Happy 2001 to History Alumni

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

The World of electronic communication may be making an annual newsletter obsolete. You can at the click of a mouse get the report of the History Page as prepared by Dr. Buschen, including pictures in living color. As a statement from the departing world of Gutenberg and papyrus, we offer the following.

To begin at the top: We now have a lady Chancellor, Dr. Ann Lydecker, who has been making lots of good moves, perhaps because she was raised like many of you on a dairy farm.

The History Office

Sue Voelker ('85). "Ending the year in River Falls had an ordinary feel compared with its start in the incredible countryside of Ireland. The Irish scenery has inspired me to follow up on life-long interests in photography, art and nature. My boys are doing well. Jack (9) is a good student who is most interested in athletics and art. Karl (13) continues to excel academically, is on the school newspaper staff, plays percussion and thoroughly enjoyed a lead role in the River Falls Community Theater's production of C. S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." My significant other (Sean Conway) spent much of the year working with his Irish flutes, guitar and ballad voice in St. Paul, Omaha and St. Louis and traveled home to the west of Ireland after Christmas."

Tara Boldthen: "This is my first year at UW-RF and it has been very exciting getting to meet new people. I have met many great people here and have had the chance to work for the History Department. Besides being busy with school work to become a History teacher I have also joined the track team here. I will be traveling with the track team to California over Spring break which will be exciting because it will be my first time on an airplane ever!! I hope to continue working for the History Department and meeting a lot more people throughout my education here."

Liz Paone "I am a senior with a Broad Field Social Studies Secondary Education major, and I will be student teaching in the fall. My home town is Mounds View, Minnesota." She was too modest to say so but she is a very efficient worker. I gave her syllabi and handouts to run off, collate and staple and she brought back so much so quickly that I needed a box and a car to get it all to South Hall.

Chris Borman: "I'm a sophomore History Major and International Relations Minor. I'm from Chippewa Falls, a peaceful and beautiful place to grow up from the hustle and bustle of city life. I'm an active member of the Zeta Sigma Chapter of Theta Chi fraternity and was recently elected its librarian. It is the only alcohol free fraternity which allows us to explore alternatives to alcohol. I may go to graduate school in International Relations or History and teach at a community college."

Monica Manske: 4th year, will <hopefully> graduate in 2 years, English Education with a minor/certification in History. Future Plans: marry my British fiancé, Tony, (whom I ramble on about all the time) and live in England for a few years as a supply (substitute) teacher. England is in desperate need of these. People find generally interesting: 1. I have steel rods attached to my spine due to about 4 operations for my Scoliosis. 2. I'm a huge Elvis fan. Mantra: That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger...and hopefully funnier."

South Hall

Peterson has been delighted to have every class in South Hall and he can use the walk back and forth. That pleasure will last through the Spring Semester, and then the building will be closed for a year in order to replace the flooring, this time properly. Thereafter the building is planned for the new School of Business.

Alumni Donations

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

Charlotte Farago
Kristi Fogtman
Wayne Funk with matching grant from the Ford Motor Company
Gordon Hendrickson
Frederick Olk
Craig and Diane Zabel
John E & Ann M. Dowden
Michael W. Higgins
Douglas L. Patin
David B. & Patricia J. Peterson

All donations go to students, who are perhaps as deserving as you were. Last year's recipients were:

History scholarship:
Stacey L. Bostwick - River Falls $400
History Junior
Lisa M. Plekenpol Shakopee, Brd Field History - Jr. $400
Kurt Leichtle (’86) “The past year has been relatively active. I have continued to work on the local and national levels with the Advanced Placement U. S. History program. The student review day will be April 26th. Last spring I presented a paper at the American Culture Association meeting on Images of African-Americans in magazines of the Reconstruction era. I have been asked to serve on the board of the Institute of Minnesota Archeology. The rest of the Leichtles are doing fine. Karen is the Education co-ordinator at church and Kyle is an 8th grader thinking about what car dad will buy him. Kee is wrestling with the idea of homework.”

Betty Berglund (’90) continues her work on immigrant/Indian relations. This past summer she and a colleague presented a collaborative and comparative study of Norwegian and Swedish immigrants and Indians at the 19th International Congress of Historical Sciences in Oslo, Norway. Currently, she is guest curating an exhibit at Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa focused on Norwegian immigrant portrayals of Native Americans. Next fall she will offer a course on U.S. immigration history, the first time for such a course at UW-RF.

John Ness (’98) returned yet again this year to teach Introduction to Asian Civilization and The History of Modern Japan. In response to his effort to make history come alive for his students, some have noticed that he has made efforts to upgrade his popular culture metaphors from television reruns to Hollywood movies. While this may be an improvement, many hope that by next year he actually references first run productions rather than ten year old videos. His research interests continue to be in cross-cultural interaction of Han Chinese with the aboriginal population of the southwestern Chinese frontier during the early period (1350-1700). Most recently he is working on a project with Leichtle to develop a summer program designed to introduce international studies to high school students and their teachers. He has worked to upgrade Ed Peterson’s knowledge of Asia and much else. He spends his private time with his artist wife and three children. His wife Karla most recently had a very successful show at Concordia University in St. Paul. They have both been working hard upgrading a farm house near New Richmond.

David Riggs (’93): “This past fall will probably go down in history as one of the most fascinating periods of American political theater in my lifetime. The election of 2000 saw political junkies of all stripes crawl out from under the woodwork. In October we held a joint political science and history club meeting to talk about the presidential election. I predicted that at least 102 million votes would be cast and that Al Gore would squeak by with a victory. Well, one out of two isn’t bad. The student senate asked me to moderate a mock presidential debate in November and I was impressed with both the high turnout and the quality of the debate itself. On top of all this was the overwhelming interest students in my classes showed in politics. It definitely made my first full-time semester
of teaching at River Falls memorable.” Also for his students. He also agreed to teach Origins of Western Civilization and his class filled up even faster than his colonial history.

**Faculty Emeriti**

**Stephen Feinstein** (’69) & Susan. returned to join us at another retirement party at Betty Bergland’s. He travels about the world for his Holocaust workshops. She remains active as audiologist at the Children’s Hospital. Son Steven with his MBA travels the world, as to China to assist in its computerization. Daughter Rebecca is on her way to becoming a doctor, after study in Israel.

**Herb Cederberg** (’66) & Alice. For the third year after retirement, Herb is coming back to teach Economic History. “I continue to serve as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the JOBS NOW Coalition. Our biennial cost of living in Minnesota study is slated for publication in April and I have just completed a project to create a network of economic lobbying groups in all fifty states committed to getting the poverty line dumped in favor of a self-sufficiency standard. It will take years, unfortunately, but even Governor Ventura has asked us to advise him on labor issues relating to his current budget proposals. We are growing nicely. But so is our budget. Alice and I just got back from a snorkeling vacation at Grand Cayman and were all set to go to the Super Bowl but after the 41 to zip drubbing at the hands of the Giants, I’m glad we are not going. Alice is taking an early retirement at the end of this school year, so we plan to go the Australian Open next year.” He is working in a group to help battered women and abused children.

**Clyde Curry Smith** (’65) & Ellen, “Ellen & I continue to enjoy condominium living on the Gulfview Heights overlooking the city. She relishes her role as member of the City Plan Commission and I bask in the lesser light of the Library Foundation Board. Harald finds fulfillment as project manager for Vality Technology of Boston and as father of two growing girls, 4 and 2, who were joined by a brother on the 16th of July. Karen still likes being a mother to our older grandchildren 11 and 9, and our two younger 4 & 2. Clyde had his entry for Leonard Williams King accepted for the New Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford U. Press. He has worked with a colleague at Yale in the preparation of a “Dictionary of African Christian Biography,” contributing the master list to be included in the volume on the first millennium.

He was delighted that **Mary Magnan D’Andrea** (MA, 1981) has brought additional private documentation and a full biography proceeds apace. Scholars around the world are now citing her master’s dissertation on King. Clyde prepared a preface for the book on King Arthur by **Flint Johnson** (’95), who got his PhD in Glasgow in 1999. Clyde was also pleased to read **Roxi Kringle’s** (’83) Master of Sacred Theology thesis at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. She is married to Rich Waldraff and serving as pastor in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Clyde attended in Eau Claire the drama of the biblical figure of Jepthah, written and directed by **Jim Rapp**, who played and sang the central character, as the Director of Drama for the Evangal Fine Arts of the Evangal Assembly of God.

**Charles Graham: Pol Sci (1954-63) & Bonnie.** “In the forty-ninth year of our marriage...In addition to our love, one of the things which has lasted is our toaster. I have promised that while she can not have a new husband, she can have a new toaster for our fiftieth.” Chuck added that, “The election rekindled my interest in some of the fine points of the constitution.” He consoled me that American democracy has a way of avoiding the perils that periodically threaten it.

**Dick Swensen & Grace, (’55)** “Grace has been active as a pastor on the staff at Gethsemane Lutheran in Baldwin, including some preaching, adult forums on Sunday mornings, and director of education. We were honored to be selected by the Department of State to be two of thirty, including Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, selected for the Millennium International Volunteer Award. We were flown to Washington for the three day events. $5000 was given to the UW-RF Foundation. Over the past 27 years we have been privileged to host 60 performing groups from 13 countries; Grace has been involved in more than 1300 home stays for performers.”

**Gary & Sally Shellman** (’67-’69) shared a panel with Peterson at the German Studies Association on having served in Germany in the army and how that affected the later scholarship as historians of Germany. Sally acted as guide to the city of Houston, as she had previously to the city of Dallas. Her reward was the best beef steak she had ever eaten. We were all impressed with the many billionaires, which are Houston’s pride.

**Maurine & Dick Brynildsen** sent a picture of their un-aging selves with the Sydney Bridge in the background and wrote of visits then to Alice Springs and the Great Barrier Reef. Across the world in Vienna they sampled the giant Ferris wheel of “Third Man” fame and Wiener Schnitzels. At their beloved Sedona home, Dick was briefly reminded of his driving skills in the snow. As for his recovery, “I have had so many CAT scans I could administer them to myself. So far so good. Maurine exercises her imagination planning trips well into the second half of the 21st Century. Dick declared Anarchica out of bounds on the theory that 27 years at RF is enough frostbite for anyone.

**Mike Krukonos,** “Well, it’s finally over and as usual Americans made a mess of the entire situation, including our grand Supreme Court, which should take a long trip down the Potomac. Even as a political scientist I have a hard time figuring out the American public. We have a relatively strong economy with low inflation and unemployment and they still want to change to another party… I was in the Scandinavian and Baltic area last summer and enjoyed being back in my homeland Lithuania. May 2001 be a good year. Don’t get “bushed.”
Alumni News:

Dave Schneider, ('94) "Michelle and I recently had a son at the River Falls Hospital. We named him Gavin Mitchell, and he was 7 lbs 9 oz. I have now fulfilled my duty to the Schneider name, as I was the only male Schneider of my generation born from the family that came over." Father Phil Schneider ('66), now living on Golfview Drive in River Falls helps out with his Garden Care business, a crew largely of his former Durand students, now at UW-RF, who take full care of lawns in the summer and driveways in the winter. Although lawn care is more profitable than pupil care, he still enjoys his teaching after 7 years at Durand High School. He has moved to 2215 Emerald Court in Hudson.

Sister Jane (Winkler, ’72) remains blessed despite problems that would have made a lesser soul bed-ridden. "Many tests proved that it was not cancer of colon or breast, although my MS slowly and silently continues its progress. However I’ve been blessed to find a massage therapist who recently learned Muscle Release Technique, which is a combination of doing massage while engaging in passive stretching techniques...Besides all these wonders there is yet another bonus the therapist is in the same building as my chiropractor and working in conjunction with him - now could it get any better than that? God’s goodness and miracles are unending and it seems to me that he has chosen me to be his prime example...All things combined, I feel the quality of my life is steadily improving, especially when I continue to remind myself that about 95% of all personal well being is attitude NOT aptitude.” Her inspiring letters are likely available from sjane@pressenter.com.

David & Lani Madis ('61) Lani included a piece of the Chippewa Valley of a Community Salute to her, with picture of a matron looking vaguely like her. It praises her girl scout work and their business "Greater Midwest Merchantile," with the suite of armor in the window. The family newsletter mentioned the unthinkable: for Dave an emergency room bed with congestive heart failure, then a kidney stone. At Mayo's they got the heart back in rhythm and removed the “C” area of a kidney. Lani also ended up in emergency with a heart beating like a trip hammer, a collision of age, genetics and stress. The good news is that the younger family are running the store fine, with Dave wandering in and out. The saga of her wild turkeys continues. "My boys now number six. One comes to hang his beak against the family room window when the birdseed is gone. Two females have taken to flying to the top of the feeder to help themselves. They flock together so we can see 30 to 40 in the yard at any given time.”

Mike Dodge & Catherine ('59) responded to my appreciation that he had first lived in the St. Louis area, the land of my Cardinals and despite his advanced sophistication he could rattle off details about the Cardinals in the 1940s that I had almost forgotten, not to mention the otherwise forgotten St. Louis Browns under Bill Veeck. When I raised the question whether the Cardinals were the team that was most hostile to Jackie Robinson, and from his expertise he assured me it was not, not even from Enos "Country Boy" Slaughter. Mike expressed a thrill of being reminded of our class together in 1956 in the Knotty Pine Room. He made the highly subtle connection between the Marlene Dietrich film, “Destry Rides Again,” and this year's election, which I missed until he carefully explained it to me.

Dave Peterson ('80/MA'91) & Pat Owen took Eleanor to see Eric Idle (of Monty Python) in concert. "She is very much into Python now and we even got his autograph and I got to shake his hand." Pat did not win the lottery but a Schwinn retro bike, and two round trip plane tickets. They have driven down every road in Pierce County looking for an affordable place in the country. Dave's big trip was to Norway with his mother to visit relatives in Bergen and Trondheim. "We drove over a mountain to Laerdal and Burgund where we saw the famous stave church and the nearby farm where our Kvamme ancestors came from." Eleanor wrote, "I am currently taking voice lessons, piano lessons and French horn. I'm involved in confirmation and I substitute teach at Sunday School, as an acolyte, work on the church library, and sing in the adult choir. Being in the 8th grade is not a lot different from 7th grade. I'm not on student council but I work on the school newspaper." Michael wrote: "I've been working hard on division problems. I am 9 1/2 years old and in 4th grade. I can write cursive and reading is fun for me."

Karla Taylor ('79) said she was seeing little television but enjoyed the Lovejoy series on Wis. Public TV. As political commentator she recommends Jim High tower, Molly Ivins, Barbara Ehrenreich and the cartoon, "This Modern World". She wrote trenchant description of G.W. and said I could quote her, but I thought not in a newsletter read by sensitive Republicans. I like Ivins.

Michael Peterson ('76) & Kathy, as organizer of the Cartographers, he is planning a gathering in China this year. He has invited R.F. cartographer Charles Rader to join him. There is scarcely any place he has not given workshops on computer graphics for cartographers. He waxed cartographical and sentimental at Carol Barrett's retirement party. He and Kathy have been most concerned with daughter Sarah's choice of college. As a National Merit Scholar she has a wide choice, and we have the hope that she will choose one close to us.

Jim DeMarco ('61) & Virginia This time Jim wrote as a senior member of the U.S. Department of Labor: "The last year of an administration whose hopes and promises far exceeded the performance of its first seven years is neither a pretty nor a restful thing for those of us who staff and bear some degree of responsibility for the bureaucracy. The year began on a positive note. The much feared entry into Y2K proved to be a non-event...The Mine Safety and Health Administration set to work on improved dust control measures and we set out to rewrite our regulations on compensation. Our first pro-
posal was published for comment in 1997 and was roundly criticized by the coal and insurance groups for going too far and by the United Mine Workers and Black-lung Associations for not going far enough... MSHA's new dust control regs have yet to be published and may not survive the change of administration. Virginia described life at the Branch of Acknowledgement and Research in the era of the Indian Regulatory Gaming Act. "It is an act of Christian charity not to go into detail about what it has been like in the final year of an administration whose political appointees' promissory notes are coming due. Highlights have included a two-day public meeting during which the staff was grilled by the Attorney General of Connecticut about the way the Assistant Secretary decided to 'weigh the evidence' in issuing two decisions that reversed staff recommendations, and the recusal of the same Assistant Secretary from another case an hour before he was scheduled to make a decision when some thoughtful member of the general public notified the Solicitor's Office that he was interviewing for a job at a law firm that had been contacted to represent the petitioner. This last case has used up three staff anthropologists since 1995 and leaves Virginia as the only staff member who has ever worked with the record... Son Karl and Jim and the four grandchildren drove to see the old haunts and visit relatives. Despite the mosquitoes along the Mississippi and Chippewa Rivers, a good time was had by all, especially our oldest granddaughter Cathie, who is now convinced she wants to do equestrian studies at River Falls."

Francis Sagert ('85) & Dawn sent a picture of a lovely Emma, age 3, who remarkably is not yet wearing a Packers shirt, nor is her teddy bear. That Emma has already two speaking parts in the Christmas program makes him wonder whether he was that bright so long ago. This admiration may be shared in April when a sibling will arrive. Francis remains confident that George W. will pull us out of the current recession and moral decay. He praises Nettie for turning the country around despite the "B.C.A.O. follies."

Carole Kettner ('81 & '87) & John Peters: "This year's travels took us to Chicago for the NEA. What a wonderful city! In some ways it seems so close, yet neither of us has been there very much... John is really missing his interns this year. Last year he was fortunate to have 2 really excellent aspiring teachers help him out so he had more time to help with the computers in his building... Carol was feeling a bit restless in her job and even considered making a major move. But the perfect solution came with the opportunity to move to 3rd grade with many of her students. She feels like a first year teacher again in many ways, but has felt a sense of renewal in doing all new and different things. It has been especially rewarding for her to be able to watch many of her students grow and develop their skills for two years. "John and I have really enjoyed teaching classes at summer teacher academies the last few years. There are 10 of these around the state that are recognized nationally as being on the forefront of professional development. It has been a great learning experience."

Ken Peterson ('71) "I have just returned from a visit with friends in Kenya. They teach and do maintenance at a large school in Kijabe. I actually went on vacation with plans to help with an electrical project, then we were going to the game parks to see the sights. But I saw much more than I planned on. Kenya is a beautiful but forbidding place right now. The area down the valley from where we stayed has not had rain since Aug. and before that Dec. 98. While things should be green they are brown and grass is scarce. The cattle look barreled and the children don't look much better. While not dying in this area they are definitely going to bed hungry. Large Red Cross and UN trucks roll north to Ethiopia and Sudan region right past these people. The fields are all tilled but the dust devils spin around them and they wait for rain. I was told if the rains come, 'We will plant and in 4 months we will have plenty and if they do not come, we will eat the seed and in four months be hungry.' Tough decisions. I worked on some famine relief projects. The children at the boarding school skipped meals (typically one per week) and the money went to the famine fund. Staff and local residents who have pitifully little, donated heavily and they were able to buy about 2 ton of white corn and 1,000 lbs of red beans... My friends got a call to come and help distribute the food so I tagged along. First stop was an orphanage. They have several hundred children and take anyone that comes through the gate and they feed, educate, clothe and give medical care to all until their 10th birthday when they must leave to make room for the incoming infants. AIDS and famine are taking their toll... We got our allocation of food and bounced our way out across the Rift Valley to a little church where about 50 women were waiting for us. They came from 3 tribes, Massai, Turkana and Kikii. Normally they may not get along this well but today they had a reason to. We set up our sacks, did a little math and determined each woman would get 2-3 coffee can scoops of corn and 2 qts of beans. They lined up silently and came through the line. There was no talking, no laughing, just scoop, scoop, scoop, next. When we finished and were loading the empty sacks there was a young Massai woman (15-18 probably) and her baby down on the ground sifting through the dirt for the kernels we dropped. When she noticed us observing her she was about to quit when we all dove in sifting the dry soil with our hands looking for another precious kernel. Maybe she got a pint that way. That image will haunt me all my life, and if it ever ceases to haunt me there is something wrong with me... That night as we sat in their kitchen with an electric light, refrigerator full of food, water at the tap that was even drinkable, none of us had much to say. All of us were thinking the same thing... The day before we had taken a hot air balloon ride across the Serengeti. For the price of that balloon ride we could have fed 500 families for a week. For the price of a supersized Big Mac extra value
meal, you could feed a family for two weeks. Ouch!!!...I spoke with a Dr. over morning tea from the local hospital. They have lots of AIDs patients. I asked him how he detaches himself from what he sees. ‘You just have too, but things get through to you now and then.’ A grandmother brought in her grandson with pneumonia and the Dr. explained he was going to give him some antibiotics. The grandmother said that will not cure him, will it? He has what his father died from doesn’t he? Yes, he has AIDs’ was the reply. ‘In that case do not give him anything, we will go home. I have other grandchildren to feed and they left, taking him home to die’...As Kenyans go this fellow has a good job, about $60 US a month. He had a nice stone and block house with a window, door, tin roof and he even had a light bulb hanging from the ceiling. His boy was very excited. He had scored well on a test and could go to the university. A light popped on in my head—he will break the cycle of poverty, but there are no scholarships and his dad earns $720 a year and tuition is $1,200. Ezekiel is not going anywhere except to work. There are 5 children in the family, but he also has 10 nieces and nephews since AIDs took his brother and sister-in-law. The little children across the ‘street’ came over and they were fed too. I asked who they were and he explained they were his neighbor’s children and they have no food so he feeds them too. That’s about 20 mouths all together if I added right. As it got dark I looked at the light bulb and he said that he had wired his house but that he could not afford power now.”

Ann Bos (’77): from the U.S. tank office at Chrysler’s, “The bureaucracy hasn’t changed much. But working within it, I’ve managed to make a few improvements. I sit on a number of decision making committees and make sure my voice gets heard. And as a plus I get paid well to work in history! I can’t believe I have been here more than 22 years, 21 years in the History Office. Recently, I was promoted to the top job in the office, Command Historian. It’s a little scary being in charge, but also exciting. I take care of the history program for nearly 12,000 people located in five states. Sounds impressive, but with computers and telephone it isn’t too bad. I am doing fine and enjoying life very much. My health is good except for the bum hip that I’ve had forever. I move a little slower, but still manage to do the things I wanted to do. There have been some rocky times including the loss of my partner in 1998 to cancer. But all in all things are grand...As to observations about the U.S. government, I know every time there is an attempt to ‘fix’ the government and its practices, things just get worse. Last summer we re-engineered the command to streamline it. As a result we added at least two layers of management to an already top heavy organization. Over a two week period 1,500 at our Warren site (nearly 40% of the people) changed to new desks. Greatest game of musical chairs I’ve ever seen. Now they are re-looking that reorganization and we’ll likely reorganize again this summer. I’m determined not to move again, as in this move I ended up with an office in the main building with real windows that open. a.bos@worldnet.att.net

Paul Haugen (’98): I’m still in Poland, still in the Peace Corps. Back in June I was in Washington D.C. for 3 weeks, I drank a lot of Dr. Pepper and watched a lot of baseball and saw a lot of the museums there including the Holocaust Museum. Then I came back to Poland and visited my first 2 concentration camps here. I went to Treblinka and Majdanek. I was overwhelmed to say the least. None of the original buildings were left standing, but there were 17,000 stones standing up like graves representing the average number of people killed there every day. Some of the stones had the towns of where the transports came from, like my town of Radzymin. That left quite the impression on me. Then the following week I went to Majdanek next to Lublin with a Polish friend who had never been there. I was so shocked at how close the camp was to the city. Houses were no more than 100 yards away from the fence, even back during the war. And I saw my first barracks and first gas chambers and the ovens and again I was completely overwhelmed. And to think people could be in their houses and watch what was taking place. I had trouble sleeping after that experience for a while.”

Chris Gildemeister (’89/ MA ’93) “I continue my job at the Alder Bay Senior Living Center. The most enjoyable aspect is spending time with the seniors. They are such a blessing; so much wisdom and experience, so many wonderful stories about the past and so much gentle acceptance and love. Many of the older ladies have wonderful senses of humor. They are so grateful. A popular activity has been ‘Christopher’s Hour’ during which I read aloud - anything from American history to humorous poetry. But by far the most gratifying and enjoyable part of my life is my involvement with my church...the incredibly uplifting and glorious Sunday morning liturgy. Sacred Heart is the model of a loving church environment...as a Sunday school teacher for the 8th grade...challenging (to say the least).”

Craig (’77) and Diane Zabel (’78) sent a fitting Fra Angelico’s Angel with Drum, and the news that he continues as Art History Department head at Penn State. Diane was promoted to the full Library, co-authored a book on workplace flexibility and was appointed Endowed Librarian for Business. Most impressive is Zack, now in Grade 6, involved in soccer, baseball, volleyball, skiing and Penn State Ice Hockey. He likes Middle School, particularly foreign language. The family travel to Wales, Ireland, Scotland and north England, including the Irish Monastery at Glendalough, Charles Ronnie Makintosh’s architecture in Glasgow, the Old Course at St. Andrews, Castle Howard and York Minster.

Mark Ledbetter (’91) was gracious enough to permit me to tag along during a quiet Saturday morning’s police work in Hopkins, MN. Very interesting! I was impressed at how speedy their response was to emergency calls, even those he predicted were mistakes and his professionalism
and his colleague. Having grown up mostly in Hopkins he was also a historian commenting on the various sections of Hopkins that we toured to show a police presence. Then in December he gave his annual lecture to my Great Ideas class, telling them that they should be aware of the dangers growing with a coming generation of which many do not know right from wrong. He moved lovely wife Kim and temperamental German police shepherd Norman to a lovely home in Minnetonka. I get frequent reports of his good days and bad days, which I am saving for his memoirs.

**Karl Gandt ('81)** and **Barbara** “I recently saw that the UW-RF Archives is collecting peoples memories of Walker Wyman. I was very sorry to see that he had passed away. I remember interviewing him in his office above the Library. His book was about Wisconsin folklore. The reason this event sticks in my mind is that he was so very cooperative and interested in telling the stories behind his book. He went so far as to demonstrate divining rods for me. I recall walking down the hall outside his office with two contraption-like devices. When we reached the water fountain the rods crossed. He told me that I had the gift of divining. Unfortunately, I haven’t found this skill to be very marketable since then. (Not even when a water pipe broke in his library.)

We were very disappointed in the U.S. Supreme Court. Barbara just became a citizen in September. This was the first ever election that she voted in (she avoided them in Poland). Now she thinks that it doesn’t make any sense to vote if the results are fixed (like in Soviet Russia). I’m trying to convince her otherwise.”

**Kristi Fogtman:** She sent more of the annual coffee and an Email: “I found your email address and decided to send a quick note to let you know that I still exist. Here is my kjfogtman@cs.com Reaching me through the postal service: 70 Main Street, Essex, VT 05452. I am still working for Browns River Bindery in Essex, Vermont. I had the dubious distinction of being assigned the title of supervisor of training new employees last year. Not a position that I am comfortable with... involves dealing with a lot of conflict. I did my part to keep George II out of the White House. The election in Vermont was overshadowed by the Civil Union issue... those in opposition started a campaign with the slogan “Take Back Vermont.” Which, in turn, resulted in “Vermont, Keep It Civil” signs. Elections seem to bring out the creativity in people. I wish that I hadn’t thrown away most of the anti-Civil Union pamphlets. However, I do have a few postcards... When I got home tonight, I discovered a message on my answering machine from Governor Howard Dean asking for my support.

**Jeff Pilgreen** I am teaching in Garden Grove, California. English and math to middle school kids. It is a lot of fun, and we just got a big pay raise. This is the second year that I have been doing this. Last year I met a wonderful woman named Shannon, from Silverdale in Washington state. She had been a Spanish teacher in a high school there, but she took a leave of absence in order to come to Southern California to get a better taste of Latino culture. She taught at the local high school and we got to know each other. We had a great time here, but she decided to return so that she would not lose her tenured teaching position. When I saw how beautiful it was in her part of the world, she was very happy to help me begin to make plans to move there. My Washington State teaching credentials are pending, and now all I have to do is get a teaching job. There are all kinds of available positions, and I will be qualified to teach quite a few subjects. We shall of course reside at her house that just happens to have lake frontage. People from Wisconsin and Minnesota will understand how special it is to love someone who has lakefront property. Shannon and I are going to have a son and are going to call him Adam Jeffrey, or just AJ.

**Heidi Solberg Viar** accepted a full associateship to Western Michigan University. “I've chosen modern US history/sport as my major, and early US as my minor. I'm also trying to find a way to get a teaching field in Canadian history, which would most likely mean going off campus. I'm exploring a number of ideas for a dissertation, including the social aspects of hockey in northern rural areas, Girl Scouting, outdoor recreation, and the Sea Explorer Scouts during World War II. I'm going to be presenting papers on the Girl Scouts and camping at two conferences this spring, including the North American Soc. for Sport History at the Univ. of Western Ontario, and GLASA regional conference in Muncie.”

**Francis Ginther**, our county ag extension agent has also moved into the theater. “This community theater work has become a hobby of mine. It certainly makes the winter go by quickly! My part in this show is by far the biggest role that I have had. I play Georgie Leach, the accountant, and actually will get to fly, a first apparently for the Spring Valley Stagehands.”

**From the desk of C. C. Smith**

**Jim Rapp ('71)** “Drama occupied Jim’s days and nights for most of the spring, summer and fall. Our church produced a full-length Easter musical, One Voice. Jim directed, with help from some talented co-directors, and both he and Alice acted in the play. After a short breathing spell, work was begun on a children’s musical, Dr. Newheart’s Neck Checkup, staged in September. In October we started an original one-act play, "Jael," which Jim had written. From the big trip through Canada and New England, Jim’s biggest prize was a “Hillary for Senator” sign he begged for in New York. It was planted in the yard of our neighbor, who is anything but a Hillary fan. What are we bid for it?”

**Mike Higgins ('71)** I’m in my 30th year of teaching and 50th year of life. It seems like only yesterday that I left River Falls. Fourth grade has become much more stressful these last several years due to the statewide testing program for 4th, 8th and 10th grade. Thus far, we’ve managed to maintain very good results, but it isn’t easy
to do so. Over the last five years, I wrote a book entitled, "Wisconsin Lessons for Fourth Grade Students." It's a 200 page book for teaching Wisconsin History. Over the last year, I've sold it to six different school districts just by word of mouth....Currently, I'm reading a biography of St. Augustine. It's not an easy read.

**Philip ('68 & MA '74) & Elaine Idsvoog** sent news, but one first must study the picture of the family, which includes a diminutive curly blond with a big smile. no doubt a granddaughter, identified in the letter as 2 year old Caroline. "In an attempt to revisit his youth, Phil purchased a 1300 cc Yamaha Royal Star Motorcycle - custom California paint, lots of after factory chrome and 4 straight pipes....Phil and I are still plugging along with the school system. Phil is still on the county board and lifts weights regularly. Phil's mom still subs in the Osseo School system whenever they need someone."

**Diane Raddatz ('69)** We worked nearly 60 hours a week...The overtime has been a killer. Even though business is good and we have been pounding out the goods, rumor has it that we will not be getting much of a raise this year...There are rumors of unionization which the company is scared to death of and has done some nasty things in the past to stop. If they continue to act as they have done and are stingy with workers while granting the CEO 3.5 million in perks over and above salary, they will probably get unionized. Most of the letter describes where any free time and extra money goes, into taking care of her horses with proper transit and going to the National Arabian Horse Show.

**Again our Invitation**

After reading and sadly shortening the various reports, my reflection concerns how impressive are our alumni, because of or despite our efforts, the wide spectrum geographically, and wide spectrum of careers they have found, the wide variety of viewpoints they can eloquently present, and how worthwhile they are as human beings. It is perhaps a sign of advancing sentimentality to be proud of knowing and being in correspondence with such people. Hearing from you from wherever is now so much easier: just click on Edward.N.Peterson@uwrf.edu

I should be further proud to be in conversation with each of you, face to face. Presumably we have changed the least and will be immediately recognizable, but when you come for a visit to your past, you will notice that the way we remember you is as you were then, so very nice, so very good looking, so very young. ENP