished Alumni Award and how to nominate at [westernnc.edu/alumni-association](http://westernnc.edu/alumni-association).



## New Programs at Western



A new academic year brings new programs and opportunities to advance your skills and get ahead.

Find new programs in these areas:

- Business and Finance
- General Studies
- Green Careers
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Public Safety

Learn more at

[westerntc.edu/academic-programs/all-programs](http://westerntc.edu/academic-programs/all-programs)



### Community Celebrates Completion of Construction

Western held a community celebration in June and open house that showcased the work made possible by the Vision 2020 referendum passed in 2012. It gave community members the chance to tour campus and enjoy food and entertainment on campus.

### Western Retiree Honored

Congratulations to retired Wood Tech instructor Ken Wing on the naming of the Integrated Technology Center framing lab in his honor thanks to the generosity of friends and family. A celebration was held in May to commemorate this special event.



### Health Care Facilities Go High Tech

The ribbon was cut on the final building remodeling project that was part of the Vision 2020 referendum. The Kumm Center remodel saw upgrades to healthcare program areas, classrooms, labs, and student spaces to reflect the demand of the healthcare industry.

Gail Kumm-Cleary, long-time Western Foundation Board member, and her family joined us for the ribbon cutting ceremony, sharing memories of the building's construction and history. The Kumm Center was named after her father, Roy Kumm, because of his past leadership role on Western's District Board for more than two decades and as an advocate for the college and its mission.



### Building the Pathway

The newly named bricks have just been added to the landscape. Be sure to stop by for a visit and find yours at the 7th Street entrance of our newest courtyard, between the Academic Resource and Integrated Technology Centers. Bricks can always be ordered and will be added each summer: [westerntc.edu/bricks](http://westerntc.edu/bricks)

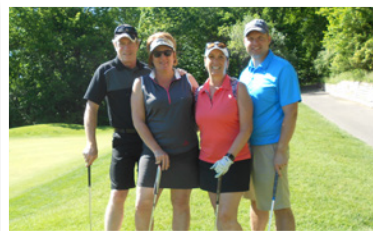
## Alumni News

The Alumni and Foundation Offices have moved! Stop in to see us in Coleman #130 with visitor parking nearby.



Lynn Lenz '85 and the Torkelson Funeral Home team came away the winners of this year's Scholarship Golf Outing. Mark your calendar to join the fun May 30, 2018.

The Wedding Tree and owner Deb Lash '90 have been loyal supporters of the golf outing which has benefitted seven students over the past three years.



It was Super Hero Night at the Loggers game on July 16 as the police and fire departments met on the field followed by the Loggers baseball game. Western was a sponsor of the event

which included an alumni booth and learning about our public safety programs. Pictured are super heroes (and future Western students) checking out the Western fire truck.



Western alumnus Jeff Wieser '83 and his wife, Andrea, reigned as commodore and first mate at this year's Riverfest celebration in La Crosse. They were selected for their involvement in the community and leadership experience. Congratulations!

Alumni Board members Jean Wallester '80, Kim Ryan '03, and Lenora Parr '10 had a great time with our residence hall students welcoming them to the Alumni Association at the third annual Block Party.

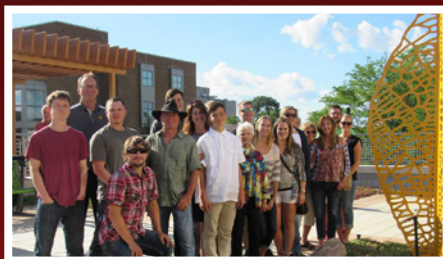




# Alumni News



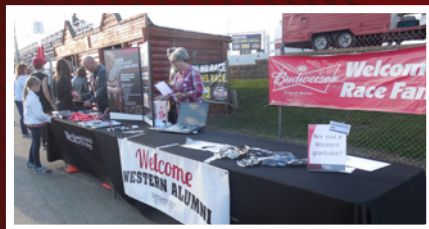
Alumnus Dean Hubbard and his wife, Barbara, from Sussex, Wisconsin stopped for a visit this summer. They toured the campus, which consisted of only Coleman and Kumm Centers when Dean graduated in 1971, and had a chance to chat with instructor Kevin Hoeltzle about the electronics field. Dean recently retired from a successful career as product engineering manager with Trombetta.



Western dedicated a sculpture on the green roof of the Integrated Technology Center to Eric Karbula '14, a Landscape Horticulture graduate who passed away in 2015 and to all students and faculty that have passed on. Pictured are Eric's family and friends in attendance at the June ceremony where President Lee Rasch, Vice President Roger Stanford, Foundation Executive Director Mike Swenson, and Landscape Horticulture Instructor Pete Bemis spoke.



Carolyn Moe – Logistics Health, Inc., alumna Heather St. Clair '12 – Mathy Construction, Chelsey Steinbrecher – School District of La Crosse with panel moderator Kim Ryan '03 at this year's Get That Job event. Watch a video recording as these professionals share their best tips for seeking employment at [westerntc.edu/get-that-job](http://westerntc.edu/get-that-job). Alumni are invited to attend our next event on February 6, 2018.



Western will once again sponsor the Night of Destruction at the La Crosse Fairgrounds Speedway on September 9, 2017. Join us to see some of our training vehicles and equipment, pick up giveaways, and update your alumni information. Meet us outside the gates, starting at 5:30 p.m. Watch the Western Alumni Association Facebook page for your chance to win free tickets!



*In this feature, we'll track down a retiree and get an update on his/her life after Western.*

## Kathy Foust



Kathy Foust graduated from the Western dental assisting program in 1968, one of the first classes. She worked in a dental office for a year which included working with current students in a clinical setting. The following year, Dean Anita Smith, contacted her for an interview and she was hired as an instructor which she continued for over 34 years until her retirement in 2005. The last five years she served as program head. To honor her accomplishments, she was named a 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

### What have you been doing since retirement?

I was a real estate agent for a year, but soon discovered it took much time away from the travel I wanted to pursue. Now fully retired, I am able to visit Boston for a few months each year to be with my daughter and her family. My daughter's family is in Minnesota and my son's children get to visit each summer so that keeps me busy. I always enjoyed singing and still do for special events, most recently at the Freighthouse Restaurant for a wedding anniversary, but I have limited this in favor of spending time with family. She currently lives in a great condo near the airport on French Island in La Crosse.

### Have you been involved at Western since your retirement? How?

I have helped in the dental program occasionally to monitor the dental lab and I taught an OSHA class. I have also helped with evaluating scholarships through the Foundation.

### What did you like best about Western?

The people! I really appreciated the staff, instructors, and leadership at Western; they were all great to work with, like Peg Boudreau, Barbara Prindiville, Lee Rasch, and Christine Ferguson. I still stay in touch with all of them, even visiting Christine in Montana. And, of course my students, many of whom I follow on Facebook.

# Classnotes

## 1956

**Jon Nelson**, Machine Shop Tool & Die, is now retired from Nelson Global Products.

## 1971

**Karen Herold Larson**, Administrative Asst, is proud that a grandson will be attending Western this year.

## 1973

**Michael Ryan**, Accounting, has retired and is enjoying life's blessings.

**Candyyce Dwyer Schilling**, Secretarial Science, has twin granddaughters 6, and a grandson 1.

**Gerald Vatland**, Machine Tool Operation, is enjoying retirement.

## 1974

**Debra Utermark Seeliger**, Interior Design, retired in 2014 from Preferred Title.

**Ivan Short**, Agriculture, celebrated 55 years of married life with his wife, Julika, in December 2016.

**Roger Tollefson**, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, has owned Tollefson Repair in Viroqua for 19 years.

**Philip Yehle**, Electronics, works part-time at Kitt Peak National Observatory.

## 1975

**Patricia Franz Zingler**, Apparel Arts, has owned her business, Patty's Sewing, for 30 years.

## 1976

**Rolf Jostad**, Machine Tool Operation, retired in May as an engineering director with Medtronic Inc. He will continue to teach part-time in the engineering management graduate program at St. Cloud State University which he has been doing since earning a Master's degree in 2009. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Birchwood, WI.

**Michael Reuter**, Refrigeration Servicing, retired from Foremost Farms USA on July 26 after 35 years.

**Mary Roterling**, Nursing-Technical, earned a bachelor of science degree from Viterbo University.

**Bruce Savall**, Accounting, and **Christine (Hendricks)**, '76 Interior Design, celebrated their 40th anniversary in September 2016.

## 1977

**Dennis Bishofsky**, Automotive Tech, welcomed a fifth grandchild in April.

**Kenneth Slaby**, Welding, Farm, Business & Production Mgmt, has a son, Jason, who graduated from Western and is a pipeline welder.

**Greg Stevens**, Welding, started working at Trane Company as a welder in November 2015.

**Gregory Streeton**, Auto Mechanics, has two granddaughters, Ellie 6 and Josie 4, and welcomed a third grandchild in July.

**Sharon Zimmerman**, Practical Nursing, celebrated 40 years at Gundersen Medical Center as a practical nurse in May.

## 1978

**Michelle Rocque Roznowski**, Electrodiagnostics, is an EEG technologist at Bellin Health. She and her husband, Thomas, live in Green Bay.

## 1979

**Barb Pierce Hanson**, Accounting, has been employed with Morrison & Associates for 38 years and serves as a bookkeeper/accountant. This is a highly respected firm in La Crosse and she is proud to be part of the team for so long. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Mindoro and have two children, also Western alumni.

**David Niemuth**, Marketing-Retailing, Marketing, became a grandfather for the first time in May.

**Teresa Tanke**, Marketing-Fashion Merchandising, Marketing, Retail Marketing, works at Sidecar as the advertising specialist selling promotional products.

**Maureen Umhoefer**, Child Care & Development, has fifteen grandchildren.

**Dennis Varo**, Auto Body, welcomed a grandson in April 2015.

## 1980

**Ginnie Oliver**, Mechanical Design Tech, retired from the Department of Transportation as an engineering specialist and has taken up quilting and knitting.

**Linda Purdy**, Nursing-Technical, will soon welcome her sixth grandchild.

**Mary Christianson Reisbig**, Ward Clerk, has never regretted this program, and acknowledges instructor Carol Heidmann as awesome. She is a health unit coordinator at Gundersen Health System and was very involved with the National Association of Health Unit Coordinators. Her son, Nathan, also graduated from the culinary management program in 2014. Mary and her husband, Randy, live in La Crescent, MN.

## 1981

**George Mack**, Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Tech, has a son, James, attending Western for Business Management.

**Colleen Sullivan Sowa**, Visual Communications, is the first La Crosse area recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public Service.

**John Sygulla**, Electronics, is now the director of software engineering at Cray, Inc.

## 1982

**Sandra Rugg Ender**, Nursing-Technical, graduated from UW-Eau Claire with her BSN in 1992; married to Eric for 23 years; has two children ages 22 and 20.

**Gary Moulton**, Wood Tech, completed a refresher course on residential carpentry to utilize as a volunteer for Habitat Humanity, and lives in Rapid City, SD.

**Arlen Reschke**, Mechanical Design Tech, has two websites to check out: areschkedesignsolutions.com and rockcreekdesigns.com.

## 1983

**Steve Peth**, Bio-Medical Electronics, passed the CHS exam in July.

## 1984

**Sara Herold Miller**, Accounting, has a daughter, Ashley, attending Western for Respiratory Therapy.

**Luella Oliver**, Nursing-Technical, Practical Nursing '72, retired from Bethel Home in March 2017 after working there for 45 years.

**Sandra Romskog Sesvold**, CIS Programmer/Analyst, is the pastoral secretary at St. Leo's Church; has a son attending Western now.

**Elizabeth Page Motschenbacher Vane**, Nursing, retired August 1 from the US Army Nurse Corps after 30 years of service, most recently as Army Nurse Corps Historian for the Army Medical Department Museum in Texas. She continued her education at Winona State and the University of Colorado. She has served as a perioperative nurse in Washington, DC, Berlin and Landstuhl, Germany, Aurora, CO, El Paso, TX, Iraq, and Bethesda, MD.

## 1985

**Donna Bayer Privett**, Nursing-Technical, Practical Nursing '72, retired from Portland Adventist Medical Center on April 15 after 20 years.

**Kay Ramsbottom**, Nursing-Technical, has a granddaughter, Kianna, who graduated from Western in December 2016 in the Medical Assistant program.

**Patricia Schultze**, Health Unit Clerk, retired from Bethany Riverside in March 2014; she and her husband celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on May 21, 2017.

**Tina Schumacher Verbsky**, Retail Mgmt, Marketing, has a daughter, currently attending the University of Findlay in Ohio.

**Gerard Woychik**, Mechanical Design Tech, welcomed his first grandchild, Violet. He is celebrating his 35th anniversary with his wife, Chila.

## 1986

**Shanen Kazynski**, Operating Room Asst, '85 Medical Asst, continued her education at Winona State and Viterbo, earning a psychology degree in 1995, and has been licensed as a paraprofessional. Through the years, she worked as a medical assistant, ran a daycare, was a stay at home mom, and has served area schools as a paraprofessional and health aid. More recently, she earned life coaching certification and has started her own business, The Journey Within Life Coaching ([www.thejourneywithincoach.com](http://www.thejourneywithincoach.com)). Shanen and her husband, Joe, have three sons and live in Holmen.

**Mark Murphy**, Marketing, was married on February 28 in Saint Lucia.

**Shane Rowan**, Electronic Servicing, graduated from UW-Platteville in 1990.

**Mary Jo Stokes**, Nursing-Technical, is enjoying retirement.

**Michael Strasburg**, Visual Communications, is finally working full time again after being hospitalized.

**Wayne Weber**, Auto Mechanics, took over the family farm in 1987, today raising 4000 hogs with 1000 acres of hay, corn, and soy beans. He and his wife, Shelley, live in Lansing, IA.

## 1987

**Karin Litchie McLain**, Police Science, has a son, Jared, who graduated from Western in 2014 in Police Science. He was married in June 2017 to Sarah.



## Classnotes continued

**Sarah Servais**, Medical Administrative Spec, has a daughter, Amanda, who graduated from Western this past spring in nursing.

**Sharon Sneath**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '73, recently retired!

### 1988

**Connie Verse**, Marketing, says, "I credit my success to my classes at Western!"

### 1989

**Ranae Reincke**, Accounting, is mourning the passing of her mother.

**Pamela Kimball Sheftall**, Printing & Publishing, obtained an Associate of Occupational Science, Culinary Arts degree at the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in 2006. She currently is a print production/studio manager with The Glenn Group. Pamela and her husband, Sherman, live in Las Vegas.

**Patricia Buss Szews**, Medical Record Tech, is teaching ICD-10 coding at North Central Technical College.

**Bonnie Venner**, Nursing-Technical, says, "I'm proud of Western and what they're doing!"

### 1990

**Cynthia Tollefson Tracey**, Nursing-Technical, Operating Room Asst '70, retired from Gundersen Medical Center in December 2015 after 45 years.

**Mike Wagoner**, Marketing-Retailing, Marketing, retired from Fort McCoy in 2014.

**Wayne Wilson**, Radiography, retired in December 2015.

### 1991

**Barbara Sesvold Larsen**, Supervisory Mgmt, retired from UW-La Crosse as an instructor of management marketing in May 2016.

**Diane Niedfeldt Thompson**, Dental Asst, celebrated 25 years of dental assisting in Onalaska with Michael J. Colvin, DDS in July 2016. Due to his retirement, she will be working in a new office with Richard A. Lehrke, DDS in La Crosse. **Ken Thompson**, '86 Welding, and Diane's son, Andrew, graduated from Western in April 2016 and is working for Croell, Inc. as a diesel mechanic.

### 1992

**John Flanagan**, Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Tech, retired in February from his position as HVAC instructor at Western Technical College and resides in La Crosse.

**Todd Glocke**, Automotive Tech, welcomed a son, David Jeffrey, on February 1.

**James Stingl**, Refrigeration Servicing, Auto Mechanics '87, has owned Advanced Care Heating and Air Conditioning for five years.

**Jamie Sveen**, CIS Microcomputer Tech, is now part-owner in Krage Insurance.

**Laurie White Wiltse**, Medical Lab Tech, celebrated 25 years at Mayo Clinic Health System in May.

### 1993

**Charles Ja Doul**, Auto Body & Paint Tech, and his wife, Laurie, were married in 1996. They have children ages 19, 17, and 15. Charles has worked in the collision industry for 24 years, including 19 years with Truckstar Collision Center where he is production manager. "I owe a lot of my success to Western Tech and teacher Lewis Lewison."

**Jeanne Larson**, Nursing, retired this year from Vernon Manor.

**Anne Bagnell Organ**, Nursing, Personnel Tech '81, retired from the Tomah VA Medical Center on June 2.

### 1994

**Cindy Butcher Williams**, Physical Therapist Asst, now has six grandchildren with one due in August 2017.

## Stay connected with Western and fellow alumni



**Facebook – stay on top of alumni and college news and events**

[Facebook.com/WesternTCAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/WesternTCAlumni)



**LinkedIn – a professional networking site to boost your job search and career development**

[linkedin.com – search Western Technical College Alumni](https://www.linkedin.com/search/results/people/?keywords=Western+Technical+College+Alumni)

### 1995

**Ronald Moilien**, Welding, Farm Operations '82, has two sons, Hunter 17 and Darik 12.

**Pamala Randall**, Administrative Asst, started working at Blue Cross Blue Shield on April 10, 2017.

### 1996

**Susan Bunting Schams**, Physical Therapist Asst, is a clinical instructor and has worked with a Western physical therapy assistant student at Mississippi Valley Physical Rehab Center where she is employed.

**Annette Solberg Snell**, Health Information Tech, Health Unit Clerk '86, is retired and loving it!

**Heather Thompson**, Interior Design, became director of alumni relations at UW-Superior in January 2017.

### 1997

**John Yehle**, Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Tech, is a field start up technician at Xetex, and also works at Empire Screen as an HVAC engineer.

### 1998

**Matthew Nundahl**, Police Science Tech, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement '95, has a 13 year old son; will graduate from Winona State in May 2017 majoring in Individualized Studies, a minor in Training and Development, and an emphasis in Human Resources.

**Rodney Richards**, Bio-Medical Electronics, Electromechanical Tech '97, retired from the Federal Aviation Administration as an air transportation systems specialist in June 2016.

**Rebecca Munson Salzwedel**, Medical Asst, started a new position managing standardized patients in the clinical teaching and assessment center on April 3, 2017.

### 1999

**Bridget Karl**, Community Developmental Disabilities Associate, earned a bachelor's degree in health care management in 2006. Since August 2015, she has been an IRIS consultant with TMG by Magellan Health. Bridget lives in La Crosse.

**Patricia Miller**, CIS Microcomputer Spec, Medical Record Tech '88, started working with Quartz House Solutions in January 2017.

**Heidi Stalsberg**, Nursing, earned a Master's degree in nursing education.

### 2000

**Sarah Olson**, Physical Therapist Asst, is the Wisconsin delegate on the Federal State Board of Physical Therapy.

**Gina Pearse**, Nursing, has a daughter who is a sophomore at UW-Platteville and two other children at home.

**Tori Truwe**, Finance, owns Tru Build, LLC.

### 2001

**Ryan Mueller**, Printing & Publishing, is expecting his first child in September 2017.

### 2002

**Hilary Sauls Farm**, Early Childhood Education, is now married with five new additions to the family.

**Brittne Eckman McMahon**, Graphic Design, is celebrating 15 years of marriage to her husband, Michael McMahon, '02 Marketing.

**Jonathan Smith**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, finished his bachelor's degree at Winona State University.

### 2003

**Michelle Caley McGlothlin**, Food Production Spec, Marketing '02, is raising a two year old daughter and is enjoying life's adventures.

**Therese Schnitzler**, Accounting, has a granddaughter, Ella 4 and a grandson, Phoenix 1.

**Michael Zeimet**, Advanced Maintenance Mechanic, retired from Bimbo Bakery.

**Karen Bartelson Zibrowski**, Physical Therapist Asst, is celebrating working at St. Anne of Winona Nursing Home for 10 years.

### 2004

**Nicholas Gerlach**, Visual Communications, welcomed his third child in March.

**Jessica Johnson**, Dental Asst, is a certified dental assistant with Marshfield Clinic Family Health Center. She and her husband, Brad, live in Black River Falls. "I



## Classnotes continued

love my job at the Family Health Center; it allows me to be a Dental Assistant and also to help those in need."

**Justin Rank**, Supervisory Mgmt, has two daughters, Savanna and Caroline, and has lived in Woodinville, WA since 2010.

**Joseph Vanderzee**, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Tech, is employed as a diesel maintenance instructor at Minnesota State College Southeast Tech.

**Brian Voltz**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, as a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team for the City of Baraboo, he received an award at the Wisconsin Chiefs Conference in 2017.

### 2005

**Renee Aleckson Lindberg**, Dental Asst, married Larry Lindberg in April 2016.

**Nicole Olson**, Nursing, traveled to Kenya in 2016 on a medical mission and is planning more missions.

**Jacqueline Reilly**, Visual Communications, has a seven year old daughter, Nadia; is a licensed hair stylist and bartender in addition to working as a designer at Monet Floral.

**Amber Scholten**, Physical Therapist Asst, has two sons, Liam 5 and Nolan 2.

**Rebecca Biesiada Tivis**, Interior Design, welcomed her first child, a son, in June 2017.

### 2006

**William Monson**, Graphic Design, welcomed his second child, Lucas, in February 2017.

**Mathew Radke**, Wood Tech, welcomed his son, Jack, in September 2016.

**Alissa Brandt Roob**, Marketing, was promoted from account manager to corporate relations supervisor at Dynamic Recycling.

**Scott Todd**, Medical Coding Spec, has four children, ages 4, 7, and twins 2.

### 2007

**Pamela Rud Lanners**, Nursing, CNA '05, retired from Tomah VA as a registered nurse.

**Heather Newberry Paronto**, Radiography, has been a realtor for Keller Williams for a year; married Brian in 2014; has three granddaughters, Natalee, Madysen, and Lydia.

**Curtis Petersen**, Physical Therapist Asst, CNA '05, is earning a marketing degree at Viterbo University.

**Michael Reys**, Agri-Business Science Tech, married Megan on March 16, 2016.

**Douglas Row**, Farm, Business & Production Mgmt, turned his farm into an organic dairy farm this past year.

**Andrea Koch Schossow**, Health Information Tech, has a daughter age 3 and welcomed a son in February 2017.

**Amber Strong**, Early Childhood Education, has a 21 month old daughter.

### 2008

**Katie Hammer Lockington**, Accounting, welcomed a daughter in March 2017.

**Travis Mossman**, IT Computer Support Spec, is now the president of Trempealeau Trails Bicycle Association, check out [tourdetramp.com](http://tourdetramp.com).

**Jamie Roth**, Radiography, welcomed a daughter, Raelyn, on June 18, who joins sisters Kayden and Aria.

**Bradey Schleis**, Marketing, welcomed a child in June 2017.

**Jake Shantz**, Supervisory Mgmt, ended a 13 year career at CenturyLink in La Crosse, serving the last five years as a supervisor with the National Order Help Desk. He is now employed at L.B. White in Onalaska and is the customer service manager.

**April Kelbel Willger**, Radiography, owns her own health coaching business.

### 2009

**Jade Moseti**, Occupational Therapy Asst, is attending Viterbo University for a business degree.

**Jason Schmitz**, Machine Tooling Technics, teaches Western courses at Sparta High School.

**Danielle Taube**, Visual Communications, Graphic Design '08, owns two businesses, Great Whale Tattoo since 2014 and Worthwhile Lifestyle & Fitness since 2016.

### 2010

**Trisha Strecker Anderson**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '09, has worked as a nurse clinician at the Wisconsin State Department of Corrections for six years.

**Alison Schneller**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '09, Emergency Medical Tech Basic Certificate '07, was married May 13, 2017.

**Stacey Stackhouse**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '09, earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Winona State in May 2015.

### 2011

**Peter Mlsna**, Farm, Business & Production Mgmt, CNA '03, married Lynzie on July 9, 2016.

**Destiny Skubis**, Disability Support Spec, CNA '07, is currently a student at Birthwise Midwifery and will graduate in 2018.

**Jennifer Schein Smith**, Medical Asst, married Steven Smith on September 9, 2015 and they welcomed their first child in April 2017, Jeffrey Joseph.

**Drinda Westman**, Accounting, is working on her MBA at Viterbo University in Project Management.

**Kevin Wiedenbeck**, Individualized Technical Studies, Business Mgmt, was married on June 7, 2008 and has two daughters, Ella and Ember.

**Robert Yeske**, Culinary Mgmt, is the bakery department manager for Festival Foods in Onalaska. He and his wife, Carol Kass, reside in La Crosse.

### 2012

**Angi Leis**, Therapeutic Massage, owns Angi's Therapeutic Massage in Viroqua and says, "find me on Facebook!"

**Brittney Leis**, Occupational Therapy Asst, is working on her master's degree in occupational therapy at Concordia University and is planning to graduate in 2018.

**Esther Meiners**, Disability Support Spec, Marketing-Fashion Merchandising '85, has four granddaughters and a grandson.

**David Mikrut**, Technical Studies-Journeyworker, graduated in May 2017 with a bachelor's degree in institutional management from UW-Stout.

**Sarah Schomburg Olsen**, CNA, Occupational Therapy Asst '07, has a new position as a clinical liaison at UW Health Re, habilitation Hospital.

**Michael Redig**, Visual Communications, married Chloe on July 22, 2016.

**Nicholas Ringleman**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, is the safety coordinator at Ashley Furniture.

**Brittany Schulze**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '11, graduated from Winona State with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 2016.

### 2013

**Jacquelynn Hart Bishofsky**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '12, and her husband, William, welcomed a son on April 17.

**Gina Davis**, Supervisory Mgmt, It is with great sorrow that I must share my son has died in an automobile accident at the tender age of 21-years-old on February 10, 2017. My son was driving at a high rate of speed. The message I have is to drive responsibly. If not for yourself, then for the ones who love you.

**Heather Lewison-Primmer Marx**, Supervisory Mgmt, Accounting '07, recently left her position as payroll assistant at Western Technical College to serve as finance manager for Kickapoo Coffee Roasters. Heather and her family live in Viroqua.

**Anthony Meidl**, Landscape Horticulture, married Jamie in November, 2013. They have two children, ages two and 6 months.

**Shannon Meier**, Paralegal, married Evan Meier in 2013.

**Amber Norris**, Landscape Horticulture, was married June 17, 2017.

**Justin Paulson**, Visual Communications, married Nikki on October 10, 2015.

**Renee Pletzer-Dykmann**, Supervisory Mgmt, welcomed her fifth grandchild in March 2017.

**James Pollack**, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, has a son, Liam 2.

**Janell Quall**, Therapeutic Massage, has owned Peace of Mind Massage & Mobil Massage for four years.

**Resolve Savage**, Supervisory Mgmt, graduated from Viterbo in 2016 and married Jamie on September 3, 2016.

**Kaylan Emerson Smith**, Marketing, went on to earn a bachelor's degree at UW-Stout in management. She is a marketing specialist with the Department of Defense. She and her husband, Brant, an engineer with BNSF, live in La Crosse.

**Matthew Sullivan**, Business Mgmt, graduated from Viterbo University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in sports management and leadership.

**Michelle Theige**, Nursing, is employed with Mayo Health Clinic and is working on a Master's degree.

**Chou Yang**, IT Network Systems Tech, IT Computer Support Spec '12, married Tracey on June 18, 2016.

**Aaron Ziegler**, Electromechanical Technology, married

**Amanda Miller** '16; Radiography in October 2016.



## Classnotes continued

### 2014

**Rachelle Meyer**, Practical Nursing, CNA '12, married Jordan Meyer in 2013. They welcomed a child in February 2017 and joins siblings ages 3 and 1-1/2.

**Mark Oldenburg**, Leadership & Supervision Professional, is a realtor for Century 21.

**Amber Petersen**, Instructional Asst, Early Childhood Education '12, has a son, Tobias 3.

**Bridget Phillips**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '12, has a five year old daughter, Liberty, and a two year old son, Owen.

**Cassandra Myers Pralle**, Human Services Assoc, completed a bachelor's degree in social work at Winona State University in 2016. She is a social worker with the Jackson County Department of Health and Human Services. She and her husband, Damien, reside in Mindoro.

**Jessica Ritchart**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '13, started a new position at Tomah Memorial Hospital as an OB nurse.

**Jessica Roble**, Medical Administrative Professional, will graduate in Fall 2017 with her bachelor's degree in Medical Administration from Southern Columbia University.

**Tammy Strumness**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '12, has a son currently participating in Western's Youth Options program.

**Heather Stuve**, Instructional Asst, married Reese Stuve in 2003 and has two children.

**Todd Sunderland**, IT Network Systems Administration, welcomed his first grandchild in June 2017.

**Megan Swiggum**, Nursing, CNA '08, is a nurse at Vernon Memorial Hospital in Viroqua.

### 2015

**Alex Kinstler**, IT Web & Software Developer, has been employed as a web developer at Wincraft in Winona, MN since graduation.

**Deanna Lager Lapham**, Physical Therapist Asst was married May 20, 2017 to Ethan Lapham.

**MaiLang Lor**, Instructional Asst, recently started a job in her field at De Soto Middle School

**Daniel McDowell**, Welding, is currently earning a Western technical diploma in industrial electronics & maintenance.

**Korey Oertel**, Culinary Mgmt, recently became the general manager and director of food service experiences at a new restaurant, Crostini Bar, in Eau Claire.

**Kelly Proksch**, Supervisory Mgmt, is a team leader at Goodwill in Onalaska; married Travis Proksch in 1998; has two children ages 19 and 17.

**Rachelle Reeck**, Nursing, Practical Nursing '14, graduated from Viterbo University in December 2016 and

is now working towards her master's degree in nursing management.

**Rafael Snyder**, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning & Heating Service Tech, welcomed his first child, Rex, in April 2016.

**Shelby Stevens**, Administrative Professional, started a new job at Gundersen Medical Center on January 1, 2017.

**Barbara Thompson**, Human Services Assoc, married Brady on September 19, 2015.

**Clara Silva Wight**, Business Mgmt, just launched a website, [www.letstalkaupair.com](http://www.letstalkaupair.com), to help families learn about au pair childcare.

### 2016

**Donna Miller Nelson**, Culinary Mgmt, CNA '07, married Eric Nelson in 2016.

**Sadie Schultz**, CNA, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement '12, married Robert Culpitt in June 2016.

**Shelby Waffle**, Radiography, after graduating with honors, set out on her search for a job in the La Crosse area because she feels there is so much to offer. Since Mayo Clinic Health System was one of her favorite clinical rotation sites, she hoped to work there. She considered herself extremely lucky to be offered a job and couldn't be more excited to have started this new journey in life. "Thank you Western for helping me build the future that I have been dreaming of."

### 2017

**Anne Huoy**, Finance, has been employed at Altra Credit Union since February 2016 as a teller and has recently been promoted to a teller specialist. She will begin a degree in accounting at Viterbo University this fall.



Join the Western online community to update your information and look up your friends:

[community.westerntc.edu](http://community.westerntc.edu)

## Looking for a career move? Don't miss these opportunities!



## CAREER FAIRS 2017★18

Western Technical College  
THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Career Services ★ 608-785-9440 ★ [westerntc.edu/career-services](http://westerntc.edu/career-services)

Event	Date	Time	Location
Part-time & Internship Career Fair	Wednesday September 20	10 A.M.-1 P.M.	Lunda Center
Manufacturing & Trades Career Fair	Wednesday September 27	2 P.M.-5 P.M.	Lunda Center
Automotive & Diesel Career Fair	Thursday November 9	10 A.M.-noon	Vehicle Technology Center
Construction & Apprenticeships Career Fair	Thursday February 15	2 P.M.-5 P.M.	Lunda Center
La Crosse Tribune Career Fair	Tuesday March 27	10 A.M.-3 P.M.	Lunda Center

Western Technical College

For additional information contact the Business and Industry Services Division at 608.785.9232 or visit [www.westerntc.edu/bis](http://www.westerntc.edu/bis)

## BUSINESS PARTNERS SEMINAR SERIES



*Save the Date!*



Whether you are looking for a job or want to be prepared for new opportunities, you won't want to miss our next event:

**TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

## In memoriam

**James L. Bohonek**, 12/24/2016  
1987 Visual Communications

**Donna Meehan**, 12/25/2016  
1972 Medical Assistant

**Arden V. Poss**, 1/3/2017  
1971 Marketing

**Ronald E. Emilson**, 1/6/2017  
2001 Machine Tool Operation, Machine Tooling Technics

**Gerald E. Trimbelle**, 1/12/2017  
1997 Central Service Technician

**Kevin J. Hilby**, 1/14/2017  
1984 Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician

**Russell J. Dresdow**, 1/25/2017  
1990 Marketing

**Michael T. Melde**, 2/4/2017  
2009 Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician

**Annette Stahl**, 2/13/2017  
1993 Interior Design

**Steven N. Olson**, 2/25/2017  
1980 Bio-Medical Electronics

**Laurie M. Fisch**, 3/4/2017  
1983 Health Unit Clerk

**Ryan J. Lichtie**, 3/9/2017  
2013 Food Production Specialist

**George P. Apfel**, 3/20/2017  
1974 Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician  
1991 Supervisory Management

**Jacob T. Sawyer**, 4/6/2017  
2007 Mechanical Design Technology

**Brandon J. Green**, 4/12/2017  
2006 Graphic Design

**Timothy Needham**, 4/12/2017  
1977, 1991 Auto Mechanics

**Patrick Zielke**, 4/19/2017  
1950 Welding

### Western Staff

**Arthur L. Brieske**, 1/8/2017

**Elizabeth Jolivette**, 1/8/2017

**James L. Havlicek**, 3/2/2017

**Marjorie A. Mayfield**, 5/3/2017

**Mary Bantle**, 6/22/2017  
1969 Secretarial Science - Legal

## Western's College-Wide Open House

**THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 19, 2017  
4-7 pm**

La Crosse • Black River Falls  
Independence • Mauston  
Tomah • Viroqua

- Admissions information
- Program information
- Facility tours
- Refreshments
- Door prizes

Application fees waived for those that apply that night!

More information:

[westerntc.edu/event/college-wide-open-house-1](http://westerntc.edu/event/college-wide-open-house-1)

**We want to hear from you!**

Tell us what you've been doing since graduation and we'll print it in an upcoming edition of *Connect*.  
New job, baby, marriage, or honor?

**Keep us up to date!** Alumni Office, 400 Seventh Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601  
email: [alumni@westerntc.edu](mailto:alumni@westerntc.edu) or call: 608.789.6083

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Former Name \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse is a Western Alum ☐

Additional information for college publication: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



400 Seventh Street North  
PO Box 908  
La Crosse, WI 54602-0908

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LA CROSSE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 373



Join us  
on Linked in  
and Facebook!



# Remember when...



Looks like the start of the school year at Western. Do you know who the students are and what year this picture was taken?

Contact the Alumni Office at  
608.789.6083 or  
[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