Happy 2004
History & Philosophy Alumni

We are going to try to catch up with the 21st century and put our Newsletter on the Net, which all of you who are “with it” can read at your convenience, by clicking on

We will send a card to all alumni about the opportunity. Any one not on the Net would need only to tell us and we would send the printed copy. The advantage of the new procedures is that we can tell everyone more and I will not have to reduce the interesting stories down to a minimum. Further it will be available to anyone on the Net all during the year. Those with more talent than I can do some of the wondrous things on the Net, like pictures to jazz up the Newsletter. Not the least of the reasons would be the savings of the postage and the staff needed to stuff envelopes. My only hesitation is that some alumni will put the card to one side and will not get any copy at all. I would like to believe that nearly all alumni will find us one way or the other.

The phone is 715-425-3164,
The email address is susan.m.voelker@uwrf.edu

The History and Philosophy Office
Sue Voelker ('85). My boys are thriving and make certain there is never a dull moment! Karl (16) now has his driver’s license. His spare time is spent working at the RF Public Library and socializing with friends. He excels in his coursework and seems to thoroughly enjoy taking college entrance tests. Jack (12) is doing very well in his first year of middle school. Aside from homework, he enjoys playing video games, reading, or watching sitcoms. In eager anticipation of his own time to get behind the wheel, Jack absorbed all he could from his brother’s driving practice sessions. When not at the History and Philosophy Department, I am busy with my boys, my Shaklee business and more. I also serve as “doggie psychologist” for our eight year old sheltie who continues her frustrating herding work of trying to keep track of all of us.

Tara Boldthen: The time has gone by so fast; this is my last semester of working for the History/Philosophy Department for the past four years. In the fall I will be braving the new world when I start my student teaching. I have had many great times with the staff at the University, especially the History/Philosophy staff, and many frustrating times as well. But out of all of my experiences here over the last four years I give many thanks to all of the professors and other staff here. All of you have helped me to grow and fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. All of you have supported me and made this college experience worthwhile. I only hope that I can follow in all of your footsteps and use the wise advice you have all given me over the years. I have learned so much from all of you. From Dr. Leichtle’s almighty knowledge, to Dr. Peterson’s enthusiasm, to Dr. Bergland’s professionalism, to Dr. Yang’s kindheartedness, to Mr. Riggs’ interesting lectures, to Dr. Peter’s efficiency, to Dr. Moosa’s love for life, to Sue’s ability to handle anything and everything. Thank you for the past four years.

Monica Manske, a former student worker in our office, updated Sue on her personal life with regard to the long-awaited permanent arrival of her British fiancée. She says: “The brit is here now, we are planning a courthouse wedding for next week and the large ceremony for August 7. . . . I feel like I’m rounding the last lap in some strange race. Within this year I will be a wife and a certified teacher (provided I ace the perils of student teaching this spring). Life is good…”

Liz Paone: I am teaching Civics and Geography at The City Inc., an alternative school in North Minneapolis. As my first full time teaching experience, the students are teaching me more than I am teaching them. I am excited to say that our Leadership/Student Council is off and running and looks like it will be a success.

The Department
The Department has been moved again, this time from our suite in the northwest corner of the Third Floor to the east side of the Third Floor, the object being to get us together. One advantage is that we all have windows now. We have the offices starting with 305 up to my office 319. The Political Science Department inherited our office suite, alumnus Wes Chapin said he was honored to have my old office.

We are in the process of looking for new staff, not to replace the irreplaceable John Buschen, but someone who will build his/her own legend of brilliant teaching. The position is labeled, “The Pre-Modern Mediterranean World,” therewith to encompass ancient and medieval history of Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia. An important part of the curriculum, therefore will concern the rise of Islam and the interplay of cultures.

South Hall
I still am permitted to teach in my beloved 224 SH. The hallways are strong and beautiful, my flooring is pleasantly unchanged, so that my footprints on the tiles can be seen. Across from 224, Carl Popelka, Janna Cowen and John Walker have offices. They had been very nice to me and let
me store stuff in their outer office. (Janna after winning Wisconsin teaching awards plans to retire next year. She noted that her dogs have received more awards than she has.)

Alumni Donations
We wish to thank the following for their recent contributions to support deserving History majors for the History (Garlid) Scholarship. Some of this very impressive list is a response to the Buschen Retirement.

Mary S. Andraskchko
Marguerite P. Barker
Roger J. Bebie & Mary S. Bebie
James J. Belisle & Margery J. Belisle
Deborah G. Brown
Arden A. Buchholtz & Betty M. Buchholtz
Thomas P. Chukel & Peggy L. Chukel
Michael T. D’Andrea & Mary E. D’Andrea
Michael E. Daly
Carolyn A. Deeb
Louis J. Disanto
John E. Dowden & Ann M. Dowden
Kevin Drummond & Donna M. Drummond
Richard C. Enstad
Charlotte A. Farago
Kristi J. Fogtman
George Gilkey (my predecessor, then LaX)
David A. Grabarczyk/Nancy A. Grabarczyk
Thomas Hanson
Christie A. Hawkins
Sharon L. Hedstrom & Mark E. Hedstrom
Gordon O. Hendrickson
Nancy R. Herbison
Michael W. Higgins
John D. Hoagenson
Mark A. Isaacson
Roy L. Labs & Lois A. Labs
Patricia L. LaRue
Eleanor B. LeJeune
Andrea M. Lerum
Elliott L. Moeser & Susan J. Moeser
Jo A.. Newton & Glen E. Newton
Manley E. Olson & Ann M. Olson
Douglas L. Patin
John E. Peterson & Elaine R. Peterson
Don Richmond
Verna L. Tweiten
Wayne Wolfe & Marian Wolfe
Jack E. Woodbury & Ella M. Woodbury
John B. Wyman, MD
Mark D. Wyman
Craig R. Zabel & Diane M. Zabel
The total was $8,195

Scholarship Recipients for 2003-04
History Department Scholarship
Tara K. Boldthen

Katherine A. Kothe
Jennifer R. Leis
Jason C. O'Connor
Margaret & Col. H. G. Jones Scholarship
Shaun G. Rau
Walker D. & Helen Bryant Wyman Scholarship
Sara R. Mc Roberts
Ryan D. Scherz

Faculty News
Ed Peterson (’54) Rather than being embarrassed to have me still hanging around, Chancellor Lydecker began the school year with my picture being displayed across the back of the North Hall stage, the one that Buschen took of me with South Hall as the Paradise Lost in the background. She invited me to say a few words to the alumni at their gathering for the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, telling them that I had missed only class in the nearly 50 years, and that Ursula had taught that for me. I sometimes say that if I miss a class, it would be time to retire.

In my other world, I spent 7 weeks this summer in Germany, four weeks doing research in Berlin and in Magdeburg. Then Ursula came over for three weeks and we did her research. A wonderful way to spend a summer, although they were having a drought. The best part of being in Germany is that you are in a country at peace, where one is not being constantly exhorted to be on guard and to support the country at war. When Ursula at Christmas time visited her home town, she was again impressed at how Germans are puzzled at Americans who are so caught up in a war frenzy, following a leader, which Germans learned not to do in WWII.

My second book about the east German secret police, this one about the area of Magdeburg, will be out this spring.

John J. Buschen (’66) retired after 37 years, the last of the Peterson gang, those hired between 1965 and 1969. He announced it at the end of the spring semester. The first celebration came at Margaret Odgaard’s on Lake St. Croix, then the big bash in October, where George Field, Dick Swensen, Chancellor Lydecker, Provost Coombs, Margaret Odgaard tried to describe his many achievements. As MC, I read the last of my odes that he will ever be forced to listen to. Then he gave a brilliant memoir, beginning with his studying in France and Paris, still having ticket stubs for about 250 artistic presentations that he gloried in there. He remembered, with a sigh, coming to River Falls, with so few opportunities, so he worked out a deal with the River Falls Theater for the Foreign Film Series.

He described the intense preparations with Odgaard for the Arts and Ideas course, surely one of his most important creations.

A major reason to retire was to escape Wisconsin winters. He had already explored Florida and decided on a condominium in Fort Lauderdale, 3031 N. Ocean Boulevard, Apt 603. He has sent us pictures of the apartment and
some of the countless flowers which he found and described. The cultural opportunities were also grand. He has since written of the interesting people, mostly rich that he meets on his warm walks. His email remains john.j.buschen@uwrf.edu If you are not on his flower list, Today in History list, his jokes list, I am sure he would happily include you. His only adventure to the wintry north was to his mother in Chicago, celebrating happily with a dozen grandchildren/great grandchildren her 95th birthday. To use his favorite word, the warm life in Florida is simply superb.

Kurt Leichtle (*’86) “I continue my ‘Wisconsin Journey’ with great fun. I met my publisher in Chicago at the National Council for Social Studies. They told me all was going very well and a month later I learned the book has reached 14,000 in sales. I was in Chicago to be part of two panels, one on teaching international humanitarian law which is a curriculum developed by the Red Cross and the other session was sponsored by the Educational Testing Service and spoke about the Advanced Placement list service I co-moderate. The Red Cross project includes three alumni for our program

Mark Stoerz, Amanda Erickson, and Michelle Ribadoerr. They are known as the 3 M’s. In the last year they have traveled to three different locales presenting programs and workshops.

Recently I spent a day in Chippewa Falls talking with fourth graders about the book and Wisconsin history. I had a great time and met a group of super teachers and students. My co-author, Bruce Carveth, and I have finished "As Dust in the Balance" which is a biography of Edward Coles. Remember that really neat guy I wrote my dissertation on. The biography has been enlarged into a full life. We are looking for a publisher.

During the summer I will be leading an AP Institute with Bob Zeidel at River Falls for APUS History teachers the week of June 22. The week and followup work can earn participants 4 credits. In July I am teaching Science Fiction Film and American Culture. Yes, we will explore the real effects of Star Wars and come to grips with Matrix as well as meet plenty of monsters.

Betty Bergland (*’90) As the Department of History and Philosophy moved into new space this past year, Betty Bergland also moved to a new office and a new position. Chairing the department means learning the bureaucratic side of the academy--necessary but not always enjoyable. “Having more contact with students (signing forms!) can be pleasant, however. Teaching twentieth century U.S. history remains the constant, and this year I offered several advanced classes. I especially enjoy teaching: Immigration and Ethnic History course, the History of U.S. Foreign Policy, and the History Seminar, each with a fine group of students. On campus, I continue to serve on the Women’s Studies Committee, and serve my third year on the Faculty Senate.

My research and writing on immigrants and Indians continues, and this past year I was involved in several conferences. In May I organized a session and presented a paper on Scandinavian immigrants and the Dakota Conflict for the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS) that met in Minneapolis. (This work is evolving into a contribution for a Minnesota Historical Society projected volume on the Dakota Conflict from multiple perspectives.)

The summer was spent in Norway where I did some research and presented two papers on dimensions of the Bethany Indian Mission in Wittenberg, Wisconsin. One conference was in Bergen (The Norwegian-American Historical Association-Norway) and the other in Trondheim (The Nordic Association of American Studies.) I enjoyed especially the exchanges among international scholars in Trondheim, where I also participated in a Roundtable on the State of Immigration and Ethnic Studies in the United States. A revision of the (combined) papers will be published with the proceedings of the Bergen conference. Back home this past fall, I commented on a session on the Dakota Conflict at the Northern Great Plains History Conference, in Fargo, N.D.”

David Riggs (*’93) “After another whirlwind semester I spent the winter break writing, traveling, and preparing for the next round of classes. In January I went to London to scout out locations for a possible study tour. I stayed about a block from Parliament and spent a week walking the historic sites of London. In my wanderings I saw Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, and most of the major museums. One of the nice things about London is that all the really good historical attractions are free, which is pretty nice considering the exchange rate nowadays.

Speaking of history tours, I will be offering History 401 again this summer. We will be staying in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington this round. We will leave from River Falls on June 20th and return the morning of July 4th. No vans this time; we will be traveling in style on a luxury tour bus. The tour costs $1500 per person and includes travel, lodging, and entrance fees. Contact me for more information.”

Zhiguo Yang (*’01) continues to offer World History to 1500 and Introduction to Asian Civilizations to freshmen students at UW-River Falls. In the spring semester 2002-3, however, he taught Modern Japan, a new course focusing on Japan’s transition from a feudal society to a modern, Western nation-state. In fall semester 2003-4, he revisited theories of Marxism, post-modernism, and neo-colonialism with a group of graduating history majors who attended the History Seminar (HIST 485) that Yang taught for the first time on this campus. This was an intellectually exciting and rewarding experience for him.

After having successfully started International Study Tour to China program (HIST 371) in January 2003, Yang led another group of UW-River Falls and...
to Beijing, Qufu, Xian, Suzhou, Guilin, and Shanghai between January 3 and January 19, 2004. While the students in the tour group had opportunities to study Chinese history and culture by experiencing it, and get a sense of how Chinese people are meeting the challenge of development (or over-development, in the case of Shanghai) and preservation of traditions, Yang himself benefited from these tours because they have enabled him to keep abreast of recent changes in China (such as the mixed use of English and Chinese words in young people’s daily conversations) and update his course lectures based on that. (He could also visit his parents.)

Looking ahead, Yang feels that the summer of 2004 should be an exciting moment for him. In addition to planning on putting another China Study Tour group together to visit China between late May and early June, he is also looking forward to an extended stay in Beijing and Qingdao during which he will continue his writing project and meet scholars working in the field of modern Chinese history. Indeed, included in the plan is a visit with his family to Qufu, Confucius’s hometown. With a population of 600,000 people, it is called a small town in China, but with a long and rich history behind its tranquil life.

**Philosophers**

Dave Peters ‘86 says he has retired, but he is teaching two courses each semester, his favorites and remains as charming and stimulating as always. He is cursed with an inside office, across from mine.

Imtiaz Moosa ’91 He remains the embodiment of what we both think a teacher should be, dynamic, vivacious and enthusiastic. Almost as essential perhaps is his great good humor. He finally has a fine office commensurate with his grand personality.

"There is hardly anything new to report about my life. I enjoy the outdoors, I am working away at my research project, I keep changing my course offerings (for example, for the Fall semester, I will amalgamate my aesthetics course with art history), I am gaining quite a bit of fluency in German language (I have bought several hundred dollars worth of German audio books as well as regular books, through Ebay in Germany!), and lead my life as I always have. That is not to say that my life is uninteresting (though it may appear to others that it is so). I have always believed that it is the our inner lives that is crucial. A life that did not provide me with sufficient opportunity for contemplation would frustrate me. I guess that perhaps makes me a typical student of philosophy."

**Faculty Emeriti**

Noble Stockton (’66) & Ronnie and I are not quite as spry as we were, but we keep moving. We are volunteer ushers at the restored Sunset Center auditorium in Carmel, home of the Bach Festival, the Monterey Symphony, the Mozart Society, Carmel Chamber Music Society, Ensemble Monterey, etc. When Ronnie had a problem standing up for 1 1/2 hours before each performance, they assigned her to the cloak room where she can sit. Ah, my wife the hat-check girl! If she minds her P’s and Q’s, maybe they’ll promote her to cigarette girl....I’m still working on the editorial board of Noticias del Puerto de Monterey, published by the Monterey History and Art Association, which also runs several museums and historic buildings as well as the Mayo Hayes O’Donnell Library, a private historical library located in an old church building... A while ago I wrote for our magazine a review of a book that’s a model of what local history could be. Too many books of local or county history tell just one damn thing after another of interest only to ‘local yokels’ who knew or knew of the people involved in the old anecdotes.

Croce would call such works, chronicles, not history. This book is different: *Storied Land: Community and Memory in Monterey* by John Walton, tells not only what happened but also how local writers described to themselves what happened and tell how successive versions of what happened changed with the changing needs of the community and their changing vision of what they wanted their community to be. For instance, the picture of the Mexican Californians presented by such (potentially imperialist) American visitors as Richard Henry Dana, depicted caballeros dashing around on fast horses and dancing fandangos instead of working, exhibits the myopia of New Englanders, who assumed everyone should practice the Puritan ethic.

When Americans conquered California in 1846, it was to the interest of the new masters to depict their predecessors as despicable, stupid incompetents. Then the Southern Pacific Railroad came, erecting high price hotels in Monterey and developing charming sites for the tourists to see - and the early Mexicans were transformed from worthless trash to charming and picturesque ladies and gentlemen leading gracious and exciting lives which tourists could imitate if they bought real estate from the Southern Pacific RR and made Monterey their home. In an effort to preserve this imaginary heritage, the Monterey History and Art Assn. came into existence, restoring ruined adobes into museums and giving our magazine its absurd name.

In much of the 20th Century, Monterey was the center of a huge fishing industry run by Sicilians and some Portuguese, but this was never mentioned by the writers of local history. Then, about the time that Monterey Bay was fished out and the neighborhood of fish processing factories was beginning to go derelict, John Steinbeck published *Cannery Row* and a new myth was born, complete with tour sites in the former canneries. Walton points out that this hilarious story really decries a gang mostly of feckless bums who hang around the neighborhood but are not Sicilian or Portuguese and seem never to have worked a day in their lives. He also does a controversial turn on the changing image of Father Junipero Serra, founder of California’s Franciscan missions, and how tourist and Catholic interest—he’s now on his way to being declared a saint - have changed what is said about him.
Noble also wrote about his older son Paul: “He says he tries to avoid talking to the media because it takes too much time. (Also, the reporters screw up what he said.) After he amicable extricated himself from the staff of Senator Moynahan, he found a presumably permanent academic berth at the Naval Postgraduate School. An idea-man and organizer than a functioning scholar who gives presentations to congressmen and generals instead of finishing his book, he first headed a Civil-Military Relations program, based on the realization that so many 3rd-world military officers attended N.P.S. and other U.S. schools and then went home and overthrew their governments and became hideously vicious dictators - so maybe we were teaching them something bad. So his program offered classes and degrees to foreign dignitaries in methodologies for civilian authorities and military authorities to cooperate instead of killing each other. Also Paul and his team traveled to various ‘emerging democracies’ to discuss with military and civilian leaders how to accomplish their purposes without coups and bloodshed. They loved him South Africa, had him address parliament he once told me he felt proud of having gotten the former death squad leaders and the former Marxist revolutionaries in El Salvador talking to each other about how to fix El Salvador’s genuine problems. Then they made him assistant provost in charge of getting money out of Capitol Hill and the Pentagon, so he flies back and forth to D. C. After 9/11 he suggested they should start offering a master’s degree in Homeland Security, a program aimed at high-level state and big city officials, so he’s dean of that. With his team he has been visiting every governor to discuss the homeland security challenges in that state.”

Ruth Hale: Geography, from her Little Trim belle Farm sent Clyde a marvelous analysis of dogs, no two of which are the same. She concluded her description of her two dogs with the young one frolicking and retrieving a corn cob from the deep snow. “Watching her youthful joy in the new snow, I wondered again whether the good Lord made dogs lives short relative to our own to help us remember as we watch them playing as pups, our own youthful joy in living. And these days, observing my older dog Teejay, getting up a little more slowly each time, being far less interested in playing, and napping longer, I wonder if perhaps he’s programmed by the Lord to point to what lies ahead for me as the years continue to pass. What does all this have to do with Christmas? Well, if one believes that God gave us Abraham, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed and all those others to teach us morality, maybe He also gave us instructors on other planes as well. If only we will observer their ways, and grant them the affection they deserve...In my personal experience, if I had to go to one church only for the rest of my life there would be just once choice, and that would be St. Peter’s in Rome. Though not a Catholic, when I stood before that gorgeous altar with my niece Rebecca I delighted to see several life-sized sculptures of human figures, An at the feet of one of them was not a cat, not a bear, not a lion, but a little DOG, carved like his master, of marble.. My eyes teared.”

Stephen Feinstein (’69) Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the U of M. The Center is part of the College of Liberal Arts and History Department (45 members). The Center has developed a large website (www.չghs.umn.edu) which is of particular use to teachers and had 13 million "hits" last academic year. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses on the Holocaust, as well as in the Honors Program. During Fall, 2003, he was one of four professors teaching an ITV courses with UW-Madison on "European and German Anti-Semitism." Steve was also named guest curator of the permanent art collection at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, but has no intention to move to warm climate! His Center and the U of M are sponsoring a large outdoor exhibition in May and June, 2004 in downtown Minneapolis and St Paul entitled "Coexistence." The around the clock exhibit features 38 large billboards, 3 x 5 meters in size with quotes from humanists on the theme of Coexistence. Various projects are planned around this for schools. Steve also has had a book accepted for publication by Syracuse University Press: "Absence/Presence: Essays on the Artistic Memory of the Holocaust" slated for 2004.

Susan Feinstein is a happy grandmother and still working as audiologist at Minneapolis Children’s Medical Center. Her special expertise is working in the neo-natal intensive care clinic as under State of Minnesota law, all newborns must have hearing tested before they leave the hospital.

Jeremy Feinstein lives in New York and runs his own human resources consulting business, based on his MA from UW-Madison in Human Resource Management and MBA from Hautes Ecole Commerciale in Paris. He has a special expertise on exotic restaurants in New York and at the time of this writing is somewhere in India. Rebecca Feinstein, husband, Avi Winitzer, and daughter Sarah Beatrice live in Boston. Rebecca is a public health researcher for Massachussetts with an MPH from Harvard and MSW from Boston University. Avi is finishing a PHD in Assyriology, with a dissertation on "omens." (In ancient Babylon, before a war, a sheep would be sacrificed and the liver cut in half and read. If it had spots in the wrong place, it would be a bad omen). With this knowledge, he is certain to become an advisor to President Bush.

Herb Cederberg (’66) & Alice. “Alice and I are enjoying retirement immensely. We went to Florida for a month last winter and are going again. We spent 2 weeks on St. John’s Island and went to the U.S. Open in NYC, where I did research on gangs and on the Hudson River Painters. I delivered a paper in Puerto Rico just this past week. I am still a board member of JOBS. Both Alice and I are on he board of YPSCA. (Young Peoples Symphony Concert Assn) connected to the Minnesota Orchestra. I gave an art history course last spring for the ELI program at the U. of Minn and they have asked me to offer another course this spring. I
am also continuing to conduct a bookclub discussion group at Amery, WI.”

Clyde Curry Smith ('65) & Ellen, Clyde continues to meet with a younger colleague, the former bookseller, who wants to learn some Hebrew and to discuss books and ideas. Kevin still has connections for finding and ordering books on line for Clyde, so his home library continues to grow. Most of the books are now catalogued and identified for location, but Ellen still needs to combine everything. Every book was off the shelves to be sure we had them all. While Clyde reads, reviews, compiles, writes letters and serves on the Library Foundation Board, Ellen continues of the Planning Commission and Boundary Area Committee and its subcommittees, is active in the Tuesday Club and enjoys a book club…The area is changing, the Metropolitan Twin Cities now extend all the way out to RF and with the new four lane highway, RF and the surrounding townships have become urban.

Charles Graham (1954-63) & Bonnie: We have had a good and interesting year with plenty to do. Between us we have read lots of books. Chuck would pick as his outstanding one of the year Ken Wilbur’s The Marriage Sense and Soul, but now he is hooked on The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown. Bonnie has read it and her eyes are popping but won’t talk about it until Chuck gets it finished. Along with this, Chuck is reading textbooks on tape for the blind….Our great sadness this fall was the death of Bryan Storm, the 17 year old grandson of my cousin, whose son farms the farm in Illinois. We grieve with his family as we do with families of those whose children have been killed in this “preemptive” Iraqui war and the families of those who lose children in Palestine and Israel. No less do we mourn for our children who are killed in auto accidents and crime in the streets or in the schools or who succumb to illness. But the thing about Christian hope is that it can be held even in the face of tragedy and dismal prospects for the future.

Dick Swensen & Grace, ('55) were at the Buschen retirement party and he was kind enough to say complimentary things about John, in particular his sponsorship of foreign films, which Dick also had done and Dean Hedahl is doing now.

Gary & Sally Shellman ('67-'69) “I am now in the process of submitting editing corrections to a German-American historical encyclopedia for which 6 articles have been accepted. It is a modern publication achievement, but the editor, Thomas Adam of Texas-Arlington, seemed quite pleased with what I gave him. I think my journalistic writing style worked well for what he had in mind….I have 41 exams to grade from my 2 sections of German Life and Civilization course, which I taught for the Foreign Language Department this fall….The associate dean worked it out so that the Institute of World Affairs donated half my time to the Foreign Language Department to teach the courses….I will be working to expand our Great Decisions programs and establish some statewide links for foreign policy events.

Tim Ericson who was the UWM archivist since 1989 has moved over to teaching archival courses in the library school here. He was always cordial and a reminder that he was in my First World War class at River Falls.

Maurine & Dick Brynildsen. “In April Maurine had surgery for removal of a malignant lung tumor, but she recovered well enough, at least to go on a planned trip to Norway in September – during which we enjoyed a week-long boat trip from Bergen to the country’s northern tip. The scenery was gorgeous – mountains, glaciers, fjords and tiny colorful fishing villages. The weather was fine and we were surprised to see the natives enjoying outdoor cafes in a town above the Arctic Circle. These are working boats which deliver consumer goods, passengers and mail to the large and small ports up the coast – most comfortable and informal. Had a few days in Oslo beforehand and on return, by air, from the north. We rented a car and took an interesting ride through the pastoral countryside where Dick’s father was born and grew up.”

Wayne Sukow (Physics) & Carol, Wayne’s annual visit to the UVA hospital was very encouraging. In fact the MRI looked so good that he doesn’t have to go back for two years – a change worth celebrating. The other change that he is contemplating is the word that begins with “R” and usually occurs about the age of 65. (We don’t want to say the whole word yet, just in case.) Our hobbies haven’t changed, except that Wayne has discovered other rockhounds on E-Bay…

Our mutual hobby of birding just keeps getting to be more fun. An elder hostel in Texas in February introduced us to 25 birds we’d never even hear of before. Two weeks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in August gave us blue skies, clear air (D.C. residents would die for those two qualities in August) and more birding fun. As we were watching 5,000 plovers on a beach in NB, we heard the naturalist call, “Peregrine falcon coming in!” It flew through the flock once, twice, and finally on the third try came up with lunch in its beak….

Getting older brings its own changes. We suggest a change in name for this age from “The Golden Years” to “The Rusty Years.” In my case, the ‘good’ knee and the ‘bad’ knee sing a creaky refrain as climbing the stairs. “Sixtyseven! Sixty seven!” Then there’s the hair business. As mine gets thinner and thinner, I have predicted that in ten years, Wayne and I will have identical hair styles. As we contemplate replacing our ancient sofa and the lumpy hide-a-bed, Wayne observes, “You’re getting rid of all the old stuff around here and that worries me…”

Alumni News

Phil Colpitz ’79, MA’87 came by to get some more of the Save South Hall calendars for which he had done the 12 popular sketches. He is taking a break from his computer graphics profession and teaching to work as a phlebotomist. He explained the Greek origins of the word which means one who draws blood. When he noted that sometimes nurses are not careful enough with old patients in turning
them over, he mentioned that he knew about pain. When he was a child he had been paralyzed for six months after a car accident and his father had to turn him over. He is still running, which he traced back to that time when he could not even walk, but discovered he has asthma and avoids running when it is very cold. He tried of his computer work enough that he does not even have a computer, so that people could not ask him to make something quickly for them. He showed us nice sketches which he had been making in a small book given him by a sister, and plans to return it to her filled with such experimental sketches. He has a nicely trimmed gray beard, but in personality is as young as ever.

Karl Gandt wrote me in the fall from a strange address DuPage Convalescent Center, in Wheaton Illinois, 4000 N. County Farm Road. Then he described surgery for hydrocephalus, followed by six further surgeries, after one of which he suffered a stroke which left him a quadriplegic. He regained the use of his arms but with his legs it has been slow. Vital has been help from his parents and the constant support from wife Barbara, who fought to get him better care. What him hardest was the death of a friend not well cared for and who died from complications form MS, while he was in a coma.

At Christmas card he sent a bit of encouraging news. “I actually took 3 steps last Friday. They weren’t pretty, but at least I was able to move my legs forward. I’ve applied for a job at my old place of employment, the College of DuPage Library. If I get it, I may be able to get out of here which would make me very happy. It’s a job doing library acquisitions, which I could do from my wheelchair.” He asked that I wish him luck. I’m sure that everyone who knows Karl will join in with their prayers for such a reversal of luck. His room is 2419 and would enjoy letters.

Carole Kettner (’81 & ’87) & John Peter Carol is working with 2nd graders again this year. It’s always such a big change to go from the end of 3rd grade to the beginning of 2nd grade, but it makes each year an exciting and new challenge. In addition to her never-ending landscaping of the yard, Carol spent some time volunteering at a riding/nature therapy facility in the summer. She worked with a group of troubled teenagers, helping them learn some gardening skills and identifying wildflowers. That went a long way toward earning her Wisconsin Master Gardener certificate which she received in December.

John continues to love his job working on behalf of children all over Wisconsin. He spent a lot of time at the Capitol working with legislators. After so many years in the classroom which he loved, he is finding it very interesting and rewarding working for educators and children in different parts of the state... The letter wouldn’t be complete without mentioning Tinker and Trugger, the two cats who have so graciously allowed us to take care of their home, and provide a lap for them to snuggle on....

Neither one of us can believe how so many people can buy into what we refer to as the “new patriotism” where you are only patriotic if you don’t question Mr. Bush. That seems to be the antithesis of what I thought was being a good American. Maybe I had too many history classes from radicals like you. We had a chance to talk to David Obey a few weeks ago…. Congressman Obey said that last spring when a number of soldiers wrote home about the poor food rations, the lack of clean water, and lack of sanitary conditions, many of their spouses got together and started writing Congress about it. Some of them got visits from officers telling them to stop complaining or their husbands’ careers would suffer. Now how’s that for a democratic country?

Cheri Pierson Yecke ’84 the Commissioner of Education for Minnesota earned her MST-History in Spring Quarter 1983-84 with Cederberg. She has been struggling with setting the standards for the social sciences, including the proper interpretation of U.S. history. Her interpretation is very likely often diverse from that of Cederberg and a compromise with more liberal views has taken months to work out.

Manley E. Olson ’59 “With our second full year of retirement, life has taken on a new rhythm. We both continue have involvement with various local groups and still have enough national activity to be able to do some traveling….” In January we flew to San Antonio for the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Conference…The Presbyterian General Assembly met in Denver in late May. In July we both went to Louisville for the triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women. The General Assembly Council on which Manley serves, met in late September at Montreat in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. It was a great week….Manley’s high school class had their 50th reunion this summer and he was on the committee. Great turnout with 17 of a possible 25 there. As each year passes it seems that the most memorable part of the various events we are involved in is renewing contacts with friends. Unfortunately several such contacts this past year were at funerals and memorial services.

Lani Madis (’61) “For me this was a wonderful year of reunions, the 50th grammar school reunion; visiting a best childhood buddy as if no time had passed, attending a Matures reunion and the Play Cabaret at UW-RF… All blended in with my various Girls Scout activities and business. Growing grandsons, reconnections and new projects. The old year will flow seamlessly into the new. The weekend pass Thanksgiving after the last company had left, the septic system decided to explode in a downstairs bath and basement area. Appears the electric cable for the house to the pump was not buried deep enough and was nicked while the sod and border stones were put in this summer. And of course, they were splicing in the wire during our first major snow.

Mike Dodge & Catherine. (’59) Mike wrote on his card, “Catherine’s mother, Doris Suennen, died in November. I mention this because, in addition to being a wonderful mother-in-law, grandmother and friend, she was the great oral historian of Hudson. I was privileged to hear her stories
for almost 40 years, stories of her life and the life of the town in which she lived for over 98 years. The tales were funny, sad, sometimes dramatic and always illuminating. It was a body of work that comprised a literature as rich or richer than any I’ve ever read.

I believe that collectively we remain barbarians to the core differing from our ancestors only to the extent that we possess more efficient means of killing one another and the verbal skills to lie about it. Ah, but there are wondrous individuals among us, quite a few in fact, including an extraordinary, ordinary person, like Doris Suennen. And so there is hope. And now having declared my annual pronouncement, I can crawl back into the Spider Hole.”

Dave Peterson (*’80/MA ’91) “I’m in my 18th year at the Minnesota Historical Society where I shuffle papers and sip coffee (work as a manuscripts archivist and cataloger) My big success story of this year was the fact that I somehow escaped the draconian round of layoffs experienced by state government and by the Historical Society under the new governor. MHS laid off 200 employees July 1. I dreamed up, found speakers for and chaired a session on historical preservation on college and university campuses for the annual Northern Great Plains History Conference. (One part was by Ed Peterson about Ursula blocking the destruction of South Hall) I continue my email correspondence with my cousins in Norway. My involvement as a parent volunteer with Eleanor’s Park High School band has occupied much of my time. My e-mail address is david.peterson@mnhis.org

Pat Owen wrote: “I am still at the library and still quite unorganized at home, much to my dismay. My accomplishments this year were getting a new computer. (I can now burn music cds!!) a new car for myself…and attending the Eric Idle concert with Eleanor and chatting a bit with him afterwards. (Eric Idle is a member of Monty Python – not Billy Idol)” Eleanor wrote: In August I started my new job at the local library as a shelver….I am still VERY involved with the band program. In May I received the Director’s Award and my letter and that made me feel very honored. In the summer, I continued my work in the bandroom and was also in the marching band. In November mom took me to go see Eric Idle’s new tour show and it was great. We had seats that were really close to the stage, not spitting distance but pretty close. But I believe that the most important thing that has happened to me this year was I have a boyfriend….Overall I believe that this has been a very good year, except for the fact that I only have 18 months left of high school.”

Michael wrote: this year has gone by fast! I’m in 7th grade, 12 years of age. I have nice teachers like Pfeifer and Siedel and Bergy and Hickman. CGJH is much better than boring elementary. It’s xmas and it’s that time of year when mom gets sick and then I get sick and etc. CGJH’s food is so better than elementary’s food, except the chicken nuggets are disgusting. I like dad’s comment, shuffle papers and sip coffee, only if I had a life like that.”

Kristi J. Fogtman: (*’87) has kept us again well supplied with premier coffee. I remembered her when I saw her independent congressman Sanders on TV commenting on the primary elections. I remember years ago when she wrote about his political independent virtues.

Sister Jane Winkler, (*’72) Spring held its usual wealth of new life bursting forth in extravagant shades of elegant greens. Then came summer with its blue, fluffy clouds, warm breezes, picnics in the gazebo, dips in the pool and flowers blooming everywhere in a kaleidoscope of fabulous colors and the joy of visits from many friends. All of this was followed by my favorite season – autumn. The leaves were breathtaking beyond belief in their splendid array of colors. However as these moments fade we know we headed to this present season of winter whiteness and fairylands of crystal snowflakes. I found delight in them all.

Then Sister Jane describes painful experiences as her MS progressed, with a series of accidents, hospitalizations, medications, which would have depressed most people into darkness. Then she continues. “Lest you think that this as been a really difficult time, let me assure you that there have been countless blessings with rewards beyond my imagining. The times of rest and solitude have been fruitful times of prayer and inner growth….

I guess I really needed a time out to take a good look at my life and get things back in their proper order of importance! Gratefulness is such an essential part of inner peace and self-knowledge. I guess we would all much prefer to be givers than receivers but I have come to learn that in order truly be a generous giver we first learn to become gracious receivers.”

Karla Taylor (*’79) included a fine letter with he card this year: “At age 47, I still don’t need to take any medication on a regular basis. A good thing, too, as I couldn’t afford it. I actually went to a movie this past summer, “The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen.” It was fascinating and fun, but the rapid-fire jump-cut pace of the movie editing nowadays gave me a headache. As for TV, I occasionally watch something on PBS and I’m very fond of the Discovery Channel’s “Unsolved History. Recently they did the Chicago fire and actually built a shed exactly the same as Mrs. O’Leary’s and set fire to it so test how it burned. They also tested theories about the JFK assassination, and a man of the same height, height and build, and as fit as Lee Harvey Oswald, walked the route Oswald took, to see if he could have committed the murder and got as far as he did in the amount of time he had. Their conclusion was that Oswald had plenty of time.

As for books, I can recommend The Eyre Affair and its sequel Lost in a Good Book, by Jasper Fforde… Be prepared, however, to take these books in small doses, as they are packed with literature references and concepts. Speaking of pro-sports, the ONLY time I ever watch the Fox Network is when they are running a Packer game….

So Saddam Hussein, has been captured. Now comes the trial, but with what, precisely, will he be charged? The Bush administration will have to tread very carefully, be-
cause many charges could apply to George W.: elective aggression against his own people. Restricting the rights of women. Gross exploitation of the environment, Vandalizing the wall of separation between civil matters and religious ones. Attempts to incite the governments of other nations to play along with his policies. At least there was a clear difference between FDR and Hitler.

**Michael Peterson ('76) & Kathy:** After installing my new Macintosh G5, with Cinema monitor and getting me the fast DSL connection to the Net, he returned to Omaha, then stopping in North Tonawanda to see Kathy’s parents, then to a guest professorship in Ottawa, Canada. He took his daughter Sarah to Newark, where she will leave with a group to study in Senegal all spring. after taking enough shots that would discourage any one less determined. She and her David Gutman, who will be in Ankara, only laughed at the suggestion that they could get together in Timbuctu. (Maybe they did not know that it was in my youth a word for being out of this world.) He had a workshop in Vienna and Bratislava, then returned to Ottawa, which has a frozen river, the longest skating rink in the world.

**Jim DeMarce ('61) & Virginia:** “Jim and I have been trying to think back on the past year, and conclude that mostly, we got up in the morning, went to work, came back home, collapsed, and then got up to do it over again the next day….The Branch of Acknowledgement and Research has turned into the Office of Federal Acknowledgement in a Department of the Interior reorganization that moved it out of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and put it directly under the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. So we have a fascinating new set of acronyms to put into our correspondence. This also involved a physical move…When we got there, the furniture hadn’t arrived, so we sort of camped out for six weeks. But we are all old and wily, so when we departed from our prior corridor, we took along every item that wasn’t actually bolted to the wall. Therefore, we had office chairs, coat racks and computers. After we had been there for a week or so, it rained. We decided that it didn’t take a lot of intuition and perception to figure out why the space was vacant when facilities management was directed to find a place to put us. The best news is that – seven or eight rains later – the committees of people with stepladders and toolboxes have put the ceiling tile back up and fixed the leak that caused it to fall down. They also put silicon gel around the window panes, so water doesn’t roll through them, flow across the sills, run down the walls and soak the carpet tiles. They have also furnished us with something called a “bad air sponge,” that is supposed to soak up the musty odor that resulted from having the carpet tiles soaked when the sewage backed up in the drains in the engineering closet across the hall and the water came up in the elevator shafts and ran across into our offices.

For the past 42 years, Jim has admonished Virginia to write the Great American Novel. Although she hasn’t quite done that, she’s been doing some writing of fiction in an alternate history universe set in a version of Germany dur-

ing the Thirty Years War that has been changed by the sudden and unexpected arrival of a small mining town from West Virginia, based on Mannahong, WV, in south-central Thuringia.…

Jim’s year was largely concerned with implementing the revised regulations and working through the backlog of black lung claims which accumulated during the unsuccessful legal challenges to them brought by the coal and insurance industries…. His leisure time has been significantly reduced by his election to the Board of Elders of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. (In October they came to see the changing leaves here and Jim spoke profoundly to two of my classes.)

**Francis Sagert ('85) & Dawn:** Fran began by reacting to the Young Republicans move against liberal professors at UWRF: As a “Reagan Republican” that cast his first vote for RWR at age 18 in ’80, let me say this of the current crop of Republicans – lets debate. I’ll gladly defend your wife and faculty with what conservatism and the Reagan Revolution was all about….I still remember you giving useful instructions to a young Reaganite in 1980 who had 12 months prior shaken hands with President Carter at a podium in K.C. Missouri. What a political swing in a year I made. A complete awe of Carter to voting for the opposition 12 months later….I remember being an arrogant, self-centered, idealistic “youth” 25 years ago. Youth by its very definition implies inexperience. A debate or open forum of middle-aged GOP members with your “watchdogs” would be a welcome distraction. A small wager of beer and brats would boost the competitive level to heights not seen since you last took to the podium to debate….The freedom to debate without fear is your right, the faculty has both moral and mortal law on its side. In the Gaza, in Damascus, in Tehran and Peshwar, we need to see that all men and women are not afraid to debate, have the basic needs met and are given a chance to live moral productive lives. As long as fear and hate persist, tyranny will prevail. If all the people understood what riches freedom brings, the war would be over.”

**Doug Patin ('61) and Liza,** Nicholas (17) is 6’3” and returned from a three day “retreat” two weeks ago. The Jesuits are great teachers at his school – it’s the oldest Catholic high school in the country – founded in 1789. He is inspired by his U.S. History teacher, who is a master – a real H.S. teacher. PhD His school is full of vibrant, driven, dedicated, talented teachers.

Katia (10) is doing well at her Catholic grade school in Georgetown. She is very affectionate – a voracious reader! Liza continues to encounter interesting folks at the IMF and World Bank, where she tests employees on their Russian proficiency. She continues to teach part time diplomats traveling to Russia. Her 23 year old niece in St. Petersburg is writing her fourth science fiction. Her first three were sold out. The children and Liza continue to speak Russian to each other.

I’m in a constant rat race of traveling and litigation. I have the biggest case on the “Big Dig” in Boston – so I
spend several weeks a month there. I also travel to New York and Florida a lot. It seems by biggest challenge lately is to manage other lawyers who work for me – who have their own demands, problems and issues.

Nicholas and I spent two weeks on a customized tour in China last spring. We drank yak butter tea and ate yak meat with Buddhist monks in the foothills of the Himalayas. We stayed in a village in a wonderful valley that supposedly was the setting for Hilton’s *Lost Horizon*, Shangri-la. We rode bikes though rice fields along the Li River in SW China – saw the Great Walls, the terra cotta soldiers in Xian. Liza and I celebrated our 25th anniversary in Venice last October. I feel we are still in the front lines of the terrorism war, living in Washington. We constantly brace ourselves of the next “hit.” But life goes on for now.

**Ken Peterson (71)** “For the past 2 weeks I was in Kenya again working with the orphanage, doing some electrical work, and even spent one day sight seeing. I had planned to originally go last March, but the war was looming, then I planned on August only to encounter what was referred to as an “imminent terrorist threat”, the cancellation of BA flights and the closing of the US Embassy for a while. When things settled down a bit I booked a flight for early December….When in Nairobi my friends met me and I asked them about the “imminent threat” to which the reply was “What threat?”. The Consulate General or some high ranking British official had breakfast at one of the hotels that was threatened and lunch at the other to prove he was not concerned. I think driving in Kenya is far more dangerous than the threat of terrorism.

The new Kenyan President, Kibaki, is making real attempts to improve the country. His first order was to drop all school fees for grades 1-8 so everyone can attend school. He also promised to clean up corruption in government and seems to be making progress. I commented that the money still bears the picture of President Moi and was told that the new president didn’t care whose picture was on the bills and wasn’t going to spend any money to change the currency just to have his picture on it. He also claims he is not a career politician and will serve only one term. (I could get to like President Kibaki and some of our career politicians here could learn from him.)

There was something new that I first heard of this year, the Munchingi (sp) which is a rural movement to return to the ways of their ancestors and reject everything that is foreign to the tribal culture. I understand that in some regions as high as 15-20% of the people subscribe to this belief. It is not yet violent, but seems to be moving that way. The nationals explained to me that they seem a scary similarity to the Mau-Mau of the 50’s and 60’s and this new movement. The worse effects of the drought seem over in the highlands and there is a good crop coming there, but the Rift Valley remains very dry. There are still spots of moderate famine in the valley and food is expensive there. This of course causes more problems for the people on the bottom rungs of the social ladder like the orphans.

The other thing that is far more noticeable is the increase in violent crime. Crime was always a problem, but it is turning more violent. The Kenyan accountant at the Kibaki hospital was taking a bank deposit to a regional bank 3 weeks ago and as you travel up the mountain there is a rail overpass you must go under only 1 km from our compound. It was blocked by a vehicle and robbers confronted him demanding the deposit. He gave them the envelope but it contained no cash, only checks for they shot him dead behind the wheel and told the others to let the hospital take care of him. As a result Kenyan paramilitary police now patrol the road up the mountain. That may be more scary than the robbers however.

A week ago yesterday (Sunday) the director of our orphanage was visiting with us as we prepared a budget and laid out plans for 2004. He and his wife left at dusk to drive 9 km to their home on the road going down the mountain. About 1 km from the compound they encountered a pile of rocks in the road and were surrounded by 4 men, two with rifles. They were dragged from the car and thrown on the ground. Jane related that the one man held a rifle to the back of her head as they took their valuables, the car battery, most of their clothes and shoes and then broke the windows out of their car. Miraculously they were not beaten or killed and ran home when the robbery was over. Now there are paramilitary on that road too.

The reason for the Kenyan visit was not to check out Kenyan politics or road security however. After the last visit we received donations to build and orphanage and care for 28 AIDS orphans. That number has now grown to 49 children and continues to increase. There is such a change in these young people in 2 years. Two years ago they did not laugh and there was a sense of hopelessness in the group. Only through the kindness of Jane and Samuel who signed up as an orphanage did they get any food. Now they all been to the doctor, are in public school and doing very well thanks to Jane’s tutoring. They all have full stomachs and enough clothes and shelter.

I visited with them several times during my stay and we planned to have a Christmas feast for them. I asked Samuel and Jane (orphanage directors) what would be special for the children. They asked the children what would be a good Christmas and they said “Meat and Coca-Colas.” We arranged to purchase a whole goat for the special meal. They wanted to celebrate Christmas with me before I left so last Monday, December 15, we had the feast. The children first sang and danced for us for an hour, then we had the feast of their lifetime with no restrictions on second and third helpings. The dinner included boiled goat, potatoes, carrots, corn tortillas, and a bottle of soda (most had never tasted Coca-Cola before though widely available in Kenya.)

After lunch I had the honor of distributing little bags of gifts donated by the Sunday School classes in my
church. Everyone got a tablet, pens and pencils, a bar a soap, toothbrush and a small box of cookies and some hard candy. For most of the children this was the only Christmas gift they ever received. Then we broke out two new soccer balls to replace the ball of rags that they had used to play soccer and the games began. I commented to Samuel that it was not much of a gift to which he replied ‘This is a Christmas they will remember for 20 years to come.’ I guess I will too since it was one of my best Christmas experiences in years.

The day the suddenly went from one of the best Christmases to one of the worst. Samuel and Jane took us to the three sites where they have the vision for the next three orphanages or feeding centers. The first is a little town of Longonot, 5 km from the existing orphanage. This town has 47 children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. There is little food, has been little rain and the outlook for these children is bleak. There is a church that offered its building for a feeding site, but there is no money for food.

Then we drove to Carima at the base of Mt. Margaret 10 km away. Once again there is the same scenario but with 69 children.

These were depressing enough, but then we went to Maihu-Maihu, a town of a three to four thousand people right on the main highway to the interior. I have been in towns that are nothing but open sewers before, but this place set a new record low for it. The doctors estimate that the town is 80% HIV positive because the only major commercial enterprise there is prostitution. Samuel says that one person a day dies of AIDS and they find a child every week who died on the streets or in the alleys. He says there are maybe 150 orphaned children in this town. Samuel and Jane began a very small feeding program here in a room they rented with their own money. It is a dirty, smoky, overcrowded storefront, but for 35 children is this the only source of food on a semi-regular basis. Even so the food supply is at best sporadic. The cost of the whole program there is $350 a month right now or about $10 a month per child.

We walked the streets of the town as Samuel pointed out potential sites for his dream of another orphanage and hospice. His dream is for a residential orphanage, a feeding center where very poor children who have a home could get a meal, and a hospice where these children who are dying on the streets could have a roof over their heads, food, care and could live out their remaining days in some form of dignity and not just die in a back alley all alone. As we walked around the town a small group of 4-5 year olds followed us everywhere. Some already showed signs of lesions from advanced AIDS. There was a site about 200’ square that could be developed into the facility near the center of the town, but the environment there is terrible with little room to develop a playground. Land on the edge of town is more expensive to develop but could provide some open spaces. Phase one would cost $25,000 USD.

There are a few interested people back home, but the $25,000 figure is still out of reach for the present. I do expect that it will be constructed within the year however. Some friends will pick up the $350 a month on the interim basis until we see what develops in the plan for a permanent building.

The end result was that last Monday was the best of days/worst of days as it revealed both the best and worst in humanity and the world situation.

Mike McLaren (’92) “This came to me from a friend who is a former Naval aviator (who flew as a weapons specialist in an Orion P2C during Gulf War I), and whom had it sent to him from one of his former Navy buddies. It makes for interesting reading especially when you consider the public line the administration is taking on the firefight, the use of "body-count", and the overwhelming fiction, fantasy and doctor-up facts that got us into this Iraq mess in the first place -- and continue to be fed verbatim to the apparently still gullible, and naïve American public.

It is an e-mail sent from Iraq to a retired US Army colonel by a commander of one of the 4th Infantry Division's units that fought recently in Samarra. The official story said a few dozen people were killed - all Saddam's Fedayeen. This commander's version is quite different, beginning with his estimate that almost all casualties were civilians or irregular fighters. I'm including a link to the website where the e-mail is posted. www.hackworth.com. (Col. David Hackworth (ret.) is the US Army's most highly decorated, living soldier, and was a commando in Vietnam. He is very well-known among US troops and within the military, and nearly universally respected, if not well-liked. He's certainly no dove, but he has been a consistent denouncer of the war on purely military terms. His website is a clearinghouse for frustrated soldiers in Iraq who find themselves in a much different situation than the one described by Administration officials. They send him e-mails that he posts anonymously, to protect them being punished for breaking ranks."

What I think is most relevant here is: 1. The commander describes accurately the grisly realities of guerrilla warfare. Guerrillas look to hurt an occupier, so that the occupier will respond wildly and indiscriminately. Guerrillas know they can't win militarily, so they look for political victory. This means that they look to turn more of the population against the occupier, by triggering highly violent and indiscriminate attacks on civilians. This methodology was successfully applied by Iraqi guerrillas from 1930-1958 when Iraq was effectively occupied by Great Britain. Iraqis were taught this method, in fact, by a British military strategist, who rallied the Arab tribes to expel the Ottoman Empire after World War I. The British officer was T. E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia.

2. The commander also describes how completely unprepared US armed forces are for this kind of warfare, and how this unreadiness means that US forces are responding just as
the guerrillas would like them to: panicked and undisciplined sprees of heavy fire into residential areas, with certain civilian deaths.

3. The stark contrast of the commander's on-the-ground story with the official story, and with the statements of his civilian and military superiors. This suggests the extent to which the Administration is managing the image of the war, and also the extent to which the mainstream media is cooperating with this management. It also suggests the vast gulf of comfort, safety and privilege that lies between those who send armies into war, and those who are sent.”

Mark Ledbetter (’91) sent a doggy card, in honor his neurotic Norman. What he sends me periodically about his life as policeman, not always a happy one, in Hopkins, MN, would make a book, which I hope someday he will. From time to time he gives me reports of the less happy side of a policemen life, which he takes in good humor

Marla Sorenson sent a lovely card, designed for the National Wildlife Federation Roger Vanous (’64) & Joyce: I’m still working for Einstein’s Bagels. The times are not kind to bagels or any other baked products, mostly because of the populariry of the Atkins diet. Still, we’re hanging in there and so far I haven’ seen any signs of impending doom. I remember what it was like when Arthur Treachers had all its troubles and went into Chapter 1, and I haven’t seen any of them. I’m still active with the Billy Graham Telephone ministry. It is so rewarding that I can’t see myself doing it. Joyce is still with J. C Penney’s but apparently not for long. The Penneys at Brookdale Mall is closing by the end of February. She can retire and claim her retirement health benefits. She’d need to get another job, but it’s hard to get benefits now, and that would solve that problem. It’s also possible she could get a transfer to another store and get enough hours to keep her benefits. We’re putting it in the Lord’s Hands and waiting to see how it works out.”

Jeff Pilgreen (’91) Now stationed in Belgrade. It’s amazing to see the difference between public pronouncement and private deals and maneuvers. That’s not to say that the politicians and diplomat are liars, but it is clear that the average news digester neither receives nor understands the critical elements of any given issue. History happens so fast, but it takes some time for anyone besides "the insiders" to understand what happened.

To be assigned next to Guatemala: it’s part of the personnel system: two years here; training; two years there. Keeps officers from going native or developing "clientitis". Guatemala was our second choice. Lima, Peru was choice number one. I expect that we will return to a post in Europe around 2007/2008. Shannon and I are looking forward to Spanish language training. She is already fluent, so she will be a great tutor.

Kerry Gripen ’70, MA, ’77: Although I haven’t taught for years, I have continued to be close to students even though I now am retired. One of our recent 2003 graduates, Mandi Ponzio (whose father and aunts were my students), has worked with both my wife and I over the last few years. She has been accepted into James Madison College at Michigan State University (my wife’s alma mater) to study Eastern European Studies and German Studies. I saw Mandi a week ago and now she is in Dresden, immersed in learning the German language at a Goethe Institute.

Francis Ginther ’84: His research: “It appears that the Army High Command established a group called German Youth Activities in April 1946 to introduce young Germans to the principals of democratic society. The Youth Helps Youth program was established and adopted by 4-H to "reorient a young population that had known only authoritarian society”. I find the connection and similarities to our current work in Iraq as well as some comparison to the goals of the Hitler Youth groups amazing and worth exploring. For the scope of this paper, my work in my spare time is on a PhD in the Work, Community and Family Education Dept. at University of Minnesota, I would like to try to find some linkage to 4-H. The Marshall Plan connection has been glossed over on some Austrian web sites but I may try to obtain a copy of the actual Marshall Plan legislation to see if 4-H is mentioned.


It is an entertaining challenge as always to link history and 4-H. The paper has started out too large for now and must be whittled down, but this post WWII angle may be too far. I will also try to access the records of the National 4-H Club Foundation. Josephine Wetzler has an article reference entitled, "The Armed Forces Assistance Program to German Youth Activities". It could be the gem I need for success!

Gwen Fankhauser Deutsch, (’03) just wanted to send a thank you to all the professors who have written letters of recommendation for me, advised me, and have shown concern for me last fall when I was ill and this spring when my husband was deployed with the Army Reserves. I am happy to tell you all that I have been accepted to the College Student Devilmant and Administration program in the graduate college at UW-La Crosse. I have an assistantship with the Student Activities and Centers Center, but I am not sure what I’ll be doing yet. I’ll graduate from UWRF in August, and just 6 days later I’ll start in La Crosse.

My husband has been transferred again from New York to Ft. Hood Texas, and he still awaiting his overseas deployment orders. We still hope for him to come home next March or April.

Steve Hay ’66. “I have a wonderful wife named Joan. She is a nurse and a singer and an actress. We are both active in community theater. I grew the beard to play Fagan in
"Oliver". Last Christmas I played Scrooge, loved it. Joan and I met in "My Fair Lady" 18 years ago.

The business in Lake Geneva is trumpet parts mostly and some steel stampings. We built a 1903 Wright Engine 25 years ago for the Seventyfifth Anniversary of the Wrights because my dad was semi retired and donating time to work on airplanes at the EAA museum. They knew he had a machine shop and asked him to build the engine. These engines are not particularly complex but the Wrights left no drawing. The drawings that are available were made years later and are full of errors and inconsistencies. We resolved those problems twenty five years ago and I think that is why we got the job for the 100th Anniversary. The engine we built twenty five years ago still runs and runs very well. We have finished 3 engine of the new batch, and one of these we are taking over to Ford motor companies engine Lab in Dearborn next week for testing. It should be great fun.

Hay Mfg. is a tiny little company: 6 employees plus Jim and me. The engine we did 25 years ago was a donation, the ones we are doing now we are getting paid for. We are a subcontractor on this project. It is funded by Ford and the man who is head of the project is Ken Hyde. Web site http://www.wrightexperience.com>www.wrightexperience. com We are not the pilots, to old and heavy. On December 24: Well the plane did not fly on 17 Dec. The weather was terrible. The Wright brothers would not have tried to fly on such a rainy windless day. The engine ran very well however.

Fortunately the plane had flown twice in November so we did recreate a flying Wright aircraft. Plane is on its way to Ford museum in Dearborn and our lives are returning to normal. It was fun to be slightly famous for a while. We signed a lot of autographs at Kitty Hawk and met a lot of wonderful people.”

Wayne & Donna Viitanen: ’62 retired to Mexico: The border crossing went very smoothly at Laredo/Nuevo Laredo and we headed southwest through Monterey, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Guadalajara, and on to Lake Chapala....the drive down went smoothly, too, though driving on relatively narrow two lane roads was interesting in the Chinese sense of the word. You never can relax if there is a car, truck, bus, or cow anywhere in sight. Fortunately, Mexico has quite a bit of tollway now and those stretches provided welcome relief from the constant vigilance required on the regular highways.

We arrived in Ajijic about 10 days before our household goods, so we operated out of our suitcases till everything showed up....Incidentally, homes are usually sold furnished hereabouts and we did keep some nice pieces of furniture. We had a pretty good idea of what we liked when we saw the house at Christmas, so we were able to sell and give away quite a lot before we moved. The moving expenses came out to about $1.00 per pound, so old favorite pieces of "stuff" finally got tossed after all these years.

We were very fortunate in that everything arrived that was listed on the inventory and there was virtually no damage to anything. Our contact with the moving companies (one for the U.S. side and another for the Mexico part) said that this is a good time of year to cross the border because fewer people are moving this time of year. Inspections are more frequent and more thorough from November through March, since that is the "high" season for transportation of people and goods across the border. Apparently drug dealers without friends in high places try to get through along with everyone else, so the federales are especially alert to examine shipping inventories.

We were also advised the Laredo is the best port of entry because so many people and so much produce, manufactures, etc. pass through that the officials are more businesslike about things than at lesser crossing points. When you drive through, you pass through a major port of entry process at the border, but then some 40 miles or so down the road, far outside any town, you get stopped again. This time they ask for your papers and you can get a green light or a red light. If you get the red light, then they can ask you to pull over and unload every thing from the car. We got a green light, perhaps because of our FM-3 status. We have been told that Mexico wishes to treat permanent resident gringos with all due respect of the money they expect we will spend...

The lake is the dominant physical feature hereabouts and provides a wonderful setting for spectacular sunrises and, supposedly, sunsets. So far, sunrises have been the most impressive. It is sad to see how neglected the shorelines are. It drives northern European types nuts to see all the trash along the lake and scattered here and there throughout the area. This, plus the helter skelter driving habits down here, has been the most difficult part of the transition. The country is beautiful, and the people are great, but they perhaps cannot afford the cleanliness that we would like to see.

We are still in transition regarding certain services, such as appropriate insurances, and switching over to a retirement mode where finding engaging activities becomes part of one's new life style. They talk of Mexican time, and that is true. One either becomes very patient, or one becomes very frustrated. Certain things are easy to accomplish, such as finding good help at very reasonable cost. Other things, such as an effective internet provider take time. We do have a Canadian TV dish, so we get PBS, the major networks, and a plethora of the usual TV drivel, so we are o.k. on that account. E mail is a god send down here. Telephone rates are extremely high--you can run up a $25 bill in no time at all. Newspapers--U.S.--are quite expensive, too. Magazines are actually a better deal, since they usually have articles that last awhile, whereas the newspaper stories are old by the time we get to read them.

There are quite a lot of gringos here, even this time of year. Texans come down to cool off and a surprising number of gringos are actually moving in to stay. We are by no
means the only full timers moving in this summer. As a result, the economy in this area is quite good. There is a lot of residential and commercial construction going on, and my understanding is that these folks make consider-ably more than the Mexican minimum hourly wage. (We are also paying our help quite well—we calculate that in two hours time, our gardener and maid earn a full day's wage at the minimum level. We would feel most put upon if accused of oppressing the working class)!

We are also becoming bird watchers since so many fly in and out of our yard. Early morning and early evening bring the largest number around, so we have our binoculars and our Petersons birds of Mexico handy to see what flies into view. There are hundreds of white egrets, herons, and other water fowl on the lake all year round. In winter, we will need the Birds of North America in order to keep up with all the migratory birds that will come down.

Clearly our most warming improvement was installing solar panels for the pool, extending its usable time right up to the present. For awhile, in October and November, the pool water approached 90 degrees. Now, however, it is about 83—brisk, but definitely bearable. Our installer said that our unit should maintain 82 degrees, even in winter, unless there were too many cloudy days. Considering that the pool had become too cold to use by mid-August without the solar, this has been a tremendous improvement. Since propane gas is very expensive here, people with gas-heated pools are either super rich or fool hardy spend-thriffs. Our only expense is running the pool pump and filter system some eight hours a day vs. two hours a day when the water was cold.

The snow birds have really been coming down lately, and parking is getting extremely difficult to find in town. We have acclimated to the point where temps in the 70's seem quite brisk. The snowbirds, however, are wearing straw hats, sandals, and shorts. Anyone wearing shorts after Nov 1 or so is the source of considerable amusement to residents. I guess that's how we looked last Christmas on vacation, but now we are all settled in and wearing long pants and light jackets in the evenings. One of these days we will have to read the instruction book on how to get the gas fireplaces going—but no need rushing things—we are on Mexican time! And weather!

From the Desk of C. C. Smith

David E. Olson, ('74) called during a rapid visit home from Johannesberg, South Africa, where he teaches at an International School. He much enjoys his work, which involves taking pupils over Africa and Europe.

Mary Magnan D'Andrea (MA, 1981)

Mary visited in November and could report on her visit in September and had participated in activities of Persephone Books and related Women's Studies. While there she had studied in the Students Room of the Department of Near East of the British Museum and collected memorabilia of Leonard King, on which Clyde and she are expert.

Diane Raddatz, sent a Christmas card with a horse enjoying a Christmas tree. “the past year can be summered up by the four letter word WORK. We put in overtime, plus Saturday and several Sundays, which left time for little else I am sure Uncle Sam is very appreciative of my contribution to the coffers - he sure gets enough, especially from the extra hours. If this slacks up after the 1st of the year perhaps I will get to do some traveling on vacation time - which they suspended in certain departments during the heavy work load time. I have a stack of books to get to and read. Every now and then I can squeeze in one between the busy times. That and the horses keep me sane - so far.”

Bonnie Jones Witthuhn, ('76), Among the changes was the purchase of an additional veterinary practice, the original River Falls Veterinary Clinic. This has given our business expanded buildings and staff and all that goes with such an experience. It has been a blessing and a challenge as we make decisions about how to best use the 2.8 acres. Dick is excited about the possibilities for expansion. Our purchase made us think of moving closer to River Falls since more of Dick’s work would be in that town. We found and purchased a nearly new home on ten acres just outside of River Falls. We now live with our horses out the back door, the dogs around the house and the cats in their new cat home. Finally Sarah feels like she is home with her animals. Sarah, as always is the joy of our lives - the music she makes on our grand piano delights the facility; she’s added a new interest - pottery that decorates our home;; she continues to ride horse and placed in the Top Ten at the Wisconsin State Horse Expo in September. ...Yes , I still teach at Prescott High School and enjoying it more than ever. I teach Honors English, Creative Writing and English 10. The kids are great, there is a good collegial atmosphere and I hope to teach for several more years.

Lois Parker '92 Once again we greet you with a proverbial holy kiss from beautiful Harmony, where people smile 365 days of the year - not only on Christmas. We have lived in this place 8 years now where Keith still serves two churches (He never gives up.) ...The highlight of our summer was a trip to Seattle, our former stomping ground, where we observed the 50th Anniversary of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Mountlake Terrace (of which Keith is a son of and where we lived where we first married....

Also observed last summer was Keith’s 40th anniversary of ordination into the Holy Ministry. He was recognized in a special worship service. (What a change from a Boeing engineer!) As the song goes, “What can I give Him, poor as I am?” I am reminded of our children’s response: Paul donating a kidney to a good friend in need. And then James coming to the aid of a lady being assaulted (got punched in the face). 14 plus stitches as a reward. Cindy devotes her time to serving on a Task Force at her church in welcoming a Spanish speaking congregation into their midst....Lois was all set to go to LaCrosse for an angiogram.
when a small stroke came along, forcing her to spend two days in the hospital in late October. She is doing well though. (nothing can keep a good Swede down.)

Jim Rapp ('71) & Alice. In July Alice took her group to Ladysmith, WI, for her “roots tour.” It was there we had our greatest adventure of the summer, getting lost for six hours on a poorly maintained nature trail in the Blue Hills near Bruce, WI. The eight of us were very thankful for a forestry work and a friendly ATVer who came to our assistance....In October the Lovetts, Brandts and Rapps re-attacked that nature trail (Now cleared and re-marked with new signs) and we made it on our own. The year has included the usual work for Jim in producing dramas. “The Promise,” an Easter Musical, a summer Children’s Musical complete with rain on the stage, and a Christmas drama just completed last week. Alice has spent hours tutoring our oldest grandson in his Bible Quizzing work. She has also just completed another tour of duty with the Pleasant Company. She declares this may be the last year for that.

Mike Higgins ('71), I had wished to attend Dr. Buschen’s retirement party, but other family obligations made that impossible. I wrote him to let him know how much I’ve appreciated my association with him and how profoundly that association influenced my life. The same, of course, must be said of our. My work with you opened areas of interest and study which have continued to be important and wonderful in my life. As an example, I’ve been reading the last four of Colleen McCulough’s six volume series collectively called The Master of Rome... I need to get the three I missed - all of which I enjoyed immensely. They in turn, have sent me to Plutarch to see how accurately McCullough has portrayed the turbulent era of Marius, Sulla, Caesar, Cicero, etc. Although I have owned Will Durant’s Story of Civilization for many years, it has been just the past few winters in which I made it a goal to read one of them entirely. So far, I’ve completed the Age of Faith, The Reformation and the Renaissance. This winter, as I’m in a Roman mood, I’ll read that volume.... I continue to hunt estate sales in search of unique items of all sorts for my collections. One prize I found this summer was an old rotary shredder made in Germany. I’m still teaching fourth grade and plan to do so for 4 more years.

Phil Idsvoog ('68 & MA '74) & Elaine sent a picture of them with a beautiful purple motorcycle. “This is the first time our family has not been able to be together at the same time for a family picture so the next best thing is the motorcycle. I retired or quit as Phil says, in March and have enjoyed every minute of it... At home I am enjoying golfing, crocheting, bridge and motorcycling. The closets are still waiting for me to clean. Phil has the distinct honor of being the oldest administrator in the school district. I guess it just makes him an old man. He plans of retiring the end of June. The county board has been very busy as he took over as chairperson in May. For fun he still enjoys lifting weights, golfing and motorcycling.

Alice Jo Cargo '74 wrote from Oscoda, Michigan, “With husband Bill had a great time visiting family and friends, and attend the 35th Kids from Wisconsin Reunion. She is one of the original Kids and is quite famous in Wisconsin! After that we went to the University of Wisconsin Choir Cap. AJ is involved heavily at school both as a teacher and as an education advocate. As I write this, her 4th/5th grade class is decorating the windows at the Local Burger King. She also finds time to sing beautifully at church and in the Huron Shores Chorus and Orchestra. Bill lost 40 pounds on purpose and has a bald head on purpose. Also Bill is coming to terms with the Bishop’s message that he should expect to be moved this summer to a new church assignment. Argh!”

Trilby Hauck, sent a picture of handsome son John, 17 years old. “I’m still working full time and I started school in the fall to get an RN. I’m going back to oncology!!! Now that I’m 45, I know what I want to be when I grow up.”
The Annual Invitation
Those of you whose memories center on South Hall need only to go to 224 SH, to see me filling the boards. Those of you who visualize KFA, you need only go to the east side, once occupied by Buschen and Cederberg to find all of us. It is always a pleasure to see you, to be a bit puzzled at first since some of you have changed so much, but I am recognizable, except perhaps to those who remember me pre-1961, without a beard. Easiest would be to send me a long Email about your adventures. They would easy to incorporate into the Newsletter and with fewer typos.

We hope for all of you a country at peace, which would also mean much to the world. Ed