Happy 2000 to History Alumni

Perhaps you have always assumed that you would enter the third millennium, but I could never have assumed that I would be sending you a millennial newsletter.

The saddest news for the older alumni would be the death last spring of Walker Wyman, ('32) in his winter home in Arizona. The news brought many memories back, beginning with his interviewing me on his back porch in early August, 1954. His kindness and support were something which I will always remember, and as a major reason for my staying at River Falls. Helen is doing nicely here; son Bryant, MD, was long at clinics at Mayo, Marshfield and U.W. General. Son Mark teaches at Illinois State Normal, Walker's undergraduate school, and writes books on American History in the Walker style.

If some of you would like to send us some of your memories of Walker, it would not be helpful to the Newsletter but to the university archives.

Phil Schneider, (BS/MS 1966) "My first year or two you and Dr. Wyman shared an office in South Hall. I was afraid of both of you, especially Dr. Wyman. It was more out of respect than anything else. He was an institution back in the 60's, let alone today. I had him for U.S. History in the fall and winter quarters of 1960-61 and remember how impossible his objective tests seemed to me. About 2 questions per page with 4-5 options, all about fifty words in length and a real challenge to say the least. I did quite well but remember that he spent much time on current events and especially the John Birch Society. I remember he had us do a paper on our "roots" and I completed a paper tracing German immigration and my families in particular. He wrote on my paper, 'German propaganda!' But I did receive an A for my efforts. I also visited with him in 1992 at an Award's Program at which my son, David, received the scholarship provided by the Wymans. After rereading the obituary, I noticed that I must have had him for class the last year he taught at UWRF.

The History Office

We are pleased to have kept Sue Voelker ('85). "I was fortunate to end another year with a holiday in beautiful Ireland! My children (Karl 12, Jack 8) and I traveled with my significant other (Sean Conway) to his home in Ennis. We enjoyed the beautiful west coast landscape from the town of Ennis north to Doolin (County Clare) and south to the Dingle Peninsula (County Kerry). In addition to visiting family and friends, we climbed a mountain, explored castles, coastlines and cemeteries, and enjoyed great traditional music sessions in the pubs."

Amber Gonske told of: "Vincent" A multi-media production/one-man show about the life of Vincent Van Gogh. This is a continuation of the "Beyond Broadway" series that UW-Barron County started in 1998, with the help of New York producer Robert Franz. The "Beyond Broadway" program has enabled students (like me) to work with professional directors, actors, and musicians from the USA, as well as Russia. We have even had the privilege to work with Kathryn Crosby, wife of Bing Crosby. Amber sings baritone with female barbershop quartets.

Jennifer Storlie: "I am a senior with a biology major and a chemistry minor, and I will be graduating this spring from UWRF. Next fall I plan to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota for either epidemiology or clinical laboratory science. My hometown is La Crescent, Minnesota.

Lynnae Howe, "I am a senior Agriculture Education major and Horticulture minor. My hometown is Ridgeland WI. I spent three weeks over winter break touring Mexico for a diversity class.

Liz Paone I am a junior in Broad Field Social Studies, secondary education. I have been working in the History Office for 2 1/2 years"

Josiah Mast: "I am a freshman with a history major and criminal justice minor. I played soccer for the school, starting at defense. I love movies, and the history of movies. I love sports and I am either watching them or playing them.

South Hall

Has every nook and cranny in use but it is still undecided which departments will have the privilege of using it. One plan has all administrative offices united in North Hall, Naturally we would like to be reassigned, but before anyone moves, the floors will have to be renovated.

Alumni Donations

We wish to thank the following for their recent contributions to this fund, which continues the increased support to deserving History majors.

History Scholarship
John & Ann Dowden
Donna M. and Kevin Drummond
Sigma Alpha, named me "Professor of the week," accompanied by a box of donuts.... Teaching techniques are possible today which were simply unthinkable in the past. I can put images of art works on the web and students can log in on any computer in the world at anytime of day or night and study the images....After I talk about a pope some students will ask how many popes there were and I can send them a list of all 275+ popes with brief biographies of each....Washington seems to have a never ending series of wonderful special art exhibits. A Mary Cassatt show was a strong surprise; the recent "Gold Age of Chinese Archeology 1974-1999" was an eye-opening extravaganza...Late this spring the National Gallery opened an outdoor sculpture garden. I think, one of the best outdoor sculpture installations in the world.

Kurt Leichtle ('86) "Actually we lead relatively boring but eventful lives. Kyle has been active in karate and boy scouts. He will be going winter camping in a couple of weeks. He has mastered Final Fantasy VII and VIII in the last year. Kee is finding second grade boring and frustrating, especially math. But cub scouts has its moments. He will complete his wolf by the end of the year. With luck we will be headed to Florida sometime this summer. The joys of tax rebates and sooner or later the promised raise. Karen is the CE director at the Methodist Church and produced and directed what she says will be her first and last Christmas pageant. It went very well so she maybe asked to make a return effort. I am considering applying to Dalkeith for the fall of 2001. Kyle will go with me to experience the Scottish schools. That and living in a castle would be a very interesting experience.

Betty Bergland ('90) is grateful to have moved into an office with a window this fall (Herb Cederberg's old office) and wonders how architects imagined windowless offices, at all. Still teaching twentieth century U.S. courses, she also offers this year the reconstructed History Seminar as a senior course. She continues her research on relationships between Norwegian immigrants and indigenous peoples, and her first publication on the topic will appear this spring in Norwegian American Studies. She is also presenting conference papers on the long-term project, including a presentation in April for the Vandringer Conference at the Minnesota Historical Society, and one at the historical sciences conference in August in Oslo, Norway.

John Ness ('98) returned this year to teach Introduction to Asia and Modern China. Some students suspect that he is a closet "Trekkie" comparing Vikings to "Ferengi" and western civilization's penchant to assimilate other culture to the "Borg." When confronted with this, Ness will only admit that in his desire to make history come...
alive for his students, he occasionally may resort to television metaphor. His research interests are in the cultural interactions of Han Chinese with the aboriginal population of the southwestern Chinese frontier during the early modern period (1350-1700). As such he tries to set aside a portion of every day translating classical Chinese documents. He is a member of the Association for Asian Studies and World History Association.

Last summer, he moved to western Wisconsin mumbling something about Minnesota being an experiment that failed. He lives on this side of the "river" with his artist wife and three children in a non-descript 1950s style rambler. Not surprisingly it does have an out-building suitable for his wife's studio.

David Riggs ('93): "I am happy to be home. I graduated from UWRF and then moved to Boulder, Colorado to continue my studies in American history at the University of Colorado. I returned from Colorado to work on completing the Ph.D. and to a consulting practice that affords me the luxury of financing these scholarly efforts. 1999 was a momentous year, professionally, I began teaching at UWRF and personally, in July, I married the most incredible woman. In addition to my wife Lynn, I have three children. Ellie, age 20, Claire, 18, and Michael, 16. They have taught me more than all my official schooling, and are glad to remind me that I have much more to learn. Currently, I am teaching two sections of American History 101, writing my dissertation, consulting a bit, and when the ice melts, I enjoy sailing on White Bear Lake and Lake Superior.

Faculty Emeriti

Stephen Feinstein ('69) & Susan. We had a retirement party for him and Herb, but he is more active than ever as Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Minnesota. He has come back for summer workshops.

Herb Cedarberg ('66) & Alice. "Two years ago I was elected to serve as Co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Jobs Now Coalition, a research, public education, and lobbying organization concerned with economic issues affecting working families. Before this past year, INC focused its activities on State matters, but this past October we were invited by the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., to help initiate plans to establish standards for a national living wage index as an alternative to the unrealistic and outdated poverty line. The Feds--representatives of the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Department of Health and Human Services--were interested, and in particular, the HHS guy in charge of producing the poverty line each cycle. An unexpected and unsolicited funding bonanza from a Daddy More bucks has helped us expand. The plan will come out in this Spring.

Sweet Alice and I were able to take time off to go on a Caribbean cruise over the holidays. We stopped in Honduras, Belize and Cozumel as well as Key West where I got to belly up to The Blind Pig, the bar where Hemingway soaked up more than his share of the booze. We plan Wimbledon again this year to watch Sampras continue his magnificent string of victories. No more Wimbledon, Colonial, or aerospace tours. That was last millennium stuff--but will I miss the fun!

Clyde Curry Smith ('65) & Ellen, "I turned 70 in December, amazed at the passing of a decade in retirement. Ellen and I continue to enjoy condominium living up on these heights overlooking the university and the city. She relishes her political role as member of the City Plan Commission, and I bask in the lesser light as member of the Library Foundation Board. Ellen's mother remains alive and well at Kinnic Long Term Care, approaching her 96th birthday. Harald finds fulfillment as project manager for Vality Technology Incorporated of Boston and as father to two growing girls with the expectation of a third child next July, Karen still seems to like a variety of basic courses for the university math department, and being mother not only to our older grandchildren but also to our youngest grandson.

Fairfax University award Clyde the degree of Doctor of Letters ed causa on 6 July. "Full acknowledgment appeared on several occasions of my doctoral work, and of the master work of my former students, Mary D'Andrea (MA 1981) and Thomas Klein (MA 1992) upon Leonard William King (1869-1919), Reginald Campbell Thompson (1876-1941) and their Excavation of Nineveh (1902-1905), in volumes by John Malcolm Russell (Yale University Press) and by the British Museum publication by me of the entry on King for the New Dictionary of National Biography."


Charles Graham: Pol Sci (1954-63) & Bonnie spent their usual stint of two months in Green Valley, Arizona, in February and March. After five years of renting we decided that this place is where want to expand our winter sun time and bought a small town house. This next winter, however Chuck is serving as president of the Rotary Club of Saint Paul and will have to be on hand most Tuesdays, with perhaps only a two week break. In June, we had a great trip to Ja-
pan and to Singapore, where we attended the International Rotary Convention.

Dick Swensen & Grace, ('55) returned to his college at Warburg, where they had met 50 years before. Our cousin in Norway had a special birthday which provided the reason for our going to Norway for a week at the end of October. We visited relatives, friends and musicians who have performed here. We were delighted that Linda could go along. Her Norwegian is excellent.

We are grateful for the trust for the preservation of the Kinickinnic River. They arranged for the safekeeping of 37 acres of land across the road from us. We frequently see an eagle come to fish there. More than 40 wild turkeys paraded across our lawn last week. A large red fox and a coyote have also made appearances. Squirrels still harvest all of the black walnuts before they can fall, but perhaps the most thrilling see are the graceful forms of the white-tailed deer.

Wayne Sukow & Carol wrote that Wayne had loss of vision, was determined to be a tumor pressing on the optic nerves. The tumor was benign “The best B word in dictionary!” His pre-surgery energy still hasn’t returned, however he is working full-time (at the NSF) and managing that well, so that’s progress. We accidentally baptized our new Camry a week or so ago. A can of frozen orange juice rolled underneath the passenger seat, got warm and exploded. Uffda! Carol also discovered that two Grandchildren are even better than one. The last time I talked to Cathy, Sylvia was singing a little Dutch song (taught by her dear ‘heit-dada’ in the background. [Heit-dada’ is ‘Dutchish’ for ‘daddy’].

Gary & Sally Shellman ('67-'69) wrote, “that daughter Tracy presented us with a grandson, and Sally has operated a “Home Day Care” since March. I led a tour group to Germany in September - wonderful.”

Gary will be on my panel for the German Studies Association in the fall, composed of soldiers who served in Germany and then became scholars of German History.

Maurine & Dick Brynildsen “I still have fond memories of disposing of the snow blower, snowshovel and lawnmower in June of 1993, and not nostalgia whatsoever for the Winters we left behind. We have had a few occasions when a snowshovel or scraper would have come in handy here at 4500 feet....My last radiation/ chemotherapy was on December 1, 1998. Feeling well enough to do the Peru trip was a great advance. While it was a fairly strenuous trip, I was able to do everything and we reveled in the ten major archeological sites. These were virtually untouched by tourism in the north, though the Inca sites around Cusco and Machu Picchu are swamped.

Africa (Kenya/Tanzania) was entirely different. The animal life is so profuse it overwhelms, and none seem to have much fear of human proximity as long as it is in a Safari Van with the poptop. I got wonderful closeups of lions, cheetahs, elephants, cape buffalos, giraffe, etc. Maurine added, “The birds and the flowers were gorgeous too, and a stop of Oldest Gorge was an added thrill. The sight of a pride of lions having just brought down and opened up a zebra is hard to reduce to words, but is an example of the experiences we had. The down side? the world’s most atrocious roads getting from park to park.

Mike Krukonos, wrote from Louisville, The political scene seems to be as disjointed as ever, and I don’t know whether it is worse having Ventura as governor or McConnell as senator. The prospects for the 2000 election don’t overwhelm me, but Gore would probably be a vast improvement over Bush. A new area of research on presidents in film took me to California last summer and I plan to make a short trip there before Christmas. I did a bit of acting in a college production of “The Tempest” and I enjoyed the experience so much that I’m almost thinking of retiring from teaching and jump into acting. My senior years can be spent on “the boards.”

Tim Ericson (’70) I don’t know if you heard but I started out 1999 with my first-ever car accident and my first-ever broken bone (right wrist) so typing is cumbersome and painful. I’ll drop you a "newssier" note when my brittle frame is healed.

Alumni News

Elliott Moeser (MA, ’72) The Alumni Office told me that he was going to create a scholarship for history majors. When I wrote to thank him, I got an impressive life history, “The establishment of an annual historical scholarship is a small way for me to repay the UW-RF and the History Department for the enjoyable and fruitful experience I had. I am now Superintendent of Schools for the Nicolet High School District in suburban Milwaukee. I have had this position for the past 10 years. I have also been on the Board of Directors for the Milwaukee Area Technical College for the past 6 years. Before coming to Nicolet, I was the Superintendent of Schools for the Duluth Public Schools for 4 years, 1986-90. I also served as Superintendent of Schools in Blackfoot, Idaho, from 1980-86. I earned a Specialist Certificate in Administrative Leadership form UW-Milwaukee and a PhD from the University of Minnesota in Educational Administration.

I am chairman of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Council on Economic Education. The Nicolet district serves the North Shore communities of Fox Point, Bayside, River Hills and Glendale. It is primarily a college preparatory district that sends between 90 to 94% of its students to college.

I have three sons, the oldest a senior at Madison College, the middle son is a freshman at Univ. Minn, my youngest a junior at our high school. My wife is a researcher at UW-Madison and is completing her PhD in Industrial Relations.
Steven Rohr (’82) “I saw on the Website that you were still there, and was moved to e-mail you because you had such a positive impact on my life...After several years as a logistics officer, supporting US government operations around the world, I managed in the early 1990’s to secure a job as a military analyst in the Intelligence Community, working on some of the most important issues and countries in the business. I have you to thank for nurturing and sustaining my interest in military history, which was pivotal in securing this position....How I got the job is an easy one--I answered a newspaper ad! Every once in a while, government agencies place ads in the New York Times, Washington Post, Mpls. Star and Tribune, etc., and the Star and Tribune is where I saw mine. After taking a written exam at the University of Minnesota, then passing a series of interviews, physical, and psychological exams, and a few other hurdles, I was hired. Nothing exotic, no furtive meetings in alleys or parking garages, just a lengthy and very bureaucratic process. So tell your students that the ads that certain exotic government agencies post in the paper do indeed result in real jobs. Although I occasionally prepare unclassified talking points for senior US government officials to use when briefings Congress, the press, or various and sundry groups of citizens, 99% of what I write is classified. In essence, I get paid to write articles for the equivalent of a daily newspaper, and occasional longer papers on the military forces and operations of the particular country that I follow. I also get tapped to give background briefings to the media, and to brief US government officials on developments in that country....We have hired almost 40 new military analysts off the street over the last couple of years, and other government agencies hired even more.”

Deborah Brown (’81) “I’m about to start my winter travels to see Minnesota Orchestra snowbirds in Florida, California, etc. Had a wonderful 2+ weeks of pleasure in Italy and London last fall. My fall vacations have taken me there three of the last four years. Next fall I’m thinking about the Middle East...Pursuits at the Minnesota Orchestra continue to be rich. My work as Director of Planned and Major Gifts puts me in contact with wonderful people and I am grateful for such a satisfying career experience.

Family-wise, my mother is still with us, despite starting her 8th year with ovarian cancer (nearly unheard of).

My pleasure this weekend was a visit from a friend from Milan. She comes to the States every January for a conference and stops to see me. I return the favor when I’m in Italy in the fall. I keep telling her that she should visit when we have leaves, but her business scheduling precludes this. Guess we’ll take what we can get since someone else is paying for it (smile)!

Phil Colpitts (’80) graphic designer/teacher in the Cities, called to get my Email and mentioned that he had been off cigarettes for a year and has no longer any urge. He is preparing for the 10 kilometer race in River Falls and is now able to practice daily by running that long. He was pleased to have seen Cederberg and Alice at a great performance of Sweeney Todd at the Guthrie Experimental.

Flint Johnson (’95) filled in for Dr. Buschen’s history classes part of the spring semesters, and yet was able to fly back and successfully defend his doctoral thesis at Glasgow about King Arthur. He is teaching this year at Stout.

Kristi Fogtman sent us fancy coffee: whole bean Ethiopian, Guatemalan Finca Dos Marias, and Organic Sumatran Reserve. We will have to clean the department coffee maker to get the full effect.

Marla Sorensen (’76) described first her five dogs. Our oldest cats are ten now. They were all strays who wandered in. The vet bills are big some times, but they need good health care too. I think Herb will be starting the history reading group in February again. Everyone is looking forward to it. We’re going to be reading some Wisconsin history and some immigrant fiction.

Ron Swanson (’81) is ever more known as Lucky Ron for his continuing successes as his family historian. “My father and I have been gathering materials to research his Navy flotilla from WW II. Their reunion group is putting together a comprehensive history of these amphibious units and they have asked me to be a consultant of sorts to help with the publishing. It will be a fun project with lots of photographs and personnel recollections in addition to the actual history of these boats.”

Sister Jane (Winkler, ’72) “My voice activated computer has become much more user-friendly toward me. However this friendship has not come without much frustration, sweat and tears, along with countless hours of endless hands on practice...It really makes me excited to realize that my ability to communicate again has now actually become a reality! In August there was still another surprise in store for me. Through the help of my doctor, the approval of Medicare and the service or the Midwest Medical, I obtained an Amigo scooter! It has enabled me to get to places that were previously very difficult for me. Presently, I am using it to go up to the hospital three days a week for physical therapy and it is just great! It gives a whole new sense of independence and I love it...I am sure you can tell I am flourishing in every way! Daily my body is still physically challenged by my progressing MS, CP, vision loss and the newly discovered finding of a developing spur on my right hip. However, my soul still soars free while my heart forever goes on singing its song of ‘self’ in praise of this marvelous, magical GIFT of LIFE, which is so pre-
ciously fragile and yet so steadfastly enduring that it perseveres until the end. Each day I wonder how life could get any better and then God shows me, allowing me to live each new moment to the FULL! I couldn’t be happier!"

Edward M. Jacobson Optometrist in Rice Lake, WI, responded generously to Rich Peterson’s quest for information about the Battle of Gallipoli.

Bruce Neuenfeldt (‘71) “Greetings from Stanley, sorry for the abrupt end to last year’s dialog. They were tearing the place apart and putting things together and things went haywire. They still are, but so far the computers and E-Mail are working. The verdict is still out on whether for better or worse. I think it is time to walk away from this into semi-retirement, things seem to be getting worse rather than better. On the subject of Voodoo Economics. What about wages falling 30% behind the cost of living over the decade of the 1980’s putting the mothers of America to work outside of the home to keep and improve their standard of living, thus warehousing the children in daycare. Wasn’t the firing of the Air traffic controllers the opening salvo in a war on organized labor which had traditionally kept wage rates up and the decade which saw the longest time without a raise in the minimum wage since the law was passed. Doesn’t that plus the women’s desire for equality create a prime reason for the growth in latchkey children?

On the other subject: Didn’t FDR back the Japanese into a corner in late November of 1941 that pushed them to war? PETERSON: I THINK SO. Isn’t Pearl Harbor the only logical target in the Pacific that will do that kind of damage to the Pacific Fleet? BUT THEY MISSED THE CARRIERS. Isn’t Sunday the most logical day because military personnel are either in church or hung over. MOSTLY THE LATTER. The History Channel did a thing on Pearl which really made it sound like we knew even down to Marshall’s prolonged horseback ride. I DON’T THINK SO...If the Russia thing is going to destroy Hitler why does the US spend so many human and material resources on the invasion of Europe? HITLER IS STILL REGARDED AS THE BADDEST OF THE BAD. Why not put it all against Japan, achieve an earlier victory there and come at the Germans from the east? RUSSIA COULD HAVE TAKEN EUROPE.

Eric Moore (‘98) came back from his doctoral studies at Temple to talk to my History 327. I shall be there, as will a guest of mine. my better half so to speak... she wants to see me actually in a classroom I suppose.... World War II... ever an adventure... I suppose the latest scholarship can include some of my latest scholarship as well as others... I have come into so many interpretations of WWII of late... but all are so very American despite their final argument... in many ways I am still formulating my own argument in its final stages, but I have come to the conclusion that simply too much crucial data was neglected or outright omitted from the German-Soviet aspects that simply force reconsideration of the war as an issue that I find myself begging a crack at the archives in Europe... which if you could give me a list sometime, perhaps when I get there of your most scholarly profitable archives, that I would be most grateful... any ways I must go... long day, early morning... and the joy of Guns, Germs and Steel to read....

Paul Haugen (‘98) I had 102 European History with you when I was a freshman, and during my last semester at River Falls I had Intro. to Asian Civilization with you That was over a year ago now. But I told you I was joining the Peace Corps. Well, I did. The Peace Corps is a very selective process and it took me a year to be assigned to Poland. Now I am teaching English to high schoolers in a technical school in Radzymin (25 km north of Warsaw) that prepares kids for jobs in agriculture. That is why the Peace Corps is here, to teach students English from a native speaker (there are also some here as environmentalists). But I am also part of the last group of Volunteers who will be in Poland... It’s a very exciting time to be here in Poland. Ten years removed from communism and people are adjusting quickly to capitalism and an open market economy. It’s amazing how many stores and shops are here when 10 years ago people have told me there were still bread lines that sometimes lasted for days. It’s a sobering experience.

Last Tuesday, Hillary Clinton came to the Marriott Hotel in downtown Warsaw and the Peace Corps asked if I wanted to go and see her. So I went and waited for 45 minutes along with some of my Peace Corps friends and other Americans who were in the room. Then the American Ambassador, Mr. Daniel Fried, came out and talked about how he was glad he was part of the American community in Poland, and then Mrs. Clinton gave a speech for 15 minutes about how Americans are a big part of Poland’s development and to keep up the good work. And then she was out the door. And I felt almost embarrassed because there were some Polish people in the room as well. The thing is, I’ve made some friends here in Poland, and we’ve had some "political" discussions. And the impression I’m getting from most Polish people is that they don’t quite trust us. America has let them down in the past. I’ve had discussions with Polish people and them asking me why America, after World War II, stepped aside and let Stalin and the Communsists come in and made life hell for Poles for nearly 50 years. I don’t know how to respond to that. Some even think that if Russia or even Germany (yes, some think German could do it again one day) attacked Poland again, that the U.S. wouldn’t do anything about it... I’ve even had this analogy: that America is like a nice un-
icle for Poland (meaning we come here with American money and companies and job opportunities), but they never know when this uncle is going to suddenly leave and leave them stranded, just like for 50 years under Communism. Other than that, my impression of Poland has been wonderful. Yes, there are a lot of people who sell fruits on the side of the road, but that is charming. What isn't charming is walking in Warsaw and seeing the homeless on the streets kneeling with signs for money or food. Most of them are gypsies that most Polish people look down upon. haugen@sterz.ie.radzynminids.pl

Reuben Herfindahl (*96). I took several classes from you including WWI to WWII (which convinced me to change my major to History Ed), WWII to the Cold War, Asian History and several others. I really enjoyed my time in your classes. Lately, I have been thinking about finishing up my degree. Not that I would give up my job, I'd just like the satisfaction of having it and I'm not one that likes to leave things undone."

Bruce Barkley wrote Feinstein: "You did a great job destroying the USSR, but with their system of government and mindset, it was bound to happen. I made that prophecy while I was still in high school. You don't even want to hear my prediction for where the US is going if we don't change our ways, it's not very nice. I was about 30 years old when I took your class. I had put off taking history until my senior year because I had such a bad experience with learning history in high school that I was afraid I wouldn't do well at it. Finally I came to the point that I had to get it done to graduate and signed up in your class. At first I was afraid I had made a mistake. You were so intense and went through the material so fast that if I bent over to pick up a dropped pencil that I could miss 100 years of history. One of the things we know about reading skills is that when reading speed increases, so does comprehension. In your class I discovered it worked that way with the spoken word too. I could tie things together much better and my comprehension was increased because of your lecture technique. If I had taken that class when I was a freshman, I could easily have turned out to be a history major. I tell people about how your class altered what is now my own history. I speak to them about how an enthusiastic kid, with a love of history, helped enrich my life. I think you did a terrific job... Today I love history (especially modern US) and belong to several historical societies. I spent last summer's vacation 'in search of' and had a great time. One of the highlights of my 5000 mile, 2 week vacation, was spending an evening in Oklahoma with one of the grandsons of the last war chief of the Comanche. As I shared dinner with this 86 year old recounted the stories his grandfather (Quanah Parker) had told of his life and the fall of the Comanche. This was a very different account than anything I had ever read - speaking of genocide...We moved to Texas in 1980. We made the decision to move here after spending a few weeks while doing some historical investigating...The last war chief of the Comanche was a cousin of mine and what I have uncovered is an awesome story that's never been told in its entirety. I think it's got screen play written all over it. Interestingly that you are with the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Most people would connect that name with what was manifested out of the Nazi mindset, but it has been going on for much longer than that. The saddest thing is that it still continues. I think God must look down on us and speak in a voice we don't hear, saying "What's wrong with you people? Don't you get it? Don't you know that I created you to have loving relationships with each other...and me? Don't you know you were meant to be treasures to each other?"

David & Lani Madis (*61) about their store in Eau Claire. "Kara, Kelly and David are a great asset at the store. They keep selling stuff, but the shelves never look empty. I think elves are working overtime at night. Chip flew in from CA to a training at 3 M, hopes his work will take them to Hungary next year. Dave spent a lot of his free time trap shooting on multiple teams. It is very hard to find new places for all the plaques and trophies he has gleaned over the years. No tales of squirrels or deer this year. One "tom" was a frequent visitor for two years and bossed the deer in the yard, and hooked up with 2 other toms. After seeing me do a lot of outside work, they became curious and would come within spying distance. Finally, as I tooted seed to our feeder, they would dance only a few yards into the woods. Now, I softly whistle to them (No talking allowed) they run up to escort me to the feeder. The price is they get some seed and keep the other wandering hens and toms in their place. The boss turkey of the three also takes it upon himself, if I am late, to fly to the top of the feeder and scoop out seed to the hens waiting below."

Mike Dodge & Catherine (*59) "I'm afraid there won't be one of my windy, self-indulgent letters this year. All such effort is going into my novel, which is taking far longer than I anticipated. I'm a sprinter who some how entered a marathon. I've got about 170 solid, polished to a fare-thee-well pages, which must put me less than halfway to the finishline. I love what I've got. Yes, I may be delusional, but how else can an elderly unknown first novelist labor on?...The most memorable occurrence was Catherine getting run over by a bicycle on a public sidewalk in Duluth. (You know how crazed those cyclists are?) She's fine except for a scar on one arm. I did see Bruce Foster for the first time in 35-40 yeas and discovered he's the proprietor of an Arts Center in Hammond. Beautiful!"
Dave Peterson ('80/MA'91) & Pat Owen “I never believed the kids would be more ‘work’ when they got older, but have learned otherwise this year. Eleanor is now in Jr. High, making the Honor Roll, serving on Student Council, continuing with the French Horn and piano, still in Girl Scouts. Michael is in 3rd grade and started out well, getting his first “Outstanding” report card in spelling. I have had my hours increased to 30/week. Woodbury continues to be “out of control”! I did have the pleasure of producing a musical slide show this spring for Cederberg and Feinsteine. It was a lot of fun- so much fun, in fact that David had me do one for the church’s anniversary. But nothing can beat good old UWRF.

Kristi J. Fogelman: sent us fancy coffee: whole bean Ethiopian, Guatemalan Finca Dos Marias, and Organic Sumatran Reserve. We will have to clean the department coffee maker.

Karla Taylor ('79) wrote me that there was nothing new in her life, and enclosed a story about DNA being used to solve historic questions, beginning with Louis XVI, the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Karla knew of other puzzles that DNA scientists might solve.: Kaspar Hauser, John James Audubon, Thomas Jefferson, the bones in the Tower of London and whether they were killed by their uncle Richard III.

Michael P. Peterson ('76) & Kathy had a spring of travel, with his having a Fulbright Scholarship in Vienna, with lectures in Berlin, Hannover and Munich. A side trip to Goteborg picked up a new Volvo and the whole family traveled through France and England. Daughter Sarah won a trip to Washington with a prize essay on the last queen of Hawaii. He will speak at the retirement banquet of Carol Barrett this spring.

Jim DeMarce ('61) & Virginia wrote that the youngest child, Josie had finished Oberlin and is working at a mental health center awaiting graduate school options. The fall vacation to see Karl’s large house for the ever-expanding supply of pets was canceled by the exigencies of working for your friendly federal government. Jim’s year in the Division of Coal Mine Workers’ Compensation began with a scramble to get its computer systems ready for Y2K by March 31. “Why,” you may ask,” “did you need to be ready nine months early?” Because the President’s OMB said so. The Division hustled to get a second attempt at a complete rewrite of the program regulations ready for OMB review prior to publication for comment in the Federal Register. The review is supposed to be completed in no more than 90 days; in fact OMB held them for one day less than six months. Now, the coal industry is busily complaining that the proposals, if adopted, will drive them into bankruptcy. Life in our reinvented Federal Government remains an unending source of joy and satisfaction for all personnel--we stopped being civil servants when Jimmy Carter decided to make the bureaucracy more responsible to our elected officials--as we bask in the glow of what promised to be the “most ethical and efficient” of all Administrations. Virginia doesn’t even want to talk about the Bureau of Indian Affairs, so she won’t! To give you an example of why, last week the Assistant Secretary signed off on a recommendation which the Branch had submitted in July of 1997; another recommendation submitted in November of 1998 is still held up. Our Government Performance Review Act evaluation is not based on the number of recommendations we send but on the number of decisions that are actually made, so you can guess how “productive” we are considered to be. Jim added a few words, “I thought everyone knew that Elumwood is where Cady Creek flows in the O’Galley River.”

Francis Sagert ('85) & Dawn “Our cat Allison passed away in January of leukemia. I told the vet if another healthy cat was to be put down, call me, After 3 months, Dawn and I decided to let Emma pick out some kittens at the humane society. We picked Buster and Tashie. The day I was to pick them up, a female Allison’s age had lost its owner to death. Her name is Shadow, she was love at first sight. Emma takes on the role of “small adult” well. Feeds the cats, puts towels and clothes away from the laundry, loads the dryer for dad, puts dishes on the table. She has the concept of the past, today, and tomorrow and has a feel for what “Gone to live with Jesus” means. Amazing at 2 1/2 years old. Right now dad is pining in thousands of miles and hundreds of hours on the road. His stationery Super 8 Motel, Manitowoc.

Carole Kettner ('81 & ’87) & John Peters in June we went to Europe and found Luxembourg to be a very beautiful and friendly country. Then we did some hiking in the Swiss Alps, spent a few days in Vienna and worked our way through Germany visiting friends and relatives. That is definitely the best way to see Europe. We sampled the best of Europe’s coffees and the best of Germany’s beers. A high school classmate had married a German and has been living near Hannover, They visited cousins in Nürnberg.

Ken Peterson ('71) After his last joke of the millennium, about our president, Ken spoke of positive and family matters: Leann did her world tour last summer, 30,000 miles in 8 weeks and has finished her first semester of college. Jean and I are still working here we were last year, just a year older. Kristin and Cory are getting ready to build a house. To celebrate the big 50 I went skydiving last fall. I hope to visit friends in Kenya in March assuming the country is stable enough to go. Things are falling apart rapidly there and my friends there are ready to leave on a moments notice.

Chris Gildemeister ('89/MA '93) I believe the River Falls experience affected me far more deeply than I ever knew (or was it, as Sinclair Lewis would have it, merely my parochialist
Midwestern background?), in that it taught me that the purpose of schooling was to learn; the purpose of teaching is to help others learn. It's not to show off how much YOU know -- obviously you know more, that's why you are the teacher -- but to help others know and understand. I longed for the Peterson parties, with food one enjoys eating, company one can relax with, and most of all genuine hospitality.

I never used to believe that there really was a class structure in the United States; I do now -- or at least, there's one in Eastern universities! If you detect a streak of anti elitism in my writing, you are correct. In fact, it is one of the possibilities which I am considering for my dissertation. In my recent studies, I have found less and less to admire in the American Progressives. We've never had real Communism in this country (certain hot-headed freshman editorialists' opinions to the contrary) nor real Fascism either; but we have had a sort of combination of both in Progressivism. I know that's rather strongly stated, but it's a beginning point, anyhow. (Have you ever seen the delightful photograph of poor Phil LaFollette standing in the darkened auditorium before his banner of the "Progressive Party"? Looks like it was posed by Riefenstahl.

Mike ('79) and Terry Rehan Just received the latest newsletter and feel its time to tell you what's happened in my life since graduating. I always enjoy keeping up with the History department. Since graduating, I worked at Honeywell in the Military Avionics Division as a Production Supervisor for 15 years before being laid off. Once the Gulf war ended, demand for our products went down. Since then I have been a Production Supervisor for Akzo Nobel Ink Division, so luckily I've been able to keep employed. After graduating, I traveled to Jordan to visit all my relatives. What an experience that was, right during Syria's invasion of Lebanon. I married in March 1983 to Terry, and we have a wonderful family: 3 children and 1 grandson. We have lived in Andover, Minnesota for the past 9 years, have a great big lot for the kids to play in a great country setting. I've done a lot of my own carpentry work adding on quite a bit to the house. We've also done foster care for the past 10 years. We've had over 40 different children stay with us, anywhere from overnight to 2 1/2 years. Many times we've had up to 10 kids at once staying with us. We've found this very fulfilling.

Mike McLaren ('91) and Joanie moved to the near north side of St. Paul and were rewarded by having their house burglarized. He is working creatively as graphic designer, but they took time off for a Caribbean cruise.

Mark Ledbetter ('91) gave a sobering lecture to my Great Ideas class about the growing violence, even in Hopkins, MN, where he is a guardian of law and order. An injury to his shoulder got him a temporary assignment as detective. When he has a spare moment he informs me of the reality of police work. He invited me to join him on one of his shifts, which I will when it is not so cold.

Karl Gandt ('81) and Barbara sent a lovely German Christmas card and added, "We bought a house about a year ago, small, two bedroom. We're trying to learn home repair now."

Roger Vanous ('64) and Joyce wrote that they have completed the 25th year of their honeymoon. She is still with Penney's and he manages for Einstein Bros. Bagels. In July we were delegates to the Iowa-Minnesota Conference of our church in Charles City, Iowa. They say that getting there is half the fun, and it was for us. We had to detour around flooded highways getting there. When we went home, we left in a downpour. Those who waited a little longer were cut off from the Twin Cities by flooded highways. In September I went to the Promise Keepers' Conference in Kansas City.

Roy Gieseker is still in Green Bay and driving for the bus for the Red Cross. He takes seniors to medical appointments, and adult day care.

From the desk of C. C. Smith

Jim Rapp ('71) visited in May, with his wife Alice from Eau Claire, and he reported on his productive life in retirement as author of dramatic versions of biblical narratives. "I have been kept busy as usual as treasurer of our church and as drama director. We staged a premier performance of my two-act drama "Daughters of Jerusalem." We are gearing up for the production of a musical "One Voice" to done this coming Easter... We hope that the season will not pass before you have been imbued with its promise of Peace, Joy and Love, Great gifts embodied in God's gift of a son. And we hope that in the new millennium our paths will cross yours frequently."

Peter Jonas ('82) visited for a week in June, is currently Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain, MI, focused on Old Testament Theology.

Kevin Trafford visiting English student in the 70s, wrote from Croydon, England: "My family group are well and avoiding the ravages of the current influenza epidemic, which is not only testing the vulnerable but the apparent indifference of the mighty spin doctors of the Government...I have some annual leave to catch up on which may go into decorating and fixing jobs around the house. Additionally I have been given time to unofficially acknowledge that I have been ever-present at work while colleagues have disappeared with stress related conditions and Winter ailments. Looking after people has gotten so bureaucratic that my forte for being effective with the severely mentally ill is being lost. Years ago I would have never guessed that I had a facility for this type of work which sadly many psychiatrists have great difficulty with. Talking and being with psychotic people can
cause workers so much anxiety even though they somehow volunteered for it. Is it analogous to professors not liking students?"

Mike Higgins ('71) I continue teaching at Rothschild Elementary school, this being my 29th year there. I come home each day exhausted but still find some pleasure and enjoyment in my work. During the summer, I worked toward completing the home renovation...I still read widely and enjoy classical music.

Philip ('68 & MA '74) & Elaine Idsvoog sent a charming picture of the wedding of daughter Jennifer. Phil is still principal of the P. J. Jacobs Junior High School. He is involved with county politics and loves to lift weights, golf and ride his motorcycle. Elaine works at the high school in the record and scheduling department and also enjoys motorcycling.

Diane Raddatz ('69) wrote she had little time for anything but her work and her horses. "The new system at work was supposed to cut overtime out but is obviously not working. Stress is way up and there have been a few incidents that are related to that stress." She finds relief in her 5 horses, although some think her crazy to keep so many.

Wayne Funk. "I've served my two terms on the Foundation Board so I don't get to River Falls as often as I once did. If I don't work during the holidays I'll give you a call. PS If you're not in town, don't answer your phone.

Future Things
The Advanced Placement U.S. History review day will be probably Thursday, April 28th
Leichtle will help with the Stillwater Workshop "Big Woods, Big Plains," which is on and running for April, probably the first weekend.
In the Summer-Bergland will offer African American (207) the first session; Leichtle will offer 489/689 Topics in History: Film and World War II during the second session.

Again our Invitation
From all the reference to animals in our reports, one might infer that we have been a vet school, but I choose to think that our alumni have a great reverence for life and concern for others. As part of that is a respect for the lives of the past and a desire to keep that past alive so that our children and grandchildren will have a future.

It would probably be reassuring to visit us to see that despite all the modern technology the essence remains the same, a desire to share what is most valuable to us, the human experience. It might also reassure you to observe that these modern students look and behave much as you did. Ledbetter and McLaren sat in on a class and observed that they could raise questions and challenge interpretations. All of you know more, but these young people have to start someplace too.

ENP

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