Class Notes

**Shelby Obershaw (1959)**
Longtime San Bernardino business leaders and philanthropists Chuck and Shelby Obershaw have given $1 million to California State University, San Bernardino, in support of students in need, as well as to assure the economic future of the community. A scholarship recipient herself, Obershaw followed a path similar to many CSUSB alumni. After graduating from UWRF, she taught junior high school for more than 20 years in San Bernardino. She served 12 years on the City of San Bernardino Unified School District board while co-chairing a successful 1999 bond measure that resulted in $50 million for San Bernardino’s public schools.

**Dan Florness (1986)**
is the chief executive officer of Fastenal and has joined the Gundersen Board of Trustees. He has also served on UWRF’s College of Business Advisory Board. In 2012, Florness was named one of the nation’s 10 best CFOs by The Wall Street Journal and was honored as CFO of the Year by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

**Cheryl Steinbach (1986)**
has been named State FFA Alumni Executive Director by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association. She recently retired as an agriculture instructor from Granton High School after 28 years of teaching. As an agriculture instructor, her local FFA and FFA alumni programs were recognized with many honors and awards during her tenure.

**Richard Moldenhauer (1987)**
has been named the 2016 recipient of the National Nyswander/Dole "Marie" Award presented by the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) for his extraordinary service in the opioid treatment community. Moldenhauer was presented the award at the National AATOD Conference in Baltimore, Md., in November 2016.

**Matt Kucharski (1989)**
has been promoted to president of PadillaCRT. He joined the agency in 1989 and as a member of PadillaCRT’s Executive Leadership Team, he leads the agency’s business-to-business and business-to-consumer practices.

**Mike Lavin (1994)**
was recently appointed interim executive director by the YMCA Board of Directors. He has 22 years of leadership experience with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities. Lavin most recently was a district executive responsible for three YMCA branches, as well as the youth sports departments for all 24 branches in the Greater Twin Cities association. He was formerly an Association of YMCA Professionals Chapter 42 president.
Scott Firlus (1995)
is Westfield/Hillsboro operations manager for United Cooperative. Firlus is a recent graduate of the CHS Future Forty program through the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.

Jennifer Smith (1999)
was named 2016 Post-Secondary Educator of the Year at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting. A farm business management educator at Riverland Community College since October 2008, she plays an important role for local farmers and agri-businesses in keeping their businesses healthy and profitable. She also works with agricultural businesses to provide workshops and meetings in order to inform the public about crucial agricultural topics. She lives on a working farm near Kenyon with her husband, John, and sons John, Jett and Jay.

Rachel Sauvola (1999)
was recently recognized as Citizen of the Year at the New Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce annual chamber awards gala dinner.

Eric Smith (2001)
is a master agronomist, Central Wisconsin Territory, for United Cooperative. His previous experience was as northern area seed and agronomy lead for Insight FS, Jefferson. He also served as a territory agronomist for Monsanto, and was a seed sales agronomist for Larsen Co-op, New London.

Sam Zimmermann (2001)
and his wife Jennifer received the 2017 Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) award. The Zimmermanns are relatively new to the dairy business, starting their herd in 2010. The Wisconsin OYF program was developed in 1954 to recognize the younger generation of successful agriculturists in the state.

Josh Stensland (2005)
is plant manager at Seneca Foods, Blue Earth, Minn. He’s worked at Seneca Foods for more than half his life and through his collegiate experience.

Joe Draxler (2016)
has been selected to participate in the 2017 NCAA Emerging Leaders Seminar. He was one of more than 200 interns and graduate assistants selected to take part in the event from a national pool of applicants across all NCAA’s division levels. Draxler currently interns with UWRF Athletics.

Eli Gindele (2016)
is an extension educator for the Polk and Clearwater Extension offices.
Nathaniel Nolden (2016)
is an agriculture teacher at Prairie Farm School District. He will finish out the school year as the agriculture instructor as well as the Prairie Farm FFA adviser.
Deceased


Marilyn Goodrich (Fiedler), 1953, died Nov. 3, 2016.

John Romundson, 1951, died Nov. 28, 2016.


Rebecca Brand (Grote), 2000, died Dec. 6, 2016.


Gertrude Fredericks (Grewe), 1955, died Dec. 19, 2016.


