Best Wishes in 2006 to History and Philosophy Alumni

The History and Philosophy Department was not the same this fall without ENP. After the summer break, on my first trip to the third floor of KFA, I almost thought I would see Ed in the hall. We all miss him and we know from your letters and messages that you all do, too. No one can replace him, but we still feel his presence as we remember his laughter and good humor, curiosity and inquisitiveness, dedication to students and teaching, commitment to the truth and the pursuit of knowledge. He will always be alive in the hearts and minds of his many students, alumni and colleagues at UWRF.

Many of you asked about the Newsletter, whether it would continue and who would do it. We determined that it must go forward, although most of you know that this was virtually Ed's work. Sue Voelker, our Program Assistant in the Department of History and Philosophy, graciously offered to prepare the Newsletter, with assistance from Ursula Peterson. We extend our gratitude to both of them for helping to carry on the tradition with this 28th annual edition.

A few other changes have occurred in the Department this year. We have a new faculty member, Roark Atkinson, who arrived in the fall of 2005 to fill the U.S. Colonial History position. Professor Atkinson completed his Ph.D. from the University of Indiana this summer and accepted his first tenure-track position with us. We welcome him to the Department. Christopher Simer also joined us last spring and quickly demonstrated his ability to teach under the very difficult circumstances of taking Ed's classes. A search is currently underway for a modern European historian. Other major changes are more general. We have made some curricular changes to the major and minor, and we have all been working on General Education classes since these requirements have shifted. Of course, we all welcome the new leadership at UWRF that began this fall with Chancellor Don Betz and the CAS Interim Dean Terry Brown. (Betty Bergland)

and History and Philosophy Banquet Set for Friday, April 7th

Please see the invitation on page 14. It is your official and only invitation to this important event!

We hope to see you there!

The Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series

I am very pleased to announce The Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series to honor the memory, teaching and research of Ed Peterson. Funds were transferred at the beginning of this year from the Alumni Foundation's “History Department, Special Projects” Fund (in the amount of $15,000) to an Endowed Fund. The fund will support an annual UWRF campus lecture series to begin next spring, when accrued interest should make an appropriate honorarium possible. The lectures, by significant scholars in their fields, will address a topic related to areas of Dr. Peterson's academic career: war and peace, abuses and limits of power or the struggle for democracy in the twentieth century. Dr. Stephen Feinstein agreed to launch the series with the first lecture in the spring of 2007. (I would add that talks to launch the series had begun in the Department last winter when Dr. Peterson was part of the discussion, and agreement was reached on all its dimensions. I had planned to discuss the naming--only--with the Petersons the Monday after we lost him.)

To all of you who have contributed to the History Department Special Project Funds over the last years, we thank you for your generosity that has made this Series possible. Contributions may be added to the fund over time. Any questions might be directed to Betty Bergland in the History Department office (715.425.3164) or Ann Schwebach in the UWRF Foundation office (715.425.3505). (Betty Bergland)

Peterson Plaque Installation
Noted River Falls professor dies
Friday, March 25, 2005

Ed Peterson, UW-River Falls history professor for more than 50 years, died Friday at 5:45 a.m. at United Hospital in St. Paul.

Peterson -- in his late 70s -- lived in River Falls with his wife Ursula. He was taken to Hudson Hospital Wednesday with heart and respiratory problems and then transferred to United Thursday.

Last year Peterson was the recipient of the university's Distinguished Teacher award. He graduated from UW-Madison as a psychology major and then earned a Ph.D. in German history. He was born in St. Joseph, Mo.

Peterson has been teaching history at UW-RF since 1954. In his South Hall classroom, Peterson didn't use lecture notes to teach students. What he wanted to share didn't need to be stored on paper. "Each time I go before a class, I do it myself, from my head," he said last year in a Journal story about his Distinguished Teacher award. "It comes out a little different each time because I get new ideas as I go along."

Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 30 at the First Congregational Church in River Falls.

See the March 31 River Falls Journal for the complete story.

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For links to more articles about Dr. Peterson, see page 7.

From Ursula Peterson to You

Sue Voelker has asked me to write something for the newsletter.

You surely know that it was interesting and lively because of your letters and communications. I hope you will continue with your information by letter or email as you did before.

Now to my life. After Ed's death our number one son John told me he would take of a week to undertake the rehabilitation of the existing bathroom and the creation of a new one, which we had already started. He inherited the optimism of his father. My realism knew that one week would not quite do it. Our even more realistic number two son Michael prepared me for what lay ahead. After more then two months the task finally done I had two nice new bathrooms.

At the end of September in trying to prepare our outdoors for the winter I really messed up my back with two depression fractures. For the first time I had to hire some help and then a very nice history student Colleen Fenlon helped me to finish the work. It helped also to have some very nice neighbors.

Number two son under the mistaken impression that I needed to be entertained and kept busy made a reservation for a flight to Vienna to meet him and his wife. He had to be there for the last days in November for a conference on "Location based services" and Tele cartography. Tele cartography refers to the communication system that is now developing with cell phones.

My back thought it to be impossible but when the time rolled around to leave it had sufficiently recovered for me to override it. Actually my back had more sense then I did. In retrospect I had some interesting experiences some were visiting the Christmas markets that Kathy and her cousin had never been to. Unforgettable for me were the Flak towers in Vienna erected during the last years of WWII. The anti-aircraft canons on the top level. The low rooms were used as air raid shelters for thousands of Viennese. Built in small parks in the fairly densely populated inner city they proved too strong to destroy with explosives without destroying the surrounding neighborhoods. Only two have been adapted for use, one for storage by the army the other as an aquarium. The remaining four stand as mute memorials. To me they were an eerie reminder of a time that forever set my mind against war of any kind.

They had been built more then 60 years ago, in Germany those build earlier and some not quite as strong could be destroyed. Those that could not, have long ago been changed to other uses and are hard to recognize. Many Viennese now want to keep them as monuments and not be changed for other uses.
From Vienna I flew to Berlin to visit friends. On my last day in Berlin we had a difficult time getting home from a Christmas market. The traffic in a large part of the inner city had been blocked because of a 500 kg WWII bomb, unearthed during subway construction. This is still an almost monthly happening, the areas are evacuated the bombs are defused or detonated and life goes back to the usual. The estimate is that at least 1000 bombs are still left in the inner city of Berlin. This is not only so in Berlin but also in other cities. Often not even reported unless there is a casualty, or an acute disruption of commerce or traffic. Here to after over 60 years I experienced the reality of a time I had lived through as a teenager. It occurred to me then that there are many areas in this world where explosives still lurk from long ended conflicts.

Back home again, I am muddling along trying to do two jobs and not doing either of them very well. No Christmas cards, no baking however I hung our felt Christmas trees and our German ornaments for grand- and great-grand children to admire. I love to hear from you and would like to give my thanks to all that wrote. Donna (Hemauer) Drummond ('79) and Kristi Fogelman ('87) delighted me with pictures taken when they went to school here. Kristi sent some of our yearly softball games and Donna one of Ed’s poetry readings in South Hall. To those who wrote and told me about your contact with Ed that had impressed you, my warmest thanks. (Ursula Peterson)

History and Philosophy Office Staff News

Steph Bishop is a freshman history major who joined our staff last fall and proves to be a sharp, dependable, hard-working assistant for our busy office. (Sue Voelker)

Paul Borofka-Webb. The past year went well for me. I spent my time in 2005 mostly on school and work. From March to October I was interning at the Octagon House museum in Hudson. During the year I also worked part time at BP Amoco and the History and Philosophy Department. Fall semester has gone by fast and I look forward to Spring semester.

Josh Jordan. I am from Menomonie, WI and this is my first year at UWRF. College has been kind of an adjustment for me, as it is for everyone, but I'm starting to come out of my shell and am getting involved in things. Over the last year I traveled to Cancun with my family and a friend and his family. It was a good time; I spent time on the beach and also visited the ruins at Chichen Itza. I hope everyone has had a great year!

Katy Sikorski. This is my third year here at UWRF and working in the History Office. I have one year left and am now looking at graduate school. Scary! I am an RA in Grimm Hall this year so life has been hectic, but I am looking forward to spending spring break in Morocco with the UWRF study tour.

Tiff Turchany. I am happy to be back on campus this year after spending spring semester of 2005 in Europe as a member of the UWRF International Traveling Class room. This is my third year here as a history major and working for the History Department. I am looking forward to taking a break from my classes this spring to go on the Belize study tour.

Sue Voelker (1985). I have missed Ed at the office so much this past year. It was a delight to see him each day and I often wonder, “What would Ed say about this,” hoping he would approve of how we are handling things, including this newsletter.

It was an especially busy year for my family, with Karl off to college in New York—Rochester Institute of Technology—where he’s majoring in software engineering. I sorely miss his witty, positive and helpful nature at home, but I am pleased that he thoroughly enjoys life there.

Jack (8th grade) seems to almost enjoy middle school this year and his grades have been excellent. He is still into video and computer games and also enjoys reading and playing with Lucky, our Sheltie, and Teddy our charismatic stunt cat who has taken on the role of family comedian.

Seán and I enjoyed a few weekend getaways this summer and in October we were visited by his daughter from Ireland. Seán then traveled to Ireland for his annual visit from mid-December through January. In addition to his usual music schedule in 2005 he played at the Irish Heritage Festival in St. Paul, and was especially pleased to team up with a childhood classmate/musician from County Clare for some traditional sessions.

Faculty News
Roark Atkinson (since 2005). Where does one begin? I suppose at the beginning. I am the product of public schools my whole life, some good, some bad, but all offering their own opportunities for achievement. I went to grade schools and junior high schools in Berkeley, rural Maine, upstate New York, and downtown Los Angeles. I spent my first year of high school in the worst performing school in Massachusetts during the height of the busing controversy (Madison Park High in Boston), and spent my last three at one of the best public high schools in the country (Lowell High, in San Francisco). I spent a long time in the real world after high school, eventually going to community colleges in California before going to San Francisco State, where I graduate with a B.A. I was fortunate to do my graduate work at Indiana University, one of the best programs in the country. I’ve seen highs and lows, academic and social, in both urban and rural environments. I saw many people across the country who would never get a lucky break, as I did. I often think of friends I met along the way who did not have the opportunities that I had. I imagine that many of them would have surpassed me if they had the chance. Part of my long-term goal is to help other people like my childhood friends have the same kinds of opportunities that I had.

One of the best things I did between high school and college was travel. I save my money and traveled to Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa when I was nineteen. I lived for a time in Jerusalem where I worked in a hotel and spent a month in Egypt, mostly in the Sahara Desert. It was mind-blowing experience, seeing dozens of pyramids, emerald-like oases, bizarre rock formations, and sometimes stumbling on the ruins of some forgotten Roman fortress. I also hitchhiked through Europe, then one of the best ways to travel (you get very far very fast on the Autobahn!). I was gone for about seven months total, long enough to make me deeply curious about the histories of other cultures. I doubt that I would have considered history as a career of any kind before this, especially since history in high school was my least favorite (besides math. Yikes!).

After a long career as a student in the general sense (much too long), I managed to finally close that chapter of my life last summer (finishing my Ph.D.) and begin a new career as a teacher-scholar at UWRF. This does not mean that I will not cease being a student of history, nor do I suspect I will stop learning from my colleagues and students. It just means I get to do it in a new setting, with new goals: not merely enriching myself, but sharing the pursuit of knowledge with others.

I am continuing my research and writing as I go along, finding space wherever I can between the obligations that come with teaching four courses per semester. Right now (before I begin grading stacks of essays) is the time to submit paper and panel proposals to history conferences around the country. I benefit from these conferences enormously, since discussions on new research, thorny historical issues, or new approaches with my colleagues and friends help me become a better teacher-scholar.

I really enjoy living in Wisconsin, especially so close to the Twin Cities, and I have enjoyed the students at The University of Wisconsin at River Falls. They are generally hard working, patient, and thoughtful of others. Many of them seem to see UWRF as a place of opportunity, and are making the most of it, as I did when I was in school.

Betty Bergland (since 1990). I am on sabbatical leave this spring semester and generally not on campus. My goal is to develop my research and previous writing on immigrants and Indians in the Upper Midwest into a book manuscript, with a few research and conference trips. As alumni know writing is slow (!), but I will do my best. I trust some of you can appreciate the joy of research, reading, hours in the archives or library, even writing—the pleasure of learning that brought us into our academic fields. Yet, I will look forward to returning to the classroom in the fall.

The past year has been overshadowed by the loss of our colleague. But we must go on. I continue to teach twentieth century U.S. history, women’s history, African American and immigration and ethnic history. Teaching U.S. foreign policy history since 9/11, especially, presents particular challenges as I search for new sources that offer enlightenment. Fall semester, we read Paul Pillar’s work, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, published just before 9/11, which I think qualifies as enlightening. I also offered the Immigration and Ethnic History course this fall and enjoyed witnessing the students’ engagement with the complex ethnic history of this country, as we also monitored and compared recent developments in France.

My research took me back to Wittenberg, Wisconsin this past summer to interview Ho-Chunk women, former students of the Bethany Indian Mission. The work on the Mission (a chapter of the larger project) will lead to other travels this spring—to the Great Lakes Region of the National Archives in Chicago for BIA Records on the school and to England in April, when I will participate in a conference on missions in Oxford. Some days are good. Best regards to you all.

Kurt Leichtle (since 1986). As historians we know different years are dominated by differing sets of factors. In the last two years my biography has focused on events like the Teaching American History Grant and my research. This year’s major event was Kyle going to Florida to college. He started in January, plus for
me was 5 days of 80's in January. His college is very different, no orientation for parents and no dorms. I found every used furniture store in Winter Park to furnish his apartment. I stayed with a friend from AP and taught one day to cover my board. Did you know that in Florida students have to work outside between classes in high school and that drinking fountains and handwashing sinks are also outside. Regionalism is not dead. One historical highlight of my trip was seeing Col. Sanders original restaurant. I had fun watching Kyle react to the changing cultures as we drove south. He is doing fine in school.

Kee and Karen are both at the middle school. Kee is in 8th grade and just registered for high school. Karen is working in the special ed program. She is teaching science among other things.

The grant project continues, this summer in Madison where we will visit the grave of Frederick Jackson Turner—a pilgrimage? I am looking forward to the next application period. The grant has been fun and a learning experience.

AP Review Day continues to be successful. We have over five hundred students coming this year, so if you have not called and want to bring your class call now. The second day in Superior continues to grow thanks to the efforts of Kyle Smith at Superior High School.

Imtiaz Moosa (since 1991) finds himself busier than he should be with chairing our search committee for the Modern European history position, other committee work, as well as research/writing in addition to his normal teaching load. His positivity and good humor continue to keep us on track through even the most hectic days! (Sue Voelker)

Dave Peters (since 1986) continues to teach part time in the Philosophy Department (two courses per semester). He enjoys the assignment and tells everyone that he should've gotten on this reduced load thirty years ago. Dave and his wife Nancy are eagerly looking forward to a long-anticipated trip to Scandinavia and St. Petersburg, Russia in May. He says that while some people display signs reading "Will work for food," his says "Will work to travel."

Kiril Petkov (since 2004). A long year by my personal standards but a fruitful one. Continued to disentangle UWRF's mysterious ways and Twin Cities' oriental groceries, with a various degree of success. After several months of intensive work, revamped and got approved the core courses of my curriculum, all four of them (Whew!), and introduced interactive PowerPoint versions of the introductory-level ones. Moments of personal satisfaction were the launching of my pet course, “The Mediterranean” in Fall, and the crafting of a shared “History in Film,” an upper-division masterpiece, which still expects committee approval. No less satisfactory even though nerve-wreaking at times was the preparation for my new international program, a J-Term 2006 Italy Study Tour, but to learn the outcome you'll have to wait until next year (OK, here is the inside scoop: it went well). On the research front the administration's generosity (may God or the intelligent design, whatever, give them more of that in years to come) allowed me to present my current research on arrogance at four top scholarly forums. Strengthened by the criticism of colleagues from all over the country, two expanded versions are in press now in well respected periodicals. (If I seem arrogant don’t worry, I am testing my own research)

Other than that, there was summer, with lots of mountain climbing and hiking; and early fall, with some ice skating. Regrettably an unfortunate fall froze me limping for a while, but rest assured I'll be in good shape for the summer mountain- and cave climbing again. Beside nature, my native place abounds in history, pre-historic, Thracian, Roman, medieval, and early modern artifacts sprouting from the ground at every step, so I was delighted to revisit some archeological digs. Visit, if you have a chance—and if you need a guided tour (including a soak in a Roman mineral bath) I'll be there for you.

Chris Simer (since 2005) has been living the schizo-phrenic schedule of teaching at both UWRF and UW-Stout. While learning the ropes at UWRF, I particularly want to thank the students for their help in my first full semester here. I am presently researching political and diplomatic aspects of chemical warfare and contemporary strategic issues in Central Asia.

Zhiguo Yang (since 2001). Just like any historical moment, the year of 2005 witnessed changes affecting the whole world and our local communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. As a history instructor, I tried to incorporate the discussion of these changes into Introduction to Asian Civilization, Modern Japan, Modern China and China Study Tour, the courses I have been teaching since I joined the Department in 2001. While adding a lecture on the rise of India and China as new economic powers is a response to the changing economic and political balance in the world, describing the role of Hmong people in my coverage of Vietnam War is my effort to deepen our students’ awareness of the circumstances under which the Hmong came to the U.S. It is a humble and new effort but met with support and enthusiasm from students, as reflected in the following comment from the end-of-semester student course evaluations: “During all my history lesson[s], no one has talked about the Hmong people until now. It was amazing when the word Hmong was discussed in the [class]. Nobody know[s] about the Hmong or where they came from.”

For my research in the field of modern Chinese history, I am very happy to report that I have finished an
article about the beer brewery industry in Qingdao, North China and the impact of Chinese nationalism and consumerism on its development in the 20th century, and that I am finishing another article about Japanese cotton textile industry in Qingdao and its relationship to Chinese nationalism and anti-foreign movements in the 1920s and 1930s.

Travel is always an effective (though expensive) way to learn or teach history. Between May and June of 2005, I led another China Study Tour group to China. In addition to students and young community participants, this group also included several older and well-respected participants from UWR and our community such as Sue and Dick Beckham, Brian Copp, Ruth and David Wood, and I greatly benefited from their experience, professionalism and friendship. [Please see tour group photo in “Photo Gallery 2005” at the end of this newsletter] I wish you all success, prosperity and good health in 2006. See you next year!

Faculty Emeriti News

John J. Buschen (at UWR 38 years through 2004).

Dr. Buschen lives in south Florida, where he enjoys the sun, warmth, and opportunity to swim every day. The Broward Center for the Arts provides culture during the season; Cleveland Symphony, Florida Grand Opera ("Daughter of the Regiment"), Miami City Ballet, and soprano Renee Fleming were recent guest performers. The Fort Lauderdale Duplicate Bridge Club is pleasant place to meet lots of snowbirds from around the world and play cards. Occasional trips take him to Chicago, Minneapolis, and Montreal. The French Cafe, Greek Islands, and Suko-Thai are among his favorite restaurants. The internet and e-mail keep him in touch with friends and former students.

Herb Cederberg (at UWR 33 years through 1999) & Alice. Alice and I have had a busy year of travel. We went to Antarctica, thus having visited all seven continents. We went to the Australian Open Tennis Tournament, thus having attended all four international Grand Slams. I took an Art History group from the Osher Life Long Learning Institute to visit the Art Institute of Chicago last Spring and am scheduled to take another such group to Washington D.C. this Spring. Plans are to visit a different museum or museums each year with NYC and San Francisco next on the list.

I have been teaching one Art History class each semester for OLLI at the U. of M. and am delighted that the Art History Department at the University is in the process of converting my entire Art History slide collection of over 4,000 slides to PowerPoint which I use in my classes. I will also be finishing up an N.E.H. grant commitment to the Amery Public Library to conduct discussion sessions on WWI.

Life is full.

Stephen Feinstein (at UWR 30 years through 1999).

Stephen Feinstein is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he taught from 1969-1999 and is now Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota. While at Wisconsin, he taught courses on Russian and Soviet History, European History and History of the Middle East and served as chairman of the History Department for 7 years.

Because of an art history background, he was curator of the traveling art exhibition, "Witness and Legacy: Contemporary Art About the Holocaust," at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, which toured in 17 American museums from 1995-2002. In 1999, he was curator of a 7,000 square foot exhibition at the University of Minnesota's Nash Gallery, "Absence/Presence: The Artistic Memory of the Holocaust and Genocide."


Feinstein also has over 40 published articles and six museum catalogues, and is adjunct curator of the permanent art collection at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The web site for the University of Minnesota's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies has become one of the major sites for curriculum materials in the world. During 2005, the site received more than 30 million "hits" from visitors.

Clyde Curry Smith (at UWR 25 years through 1990) & Ellen. Activities during 2005:

1) 30 March, at family's request, led religious component of funeral/memorial service for E. N. Peterson at United Church of Christ, River Falls;

2) 8 April, at invitation of chair, gave keynote address for History and Philosophy Department Spring Banquet, Rodli Commons, UWR;
3) entire month of June, spent as scholar-in-residence at the Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT; pursued research and contributed entries for their on-line “Dictionary of African Christian Biography” (www.dacb.org);

4) 20-23 October, attended 75th anniversary celebrations for the Chapel of the Holy Grail at the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago;

5) through year, maintained weekly three-hour sessions with Kevin Caldwell in Greek and Hebrew language study and related theological and literary considerations;

6) monthly, continued service as board member and secretary of the River Falls Library Foundation;

7) monthly, Ellen continued service as plan commission member, City of River Falls; and participated in Tuesday Club and a book group;

8) summer travel included visits with family members living enroute and those on East Coast;

9) late summer, commissioned and prepared major biographical sketch of William Barnett Blakemore, Jr. (1912-1975), sometime Dean of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago and major ecumenical theologian for publication in Rome;

10) over the year, completed reviewing of new books for learned journals, and maintained correspondence with erstwhile colleagues, former students, and friends overseas worldwide;

11) over the year, had contacts with former UWRF colleagues—1) all of this department: John Buschen, Herb Cederberg, C. S. Change, Gary Shellman, and Noble Stockton; and b) of other departments: Arthur Bessell, Don Charpentier, Ruth Hale, John Hill, Ross Korsgaard, Wayne Sukow, and Bill Webster;

12) over the year, heard from and/or was visited by former students of this department: Dr. Amy Anderson, Mark Christiansen, Mary D’Andrea, Tim Ericson, Wayne Funk, Trilby Hanek, Michael Higgins, Philip Idsvoog, the Rev. Peter Jonas, Carol Kettner, Tom Klein, the Rev. Roxi Kringle-Waldraff, David Olson, David Peck, Diane Raddatz, and James Rapp;

13) over the year, enjoyed theatre productions by SCVST, UWRF, and River Falls Community Theatre, often in the company of the Hills;

14) included in Who’s Who in America, 60th Diamond Edition.

Wayne Sukow (Physics) & Carol. (from letter to Ursula)
Greetings! With all the ups and downs of this chaotic, warring, catastrophic year, we look to the small moments that keep us smiling: . . . . After traveling the world with our binoculars in hand, I discovered that the Fairfax County [VA] Pathway (not more than 300 steps from our house) not only is teeming with birds but also has a ‘bird walk’ every Monday morning at 7:00 with a professional guide—for free! . . . .

Spending nearly the entire month of July in Holland (thanks to Cathy and Jaap’s good planning) took us away from the heat and humidity of Northern Virginia. In the midst of biking and birds and ocean breezes, our favorite memory is still the pleasure of looking up from breakfast in our cabin to see two little faces peering in. Cathy said they’d get up and say, “I’m going to Grandma’s!!” . . . .

. . . It’s wonderful, but not surprising, that so many people gave so generously to the Ed Peterson Scholarship fund. He was a very special person, loved by the entire community. . . .

Alumni News
Email us with your news at historynewsletter@uwrf.edu!

Tara Boldthen (2005). Well I guess all the payments to my references finally paid off since I am currently a teacher. I am teaching at Little Falls Community High School, up by St. Cloud. I am just finishing up my first semester with 9th grade U.S. History I and 10th grade World History. It was a very interesting first semester, as my dad says "you were baptized by fire". There were a lot of tough moments, but I am very happy to be teaching and doing what I love. Along with teaching I also was the JV volleyball coach and assistant coach for 7th and 8th grade girls basketball. Now I am starting to get ready for my next semester classes, 9th grade U.S. History II and 11th grade World Geography and Culture. Thank you to all of the staff at UWRF for helping me accomplish my dreams. And a special thank you to Ed Peterson for teaching me about WWII and how to be an influential teacher in school and in life.

Deborah Brown (1980). (from letter to Ursula)
I will always be grateful for the rich part [Ursula] and Ed played in my life. My years with the History Department, at a time when faculty and students were close (largely because of the family culture [the Petersons] and George [Garlid] created) were very happy ones. It does not surprise me that there was an outpouring of love and dollars for Ed’s scholarship. We all loved him—and [Ursula].

Monica Copeland (Manske 2003). I’m still teaching English to teenagers at Faribault High School, and Tony is currently working at the Payless in Burnsville Center. We moved to Apple Valley this August and are enjoying it so far. Tony recently got his driver’s license, so we’re in the first stages of buying him a car (meaning we’re trying to figure out how to finance him a car!). So far, so good.

Karl Gandt (1979). (from letter to Ursula) The Gandts extend their holiday greetings to all.

Amber Gonske (2000). I have kept busy this past year working for the Koser Radio Group in Rice Lake. I am a staff announcer for WJMC, WAQE, and WKFX radio stations. I fill in, from time to time, for the news and sports directors, and I also do commercial production and an occasional remote broadcast or parade appearance. When not at the station, I can often be found helping out on our family dairy operation, Pinecrest Acres. We had a busy summer dealing with a lot of storm clean-up and repairs. A tornado ripped through our farm the end of June. We lost nearly 50 trees, half of our calf hutches were torn to pieces, not to mention numerous damages to the free-stall barn, surrounding buildings, and the houses. The sheriff said we were the hardest hit in the county. Two weeks after we were able to put together a small show string, to celebrate our family’s 80th year showing our registered Guernseys at the Barron County Fair.

Carole Kettner (1981 & 1987) & John Peter. (from letter to Ursula) It was a wonderful year in so many ways. We had the opportunity to do some incredible traveling. The NEA Representative Assembly was in Los Angeles this year. The best part of that was having the chance to spend a day with John’s Uncle.

Then we had another “Trip of a Lifetime” when we went heli-hiking in Western Canada. It was a 10 day trip, and six of those days were spent hiking right up on the tops of mountains. We stayed in lodges that are ski lodges in the winter. Each morning we were taken by helicopter to a different location to hike with a trained mountain guide. INCREDIBLE!!

In November, John had his annual conference with people who do work similar to him all over the country. This year it was in San Diego. . . . After the conference we went to Catalina Island and did some major mountain hiking. Then we were able to spend Thanksgiving with John’s uncle—being with him is like having a part of his mom alive.

So—speaking of all that hiking. We started getting really serious about walking in June because we thought we were going to be really embarrassed on the heli-hiking trip. So we decided to walk over an hour a day. (That means on work days, we would get up at 4:30.) As it turned out, we were definitely not the youngest couple hiking, but absolutely the ones who wanted to do the most hiking. We have kept up with the walking now and have logged about 800 miles since the middle of June. We both have lost some extra pounds and are in better shape than ever.

One of the professional highlights of the year was John’s work in Florence County, near the Michigan border. The school district (which is the only one in the county) had voted to dissolve, and he spent many days helping with a referendum—it passed and the district is going to stay in business for a few years at least.

Lani Madis (1961). (from letter to Ursula). Yesterday was the perfect Wisconsin winter day. Above 20 with lazy fat snowflakes, a crackling fire and chicken stew on the stove in anticipation of dinner and cards with friends Ron and Helen . . .

Another perfect day in memory was the hot summer day with Cora and her three boys, Dan, his three boys, Mason, Kara, David and I floating down the Red Cedar past the old farm. Wonderful memories of good friends there and Cameron life.

Then there was the bead classes in June in Milwaukee where I met a fascinating teacher who showed us how to create the most fanciful exotic bead rings . . .

Daughter Kara finished seven months of dental work in July and now has a beautiful smile. Gone are the headaches and TMJ. She helps Dan (the lead guitarist) to do scheduling, set-up and take-down for his band. As a confirmed grannie I prefer the outdoor gigs where I can enjoy stretching out on the grass and the rock and roll is not quite so loud. Dan’s little cabin on Lake Wissota is now decorated to reflect his love of sailing and they spend as many nights there as possible. In July we watched fireworks from the deck and toasted the spectacular ones. Mason is not only a good swimmer and learning to sail; he’s my main and patient source on everything one would want to know about computer games, systems, etc. . . .

Just after Thanksgiving we moved David into an apartment on Gold Rd. with his can Daniel. Thank goodness it was only rain and not snow. Cora and the boys will remain good friends so he’s content and only eight blocks from my house. Every time at the shop I listen to the knowledge he has about arms; it amazes
me. This acorn did not fall far from the oak. I still do the shop's bookwork and taxes but doesn't it sound better to say Chief Financial Officer.

Finally have committed to selling the house in 2006. . . Still have another year to serve on the State Coordinating Council for AARP and every other month means a trip to Madison trying to influence the politicians across the street. The biggest news is the nationwide reorganization of Girl Scout Councils. In WI I will chair our local committee and attend the state WI Alliance meetings for the council. Have also been asked to stand for board treasurer for a two year term. . . .

Well, it's been quite a year.

Pat was hospitalized twice in September with kidney stones, and eventually had surgery to remove a large one. She continues at the always-busy main branch of the Washington County library.

Michael is in ninth grade at Cottage Grove Junior High School, and is having a good year. He recently made the B Honor Roll. He continues to be an avid percussionist, and he and several of his friends are also involved in the Park High School marching and pep bands.

Band continued to dominate much of our life as a family. A definite high point for me was chaperoning Eleanor's high school band trip to New Orleans in early April, where the band won three honors in the band festival going on there. The students were great and the trip went very well. We were treated to a "ghost tour" in the French Quarter, a Sunday morning brunch aboard a sternwheeler paddleboat listening to a black combo performing Gospel music, and a "swamp tour" led by an actual Cajun. Several of us did Bourbon Street at 11:00 at night (Don't tell Mr. Tank that we snuck out after "lights out"!).

I made three or four relatively-brief trips to the cabin Up North (at Ely, Minnesota), the first with my mother in April and a couple more with my brother Larry. We planted the remaining 250 Norway Pine seedlings left over from 2004. We also met with our consulting forester for an inspection tour of our 80 acres and to discuss our plans for the property. Perhaps in 2006 we will finally do some logging.

I am in my 20th year on staff at the Minnesota Historical Society as a processing archivist. This year I was involved in two exciting off-site projects, one processing (organizing and describing) a large body of records of the Weyerhaeuser "family office" and the other (Phase II of which is currently underway) processing an even larger body of records of the Andersen Corporation (manufacturers of high-quality windows and related products). While I love my job it has been good change of pace getting out of the office. It is hard to believe that several of my friends are already talking about retirement.

2006 promises to be a year of changes for the family. Among other things the plan is to sell our big house in the suburbs and move on, although where we will land has not as yet been decided upon—bit it IS time to move on. Best wishes for 2006!

Marla Sorenson. (from letter to Ursula)
It's nice that so much money was donated in memory of Ed for scholarships.

We had a busy summer reading program this year. The theme was Dragons; Dreams and Daring Deeds. All of the kids really enjoyed the medieval theme.

Wayne Viitanen (1962) and Donna. (from letter to Ursula) Even though time seems to fly by altogether too fast these days, the past year has been for us one of becoming more and more comfortable with our new life in Mexico. We have learned that more and more items such as groceries, household needs, auto servicing, etc., are quite available in one or another community on the north side of Lake Chapala known as "lakeside" hereabouts. We seldom go to Guadalajara anymore, as an increasing number of businesses from "Guad" are opening outlets nearby. There have been rumors of a Wal-Mart but so far nothing has happened, so for the moment our small business owners have been spared. Not that the various Marts aren't spreading throughout Mexico, but so far they have come no closer than Guadalajara.

We are fortunate as well to have found excellent, dependable, and loyal help for the house, garden, and pool. It took a couple of changes along the way, but we feel that our helpers now are like family. They actually do a better job of maintaining the house and yard than if we tried to do it ourselves. Having help around took some getting used to, but we have learned to stay out of each other's way and to get on around to keep things looking nice than in the States.

There is no dormant period for plant growth, for example, and while fruit may not be ripening all the time, the shrubs keep growing, the grass always needs mowing and watering, and leaves fall from various plants and trees almost all year around. (And some of this litter and dust finds its way in to the house almost every day it seems.)
There is a lot of picking up to do in a mild climate that just isn’t needed in the States. Most lawns need watering eight months of the year and hardly any lawns have built in automatic watering systems as we had in California. But even if you have such a system, trees and shrubs would need watering in addition to what automatic systems could provide. So, while it is nice not to have freezing cold weather, there is no winter resting period for plants, or critters either, (aromatic skunks have a particularly long active season) and some one needs to tend to things all year round.

We do know it is coming winter, however, when people start appearing on our streets wearing shorts and featuring very bright, white, legs. These are the human snow birds that have just gotten here. Avian birds begin showing up, too, and we benefit from the great migrations that bring uncounted numbers of birds to our area. Especially dramatic are the white pelicans that begin showing up in late November. They stay till late March and then return to the northern plains. Also, in summer, we get a more limited migration of birds from South America. We learned a lot this past year about just how many migratory and year round birds we have when bird watching guests began pointing out how much there was to see just in our immediate neighborhood. We decided then to get some bird books and binoculars so that we could gain a greater appreciation of this wonderful opportunity.

Donna has been quite busy since June with a group known as Teach a Woman to Fish (TAWF). This is a program started a couple of years ago to teach marketable skills, such as embroidery, quilting, appliquing, etc. to women who without the program would have virtually no income. (Mexico has very little in the way of social and economic support for its unemployed or disabled workers. Also, if the husband has headed to the States to find work, it may be weeks or months before he can send money back to the family. There may be three or four young children left for a young mother to try to feed and clothe, so times can be hard indeed for Mexico’s poor.) Most members of the TAWF project are already receiving some help in the form of direct grants (funded by generous US and Canadian donors) which help to pay tuition and school uniform expenses for their age children. The idea for TAWF, though, is to help these women achieve some measure of financial independence by having them create items such as purses, quilts, embroidered art, and dolls for sale. There are about 20 women in the project now. The goal is for them to become able to manage the entire program themselves and to bring additional women in as demand grows for their products.

This fall, on our trip to the States, Donna placed a number of purses, dolls, and several other items in shops from such varied locales as the Arkansas Ozarks, to New England, and even in Paducah, Ken-ucky, home to the US quilting association. It will take many more outlets to sustain a thriving cottage industry here at Lake Chapala, but it is a start and word is getting around about the project. Every visitor who purchases a beautiful item becomes an advocate and when the snowbirds head north next spring many more people will learn about the fine work these women do.

Wayne has given moral support to Donna’s efforts and plans to become involved as a Board member in the umbrella charity known in English as “The children of Chapala and Ajijic” next year. He has also continued his water color painting and book discussions with the Great Books group here in town, but with some interruptions to both due to our travels this year. He also enjoys making plans for our travels and locating motels that are pet friendly. Our two standard poodles are well traveled as they went with us this fall for our grand tour of the upper Midwest and northeastern parts of the country. (In Mexico, especially, it is quite a novelty for people to travel with pets, so careful planning is required to make sure one has a place to stay.) But motels were located and we enjoyed revisiting some parts of the US and visiting for the first time some places such as the Pennsylvania Dutch country centered in Lancaster County and city. (They do beautiful quilts, too, a point of considerable interest to Donna.) In the Pennsylvania Dutch country one can also indulge in factory fresh chocolate by going to Hershey PA and in nearby York, PA one can view the operations of a major Harley Davidson production plant. We were also able to visit friends along the way we hadn’t seen in years and do some serious catching up on what we have been doing all these years in between visits.

During the past year, Wayne has also spent time writing down recollections of family and friends from his early days in and around Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. It is clear that some of the memories are cobwebby and need input from friends and relatives to tidy things up. Don’t be surprised if you get a letter one of these days asking, “Whatever happened to so and so? Or, do you happen to have a photo of what’s his/her name?” The project is partly family tree work, but it is more like thinking about how things were then and how different it all is today. If you get such a letter, Wayne hopes that you can help clear up some of his questions. We certainly hope that you have had a productive past year and we look forward to learning about your experiences, too.

Sister Jane Winkler (1972). (from letter to Ursula)
I know [Ed] is watching over all of us . . . and “teaching” us what is most important in LIFE!

New! Email us!

We invite you to let us know what is happening in your life by emailing us at historynewsletter@uwrf.edu. We will do our best to include your information in our next newsletter.
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History Department Fund: Managed by the Alumni Foundation, this fund is referred to as “Special Projects.” Any undesignated contributions that the Foundation receives for the History Department goes into this Fund. From this substantial resource we transferred funds for the Peterson Lecture Series. We retained some funds, however, for “special projects” such as essay awards, underwriting banquet