Happy 2003 to History & Philosophy Alumni

Enough alumni tell me that they enjoy this effort, and I certainly enjoy reading the wide variety of reports I get from "life after River Falls." With the Net as a further source of information, the problem is not, as I feared before I began, a lack of good stories, but there are so many and about so many aspects of the Good Life. Those who have sent me longer accounts I hope will forgive my editing, to reduce the costs. I apologize for any distortion by contraction.

The reports vary from the charming activities of children and grandchildren, to a fascinating visit to Busch Stadium to watch the Cardinals, to a visit to the Indianapolis Speedway to watch Formula 1 racing, to reflections on the disintegration of public education in Milwaukee, to the beginning of a career as a diplomat in Belgrade.

I kept the statements as written by each contributor and I can "hear" that person saying it. It is also impressive how metropolitan our alumni have become, traveling, even working, all over the world. First the RF home team:

The History and Philosophy Office
Sue Voelker ('85). My family is doing well and growing up. Karl (15) will be starting his driver's training soon, continues to excel in school and enjoys serving as our home computer "techie." He is a youth leader in the Explorer's Program in which Andersen Windows ITS employees provide hands-on experience for teens interested in computer careers. Jack (11) is doing very well in school and has suddenly become a "book worm." When not reading, he is very active and loves sports as well as playing family games and bugging his brother. Sadly, our cat Jim, a 19-year member of our family, died in September of age-related health issues; he is sorely missed. Our 7-year-old sheltie seems to miss "her cat" at times, but enjoys plenty of attention and offers endless enthusiasm. With no sheep (and no longer a cat) to herd, she assertively herds us to the door, when it's time for "business!"

Tara Boldthen: "Well hello... This is my third year here at UWRF. I am still majoring in Broadfield Social Studies with an emphasis in history in Secondary education. This past semester I was able to start the process of the education aspect in my major, which has been very interesting. I have been able to do some observations in classrooms which have sparked a new interest in me. I have decided after graduation to get my Masters in Special Education.

This year so far has been very exciting. I am currently the head coach of the Stillwater 8th grade girls' basketball team which is interesting if you've ever been around 8th grade girls. So far this coaching does not seem to be getting in the way of homework. Last semester for the first time I received a 3.8 GPA. I guess the saying of becoming wiser with age is true! Although I could find some professors who would disagree with that statement!

Steve Priestley: "I grew up in St. Paul, MN and attended Harding High School. I played basketball, baseball, and football while going to school at Harding. My most memorable moment in high school was becoming the All-time leading scorer in St. Paul City Conference History for basketball. I am currently a senior at UW-RF, and will graduate with a double major in Business Management and Management Information Systems this spring. After college I plan on starting off in sales, and would like to eventually start up a business. When not in school, I like to watch TV, throw darts, play card and board games, and listen to a ton of music. I am having a blast working in the History/Philosophy Department, and look forward to graduating this May."

Monica Manske: "I am a "Super" senior majoring in English Education with a minor in History. I hope (pray/dream/drool) to graduate next spring. Currently I am eagerly awaiting the U.S. government's "OK" on marrying my British fiancé of three years, Tony, sometime this year."

South Hall

The building has been worked on again, this time with supports to the floors so that they will remain firm for another 100 years and the tiles won't jiggle loose. The maintenance man delights in how easy it is to clean the floor.

It is primarily the home of the School of Economics and Business Administration, with a number of classrooms recycled into offices for the many faculty. Security is back in the basement, as will be the publicity department with Mark Kinders and Jens Gunelson. Admissions remain on the northeast corner of the first floor, but Financial Aids has moved to North Hall. All of the social sciences, but economics, are now in Fine Arts, with Poli Sci the last to be moved. Tracy Gladstone fought nobly to stay, but lost. Their office is now for the dean.
Alumni Donations.
We wish to thank the following for their recent contributions to support to deserving History majors for the History (Garlid) Scholarship.
Mary C. Bancroft
Deborah G. Brown
John E. Dowden & Ann M. Dowden
Thomas P. Chukel & Peggy L. Chukel
Charlotte A. Farago
Kristi J. Fogtman
Sharon Hedstrom & Mark Hedstrom
Gordon O. Hendrickson
Michael W. Higgins
Roy L. Labs & Lois A. Labs
Andrea M. Lerum
Linda M. Neuberger
Douglas J. Patin
A. John Pesetski II
Susan J. Stockman-Whitenack
David B. Peterson & Patricia J. Peterson
Paula J. Yager - matched by
Minnesota Life Insurance
Craig R. Zabel & Diane M. Zabel
Total: $2,7245.00

In addition to these donations, our scholarship opportunity is much expanded because the Helen and Walker Wyman Scholarship will be given every year to both the Art and History Departments, and will be around $1300. That is because they donated their house to the UW-RF Foundation, which uses the proceeds of its sale.

Helen Wyman died this year, nearly 101 years old, and the family provided a very impressive memorial service in early November on her behalf. Sons Bryant and Mark spoke very eloquently of her, as did several of the grandchildren. As friends, Bonnie Graham and Marian Wolfe also spoke of her as a wonderful mentor.

Born in 1901 in frontier Colorado, Helen taught in high school there, before studying art at the Chicago Institute of Art. She taught art at Illinois State Normal University, where Walker was a student. When they came to River Falls in 1932, she taught art for many years at the high school. She was rightly described as a very strong and able woman, who devoted her enormous energies to her family and the community. I remember first forming that opinion when I interviewed in August 1954, staying the night in Bryant’s room and receiving breakfast on the pleasant back patio, where Pres. Kleinpell joined in to check me out.

After Walker’s death, she sold the house they had built and moved to the Lutheran rest home on North Main St. Manley Olson visited her a few days before her death and found her still very bright but fragile.

Bryant is an Internist at the University Hospital in Madison and Mark as professor of history at Illinois State at Normal, continuing the Wyman tradition of authoring popular, scholarly history books.

Scholarship Recipients for 2002-03
Walker & Helen Bryant Wyman Endowed:
   Shannon R. McDonough - Maplewood, MN
   Ryan D. Scherz - Lake Nebagamon, WI
   Jennifer L. Smolinski - River Falls, WI
History (Garlid) Scholarships
   Terrence V. Galbreath - River Falls, WI
   Nicholas A. Hartle - Stratford, WI
   L.t. Col. H.G. Jones Endowed - Brule, WI
   Ryan F. Moore - Moeser Historical Scholarship
   Thomas D. Boyer - Spring Valley, WI

Faculty News
Ed Peterson (’54) Yes, he is still here, and observing that many of the young people he had so many years ago are now retiring. With his limited perspective, he cannot think of anything he would rather do than teach and do some research. Ursula is still active in research, mostly on family histories and if you were interested, she works every Tuesday evening at the Mormon History Center in St. Paul.

Their only sadness was the death of their Katze, who had adopted them 20 years ago. He became ill with renal failure in June, but who was kept alive by tons of Ursla’s love until November 26. Both were surprised at the enormity of the shock of Katze no longer to greet them. They also learned how many people deeply empathize with the loss of a pet. Because of the cat, Ursula could not join Ed in Germany this summer, and Ed took care of the cat, less well, in October so that she could join the celebration of the founder of her Bad Hersfeld in 736 AD.

His special class this fall was a wonderful Honors Class, “Just Wars,” where the students were even more dubious about American wars than he was. He is looking forward this spring to his favorite kind of class, the graduate Reading Seminars, where grad students challenge a wide variety of his assumptions. On Thursday evenings, it would be a great time for any of you to drop in and enjoy the fun. His other new stimulation is scouring the world wide net for criticisms of American policy, which became rare here at home since 9/11.

John J. Buschen (’66) “This year marks my 37th year teaching European history and art history. As chair, the fall semester is always very busy with preparing schedule of classes for next year, observing new teachers’ classes, writing up reports and evaluations, registering students for next semester and a variety of other time consuming tasks.... We are facing major fiscal cutbacks. We still do not know the full extent...”

This year I made a number of short vacations in the U.S. and Canada, I have been to Montreal several times this year... It is fun to speak French, to enjoy the superb food available in the restaurants, to visit the museums and cultural centers, and to buy books and CDs at greatly discounted prices in many stores.
I also got to Washington, D.C., twice to see special art exhibits and to enjoy the museums and outdoor sculpture gardens. The Phillips Gallery continues to be one of my favorites, with a wonderful permanent collection and lots of special shows each year. As a special treat for myself this year, I flew to Toledo, Detroit, Cleveland and Columbus, OH. All four museums turned out to be very special and good. Wonderful treasures were in each one. John described the delights in the Cities of seeing “Dame Edna,” “The Producers,” the Minnesota Orchestra in the Cathedral and “The Merry Widow.”

I have now completed a comprehensive pictorial directory of every faculty member and staff member on campus, more than 600 people. I have taken all their photos and put them all on the web. I know more people than anyone else! I then prepared pages for each department and each office on campus. I have also been using our digital camera to take flower photos at Como Park Conservatory in St. Paul.”

Kurt Leichtle ('86) “My book, Wisconsin Adventure, came out in April. The reception has been good and it is selling, they tell me. My collaborator and I are working the biography project about Edward Coles—yes the guy you all know more about than you want to. University Press of Virginia is expressing serious interest. We have about three chapters done and revised.

The AP Review Day expanded from River Falls to Superior in April and looks like Bob Zeidel (UW-Stout) and I will offer it both places again. I helped with an exhibit at the Osceola Railroad Depot and spent a Saturday before Halloween telling ghost stories. In February the play, “Entering the Circle.” will come back briefly as reader’s theater as part the River Falls reading Project.

On campus I am working still on the general education program. By the end of Spring semester a plan for the first two years should be in hand. That will end a three-year project. Classes are going well. The seminar students still do not share my enthusiasm for Roshamon. This spring the public history students have a choice of several projects. They may try to ferret out what was originally supposed to be in KFA.

The family is doing well. Karen is subbing and working on several stained glass projects. Kee is finishing Cub Scouts and moving on to Boy Scouts. He is also in his last year at Rocky Branch and will become a dreaded middle schooler next year. Kyle is batting his way through high school. He spends his time battling various monsters across the world battlenet but also has developed a liking for video production. He has been putting anime clips to music. That interest has both of us involved in the high school video production club which he helped found. I am the adult who is trying to ride herd over the imaginations of eight teenagers with video cameras and computers.

What can I say? Life is not dull.”

Betty Bergland (’90) For the second year she is displaced from the copious office space (KFA 307), secured in 1998 after Herb Cedarberg’s retirement, and is not happy about her cramped quarters waiting for re-organization of the social science housing. Still, she is pleased to receive a new computer this year—on the five year recycling schedule. She continues to teach twentieth century U.S. history courses that seem to have generated more interest among students after September 11th as many Americans ask questions about why our policies alienate so many people. Her own research on immigrants and indigenous peoples led to two research trips this past summer—to Wisconsin Indian Mounds and into South Dakota.

She presented papers on this research at two conferences: the Organization of American Historians in Washington D.C. in April, and the Western History Association Conference held in Colorado Springs, Colorado in October. Also, she was invited to speak at a Symposium on "Biography Meets Social History" at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. (Her flight out of the city was delayed several hours on November 3rd because, she discovered, the presence of Air Force One forced closure of the air space above the Twin Cities!)

She continues to serve as secretary for the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and she is serving as co-chair for Women's History Month events this year at UWRF focused on "Women, War, Peace and Justice" Solely for pleasure this summer she participated in a week long canoe trip in the Apostle Islands in a Montreal Canoe (like those used in the Fur Trade). A wonderful venture! (She also represents us on the Faculty Senate.)

David Riggs ('93) “The past semester was another whirlwind of activity. Professionally, I delivered a paper on Latin America at a regional history conference. I am also continuing my research into maritime history in the 18th century, focusing on work, politics, and economic efficiencies.

In January Kurt Leichtle and I brought 12 students (history club members one and all) to the national American Historical Association conference in Chicago. In Chicago, students attended several interesting sessions, saw the sites in the "big city" and made some interesting new friends. No luck at getting into Wrigley Field though. This semester I will be teaching five classes, the usual plus a new upper-division course on Latin America.

I also am still advising the History Club and our plans include a few trips to some of the new exhibits at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts."

Zhiguo Yang ('01) has taken great joy in developing and teaching new courses at UWRF. While his Modern China class enabled him to share his knowledge of China's revolutions and social changes in the 19th and 20th centuries with his students, Modern Japan, a course he is teaching right now, will provide him with an opportunity to reveal to his student audience how Japan departed from
the Asian world and became part of the West in the past 100 years or so.

More exciting and rewarding than the courses taught on site is the course taught overseas. Between December 26, 2002 and January 16, 2003, Yang led a China Study Tour group of 17 UWRF students, faculty, and alumni visited Beijing, Qufu (Confucius' birthplace), Qingdao, Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, Xian, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. During the tour, Yang lectured on Confucianism, Daoism, Taiping Rebellion, Chinese consumer culture, and Nationalist-Communist struggle in the 20th century, and, apparently, the students paid more attention to his talks than they normally did in classroom. The China Study Tour was a great success, and students attributed it to Yang's "knowledge of Chinese culture and wonderful personality."

To Yang himself, however, the success of the program largely depended on the fact that China's time-honored cultural heritage (such as Confucianism) and historical monuments (such as the Great Wall, Forbidden City, and Terra-cotta Warriors) and its rapid modernization in the past two decades present a good case study on how traditions and modernity conflict and reconcile as well. That, more than anything else, has made the trip an exciting tourist experience and valuable learning opportunity for its participants.

He is planning on another tour to China for January 2004. Besides teaching, research, and other university responsibilities, Yang continues to enjoy with his family the beautiful landscape in Upper Midwest. For that enjoyment, they even traveled to Manitoba Province, Canada because, to him, there is no clear-cut demarcation between the natural wonders in the U.S. and those in Canada. He is seeking a complete picture.

Philosophers

Dave Peters '86 "I'd like to be back next year to teach some of my favorite courses on an adjunct, part-time basis, but the dean of course can't promise anything at this point. Nancy and I have a bad case of wanderlust and hope to satisfy that appetite as much as possible after retirement -- so long as we're able and healthy. Also, I personally want to get back to concentrating on my piano avocation. There are some dynamite jazz piano players in the Cities that I'd covet taking lessons from and I intend to be pushy enough to inquire about this possibility. My 'intentional library' by now is enormous and it will be a treat to be able to get to this literature when freed from full time classroom responsibilities."

Imtiaz Moosa '91 "In the summer of 2001, just three months prior to the horrific 9/11 terrorist attack, I made a trip to Pakistan, primarily to see the Afghan refugee camps at the borders of Pakistan. You see, my father comes from Pakistan, my mother from India and I was born in Tanzania, Africa. While I learnt so much from this trip and had a terrific time, I would most likely not have gone had I known about the impending attack, because I may have raised suspicions about me with the INS, just when I am applying for permanent residency in the USA.

Last year I was in Madison, and it was a very productive year. I managed to get a journal, called PHILO, to accept for publication my article titled, "Does the Failure of Utilitarianism Justify a Belief in Intrinsic Value?" It will appear in the issue of PHILO next month. My paper, "Nonrelativity and Subjectivity of Aesthetic Claims" appeared in the year 2000 in the journal, REASON PAPERS, I also worked on an entirely reformulated course Phil 223, newly titled as "Science and the Philosophers of the Age of Enlightenment." I am glad to report that this reformulated course was approved by my department as well as by both the college and the university curriculum committees. In preparation for this course, I had to make a serious study of Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity (I do not have the mathematics to grapple with the General Theory of Relativity).

So, as you see, there were lots of things that kept me hard at work. I also did some fun things; but you will excuse me if I decide not to disclose to you what they were. (Hey, if you think professors lead boring lives, you better get your facts straightened up!!)"

Faculty Emeriti

Gilbert Smith, who taught Economics from the about 1950 until 1968, died at the Lutheran rest home. The first chairman of the Economics Department, he was an impressive teacher colleague and person. He remained active in community affairs, and a keen bridge player with Buschen.

Blanche Davis, '49, who retired in 1973 returned for the occasion of a play with Mike Norman and Meg Swanson to raise funds for her scholarship. Bernie Brohaugh '61 invited many of those connected with the Blanche era of the RF Theater, which proved to be a very wide group indeed. Blanche appeared as bright and as pleasant as always and tolerated a recital of each of us speaking so warmly of our times on the stage. She remembered the time in "Arsenic and Old Lace, when ENP split his pants in full view of a delighted audience and when Ursula was "Madame Pavlikov" in "Nude with Violin."

Noble Stockton ('66) & Ronnie "The practice of history can be habit-forming, like the smoking of opium. When I retired in 1989, I resolved to never look back, to amuse myself with other activities. But the darn thing is sneaking slithering back into my life. I've been doing library work, representing our town on a regional public library advisory board, although the librarians did not intensely welcome our advice.

Then in a moment of weakness I answered an advertisement for library volunteer at what proved to be the Hayes O'Donell Library, a tiny private library run by the Monterey History and Art Asso-
cation. Its director persuaded me to serve on the editorial board of the historical quarterly the association has published since the 1930s -Noticias del Puerto de Monterey. Whenever I say that mouthful, I’m tempted to add ‘cha-cha-cha!’

Originally focusing on the quaint charm of old Monterey in the Spanish and Mexican periods, we’ve expanded its focus to be open to everything in the history of the region from prehistory to the present. So now I’m doing what the editor of an aspiring quasi-scholarly periodical is supposed to do. I help think up good topics for articles, identify people qualified to write the pieces, make nice-nice to them until they agree to write for us, then harass them mercilessly until they revise their text into (by my standards) perfection...

The Monterey region does have an interesting history. Oldest building in our area is not Carmel Mission, which was rebuilt after an earthquake c. 1815, fell into ruin and around 100 years later was imaginatively restored to look like they thought it ought to have been -the Violet le Duc method of restoration. Monterey’s oldest building is what was originally the Royal Presidio Chapel of the Spanish Governor of California, currently the Cathedral of San Carlos. Always a functioning secular church, the current building dates from the 1790s. When the previous Royal Chapel burned, local clerics set to work to build a fine stone church, sent their architectural plans to the archbishop at Mexico City for approval. Transport was slow, perhaps the archbishop’s office was slow. Over a year later when the Royal Chapel was half finished, came back the message - “No, not Baroque, that’s old fashioned. Build it in the new classical style like Il Jesu in Rome.”

So San Carlos Cathedral has pilasters in its upper façade and at the top of the façade a swoopy roofline like later 18th century Jesuit-style structures in Rome and Paris. But baroque bits peek out here and there. There’s a lovely Rococo doorway leading into a mini-transept...

The art show that’s moved me recently is Sebastiao Salgado’s “Migrations: Humanity in Transition.” Photos of suffering refugees all over the world. In the same U-C Art Museum was an exhibit of Ansel Adams’ breathtaking scenes of Yosemite and other pristine mountain vistas. What a shocking juxtaposition! To me Adams’ work seemed hideously irrelevant - indeed somehow sinful.

Tim Ericson & Vali “We moved to Port Washington in October 2000. Our current mailing address is: 994 Niagara Court, Port Washington, WI 53074.”

Stephen Feinstein (*69) Remains happily Director of the Holocaust-Genocide Department at Univ. Minnesota. He sends us frequent invitations to attend programs that he has arranged an information concerning his many publications I also hear about him from my granddaughter’s friend David, who is enjoying his classes.

Herb Cederberg (*66) & Alice, wrote that they were taking off for Florida, day after Christmas for a little over a month. “We also had a wonderful trip to China for three weeks this fall, which was absolutely perfect.”

Clyde Curry Smith (*65) & Ellen, sent month-by-month chronology of pleasures and concerns. The pleasures were usually with visiting Karen and husband Phil moving to his new job in Morristown, New Jersey, observing the performances and the baptisms of Brittany and Christopher. The concerns were with a low blood pressure episode at the RF Wellness Center requiring staples to close cut on his head. The cardiologist experimenting with new drugs reconfirmed the diagnosis of February, 1985 and that he had many irregular impulses, but he decided not have an implant to regulate them. In May they drove to Harold and Mary’s home in Massachusetts and were enthusiastically received by Rebecca, Cecilia and Paul The New Jersey grandchildren expected them to sit down on the floor to play games. Clyde was up (or down) to it, but Ellen’s right knee kept her out of the game.

In June, her right knee replacement was very successful and in July physical therapy eased the recovery. Their traditional July pleasure is the ice cream social at Rock Elm, its tradition of more than 110 years. September, “We Celebrated “Art on the Kinni” with the official opening of the new footbridge. The Orthopedic Surgeon was so impressed with Ellen’s progress that she had her demonstrate her range of motion and scar to an anxious patient who needed the same surgery.

December: Clyde keeps busy with the RF Library Foundation, meets weekly with Kevin Caldwell to read Greek and continues to gather information for the Dictionary of African Christian Biography. Ellen meets with the Tuesday Club (continuous over 105 years), with the City Planning Commission plus Boundary Commission or Extraterritorial meetings.

Charles Graham (1954-63) & Bonnie report good health. Bonnie had a cataract removed in late November and has recovered nicely with improved vision. Their new granddaughter joined an older sister in the Appleton household, while a still older sister starts her collegiate life at the Univ. of Wisconsin in Madison. In London, England three grandsons are at Latymer Academy, one applying to universities. In St. Paul, two grandsons are at Minnehaha Academy and Kate at two years is running the daycare center she attends.

“The reverberations of 9/11 and the threat of pending war along with a struggling economy are causes for serious concern. The great optimism of a couple of years ago seems to have faded. Nonetheless, we remember that our faith gives us reason for ultimate hope even in the face of sorrow and disaster. It is this season, which renews that hope for all
of us.” Chuck raised the question of whether the U.S. has become the new Roman Empire and behaving similarly.

(At the Helen Wyman memorial I could observe how young they both look and how wisely Chuck analyses local and national politics.)

Dick Swensen & Grace, ('55) "The heritage of our grandchildren is diverse, as hinted in our treats of the season, 14 loaves of Swiss bread, 12 dozen German Lebkuchen and Springerle cookies to recipes of Rinderwurst, Norwegian sud suppe (fruit soup) and honey-filbert candy. All were prepared from family recipes of more than a century ago, a tie to grandchildren, children, parents and ancestors who are the richness that is life for us. Foremost, we value the Christian heritage passed through these lives. Sharing meals here with guests from China, Hong Kong and Norway were bright spots. We were fortunate to share in the joy of the larger world with an extended trip to the Far East: Taiwan, Hong Kong and China in May. Six in the group, led by two dear Chinese leaders, it was exceptional. Renewing friendships, sharing time with one of the outstanding explorers of China, visits to view the Terra Cotta figures in Xian and insight into the Banpo civilization 600 years ago was inspiring.

Grace continues as associate pastor in Baldwin, which has been richly rewarding. Dick continues with health challenges but has greatly enjoyed preparing occasional science talks.”

Gary & Sally Shellman ('67-'69) "My professional career took a turn in June, when the Dean of Outreach, a Tasmanian, assigned me from the Institute of World Affairs to another continuing education unit. I have been performing community service as an institute volunteer maintaining United Nations Organizations, helping with night programs and such...

On January 3, we are joining a sister city delegation to Cuba and will be making a pair of 250 mile bus trips through the interior. We will have 2 nights in Havana on our own with some of the delegation as an add-on. The base fee is quite reasonable, $1650 each and it was too good an opportunity to miss. This will be the 5th Communist country we have visited, Yugoslavia in ’68, DDR in ’72, ’78, ’89, Czechoslovakia in ’89, China in ’96. I have maintained ties with the American Council on Germany and was guest at their annual John McCloy fund raising dinner in June. The speaker was some guy named Kissinger, whose address focused 1/3 on the World Cup match Germany was about to lose, 1/3 of the times he met Adenauer and 1/3 telling how bad relations were between the US and Germany. That was well before Schroeder made Elmer Fudd’s war trumpeting a campaign issue.

It was nice to visit New York, and I will be bringing German-oriented speakers here, but Kissinger was sure a bust.

Maurine & Dick Brynildsen. Referring back to last year’s card, which he could not help write because he had come down with viral pneumonia, “Of those weeks he remembers nothing. He was then shipped down to a hospital in Phoenix to regain mobility through physical therapy but was soon down with not one but two intestinal infections, which weakened him to the tune of 35 lost pounds. When they finally tried to give him physical therapy, he could walk a few feet with walker, then collapse into a wheel chair. Finally the specialists decided they’d done all they could for him and sent him home in hopes home sweet home would work better. Happily it did - Maurine who’d been camping out in a motel there all this time drove him home March 13 and began pumping him with good food, daily milk shakes, etc... He began to get around without a walker again. It’s been slow going but he’s within a couple of pounds of his former weight, drives and walks again and it is so much better it’s unbelievable...

Last year the highlight was a 3-week visit to France where we visited Paris, the Dordogne area with its wonderful prehistoric cave art and in a rented apartment in Provence. There we shopped at the SuperMarche, ate fresh crusty baguettes in the morning and drove all about the area to delightful hilltop villages; Roman ruins and local festivals.” A picture showed them, with their helicopter ready to travel again.

Mike Krukoness asked “Are you holding up under all the warnings of terrorist attacks from Washington? What re we supposed to do about this situation? As far as I’m concerned, Bush is playing this situation to its full extent so that he can take the minds of most Americans off the other more important matters. Sad to say but in politics things can change with great speed. Look at what happened to his father.

Wayne Sukow (Physics) & Carol. “The extra bedding is back in the linen closet. The hide-a-bed has once again become a sofa. And our every-other-year tradition of a long weekend combining Thanksgiving, Christmas and Grandpa’s birthday is over. But isn’t it fun to be reminded that that career oriented young physics professor (David) can still laugh so hard it makes the back of his head hurt? and don’t you love the way the other young physicist (Cathy) applies her photography skills to snapshots of her little girls right now instead of the photo-microscopy she was doing for that degree? And isn’t it a joy to wake up to the early-bird sounds of preschoolers?

Wayne’s year has been marked with a few medical ups and downs. He’s delighted to report that the radiation treatments have halted the pituitary tumor in its tracks. Now he’s currently working on improving his blood pressure numbers so he has given up some of the more stressful assignments at work, but he still enjoys heading to the Metro in the oldest car in the entire subdivision, (I swear!) - he
just can't give up that old Tempo - for a good
day's work at NSF. Away from work, he's still a
gung-ho gemologist and a mineralogy maniac, pro-
ducing slide shows that win awards, and taking on
the role of Director in Training for our favorite
mineralogy getaway at a place called Wild Acres in
the mountains of North Carolina.

I'm still happy to be retired. I got in a week of
Elderhostel birding in the spring and Elderhostel
ukulele lessons during the summer and then Wayne
and I joined an Elderhostel group in Norway for
two weeks in September...I readily confess that if I
don't see those grandbabies every four to six weeks,
I have serious withdrawal problems."

Librarian Annette Blanchette still describes herself
as onery, but never with me. She does a variety of
social services for the community, including the
delivery of groceries to shut-ins. She still walks
many miles just to keep herself limber, and has a
favorite spot to watch the sunset, from the Golf
Course View cliff overlooking the by-pass. She ar-
 ranged a surprise birthday visit with Sister Jane
Winckler.

C.S. Change and Shelley, '64 wrote from Ann Ar-
bor where is has been teaching Asian History, "How
is everyone in R.F.? We really miss our old friends
there."

Alumni News
Cheri Pierson Yeeke '84 the new Commissioner
of Education for Minnesota earned her MST-History
in Spring Quarter 1983-84. Her thesis was "A Re-
Examination of Anne Hutchinson's Civil Trial." for
Cederberg. She taught several years in Prescott
and I have a student who remembered that she was
a great teacher.

Manley E. Olson '59 "I retired on March 30, 2001,
after 30 years as Dean of Liberal Arts at Normand-
dale and 40 years in education, the senior adminis-
trator in terms of service in the Minnesota State
College System. I am completing my 6th year on
the Advisory Committee on Transit of the Metropo-
litan Council. We are currently dealing with the
start of light rail, a major restructuring of bus routes
and a ten percent cut in budget....

I am currently on the General Assembly Coun-
cil of the Presbyterian Church, which functions as
the national board of directors for the denomina-
tion. I spend about four weeks a year with that and
another two or three on local and regional meet-
ing....

When I left River Falls I began a graduate pro-
gram in history at Minnesota but switched to Edu-
cational Administration. However, my dissertation
of church state relations could with some modifica-
tions, have been presented in constitutional history.
In the 1980s I was accepted in the PhD program in
American History at Minnesota. While on a sabbati-
cal, I did most of the course work, but circumstances
led to a long interruption and I haven't resumed the
work. I did teach on a fairly regular basis and could
have done more in my last years, because of a re-
tirement but chose instead to push for hiring two
full-time people which gave us a full-time faculty of
four and brought new life to the department.

Although I did not become a full-time historian,
the broad background that I got from classes from
you and Walker, as well as Graham, Berg, Chisholm
and many others stood me in good stead as a dean.... It is good to hear that a man whose teach-
ing, at least when I was his student, depended upon
many blackboards and a large supply of chalk, now
depends upon the Internet for news.

(I would add that Manley served many years on
the Foundation Board and returns for a wide variety
of occasions.)

David & Lani Madis ('61) wrote about some of the
downside of living so close to animals. 'The day
before Thanksgiving two men were up in my attic
with a thermo scan unit and bad news. The 13 squir-
rels that were relocated three years ago when we put
on a new roof, did significant chewing and damage
while nesting....This fall my new neighbor decided
to clear a lot of tress from the woods and because
we are on a slope the erosion is already evident. I'm
hoping that the retaining wall installed last year will
keep my yard from slipping into the creek bed
along with his...On Dec. 7th, just two blocks from
work, daughter Kara was sideswiped and her car
thrown against a light pole on the passenger side.
Fortunately she was wearing her seat belt, but since
it was a side hit, the air bag did not deploy....The
car is totaled but she is alive to celebrate the hol-
days. It's scary to see how much damage can occur
at 30 mph....

I was able to attend a reunion of our college
theater alumni in River Falls. In August the EC Rod
and Gun Club invited us to the dedication of the
new pavilion and plaque in Dave's memory.... The
woodchuck has disappeared but the turkeys and
deer are in abundance this year."

Mike Dodge & Catherine ('59) "I spent 12 hours
in St. Louis one August afternoon and night. Most
of the time was pent in Busch Stadium watching
the Cardinals and the Phillies for 15 innings. These
were 15 extremely slow innings which featured
nearly all of the game lengthening options pre-
sented by the time defying game of baseball: nu-
merous walks, erratic fielding, lot of hits yielding
few runs, frequent pitching changes, brilliant if
counterproductive strategic moves, protracted
though no doubt erudite conversations between
managers and umpires, perhaps a record number of
foul balls and occasional guest appearances by the
grounds crew. It lacked only a rain delay from be-
ing a perfect evening.

This was part of an outdoor baseball tour which
took us to --I hate to brag-- Peoria...in Kansas City
we saw the Twins and the Royals play twice in the
open air under the sun as the Lord intended. This
annual tour was organized 21 years ago by he peo-
people who tried to save Met Stadium, the purpose being to provide an alternative for those whose only other option is to enter a TV studio built for football --where even the seats directly behind home plate don't face home plate--and see something which, if you squint and use your imagination does at times resemble baseball. The irony is that perhaps no one plays the game better than the current crop of young Twins.... the trip as much as I did, as it turned out....

We took another bus trip in September, remarkable for one who resists leaving the city limits, this time across South Dakota (Here I am bragging again.) I believe we were the last two people in the Midwest who'd never been to the Black Hills. Loved the country and had a great time, although there was frightening moment in downtown Rapid City. Fleeting a frenzy in an Indian gift shop where a wild-eyed mob of white shoppers was pillaging amongst the fake artifacts, I stepped outside and found myself face to face with a statue of George Washington standing on the street corner. That's nice, I though. Then I saw there was statue on each of the four corners of the intersection. I crossed to the one nearest me: John Adams. Hmm, a slightly odd choice but what the heck. Dead ahead was a figure in modern dress. As I crossed toward him I felt somewhat uneasy. As I drew nearer, I felt extremely uneasy. It looked like, it could be... no! oh y god it's Ronald Reagan!! I thought this was the worst thing I'd ever seen in bronze. It probably was, but the distinction held for about 45 seconds. Completing the four-cornered tour, I was sickened to discover that the good people of Rapid City had seen fit to immortalize George Herbert Walker Bush!!!

Which brings us to the current Bush. (I believe there would be room for Junior right in the middle of the intersection.) It's been an amazing two years. In that short span of time, we've become the self-proclaimed ruler of the world, above all international law with the right to attack any nation at our discretion using, as the need arises, any and all weapons of mass destruction. As the government sets about fabricating reasons for attacking other countries, using its superb propaganda machine and compliant media and the eerie silence of a frightened populace, as it asks citizen to inform on their neighbors, as it puts the entire populace under government surveillance, as it holds prisoners without charges and without making public their names, as it eavesdrops on conversations between prisoners and their lawyers, as scapegoat minorities -- do you detect any similarity between what's happening here and now and events in Europe in the early 1930s? For those who still wonder how it could have happened here, you may have a front row seat of a kind of rerun here....

The genius of the Bush administration lies in its understanding that the bond between the citizens and the government has been broken and therefore the administration is free to do whatever it wishes, as long as the corporations go along. There is no opposition. My hope is that that those of us below may be forming coalitions to either turn the Democrats back into a party of the people or form a new party. This requires recognizing that the boundaries that separate us are largely artificial and the product of political manipulation. For example, the people inside the abortion clinics and the demonstrators outside have much more in common than they realize. This requires a lot of heavy lifting...perhaps the combination of war and economic collapse will force it. Or bring on something worse we'll soon find out."

Dave Peterson ('80/MA'91) I'm still working at the Minn. Hist. Society where I arrived 17 years ago a student intern. I spent much of the year working on a major addition of new material to the Honeywell, Inc. records collection... Minnesota is faced with an enormous budget deficit and what this means for us State employees remains to be seen....I have been very busy as a parent volunteer with the Park Senior High bands, parades, football and basketball games, etc. etc. It's fun to have Eleanor attend my old school...and it's strange to be back there as a parent instead of as a student.

Pat wrote: We built a new house and at work (yes, I stuck with the library) we also got a new 'house,' so I have been busy trying to organize two places. We spent most of the spring designing our new home. It is a custom-built home, so we ended up having to make all sorts of decisions... My only regret is that it is not out in the country. Well that and the corner kitchen sink... Our library has also needed more room for many years, so we finally got our new building, approximately 3 times bigger than the old building. It's part of a Central Park complex in Woodbury and we share the space with an indoor park complete with trees, plans, waterfalls, a small amphitheater and a few more features yet to come. As part of the new line-up I also get to spend one day a week at the Newport Library, housed in an old church building from the 1880s. It is the antithesis of Woodbury - I am there alone and usually have about 10 people a day stop in. It's so quiet I can hear the old schoolhouse clock ticking. A much needed change of venue for me!

Eleanor wrote: As most people would say, this year has gone by fast. It has all been one big change for me.... the greatest impact was the new house. It's turning out all right, if you don't include all of the problems that we had at the beginning. The second biggest change for me was for me to take Drivers Ed and to get my permit on Mom's birthday. And the third biggest change was for me to start Park Senior High School. I get to be in the highest band. I'm the band librarian. I got to be in marching band for the first time, and I got to be the bass player in the pit orchestra in the musical.... The only thing I don't like about high school is the fact that I only get to have four classes a day that are 85 minutes long and therefore can't take all of the classes I want. I don't get to take classes I want be-
cause of all the graduation standards and I only get to see a few of my friends everyday. I am part of a Brass Quintet that is very, very good. Our band director is starting to get us 'gigs'.

Michael wrote: It has been a great year! The great part is we got a new house and a new minivan. The sadness is that cousin Sarah died. I am in 6th grade this year. I am still in band. I play percussion. I still take piano lessons. I am excited that I will be at Junior High next year.

Stephanie Zeman ('88) is moving a bit out of the law business as her employer was elected judge in St. Croix County. To find a new career, she did a long paper for me on River Falls History, a subject on which she is well qualified because she ran the archives so long.

Kristi J. Fogtman: ('87) "Just a quick note to let you know that I now have a new email address: vtailien@earthlink.net (She keeps the office well supplied with exotic coffees.)

Sister Jane Winkler, ('72) "My life has been rather uneventful this year, as far as 'news' goes. There has however been much pruning done by God on my tree of life, which has been good but also very challenging. However, I feel it has been a very healthy and fruitful pruning that in is time will bring forth even more growth. I have had to come to acknowledge that writing an annual Christmas and Easter is an undertaking that it, at this time in my life, beyond my capabilities This has not been easy for but for now, I know that this is how it must be. I know that you understand and for this I am so thankful.

Your birthday visit with Annette was truly the highlight of my year. I do grieve with you’re the loss of your cat. They are a special gift from God to help our lives be full and happy. Their unconditional steadfastness and faithfulness are lessons we should learn from."

Ed. comment: The visit in early December was as always a shock that she does so well despite the advancing cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. Most interest was how she can now type with a special machine that translates what she says into words on the screen. It takes a time for the machine to adjust to the individual way of speaking.

Karla Taylor ('79) said it was not flattery, "but I don’t see how they could replace any of you, even with an unlimited budget. I am reminded yet again of how fortunate I am to have been a student at UWRF when I was...."

We recently started getting more TV channels, including the History Channel...and the “Unsolved History” series on the Discovery Channel....They did one about using a computer to recreate the interior of Hitler’s bunker.” Karla came up with a bumper sticker "Are your rights in danger. Yes, by George.”

She sent a letter to the editor of the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram: “Lately some people, gleeful of their temporary success, have been sneering at the DFL Party because of the funeral of Sen. Paul Wellstone...Far from being a mere ‘foot stomp, it was a celebration of a good man and the real, right and true principles he lived and fought for. Think of it - a roomful of people able to rise above their grief and honor a man’s life and work with determination and enthusiasm. Who would not want their funeral to be a celebration of their life. Wellstone is gone, but his truth keeps marching on.”

Michael Peterson ('76) & Kathy,Michael is truly the itinerant scholar of computer cartography, giving workshops in various parts of the world. After having Fulbright Teaching Grants for Berlin and Vienna, in 2004 he will be teaching in South Africa. His older daughter Sarah, a National Merit Scholar, is in her second year at Macalester, and her grandparents enjoy observing her as violinist in their orchestra, and her friend David Gutman, who describes the honors history program at Univ. of Minnesota.

Jim DeMarco ('61) & Virginia: “Despite the best (or worst) efforts of its enemies, foreign and domestic, the republic still stands in the wake of 9/11/01. Last year, our Christmas letter bemoaned the invincible ignorance which is determined to deny that horrible things happen with remarkable regularity. This year it may be time to decry their equally predictable aftermath, the collective amnesia that on again has brought forth new legislation and actions as expansive as the Alien and Sedition Acts, the Fugitive Slave Law, and the Palmer Raids. The inscription on the National Archives and the grim-faced old Roman statues that face Constitution Avenue there remain as relevant (and forgotten) as ever. Eternal Vigilance is (still) the Price of Liberty...."

Our oldest granddaughter Cathie, for a stay of nearly six weeks, she spent her mornings at the office with Virginia, garnering a "Certificate of Public Service to the Indian people. to present to her 4-H club and proved to be an indefatigable museum visitor.... This fall he was elected to a second four year term as Associate Circuit Judge for Scotland County without opposition....A five year long effort at Grace Lutheran was brought to a successful conclusion with completing the project for doubling the size of the school, increasing the sanctuary space by 40 percent...."

Now Jim will get to exchange evenings spent as a member of the Building Committee for evenings spent a member of the Board of Elders. At Jim’s office the total re-write of the Black Lung program regulations, which became effective on the last day of the outgoing Clinton administration, was upheld by he Court of Appeals in June against challenges from the National Mining Association and several insurers. Despite their dire predictions to the contrary, so far the sky has not fallen, the coal industry has not gone out of business, nor has Jim lost his job. That was a five-year project getting the regs out and another year and a half to defend them....On
November 2, President Bush signed the Black Lung Consolidation Administrative Responsibility Act, which will permanently transfer full responsibility for part of the program to Jim's office. Another long running project blissfully ignored by the 106th and 107th Congresses is being readied for another try in the incoming 108th Congress. That is the small matter of the $7.7 billion and growing deficit in the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund."

Virginia worked on the Eastern Pequot final determination, which came out this summer. One of the highlights of her year of public service will remain Asst. Sec of Indian Affairs Neal McCaleb, after all the pros and cons of various courses of action...tapping his pencil on the table for a couple of minutes and then saying "Let's just go ahead and do what's right, and tick them all off!"...This has left the lobbyists and spin doctors with a considerable dilemma since the parties who hate the first decision like the second whereas those who like the first decision hate the second one...No matter what the decision is, some party to the process will request reconsideration from the Interior Board of Indian Appeals and someone will sue in the Federal courts, which have thus far upheld the validity of the regulations and all of the decisions."

Francis Sagert ('85) & Dawn Francis commented on the world situation: "A 22 year old man whom I've known since he was 10 couldn't come for both weeks of deer season. He's an avid outdoorsman and also a reservist, Navy medic. The last 14 days have been spent inoculating Marine amphibious assault troops for small pox and anthrax. Given it takes 4-6 weeks for a vaccination to fully protect you, circle Valentines Day, plus or minus 10 days. My office pool says by Easter Bush will be looking for new targets." Francis projected the details of the course of the war, which must be kept secret in this newsletter.

Carole Kettner ('81 & '87) & John Peter "This past summer we had lot of fun bicycling. After doing some rides around town, we got brave and camped out in Minnesota near the wonderfully blacktopped Willard Munger bike trail. We went 30 miles one day, and definitely decided we were not in good enough shape to do that. Carol is in 3rd grade this year and loving every bit of it. Two exciting things have kept her busy this year. In May she completed the process of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This included lots of portfolio work, videotaping her teaching and taking tests. On November 30, she learned that she had passed and is now officially a "National Board Certified Teacher."

Carol has also been taking a class 'just for herself,' and hopes to become a certified Wisconsin Master Gardener next year. The biggest change in our lives by far, came on July 8th. After 32 years teaching 4th grade John started a new job. He is now a Government Relations Specialist for the Wis. Education Association Council. This means he works hard getting union members involved in elections on education issues, and he will be involved with the recent governor's election, he was a pretty happy camper with the results of that outcome on election night.

Anne Wyman-Allen, her musician husband and children spoke very eloquently about her grandmother Helen Wyman at the Memorial, an impressive family. She remains the administrator for Walker's publications.

Doug Patin ('61) and Liza, Nicholas turned 16 and Katya 9 this fall. Liza continues teaching Russian to U.S. personnel going to Russia. "My work is very busy and the travel is non-stop. We had a great trip to Russia over the summer. Nicholas brought a friend, Liza took them to Moscow and I took them to Estonia. We all went on a interior riverboat cruise." In Washington he is extremely busy in cases of contract law involving the federal government. He has published articles on this aspect of the law. They have their "dacha" in W. Virginia.

Tom Baxter ('01) "Things for the most part have been good to me. My commentary on the Milwaukee School District is a simple one, it's a massive day care center. Call me silly but I became a secondary education major with the old fashioned notion of leading a classroom full of students dedicated to learning. Now, take a minute and wipe away the tears of laughter I'll wait... OK, is that realistic notion of education far fetched, "To thee I say nay!"

The US seems to have this notion that public education makes the nation better as a whole, and I agree with the theory. The problem lies in the implementation of that theory. Take Japan or several other nations today, you earn the right to attend public schools. Students are not forced to attend, for better or for worse, public education. Granted this leads to the rich getting educated and the poor are SOL but that's also not a practical long-term implementation of the mass educational architecture. The simple truth is that by forcing students to attend public schooling they have no obligation or desire to learn. Historically there were motives for each generation that caused people to excel in an educational field to better themselves and their future.

Public education has become a prison for so many students that they will do anything from beg, borrow, and mostly cheat to get through it. The evolution of technology has de-evolved the public school systems into a circus of popularity and precursor to the public educational collapse. Not that public education will end, it will eventually be reduced to a few strong educational tracks, including technology and business style application of technology, but the more traditional arts and sciences will give way to the more popular "elective" style education essentially like a technical college. Therefore, my decision to pursue my career in Information Technologies instead of fighting a losing battle against the mainstream educational model..."
that will eventually fail because of its lack of reform or proper focus and implementation...

Will I be there to clean up after the wave hits, that's my hope. To put myself into a position to help clean up the mess in about 20 years after I've had my fill of private industry... My true concern is the difference in educational priority students are placing on outside sources versus the traditional classroom instruction. It takes months to learn a topic in the classroom, yet on-line they are a click away from hundreds of websites with potentially accurate information...

That's the problem, with information comes power, but if used poorly that power corrupts the educational models in place today. That's why I believe the system will tumble, and a new one will rise out of the ashes...the education field today has grossly been misrepresented in a practical methodology and implementation of that methodology to compete with today's computer savvy students....Students will take the easy way out when it comes to "research time" and just say, "it's on the web it must be true" more often than they should.... Does that mean there is no hope for the future, heck no, I was born an optimist. I fully believe "up from the ashes" shall there arise a better educational system than ever seen before.

**Ken Peterson ('71)** describes his political values

"I am opposed to the concentration of power at the federal level. I am a states rights person. Better yet I am a local rights person. Aside from the slavery issues, I side with the rebels in the War of Northern Aggression. The erosion of local control has occurred in mass during all administrations in the last 40 years. National Control of welfare funds, school funds, environmental laws, gun ownership rights, religious rights, abortion rights, etc. I am a champion on individual rights, and with these come personal responsibility.

I at one time liked politics but find it less enjoyable all the time. Now whoever has deep enough personal pockets can buy the election if the party cannot...I miss the days of campaigning when you went door to door and actually saw the people. Wasn't it Proxmire that filed his re-election report with the expenditure of $12 on the campaign for gas for his car and a fast food meal? I did not always agree with Sen. Proxmire either, but he was a "legislator" as compared to today's "politicians". Now the key is finding the one issue and hiring the best advertising company you can to smear the opposition and promote their own one issue.

I do not oppose anti-poverty programs but feel we have done more to hurt the poor than help them. All the training, all the education in the world don't mean a thing, if there are no jobs. Give corporate America an opportunity to grow creating jobs, and quit opening our doors to near slave labor overseas. Price energy realistically and new sources will be on the market so fast it would be very scary. Allow competition to exist in everything from schools to industry...So is this conservative, libertarian, or schizophrenic?

Oddly enough back when I sat it your classes in the 60's and 70's I was a bit pro-Arab while my classmates were running off to spend a year at the Kibbutzes. Now I am pro-Israeli and a lot of my former classmates are sympathetic to the Palestinians...I think the time for new settlements has ended for Israel, and that the Palestinians need a homeland, though they have never really had a nation existing only as squatters for a long time in virtually every country in the region. I did not support our peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans, Somalia, and have very limited support for a long-term commitment to keep troops in Afghanistan. The Taliban and the other warlords can wait a lot longer than we can. They outlasted the Soviets and they could very well outlast us too....To be militant or not, that is the question.

I plan to return to Africa again in the spring for a couple of weeks. The famine in the area is subsiding, but after we built the AIDS orphanage there have been 5 more requests from neighboring towns to do the same so I will be scouting that out. I hope to spend most of the time with the AIDS program this time."

**Paul Haugen (’98)**: “Sorry I never got a chance to write back before I left Poland, but I was very busy finishing up my assignment and then coming home. I got back at the end of July after spending a month backpacking around Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Italy. I went back to River Falls for maybe 7 weeks, had a terrible job, then decided to get in my car and drive out here to Connecticut. I'm living in Stamford, CT, now because my Polish girlfriend got her visa to study here in America. She's going to a technical college to become a nurse. So I made my choice to move out here to the east coast and now I'm looking for my next career.

**Nancy Johnson Herbison ’74** Once again, I was glad to open the History Newsletter. I always enjoy catching up on the department and other alumni. My son, Scott, enjoyed your history class last semester. He really has found his niche at UW-River Falls, and, although Econ is more his forte, he really enjoys history. I am actively encouraging him to take at least one more course before he graduates next year. Younger son, James, is also considering UWRF for college, although he is still a freshman in high school. My daughter, Kari, is attending college at Nicoler in Rhinelander this year. I am still a guidance counselor at Tomahawk High School. Herb Cederberg always told me counseling would fry my brain, but I still can remember my name most days. I am also the school to career coordinator and the forensics director. When I have nothing better to do, I am the organizational leader for a local 4-H club, the district chair for 32 high schools for forensics, and sing in the church choir. Keeping busy and three active
teenagers have helped me weather a divorce in the past year, which was probably long overdue any-
way. I hope Dr. Buschen's throat is doing better--I can't imagine him not being able to give his very
astute and dry-humor lectures!

**Mike McLaren ('92)**

I recently returned from In-
dianapolis where a group of Baptists, led by a friend
who formerly was my art director, and myself (a
papist) spent three days experiencing the US For-
"mula One Grand Prix (European road racing; not
the Southern oval-track get-in-and-turn-left vari-
ety). I've been an F1 fan for as long as I can re-
member, and since I am connected by admittedly
very thin bloodlines to McLaren Racing Interna-
tional, the most successful F1 teams ever. We drove
in a custom van with a full entertainment system,
including large-screen television to which a
PlayStation 2 was hooked-up, from midnight of last
Thursday to nine A.M.

On Friday morning we arrived at the track. Fri-
day and Saturday were time trials and practice runs
for the F1 teams, and I must tell you that I was not
prepared for how amazingly piercing-loud an F1
car is at 210mph (I needed the earplugs). We
watched both the trials, the testing and the qualifying
all of which went fairly without mishap -- until one
of the Ferraris lost a tire (tyre) and contacted one of
the concrete walls at 185 mph, directly in front of
us, and removed about one-third of the carbon-fiber
from its side, not to mention it's wheels. The driver,
Barrichello, was unhurt, but probably got a stern
talking to. Because Ferrari was leading the points
race for drivers and car builders (constructors),
many of the grandstand was filled with Ferrari fans
(and bandwagon jumpers) clad all in red and wav-
ing red Scuderia Ferrari flags or Brazilian/German
flags in support of the two SF drivers (Michael
Schumacher from Germany and Barrichello from
Brazil).

These fans were not happy to see one of their
cars shredded against the wall, but the rest of us who
were pulling for other teams (myself for McLaren
with Scot David Coultard and Finn Kimi
Raikkonen) were unashamedly giddy (Ferrari had
won 14 of 16 races this season). I cannot tell you
how annoying it is to have drunken Italians waving
flags over your head and in your face screaming
"FEEEEEERRRRRAAAAHHHHHRRRRRREEEEE
EEEEEE" in your ear for three hours. It was nice
when the accident happened, as they quickly put the
flags down and shut-up. The Brazilians beating their
drums and banging their cowbells also quieted
down when their boy was the one who caused the
accident. We also watched Porches and Ferraris,
owned and driven by multi-millionaires for various
car clubs around the world compete on the track.

These guys were not pros, and by the sheer at-
traction during the practice and qualifying events
their amateur status was solidified. The cars they
drove were factory-modified stock 911 Porches and
Trofeo Ferraris. Each car cost around $300,000
after modification, so when you saw one slide into
the wall or bang into another in a collision it made
you cringe.

The race on Sunday was unbelievable. The local
cops had the track area well controlled, and the lo-
cals who lived near the track were making-out like
bandits charging between $20 and $50 per car to
park on their lawns. The crowd was international,
and the electricity must have been similar to a World
Cup Football (Soccer) match, except that for most
of the 170,000 in attendance, the end result was a
foregone conclusion. So for three-hours we
watched the same three cars in the same positions,
save for pit-stops, and except for a collision involv-
ing both BMW drivers that immediately took them
out of the race, and two cars whose engines blew.
The race ended in mild controversy when Schu-
macher slowed to allow his partner, Barrichello, slip
across the finish line -- essentially handing the Bra-
zilian the victory that he had not earned. Regardless
the weekend was an experience I plan on repeating
... Maybe without the Baptists, however, who slowed
the weekend down by frowning on drinking all the
great German and English beer to be had, and by
finding way too many private ministerial opportu-
nities in praising, preaching and praying each time
someone blessed a passer-by, gas station attendant
or the lady who let us park in her lawn for three
days. This lady, when asked how she likes the Grand
Prix fans in comparison to the usual stock-car
crowd said, 'you guys keep your clothes on, pick-
up your trash, say 'please', and don't pee on the
grass. Plus you drink better beer.' What a compli-
ment!

I'm probably going to be in Savannah at some
time this winter, trying to put the final nails in the
coffin that is my MFA thesis...Anyway, I'm thinking
of striking-out on my own again, as I feel that at the
tender age of 33 I'm missing something;

**Mark Ledbetter ('91)** sends me almost weekly re-
ports about the folly of criminals and some non-
criminals in Hopkins. I have been accumulating
them for several years and there is surely already an
interesting book in what he has written. I can be-
lieve what I was told that he could be the best-read
criminal anywhere.

Marla Sorensen wished us a nice Christmas, and we
have learned independently that the Herb Ceder-
berg presentations in Amery have become a nearly
permanent occasion.

**Roger Vanous ('64) & Joyce:** is still with J.C. Pen-
ney and Roger is still with Einstein's Bagels. As
Joyce says, I keep her in bagels and she keeps me in
underwear. In other news Roy Gieseker is still driv-
ing a bus for the Red Cross in Green Bay. He picks
up people to take to adult day care in the morning
and takes them home at night. I visited River Falls
with Mike Webb this summer, he was a French ma-
lor. We got the old well we've never used capped
and the area filled up and sealed off. We finally got
around to having our furnace inspected for the
winter. To make a long story short, we got by with
space heaters for a few days and now have a nice new furnace.

**Jeff Pilgreen** (’91) “I am in the last couple days of preparing for the move to Belgrade. That’s Belgrade in Yugoslavia. I have to remind myself of that every few minutes.... While I have wanted to be a Foreign Service Officer (diplomat) for quite some time, it is a very unreal right now. I have a wife and son, and we are going Belgrade...Belgrade, Yugoslavia! It might have been little different if it was the single version of me doing this when I was 25. Now I have a lot more to plan for and worry about. I am sure that we are going to have a great time, but taking along a family puts an entirely different spin on things.

Shannon and Adam are waiting for their diplomatic visas. Most "dip" visas are a formality, but Yugoslavia and the US still drag out the process. If we do it to them, then they do it to us, and vice versa. The US and the Serbian (national) government get along well enough, but we still have some problems with the Yugoslavian (federal) government. Other than that, I spend most of my time running around buying things like fitness equipment, Huggies (six months worth), and various items that will hard to come by. The living situation there is pretty good but there a few things like the diapers and chocolate chips that need to be sent over.”

About his training: "I had seven weeks of orientation that consisted of a lot of briefings about the Foreign Service and what the State Department does. Most of these sessions were great but there was some boring stuff. We met some key leaders in the State Department, toured the CIA, and took a couple of other field trips. After orientation I had a two-week Europe area studies course. It was pretty basic, and similar to what you and the other profs cover. We had a few briefings about immigration, aging, etc. I then had seven weeks of financial management training, and I am now in the middle of a seven-week human resources course. I have also had a webdesign course, and a few other odds and ends.

What to do if terrorists attack the embassy? “We got some briefings and exercises on that stuff. All the posts have canned plans, alternate command posts, evacuation plans. I have a classmate going to Islamabad who will get to carry a gun outside of the embassy.

How to wear a trench coat properly? “Professional dress is stressed. I have been given addresses and phone numbers for Belgrade tailors.” How to send coded messages? “All posts have communicators who do all the code stuff.”

**Kerry Grippen**, “I am slowly getting used to the idea of retirement and I know it will take time. Right now I have a lot of projects going on and my wife is having no problem finding me many more to do around the house. One of my former teachers is going to be involved this fall in a Library of Congress project that will involve videotaping oral interviews of local WWII veterans about their war experiences. Because of her interest, I left her with some of my materials I had collected over the years. She has asked me to work with her on this project and I have consented...A few of these veterans I interviewed still survive but they are fast disappearing.

I thought I would pass on to you this article that appears in the Peshtigo Times. While only Dr. Buschen is mentioned in the article, I want you to know that I consider your department and all of the history professors I had at UWRF to have played a very significant role in shaping me as an educator and as a person. All of you were wonderful teachers who stimulated, nurtured, and promoted my love for history and teaching....Other professors, especially Dr. Garlid and Dr. Buschen, were outstanding and Dr. King, Dr. Feinstein, Dr. Stockton, and others also were important mentors to me. I don't mean to slight anyone as my RF experience, particularly during the turbulent days of the 1965-70 era, was very meaningful for me.

It was a very stimulating time to be in college. In addition, also very important to me were the personal relationships we enjoyed in out of class gatherings. Many great times were experienced talking about current events in late afternoon gatherings at Emma's Bar.

**Peshtigo Times.** "Niagara High School Students will lose powerful advocates with the retirement of long-time Principal and former coach Kerry Grippen. Most principals, discipline being their primary job, are not fondly regarded by students until years have brought the big picture into focus. Not so with Grippen. That he is regarded more as friend, mentor and firm parent is evident in a tribute paid by Class of 2002 leader Alisyn Wodenka as part of her address at graduation ceremonies. "One person who has never forgotten about us and will continue to follow our success is Mr. Grippen. He is not only a fantastic principal, he's our good friend. He would always make a point to tell me, or anyone else, a good joke or make a comforting statement when he knew I was having a bad day.

He worked so hard to make our little school so full of prestige, potential, good credit, if you may, that we became known as the 'Pride of the M'. He built this school up, and will never let it fall. He treated us as if we were his own children. Coming to school was a comforting feeling because I knew he would never let anything bad happen to me or my friends. He did so much for me that I can't begin to put it all into words...I would say that you...will be missed dearly, but that would be quite an understatement. No one can replace you....You, and all that you stand for, will never be forgotten.”

**Grippen's wife, Terry**, long time English and Spanish teacher and celebrated Drama and Forensics coach at Niagara, is also retiring. Grippen says when she came to Niagara in 1974 "forensics" was included as one of her job duties. She had to look
the word up in a dictionary. She learned it so well that her students over the years have excelled in M Conference competitions and have brought home numerous state awards, including winning "Firsts" at State meets 5 years in a row... more of a mother than a teacher to all her students. We not only learned a second language, but we learned how to cope with life's trials and hardships; some of the most crucial lessons. she always knew what to say and how to say it, to put things in perspective."

Kerry can trace ancestors directly back to passengers on the Mayflower, in particular Edward Fuller with his son Samuel and brother Dr. Samuel Fuller. The young Samuel Fuller's wedding to Jane Hathorpe was performed by Mayflower Capt. Miles Standish, of "Speak for yourself, John" fame. Their granddaughter, Thankful Fuller, married Jabez Cripin Sr. in Barnstable, Mass. in 1707, and thus began the Crippen/Grippe line in America. The name started as "Crippen" but before the Civil War had evolved into "Grippe". His grandfather became one of the first Durand officials in 1855-56.

Michael Pence: I have been teaching at Blackwell Job Corps, in Laona, WI for 8 years now. I am an instructor in a GED program, teaching reading, writing, and math skills. I didn't specifically train for this position, but I enjoy working with young adults. Most of the time I tutor students and teach small groups. It's unusual working for the government, however, as long as I focus on the educational program and ignore the politics I can survive.

Francis Ginther '84 wrote recently for a recommendation for his pursuing a doctoral program. It was a pleasure to write a glowing recommendation. He showed me a truly impressive bulging portfolio of his activities in Pierce County as an Agent.

Jerry Anderson, '58. "I retired from Concordia College-Moorhead three years ago after 15 years there. Betty, my wife of 44 years and a retired foreign language teacher, and I moved to our seasonal home in Amery, WI. We are back where I started, living on land where I grew up. We are again members of the rural church where my grandfather was a founder. We are within reasonable driving distance of grandchildren and other family. Our retirement activities include family history, church history update and other writing projects, heading the Polk County Doyle for Governor campaign, helping to start a new low power FM radio station, and other volunteer work. We will spend February in Florida as we did in 2002. We enjoy retirement back in northwest Wisconsin and time to be with family and unscheduled time. Another benefit has been renewing acquaintance with many college friends.

Mark Gherty, '75 "My brother Terry graduated from UWRF in 1971. I finished in 1975. Terry graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1980. Terry practiced with our father Lawrence Gherty from 1974 - 1980. Lawrence had attended River Falls in the late 1930's. He had established our law firm in Hudson in 1947. Terry and I limit our practice to trial/litigation work. We are both Certified as Civil Trial Advocates by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Terry's wife Sue also practices with us. Terry primarily practices in the area of personal injury law. I have concentrated my practice in the defense of criminal cases and civil matters. Both Terry and I have had the opportunity to teach trial practice at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

My sister Barb is presently the Director of Projects at the Office of Advancement, University of Oregon. She and her husband Maurice have resided in Eugene, Oregon since 1980. They have two sons."

Tom Gross sent Buschen a picture of the wedding of his oldest daughter, who had nurtured them into a trans-Atlantic relationship. Daughters Noelle and Marya spent the fall term in Austria. They have seen much of Europe. Josie is tolerating her last year at Clinton High School and anxiously awaits the trek to college. Angie traded in her tonsils, adenoids and braces for a driver's license. Ziggy began his competitive football this fall and is preparing for his role in the Catholic School Christmas play. He will portray Santa Claus. I continue to sub at schools in the area and work at giving new meaning to 'retirement.' Tom finished with a quote from the Venerable Bede, "A place should be loved for the things in it, rather than the things loved for the place they are in."

Burton Chamberlin wrote this January: "I recently finished my teaching practicum in Kiev. The time went too fast. I'm visiting friends in Vienna now during the school's winter break but I will return to Kiev in hopes of securing a position at the school I interned at for next year. Kiev is a very interesting city. The people are friendly in general. Unfortunately, they are extremely poor. I found out that the university professor who did the teaching observations of me only makes about $150 a month. Can you believe that? And the cost of living isn't that much cheaper than America. I would say things cost about 2/3 the cost in general. But people are making 1/10 the money! I can't believe how many people make their living standing outside in freezing cold weather selling things. I can't handle being outside for 10 minutes and they spend the whole day outside. It's pretty humbling. Another negative, is the pollution. The air is pretty dirty and the water is not drinkable. Because of these two factors I don't think I would want to live here more than a couple years. But the school I taught at was great and I met a lot of interesting people. Plus the students (mostly embassy brats) are motivated and lively."
From the desk of C. C. Smith

David E. Olson ('74), dropped in for an hour, home briefly from Johannesburg, which he loves. There he teaches social science at the college level, some sociology, psychology, plus a yearlong world history. He directs Model UN program, which recently meant taking the class to Cairo. He is in the 4th year there, after 7 years in Japan. Son Keegan graduated from River Falls. Dave has now a granddaughter.

Mary Magnan D'Andrea (MA, 1981) has a niece Anne who has the Magnan combination of keen intelligence and good looks, who did remarkably well in my graduate seminar in 2001 and has helped to create the graduate seminar this coming spring.

Her day job is teaching at the Ellsworth High School, conveniently close to her home in Prescott.

Mary is now with the central office for the Minnesota State College System in Energy Park, where she coordinates the system's courses. She is putting her dissertation on the computer for easier access. He son will soon enter high school in Hudson.

Bonnie Jones Witthuhn ('76), is still teaching in Prescott. Her veterinary husband vet, now has the RF Berggren practice. Their daughter is ready for high school here.

Kevin Trafford, a psychiatric nurse in Croyden, took his vacation in Zimbabwe, where the high point was seeing Victoria Falls, and the low point during the period of the re-election of Mugabe was that one had to be cautious of what one said.

Wayne Funk ('70) and Pat, What a difference a year makes. This time last year we were spinning from Wayne's heart attack, thankful that he was alive and that we had so many wonderful people praying for us. This year we are hale and hearty and still thankful for all our wonderful friends and relatives. Wayne is feeling great. He officially retired in April, just in time for the golf season. Much to Pat's relief it got him out of the house at least twice a week throughout the summer. When he wasn't golfing he did a lot of puttering-fixing all those little things that just never seemed to get done when he had to go off to work everyday. He spent the sunny days working on the yard and garden...the old homestead is looking pretty good and we're now wondering what projects we can come up with to get through the winter. Pat is keeping busy with work and trying to find time to enjoy Wayne's retirement. We're spending a lot more time with friends now that Wayne's home in the evenings. In fact, we are learning what retired people mean when they say that they are busier now than when they were working!

Jim Rapp ('71) & Alice. "Alice and I had an active year...We enjoyed a 10 day Hawaiian Cruise in May. In June Jim lead a Roots Tour to his home in Clinton, IL, showing of the Warner-Moore Mansion, Allerton State Park, Lake Clinton Recreational Area, Weldon Springs State Park and Lincoln's home in Springfield. (The plan is to continue those until all six members of the group have shown their roots to each other)...Alice is in her sixth year of seasonal employment with the Pleasant Company, producers of American Girl doll products. She turned author, winning first prize a company sponsored 'Heartwarming Story' contest. Jim has been busy all year, directing (in cooperation with our Music Director) an Easter Musical, a Children's Musical, A Fall One Act Drama and One Act Christmas Play.

The card included a poem by music director, Cheryl Brandt, and a statement: "How to put God back into our Public Life. Lately there is a lot of talk about God being excluded from school, and courts and public life in general. I've never thought for a moment that He was excluded. I've found him in all those places. But if Christians seriously want to make His Presence real...Instead of inveighing against the exclusion of a Nativity scene in the public park, put one in your front yard. Instead of criticizing a public official for his/her views, speak out in Christian charity for those you hold. Put Christ back in schools by going there yourself to help where help is needed, love where love is needed, speak when speech is warranted. Know what you believe and live by what you know. Be light, and Salt!"

Mike Higgins ('71), I'm sitting here tonight, Beethoven's birthday December 16 (which is also Clyde's) listening to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. As I recollect the events of 2002, I have mostly pleasant and happy memories. I gained a new great-niece in April and a new great-nephew in both May and October. That makes five. They are such a delight, especially Lexie. She lives only a few miles from me so I see her the most. Each Halloween, she comes to my house to hand out candy to the trick or treaters. That has to be the highlight of my year. I have only 18 students in my fourth grade class this year. They are am able and cooperative group of children so my days in the classroom are quite pleasant. Since the state of Wisconsin moved the fourth grade testing to November from February, I'm feeling less able to truly influence the success of my students on the test. This situation made for a rather tense opening two months. Now things are less stressful. I had a most relaxing summer. I devoted much of my time to woodworking projects.

I find great pleasure in making things with my hands. I make all my Christmas gifts each summer, and if I say so myself, they look pretty darned good.... I spend the late summer and fall canning a wide variety of fruits and pickles. First, Wasaua is a wonderful farmer's market. Second my gastrointestinal ailments appreciate foods without additives.... My raspberry patch at the farm was a tremendous success this year. I picked more than eleven gallons. ....

I'm becoming fairly conversant regarding Civil War battles and strategy. Our community was fortunate enough to gain a Barnes and Noble bookstore this fall. They have a super classical CD selection, which I have surely mined. I'm nearing a complete
collection of Rossini operas with the recent purchases of Il Turco in Italia and La Gazza Ladra. I also purchased Handel's Rinaldo with Cecelia Bartoli and one of those countertenors and a reissue of La Sonnambula with Joan Sutherland. All are superb.

Philip ('68 & MA '74) & Elaine Idsvoog wrote of their children and children's children scattered from Milwaukee, WI, to Avondale, AZ, to Fresno CA. Peter runs the food service for MSOU, in Milwaukee and Paul runs the food service for Fresno State Univ. In May Phil had surgery so with recuperating from that, we really did not do much golfing or motorcycling this summer. Surgery went well and everything is fine. (He looks good, but serious, in the picture.) We are still involved with the same things, weight lifting for Phil and crocheting, bridge, etc. for me. We are talking about retiring but just need to decide when.

Diane Raddatz ('69) “It’s been another year of 10-14 hours days - 6 to 7 days a week. Doesn’t leave much time for leisure. I sold one of the horses to a nice family in the Beloit area. A good thing but on the way delivering her I got nailed not only in the truck but the trailer as well! All people and horse were fine, not so fine for the vehicles. I’m still not sure if they put the blame on or split 50/50 insurance wise. The other guy - who admitted speeding in the police report didn’t…I went to court pleading not guilty. Lost no points but still have to pay a small fine.

Add that to the two deductibles. I ended with zeroprofit from the horse. Most of the damage was cosmetic on my vehicles and the shops did a good job fixing so they’re all better. It’s getting to the point when if there is no crisis going on, I think something is wrong. At least I remain healthy and that’s a plus.”

Trilby Hanek Rothrock, wrote from Bloomington Indiana, Enclosed is Jack’s school photo. (It shows his head covered with a lovely cloth, a checkerboard design) He is exercising his first amendment rights, so he says…Harmony got a national grant for being a First Amendment school and as part of Jack’s class creating a website for me, he has been emailing Japanese college students. Latest one involved them asking him if he would go to war with Iraq, and bless his bleeding hear, he said something about “no blood for oil” Bill would be so proud.”

Again our Invitation
You will have noticed that our alumni write about all sorts of aspects of their lives in the real world and they can write so well about it. More of you could expand even further the spectrum of post-graduation adventures.

It would be so good to hear from you, one way or the other. Contact by phone and by Email is so easy (ep01@pressenter.com) and the ultimate experience would be a visit. ENP

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