

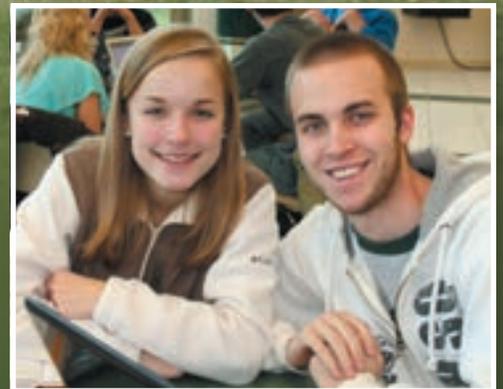
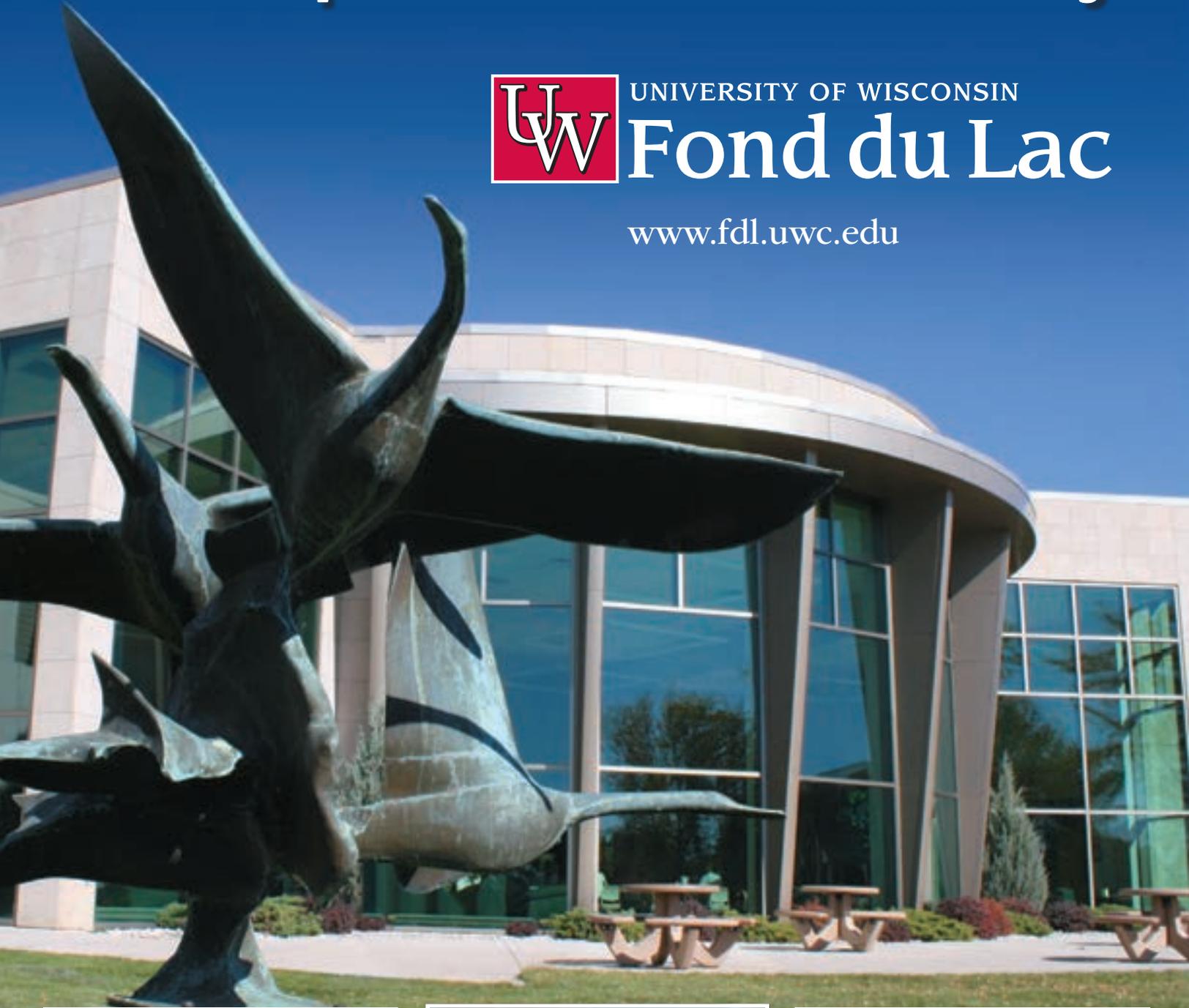
2011 Report to the Community



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Fond du Lac

www.fdl.uwc.edu



The BEST START for the LIFE You Want.

Campus FACTS

University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac

400 University Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
(920) 929-1100
www.fdl.uwc.edu

Accreditation

North Central Association

Degrees Granted

Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS)
Seven different bachelor's degrees from
five different UW schools are available at
UW-Fond du Lac

Enrollment Fall 2010

790 Students
66% are full-time
34% are part-time
71% are 21 or under
29% are over 22

Tuition Freeze

The UW Board of Regents froze tuition
rates for a fourth year at UW-Fond du Lac
and other UW Colleges. UW-Fond du Lac
continues to maintain its
long-held reputation as the UW
System's most affordable entry point for
incoming college students.

2010-11 Tuition & Fees

UW-Fond du Lac \$4,605
UW-Madison \$8,983
UW-Milwaukee \$8,151
Average of other
four year UW Campuses \$6,886

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Dean's Message



I am so pleased to have been able to join the UW-Fond du Lac campus as Dean and CEO on July 1, 2010. Since my move to the area, I have been impressed with the community's commitment to education and to an area I strongly support – the arts, in all of its forms.

At UW-Fond du Lac we have launched the Creative Campus concept. The Creative Campus concept can be found on campuses across the country and demonstrates a commitment to interdisciplinary engagement, creative problem solving, and student exploration of new ideas and original works.

Along with our 2010-2011 ESFY (Engaging Students in the First Year) theme of The Aesthetic Experience, our Creative Campus activities include guest artists in residence, art exhibitions, musical concerts and university theatre productions.

Beyond the arts, our Creative Campus efforts include service-learning, independent research projects, and student presentations of their work in large settings. UW-Fond du Lac students have also been involved in a number of important service-learning activities in our community. You can read more about some of these initiatives in the articles that follow in this report.

Campus and community activities that have involved UW-Fond du Lac students, faculty and staff this past year have been very impressive and reflect a commitment to engagement, to a holistic and broad-based view of higher education, and to a broad-based liberal arts education.

Our campus commitment to creating caring, inclusive communities and to fostering student engagement in diverse perspectives has been clear through our HEDIT (Higher Education Diversity Initiative Team) collaboration with Marian University, MPTC and Ripon College to present an interactive workshop entitled "Diversity Matters Now!" The Multicultural Club continues to highlight diversity issues through educational and cultural experiences. Our commitment to diversity broadly defined is a commitment to providing our students with the perspectives that they will need to become globally aware citizens and leaders.

As we face serious state-wide budget cuts, and while we continue to provide a world-class educational experience with the lowest tuition in the University of Wisconsin System, we will rely more and more on the generosity of private giving for scholarship assistance to our students and general campus support for professional development of our faculty and staff. I appreciate the tireless efforts of the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac Foundation on behalf of this campus and for generous, caring individuals and groups in our area for their financial gifts.

I invite you to visit the campus at any time to meet with students, faculty and staff for a first-hand look at campus facilities and activities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Short". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John N. Short
Campus Dean and CEO

FACULTY PROFILE –

Elizabeth Hayes

By Laurie Krasin

Elizabeth Hayes, biology professor and a member of the UW-Fond du Lac faculty since the campus first opened in fall of 1968, has announced her plans to retire.

"It's a change, but there's an element of excitement in this change," said Hayes about her retirement as she looked out into the biology lab where she's been a teacher and mentor to thousands of students.

She remembers first meeting with founding Campus Dean Willard Henken in the parking lot of CD Smith because the campus buildings weren't complete. Dean Henken hired her to teach biology after she married and moved to Fond du Lac. "I thought he was an outstanding Dean. I admired the way he led the entire faculty and staff," said Hayes. "He also hired me, so he gets a gold star from me for that!"

A life-long educator, Hayes is proud of the many students she has had the privilege of teaching over the years. After getting their start at UW-Fond du Lac, they have gone on to become physicians, pharmacists, dentists, physicians' assistants and nurses working in our community. "Almost every time I go to St. Agnes, I see a nurse or other medical professional there who says they had me as a professor," noted Hayes. "They say to me, 'I'm honored to take care of you.' That means so much to me."

The professor knows her former students are well-prepared for their future careers. "I absolutely believe the UW-Fond du Lac campus prepares our students well," she said. "Our most important role is to develop a love for learning in our students.

"If they develop a love for learning, they will keep learning for the rest of their lives. I'm diligent and exacting as a professor because I want my students to learn the material, but also to acquire a love for the subject."

Hayes believes it is important to be a life-long learner especially in the sciences. "They become good citizens and they can continue to evaluate and think and make decisions, especially about ethical questions," she explained.

During her tenure at UW-Fond du Lac Hayes helped launch the original College for Kids program in collaboration with retired UW-Fond du Lac professors Carla Wifler, chemistry, and Jack Heil, physics and astronomy. This also led to a science program for teens which had 150 young girls coming to campus for Saturday seminars each spring.

With a sense of humor, Hayes recalls one young student's worry about an experiment they were about to do in one of the earlier youth programs. Hayes was explaining an experiment to create cheese and advised the group of future scientists that not all experiments are successful. "I was trying to caution them that the experiment might not work," said Hayes smiling as she recalled the young boy's response. "He



Retiring Biology Professor Elizabeth Hayes (left) shows UW-Fond du Lac student Verónica Velez some of the plants growing in the campus greenhouse. Hayes has been sharing her love of science with thousands of area students for 44 years. She was one of the original members of the faculty when the campus opened in 1968.

said 'My mom paid \$5 for me to take this class, we'd better make cheese today!'" And, they did!

During a career that spanned 44 years, Hayes received numerous awards, grants and honors. She also served as UW Colleges Biology Department Chair for nine years.

In the Fond du Lac community, Hayes has been involved with several area service organizations and has served on the Fond du Lac School Board continuously for 25 years where she served for eight years as president, five years as vice-president and nine years as secretary/clerk.

Her love for learning was embraced by her three children, two of whom have gone on to science-related careers. Her daughter, Margaret, is an eighth grade teacher at Woodworth Middle School in Fond du Lac and her other daughter, Jennifer, is an anesthesiologist at a hospital in Seattle. Her son, Andrew, is a credit manager in the commercial banking field in Madison.

As Hayes looks forward to having more time in the future on supporting issues she believes in, like sustainability and promoting the use of locally grown produce, she received a quote from Andrew which she has found inspiring. It says simply "To be ready at any moment to give up what you are, for what you might become."

After 44 years of inspiring others, Hayes is ready to see what the future holds for her and what she might become.

Student discovers love for research at UW-Fond

By Monica M. Walk

UW-Fond du Lac student Sarah Oehm traveled a steep path of personal discovery and academic redemption in six short years.

Nothing about her initial enrollment as a freshman at UW-Oshkosh in 2004 hinted at educational distress. She arrived on that campus with college credits earned at Campbellsport High School, great ACT scores, and a resume of leadership activities that included German Club, Art Club presidency and varsity letters.

Oehm's university grades started out top-notch, too, as she aimed for a career in art and language education. She even earned an A during her first Winterim class, taken the same January that her grandfather died.

After that, she derailed.

"I focused on the class and distanced myself from the reality of what was going on," Oehm recalled, talking about the unforeseen death of her much-loved grandfather. His prostate cancer, which had been declared in remission for several years, had returned with a vengeance and metastasized to his bones. His death was both painful and swift.

"So, I got an A in the class, and hadn't dealt with anything," she said. Grief hit later, in March and April. "Midterms were stressful and I found I didn't have the stamina and energy to deal with it. After a couple of bad scores it was really hard to put the effort out. It was easier to leave campus and spend time with my family. It was hard to stay focused...I started to lose sight of a clear reason to be there."

The university agreed. Oehm received a letter telling her she was not invited back to campus.

Working for a living

She decided to shrug it off and move forward with a life of art. "Like a lot of 18-year-olds, I thought maybe I don't need a degree and I could make a living with my art," she said. "I hadn't lived on my own. I was very sheltered. When I left Oshkosh, I

lived on my own and paid rent."

It was a challenge.

Oehm worked full-time as a nursing home assistant, and part-time as a clerk at a health food store, for a work week totaling 60 hours.



Sarah Oehm

She also volunteered her artistic talent to Relay for Life and area musicians. Artistic employment was not as fruitful as she had hoped.

"It gave me the starving artist lifestyle I had asked for," she said wryly.

Noting that others were disappointed after she left school, Oehm added, "It was a huge loss of confidence for me, to have gone to school and not done as people expected me to."

As three years passed, her work ethic was more than restored and Oehm began to realize she needed and wanted employment that didn't take 60 demanding weekly hours just to stay afloat. She watched colleagues at the nursing home, and thought she might like to be a nurse. "But in this line of work, no matter how good an aide you are, you don't get to be an R.N.," she said, noting that promotions don't come without earning the appropriate degree. She had no idea how to overcome her academic shortcomings and loss of confidence.

The answer scrolled by in large, red letters as she drove on Johnson Street, past the UW-Fond du Lac campus marquee: "Adults, apply now and return today."

That message sparked an epiphany. "I'm 21. I'm an adult," Oehm realized. She began taking the steps to return to a college campus in fall 2008.

Getting back to class

"Filling out the application was the hardest part," she said. She tells everyone that, including the friends she continues

to urge to return to school. She knows the application fee can seem daunting when living on a tight budget. She credits wonderful campus staff and advisors with helping her make a positive transformation from full-time employment and part-time student status to full-time student with part-time employment over the next two years.

Oehm's employment had re-sparked an interest in medicine and science – the college credits she earned in high school had included chemistry courses – but she wasn't immediately sure of her academic direction.

She tried environmental biology and excelled in the lab, enjoying positive feedback on lab reports. She began to think of pre-med and becoming a doctor, which she describes as the "top of the pyramid" at the nursing home which employed her. She also recalled how interested she was in the nutritional research studies she found for clients at the health food store,



Ronald Theys

and how she felt a pull to be the person who came up with the data.

So, she decided to take the second half of the chemistry class she had completed five years earlier in

high school, wanting to finish it before she forgot any more. Her work with chemistry professor and advisor Ronald Theys, Ph.D., was the catalyst on her academic trajectory. The chemistry lab felt like home. So much so, that she wanted more lab access than class provided. Theys refused to let her work for free. "I am against slave labor," he explained. "I said I'd work for candy," Oehm laughed. "He saw I was serious."

Theys' guidance led to Oehm's summer project researching cancer pharmaceuticals in a chemistry lab at UW-Milwaukee, where she plans to complete her undergraduate degree in chemistry, and the unusual opportunity to bring the project

back to UW-Fond du Lac for ongoing research work.

"I enjoy research. I like doing the work," said Oehm, who is planning a career in pharmaceutical research or drug design – possibly combined with university teaching – after completing her education.

Career plan as tribute

She is philosophical about the positive way her delayed education shaped her career plans.

"At 18, I wasn't mature enough to think I could handle an analytical career in science," she said, noting how her new educational path has included more public speaking than any prior humanities class, including presenting her research at the selective Posters in the Rotunda at the Capitol in Madison in May, and speaking to the UW Board of Regents during their spring meeting in Fond du Lac, in addition to being selected as the 2010 commencement speaker for UW-Fond du Lac, where she received several academic awards. "Then, I wanted to do right-brain, dreamy things, and I hadn't thought of science as a place to express creativity."

Returning to college at UW-Fond du Lac was pivotal in Oehm's life journey.

"The best thing about UW-Fond du Lac is how it is just a real small community," she said. "Even without dorm life, it is intimate and small. There is no party atmosphere, but we still have our friendships. Everyone has an opportunity to be a leader. There is room for several shining stars in every department, and you go on to another campus with an awesome resume. Everyone gets a chance to be a 'big fish in a small pond'...and don't forget you are still big when you are in a big pond."

As Oehm told the Regents, "I am very grateful to UW-Fond du Lac, and I thank the UW for the opportunity to redeem my academic standing and honor my own grandfather through efforts to help cure cancer."



Sarah Oehm (right) checks on an experiment with Professor Ronald Theys in the chemistry lab at UW-Fond du Lac. Oehm is conducting undergraduate research on anti-cancer drugs in cooperation with UW-Milwaukee.

Cancer research links student to two campuses

After grieving her grandfather's death from cancer, Sarah Oehm has found both career inspiration and a way to honor his memory in her study of chemistry. She has the unusual distinction of being an undergraduate already deeply immersed in research on anti-cancer drugs – specifically a promising one called Tryprostatin A – in an effort that links UW-Fond du Lac with UW-Milwaukee

From her arrival on the UW-Fond du Lac campus, Oehm's academic zeal registered with chemistry professor and advisor Ronald Theys, Ph.D.

"Sarah came in to ask if she could take General Chemistry II and Biochemistry Survey the same semester. She wanted full immersion," Theys recalled of the challenging schedule request. "That hadn't been done before, but she did it and got the highest score in both courses. She's like a sponge, and absorbs information very quickly."

After observing her in both class and lab, Theys knew Oehm was ready for bigger challenges. "For several years, I was looking for a student to do bench chemistry research on a project here, but most of my students are not chemists," said Theys, who advises a variety of science majors at UW-Fond du Lac. "Sarah was keenly interested in research."

With that project in mind, Theys introduced Oehm to his own Ph.D. mentor, M. Mahmun Hossain, at UW-Milwaukee. Their conversation moved from the original research project to the synthesis of the anti-cancer drug Tryprostatin A, which captured Oehm's interest. She soon signed on as a summer guest student in the UW-Milwaukee chemistry lab.

"They knew I was only through freshman chemistry, so they didn't have high expectations," Oehm says of Hossein and his graduate students. She surprised them by spending 15-to-30 hours per week in the lab, instead of the required one-to-three weekly hours. "Most undergraduates just familiarize themselves with research searches and watch procedures. Within the first week, I was done with reading papers and wanted to work side-by-side, rather than watch over their shoulders."

Her dedication to the process kept her involved in the project beyond summer. Oehm has continued her research work on the UW-Fond du Lac campus, with the understanding that she will return to UW-Milwaukee for ongoing research and the completion of her chemistry degree. She has a good chance of working as a lab teaching assistant there, a rare opportunity for an undergraduate student. Academic publication of her research also looms possible.

As Oehm shared at a spring 2010 meeting of the UW Regents: "This is the first time medical research of this caliber was done on the UW-Fond du Lac campus. May this collaboration of Fond du Lac and Milwaukee serve as a model for the other 12 campuses."

In addition to the uncommon collaboration between two-year and four-year institutions, this particular project has the added distinction of working with a business partner. The Sigma-Aldrich Corporation provides chemicals needed by the researchers.

"Students have unusual opportunities here," Theys noted. "Recognition through academics is possible."

Fellowship awarded to Professor Thorn



Michael Thorn

Michael Thorn, UW-Fond du Lac history professor, was awarded a fellowship to attend the 14th annual Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois during June of 2010.

This two-week course of study is designed to broaden and deepen the background

of Holocaust educators. Approximately 25 fellows are selected each year by the Holocaust Educational Foundation (HEF) and Northwestern University. HEF is a private, non-profit organization established in 1980 by survivors, their children and their friends in order to preserve and promote awareness of the Holocaust.

Thorn teaches courses on the holocaust as well as other history courses at UW-Fond du Lac and UW-Washington County in West Bend.

Kaplan Awards

UW-Fond du Lac has named its 2010-11 Kaplan Award recipients. Through this award, individuals or teams are recognized for significant and innovative improvement in instruction and service to students.

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

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

Music professors **Patricia Eby** and **Dan Rager** were recognized for collaboration with the music faculty at Marian University to offer expanded course offerings without additional expense to either university.

David Demezas, biology professor; **Maggie Gellings**, student services coordinator; **Paisley Harris**, history professor; **Melissa Luedtke**, student services coordinator; **Alayne Peterson**, English professor; and **Erica Strauss**, English lecturer share an award presented to the Engaging Students in the First Year (ESFY) Committee. The ESFY committee selected and implemented a campus-wide common read of Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals."

Grants

Valerie Mumm, world languages professor, and **Lisa Schreibersdorf**, English professor, were recently honored with an OPID Spring 2011 Conference Development Grant Award in the amount of \$800 to facilitate two campus wide sessions on "Addressing Situations of Conflict around Issues of Diversity" and "Understanding Islam." These sessions will further the UW System's mission of Inclusive Excellence, of engaging our students with diverse perspectives, and of promoting civil discourse.

Carolyn Polodna, business professor, has been awarded a UW Colleges Knowledge and Skill Expansion Grant (KSEG) for her proposal, "Incorporating IFRS in the UW Colleges Business Curriculum." She was also awarded a UW Colleges Grant to Increase Student Engagement (GISE).

R. Carey Woodward, Jr., physics professor, received a 2010 UW Colleges Summer Research Grant. Woodward collaborated with Susan Nossal, director of the Physics Learning Center at UW-Madison.



2010 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient Mark Strand

UW-Fond du Lac Dean John Short (left) presents the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award to Mark Strand at the Foundation's donor and scholarship reception held in September 2010 in the University Center Commons.

UW-Fond du Lac selected Mark R. Strand of Fond du Lac to receive its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Strand is chief deputy/undersheriff with the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office, a position he has held since 2006. He began his career in the Sheriff's Office as a correctional officer in 1981. He served as a patrol officer from 1983 to 1992 when he was appointed sergeant. In 1997, Strand was promoted to lieutenant and in 1999 was promoted to jail administrator. He has served as a K-9 officer, dive team leader, sheriff's search and rescue boat patrol supervisor and serves on numerous law enforcement promotion boards.

He received his Associate of Arts and Science Degree at UW-Fond du Lac in 1978 and finished his undergraduate work at UW-Oshkosh. He continued his education by earning a master's degree in Organizational Leadership Quality from Marian College (University).

Strand and his wife of 31 years, Mary, have three sons. Dustin is a United States deputy marshal, Brandon is a legislative assistant to a state senator and Jordan recently graduated from UW-Milwaukee. Dustin and Jordan also attended UW-Fond du Lac.

In the community, Strand was recently appointed to the Fond du Lac School Board and serves on the Fond du Lac School District's Drug Free Schools Task Force, the School District's CSI and is chairperson of Element 1, Safe Schools and Violence Prevention. Strand is also on the advisory board at MPTC.

He was honored at the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation's annual donor and scholarship reception held each fall in the University Center Commons at UW-Fond du Lac.

Previous Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2009	Sandi Roehrig	2006	Paul Rosenfeldt
2008	Oscar Kraus	2005	Don Noe
2007	Robert (Bob) Carew	2004	Brenna Garrison-Bruden



ALUMNI PROFILE –

Local education leads to local community commitment

Brendan Wood-Taylor

Associate Degree: UW-Fond du Lac 2006

Bachelor's Degree: UW-Oshkosh 2009

Major in geography with global insight

emphasis, and minor in African American Studies

Change doesn't require relocation. Brendan Wood-Taylor came to that startling realization while attending UW-Fond du Lac.

"I initially thought I would have to move out of Fond du Lac to do what I wanted to do," Wood-Taylor said, recalling his decision to begin higher education at UW-Fond du Lac to save money as he plotted his path to Florida and future dreams of working as a Disney Imagineer.

Involvement on the small, local campus was swift, deep and with big impact, as Wood-Taylor was instrumental in starting the Multicultural Club in spring 2005. During his leadership, the Multicultural Club purchased the first set of world flags, which are now the signature décor of the University Center Commons. Wood-Taylor earned two Outstanding Student Achievement Awards during his first year on campus.

"It became evident how much involvement I had, and how I could make change," Wood-Taylor recalled.

He admits his dedication to making a difference is driven by a sense of urgency: Both his father and his grandfather died young. "I want to live life to the fullest," he said, noting that his father died of liver cancer at age 57, a day after celebrating a wedding anniversary with Wood-Taylor's mother.

As his skills and awareness grew, Wood-Taylor found himself thinking, "Why help develop another community? Why move? I like small towns, and the world is getting smaller every day."

And he makes a point of advising other young adults: "It doesn't matter where you go to school. You get out what you put in. Be involved in activities and go abroad."

His travel advice comes from experience, beginning with a week abroad to Mexico while at UW-Fond du Lac, and following that with a travel semester that included courses in Amsterdam, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, Florence, Paris and London while enrolled at UW-Oshkosh. He capped his studies with a month in Tanzania, adding a week to visit Zanzibar in order to experience being a minority in an Islamic area.

"I've been a fair amount of places," he acknowledged, "and I still want to be here. The location is great. When I hear people complain that there is 'nothing to do here,' I ask them, 'What are you doing about it?'"

While he believes students hold the power to shape their higher education experiences, Wood-Taylor is also quick to say how much value he found in his classroom experiences at UW-Fond du Lac. "I remember how much the professors really push their students," he said. "You don't realize it until you go on to a four-year

school, but some of the classes are harder at UW-Fond du Lac. The hardest class I ever had was a zoology class at UW-Fond du Lac. Returning adult students also enhanced the classroom experience for me. I felt on several occasions they contributed their life experiences to add to the overall quality of the UW-Fond du Lac classroom."

After looking into several majors at UW-Oshkosh, Wood-Taylor found his niche in geography, specifically the focus on humans featured in the global insights emphasis. "I've always loved learning about people, travel and the world," he said.

Wood-Taylor worked as a movie projectionist at Forest Mall Cinema during his school years and continues there as head projectionist, while recently moving into a new role as Outreach Coordinator for the Children's Museum of Fond du Lac.

His dancing hobby - he taught salsa lessons at UW-Fond du Lac during Hispanic Heritage Month and at other events - initially brought him into contact with the museum. Knowing his talent, a board member invited Wood-Taylor to attend fund-raising events and encourage benefit patrons to dance. When Wood-Taylor returned from Tanzania, he pursued his interest in community-building types of work and began volunteering at the museum, and was pleased when his role became part-time employment in July. His duties include updating social calendars and the website, attending events such as Prairie Fest and National Night Out as the "face" of the museum, and managing the museum on weekends.

"When our hiring committee interviewed Brendan, we knew he came from an environment that supported similar goals," said Executive Director Andrea Welsch, noting that both the Children's Museum of Fond du Lac and UW-Fond du Lac share a mission of supporting and nourishing life-long learners.

Finding employment in a hometown museum proved an unexpected twist of fate for Wood-Taylor. "In eighth grade we took a [talent and career] test, and one of the options for me was to work in a museum," Wood-Taylor recalled. "I never thought that would be possible in Fond du Lac. I found that test again recently, and thought it was interesting."

Looking around the museum at exhibits representing China, Australia, Canada, and Africa, Wood-Taylor commented, "I help bring geography and an understanding of global community to local children. My dad was born in Melbourne, Australia, and my grandfather in Canada. There are connections every day around me. This is the place I am supposed to be."

'Teaching is Coaching'

Coach Knar honored for contributions to campus academics and athletics

By Monica M. Walk

While neighborhood children played cops and cowboys, young Richard Knar was emulating other heroes: teachers and coaches.

Little did he know then that he would grow into a teacher and coach of heroic proportions himself. But, from a young age, his career path was clear.

"I played coach and teacher as a kid. My heroes have always been teachers, varsity athletes and coaches," recalled Knar, while in Fond du Lac for an August weekend of events honoring his dedication to UW-Fond du Lac and its students (see related story on pg. 13). The campus thanked the coach, who led UW-Fond du Lac teams to ten championships in 13 seasons, by naming the basketball floor Coach Knar Court.

"I remember asking my dad in grade school why Mr. Gaffney quit teaching to become a handyman. My dad said it probably paid more. But I couldn't understand why a teacher would quit. I knew I would never do that."

Fascination with athletics led the young Knar to find ways to attend sporting events in Eau Claire, more than 40 miles away from his boyhood home in Stanley. He idolized state title-winning basketball Coach Marty Crowe, reading his columns and listening to his radio show, not knowing he would one day coach Crowe's athletically talented son, Mickey.

That childhood interest in teaching and coaching focused into a career through the instruction of high school math teacher Gertrude Flaherty. Mathematics became Knar's undergraduate major at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the subject of his graduate study at Rutgers University, where his young bride, Renee, would find him puzzling through tough math equations late into the night in the campus library.

While wrapping up his Rutgers degree and earning the equivalent of an Ed.D. without thesis, Knar interviewed for a position as math instructor and head basketball coach at the two-year campus under construction in Fond du Lac. During the 1968 interview, Dean Willard Henken pointed to



"My heroes have always been teachers, varsity athletes and coaches..."

~ Coach Richard Knar

a hole in the ground that was destined to become the gym and another that would be the student union. Knar's ability to envision the emerging campus mirrored his willingness to find and shape the talents of his future students and athletes.

"When I got my first promotion to assistant professor at UW-Fond du Lac, I wrote to Gertrude Flaherty to tell her 'Because of you, here I am,'" Knar said.

Scores of students would, in turn, say the same about Knar.

Memorable Style

He was a teacher to remember: writing and gesturing at the board, his suit and tie covered in chalk dust, shouting "Bada boom, bada bing" as he crossed out equal values in an equation.

"They would ask him to close his class door," wife Renee recalled of other teachers, laughing, "because he taught like he coached, yelling and loud."

One Knar catch phrase, "It's a well-known fact to those that know it well," was memorialized on a T-shirt. Students earning an A in class, also earned a Knar shirt. He passed out graded tests from low to

high score, and the top scorer was named "Miss America." "You betchum, Red Ryder," a tag line borrowed from a comic book character, meant "yes."

"I really enjoyed teaching," Knar said. "I was never depressed. I would arrive on campus at 7 a.m., get coffee and hold office hours and talk math until 8 a.m. My first class of the day was Calculus One, and I enjoyed it so much – I would leave there fired up."

"He didn't look forward to vacation," Renee affirmed. "He looked forward to going back to school. It was an upper for him. And we had students over to the house for help in the evenings, all the time."

"I always had a notion I could teach algebra to anyone," continued Knar, who refused to limit class size and welcomed all interested students into his room. "I'd say, 'Come to class. I'll get you through and you'll find it's fun. It's like solving a problem. Anyone can learn and understand. If you don't, come and talk to me.'"

When asked over the years if he preferred teaching or coaching, Knar said he always responds: "You're redundant. Teaching is coaching and coaching is teaching... except that in calculus you don't have to run wind sprints."

Nurturing students and players as people drove both his classroom and his game. "I took an interest in them, and helped them with other stuff," Knar said.

Winning Ways

That nurturing was evident in his very first Fond du Lac team. Knar had no opportunity to recruit players before his arrival, so the Centaur basketball team was open to all interested young men enrolled on the new campus. In truth, the young players didn't have a lot of experience. They did have heart.

"Guys who never played before were on a winning team," Knar recalled. "They saw what a team could do if they followed the rules. We got very successful, with scores over one hundred a game. Joe Braun – one of the nicest, most mature guys, a straight arrow – had a look: 'You might be better than me. You might be able to jump

higher, shoot better. But you can't beat me, because I'm smarter than you.' He never said it out loud, but I could tell...."

That first team on the new campus – including coach, managers and cheerleaders – called themselves "The Family;" in recognition of the close bonds they developed under Knar's coaching.

In following years, Knar's recruiting standards strayed from convention. While other coaches looked for speed, jumping and scoring ability, "I wanted a citizen, a nice guy," Knar said.

Recruiting took him to games at schools large and small. His interest in high school players led many on a path to college they hadn't previously considered.

Knar's interest in good citizens was color blind during an era that had not yet embraced integration.

"I went to Chicago and Milwaukee and recruited black kids," Knar said simply. He started after receiving a call from a coach saying he had two good kids who needed to get out of the city to survive.

It was a tough time, and Knar's decision to integrate the team brought criticism and some violence. Finding housing for the young men was difficult. The first players were taken in by a "mixed marriage" Catholic-Jewish couple who understood ostracism.

"What those kids went through. . .and what they turned out to be," Renee Knar says. "They all turned out so well."

Once he had good citizens on the court, Knar unleashed their ability through "match-up" zone defense. It was a new concept at the time, one he taught to many other coaches. In fact, he found himself so busy explaining the defensive tactics, that he put off publishing a book – "Zone is not a Four-letter Word" – on the topic. He is considering returning to the manuscript in collaboration with his son, Richard, who also coaches.

While his ten championships in 13 years remain impressive, Coach Knar has additional statistics to be proud of: recovering from 47 broken bones suffered in a 1958



Former players coached by Richard Knar (center) were on hand to honor him at the naming ceremony for Knar Court on Aug. 7, 2010, in the UW-Fond du Lac Physical Education Building. Shown with Knar left to right are: Greg Doyle and Tim Schultz. Middle row: Kim Evans, Larry Stevenson, Ted Harvey. Back row: John Schultz, Joe Tasch, Scott Wittchow, Tim Brandt, Paul Rosenfeldt.

auto accident; raising six daughters and one son; enjoying 23 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and celebrating 50 years of marriage to Renee in July 2010.

Giving Back

In keeping with his enthusiastic character, Knar did not quietly retire to Arizona in 2000. Instead, he chose to continue giving to the campus where his personality and talents had flourished for decades.

"I don't have a lot of money, but I knew I'd like to endow a scholarship, somehow," Knar recalled. "So, I said, 'Let's have a roast...roast me.' And the roast money started the scholarship fund."

Donations from former students – including those Knar coached at high schools prior to his tenure at UW-Fond du Lac – and local fans and supporters continue to support the Richard A. Knar,

Sr. Scholarship, which is available annually to a continuing UW-Fond du Lac student studying in a math-related field and participating in athletics. Knar's influence on students and athletes persists through the scholarship, and by the recent naming of the field house floor.

"Since people found out [about the naming event], I've had calls and letters from students and players, comments from way back," Knar shared. "As somebody that cared for students and education...as I'm getting older, I tear up. I really do care."

That's a well-known fact to those that know it well.

To honor and acknowledge the role retired Coach Richard Knar played in your education or athletic career, make a donation to the Richard A. Knar, Sr., Scholarship Fund. Contact UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Office at (920) 929-1335 or uwfdl@uwf.edu.



Maggie Gellings, student services coordinator, recently graduated from the UW Colleges and UW-Extension Leadership Academy.

Through this two-year academy, participants are exposed to a variety of

learning activities related to major policy, management and leadership issues facing outreach and higher education in Wisconsin.

Gellings has been with the student services office at UW-Fond du Lac since 2005 and began her work at the campus as a graduate intern. She is an alumna of UW-Washington County and earned a BS from UW-Stevens Point and an MSE from UW-Oshkosh.



Paisley Harris, associate professor of history and women's studies at UW-Fond du Lac, has accepted additional responsibilities as coordinator of the UW Colleges Engaging Students in the First Year (ESFY) program.

As coordinator of the EFSY program, she will work with the 13 campuses of the UW Colleges across the state.

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Middle school tutoring centers for girls zero in on the math

UW-Fond du Lac students serve as tutors at the Girls + Math = Opportunities (GMO) tutoring centers at the three local middle schools in Fond du Lac. Shown at Sabish Middle School are seated left to right: Michelle Logan, Taylor Rushing, and Meagan Hanson. Standing are: Keara Brock; Nicole Gonyo, tutor and UW-Fond du Lac student; Shannon Doyle; Melissa Poltrock, tutor and UW-Fond du Lac student; and McKenna Gieschen.

Continuing Education offers enrichment programs for girls

The Fond du Lac GEMS (Girls Engineering Math Science) conference held Nov. 6 at UW-Fond du Lac attracted 230 middle school girls, and 97.7% of the participants indicated they would recommend the conference to a friend. The GEMS founding sponsors include Agnesian Healthcare, Moraine Park Technical College and UW-Fond du Lac.

A newer initiative of the conference is GMO (Girls + Math = Opportunities) funded by The Women's Fund of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation. The Women's Fund has granted \$7,500 to the GMO Tutoring Centers located at Sabish, Theisen and Woodworth Middle Schools.

GMO is a tutoring program that assists middle school girls with math homework and projects above and beyond what is provided through their daily curriculum. The tutoring centers started in October 2010 and are staffed by female college students, five from UW-Fond du Lac and one from MPTC. Attendance from the first semester of operation was:

Sabish Middle School: 62.17 contact hours

Woodworth Middle School: 49.8 contact hours

Theisen Middle School: 89.9 contact hours

Total contact sessions: 390

of girls served: 73

of teachers making referrals: 18

Leanne Doyle, UW-Fond du Lac continuing education director, says that according to 2006 PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) test results, the average score of U.S. 15-year-olds in mathematics in the United States ranked 24 out of 29 participating OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries.

"While the GMO is only one part of the solution, it's vital to helping those needing assistance the most," said Doyle. "Our nation's youth struggles with math and we – K-12 educators, parents, and others – need to help however we can. The Women's Fund has committed resources to helping the girls of Fond du Lac. They have also provided employment to college students. Ultimately GEMS and GMO are examples of how women, coming together, can collectively make a difference for girls."

Higher ed in FDL county hosts diversity workshop

In the second collaboration of its kind, the four institutions of higher education in Fond du Lac County jointly sponsored Diversity Matters Now!, a free interactive workshop featuring international peace workers Arthur Romano and Cherine Badawi, in October 2010 at Ripon College.

Students from Marian University, Moraine Park Technical College, Ripon College, UW-Fond du Lac and members of the community participated.

UW-Fond du Lac students were inspired to host and facilitate their own Diversity Workshop on campus in December 2010. The students who led the workshop were in the acting class taught by **Richard Gustin**, communication and theater arts professor.

Athletic Dept. highlights

Women's Basketball: the team was the Fond du Lac Tip-Off Tournament champions and qualified for the WJCAA state basketball tournament where they made it to the semi-finals. **Lee Watson** is the athletic director.

County Fair: Students, alumni, faculty and staff volunteered their time at a concession stand during the Fond du Lac County Fair in July 2010 to raise \$3,000 for the athletic department. This was a partnership between UW-Fond du Lac, B104.7 and the Noon Optimist club.



Livin' on the ledge summer program

In summer of 2010 the Children's Museum of Fond du Lac presented a program for area youth to learn more about the Fond du Lac community's strong tie to the Niagara Escarpment – "the ledge."

UW-Fond du Lac geography and geology professor and ledge expert **Dr. Michael Jurmu** explained the Niagara Escarpment to area children participating in the "Livin' on the Ledge" program. William Whitehead, anthropology lecturer, also taught a class during this program. Photo courtesy of Children's Museum of Fond du Lac.



UW-Fond du Lac students support United Way

Members of the UW-Fond du Lac Student Government Association raised \$310 in support of the Fond du Lac Area United Way through a parking space auction and costume contest. Presenting the check are front row, left to right: Gina Reynolds, Adam Lamonska, Amy Vaughan, Mollie Buerger, United Way Executive Director Tina Potter and Brian Cooper. Back row, left to right: Bradley Schmitz, Ilya Piyanzov, Lacey Bauer, Logan Huse, Geoff Murray, Kevin Neveau.



Professor Boos is "Students' Choice"

The UW-Fond du Lac Student Government Association (SGA) presented the 2010 Students' Choice Teaching Excellence Award to Dr. Eric Boos, philosophy professor. This award recognizes the professor who students feel has exceeded expectations and demonstrated exemplary teaching ability. Presenting the award left to right are SGA members Jeanna Zuelke, executive director; DeeDee Miller, vice president; Joe Kobs, senator; Dr. Boos; Ilya Piyanzov, diversity director; and Josh Tessner, president.



UW Regents hold meeting on campus

UW-Fond du Lac students and alumni were invited to have breakfast with the members of the UW System Board of Regents during a two-day Regents meeting held at the campus in April 2010. Josh Tessner, left, UW-Fond du Lac Student Government Association (SGA) president, met with Regent Jeffrey Bartell at the breakfast event.

Bergers pay it forward to honor loved one's memory

Berger Book Bag Fund established

By Monica M. Walk

Finances and faith spurred Judith Berger to create a unique fund that helps struggling UW-Fond du Lac students afford books. While providing monetary aid, the Berger Book Bag Fund also honors Judith's recently deceased husband, Joseph S. Berger, Jr., a long-time campus supporter.

"I want to honor Joe's memory," Judith said of choosing to endow an ongoing fund at a place of importance to her husband. "Because, in the Jewish faith, we remember those who have passed away with honor; they are not truly dead as long as people remember them."

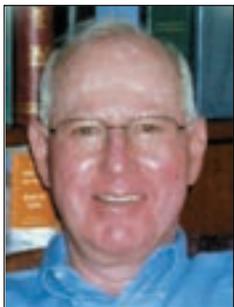
The spouse she calls her best friend died in May 2010 after an unusually long, five-year battle with mesothelioma, caused by exposure to asbestos. During that time, Joe also helped Judith recover from a brain aneurysm.

The Bergers knew from close family friends of varied age – lovingly referred to as "FRamily" – that college costs beyond tuition often strain or even break the budget of students pursuing higher education.

"I realize the challenges faced in paying for school," Judith Berger said. "Scholarships, grants and loans are available to pay for tuition, but most don't cover books, drafting supplies, art supplies or program fees. These are as essential as tuition."

All UW-Fond du Lac students facing financial hardship are eligible to apply for a need-based grant of up to \$300 per semester paid directly to the UW-Fond du Lac bookstore. Judith Berger's initial gift of \$20,000 to the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation endowed the Berger Book Bag Fund in perpetuity. Still, she plans to continue contributing to the fund to keep the account robust, and invites others who knew the Berger father-and-son team to also make memorial donations.

"This keeps money in the community and addresses a need," Judith Berger noted.



Joseph S. Berger, Jr.

Both her spouse, Joseph S. Berger, Jr., and his father, Joseph S. Berger, Sr., put great personal effort into the community and into bringing a college campus to Fond du Lac.

"Joe and his father lobbied," Judith Berger said, recalling how the Berger duo first invested in the community through the family's Elliott's Young Miss Shop and Berger's department store and then by developing apartment buildings, subdivisions and Forest Mall on the west side of the city. "They sat on the steps of the Capitol in Madison and talked to people as they came out. They spent a lot of time talking about the campus.

"They knew people moving in would question, 'What does Fond du Lac have to offer my family?'" and they saw the need for higher education," she said. "They wanted this to be a community where

people grow and stay."



Judith Berger holds a stack of heavy college text books in the UW-Fond du Lac Campus Store. A believer in paying it forward, she has endowed Berger Book Bag Fund in honor of her late husband, Joseph S. Berger, Jr., to help students in need with the cost of purchasing textbooks.

people grow and stay."

Joe Jr. served 20 years on the Board of Visitors, a voluntary citizens advisory board dedicated to supporting the mission of the UW Colleges campuses like UW-Fond du Lac. Judith served two years on the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation board in its early years; the campus Foundation office now coordinates the Berger Book Bag Fund.

A successful business woman both before and during her 22-year marriage to Joe, Judith Berger first ran executive recruiting firms before the couple together worked for Travel Leaders/Discovery World Travel designing and escorting tours. For 35 years, Judith has followed a philanthropic philosophy she describes as the "law of circulation." Essentially, what you give, or put into circulation, you get back in some form, usually from another source.

"Joe and I both believe that what you put into a community, life, relationships, is what you get back," Judith Berger said. "Give something away, and the universe doesn't tolerate a vacuum. I did not have the privilege of attending college, so we are paying it forward. Baby Boomers have had a lot; we've been blessed. Now it's getting harder for young people to attain their dreams. Pay it forward....we will invest in young minds...knowing we helped."

She considers the fund a "lagniappe," a Cajun word she favors, meaning "a little extra."

"The Berger Book Bag Fund is 'just a little extra' – maybe for a returning student raising a family and trying to improve life skills for himself and his children, or for a B or C student struggling and worried, working two part-time jobs, or a starving artist who needs supplies," she said. "No grades are required for this support. This is purely about need, for those who need a boost."

Berger Book Bag Fund makes a difference

Two students will receive support from the new Berger Book Bag Fund during the spring 2011 semester.

"The Berger Book Bag Fund plays an important role in helping deserving students meet their educational financial obligations," said retiring Assistant Campus Dean for Student Services Tom Martin. "In some cases, it can mean the difference in being able to pursue higher education, or, at the very least, in having their books for classes at the start of the semester.

"These awards will go a long way in helping students reach their educational and career goals," he added. "We are immensely grateful to Mrs. Berger for her significant generosity and concern for our students."

Applications for the Berger Book Bag Fund are available in both the Business and Student Services offices. The fund is intended to provide financial assistance to UW-Fond du Lac students who might otherwise have difficulty purchasing needed books and academic supplies. It is based solely on need; grades are not a factor in the application, which requires only student contact information, the amount of money requested, and a short statement about need and reason for applying for the grant. Completed applications are returned to the student services office and reviewed by campus and foundation representatives, evaluated on financial need.

"Each person who applies is reviewed on a case-by-case basis," Martin said. "Some variables that may come into play would include having significant financial need, difficulty in paying for books before financial aid arrives, challenges in meeting living expenses while attending college, difficulty in finding work or being able to work enough to meet financial obligations."

A maximum of up to \$300 per student per semester, provided as a credit at the campus bookstore, will be awarded toward the purchase of academic supplies. Martin anticipates that a minimum of two-to-four awards will be made annually.

"Having reviewed some applications already, in my opinion, this fund is serving the purpose Mrs. Berger hoped for - students who might otherwise slip through the cracks and choose to buy groceries for their family vs. books they desperately need to succeed in college," said Assistant Campus Dean for Administrative Services Bethany Rusch. "And, the fact that it honors Mr. Berger makes it even more special."

To honor the memory of Joseph S. Berger, Jr., donations may be made to the Berger Book Bag Fund of the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation. Contact the Foundation office at (920) 929-1335 or uwfdlfdoundation@uwc.edu.



Knar Golf Outing supports student scholarships

More than 50 golfers participated in the first Knar Golf Outing on Aug. 6, 2010, at Whispering Springs Golf Course in Fond du Lac. One of the four-somes included Rick Miller (left), Paul Krasin, Robert (Bob) Carew ('73-74, '75-76), and Scott Wittchow ('69-71).

The golf outing honored former UW-Fond du Lac Coach Richard Knar and was scheduled as part of a weekend of events honoring Knar including the Knar Court naming ceremony held on Aug. 7 at the campus (see related story on pg. 8-9).

Participating in the day's events were current and former UW-Fond du Lac students, UW-Fond du Lac faculty and staff, Knar family members, UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Board members and community members. Former players and students of Coach Knar came from as far away as Idaho for the weekend events.

The event raised \$9,000 which will be used to sponsor a scholarship and support general campus needs.

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Casey French
Tanya Gassner
Nathan Giebink
Nicole Gonyo
Cody Hawkins
Danielle Johannes
Emily Kiefer
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