



2015 Report ^{to}the Community



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Fond du Lac

A Campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges



UW-Fond du Lac At-A-Glance - Fall 2014

Enrollment
626

Part-time Students
39%

Full-time Students
61%

Students age 22 and over
26%

Average Class Size
21.4 students

**Top UW System
Transfer Destinations**
UW-Madison
UW-Milwaukee
UW-Oshkosh
UW-Stevens Point
UW-Whitewater

**Top Baccalaureate
Transfer Majors**
Business
Health Sciences
Sociology
Education
Biology

University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac

400 University Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
(920) 929-1100
www.fdl.uwc.edu

Accreditation

UW Colleges/UW-Fond du Lac, a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Degree Granted

Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS)
Area of emphasis available in more than 20 disciplines
Several bachelor's degree completion programs also available in collaboration with other UW four-year institutions

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Dear Friends,

UW-Fond du Lac is focused on our future.

In the spring of 2014, we unveiled a long-term facilities master-plan which will guide our campus planning through the next ten years. This master planning process was done in partnership with Fond du Lac County and Strang, Inc. It reflects the commitment of the faculty, staff, and students of UW-Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County and community stakeholders to our mission and to our local area.

This master plan integrates capital planning with our core mission of access; teaching and learning; and student success. The recommendations ranged from new spaces which will enhance the learning styles of the next generation of college students to new building projects.

One of the proposed projects that will be transformational is student housing. The Falcon Villas will house up to 84 students. Construction will begin soon on land adjacent to our Physical Education building.

Our focus on the creative arts continues with the return of the popular Madrigal Dinner and a variety of art exhibits, music department concerts and theater productions.

A recent \$10,000 UW System grant will expand the availability of undergraduate research opportunities for our students. This is an opportunity that first and second year college students often do not have at larger schools.

Looking to the future, we will transform our library into a Learning Commons - where students engage in more collaboration, multi-media work, group projects and individual study through use of both high-tech and low-tech activities.

UW-Fond du Lac continues to collaborate with

other institutions in higher education to offer exciting opportunities for our students. The collaborations include a new bachelor's degree in engineering technology awarded by UW-Oshkosh/UW-Green Bay; new projects with NEW ERA (Northeast Wisconsin Educational Resources Alliance); strengthened bachelor's degree completion programs such as the human services leadership degree with UW-Oshkosh; and a new Prairie Ecology and Restoration course with Marian University.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation and the great work that the Foundation Board members do for our students and for this campus as a whole. The Foundation helps us make a critical link to our alumni, donors and friends, while providing us with feedback on what an important difference this campus makes in our community.

I invite you to visit our campus - attend a play or lecture; enjoy an art exhibit; enroll in a credit or non-credit class; or volunteer to help our students.

We are a Creative Campus where entrepreneurship and the seizing of new ideas and opportunities will guide us forward.



Dean John Short

John Short

Campus Dean and CEO

Paul Thelen honored with Distinguished Alumni Award

The University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac awarded its 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award to Paul Thelen, director of liturgy and music at Holy Family Catholic Community.

Paul grew up in New Holstein and attended UW-Fond du Lac from 1977 to 1978. He then transferred to Silver Lake College in Manitowoc and earned a bachelor's degree in music in 1982. After graduation, he studied sound engineering at UW-Oshkosh.

He has been involved with many Fond du Lac Community Theater productions, often provides accompaniment for musical theater shows at local schools and is an accompanist for Fond du Lac High School, Marian University, St. Mary's Springs Academy and Woodworth Middle School. He was also an accompanist at UW-Fond du Lac for several years.

Paul is a regular performer with several local bands including The Downtowners, The Lighthouse Big Band and Just the Two of Us. He has appeared with the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band, the South Shore Chorale and the Fond du Lac Chamber Singers.

He and his wife, Julie, have three daughters – all three are musicians and two of them also attended UW-Fond du Lac.

In addition to his community involvement as a musician, Thelen works with Adult Care Consultants and Fond du Lac County Social Services in providing transition housing for those moving back to the community from half-way houses or institutions.

He was presented with the award at the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation's annual donor and scholarship reception in October of 2014 in the University Center Commons.

Previous Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2013	Scott Wittchow	2008	Oscar Kraus
2012	William (Bill) Lamb	2007	Robert (Bob) Carew
2011	Kim Mooney	2006	Paul Rosenfeldt
2010	Mark Strand	2005	Don Noe
2009	Sandi Roehrig	2004	Brenna Garrison-Bruden



Paul Thelen (center), was the recipient of the 2014 UW-Fond du Lac Distinguished Alumni Award. Those attending the reception were treated to a musical selection performed by Paul with two of his daughters, Elise (left) and Eva (right), also UW-Fond du Lac alumnae. Not pictured is daughter Ellie, currently a music major at UW-Madison.



Dean John Short (left) presented the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award to Paul Thelen. This is the 11th year the university has presented the award recognizing the contributions of alumni. Photos by Laurie Krasin.

The UW-Fond du Lac Distinguished Alumni Award

has been established to honor and recognize alumni who have attained notable achievement in their career field, demonstrated philanthropic or public service activity in support of the community or provided inspiration to others.

Created in partnership with the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation, the Distinguished Alumni Award is presented each fall. To receive a nomination form for this award, call UW-Fond du Lac at 929-1100.



Did you attend UW-Fond du Lac?

If you attended UW-Fond du Lac, we'd love to hear from you. Give us a call or send us an e-mail and let us know what you've been up to. You can also become a fan of UW-Fond du Lac on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and keep up on all of the latest news from campus!

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Sabbatical fuels theater professor's writing; culminates in two new plays

On your last break from work, did you dedicate upwards of eight hours each day to increasing your commitment to your profession? That is the nature of the faculty sabbatical: Time away from classroom and campus tasks to recharge, reinvent and renew professionally. And, sometimes, to reinvigorate and replenish the very field you work in.

By Monica M. Walk

Communications and Theater Arts Professor Richard Gustin, M.F.A., with 20 years teaching in the UW Colleges and a decade more as a professional actor, aimed for these goals when he applied for a sabbatical from UW-Fond du Lac for the spring semester of 2014. He had ideas and stories he wanted to share, concerns and content that could speak to the larger community we all belong to.

So, he spent his days writing. Week after week after week. Consulting with a mentor. Taking notes. Incorporating comments and feedback. Revising.

At the end of a semester, he had written two plays. And, started a third.

"I knew I had limited time in spring, so I wrote and let it fly," said the playwright, who has now completed nine scripts, six in the last three years. "It is a reflection of being older in my life: I ponder things. All of us have our windows of opportunity: If not now, when? We get stuck in thinking now is not the time. Three years ago, I got serious about writing."

He credits his decision to work with a mentor as a catalyst in his sabbatical productivity. Gustin sought out John Schneider - Fond du Lac native, long-time Milwaukee actor, and Marquette University resident artist. Gustin has known Schneider for 40 years, as brother Tom Gustin and Schneider were colleagues in Milwaukee's Theatre X, the Obie Award-winning experimental theater.

"I looked up to Theatre X as a teen," Gustin said. "My daughter had John as a professor at Marquette in 2004-08 and we reconnected firmly then. We are both in Milwaukee. It seemed a perfect choice."

The duo met four times over the semester, spending two hours together each time, going page by page through notes and comments on five of Gustin's scripts. Then, Gustin would give Schneider new pages from his works in progress. "That really helped. I wanted to put something new in his hands while I worked on what he had critiqued," Gustin said.

When the two new scripts felt complete, Gustin brought performers in to test his work.

He expresses sincere appreciation for the camaraderie shown by Marquette faculty, where Performing Arts Chair Stephen Hudson-Mairet graciously allowed Gustin to use the Straz Tower Theatre, a "jewel of a little 90-seat proscenium, a lovely small space," Gustin said.

The staged reading for "Being Seen" had two professional actors working on stage with the script before an invited audience. The audience comments led Gustin to write an additional 30 pages and to revise the ending. He plans to enter the two-character piece in the New York Fringe Festival this summer.

A separate staged reading for "A Sparrow Falls" brought together 15 professional actors to interpret the show for another invited audience. The show, featuring a Greek Chorus, will premiere in the UW-Fond du Lac Prairie Theater in March 2015. Inspired by the events of the Holocaust, Gustin hopes to honor both Anne Frank and a young Christian boy killed in a hate crime at a Kansas City Jewish Community Center in 2014. Gustin also reread and found inspiration in the works of Karl Jung.

"Society wants us to forget the Jewish Holocaust...and the black holocaust and the Native American holocaust in our country. There is ethnic cleansing throughout the world. Remembering is absolutely, fundamentally important," Gustin said. "We need to remember to know who we are today. And, there are life-altering experiences that you don't just move on from; Western Society wants us to move on, but it doesn't work that way."

Despite the serious theme, "A Sparrow Falls" is a satire, and Gustin hopes audiences will be entertained, while thinking more deeply about their lives and relationships with others.



Professor Richard Gustin produces and directs two theater productions each year on the stage of the Prairie Theater at UW-Fond du Lac. He also leads a campus-wide discussion about each play with students and professors who have incorporated it into their individual classes, studying the production from a variety of academic disciplines. This campus-wide approach enhances the overall learning experience by bringing together different perspectives.

"Theater is about spreading understanding and compassion for others," Gustin said, recalling the words of director John Reich, whom he worked for at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre early in his career.

"It is so gratifying to see other actors perform what you have written," said Gustin. "When you see it performed, it's almost like someone else wrote the play. It has a life of its own, beyond you."

"As a playwright, people say anything you want them to say," Gustin said. "There is great freedom in that - satisfaction, empowerment, purpose. I feel very much a different person after the sabbatical: more courageous, less afraid of what people think of my work. I hope to communicate that to my students, to say 'Let's take a greater risk here.' In theater, we can exercise ourselves freely... we can get in trouble or be unpopular, but that's the job of the arts."

Mulling on the creative process and his recent opportunity to engage deeply in it, Gustin said: "Don't be afraid to spend time alone with yourself and plumb your depths. There is a well of self within you to be expressed. We are all creative - it just takes a little bit of practice. Say 'yes' to your creativity: Take up your pen or brush, or go into the kitchen. You are so much more than you think you are, and there is a limited time to do it."

Madrigal Dinner: A feast for Lords and Ladies

An annual Madrigal Dinner was a UW-Fond du Lac tradition for 15 years, with the last performance in 1989. The music department, under the direction of Cara Davis, brought the event back to campus for the holiday season.

"The Peasant, the Boot, the Prince, and the Mirror" was performed for 170 guests by members of the UW-Fond du Lac Chorus and Bell Choir. Guests were entertained during the evening by a brass choir, magician, fortune teller, and tumbler and enjoyed a four-course dinner by Linstrom's Catering.

"The dedication of the cast and how well they worked together was amazing," said Davis. "They memorized a lot of lines, rehearsed parts endlessly and even developed English accents to give this show a true Renaissance feeling."

The menu included a festive Renaissance-inspired feast of Wizard's Wassail, the Queen's Field of Greens, the King's Peasant's Purse, and finishing with the Court Jester's Rum Custard Bread Pudding prepared by Linstrom's Catering.

The Madrigal Dinner will return for an encore at UW-Fond du Lac in 2015 with two performances in December.



UW-Fond du Lac students Alexa Mies (left) as Queen, and Kasey Burg (right) as King, prepare to lead the cast into the Madrigal Dinner event held in December of 2014 in the University Center Commons.



Kimberly Fleming (left) as Jester and Alex Chanto (right) as Mertsinsire, Lord of Misrule on the royal thrones at the Madrigal Dinner.



A Renaissance-inspired meal was enjoyed by guests during the show. Photos by Casey French (UW-FDL alumnus).

Faculty Promotions

Two members of the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac faculty were recently promoted.



David Demezas, biological sciences, was named associate professor with tenure. He began his career at UW-Fond du Lac in 2008 and earned his Ph.D. from Oregon State

University in microbiology. Demezas is currently conducting research on invasive plant species and provides undergraduate research opportunities for students at UW-Fond du Lac. He is a member of the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum committee.



Valerie Mumm-Jansen, world languages, was named associate professor with tenure. She received the UW Colleges Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2013

and has been a member of the UW-Fond du Lac faculty since 2008. She has led two UW Colleges study abroad courses and has been involved in many service-learning opportunities both in the local community and abroad. She earned a master's degree in Spanish from UW-Milwaukee.

Kaplan Awards

The Kaplan Award recognizes significant and innovative improvement in instruction and/or service to students. This award honors Arthur M. Kaplan, who retired in 1993 as vice chancellor of the UW Colleges.

Kaplan was committed to improving the quality of instruction and service to students at the UW Colleges' campuses. Recipients of the award receive a \$500 grant that can be used to further enhance their creative approaches to education.

Professors **Richard Gustin**, communication and theater arts; **Paisley Harris**, history; **Michaela Nowell**, sociology; **Lisa Schreibersdorf**, English; **Kristi Wilkum**, communication and theater arts share the award this year for the "Surviving the Cycle" community service learning project.



Physics in Action

Students in Professor Carey Woodward's physics classes send potatoes shooting across one of the campus ponds each fall when they take their learning outside of the classroom.

As part of their laboratory study in Physics 141 and 201, students work in teams to learn about projectile motion by using a "spud gun." One team prepares and fires the cannon, while the second team captures the potato's motion on video. Afterward, the teams work together to analyze the motion and compare it to what they learned in the classroom.

Photo by Laurie Krasin



College For Kids & LEAPS!

UW-Fond du Lac opens its classrooms during the summer for area children participating in two week-long programs - LEAPS! and College for Kids.

Coordinated by the Continuing Education office, these programs give 200 area students in grades 2-8 the opportunity to use their creativity, explore new areas of interest or learn more about something they already love.

On the last day of the program parents or special guests are invited to join their student in the classroom and see first-hand what their children have been working on all week.

Photo by Katie Stucky (College for Kids participant)



Falcon Alumni Games

Former UW-Fond du Lac student athletes return to campus each year for the alumni basketball games held in January.

A men's, and a women's alumni team take on the UW-Fond du Lac Falcons for this annual tradition.

The UW-Fond du Lac Athletic Department also sponsors an alumni volleyball and an alumni volleyball game each year in the fall.

Photo by Greg Mittelstaedt



Ice Cube Project

Extreme South Pole Science Day focusing on research being done with UW-Madison's IceCube telescope was held at UW-Fond du Lac in February 2014.

Students in the Fond du Lac School District's STEM Academy and community members were invited to participate in hands-on activities with scientists and staff from the IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center (WIPAC).

The day also included showings of the movie "Chasing the Ghost Particle" in the Prairie Theater.

Photo by Laurie Krasin

Research grants lead to career opportunities for UW-Fond du Lac students

By Laurie Krasin

Everyone remembers that one professor. The professor who changed the course of their life. The professor they remember as the mentor who most influenced their career choice.

Faculty mentorship is that hard-to-define educational experience that can have long-reaching impact.

One way that students at UW-Fond du Lac get this important experience is through undergraduate research projects on campus.

Students are able to participate in undergraduate research during their first or second year of college, thanks to grants, faculty mentorship, university collaborations and community partnerships. A recent \$10,000 grant is funding five projects at UW-Fond du Lac (see related story below).

One of these projects is a continuing collaboration between two University of Wisconsin schools. UW-Fond du Lac Professor Ronald Theys, Ph.D., has been collaborating on research of an anti-inflammatory drug with UW-Milwaukee Professor M. Mahmum Hossain, Ph.D.

The learning is both practical and philosophical according to Theys. "Some of the practical things they learn are new lab skills and techniques as well as application of theoretical concepts to worldly applications."

On a philosophical level, Theys says the experience gives students the opportunity to

explore their interests and curiosities. Hossain agrees: "They gain practical experience with chemistry in a real laboratory setting, learn to read papers in chemical journals, design experiments and present their findings to their peers."

All of this helps students build a career portfolio. Several UW-Fond du Lac students who have participated in undergraduate research with Theys have gone on to pursue careers in chemistry.

"It challenges higher-achieving students and pulls them beyond their comfort levels. Undergraduate research is often the catalyst, to use a chemistry term, for propelling them to a desire for a higher level of education, often a Ph.D.," Theys added.

Two former students who have done just that are UW-Fond du Lac alumna Sarah Oehm, a Ph.D. student at UW-Milwaukee and alumnus Eric Bloch who received his Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley.

Bloch is now a postdoctoral researcher working with professors at Harvard and MIT. After his two years at UW-Fond du Lac, Bloch transferred to UW-Milwaukee and went on to graduate school at UC-Berkeley.

Bloch credits his experience at UW-Fond du Lac as being directly responsible for his current position.

"After taking two years off after high school, I went

to UW-Fond du Lac with no idea of what I wanted to do," said Bloch.

It was during a general chemistry class with Theys when Bloch first realized he wanted to do something related to chemistry for the rest of his life. Then, he began participating in the research with Theys. "I learned a lot about chemistry taking coursework, but I really learned to think like a scientist during the research experience," said Bloch.

Theys feels the value of a collaboration with a research institution like UW-Milwaukee is immensely important.

"It provides an opportunity for undergraduates to work on graduate level projects," he explained. "It also provides access to graduate student and professor-level expertise and mentoring. This helps students develop contacts and connections to experts in their field."

The experience also helps students develop teamwork, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking on the highest educational levels in the field. "They learn from experts who have varied backgrounds, perspectives and experiences," said Theys. "That is, they experience diversity."

His students at UW-Fond du Lac are also exposed to advanced equipment like Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) instruments which are normally only discussed in a class. Through this collaboration students see these instruments and watch how they are used.

Students from area high schools have also been able to experience being a part of this research collaboration. Through programs like Youth Options, Concurrent Enrollment or Course Options, students can earn college credit while still in high school. Alex Lundberg from Fond du Lac High School and Tyler Beres from Campbellsport High School were enrolled in chemistry courses at UW-Fond du Lac and assisted Theys with the research. These programs are important community partnerships between UW-Fond du Lac and the area high schools.

Thinking creatively, solving problems, and finding innovation - these are the important skills employers of today need and the careers of the future will require. This is what students learn by participating in undergraduate research at UW-Fond du Lac.



Dr. Ron Theys



Environmental science students in Thomas Eddy's BIO 191 course conduct biotic indexing on the Taycheedah Creek. (Photo by Thomas Eddy)

\$10,000 Research Grant

Five research projects recently received funding at UW-Fond du Lac through a \$10,000 grant from the UW System's Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant program. Many of the research projects will have an impact in the local community as students study water quality or evaluate a high school computing initiative program.

Jeffrey Carew, psychology lecturer, is conducting research on self-esteem and its definition. David Demezas, biology professor, is conducting research on the invasive plant species garlic mustard. Thomas Eddy, biology lecturer, is studying the water quality of the Taycheedah Creek to be used as a baseline for future comparisons.

Ron Theys, chemistry professor, is working on a collaborative research project with UW-Milwaukee on an anti-inflammatory drug (see related story). Kristi Wilkum, communications professor, will analyze data from the evaluation of the Fond du Lac High School one-to-one (1:1) computing initiative, which equipped every student with a computing device.

Alumni musicians still harmonizing

Campus singing group creates lifelong friendships through music

By Monica M. Walk

It was a chance meeting that resonated through five lives – leading to musical collaboration and enduring friendships.

Ralph Schwartz was enjoying the record albums in the music lounge of the newly opened UW-Fond du Lac campus, singing along to Peter, Paul and Mary. Barbara Mueller Louis was the only other person in the room. She thought, “I can harmonize to that.” And so she did, despite being a generally reserved person.

“I must have felt comfortable with him. I am very shy,” Louis said from her home in North Brunswick, N.J. She recalls how their harmonies

Vogt thinks other lyrics or song titles may have played a role. They formed shortly after the moon landing, when “moon” was looming large in the collective consciousness. Louis laughs that the spelling of “Populus” could well be a spelling error – of “Populace” or “Populous.”

Performing would become a constant during the next two years of their Fond du Lac lives, including regional travel to other campuses, both local and farther-flung bar gigs, and a television appearance.

Group Growth

The initial trio soon grew to five members to incorporate more complex harmonies. Fellow chorus classmate Rich Zangl – Vogt’s lifelong friend – joined and brought his 12-string guitar, which added volume to the group’s sound. Schwartz’s sister, Elaine Schwartz Rebek, was attending Marian College, but welcomed into the group for the harmonies she had honed through a childhood of singing to Mitch Miller recordings with her sibling. She and Louis added occasional percussion with tambourines.

Weekly practice created a large and popular

repertoire. They drew from artists including Peter, Paul and Mary; Bob Dylan; Joni Mitchell; The Beatles; Everly Brothers; and Simon and Garfunkel. Standouts and favorites included: Stewball, Bleecker Street, Blowin’ in the Wind, Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream, For Lovin’ Me, and Leaving on a Jet Plane. (Although repetition of the last song led Zangl to dislike it to this day.)

“It was an amazing thing,” Louis said. “We came up with our own arrangements. It was automatic. We’d each find our own harmony and it would fall into place. No one ever sat down and told us to sing a part. It came naturally.”

But it was the support of then-campus music director Ray Wifler that really turned them from hobby singers to performance professionals.

“Ray Wifler gave us the opportunity to perform with the choir programs,” Schwartz said. “He

encouraged us and gave us venues to play. He mentored and coached us.”

“Where ever the chorus performed, the five of us would get up and perform,” Zangl said.

“There weren’t so many people there,” now-retired Wifler recalled of the then-new campus. “Suddenly there were these young people doing a pretty good job. They were good singers, and harmonized similar to the groups of that time. They were right in the timeframe. I am pleased they give me some credit.”

Campus performances grew to paying gigs in other places: the Cow Palace at the Fond du Lac County Fair; repeat performances at Fond du Lac’s Rathskeller; a regular gig at an Appleton bar, where a couple brought in their tape recorder to tape the show.

“We had a following,” said Louis.

Not all audiences were appreciative. A bar in Green Bay proved so loud and rowdy, that the girls moved from the stage behind the bar onto the bar to sing. “And then we took off our pants,” recalled Rebek. “That got their attention,” Louis said. Both laughed that their tunic tops were plenty long enough by today’s standards.

Those pantsuits sported an explosively flowery pattern of the time. Rebek also recalled a shopping trip to Milwaukee resulting in the purchase of tops with large accordion-pleat sleeves and cummerbunds, in blue for the women and brown for the men, worn with white pants. “We thought we looked so cool,” Rebek said.

Playing at the Jefferson County Fair led to meeting country performer Bobby Hodge. “He let us perform with him, and got us an agent,” Schwartz said. “Our nicest paid gig was playing the main floor of the student union at UW-Stevens Point.”

Wifler’s connection to The Wisconsin Dutchman polka band and their weekly Green Bay TV show, The Polka Festival, landed Moonstone Populus on television. Vogt recalls sitting around with family and friends to watch the taped program. More poignantly, he learned years later that his father had recorded the audio from the TV performance.

“My oldest brother moved to Michigan in 1967-68, and he and my dad bought tiny reel-to-reel tape recorders and they would send messages to each other,” Vogt said, describing how he rediscovered the tape after his parents’ deaths and struggled for a while to find a way to play



Three of the five members of Moonstone Populus gathered in Fond du Lac to share their memories of the campus. Elaine Schwartz Rebek (left), Rich Zangl (center) and Ralph Schwartz (right) recall their days on campus and the 2000 reunion performance that brought them back together. Other members of Moonstone Populus include Barbara Mueller Louis who now lives in New Jersey and Merle Vogt who lives in Milwaukee and Arizona.

meshed with those very first notes, in their first meeting.

“You can feel it when it clicks. It’s almost physical,” Louis said. “When a harmony clicks, it’s like the planets align. You find a note and make it last for a long time... it’s like the whole world disappears except for the beautiful sound in your head.”

The duo immediately realized they had created something they wanted to continue. But in 1968’s era of folk music, they knew their vocals needed guitar accompaniment. A shared music class led them to Merle Vogt, who had been playing guitar since he was a young teen.

Moonstone Populus was born.

The name has mysterious origins, largely due to the member’s conflicting memories about the decision. Schwartz recalls reading Greek mythology for inspiration. Louis remembers looking at album covers of other bands, and



Moonstone Populus

- through the years -



it. "He set the recorder by the TV and taped the audio. He explains what is happening, how the neighbors are excited, that I'm there with my girlfriend. And he said on the tape, 'You know, it probably won't be long before you are done with this, and someday you will wish you had recorded this.' That was insightful on my dad's part."

Transitions and Reunions

The group ran a two-year course parallel with its members' locations. As they finished school and personal commitments in Fond du Lac, they moved on - first Louis to Milwaukee and Schwartz to Oshkosh to continue their educations. The remaining members performed for a while as a trio, sometimes adding other local musicians. While the group didn't formally break up, they drifted apart.

"When we finally started making money, we were all ready to move on with our lives," Schwartz said.

"I decided it was not the life for me," his sister Rebek said. "In show business, you have to be really dedicated."

They moved away from each other in location, relationships and commitments for more than 30 years.

A call reunited them in 2000. Moonstone Populus was invited to be among the performers at the dedication of the new Prairie Theater at UW-Fond du Lac.

All five accepted the invitation, including Louis who lives in New Jersey. The Wisconsinites gathered to rehearse, and would call and sing to her over the phone. She arrived a week before the show and the group practiced intensely.

Rebek recalls rehearsing for family at Trip's Tapsidermy in Pipe. "After 30 years, we got together and didn't skip a beat, other than remembering lyrics," Zangl added.

"Practicing was great," said Vogt, who splits his time between homes in Milwaukee and Arizona, after years of living in Ohio. "Then,

standing on stage again in front of family and friends - scary as it was - is probably my fondest memory...it was one of the most enjoyable times of my working career."

The 2000 reunion performance was such an emotional high for all five that they made a pact to gather annually. For the past 15 years, they have met in the summer in the Fond du Lac homes of Zangl, Schwartz or Rebek to share a meal, visit for hours on end, and sing. They perform songs they know, and experiment with new ones, with lyrics accessed via iPads. Siblings come along and join in.

Annual harmonizing made them ready to again perform in the Prairie Theatre for UW-Fond du Lac's 40th anniversary celebration. The 2008 concert featured all but Vogt, who could not attend. Longtime friend Mike Soffa played guitar with the group, as he had sometimes done back in earlier days.

"We didn't know each other at all," Louis said, recalling the group's founding. "Rich says, 'Barb, why weren't we friends in high school?' Even though Rich, Merle and I all went to Springs, we ran with different crowds. On campus, we got to start over and meet new people. We get along so well now."

"That first year on campus opened doors," Schwartz said. "There were all different ages; it was a diverse population. It was a time to come out of my shell and meet people. I had the freedom to experiment and take risks. As a result, it created bonds."

"I've been out of Fond du Lac since I was 25," said Vogt, who paints himself as the rehearsal "taskmaster," urging the others to stop talking and start singing. He treasured an inscribed St. Christopher medal given to him by band members when he signed up for the draft, and mourns its loss three years ago in Paris. "My parents died seven years ago. It's nice to go back. And it's always nice, growing old together."

BAND BIOS

Ralph Schwartz

Ralph Schwartz earned a degree in special education from UW-Oshkosh in 1973. He retired in 2012 from a career spanning work for a sheltered workshop for developmental disabilities, customer service at Wisconsin Power and Light, and leadership and staff development at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He has two sons and one grandchild. He resides in Fond du Lac and sings with the South Shore Chorale.

Barbara Mueller Louis

Barbara Mueller Louis earned an art degree from UW-Milwaukee, and later earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Rutgers University. She was an associate professor in the Institute for the Study of Child Development at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School until retiring last July. She has two sons and resides in North Brunswick, N.J., where she is now in private practice and continues to run the Gifted Child Clinic.

Merle Vogt

Merle Vogt worked as a production manager in packaging operations since he was 25, doing body work and remodeling homes on the side. He helped start five businesses, before recently retiring. He has three children and eight grandchildren in Ohio. He is married and has homes in both Milwaukee, WI, and Flagstaff, AZ.

Rich Zangl

Rich Zangl retired five years ago after 37 years working in freight repair for railroad companies including the Soo Line, Wisconsin Central and Canadian National. He is married and has three sons. He resides in Fond du Lac, where he volunteers with Food for Thought and continues to play and collect guitars.

Elaine Schwartz Rebek

Elaine Schwartz Rebek worked 40 hours a week while earning a teaching degree at Marian College in 1972. She is in her first year of retirement after teaching for 41 years in Catholic schools around Fond du Lac. She continues to substitute teach, and performs with the South Shore Chorale. She is married, resides in Fond du Lac, and has six children and 11 grandchildren.



Corks & Forks

Signature event supports student scholarships and Foundation

Combining creative international cuisine and a good cause is the recipe for the unique event, Corks & Forks, which is held each spring at UW-Fond du Lac. Corks & Forks 2014 raised more than \$20,000 for student scholarships and the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation.

This event is the single largest fundraising event at the university. It features a different specialty cuisine each year. Guests enjoyed the flavors of Greece last year and in 2015, it was a Caribbean-inspired four-course dinner.

A selection of international hors d'oeuvres welcomes the 200 guests. Chef David Linstrom of Linstrom's Catering then guides diners through an original themed menu served with selected wines.



This has become an event where alumni can reconnect with each other and the campus. "We saw many alumni at Corks & Forks," said 2014 Foundation President Darin Garbisch. "They enjoyed coming back to the campus and visiting with professors they knew from their time as students at UW-Fond du Lac."

The evening also includes presentation of the Spirit of Excellence Award. The 2015 award was given to Fond du Lac County Executive Allen Buechel. Fundraising includes a cork pull, fork-it-over, silent auction and live auction. Major sponsors for the 2014 event were Agnesian HealthCare and Michel's Corporation. The media sponsor was Action Reporter Media.

Left: Presenting the proceeds from the event are Bethany Rusch, assistant dean for administration and finance; Laurie Krasin, marketing and communications director; Darin Garbisch, Foundation board president; John Short, dean and CEO; Kathy Strong Langolf, special events coordinator and Patty Brandl, former Foundation executive director.



fdl.uwc.edu/corksandforks

Spirit of Excellence Award presented to Allen Buechel

UW-Fond du Lac presented its 2014 Spirit of Excellence Award to County Executive Allen Buechel. He is a recognized leader and supporter of education in the county, including the four institutions of higher education located here and numerous K-12 schools. He understands the difference education can make in a person's life.

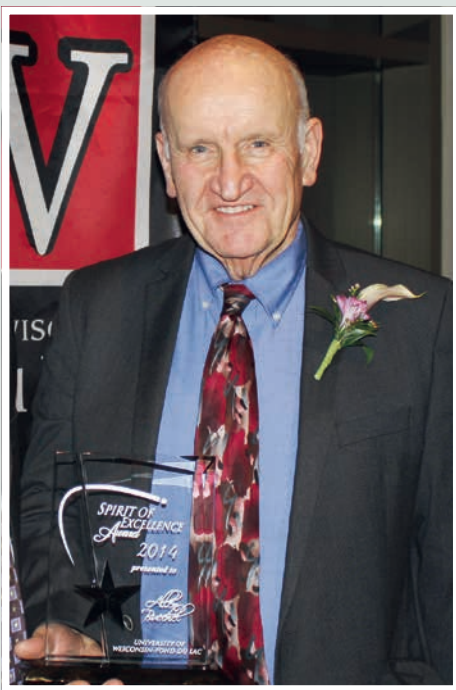
Allen has served as county executive since 1993 after serving on the Fond du Lac County Board for 17 years. He is a member of the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Board of Directors.

One of the major initiatives led by Allen and the Fond du Lac County Board was a campus renovation completed in 2000. The University Center and the Commons area were added to the campus during that project. It was a welcome addition to the community and has hosted many local events including fundraisers, legislative forums, panel discussions, musical performances and educational lectures.

The renovation also included addition of a new music suite, the library and the Prairie Theater, which has given the students in UW-Fond du Lac's music and theater departments a place to shine! This renovation was an investment in our community and has enriched it in many ways.

Previous UW-Fond du Lac Spirit of Excellence Awards have been given to Judith Berger O'Brien; Harold "Danny" and Charmaine LaShay and founding campus Dean Bill Henken.

The award was presented by Dean John Short at the Corks & Forks event in March 2014.



Allen Buechel
Fond du Lac County Executive

Dual careers sparked by campus experience

Tim Zedler

**Attended UW-Fond du Lac: Fall 2004-Spring 2007
Completed Education Degree: UW-Oshkosh 2009**

Special Education Teacher, Lomira Middle School and Farmer, Zedland Farm, Lomira, WI



By Monica M. Walk

School was a struggle, and Tim Zedler was sure he wasn't college material. So, he worked in construction after graduation – and hated it. Sundays filled him with dread, anticipating the start of a new workweek. He watched young coworkers suffer injuries and surgery.

And then he was laid off.

"I thought that was bad, but it really was the best thing," Zedler said. He was a newlywed living in Fond du Lac: His wife, Lisa, encouraged him to consider college.

"I am really glad UW-Fond du Lac is there," he said. "I did not have the highest grades in high school. I had to take the ACT as an adult. I was not a model student, but it gave me the opportunity to attend college after I had matured a bit. I loved it."

Small class size made it possible to connect with both professors and students. "I really enjoyed that," Zedler said. "If you asked questions, the professors were always there. The expectations were high, but it was comfortable."

He describes the student classroom interaction as team-oriented, a comfort to this long-time basketball player. The range of student ages was another positive. "It made it easy to connect," Zedler said. "It really helped boost my confidence to talk with people who were in the same position."

What next?

As he completed general education classes, Zedler thought hard about where he wanted this college degree to take him. A foundations class in education sparked interest: "I thought, 'I like this – this is the direction I am going to go in.'"

The boy who hated school would become a teacher.

He moved along that path while still attending UW-Fond du Lac, gaining experience in an after-school and weekend program for children in grades K-12 with emotional and behavioral disabilities, where he taught social skills and life lessons. Between his own education and his work with younger students, he didn't have a day off. And, he loved it.

"My work ethic got me through college," he said. "Sports taught me to work with other people, and to work hard for something you want. And, I grew up on a farm."

After stints at schools in Beaver Dam and Fond du Lac, Zedler now teaches special education at the Lomira Middle School, just miles from his childhood home.

Why special education? "The kids. When you boil it down, that's it" said Zedler in his direct and thoughtful way. "It is fun to try to help somebody learn. It is fun to do your best to help somebody out.

"I used to say I never wanted to be a middle school teacher," he confessed. "But middle school is fun - because you get the elementary end of it, where they are still sweet and can be innocent and honest. But, they have the ability to reason a bit. You watch them try to do things, and make mistakes, and then be the person they come to... to be there to help out. Watching the transition of 6th to 8th grade – their confidence grows. And, kids have a way of unintentionally keeping you humble." He maintains a connection with older students by coaching the boys JV basketball team.



Tim and Lisa Zedler at Zedland Farm where they host family festival weekends each fall on land that has been in the Zedler family for 150 years.

While he did not pursue a career in science, classes at UW-Fond du Lac – particularly a weather class with Professor Michael Jurmu – awakened his enthusiasm. "Having a professor so active and engaging sparked my interest, and going forward I still look into science for enjoyment," Zedler said.

Which proves helpful in his second career: farming.

Deep Roots

Zedler disliked the work of dairy farming as a youth, and wasn't particularly distressed at 16 when his parents sold the herd. He didn't understand why they held onto the 100 acres. But, in 2008, when John and Debbie Zedler began to talk about selling the farm that had been in the Zedler family for more than 150 years, Tim Zedler didn't like the idea. He now understood the connection to the land: "Something that has gone on 'forever' needs to continue to take place," he said.

During a trip to Door County, Tim and Lisa Zedler noticed a proliferation of pumpkin farms. "We thought, 'Why not? Why can't we do that?' We had the space, and we had both wanted to try to own a business," Zedler recounted.

Tim, Lisa and baby Hudson moved to the family homestead in 2008, opening their first fall festival with 200 pumpkins, two goats and a tent. Zedler estimates the event has doubled every year since then: Zedland Farm now produces more than 1,500 pumpkins, as well as vegetables, cornstalks, and hay bales for purchase, and they have 11 goats, two sheep, a miniature donkey, a pony, three ducks, and 25 chickens – and another son, Levi.

Families enjoy scenic hayrides, a small playground and obstacle course with haystacks and bales for climbing, and an unusual giant, Medieval-looking hammer that provides impressive produce smashing. Their pumpkin festival is open on weekends from mid-September through October. Winter brings Christmas trees for sale in the decorated Zed's Shed. Chickens and eggs are also available.

Overall, farming dovetails nicely with teaching, although fall is the busiest season for both professions. His parents, siblings and their families, and extended relatives all pitch in. "The farm has always been a home base for the family," he said.

Zedler's scientific bent leads him to research how to best use the land. He is embracing non-GMO farming practices and sustainability. He ensures his own children understand these values, and students on field trips are exposed to the Zedler family's farming zeal.

"If you're learning, you're living," Zedler said.

Art Students League scholarship provides learning on many levels

Each year the UW-Fond du Lac Art Students League awards a scholarship to a new or continuing student through the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation.

This unique scholarship was established for and by students. The funds supporting the scholarship come mostly from the annual Art Momentum show, a student-run, organized and juried art event held at the end of spring semester and open to the community. Students with art in the show commit to donating half of the proceeds from each item sold to the scholarship fund.

Students planning Art Momentum have the opportunity to critique art work while choosing which art will be included. They also learn the various aspects of organizing an art show. For most of the students, this is their first experience showing work, having it judged and offering it for sale.

The recipient of the 2014-15 Art Students League Scholarship is Patrick Fredrickson of Waupun. His goal is to become a high school art teacher, and he plans to transfer to a University of Wisconsin school to complete his education.

Patrick has gained experience working with youth by volunteering on mission trips, at summer camps and with a middle school group. "Already, I have realized I have made the right choice in attending UW-Fond du Lac," he said.

He cites the personal attention of small class sizes, the quality of the art classes, and the possibility of art internships as his reasons for his choosing UW-Fond du Lac. "I believe I am getting the best start to my education."

To qualify for the scholarship, students submit art work to be judged, as well as complete the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation scholarship application. The Art Students League members collaboratively judge the art work and submit a recommendation to the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Scholarship Committee.

The learning continues outside of the classroom as the students meet each week to discuss various topics and give and receive constructive criticism while critiquing art work submissions. For the 2015-16 scholarship, the students will also develop the judging criteria and receive feedback from local artists. The UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Scholarship Committee will consider the recommendations from both groups and make a final determination of the recipient.

UW-Fond du Lac students, like Patrick Fredrickson, are learning early the art of giving back. The learning throughout this scholarship process is on many levels, which as Patrick says, gives them "the best start" to their education.



Patrick Fredrickson



UW-Fond du Lac art students host an annual Art Momentum event at the end of each spring semester. Proceeds from this event support the Art Students League scholarship through the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation.

Students participating in the show commit to donating half of the proceeds from all sales to the scholarship fund.

Photos by Laurie Krasin

Two new memorial scholarships established with UW-Fond du Lac Foundation

The University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac Foundation awarded more than \$32,000 in scholarships to 34 students for the 2014-2015 academic year. When the Foundation received its charter in 1974, its purpose was to provide student scholarships, support professional development of faculty and staff and other educational projects. Those goals are being helped this year through two new scholarships: the Matthew Koenigs Awesome Scholarship and the Darlene Simonson Memorial Scholarship. To contribute to either of these memorial scholarship funds contact the Foundation Office at (920) 929-1335 or make a donation online at fdl.uwc.edu/foundation.



Matthew Koenigs attended UW-Fond du Lac before he died tragically in a car accident on August 24, 2012. He was a charismatic, positive people person and a friend to all. His parents wanted to honor his generous spirit by establishing a scholarship in his memory.

One of the criteria for the recipient is volunteer work, as Matt was generous with his time and money. The name, The Matthew Koenigs Awesome Scholarship, reflects his encouragement to others to "Be Awesome."



Darlene Simonson taught for 30 years at Rosenow School in Fond du Lac. She valued education and the power it has to change lives.

Her family established the memorial to continue helping students as she did throughout her life, both as a teacher and as a mentor. The Darlene Simonson Memorial Scholarship provides a way for her family, friends, and former students to honor her legacy.

Fundraising efforts that support these and other UW-Fond du Lac Foundation goals include the Annual Campaign and the Corks & Forks Fundraiser, which has been held in spring each year since 2012.

UW-Fond du Lac Foundation scholarship recipients

Marshall Bennett
Rachel Burghardt
Joel Castro, Jr.
Luckie Cha
Haosheng Chen
Kimberly Fleming
Patrick Fredrickson
Lauren Freund
Alyssa Harmsen
Jordan Kuehnl
Laine Kuether
Leah Lambert
Hannah Lavrenz
Hannah Lein
Nicole Mader
Shannon McCabe
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Troy Schneider
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Patrick Schwoerer
Sarah Seegert
Justin Serwe
Patricia Sullivan
Becka Valdez
Brent Wagner
Haley Wald
Brett Williams
Courtney Williams
Kyle Winter
Baylee Ziebert



The 2014-15 scholarship recipients were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and leadership qualities at the annual UW-Fond du Lac Foundation donor and scholarship recognition reception held on Oct. 1, 2014.

Donors supporting these scholarships have the opportunity to meet the recipients of their gifts at the reception. Judith Berger O'Brien gave the donor message at the event, encouraging students to pay it forward. Kimberly Fleming represented the students and thanked donors for their support and for making college possible for many students.

UW-Fond du Lac student scholarship recipients, their families and donors supporting scholarships through the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation attended the annual scholarship recognition reception. Students were honored for their accomplishments and donors were recognized for their important contribution to student success at UW-Fond du Lac.

To create or contribute to a scholarship fund at UW-Fond du Lac, contact the Foundation Office at (920) 929-1335.



Photos by Laurie Krasin

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The Investing in Excellence Funds includes endowed gifts given to the campus that provide an ongoing legacy of support for UW-Fond du Lac, as well as those funds that are building toward endowment (indicated with *).

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John K. and Sandra J. Wright Scholarship Fund

** An additional endowment fund entitled "UW-Fond du Lac Foundation Fund" is held at the Fond du Lac Area Foundation.

Honor Roll of Donors

The UW-Fond du Lac Foundation recognizes individuals, corporations, service organizations and foundations for their cumulative giving during the academic fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

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Kathy Loppnow (left), Kathy Henslin (center) and Kathy Tasch (right) at the 2014 Scholarship and Donor Recognition reception. The reception recognizes scholarship recipients and thanks UW-Fond du Lac Foundation donors. The event is held each fall in the University Center Commons.

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**Every gift makes a difference at UW-Fond du Lac.
 We welcome and encourage gifts at all levels.**

It is through the support of the community, alumni and friends that the UW-Fond du Lac Foundation makes a difference by providing scholarships, awarding grants for professional development to faculty and staff, sponsoring educational and cultural events for the entire community to enjoy, and supporting campus initiatives that would not otherwise be possible.

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- Pg. 8** Alumni musicians still making music together after 40 years
- Pg. 10** Spirit of Excellence award presented to Allen Buechel
- Pg. 11** Alumnus Tim Zedler talks about his campus experience