Happy 2005 to History & Philosophy Alumni

Partly because we in education must save money, whereas those in waging wars have money to burn, we have gone on the net with our Newsletter.

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. Further it will be available to anyone on the Net all during the year. Not the least of the reasons would be the savings of the postage and the staff needed to stuff envelopes. Nearly all alumni will find us one way or the other.

The alumni letters coming, also by email give the opportunity to put more into a newsletter and do it without retyping letters, which creates large numbers of typos. I select the most interesting pieces and I think you will not only notice the wide diversity of opinion of alumni, but the bits of excellent writing that reaches me. This year I will solve the problem of cutting out nice pieces to hold at 16 pages - which have to be in batches of four pages - and I will let the Net version grow. I think I will add the news that comes in the spring semester rather than just saving it for next year's Newsletter.

The wide spectrum of reactions to the 2004 election should prove that we have not inculcated our views, but rather we have assisted in the development of critical thinking.

Invitation to Spring Banquet from Bergland

“The Department of History and Philosophy will launch what we hope will be an annual Spring Awards Banquet this year on Friday, April 8, 2005. Please mark this date. The Program will include the annual announcement of History Scholarships, and a Phi Alpha Theta Initiation. Professor Herb Cederberg, Emeritus, will be our guest speaker, and we will honor our esteemed colleague, Professor Edward Peterson.

The event will be held in Rodli Commons from 5-9 p.m. and will include dinner. More information will follow about costs and reservations. We welcome all students, alumni and families. We hope you will mark you calendar and that we will see you in the spring.”

The History and Philosophy Office

Sue Voelker ('85) I continue to enjoy balancing the lively History and Philosophy office with the other aspects of my life. My son, Karl, a high school senior, has been applying for college and will major in software engineering and Japanese. He was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist and is hoping to progress in the competition. Karl works at the public library and enjoys socializing over complex board games and DDR (Dance, Dance, Revolution)—a computer dancing game/challenging workout to music. Jack (7th grade) is doing very well in school. He enjoys video games, reading (especially Brian Jacques’ Redwall series), biking with friends and playing with Lucky (our 10 year old Sheltie). Our newest family member is Teddy Bearcat—a fearless and charming feline who seems to enjoy making us laugh.

Sara Boldthen: a major help to Sue graduated this fall after a pleasant teaching experience. I had the honor to meet her proud parents at graduation.

Jennifer Farinella: “This past year has been great for me! I am a new transfer student to River Falls and have felt very welcomed on campus and in the History/Philosophy dept. Thank you to all of you who have helped me feel like part of the staff, and for those of you I haven't met yet, I look forward to getting to know you in the future. Happy New Year”
South Hall

The building, largely the domain of the School of Business, has undergone ever more upgrading to the high-tech capacity. This has included the room you would associate me with, 224 SH. It is no longer suitable for a low-tech person like me or to classes with my numbers of enrollees.

It is fully used from the top, Foundation Office and classrooms, first floor Admissions with a grand display of the campus expansion, to the basement with Security and the Football Office. The oldest alumni would remember that area as “the Caf.”

Where Ames was is now flat to the ground, so the old view is again evident. It will be the site of the new grand Student Center, on the mall as part of Dale Braun’s imaginative plan. There is the new style dormitory, that seems luxurious compared to the two person cells of the past.

Alumni Donations.

We wish to thank the following for their recent contributions to support deserving History majors for the History (Garlid) Scholarship.

Deborah G. Brown
Bernard R. Dailey
George Gilkey
Douglas J. Griffith
Christie A. Hawkins
Michael W. Higgins
John D. Hoagenson
Elliot L. Moeser & Susan J. Moeser
Manley E. Olson & Ann M. Olson
David B. Peterson & Patricia J. Peterson
Edward N. Peterson
Robert M. Peterson
Jack E. Woodbury & Ella M. Woodbury
John B. Wyman, MD
Mark Wyman

Scholarship Recipients for 2004-05

Wyman Scholarships:
Sarah McRoberts Valley City, ND
Luke Chaffee - River Falls
Amy Scheibel - River Falls

History Scholarships:
Tim Knight - Spring Lake Park, MN
Beau Brandt - Glenwood City, WI
Joy Hemmesch - Paynesville, MN
Jennifer Leis - Alma Center, WI

Jones Scholarship:
Jon Weiss - River Falls

Moeser Scholarship:
Stephanie E. Olson - Schaumburg, IL

Faculty News

Ed Peterson (’54) Much was affected this spring when first Ann Lydecker told us that I had won the Distinguished Teacher Award, thanks to some of you alumni presumably. The next day after its announcement she was killed in that terrible automobile accident. Then the UW President came to give me a 50 year certificate, with no day of missing a class.

In June, I gave a talk called, “Ten Reasons why I am still teaching at RR, and was surprised at the appearance of Keith Thompson, I had not seen for about 45. I had not seen John Petersen, now teaching at W. Kentucky for about 20 years. The downside for graduates of some of them voting for me was that I gave their Commencement Address on December 18. It was mostly about what I learned in those years I would have been in college, but for WWII. I would send anyone a copy if interested.

I had my habitual summer researching the E. German Stasi in Berlin and Magdeburg, then relaxing with Ursula as she was researching ancestors of various clients.

In the fall I was able to stay in South Hall, albeit in the eastern half of what some of you would remember as the girls’ gym. For the first time ever I do not have a piece of chalk in my hand rather a black marker, so my lectures are now black on white.

A small service I could render the play director Jim Zimmermann on his production of Copenhagen, about Nils Bohr’s meeting with Werner Heisenberg in 1942, a fine historical treatment about Germany’s not developing the A-Bomb.

Kurt Leichtle ('86) The year started off with a rush of projects when I completed and submitted a Teach-
ing American History Grant with Bob Zeidel (UW-Stout) and David Riggs followed by doing revisions to the Wisconsin Journey (textbook). The grant writing was successful and in June we were notified that we had received one of the grants. So for the next three years I will be teaching half time and working closely with about 30 teachers examining how themes in U.S. history can be understood through and tied to Wisconsin history. The grant is called History through the Heartland along the I-94 Corridor. I am still realizing how much paperwork can come for a grant. The revisions to the textbook went off and the new edition is out about now. I have been very pleased with the reception and have enjoyed talking with students in schools that use it.

On more traditional notes I presented a paper on the life of one of Edward Coles' slaves after the emancipation and journey to Illinois. I am continuing my study of slavery in the early 19th century through research on a plantation, Hampden, near Baltimore. More on that in coming years.

In the summer Tracey Gladstone and I are offering the 710 American Political Thought class on-line and Bob Zeidel and I are planning to offer a week long workshop on Advanced Placement.

Karen is working at the middle school as an aide in the ED program teaching science among other duties. Kyle graduates from high school this year, a shock to those of you who remember him peering over my shoulder as I lectured. He wants to go to Full Sail in Orlando FL to become a digital multimedia designer. A significant attraction is the lack of winter. Kee is in middle school and doing well.

Betty Bergland (’90) continues to serve as the chair of the History and Philosophy Department and was nominated to serve three more years. She is humbled by the task, but also appreciate other perspectives on the university such a position permits. She also sits on the Search and Screen Committee for a new Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. In both capacities she sees the number of dedicated faculty at UWRF. Teaching continues to be enjoyable, and she has many lively and engaged students in twentieth century history (104 and 359) and in the African American History (207) this spring; last fall she enjoyed teaching two sections of Women’s History: U.S. with thoughtful and committed students.

Bergland was grateful for the receipt of a sabbatical during spring semester 2006 and will use the time to prepare a book proposal and draft a manuscript developing the work on immigrants and Indians that has been the focus of her research in the last years. Research and writing continues on this project with two new developments. First, she has submitted a chapter to a volume to be published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press devoted to the Dakota War on “Norwegian Immigrants and the Dakota War”; also, she will present her work on Norwegian Immigrant Missions at a conference entitled, “Competing Kingdoms: Women, Mission, Nation and American Empire, 1812-1938” in Oxford, England, April, 2006.

David Riggs (alumnus ’93) “2004 was a typically busy year with lots of travel. In January I spent a week in London spending most of my time in the museums and scouting out locations for a possible student trip sometime in the future. In June I was off to Hawaii for a wedding and also in June the Colonial Tour 2004 took place. 17 students took part on this trip to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Highlights include walking the freedom trail in Boston, seeing the World Trade Center site, going to the US Constitution Center in Philly, and tours of the Whitehouse and the Capitol in D.C. In addition to all the wonderful places we visited some great friendships were formed over lots of great food and even more great laughs. The planning has begun for Colonial Tour 2005. This trip will focus more on Virginia with stops at Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Monticello. Contact me for more information.

This past year I also worked with Kurt Leichtle and Bob Zeidel from Stout on a Teaching American History Grant project. The Department of Education has fully funded our request and work begins in earnest this March when we have our first meeting with social studies teachers from across Wisconsin.

Teaching five classes each semester continues to be both challenging and quite enjoyable. I’m sure 2005 will be an interesting year.

Zhiguo Yang (’01) Well, first of all, Happy New Year to you all! It’s rather late to send this greeting out, but at least it is an indication that we historians are able to beat our professional shortcoming of dwelling on the past—missed opportunities in the past, in particular—for too long, and that we can join those around us in welcoming a new time that has always
been associated with new hopes, new ability to deal with old problems.

Now let me turn to what I have done in 2004. I continued to teach Asian Civilization, World History, Modern Japan and China, and lead China Study Tour. Nothing new, right? Well, when you as an instructor are able to share your understanding of history with your students, to engage in productive discussion of historical issues with them, and to receive their recognition and respect (although after the semester is over some of them may turn their heads away when they see you in the library, pretending not knowing you), you must gain a sense of achievement which may not be measured as easily as a published journal article or a monograph. I do often have that sense and that keeps me going.

Plans for 2005? Well, I try to not think big and then tell everyone that uncontrollable circumstances have led to the failed attempt to make sound plans reality. However, I do see the possibility for the following to happen: a family vacation in the Yellow Stone National Park or in the US East Coast in the summer, another China Study Tour with UW-RF students or anyone interested in participating between May 16 and June 2 (contact me or the department before February 18 if you are interested), and going to ice fishing….

Of course I will come back to report the results of these plans next year. See you then, and wish you all great success in whatever you have planned to achieve in 2005.

Kirił Petkov ('04) After a long sojourn on the East Coast and a short, two-year stint with Truman State University in Missouri, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is my new home. Hopefully permanent, since rockin' & rollin' in the academic world has its advantages, but it doesn’t have the pristine beauty of Wisconsin (and Minnesota). Getting to know a new place is always exiting. My acquaintance with the area was certainly that kind of experience. With my modest 14+ years in higher education, there is always something new to learn. That’s what I’ve doing these past months, learning. I am a somewhat slow learner, so it takes time. Fall semester flew away before I knew it, but I did learn two things. One, I still have to put a lot of effort to learn how to serve best the intelligent and curious minds among my students. Two, I’d better not try to learn the unfathomable ways of the General Education Committee. I am committed to both goals. Short as the semester was, it still offered me plenty of experiences with the 100+ people in my Origins of Civilization (s?) course and a good deal of pondering in the first stop of my pre-modern European sequence, the survey of the Early Middle Ages. Besides doing adjustments to both courses to make them more suitable for UWRF students, present and future, I recast my offerings for Spring ’05 in a similar mode. I am proud to offer my visually enhanced HIST 101 and I hope that the second segment of the European sequence, the Late Middle Ages and the survey of the Middle East, 500-1500 are better adapted to the needs and tastes of UWRF students. If not we’ll revise as we go along. I am always open to innovation—this brought me on this side of the pond, after all. And there are other projects too. A study tour of Italy for January 2006 is in the making, and I am slowly putting together the visually enhanced version of my 200-level survey of the Mediterranean, from prehistory to the present. Both should be launched in this coming Fall 2005 semester, the powers that be willing, that is. Besides teaching, I am slowly chipping away at a research project on the cultural history of arrogance. Thankfully, material is not lacking. I am itching to hear the responses of colleagues at the couple of professional meetings I’ll be attending this Spring ’05 semester.

Other than that, I am happy to be around, serve the community, and happier still we finally got some snow. Makes commute miserable (and dangerous, but whoever has the courage to teach history to undergraduate students knows no fear), but my cross-country skiing and ice-fishing skills were declining precipitously. Not any longer. Wish I could say the same for my keeping in shape and that the powers that be give us some gym on campus too to shed some fat off, but that is perhaps pushing it too far.

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. We shared a train trip from Stillwater to some woods north and back again as part of the celebration of Eric Gustafson’s graduation, a surprise party organized by his wife Mary. They are now off to the South Pacific, including a trip to Guadacanal, which he will report on to my seminar when he gets back.
Imtiaz Moosa (*'91*) I have one good news to report. My application for the “Green Card” has at last been approved! A series of blunders on the part of the university and myself put me in a deep hole, from which I was beginning to despair of ever getting out. But as they say, every dog has his day! To put the long story short, after a dozen or so years, with thousands of dollars spent on lawyers’ fees, my application was approved; and I should get the actual card in twelve months. I must concede I was getting desperate towards the end.

Stupid me, on August of 2001, I make my first and only trip to Pakistan, and to the Northwest Frontier, to see the Afghan refugee camps. And then there was Sept. 11, ‘01. And I have a Muslim name (all born Muslims are given Arabic names). But America has proven to me that it can rise above prejudices; and promises to give me a card and save me from despair. Thank God for America!

This last semester could perhaps be described as a semester from Hell. I taught five courses, and had a whopping 220 students total. Around Thanksgiving Break I lost my voice for ten days. Unbelievable! I could not refuse the Dean’s plea to teach an extra load. Well, nevermore! And one of the five courses was an entirely new course; and required vast preparations. As a result of John Buschen’s leaving, I decided to offer a new course that covers both the history as well as the philosophy of art. This turned out to be one of my favorite courses. Well, and so life goes on!

Faculty Emeriti

John J. Buschen (*'66*) His email remains [john.j.buschen@uwrf.edu](mailto:john.j.buschen@uwrf.edu). is still enthralled with the weather, the flowers, the food and cultural opportunities of Fort Lauderdale. He still provides UW-RF with the TODAY IN HISTORY, posted outside 319 KFA. More importantly he provides that and many other internet services to a wide community. Those of you who would like to share in the riches of the Flower State, should act to get on his My Day in the Flowers list. He might also put you on the cultural wonders of this section of Florida, where his choice of art, theater, opera and dance seems infinite.

Noble Stockton (*'66*) & Ronnie wrote last a year ago, but some alumni have told me that he has been helpful to them. If I get another wonderful letter, I will add it to the Net version.

Stephen Feinstein (*'69*) is Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota, where he continues to teach and direct a Center that works in university settings all over Minnesota and also with a pre-college presence on Holocaust and Genocide education. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on these subjects and is also a member of the graduate faculty in the area of Human Rights. Feinstein has a book being published by Syracuse University Press this year: “Absence/Presence: Critical Essays on the Artistic Memory of the Holocaust.” He is also a curatorial consultant for the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg (FL). See CHGS web site: [www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu).

Susan Feinstein is still working at Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, and thinking of retiring. Jeremy Feinstein lives in New York and runs his own human resource management business on line. He has clients in both North America and Europe. Rebecca Feinstein is married to Abraham Winnitzer and has a daughter Sarah. Rebecca works for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, a specialist in teen-age diseases. Her husband is finishing a dissertation on "Omens in Ancient Babylon" at Harvard. Hopes to become an advisor to President Bush so that ritual slaughter of sheep can be re-established on the South Lawn of the White House before decisions are made to go to war. The entire family still lives in Blue States.

Herb Cederberg (*'66*) & Alice. wrote that after Christmas “We will take off for a month in Florida with another couple and all our dogs. After we come back, we’ll take an adventures for two weeks in Anaarctica.” To see and hear him come to the Banquet.

Clyde Curry Smith (*'65*) & Ellen, were at our Christmas departmental party and I had the pleasure to test once again his command of the Scriptures. So I asked him whether the Bible was consistently opposed to homosexuality. Over the dinner table I got a part of the answer, that it is described as an “abomination in the sight of the Lord,” just as eating pork is an abomination. He later sent me a Smithian scholarly analysis, complete with chapter and verse. Should anyone you wish to see how a master deals with Biblical moral teaching, I could send you a copy.
The Christmas report noted that he reads, writes and serves on the RF Library Foundation Board and Ellen on the Comprehensive Plan for Growth and Development, Urban Area Boundary Agreements, the Tuesday Club and the related Bunch for Lunch reading with a book group. Both enjoy Community Theater, University Theatre, Library Exhibitions and regional authors’ discussions of their books.

On a trip to New Haven, she read all of the Harry Potter books, while he was researching at the Sterling Divinity Library of Yale University and continued writing articles for the Dictionary of African Biography, which is being published online by OMSC (dacb.org)

In late October we ventured west to see the Mammoth Bone Site in Hot springs. SD. It was quite impressive with the skeletons of young males who had wandered into the sink hole and drowned, and were later covered over until a development began to excavate. We drove up to Custer and visited the Crazy Horse Museum and the gigantic granite sculpture. Only the head is complete after 50 years.

Charles Graham (1954-63) & Bonnie: There was a bit of a wager about with the birth of the 10th grandchild, the girls were going to even out the family at 5 to 5, but the boys increased their majority to 6 to 4. Mostly we are all “proceeding according to precedent,” a la Kipling’s Elephant Child, and enjoying good lives while at the same time grieving over lives lost in Iraq, hunger among too many people in this country and abroad, and the senseless tragedies and ills which we mortals are heir to.

“We reflect on our trip to Mexico in March as tour of “varieties of human existence.” The prehistoric ruins and museum at Casas Grandes give a picture of the life of the early people who sent migrants north to be become the Indians of ou Southwest. At Colonial Juarez we visited a Mormon area started by some who left Utah after polygamy was declared unlawful. In Chihuahua we spent some time in a large Mennonite settlement at Cuauhtemoc (40,000) who went to Mexico from Canada in 1922 and have built a thriving agricultural community. In the Copper Canyon we saw the Tarahumara Indians living in the caves – the most primitive existence we have ever witnessed.” They also visited “the retired artists show” and were very impressed at the arts the “old ones” are still dong.

Dick Swensen & Grace, (’55) After 47 years in River Falls, having built their house on the Roberts Road, overlooking the Kinnickinnic, they have moved to Arden Hills, MN, (3328 Katie Lane) across the street from their youngest son Daniel and wife Sue. Daughter Linda and family live minutes away. Steve and family are in Rochester, where Steve is head of the radiology Department at Mayo Clinic. Daughter Jane is special assistant to the President of Americans for the Arts in Washington, D.C. Carolyn and husband Bob Popp are in Liverpool, N.Y., where he has the Red Wing Show sales for the state of New York. David is in his 17th year as Director of the Endowment at Yale, having turned 50 this year. The first of July Grace retired from the ministry. “It was hard to leave both the ministry and the people. Katie Lane is now a magical street with Christmas lights on nearly every house and yard, which draws visitors each evening from the whole metropolitan area. As we walk on our new street we think of Jesus, the Light of the world and other words from the Gospel of John. “The light shines into the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. May these hope filled words give us peace in this difficult time.”

Gary & Sally Shellen (‘67-’69) On January 6, ’01 begin my 19th year at UW-Milwaukee. Although I am a young 68 now I am thinking of retiring next summer....I will have only 25.5 years of state service (including my army hitch and the 2 years at River Falls. ...I’m hoping to do some ad hoc teaching...I have 8 weeks of Great Decisions lectures ahead, which will be my swan song with the Institute for International Education. The rise of the Europe against the dollar threatens my retirement plan to pick up a VW and spend some weeks in Europe on retirement.”

Maurine & Dick Brynildsen. “I have been in such a depressed mood since Nov. 2, I have avoided communicating with anyone. How I will possibly endure four more years of W I do not know. Not that it changes anything, but Sedona (long considered a Republican bastion) went heavily for Kerry and the Dem congressional candidate. We now have an organization -- Democrats of the Red Rocks -- the efforts of which seem to have made a difference locally. I was sustained only by the magnificent season my Alma Mater had on its way to the national Football championship.

My sympathies are with Ursula having spent over two month in early ’02 in the grip of C Diff. It
ground me down to 129 pounds, and it took me nine of ten months to get back to my usual 165.

Frank McCann taught Latin America for us in the 1960s. before going to West Point to teach and wrote in May: “I am sorry that all of our candidates over the years lost in the general elections, if not in the primary itself. I agree with Ursula on Bush, country, etc. It is amazing to me how much people WANT to believe, even when it makes no sense. We knew there were no weapons in Iraq and that Saddam had nothing to do with any of the 9/11 stuff. We lost a friend, from UNH geography dept., on the first plane in NYC, plus my junior Lat. American colleague's brother, and the sister-in-law of our chair. A truly awful disaster. But nothing in my view that Bush has done has helped anything. Meanwhile the ice is melting on the two poles and he says there is no need to worry. For the first time I worry that the USA could have a dictatorship if such "leadership" continues.

I attached the proofs for my book Soldiers of the Patria: A History of the Brazilian Army, 1889-1937 (Stanford Univ. Press, 2004) that came out in January. I don't expect you to read it, it was just that the file was the easiest thing to send. The preface will give you some idea of what our post-Princeton life was like. I am off to Rio June 3 for three weeks for conferences, friends, and talks.

Diane did masters work at BU and became a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and is just now retiring from a career with the State of NH working with severely handicapped children and their families. Tibi was graduated from Georgetown in Linguistics and Portuguese, did a joint MA and MLS in Latin American Studies and Library Sci. at UCLA, met her law student, Eric Jensen. They live in Palo Alto and have two wonderful girls, Cassidy and Samantha. Kaydee was a History major at Holy Cross College, did an MA in Latin American History at UC San Diego, worked in publishing, then a MLS at the University of Texas -Austin. She is managing editor of the Handbook of Latin American Studies, Hispanic Division, Library of Congress.

Wayne Sukow (Physics) & Carol. We were invited by Ellen Smith to converse with them and with the Don Charpentiers. Carol wrote, “Well, he did it. On the eve of his 68th birthday, Wayne retired... This retiree has one very large sweet tooth. My Spanish teacher says, “No tiene diabetes? To which I reply, “No, porque soy su policia.” His family knows that his all-time favorite sweet is chocolate cake with caramel frosting, made using Grandma Sukow’s original recipe. So armed with this information, each sibling presented him with a chocolate cake with caramel frosting. That would be five full-sized cakes, containing enough fat and sugar to put an entire neighborhood into a coma. Then came the instructions: he was to taste each cake and then declare which was the most delicious. Taking a spoon, he deftly scooped a bite out of a corner/ (You know that’s where the most icing collects, right/) Finally in a moment of inspired diplomacy, he pronounced, “I couldn’t possibly decide. Each cake is as delicious as the next.”...So life is good! Our health is good. Our grandkids - our favorite entertainment - continue to make outrageous pronouncements that make us laugh. Retirement is good.” Wayne described his ideas for exploring further the great geologic basis from Northern Michigan and Wisconsin for his great collection of rocks, some across the street from us and the rest in Virginia.

Alumni News

“Bud” Fleming (59) has become a constant stimulation, by sharing his fascinating memoirs, comments about his work on the Clark County Board, comments of good books he has read, partly similar views of politics in America. I have hopes of his coming from Thorp and taking over a session of my Graduate Seminar. It all began when I discovered one of his grandsons in class. Another appears on the TV program, “The Bold and the Beautiful.”

Liz Paone (01) former office aide. “Well, I can't believe it has been over three years since I was answering phones and working in the office. Currently, I am a second year teacher at an alternative high school in North Minneapolis. I am teaching economics, geography, and civics this year. It has been a very interesting and different experience than I was taught to expect in college. I miss everyone from the office and I hope everyone is doing well. If anyone needs urban experience in the classroom feel free to contact me. Good luck, and I hope the rest of the year goes well for everyone.”

Bob Agranoff is being nominated for an outstanding alumnus by Ray Anderson, who remains here active in community affairs and politic. I was happy to write in support, partly from memories of him as a student, and then seeing his very distinguished academic achievements, as professor at the University of
Indiana and his scholarly writings. He sent me a copy of his latest book.

**Dexter St. George (90)** wrote last January "Glad to hear you're still teaching and enjoying it. Am surprised to hear they're considering Capstone for the chopping block, in these times of all times no less. You'd think they'd be considering upsizing it to a major. I saw one of Moore's movies (Bowling for Columbine) and liked it and thought it solidly on target for that subject matter but I haven't read any of his books yet. I think 1984 should be looked at for the reading list again though - apparently no one under 40 has even heard of it. Had to laugh when Bush and them started getting down to it - it was like they were using 1984 for an instruction manual and not even bothering to try to hide it or even change the names. Can just picture them sitting around the office, "Hey! Here's one we haven't used yet!"

If you get a change look at Arundhati Roy for 496 material. I read one of hers that was focused on the power-play aspects of dam building around the world. I don't know what she has published that's more on America or even just on the western or global political scene in general but I heard a broadcast of a couple of her talks and she's more or less amazing. Actually, while I was typing here... I went out to find the web site for the radio program I heard her on. It's Alternative Radio, produced by David Basamian:<http://www.AlternativeRadio.org I'm pretty sure the one I was most taken with was the one entitled 'Imperial Democracy'. At any rate, while I was poking around I realized that they sell tapes/cds as well as transcripts of their programs. This would be one worth evaluating for inclusion on the reading list.

Minneapolis was pretty ill-suited to my temperament though so I finally just had to move elsewhere. Bounced around to a number of places including Canada and ultimately settled on Seattle because of the people and geography.

My mother, Nell Olson/St.George had you for a class or two.

As for your own escape, I would definitely recommend B.C. highly. Victoria and Vancouver are both excellent cities. Vancouver is one of the three most beautiful cities in North America as far as I'm concerned. As for the weather, it does rain a lot this time of year but it's not like Midwest rain.... The temp is nice though - it's literally golfing weather now, there are people out in short sleeve shirts and/or shorts every day.

But yeah, I love Canada and would have stayed in Vancouver and left the U.S. if it wasn't for the added hassle of the paperwork that I just didn't want to deal with at the time. (And Seattle is a very nice fallback - no complaints at all.) I've been to Canada a lot and have always been impressed with it. A very politically astute, globally aware, and generally mature society.

Once when I was there I picked up the Sunday paper, which is about the size of the St. Paul or Mpls Sunday papers, and read it cover to cover. And it was a highly political season - they were voting in a new PM so there was lots of coverage on that. But not one sentence of mud-slinging or pandering or trivial sound bites or attack ads... nothing. The candidates did comment on one another but it was nothing more than serious considered dignified discussion of a respected yet opposing viewpoint. I was amazed. My whole summary of that experience was 'I want to live among these people.' Now if I could just get one of them lil Canadian girls to marry me...”

**Lutfali Rashid Ansari (59)** was stimulated by my story in *Falcon Features* to write and resume our Christmas card exchange. He and Mary Lou are retired, after he had worked many years in social work in Michigan. A follow up letter came from their winter address: P.O. Box 2216, South Padre Island, TX, 78597, “We spend most of the time walking down the beach and playing bridge, besides taking trips to Mexico, which is 20-30 miles from here, depending on the Port of Entry.” (I remember the time, when he made an effort to teach me Arabic, which would be so useful now.)

**Gordon Olson (68)** responded in April: Thanks for responding. Its good to know you are still at your post. You will be interested to know that I visited with **Peter and Shirley Merry** and two of their (adult) children in Vancouver, B.C. last week. They are doing well. Peter is a solicitor and Shirley teaches third grade. Their politics are seasoned, but unchanged, which made for a great couple of days.

The student you recall confronting bayonet-wielding National Guardsmen on the streets of River Falls was
me. Here, after 30 years of filters and embellishments, is what I recall. A Vietnam vet named Wally Warren and I were walking home on Saturday evening about 11-12 PM from Emma's when we came upon weekend warriors using the streets of River Falls to practice riot control. In an act of irony they probably didn't appreciate, members of the Vets Club had been recruited to act as rioting students. Wally and I were headed east on the sidewalk just past the Karges Fieldhouse when a youthful guardsman stuck his (sheathed) bayonet in front of us and said we could go no further. I think Wally, who informed the kid that he had served in the army in Vietnam to preserve his right to walk the streets of America and was not, by god, going to be stopped by the National Guard--or words to that effect--was angrier than I was. As I recall, before it was over we were taken to the River Falls Police Department where wiser heads decided it would not be good to press charges. As you can tell, the episode was not easily forgotten. It did nothing for my confidence in either my government or its military. If this government persists in making war and eroding individual liberties, I fear we are headed for domestic adventures similar to those if the late '60s. Just as with Vietnam, people will slowly realize they must resist.

**Ron Swanson (80)** wrote in April after I had seen him on TV: I continue to be involved in both the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and my father's Navy reunion group, The LCT Flotillas of WW2. I edit a quarterly newsletter for both organizations and act as group historian for the Navy Reunion Group. I initiated research on an original WW2 US naval landing craft in Bayfield Wisconsin, known as an LCT (Landing Craft for Tanks). This vessel was purchased from the US Navy by a Wisconsin lumber company in 1946 for hauling logs on the Great Lakes. It continues to operate today throughout the Apostle Islands with much of its original WW2-era parts including the 3 large diesel engines built in 1943. This July (2004) my father and I will be featured on the PBS TV program, History Detectives, which will examine the wartime history of this craft. Current projects include a book and film documentary on the contributions of the LCTs in the Second World War, relying on first-hand accounts from veterans. Each year I make a pilgrimage to the National Archives for further research on these landing craft.

A 1980 grad UWRF (double majors History/Geography) I still live in Oakdale, MN, I have been employed by JOSTENS Inc. in Burnsville, MN since 1993. After a brief stint with the Wyoming State Archives, I switched gears and worked at a small commercial printing company in Stillwater MN, and a book publisher in Hudson, WI before going to Jostens.

**Bruce Feld (78)** wrote in May: “I've acquired a few skills over the years. Unfortunately, one of them is procrastination, which helps to explain my delay in responding to your e-mail. In response to your request, here is the Reader's Digest version of my life after UW-RF. After participating in Cederberg's Evans collection research project, I completed my paralegal training at the U of M, graduating in 1983. After a short time with a Twin Cities law firm, I joined a firm in New Ulm, Minnesota. My wife and I returned to the Twin Cities in 1989, and have lived in Rosemount since 1990.

I continue to work in the legal arena. I moved to the corporate world in 1989, and for the last seven years, have focused exclusively on contract drafting and negotiating-assessing risk, negotiating warranties, indemnification, limitations of liability, and doing battle with attorneys from our Fortune 500 customers.

Actually, the toughest negotiating is not with the customer's attorneys, but rather, with our own sales representatives. I've learned that all that motivates a sales person is their commission check. It doesn't matter to them whether or not the deal they just closed is a good one for the company. Fortunately, the computer services company I work for has survived the downturn in the general economy and the technology industry, and recently returned to profitability.

My free time, to the extent I have any, is spent reading history, singing in the church choir, driving the kids to their numerous and various activities, and singing with Elliot Wold's Concert Choir alumni whenever the opportunity arises.

My wife, Kirsten, leads a very busy life. She homeschools our four kids, ages 7, 10, 13 and 16, and makes good use of her St. Olaf music degree by teaching piano to 30 students, and judging at piano competitions around Minnesota. When she isn't doing that, she accompanies the church choir, and actively participates in our church's mission exchange program with a congregation in Tanzania. As a part of this program, she traveled to Tanzania in
2002, and plans to do so again. I get exhausted simply by watching her do all that she does.

Your memory of my political leanings is quite accurate. I continue to lean Republican - a very lonely undertaking in a household full of liberal DFL'ers. I have, however, voted for a few Democrats and independent candidates over the years. Not surprisingly, those candidates never won. In an attempt to create a climate of objectivity, I am constantly reminding the kids that nearly every issue has at least two sides, and that the truth is usually somewhere between the extremes. Given the scores of student papers you have read over the years, I was surprised and pleased that you remembered my paper on the Peshtigo fire - especially since I wrote the paper for Cedarberg and not for you. I recently read a book on the history of Door County that touched on the effects that the fire had on the southern part of the county, most notably, the post-fire switch from wood to bricks as the main material used in the reconstruction of buildings destroyed by the fire.

Ryan Casper, teacher at Ellsworth, has sent us a series of reports from his mission in Iraq working with schools, which is in sharp contrast to most of the news. Perhaps the best would be to include his January 1, 2005 report. “Today we set out for our school drop with high hopes of one last successful visit to the Iraqi schools. Wouldn't you know it as we pulled into the school today we find out that the Iraqi schools are closed for New Years Day. Frustrated yet undeterred, we handed out some candy to the kids that had showed up, shared some good cheer and arranged for a delivery with our replacement unit at a later date. As we drove back to Scania base I was discussing with one of our interpreters, Alas, the fact that he had mentioned another school not too far away that could be another potential school drop in the future. With seven vehicles we pulled a flawless Uturn in the middle of Route Tampa and set off to try and find the other school. As we came to the home of one of the local Sheiks, Alaa got out of our vehicle and spoke with some of the locals to get directions. When he returned to our vehicle he said that a white van will lead us to the school about 10 minutes away. I initially hesitated but was thinking to myself; sometimes you just have to have faith. The white van lead us through some harrowing back roads of which many of us had been down before, but some of the new company's members had not experienced. There were a couple of instances where I thought about turning around but we continued on.

We eventually did reach the other school. It also was closed for New Years but we expected that. Alaa, Firas and I spoke with the school guard and eventually the school master and another teacher. As I and 1SG Livingstone were given a tour of the schoolyard the other troops arranged their vehicles as we are supposed to do and waited with a growing number of Iraqi youth. Any time U.S. troops are around an Iraqi village in Southern Iraq, children will show up and today was no exception.

By the time we were ready to depart about 30 to 40 children had gathered around. Sherrie Beyer in her normal manner asked if it would be possible to hand out some stuffed animals that we had brought along extra. After a bit of a discussion we did just that. Now, no mission we have accomplished over here with the H&M, goes exactly according to plan and today for the most part, wasn't planned. In the process of being completely frustrated we were able to distribute some positive feelings of goodwill and at the same time show our incoming unit that sometimes you have to adjust fire and reorganize. In the same instant we were able to show them the good nature of the local population and their desperate need for assistance.

After each mission we perform what are termed AARs standing for After Action Reviews. An AAR is used in order to bring out positive and negative aspects of each mission, in order for all involved to re-think the mission and make improvements for the future. Some soldiers questioned the route we took and rightly so, however, the only response I had for them at that point was "Sometimes you have to have faith". I don't consider myself a religious man, but I have always had a faith in a higher authority and today only strengthened my feelings in that regard. My Grandmother Alice, who can be classified as a religious individual, has often spoken of faith of which at times the word has gone in one ear and out the other but today, for whatever reason, the word in question had base and substance in my world.

In our H&M work here we have had the pleasure of getting to know two incredible Iraqi men named Alaa and Firas. Both have been on all four southern Iraqi missions acting as translators for us. You will not find better examples as human beings, especially considering what they are trying to do with their lives.
despite the chaos that remains around them. You want to talk about faith. When people ask me about if the United States had done the right thing by invading Iraq, sometimes I hesitate to answer them. When I see the looks on the Iraqi student’s faces and I see the goodness in both Firas and Alaa in their attempt to assist us, I don't hesitate. The methods the United States has used, may not have been the best methods, the long term military and civilian planning may not have been well thought out on the US's part, but what I do know is, Firas and Alaa are shining examples or embodiment of why we are here and why Americans need to help however they can to support the work that is being done, now that we have already affected Iraq's future. I mentioned to Firas as we walked through the second schoolyard, "This is a scene that you won't see on American news stations"! Iraqis and U.S. troops attempting to communicate a desire and a need to help each other. It's sad but true, but you must rest assured that there are positive interactions occurring many times daily throughout Iraq. It is my opinion that Scania will one day be an example of success, demonstrating how well the Coalition and Iraqis can work together to achieve common goals...

To add to the uniqueness of my day, Alaa and Firas, sent me away with some gifts of appreciation. One of the gifts was a clock with the Virgin Mary inset on the clock which basically tied into the theme of the day. I think you get the idea.”

Wayne & Donna Viitanen (62) “Three things to celebrate this month--we survived the use of Atocha train station, Madrid, and two out of three pass throughs at Charles DeGaulle Intl before it collapsed under the weight of Gallic overreach, and we have completed one year in our new home in Mexico.

As might be expected, security was extremely tight at all points in Europe, including Spanish RR stations, where luggage goes through scanners, the same as at airports. Of course, going through Atocha the week before the Royal wedding made for even more security. DeGaulle is a beautiful airport, but apparently no one had ever attempted this glorious architectural tour de force previously and down it all came. The rest of the world needs bombs to pull down buildings, the French need only haute couture architecture...

Our trip ran for 28 days, with 10 days in Italy and the balance in Spain. Italy was divided between three nights in Rome and the balance in Tuscany. ...The only bargain we noticed was in clothing--of course Italian fashion designs are stunning as well...The Italian people, however, and the natural beauty of the place are apparently, worth the costs and climatic swings. ... we found Italians very expressive and open, while the Spanish, surprisingly, were more reserved, surprisingly because Donna is fluent in Spanish, and that usually makes acquaintances easier. I believe an easy way to torture an Italian would be to tie his hands behind his back. This would render the naturally voluble Italian speechless...

Malaga was our favorite. We stayed at a Parador (nice hotels run by a corporation sponsored by the Spanish government) on top of a hill which overlooks the old city. It is an easy walk down to the old city, which includes a very modern Picasso museum, as well as the narrow medieval streets common to so many old town districts in Europe, with their shops, cafes, cathedrals, and Picasso surely had...

Another place we have visited out is Granada. The Alhambra is pretty much it in G and this time we were able to do the tour at night with the palace stunningly lighted. Sevilla and Cordaba, though, beckon for more time the next go around. May is a great time to be in southern Spain because the weather is usually mild and every week brings a new festival. A week might be given over to open houses where you can view the great interior patios of the fine old palaces and mansions, another week might be given over to equestrian events, another might have a flamenco theme, and so it goes. We enjoyed part of a festival of troubadors, groups of student street singers who were supposedly college students. Some must have been professional students because some were beginning to sport thin spots at the back of the head.

The most stunning views on our trip outside of a city were at Cadiquies, a small resort town on the extreme NE coast of Spain. Besides its stunning beauty, especially on fine, sunny days, it is known as the town where S Dali spent a number of years. Unfortunately, most of Dali's paintings are scattered around the world, so the museum there doesn't have much. Just since we got back, I heard that in Houston a great large auction of Dali works was in progress....Cadiquies has unparalleled natural beauty--probably this is why D settled there in the first place....
Regarding our first year in Mexico, I can say that the move has been one the shrewdest things we have done. It definitely works financially and in our area there is plenty to do to keep active. The weather is also another plus. This January, an especially cold January, allowed us to use the fireplace a few times and to wear sweaters once in awhile. April gets pretty hot in the PMs and, till the rains come in May or June, is pretty dusty too. Still we certainly don't need AC. We are now in the rainy season, so the temps are in the low 80s F in the PM and about 60 in the early morning. In California this would be considered ideal, but guess what, with rain comes humidity. I would say N Cal has the edge during its summer season, while we have the edge from Oct 1 on when the humidity goes away. Those who move here from places other than Cal generally think the weather around Lake Capala is glorious.

In sum, if we had moved here 10 or 15 years ago when the internet was not generally available and when telephone service was spotty and very expensive and the mails not so reliable, I probably would not wax so enthusiastic. But we feel fully connected to the world that is important to us, so what is not to like. You do have to get used to Mex time, but what the hey, what else have we got to do. Things are done differently here than in the great El Norte, but things get done, eventually. If you can accept this fact, you would probably enjoy our part of Mexico. If you insist on doing things as they were done in Colorado, for example, then you should stay put or move to Switzerland or someplace like that.”

Amber Gonske (03) Many of you I have not been in contact with in a while (sorry, I've been busy), so I thought I'd update you all on my school experience in the Documentary Center at George Washington University. I'm almost done! Tomorrow is our last official day. We have a screening of the film we made, we receive our certificates, and have a wine and cheese reception to follow. It's kinda like our graduation from the program. If any of you watch CNN's "Crossfire," that's the studio/auditorium our event will take place. Last I heard we have somewhere between 130-150 guests attending. Should be exciting! Then I have until the 12th to finish a final reflection paper.

Our film is called "Monumental Sacrifice." It is about black WWII vets and their experiences during and after the war, in regards to discrimination and segregation, etc...The film is centered around the recent dedication of the National WWII Memorial. Our film topic came from combining the story pitches of one of my classmates and myself, so I am very proud of this film. The director of our program is really impressed with our film, we've been told that it is the best one that has come out of this program in a number of years. YEAH!!!!

I'm very excited to be done with the film. The last few days have been brutal, and I am burnt out completely. I've put in quite a few hours just working on sound. Saturday and Sunday alone added up to 21 hours, just fine-tuning the audio mix, and other details. I can't even calculate the total number of hours I've spent. Besides working on sound design, and going on shoots as a sound recordist, I was also one of the directors of photography (camera man).

Washington D.C. has been quite an experience. I've had the chance to do a lot of tourist activities. I was able to take part in the Smithsonian National WWII Reunion. I attended the Memorial Day concert on the Capitol lawn, and will be going back for the 4th of July concert (maybe you'll see me in a crowd shot on PBS)... I'm anxious to return to Wisconsin. I fly home on the 8th, after a brief trip up to New York City. If any of you attend the Barron County Fair (July 14-18), make sure and stop by the dairy barns.

Don Laue (57) The Rev Don Laue of Greeley, CO is a retired clergyman. He held positions in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Colorado—including nineteen years at First Congregational Church (UCC), Greeley. His wife, Marlys Meents Laue, is also retired having held a variety of positions including teaching and seventeen years at Weld Library District, Greeley. They enjoy their three children and spouses! Seven grandsons (no recipe for girls) keep them active, and involved in the boys' school and sports activities! Greeley, with its 85000 population, is growing very fast! The University of Northern Colorado, now has 10000 students! Colorado is a wonderful place to not only live, but raise children! They live in an area that has been convenient for their children's degrees, and an area that families want to remain in!

Don's degree in Social Studies, and Marlie's in Biology and Library, have provided an excellent base for understanding and growth. Don's post graduate degree from Yale University Divinity School has assured a strong academic background for the minis-
try! They wish their friends and former students "hello" and good health in the coming years!

Thinking of Don reminds me of his younger brother, Jim Laue, who went on for a PhD in Sociology at Harvard and devoted his life to peaceful resolution conflict, working closely with Dr. M. L. King.

Ron Briel (72) “I completed my Ph.D. program in 1981 at UN-L. In 1984 I completed a masters degree in geography and community and regional planning, also from UN-L. I taught at Wayne State College from fall 1977 through spring semester 1979, and at Nebraska Wesleyan during the 1979-1980 academic year, and at UN-L from fall 1979 through the 1983 academic year. I taught American history for the most part, but also taught several courses in geography as well (Wayne State).

In the spring of 1985 I got a shot at a great opportunity in Nebraska state government in what was then the Department of Health. An opportunity opened in the "policy and planning" division where I could apply some things I studied in my planning program. I took that job and have been in state government ever since that time (May, 1985). My wife Kristi and I have one child--Amber Marie. She is nearly three years old now. We lost a child (boy) in 1992.

Currently I try to continue with what are by now age-old hobbies: 1) Ancient history with focus on the origins of the first urban settlements. I have "tons" of books and articles accumulated on ancient Mesoamerica, the Andes, Egypt, the Middle East, the Indus valley civilizations, and Southeast Asia, not to mention North America as well (Cahokia, Illinois; Epps, Louisiana; Moundville, Alabama, e.g.). After nearly a decade of study, I'm nearly ready to put something together regarding this aspect of our human heritage. 2) My decade long project to build a replica of a Mayan ceremonial center in the guise of a rock garden in my back yard. It's a cross between El Mirador and Copan. I cannot even guess at the tonnage in quartzite that has gone into it. The three pyramids are already eight feet tall and growing. Hope I live to complete it! Anyway this is what keeps me young!

I've learned of the passing of Terry King, George Garlid, and Walker Wyman saddens me beyond words. I cannot imagine UWRF without them. They are legendary persons who will never be replaced. I hope that you continue to teach for many more years. Only you can carry on the great traditions of scholar-ship and teaching of those days. I'm sure their spirits are around somewhere, and as the title of Ole Rolvaag's book stated, there are "Giants in the Earth" --- in that wonderful world known as UWRF.

John Petersen (64) appeared at the alumni meeting in June and then sent this message: "I expect my schedule and commitments to become increasingly flexible in the future and Sandy and I will be spending more time in Wisconsin. We have owned a second home in Clear Lake for several years with plans to spend summers and perhaps longer periods there. Just this spring I was invited to teach a course at Vanderbilt in Nashville (about an hour away from Bowling Green) on Latin American International Politics. It was extra work, of course, but I enjoyed it and it seemed to go very well. I am pleased that we have reestablished contact after all these years."

Michael Cotter (60) responded with a personal item: “I would like you to know about my graduate school advisor at Madison, John Smail, who died of Alzheimer's a few years ago. He taught Southeast Asian History--his specialty was Indonesia--so with my interest in Vietnam he was my advisor. When I was in my last semester there, in 1965 (I enrolled there in 1963, after my three years in the Army was up) I told him that I didn't know what I was going to do next. I couldn't pass the Foreign Service exam after two attempts--the math part probably did me in--and didn't want to work for the CIA, since I couldn't talk about my work (I had been in the Army Security Agency as a linguist, where I monitored (taped) VC and NVN radio broadcasts to send back to D.C.). I told him that I enjoyed doing the library research for my Master's thesis, and he suggested that I go to library school and become a bibliographer. So I did, and that became my career.

I saw him once after I left Madison, when he came to Boston for the Association for Asian Studies conference, in about 1976. The next time we talked was in the 1990s after I learned about his illness (an article in the Journal of Southeast Asian Studies--which I no longer keep up with--had a footnote about a fest-schrift for him, which made me curious), so I called him, and his wife explained the situation. Anyway, he was another influence in my career, not only from his suggestion that I consider going to library school, but in the way he taught his history courses, with an emphasis on the local aspects instead of a "Europe-centric" view. It opened up a new way of looking at other cultures.”
Gabriel McGuire (03) wrote from his Marine air-corps training: Right now from what I hear the Marine Corps is begging for fighter pilots but that's no assurance that I'll get a fighter. Flight training lasts about two years (for jets anyway) and then I would be assigned to a squadron somewhere on the East or West coast. The possibility and the one I'd prefer is to stationed aboard a carrier squadron. All said I won't see a fight for some time and no I'll probably never experience what fighting in a fox hole is like. I'll be sure to write and let you know how things are going as I progress through my training.

Monica Manske (Copeland) (03) I realized the other day that I haven't checked in for awhile, so here we go: I got a job! I'm teaching 10th grade English in Faribault, MN. It is a trek, but I'm enjoying the work. Tony (her English husband) is working at McD's and enjoying himself (I swear, the man is easily contented), and we're both looking forward to Thanksgiving vacation.

Cory Mitchell (02): Just wanted to let everybody know that the paperwork for my job has been finalized and I will be a full-time librarian at UW-Stout starting on December 20th. I'm excited about it, a fine Christmas present!

Phil Colpitz ’79, appears from time to time, mostly to confer with Ursula about his etchings, particularly those he did for our Pierce County Historical Association calendars. When he is in the mood he teaches computer graphic design for whatever school.

Karl Gandt (79) “I was very happy to get your Christmas letter yesterday. We are very sorry that Ursula has suffered so much in the past months. I hope that she will improve as I have. I feel for anyone having a bad medical situation. (Neurosurgeons are at the top of my list of people to avoid at all costs. Die-hard Republicans follow close behind.)

My contact with others via email has been one of the joys of my life. Donna (Hemauer) Drummond, Pattti (Wagenbach) Kight and, of course, Lori Bents have also written to me regularly. John Buschen (who I still feel obligated to address as (Dr. Buschen,) has also written me several times and I am on his (This Day History, email list.). All of you have helped me keep a certain amount of sanity throughout my recovery (ordeal?). Noble Stockton has also been in contact and tells me that he does not think that my handwriting has changed in the past 25 years, despite the stroke. If you remember my handwriting, that may not be such a good thing.

Speaking of my recovery, it continues to proceed slowly. I, of course, would like things to move along much faster. Lori Bents came down a few weeks ago and took me to a Chiropractic conference as a demo model, I went up on stage in front of about 200 chiropractors and the doctor leading the seminar asked me why I was in a wheelchair. There was an audible gasp in the crowd when I said that I had a stroke in the midst of 7 brain surgeries for hydrocephalus. The doctor said that operating on the head for hydrocephalus is like operating on the leg for water on the knee. It just doesn’t work. If only I had known. I came out of it with recommendations for new supplements to take. I am very grateful to Lori for thinking of me when she heard about the seminar. She is a fine chiropractor and has introduced me to new ways of looking at medicine.

The other day I was going to another room with a small door, a journey for which I normally use the walker. I was thinking about other things. I approached the door, locked my chair, stood up, and walked, forgetting my walker. I got halfway into the room before realizing that something was missing. I turned around and went back to get the walker. Lori says that this shows that I am not thinking of myself as a disabled person any longer.

The political situation in America is certainly very depressing. Barbara, coming from Poland, does not see things as being so very bad. I continue to try to enlighten her to American democratic values and the dangers that I see in the present administration.”

Carole Kettner (‘81 & ’87) & John Peter Carol is working with 2nd graders again this year. It’s always such a big change to fro 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 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. In July we took a trip of a lifetime, when we went to Newfoundland for eight days with a group called Natural Habitat Adventures. We saw thousands of seabirds, quite a few
humpback whales, countless wildflowers and unbelievable sunsets.

The letter wouldn’t be complete without mentioning Tinker and Tugger, the two cats who have so graciously allowed us to take care of their home and provide a lap for the to snuggle on. In a handwritten note that circled the type, she wrote about the election: “I can understand why private morality is so much more important than public morality. It’s OK to take money away from public schools for private vouchers. It’s OK that millions of children have no health care. It’s OK that we’re cutting up national parks and letting people have organized hunts of endangered animals, but we certainly can’t have gay couples getting married or we’ll all go to hell.”

Manley E. Olson (59) and Ann: they keep turning up an alumni affairs, looking highly benignly. “Manley spent two weeks in Richmond for Presbyterian General Assembly and has his usual trips to Louisville, four this year. There were visits to local churches for new church chartering, building demolition, dedications, anniversaries, memorial services and visit from national church leaders. Manley preached at North Como and in St. Louis Park. Ann includes her service on the Session (church board) and worship committee in January. She continues to sing in the choir and has accepted a six-year term on the Presbytery and Overtures Committee. Manley was elected to the Board of Trustees, and to a new four year term on the General Assembly council and in 2005 will begin service on the governing board of Montreat, a Presbyterian Conference Center in the Great Smokey Mountains. He is also serving on the Board of Directors of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. He continues as vice-chair of the Advisory Committee on Transit, a busy year with the start of light rail service. He also works for the Minnesota Ornithologist Union at the State Fair. As a birdist, a highlight was when a Varied Thrush, a bird of the Pacific Coast, showed up in our yard. After a great 50th anniversary in 2003, his high school class decided to meet every year and 12 of the 24 survivors showed up in September.

Lani Madis (61) Another busy year with construction or destruction depending on your viewpoint. David called to say we had bricks falling from the chimney at the store. The chimney work led to a new flue and cap which lead to sealing the brick wall next to our neighbors parking lot. However in one of the classes, I learned the Russian leaf stitch to produce a gorgeous bobochka (butterfly) necklace. Back to construction: after the war, I arranged to have an old fuel oil tank removed from the parking lot of the apartments. No leaks, no problem, the apartments sold within two years. Yeah, and no more late night calls, excuses and worrying about snow removal...Discovered this fall that one of my two old tom turkeys is gone. They were the ones that accompanied me as I felled the feeder. The survivor is brining a new female with him’ he’s the only turkey bold enough to sit atop my birdfeeder and chase the crows. Have anew addition to the front yard too. It is a yearling whose mom was killed right off the end of the driveway. Most evenings he’s right under my kitchen window munching on the yews. If he trims evenly, I won’t use the nasty pepper spray.

Mike Dodge & Catherine. (’59) sent a happy picture of themselves, noting, “This partially obstructed view of the Pittsburg skyline was taken during an interlude in a baseball bus tour of epic proportions: nine games in nine ballparks in seven cities plus the Hall of Fame. Self-indulgent madness, you say? Yes, but, ah, what fun it was.” How can I, an insane Cardinal fan, criticize such a young and lovely couple?

A follow up letter gets political: “Do you still resist my contention that the real problem with American politics and governance is the Democratic Party” This pathetic travesty of its former self is too important to offer a modicum of opposition to Republican malfeasance and too lacking in character to make a coherent case to the electorate. “Well, at least we’re not as bad as they are...are we?” is hardly a reason to stand in line on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November.” Being only marginally defeated has meant that they need only act even more like Republicans and sneak back into the White House....In the wake of a monumental defeat either the Dem Party would disappear to be replaced by a new progressive party or progressive elements would take control and rebuild the way the Republicans did after the defeat in 1964...it would be the party of democracy, demanding an end to corporate control of government and the rogue foreign policy, calling for simpler payer universal health care, proposing to lead a true international coalition against terror in which the military is only one component championing economic justice for the working class....The great unasked question of contemporary American politics”:” Can you name one thing the ruling ‘Christians’ had done that Jesus would approve of?...He would have driven them out of the White House two years ago.” On a happy note,
pitchers and catchers report in less than 60 days. Life goes on. For now.”

**Dave Peterson (‘80/MA’91)** I survived another year a manuscripts archivist at the Minn. Hist. Soc. where I have been since arriving as a student intern in July 1985, survived another round of draconian budget cuts imposed by our governor. A highlight of this year was working on a 511 box set of papers of the later senator Paul Wellstone. Other activities have included lots and lots of high school band. I secretary of the Band Boosters organization and one of the regular parent helpers at the Marching Band practices and parades, and have been in charge of a couple of the major fundraisers... most of these raising funds to help defray the cost of the students’ upcoming trip to New Orleans.

**Pat Owen:** It’s just band, band, band around here. And that’s great. We are very proud of the commitment to music by Eleanor and Michael demonstrate. I’m still at the library of course and anticipating some major changes as we are in the process of selecting a new manager. My “boss of almost 18 years - the person who hired me - passed away in September after fighting cancer for many years. It was a tough time for us all. UWRF was Eleanor’s one and only choice of college. She feels very much at home there and that’s find with us. We get to have her for a few more years that way. Times are scary. I hope that everyone has something wonderful happen for them in 2005! We all need it.

**Michael wrote:** Well the main topics of this year are that I did my first year of junior high school here in Cottage Grove and it was hard yet fun, and that I did the Garrison Keillor show this past September and it was a lot of fun. I was even on stage with him alone singing the national anthem in front of the 12,000 audience and people listening on the radio across America. It was scary yet exciting! And then the Park High School Marching Wolfpack band parades were exciting too. And even my very own sister was the drum majorette and it was very cool! And we also did field shows during halftime shows at football games! And my sister was directing that too.

**Eleanor wrote:** Wow! This year, like every year, has gone by in flash. This has actually been a milestone in my life and my career. I turned 17 in March and it not only amazed by parents, but it amazed me. For the second year in a row, I received the Directors Award for my contributions to the Band Program, I was elected Drum Majorette of the Park High Marching Band! Our band was chosen to play on Garrison Keillor’s Prairie Home Companion on National Public Radio. That was an experience that I will never forget! We performed with Garrison Keillor when he was airing from the Grandstand at the Minnesota State Fair. I have been officially accepted to the UWRF and I will be majoring in secondary education-instrumental music, or in plain words a junior or senior high band director. In April, the band will be going to New Orleans for a competition.”

**Deborah Brown (‘80** who worked for many years in support of the Minneapolis Symphony has moved to support public television “tpt” in St. Paul. Now every time I watch my favorite programs I may see her name, a picture would be ever better.

**Kristi J. Fogtman:** (‘87) maintains our special coffee supply from her vantage point in Connecticut. I think of her when I see reference to her congressman, the only Independent in the House.

**Sister Jane Winkler,** (72) remains physically and spiritually very much alive at the Carmelite monastery in Hudson. It is a joy to see so much faith and vigor despite physical problems that would have dragged anyone else down. The greatest pleasure is going with **Annette Blanchette**, whom many would remember as the director of the Children’s Library, complete with many teddy bears. Others would remember her as counsellor to hundreds of freshman elementary students in Ames, particularly her “Halloween Inner Sanctum.” She is very active in humanitarian ways, and also to maintain her flexibility by walking miles each, in particular up to the grand view at the end of Golf View Road, where sunsets are the best.

**Karla Taylor (79).** Sensed my despair with the election and wrote: I hope everything is all right with you and events haven’t gotten you down. Have a determinedly happy new year.” Then she followed up with a thick envelope of liberal clippings, that I could not imagine having been produced in Bloomer. They came from Duluth. The most interesting explained the Bush victory by the hard work and thinking of a conservative network. Karla scolded me, “Don’t you DARE move of out this country! We nee all the people like you we can get or keep! Don’t agonize organize!...I did to the John Kerry rally here in Bloomer on July 2. It was great - we expected 2-4,000 and
got 6,000. It was certainly a once-in-a-lifetime experience to listen to a bluegrass band playing, “This Land is Your Land.” With John Kerry on guitar and Dave Oney on harmonica. We all sang along. The funniest part was the fact that the parking lot was in the field where the cows usually grazed and quite a few people (presumably from the bigger cities) wearing inappropriate footwear, found themselves stepping into cow pies.”

**Michael Peterson** (*’76) & **Kathy** spent the spring as guest professor in Ottawa Canada. The high points included skating along the canal to the university on “world’s longest skating rink.” Daughter Amelia much enjoy the film instruction possible in the Ottawa high school. She has entered film production contests in hopes of getting scholarships next year. Daughter Sarah avoided the cold by spending the spring semester in Senegal, as part of a program of Macalester. She finished her studies. She finished her studies there and has an internship with the Wilson Library In Washington. Michael was invited to Japan to give one of his workshops on the use of the internet in cartography. When he returned we met him at the airport on his way to Omaha and enjoyed his digital pictures on his laptop.

**John Peterson & Elaine Martinson** (*’75) are particularly enjoying their grandchildren, Sophia and Austin. Daughter Cecelia is enjoying her studies at UW-Madison, which she would like to lead to a career in dentistry. Daughter Angela is working for a bachelors at Edgewater College, with an interest in becoming a midwife. (It surprised her that her father was brought into the world in Germany with the aid of a midwife.) Elaine, working for the State Treasurer has been trying for years to give money back to people who left it unclaimed in banks. John sent a smiling picture from his union office, but is not optimistic that management won’t succeed in breaking up the union but umpiring is his pleasure.

**Jim DeMarcy (61) & Virginia** “Last year we told you that 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. This year, Virginia broke this trend by retiring on July 9. The people at the Office of Federal Acknowledgement gave her a “traveling office” bag as a farewell present and the afternoon she walked out of the Department of the Interior, she had it so stuffed and festooned with books, photos cup and such that one onlooker probably concluded that she was a bag lady. Her first short story was published ...She is informed by those who read a lot that she is the first person ever to write a science fiction short story set in an imaginary 17th century Lutheran theological colloquy. She has turned in the first draft of the novel under contract to the co-author at 196,000 words...It will be called 1634: The Bavarian Crisis and the next anthology 1634: The Ram Rebellion. Her overall conclusion is that writing fiction is far less stressful than eternally debating the merits of an unacknowledged Indian tribes with the office of the attorney general of the state of Connecticut.

**Jim wrote:** “I have been drafted for a brief rout as Acting Director of the Division of Federal Employee Compensation. I had done this once before in the late 1980s. Unfortunately this opportunity to excels comes at a time when my deputy is planning to retire next month, our Divisions offices are in the midst of their first remodeling/upgrading in 20 years and we are in the midst of multiple failures to see eye to eye with our masters at the Office of Management and Budget over issues of program budget and performance. The bright side is that life here is interesting. The dark side is that this the kind of interesting encapsulated in the Chinese curse about living in interesting times. Upon reflection, the one aspect of the outcome of the November election which I’m inclined to view as positive is that it avoided putting our Praetorian Guards military’s commitment to the democratic process to the test. I am far from convinced that they would have uniformly performed as well as their counterparts in Kiev during the last few weeks.”

**Francis Sagert** (*’85) & **Dawn:** sent a long letter enabled by 40 gust winds that prevented his working. “The best ideas from ’04 came from Kunnich not Kerry or Bush. Pastoral support for Bush was so emphatic in this area, it was a little frightening. A simple letter to area congregations last November said it best ‘No matter which congregations you belong to. The simple fact is a vote for Kerry is a vote against the principles of the Bible.’ Yet we are s deeply divided as was Rome...the party of the unions has alienated its base. The average union member is married with kids, goes to church more than 50% of the time and in their hears and minds do not believe in homosexual unions or abortions. He followed with a fascinating description of Memphis and the continuing impact of the Civil War. “The War of Northern Aggression”...The war is the biggest reason for racial tension 149 years later. To family: Emma is getting straight As in 2nd Grade. Her soccer team lost one
match all season. To sum her up, she is smart and tough as nails while being a fragile little girl. William (3 years old) worries me no end. He is sharp but quiet, rather impish at times. He has a clear understanding of what is asked/expected and clearly disobeys. His nickname is “the Tiger.” He does everything to be ferocious yet cuddly, innocent, yet cunning. Fearless yet afraid. Francis describes Dawn as being of two minds about many things, but admits he is of two minds about looking for a local job. Doctors finally eased the pain in his left leg. “It made me realize not all doctors are fools, just most of them.” Francis is shocked that his 40 year old friends are already grandparents.

He raises several profound questions including, As with Rome, do the current versions of democratically elected bodies have a chance of survival in some for? Or are we destined to rule by our religious beliefs and totalitarian regimes.?”

**Doug Patin (’61) and Liza,** were involved in Nicholas’s college applications, mostly to schools in the NE and in Virginia. Katia continues to be a voracious reading for a 5th Grade, finishing “Gone with the Wind” for a second time this fall. She is turning into a real country girl. She loves riding horses at a neighbor’s farm near our “dacha” in W. Virginia. Liza works testing economists on the Russian skills at IF and World Bank. My rat race continues. I wrapped up a big case at the “Big Dig” in Boston this year. Nicholas and I went to India for 2 weeks last March. Our family is off to Russia again this coming summer.

**Ken Peterson (’71)** “Our youngest daughter, Leann, arrived home from the Ukraine. She really had mixed feelings about coming home right now with the political situation in the Ukraine. She talked of the 50,000 demonstrating for Yevshenko in her hometown and the 200,000 in the encampment in Kiev. She lamented, “I’ve never been through a revolution before.” My advice to her at Thanksgiving was to stock up on food and water and keep her head down. Somehow I cannot see her doing the latter.”

Ken said he was more active in a campaign, “Whether we want to admit it or not, this was the ultimate non-issue campaign by both parties. It was a good old fashioned smear and be smeared, no holds barred, noting gained, spit-mastered slugfest...The issue that pushed me back to activism was the potential for 3 or 4 Supreme Court Justices to be appointed this term. We have had enough judicial activism and its time to get back to a strict interpretation of the constitution....The only hope to gridlock is movement toward the center of the road and right now both parties are not even fielding candidates that are on the road. They are both in opposite ditches driving full speed ahead.

“I am hoping to return to Kenya in March. Famine is rearing its head, AIDS continues to spread and there are now 2 million orphans in Kenya and nearly 1,000 people a day are dying of AIDS there. We have now grown from 28 to 55 sponsored children in our orphanage and are feeding about 100 more in a neighboring town. We recently purchased a couple of acres there and will soon begin building the second orphanage. This will begin with a feeding station that can feed and provide minimal care for about 150 children...Kenya operates on a different time schedule. Last trip I saw a church that been under construction for 5 years. They were now ready to think about putting a roof and no one seemed terribly concerned about the 15 year construction period.

**Mark Ledbetter (’91)** keeps me informed about the problems of a policeman in Hopkins, MN, which I am keeping for his eventual memoirs. An interesting history note for you, Saturday the 1st Marked the 100th anniversary celebration of the Hopkins Police Department’s founding, naturally, in 1905. It began with two constables, and the actual name of the village at the time was “West Minneapolis.” An interesting note is the fact that the village had a fire department since 1873, but apparently things became lawless? Anyway, my hard work convincing the Chief that we needed a nifty gimmick for the celebration paid off big time for me. Michael and I designed a commemorative badge based on the original badge worn, mostly identical with a ring around the state seal stating “100 YEARS 1905-2005.” The Chief agreed with our design proposal, and all of the Officers are wearing them beginning at midnight on New Year’s day. They look very nice and the Chief has mentioned my name in just about every article, etc, in describing them. Coup for Mark! When not struggling with whatever criminal element, he is advancing his glass blowing skills at Pigeon Lake.

**Marla Sorenson (76)** wrote from her Amery Public library. “Herb Cederberg is planning on moderating our history reading group again. We generally have 24-30 people come to it. Mayor Stower and the City Council are discussing building a new public library. The city rents space from Xcel Energy and the rent is
going up in 2005. The library is also running out of space. It will depend on if the library board can fund raise around one million to match what the city will commit.

Roger Vanous (’64) & Joyce visit RF primarily to stop at the graves of 8 close relatives buried in Greenwood Cemetery. He is still with Einstein’s Bagels, even at the same store. Joyce is still at Penney’s, but now at Riverdale Village in Coon Rapids, a new shopping area, where all the stores are free standing....We are starting to look more and more seriously about retirement and wanted to check out the Branson, Mo., area. We pretty much eliminated it. While there are ways to avoid much of the tourist traffic, if can’t be avoided completely, and it was bad even before the tourist session. ..We now do a church service Sunday mornings. It’s a lay ministry. Roger goes three Sundays a month and does the sermon. Joyce goes the Sundays she’s off. She helps turn the pages in the hymnals for those who can’t and has a wonderful rapport with the residents.

Fred Olk (’76) sends us frequently employment opportunities in the Chicago area. The Christmas card listed his employments: Tax Examiner II, in the Cook County Clerk Office (1990-present) Tax Redemption Dep’t - posting; 2; patrolman for Glenbrook Security Services, Glenview Il. Listed on his card: private process server, Public Record Searcher, Voter Registrar, Family History researcher, Campaign Work, Listed in who’s Who in American Law. His present address is 845 Busse Hwy, #202, Park Ridge, IL, 60068-2346

From the desk of C. C. Smith:

David E. Olson, (74)
Mary Magnan D’Andrea (MA, 1981)
Bonnie Jones Witthuhn, (76),
Lois Parker (92)
Jim Rapp (71) & Alice.
Mike Higgins (71)
Phil Idsvoog (68 & MA ’74) & Elaine.
Alice Jo Cargo (74)
Trilby Hauck,

The Annual Invitation: There are many ways to renew contacts, the most easy to get on the Net and say hello. You could check out our wing of the 3rd Floor of KFA, or for me personally in 120B SH. A phone call to me directly happens when you dial 715 425-5271.

If you would like to see how I have progressed or regressed intellectually, I could send you the Commencement Speech. ep01@pressenter.com