Alumni and friends –
Share your own pride pic
on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more using #YellowjacketPride or email it to alumni@uwsuper.edu. Then display your pride sign at home or work to show everyone your Yellowjacket spirit!

#YellowjacketPride

If this issue is addressed to an individual who no longer uses this as a permanent address, please notify the Alumni Office at UW-Superior of the correct mailing address – 715-394-8452 or alumni@uwsuper.edu.
Dear Friends of UW-Superior,

It’s been another exciting year in Yellowjacket Nation! We are thrilled to share some of our highlights and accomplishments in this magazine, and we appreciate your continued interest and support. In this edition, we focus on what I have found truly special about this university over the years, what makes me most proud, excited and inspired: the people who make UW-Superior such a special place.

Watching our students grow is one of the greatest joys I have as a chancellor. I have the opportunity to meet and observe several of them as freshmen. For many, they are the first in their family to attend college and they often start off a little timid. I love observing how they transform during their time with us. I notice them taking on leadership roles, getting involved in clubs and organizations, and figuring out their future career pursuit. By the time they are in their senior year, they have a sense of confidence that is radiant, and they are not the same people as when they first walked through our doors.

I am always equally amazed and humbled by the work of our staff and faculty. Their work and research are continually advancing. Our staff’s commitment makes me proud. To make sure that our students are well taken care of, they often go above and beyond the call of duty – whether that’s figuring out financial aid, offering advice and advising, or just lending a friendly ear. Our faculty are passionate about student success, and they are especially talented in their academic disciplines. From their work comes wonderful poetry, compelling artistic works and active labs performing cutting-edge research, often alongside their students. Their dedication is exceptional.

The personal attention and opportunities afforded to a student by the faculty and staff at UW-Superior means that as an alumni they are poised for continued success. So many wonderful stories about how this university has touched and shaped lives can be found in the pages of this magazine, as well as on our website and in publications all throughout the country. What is even more rewarding is the way that our alumni are now helping shape their own communities and organizations.

All of this doesn’t happen without the involvement and support by people like you. So friends, thank you all for helping make UW-Superior such a special and thriving place. I hope you enjoy reading about many others throughout this magazine who share our love and passion for UW-Superior and are helping make it such a Superior place to be.

Renée Wachter
Chancellor

Renée Wachter
Chancellor
in this issue

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Yellowjacket Memories
Buzz through the years

1960s  1970s  1980s  present day
This year, Old Main and Erlanson Hall both celebrated their 100th birthdays. The two residents took time out of their busy schedules to talk about their experiences at UW-Superior and their hopes for the future.

Superior Alumni: What are some of the memorable events you’ve seen on campus during your 100 years?

Old Main: When I took over for Very Old Main two years after the fire in 1914, I really wasn’t sure what to expect. But it was nice to be part of the first academic institution in Wisconsin to be accredited.

Erlanson Hall: Yes, things really started to turn around when we got here. I mean, the extensive rebuilding put UW-Superior in the position of being one of the best-equipped schools in the state.

OM: Just think of what this place would be like without us ...

EH: You mean younger?

SA: Anyway, you’ve both been around for some good times on campus, like the big enrollment increase after WWII – what was that like?

OM: Oh, that was about as busy as I’ve ever been. So many students coming on campus.

EH: Lots of soldiers home from the war came here for an education. Our classrooms were filled.

SA: There was a lot of activity and changes happening in the years following, right?

EH: Yes there was, and all the name changes. I would have been spinning trying to keep up – if I could actually spin.

SA: It’s still remarkable how well you’ve kept up with the changing times – computers, fax machines, the Internet and everything else.

EH: I’m not even sure what the Internet is, but I know I’ve got it.

OM: Has something to do with the World Wide Web, right?

SA: Sort of. But it’s really impressive how you’ve both come out of the early 1900s and into 2000 without missing a step.

EH: You’re right. All of our steps are still firmly in place. The 2000s are no worry for us.

OM: Yup, but that’s when the neighborhood changed. Those new kids showed up …

SA: You mean students?

EH: No. Those younger buildings.

SA: Are you talking about the Marcovich Wellness Center, which was built in 2003?

OM: Well, you know how athletes are …

SA: Or the Yellowjacket Union that was completed in 2010?

EH: Oh, that one. Always so much going on. And the racket … ‘Jacket Racket they should call it. Noise WAY after 4:30 in the evening.

SA: And don’t forget about the newest building on campus. Swenson Hall has been open since 2011.

OM: Yeah, that kid. I used to be the place for classes on campus until that one came along.

EH: At least that one is pretty quiet in the evening … and not all smug like that Yellowjacket Union, always showing off in the summer with its green roof. You know, if I was younger I would go over there and …

SA: OK … moving on. And what about the present and future?

EH: I think we’re better than ever. And look at the campus now – total enrollment is looking great, freshmen enrollment is up for the second year in a row, and international students from nearly 50 different countries adding culture and diversity like I’ve never experienced. It’s great to be here to experience it all.

OM: Yup, it’s the perfect place for me. I can’t even imagine being anywhere else.
The University of Wisconsin-Superior and its UW Extension-led Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve welcomed the cast and crew of the educational children's television series “Aqua Kids” to Superior on July 17 to film several episodes for their upcoming fall season.

Their week in the region included research and monitoring of invasive species like emerald ash borer and purple loosestrife, looking for microplastics in Superior Bay, sailboat racing on Lake Superior with the Duluth Keel Club, touring wild rice restoration projects in the St. Louis River estuary and much more.

“Aqua Kids” informs young people ages 13 to 16 about the importance of protecting aquatic environments and the animals that live there. It has been honored with a number of awards, including two Emmy Awards, 15 Telly Awards and two Videographer Awards. The Superior Interaction theatre group received a nomination for the Touchstone Award from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

The group received its nomination from a performance called “Little Pieces,” which took place on campus in February and was directed by Communicating Arts graduate student Simona Simkins (Class of 2015). Created by, for and about UW-Superior students, “Little Pieces” depicts true stories of three critical issues: the stigmas attached to people dealing with depression, finding acceptance by friends and a safe space to thrive as an LGBTQ+ student and coping with the aftermath of sexual assault.

The production was funded in part by a grant secured by Simkins through the Young Leaders Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, and supported by the Communicating Arts Department and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Other contributors included the Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA) and the UW-Superior Gender Equity Resource Center and Student Health and Counseling Services.
around campus

The conference, which took place August 11 at UW-Superior, centered on the theme “Beyond the Horizon” and contained academic and industry research, information about the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium’s K-12 General Outreach program, posters and networking updates.

The evening keynote featured Alice Bowman, Missions Operations Manager (MOM) of NASA’s New Horizons Mission. Bowman works for Johns Hopkins University’s Applied Physics Laboratory and she supervises 40 staff members who operate deep space and Earth-orbiting spacecraft such as TIMED, STEREO, New Horizons, the Van Allen Probes and Solar Probe Plus.

A honey of a project comes to campus

The Urban Honey Bee Project, which was started by biology professor Dr. Edward Burkett, allows students, staff and the community to visit the UW-Superior Apiary (sometimes called a Bee Yard) to learn about bee-friendly gardening. As examples, the area is also home to six flowering crab apple trees and a natural area with flowering plants. Plans include adding additional greenery in the spring.

A new course was added this fall – Honey Bee Biology and Scientific Beekeeping – which incorporates exciting new research opportunities for students. A course for the community – Beekeeping 101 – will be offered this spring.

Dr. Burkett also works with local school districts training teachers to become beekeepers so that they can establish apiaries at their schools.

Keep up with all of the UW-Superior news at uwsuper.edu/news

In late July there was a bee swarm in which 4,500 - 6,000 bees migrated from hives following the queen to a nearby pine tree where they all landed on a branch.

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A new model for academic advising

A new advising model began this fall, which will provide students with personal attention throughout their entire academic journey. In the Center for Academic Advising, advisors begin working with students from the moment they are admitted.

“We create a four-year plan for students to graduate,” said Cortney Alexander, director, Academic Advising, Career Services, and Educational Support Programs. “We are collaborating with faculty advisors that are closely connected to a department to learn the ins and outs of each program.”

Another advantage of the Center’s staff of eight is that four of them are graduates of UW-Superior. They know the campus and what it’s like to be a student here better than anyone.

Transportation and Logistics Management students claim top spot

Students from the Transportation and Logistics Management program won the Intermodal Association of North America’s (IANA) sixth Intermodal EXPO Academic Challenge in Houston. The three-student team was comprised of Gavin S. Johnson, Jake Irlbeck and Hayden Norris. Kelsey Nelson served as an alternate.

“It was a tough case,” said Norris. “It tied in with elements that we learned in many of our classes, and it was related to issues currently being faced in the industry.”

The UW-Superior students competed against five other schools from across the nation which included the University of North Florida, Georgia Southern University, University of Maryland, University of North Texas and Texas Southern University.

Funding for this valuable student experience was made possible by a grant received by IANA.
Alumni Bill and Ella (Harju) Kolbe met at UW-Superior and have been married for over 66 years. Ella earned her degree in 1949 and Bill graduated in 1950. They both went on to become teachers in Illinois, Arizona and Texas. They now live in San Marcos, Texas, where they’ve been since 1964.

Ella loves to talk about all the remarkable things Bill has done in his lifetime. After graduating from Spooner High School, he enlisted in the military and spent nearly three years in the South Pacific. His unit followed General Douglas McArthur from island to island, and his body was ravaged by malaria and other afflictions. After he returned home and recovered, he went on to college and enjoyed a long and rewarding career as an art teacher, professor and coach. Bill and Ella had four children (in five years!) and he often worked two or three jobs to support his growing family. Countless pieces of Bill’s art have been used for various organizations’ Christmas cards, newsletters and pro golf tournaments, and he often donates prints or designs posters for local charities.

Bill: After I returned home from WWII in 1946, I was attending another university, but transferred because I had some buddies who played on the football team. Because I was one of the smaller guys, I was part of the practice team, or “Hamburger” squad. But we both feel blessed having graduated from Superior State.

Ella: I grew up in South Range, Wis., and graduated from Central High School in Superior. Superior State was the closest school for me, and I received a scholarship. I also liked the fact that it was a small college, which would provide individual attention.

Teri: What made you choose UW-Superior (Superior State)?

Bill: I had planned to become a commercial artist, but Superior State didn’t offer an art major at that time. So, I majored in History and minored in Art and Coaching.

Ella: Growing up, I dreamed of going into medicine. But, my high school counselors suggested only three professions for women: secretary, nurse or teacher. They said I wouldn’t be able to get into medical school, nor could I afford it. But, I’ve never regretted my choice – I loved teaching.

Teri: What were your favorite restaurants, hangout spots and activities while you were a student?

Bill: A man named Tom Fleming had an establishment on Tower Avenue, and he was very supportive of college students. Because so many of us had served in the war, we were older and often visited his place for a beverage and his words of encouragement. Tom even hired me to paint a mural above his 45-foot horseshoe-shaped bar. We had agreed on a fee, but my friends and relatives would come and watch me and I would put their drinks on my tab. In the end, my tab was more than my payment for the painting, and I ended up working off the rest as a bartender.

Ella: Bill never learned a thing – he is still very generous that way! I worked part-time in an elderly person’s home, so my free time was limited. However, I did attend some fraternity parties at Sokol Hall.

Teri: What is your fondest memory of Superior State College?

Bill: Lots and lots of good friends, and I found my wife.

Ella: My older brother, Jorma, was the first in our family to graduate from college – also at Superior State. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Madison, and had a lucrative career as a chemist for Shell Oil. My parents were Finnish immigrants, and I spoke very little English when I started elementary school. That is why it amazes me that I graduated with honors in 1949 and became
only the second in my family to graduate from college!

Teri: What types of campus events, clubs or other involvement do you remember participating in?

Bill: I was involved in a lot of things that kept me pretty busy. I was a member of FEX fraternity, the Gitche Gumee (yearbook) and Peptomist (newspaper) staff, football, golf and ROTC. I also designed the insignia for the emerging ROTC program.

Ella: I was a member of the Glee Club and the Tau Alpha Chi sorority. My friend, Marty Salo, decided to run for homecoming queen and asked me to be her campaign manager. Our sorority was considered “nerds” by the other students, so I expanded on that idea – that a beauty could also be brainy, generous, thoughtful and open-minded. For several months I hardly slept, and my folks were concerned about my grades. But our skit went off without a hitch, and it was like nothing anyone had seen before. We had girls in short skirts carrying signs that had words like “Brains,” special effects such as smoke, and Marty was even lowered from the rafters on a giant football. She won by a landslide, and though I was exhausted and my grades suffered a bit, I felt a wonderful feeling of accomplishment.

Teri: Are there any faculty or staff that helped you succeed or that you remember well?

Bill: I had many that were helpful to me – Art Kruk and Jane Rehnstrand in the Art Department, Dr. Carey for economics, and Ellen Clark for history. She was instrumental in starting the United Nations Club. And Coach Ted Whereatt, too.

Ella: I loved Ed Bolender, my biology professor. He was strict and no-nonsense. Bessie Benton, our sorority sponsor and German instructor, was great, and Daisy Fulton was a wonderful fourth grade cooperating teacher at McCaskill.

Teri: What were some of the most noticeable changes in the field of education during your career?

Bill: I saw a definite decline in the quality of education as we moved south from our first teaching jobs in northern Illinois. Some of the southern states put a lot of emphasis on sports – especially football. At the university level, some of my students arrived unable to observe the environment, draw or come up with a creative idea.

Ella: I witnessed a lot of changes during my career. The dress code for teachers, both male and female, changed a great deal, and many districts wouldn’t hire a husband and a wife together. Bill and I were able to work together at a K-8 school in Illinois, and we loved it. I also noticed more teacher input into curriculum during my career, and technology was just starting to be integrated as I was retiring. The integration of special needs children into regular classrooms was done poorly at one school I taught. One year, I had five students and no aide, and after trying my best and not getting the help I begged for, I ended up resigning. But this has since improved.

Teri: What do you see happening, or what do you hope to see, in the future for education?

Bill: I see more men in elementary education, teachers encouraging creativity over obedience, more outdoor learning activities and learning how to observe the world around you. I’d like to see more changes in the amount of time for certain classes, since some concepts and projects require less or more time to teach than others.

Ella: I’d like to see less homework – there’s too much busy work sometimes – and I’d like to see more training for teachers. I think students need more time for art, music and physical education, and less time on electronic gadgets. Students need to move more, and I see this change happening in some classes I have observed. Sustainability and conservation methods could use more attention, and students should be taught how to have patience, be kind and polite, and we should emphasize random acts of kindness toward others.

Teri: Do you have any words of wisdom for me as I continue toward my goal of becoming a teacher?

Bill and Ella: Experience as much as you can, and stop and sense the world. Don’t make big issues out of the little things. Many things, like behavior, only get worse as attention is drawn to them. All attention should be put on deserving acts. We must find ways to teach tolerance of people that are different from us. This profession has a way of touching your heart and bringing you more joy than you can ever imagine. And laughter and humor are very important for a happy classroom and a successful marriage!
When it comes to community involvement, not many match up to the dedication of Mark Casper (Class of 1972). As a lifelong resident of Superior, Casper has served for the Superior Douglas County Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement and the Superior Rotary Club. He has also been a part of fundraising events for organizations from Fairlawn Museum to the Minnesota Ballet to the Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA). So it’s little surprise he goes above and beyond for UW-Superior.

“We are very much an organization that likes to give back to the community,” says Casper who is the owner of Keyport Liquor Store, Restaurant & Lounge and co-owner of the new Epic Restaurant and Lounge, both located in Superior.

Casper’s dedicated involvement began nearly 20 years ago when the UW-Superior Alumni Association asked for his assistance with a wine tasting event. From that, he served on the Foundation Board for three terms. He was a member for nine years and president for two years.

His ability to see the community both as an alumni and a business owner has afforded Casper a unique perspective to the changes UW-Superior has encountered.

“I’ve lived in Superior all my life,” he said. “Back in the 50s and 60s, the university was more of an island and didn’t seem to have a lot of interface with the business community or the community itself. Where that change really became dramatic was when Chancellor [Julius] Erlenbach took over and his involvement in the city and vice versa. The business community and city’s involvement with the university really blossomed at that time.”

That connection to the community is something Casper has seen steadily increasing and hopes the climb will continue for a long time.
UW-Superior’s new Dean of Faculties and Graduate Studies, Dr. Dean Yohnk, has only been on campus a few months. But it didn’t take him long to realize that UW-Superior is a special place. He discovered that long ago.

“While serving as the campus dean/CEO at UW-Barron County, I made many trips to UW-Superior to meet with a number of campus representatives to discuss ways in which we could promote educational partnerships and collaborations as the two UW campuses in northern Wisconsin,” he said. “During my visits to UW-Superior I was continually impressed by the enthusiastic and dedicated faculty, staff and administration who were clearly interested in developing educational partnerships that would improve educational access, options and opportunities for the diverse array of students that we serve in the Northland.

“As a first-generation college student myself, I continue to be inspired and motivated by the university’s student-centric approach to providing access and opportunity to first-generation college students who have great potential for success and academic excellence.”

The growing enrollment is just one of the great things happening on campus that alumni should be excited about.

“Positive change and new options and opportunities emerge each and every day at UW-Superior as we all collaborate to help our diverse students succeed and excel,” said Dr. Yohnk.

“I have been thrilled to discover that UW-Superior is truly a ‘global’ campus community.”

Growing up in Chicago, Greg Pitts didn’t know anything about UW-Superior. But thanks to an online video, UW-Superior knew a lot about him.

“My senior year of high school I got recruited by [former baseball coach] Nick Bursik (Class of 2012) and assistant baseball coach Shaun Marshall (Class of 2012),” he said. “They saw videos of me online and were interested. They even met with my parents, visited my house twice, and that’s when I made the decision to come to UW-Superior.”

Once on campus, the same personal attention he had received from the Yellowjacket coaches extended throughout the campus.

“I noticed that everybody was pretty nice, cool with everybody else,” said Pitts. “I liked the family atmosphere on campus – I noticed that right away. Coming from Chicago, I was kind of taken aback by people saying ‘hello.’ Right away I thought they must want something from me, but it was just genuine. They were just being nice and that was something I needed to get used to.”

As a junior majoring in Legal Studies with a minor in Spanish, Pitts has indeed gotten used to the friendly atmosphere at UW-Superior. He’s also made many connections that have helped him succeed academically.

 “[Professor] Maria Cuzzo – she is just an amazing teacher,” said Pitts. “She made me want to come to class every day, made me want to become a better student, a better person and really furthered my interest in the law and my future career goals.”

“I liked the family atmosphere on campus – I noticed that right away.”
For 16 years Professor and University Theatre Director Cathy Fank has been the driving force in UW-Superior theatre—helping to not only raise the program throughout the Twin Ports, but also provide the knowledge and skills graduates need to be successful throughout the country.

Originally from Iowa, Fank has been a part of professional theatre from Houston to Boston. The experiences she gained working with various companies and serving as artistic director have become the base for her teaching at UW-Superior.

“I had a lot of teachers who taught me about how to work in the professional theatre and had never done it, and I didn’t want to be that teacher,” she said. “I wanted to know what that world was like and how to compete in it.”

Fank is also able to pass on her knowledge through the UW-Superior Summer Theatre Camp. Having just completed its tenth year, the camp provides students in grades 6 through 12 with hands-on experience on and off the stage.

“I only take 26 kids because I want to make it a good experience for them,” she said. “It’s a great deal because I’m able to hire our current students as teachers for some of the classes, so it’s a win-win for our current students and the kids that come to the camp. I have kids that have been with me for seven years. To watch them grow up and watch them develop is awesome.”

Tanja Heckert is a lot like any other student on the UW-Superior campus. She’s invested in her studies as a Journalism major with a Business minor, and her role as an assistant hall manager in the Ross/Hawkes Residence Halls keeps her busy outside the classroom. Yet, as an international student at UW-Superior, she’s been able to discover for herself many of the things that make being a Yellowjacket great.

Born in Berlin, Germany, Heckert studied English at Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, Germany. An exchange program already in place enabled her to make the transition to UW-Superior.

“I have always felt incredibly welcome on campus,” she said. “I think that was part of the reason why I decided not to go back to my old school and pursue a degree at UW-Superior instead.

“Living in Superior has been a nice change of pace,” she said. “I really appreciate the close proximity to Lake Superior and all the beautiful state parks that surround us. Coming from a large city, I have had the chance to participate in many outdoor activities that I have never tried before.”
The executive director of the Superior Amateur Hockey Association (SAHA), Chris Stenberg (Class of 2000) utilizes his connections to the community and the education he gained at UW-Superior.

"I find myself everyday using the skills and lessons learned in classes at UW-Superior," he said. "I feel the UW-Superior experience prepared me with critical thinking and customer service skills needed to be successful in my career."

The positive experience Stenberg had at UW-Superior as a Business Administration major is something he brings with him in his current role and hopes to share with others.

"Much of the work involved here is volunteer based, and it’s inspiring to have so many great people involved," he said. "From our Superior Ice Arena staff, to our SAHA Board of Directors, to our membership, I can’t say enough about the people I work with. Through my work I am able to help kids develop life skills, similar to what UW-Superior did for me."

For those who haven’t visited the City of Superior in a while, it just might be time for a return trip. The city recently completed a full renovation of north Tower Ave., which includes enhancements for pedestrians and drivers alike. The makeover has attracted several new businesses to the areas and plenty of remodeling projects from existing businesses. A similar overhall is planned for Belknap Street in 2017-18 as Superior undergoes a city-wide renovation.

As executive director of the Superior Business Improvement District (BID), Lindsey Jacobson (Class of 2010) has been instrumental in this plan to help Superior grow.

"My favorite days are getting out and talking with property and business owners on what the BID means to them, what we do for their business and how we can improve," says Jacobson, who has been with the BID for just over a year.

A lifelong resident of Superior, Jacobson originally came to UW-Superior as a Music major. She soon switched to major in Speech Communication with a minor in Mass Communication.

"Honestly, the game changer for my entire life leading up to this job was Comm. 101 with Bruce Kasden," she said. "I learned so much in my years at UW-Superior."
Duluth, Minn., native Allysa Boyhtari had an array of colleges and universities to choose from. Things became a little clearer for her when Glen Drexler, UW-Superior’s head cross country and track and field coach, contacted the Denfeld High School graduate and invited her to visit campus.

“I liked how it was kind of a small campus and smaller class sizes, but you can still meet new people every day – you’ve got the big university experience,” said Boyhtari. “There was something just a little bit different than any other place around to offer – different than St. Scholastica, different than UMD.”

Since arriving at UW-Superior, Boyhtari has hardly slowed down. On top of being on the track and field team since her freshman year and the cross country team since her sophomore year, she’s also involved in Athletes in Action, CRU and Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). She has also become active in the community with the Young Athletes Foundation and the Wednesday Night at the Races series organized by Grandma’s Marathon.

On pace to graduate this spring with a degree in Exercise Science, Boyhtari is already looking forward to being an active alumni member.

“Alumni paved the way,” she said. “Their experiences have shaped where the university is and where it is going. They paved my way, and even when I think about getting older, I want to help out in some way – as a graduate and an alumna.”

Terra Stenberg

I was lucky enough to grow up in our small community, so I already had ties to the university well before I attended, said Terra Stenberg (Class of 1998).

Her father, Len Campbell (Class of 1975), played on the baseball team and her brother, Joe Campbell (Class of 2007), was a member of the hockey team.

As it turns out, following in her family footsteps was a great decision for Stenberg.

“They were some of the best years of my life,” she said. “I participated in the true ‘college experience,’ but also learned how to be a responsible, hardworking adult by balancing school and working full time. I was also lucky enough to meet lifelong friends that I built a deep connection with and still see on a regular basis.”

After graduation, Stenberg soon found work at maurices, where she’s been for 17 years. Currently, she serves as the director of financial planning and reporting at its Duluth, Minn., corporate office.

Stenberg is also quick to point out that there are no reasons for graduates to think they need to leave the Superior and Duluth area to find good careers.

“The ties that the university has to local businesses, including internship programs, help expose students to the various opportunities. Both my husband (Chris Stenberg, Class of 2000) and I have found success in our respective fields within our community.”
More recognition for quality, affordability and community engagement

UW-Superior’s online bachelor’s degree in Communicating Arts was named among Top 10 programs in the nation by BestDegreePrograms.org. “Being ranked as one of the top ten programs in the nation speaks volumes of the quality of our online Communication Arts program and faculty,” said Interim Provost Jackie Weissenburger.

UW-Superior was named one of the most affordable online elementary education degrees by BestColleges.com. UW-Superior is the only institution of higher learning in the area and in the UW System to receive this accolade.

UW-Superior has been named the top public online college in Wisconsin for 2016-17 by AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

UW-Superior has been named a Military Friendly® School for the seventh year in a row and retains its status as a gold level university by Victory Media.

UW-Superior has been recognized as a national leader in community engagement by being named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll once again.

New academic programs and offerings

UW-Superior has been talking and listening with students, employers and regional leaders, and has been adapting to the workplace needs of the region. New offerings in 2016 are:

- Online Business Administration – Management Concentration
- Online Health and Wellness Management master’s degree
- Licensure minor in Special Education
- Music Business certificate

Lake Superior College and UW-Superior launch exciting new partnership

UW-Superior and Lake Superior College (LSC) signed a new agreement, called Superior Connection, which allows students to make a seamless transfer in the dedicated online majors.

"UW-Superior is excited to expand the strong working relationship we have with Lake Superior College," said Chancellor Wachter. "We see Superior Connection as another opportunity to share resources and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure our students are successful."

The schools have also signed a Reverse Transfer Agreement, which will allow students to earn an associate degree by combining their credits earned at Lake Superior College with those earned at UW-Superior. Learn more at uwsuper.edu/lsc.

Also, an articulation agreement with WITC was recently added which will allow a seamless transition to UW-Superior by transferring credits to a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education program.

Record breaking numbers in applications and enrollment

FALL 2016
For the second year in a row, freshmen enrollment increased in the fall of 2016 marking the largest freshmen class in over five years.

FALL 2016
Highest number of new applications in over a decade.

FALL 2016
Transfer rates are the highest they’ve been in over five years. These new students have come to UW-Superior from 14 different countries and have attended a collective 127 different colleges and universities.

FALL 2016
UW-Superior is proud to be hosting the largest and most diverse international enrollment in university history with 225 international students – representing 50 different countries.

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The men’s cross country team earned a second-place finish in the cross country championship, with Charles Corbett, Jackson Lindquist and Jordan Koski earning all-conference recognition and Corbett winning the individual champion award. Nick Nemac was named to the individual sportsmanship list. Coach Glen Drexler was named coach of the year.

As fall turned into winter, another UW-Superior team began to assert authority in the UMAC. While claiming the regular season conference title, the ‘Jacket women’s basketball team also won the UMAC Playoff Championship to secure its first ever NCAA Tournament berth.

Hailey Kontny enjoyed a successful first season with the ‘Jackets since transferring from the University of Minnesota Duluth, appearing in all 28 games to pace the team in points, while finishing third in rebounding. She was also named UMAC Player of the Year and first-team UMAC All-Conference. Justine Larson earned an honorable mention and was named to the all-defensive team. Bailee Bartunek received the sportsmanship award.

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Indoor track and field saw the ‘Jacket men enjoy success as well. Corbett again claimed UMAC victory, earning the Track Athlete of the Meet Award at the UMAC championships Player of the Week on February 16. He was joined on the UMAC all-conference list by Rand Bieri, Alex Dzikonksi, Alexander Fathie,
Henry Haberman, Caleb Hohensee, Jackson Lindquist, Joseph Olinger, Noah Potratz, Thomas Udenberg and Anthony Willette. Olinger also won a sportsmanship award.

The women’s team also had its share of success sweeping the top post season honors. Kelli Praska won the Track Athlete of the Meet Award and Svenja Ruehl winning Field Athlete of the Meet at the UMAC championships. They were joined on the all-conference rankings by Taylor Phillips. Valerie Rowe was the winner of a sportsmanship award.

In the spring outdoor track and field season, the women’s team again saw its athletes earn UMAC recognition. Praska, Philips, Rowe and Ruehl received all-conference awards with Tiffany LaFontaine earning a sportsmanship award.

The men’s team claimed the conference championship with Bieri, Corbett, Dzikonski, Fathie, Hohensee, Lindquist, Potratz, Udenberg, Christian Pillath and Gabe Zielke being named all-conference. Isaac Staat received a sportsmanship award, Drexler was named coach of the year.

For the ‘Jacket softball team, it was nearly a dream season. The team finished its extremely successful 2015-16 season, which included advancing to the NCAA DIII tournament, with an overall record of 27-15. The team ended with a 13-3 UMAC record. Ciarra Taipale and Katie Wilke were named to the all-conference team with Shelly Misco and Katie White receiving honorable mentions. Wilke and Brittany Thomfordha earned all-defensive team awards. A sportsmanship award was given to Elizabeth Borgwardt.

Since the season ended, UW-Superior has added two new coaches. In May, Rich McKenna was named the new head coach of the Yellowjackets men’s hockey team.

"It’s really exciting to be part of the Yellowjacket family," said McKenna. "It has a rich hockey tradition and is a great school. I am looking forward to moving my family here and raising them in the community. I’m very thankful for the opportunity."

McKenna, a Greenwood Lake, N.Y., native, brings abundant hockey knowledge to UW-Superior. Previously he served as head coach of the New Jersey Titans of the North American Hockey League (NAHL).

In August, Frank Pufall became the new head coach of the Yellowjacket baseball program.

"I’m thrilled to be a part of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, and to be able to work with such a passionate athletic department," Pufall said.

Pufall spent the past two seasons as an assistant coach at NCAA Division II University of Minnesota Duluth. Prior to UMD, Pufall was an assistant baseball coach at Northland College in Ashland, Wis. Also during this period, Pufall served as the head baseball coach at Washburn (Wis.) High School from 2010 through 2014.

Another exciting change at UW-Superior is the addition of varsity athletic teams in men’s and women’s tennis to its sports offerings. Both programs will begin operating as full members of the UMAC in fall 2017.
Camisha Montgomery and Abby Glawe in Milwaukee

Eleanore and Dennis Peterson and Paula and Jim Schelling in Sarasota, Florida

Tom Bergh, Diana Chi, Brad Lindahl, Jeanne Thompson, and Chancellor Wachter in Palm Springs, California

Meagan Avery, Markie Hansen and Cassie Roemhildt at a Young Alumni Social in Superior

Front left and clockwise: Donald Brew, Tom Bergh, Ivan Prokic, Jeanne Thompson, Steve Bergquist and Sandra and Gene Burbey in San Diego, California

Chancellor Wachter with Thom and Heather Sczygielski in Milwaukee

Warren Bender, Mark Casper, Richard “Ike” Eisenmann, and Bill Anderson in Superior

Camisha Montgomery and Abby Glawe in Milwaukee

Socialize with us!

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uwsuperioradmissions

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December 4 and 6, 2016
UW-Superior Choirs
Christmas Concerts
Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior

December 10, 2016
Men’s Hockey vs. Milwaukee School of Engineering
Pre-game luncheon site TBD, Milwaukee

February 2017
Florida Alumni Events
Site and date TBD

February 14, 2017
UW-Superior Jazz Band: Valentine’s Day Swing Dance
Yellowjacket Union, UW-Superior

March 2017
University Recital Series: Children of the Holocaust
Manion Theater, UW-Superior

March 4, 2017
University Recital Series: An Evening of Song with Vicki Fingalson and Jeffrey Madison
Webb Recital Hall, UW-Superior

March 14, 2017
University Recital Series: Nixon Bustos and Friends’ String Quintet
Webb Recital Hall, UW-Superior

April 1, 2017
University Recital Series: Men’s Baseball at the University of Chicago
Site and time TBD, Chicago

April 4, 2017
University Theatre presents: The Man Who Planted Trees
Manion Theater, UW-Superior

April 20, 2017
An Evening of Wine and Jazz
Yellowjacket Union, UW-Superior

April 21-30, 2017
University Theatre presents: Crimes of the Heart
Manion Theater, UW-Superior

May 4, 2017
Alumni Event at Hinterland Brewing Company
Green Bay

July 21, 2017
Yellowjacket Golf Outing in Superior
Nemadji Golf Course

July 22, 2017
Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
Yellowjacket Union, UW-Superior

More details and events online
uwsuper.edu/alumni • uwsuper.edu/music • uwsuper.edu/theatre
Each year, the UW-Superior Alumni Association honors alumni, faculty and staff members who represent, through their personal and professional accomplishments, the lasting value of UW-Superior.

The Edward and Betty Kossak Service Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions in time, energy, leadership and support to further the goals of UW-Superior. This year we honor Dr. Orvin Clark (Class of 1966). Orv, as he was known to his many friends, was a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership. He served on many committees and councils including Graduate Council, for which he was the chair, Faculty Senate and Institutional Review Board. He also served as a member of the UW-Superior Foundation for nine years, a member of the UW-Superior Hall of Fame committee for seven years, chair of three Phi Sigma Epsilon Reunions, and was active in the UW-Superior Alumni Association. He worked to establish the UW-Superior Central High School Scholarship. Upon his retirement from UW-Superior in May 2015, he was awarded the status of Professor Emeritus. Dr. Clark passed away in May 2016.

The Young Alumni Achievement Award was established to honor successful and inspirational alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years and are under 40 years of age. This year’s recipient is Kate Ferguson (Class of 2006). She graduated with bachelor’s degrees in Transportation and Logistics Management and Computer Information Systems. Ferguson spent nine years working in transportation logistics with the Great Lakes Fleet and later with Canadian National Railway. In July 2015, she was named Director of Business Development at the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. She works to develop domestic and international trade opportunities, and develop business expansion opportunities for the Port Authority and its properties, in cooperation with industrial development organizations throughout the region.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to alumni whose successes serve as an inspiration for current and prospective students. This year’s recipient is Doug Stetzer (Class of 1996). Stetzer is the chief scientist at Kent Precision Foods Group (KPRG), leaders in the manufacture of products for the treatment of Dysphagia—a complication of many diseases such as stroke or cancer where a patient has difficulty swallowing. Stetzer is an inventor, author and entrepreneur. He holds several utility patents in the United States and abroad. He graduated from UW-Superior with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry.

The James Rainaldo Mentor Award recognizes a UW-Superior faculty or staff member who has touched the lives of current and former students in a unique and significant way. This year we honor Dr. Beth Gilbert—Professor of Piano and a member of the UW-Superior faculty since 1983. Her piano students have won many local, regional and state competitions. While at UW-Superior, she has received Chancellor’s Awards for model teaching and advising in addition to being named an Honorary Alumna by the UW-Superior Alumni Association in 1997. She currently serves as the chair of the Music Department, and is a member of the UW-Superior Foundation Board.
Competitions for running, gymnastics and weightlifting are nothing new. Yet, when those activities are all part of one event, the contest becomes something entirely new. That's just the kind of event that helps Brendan Willis (Class of 2011) quench his competitive thirst.

Willis, who graduated from UW-Superior with a degree in Exercise Science before going on to earn his Master's of Science degree in exercise physiology, was also a four-year member of the Yellowjacket baseball team.

“As an athlete, I have made memories that will last forever,” he said. “The entire athletic department was tight knit and the support from all other teams was great. I learned many important things from playing collegiate sports at UW-Superior including dedication, discipline and professionalism.”

Looking to replace the competition of the baseball diamond, he discovered the CrossFit Games. Created in 2007, the events require athletes to perform an array of functional movements, which can include gymnastics, running and weightlifting among many others to determine the fittest athletes.

“The competition is extremely tough as many different energy systems are challenged and the importance of being proficient at many movements is imperative,” said Willis, who is currently a strength and conditioning coach at Impact Sports Training in Duluth, Minn., – owned by alumnus Chris Bell (Class of 2002). “For example, in one competition, I may have to perform a max effort barbell movement, while a couple hours later, run a 5k. This diversity is what keeps me coming back because you can always get better at all the movements.”

In May, Willis put his years of CrossFit experience to the test and competed in the CrossFit Games regional in Columbus, Ohio. The competition involved seven different circuits over a three-day period.

“The experience was surreal as thousands of people were there to watch,” he said. “Seeing that many people in the crowd created an atmosphere like no other. It was exciting to have my friends and family there to watch me compete next to many of the fittest men in the United States.”

The competition served as an eye-opening experience for Willis, who finished near the bottom. Yet he remains excited and plans on qualifying for additional events.

“I have learned that I can compete with some of the best in the world, but that I can always get better.”
Foundation Board welcomes new directors

At its annual meeting in September, the Foundation Board welcomed four new directors to help drive the mission and fundraising efforts of the Foundation.

**Avram Segall (Class of 1968),** attorney and legal studies professor at Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J. This is Avram’s second appointment to the Foundation Board.

**Shaye Moris (Class of 1994),** executive director at Northern Lakes Food Bank in Duluth, Minn.

**Stefan Fletcher (Class of 2008),** special assistant at UW System Administration in Madison, Wis.

**Eric DeVinck (Class of 2012),** senior specialist in supply chain informatics at Essentia Health in Duluth, Minn.

“Avram, Shaye, Stefan and Eric will make wonderful additions to our dedicated group of directors,” said Dave Anderson, Foundation President. “We lost amazing talent when our four outgoing directors’ terms expired this year. However, I am confident our new directors will step right in and help us keep our wonderful momentum moving.”

Outgoing directors honored

At the annual Appreciation Dinner held on September 29, outgoing board members were honored and thanked for their tremendous leadership and enthusiastic commitment to the university and its students. All outgoing directors served the maximum three-term limits for a total of nine consecutive years.

**John Berchild (Class of 1965),** retired attorney. John served as President from 2011-2013 and was an active member on both the Finance and Governance Committees.

**Steve DeVinck (Class of 1981),** chief financial officer at Minnesota Power/ALLETE. Steve served as President from 2013-2015, and as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. He most recently was a member of the Governance Committee.

**Rhonda Rushing (Class of 1973),** owner and president at Bernsten International, Inc. Rhonda spent her time on the Advancement Committee and served as Chair from 2012-2013.

**Janet Mohr (Class of 1973),** executive director of the Board of School Administration, MN Department of Education. Jan served on the Governance Committee and served as the Foundation’s Vice President from 2013-2016.

IRA charitable rollover is here to stay!

If you are 70½ years or older, you can take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover, which was made permanent in December 2015, allowing you to make a direct, tax-free transfer of up to $100,000 a year from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization like UW-Superior Foundation. An IRA rollover gift can be used to contribute to the Superior Fund, create or add to an endowment fund, or to support other important initiatives at UW-Superior.

Benefits include:

- You can reduce your taxable income
- Your donation counts toward your annual required minimum IRA distribution
- You use your retirement assets to match your passion to immediate impact

Please consult with your tax professional if you are contemplating an IRA Charitable Rollover gift.
Why I give:

Investing in students
By Dr. Eleni Pinnow, Associate Professor of Psychology

I love my job, and I know without a doubt UW-Superior is a place that offers students a transformational opportunity.

There are few periods of life that offer such a whirlwind of experiences, growth and possibilities as the college years. I personally see dramatic changes in my students during their time at UW-Superior: their confidence grows, they engage with the community using their academic knowledge and they blossom into the best version of themselves. My role in that transformation often varies between teacher, comforter, advisor, cheerleader, mentor, task-master and agitator. I see students at their best and at their worst, and often I see them at their most exhausted. It is a great honor and responsibility to be a part of those years for our students.

For many of our students, financial support is absolutely critical for their continued attendance at UW-Superior. Students often work full time, and they frequently have financial responsibilities to their families. The demands on students’ time and pocketbooks are plentiful. Many students are caught in a difficult loop of needing to work to pay for school – and then struggling with academics because work takes so much of their time.

I invest in students by contributing to scholarships. I view my gifts to the UW-Superior Foundation as a way to help ease the burden that many of today’s students face. I have also provided for continued scholarship funding through my estate plans, so future students will have extra time and breathing room to focus on their own academic and personal growth.

I love all that UW-Superior can do for our students – and I am deeply honored to be a part of continuing that legacy.

Why a year-end gift is important for the Foundation and you

Although the timing of making charitable gifts is a personal decision and certainly has no season, this is the time of year that most people choose to give. Last year, the UW-Superior Foundation received nearly half of its total annual contributions between October 1 and December 31.

Year-end giving helps the UW-Superior Foundation finish its year strong and secures with confidence the much needed financial resources it can provide the university. Year-end giving also helps you fulfill your desire to support the university and its students, and provides you with ways to maximize your tax savings.

Find out more ways to give at uwsuper.edu/give2uws
UW-Superior’s Campus Recreation Department offered the Little Yellowjackets Summer Camps, which provided a safe, educational and fun adventure for children in grades 1 through 6. The weeklong camp sessions were structured like a normal day of school with campers moving through UW-Superior facilities participating in different programs throughout each day. Each camp was designed around a theme and included a field trip around the Twin Ports. Camps emphasized teamwork, communication, sportsmanship and fun.

“We will continue to run these camps next summer,” said Jarod Meyer, Intramurals and Camps Specialist. “We hope to offer summer mini-camps, too, as well as one or three day camps during various non-school days for the school district.”

University Theatre has partnered with the Foundation to raise the funds necessary to bring Scotland’s Edinburgh Puppet State Theatre Company’s award-winning production of “The Man Who Planted Trees” to campus on April 4, 2017.

The funds raised will be used to provide two free daytime performances for local school district students and to help fund one evening performance.

“The goal of this fundraising effort is twofold,” said Jeanne Thompson, vice chancellor for University Advancement. “We are fundraising to bring this award-winning touring production to our campus, benefiting both our campus community and the Twin Ports community, and raising additional funds for our own UW-Superior Theatre students and faculty to travel as well.”

You can support this fundraising initiative online at uwsuper.edu/touringtheatre or call us at 715-394-8452.

As much a touching tale as it is a hilarious puppet show, “The Man Who Planted Trees” shows us the difference one man and his dog can make to the world.
In August, UW-Superior’s Transportation and Logistics Research Center held its inaugural Aeronautics and Space Camp for high school girls. The two-day event explored the history of women in aviation and allowed young women to see potential careers on industry tours.

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Watch for upcoming camps at uwsuper.edu/youthcamps

Sports Camps

Yellowjacket Athletics once again offered their many summer sports camps. These events provided an outstanding opportunity for youth to receive fundamental instruction and to learn sport-specific strategies and improve in their individual areas. UW-Superior coaches and players were on hand to provide instruction and feedback.

More at uwsyellowjackets.com

Camp Bong

UW-Superior’s Center for Continuing Education and the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center partnered for Camp Bong in February to offer children grades 3 through 8 the experience of camping out inside the historical center for a night of fun and education. Activities included discovering items in a soldier’s footlocker, hands-on demonstrations of historic uniforms and equipment and much more. The next Camp Bong is February 17-18, 2017.

More at uwsuper.edu/youthprograms

Science Night

Each April, more than 1,000 children of all ages and their parents attend Science Night, UW-Superior’s largest annual community event planned by the Students of Science. Special attractions last year included live fish from the Brule Fish Hatchery, live animals from the Lake Superior Zoo, chemistry show, physics lab, monarch butterflies, an agate hunt and much more. The next Science Night is scheduled for April 7, 2017!

More at uwsuper.edu/youthprograms
Send us your updates!
Visit uwsuper.edu/update or send via email to alumni@uwsuper.edu. Due to space limitations, we edit items for style and length. If your news does not appear in this issue, it will likely appear in the next. Classmates listing as of October 3, 2016.

1939
Vivian Williams Lund of Gordon, Wis., celebrated her 98th birthday last winter.

1940
Kenneth Anderson is still going strong at 98 years old, except for his knees. He lives in Hendersonville, N.C., with his wife, Jane.

1955
Palmyra Grupstra Creed enjoys living on a lake near Rhinelander, Wis., and welcomed a new great granddaughter in February. Palmyra has also enjoyed taking part in many different crafts over the years. Her latest hobby is basketery, some of which have won awards in the Wisconsin Regional Arts program.

1958
Cliff O’Beirne celebrated his 50th year of teaching at UW-Whitewater, where he has taught psychology to both graduate and undergraduate students.

1959
Harold Helwig is enjoying his retirement at his home in Stone Lake, Wis. He was a teacher and administrator in Hayward for 20 years, was with Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance for 10 years and also served as chairman of the Sawyer County Board before recently retiring.

1960
Jim Cowman placed second overall for the 70- and-over age group in the 2015 Paper Chase 5K.

1963
Joe Sekelsky and Mary Martig Sekelsky, of Colfax, Wis., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

1966
Barbara Benson-Nelson recently moved to Missouri to be closer to her family. Her daughter, son-in-law, and 3-year-old twin grandsons live in Blue Springs Mo., and her son, daughter-in-law and their family live in Iowa. Barbara has many fond memories of UW-Superior, former classmates and instructors.

1968
Dave Oviatt and his wife, Pam, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.

1969
Dennis White was named Indian Educator of the Year by the Wisconsin Indian Education Association. The award recognizes his lifetime academic achievements in education and leadership with Ojibwe language, culture and history. Ross Amundson was inducted into the Superior High School Athletic and Academic Hall of Fame in October. He earned 11 varsity letters during high school, and played college baseball for both the Wisconsin Badgers and the Yellowjackets.

1970
George "Bud" Brand was a 2015 recipient of a Poetryfest Hall of Fame award, and was asked to submit original works for publication in an anthology titled "Trumpets to Heaven," celebrating the third anniversary of Poetryfest. He has now had 64 poems published in 21 books and newspapers.

1971
Carol Hubin Hammond retired as executive assistant to the vice chancellor of development in the office of advancement at the University of Colorado Anschutz medical campus in November 2015, after 27 years in the position. She lives with her husband, Rich, in the foothills southwest of Denver. Carol and Rich enjoy time with their first granddaughter, Alyce, walking their German shorthair pointer, Peaches, and gardening.

Blaine Greer published a book this summer titled “Willow Sieve Chronicles - Eavesdropping from the Wilderness.” It is a day-by-day account of his experiences throughout a misguided attempt to paddle the length of the treacherous Mississippi River in a borrowed aluminum canoe accompanied solely by a gregarious springer spaniel lap dog known as Shocker.

1972
Jerry Rovner was elected to be a member of South Carolina’s nine member Board of Higher Education.

Carly Kolar (Class of 1969), Scott Wangen (Class of 1969) and Tom Culbert (Class of 1970) enjoyed the 2016 EAA AirVenture show in Oshkosh, Wis.
electoral college in August. He was also given the 2016 David Eckstrom Award by the South Carolina Republican Party. The award was established to honor a deserving South Carolina Republican for their commitment and service.

Larry Hildebrandt is the zoning administrator for Ashland County, Wis., and has been in that position since 1975.

1974
Deborah Olson retired after 27 years in the special education department of the University of Oregon, and is looking forward to new challenges and adventures in the next phase of her life.

Eric Madson recently became a director of Midwest Professional Planners, Ltd. (MPPL). Eric is a financial consultant at MPPL, an SEC-registered investment advisory firm filed in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Texas and Florida.

Patricia Wolfe-Thornton is preparing to retire after 20 years at St. Norbert College, where she is currently the enrollment database manager.

1975
Ken Solarz was inducted into the Upsala High School (Minn.) Athletic Hall of Fame in January. He coached baseball and volleyball, and served as athletic director from 1984 until retiring in 2012.

Vincent Charles is retired and lives in Lincoln City, Ore.

Pam Solberg-Tapper completed the Tenzing-Hillary Everest Marathon in May, which started at 17,598 feet on Mount Everest. In 2014, she became the 17th woman in the Grand Slam Club of Marathoning when she completed a 26.2-mile race at the North Pole.

1976
William Tecku’s poem, “After Odysseus Joined the AARP,” was published in the July edition of English Journal, the oldest, most widely published journal for secondary level English teachers in the United States. He remains grateful to three UW-Superior professors, Dr. David Light, Dr. Wilma Clark and Dr. George Gott for their pre-eminent teaching that helped him find his poetic voice, as well as pursue a career as a high school English teacher.

Jane Wester retired in July 2015 from the Duluth Public Library after 31 years working in youth services, technical services and circulation services.

Jim Zastrow is now the president of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation board of directors. He retired from BMO Harris Bank in 2015 after serving 37 years in various positions with the bank and its predecessor, M&I Bank.

1977
Wayne Johnston retired on March 31 as the treasurer/CFO of RAM Mutual Insurance Company after a 32-year career.

Remigius Omniaibohs lives in Germantown, Md.

Wayne Van Kauwenbergh, a retired Federal attorney, has earned his Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul and accepted a pastoral call in Grenora, N.D.

1979
Chris Sarandos is the chief information officer for the Virginia Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and now lives in Chesterfield, Va.

Suzanne Hagen LePage and her husband, Roger, celebrated their 30th anniversary in August. Janet Dufek is now the associate dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

1980
Jon Kesler recently took a new position with The MITRE Corporation’s Center for Veterans Enterprise Transformation and relocated to Clancy, Mont. He and Martha are enjoying rural life on the Rocky Mountain front.

Richard “Ike” Eisenmann was elected to the board of governors of the Shriners Hospital for Children-Twin Cities. He is a member of Aad Shrine Duluth and served as Potentate in 2011, and owns Eisenmann & Associates for insurance and financial services in Superior.

Paul Mitton shared the news that former professor Dr. Don Mitton was honored by Crandall University with the International Society of Electrochemistry. He traveled to The Hague in August to receive the award. Dan is a chemistry professor at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

1981
Brian Irwin was recently awarded a U.S. patent designed to reduce human contact with carcinogens and toxic distillates in the home, environment and workplace.

Janet Dufek is now the associate dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

1982
Gregg Lundberg retired in June 2015 as the superintendent of the School District of Maple, Wis. Gregg and wife, Linda Lundgren Lundberg (Class of 1994), celebrated 41 years of marriage in January. Linda retired in June 2014 after 20 years as an elementary teacher in Solon Springs, Wis.

Richard Cochrane, an anesthesiologist, has joined Essentia Health-St. Mary’s Medical Center in Duluth.

Mark Connolly was elected president of the Superior Rotary Club for 2016-17. He is an insurance agent and the owner of Field & Connolly, Ltd., and also serves on the UW-Superior Foundation Board.

1983
George Pobuda’s pottery was included in an exhibition titled “Summer Show: Works from the Estate of Sidney and Hanna Block,” at one of Chicago’s oldest continually operated and highly respected art galleries, Printworks Gallery.

Penny Curtis is the head girls’ varsity basketball coach.
classmates

at Grantsburg High School in Grantsburg, Wis.

1984
Lee Sherman retired from the City of Milwaukee in October 2015, where he served as a senior property appraiser in the assessor’s office. In October 1997, Lee retired from the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Katie, now enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren.

Stuart Howland exhibited his artwork “Biomorphic Revelations,” at Silver Lake College in March. He is a visual arts instructor at IDEAS Academy and The Mosaic School, both charter schools in Sheboygan, Wis.

1985
Susan Eilertsen is the staff development manager for the El Paso County Department of Human Service, where she oversees the child welfare training academy for newly hired caseworkers and training for new technicians in economic assistance and adult services. Additionally, Susan is the manager for the front desk, phone console and electronic benefits card issuance. She has been with the agency for over 28 years.

John Swanberg was recently selected for promotion to the rank of Colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. John currently serves as the chief of operations in the USAR Legal Command in Gathersburg, Md.

1986
Michael VanOvermeiren is a technical applications sales specialist with IKONICS Corp.

Jori Walt was the winner of the Pre-Service Educator Mentor award, presented to an outstanding educator who has demonstrated and sustained a pattern of mentoring pre-service educators for at least five years. The award recipient is selected based on attributes such as the ability to model professional responsibility, evidentiary assessment, effective classroom management and the ability to mentor pre-service teacher candidates. Jori teaches music at Great Lakes Elementary School in Superior.

1987
Jeffrey Johnson is the director of global events-marketing for Cirrus Aircraft. He and wife, Susan Fechtelkotter Johnson (Class of 1986), moved from Poplar, Wis., to Knoxville, Tenn., in July to work at Cirrus’s new customer delivery, training and service center.

Brian Smoczyk is a senior technical writer for Boston Scientific.

1988
Liz Petroske-Sousa was inducted into the Superior High School Athletic and Academic Hall of Fame in October. Liz was a three-sport athlete (swimming, basketball and softball) at SHS and played basketball at UW-Superior where she was named MVP of the 1987-88 team.

1990
Jeff Gordon is the K-12 dean of students/middle school principal for the Bayfield School District in Bayfield, Wis.

1991
Michael Heim is a professor of Natural Sciences at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College near Hayward, Wis., and leads natural history field trips for the public through the extension program at the college. A series of his photos were published in the winter issue of The Rock Garden Quarterly, a publication of the North American Rock Garden Society.

Ann Marie Mershon released a memoir of her years teaching at private prep schools in Istanbul titled, “You must only to love them, Lessons Learned in Turkey.” Ann Marie writes every day, but always finds time for hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, skiing or snowshoeing in the Grand Marais wilderness she calls home.

1994
Joe Starilha founded Propane Strategies, LLC in 2015. He is the former co-president and chief financial officer of Como Oil and Propane.

Julie Moravchik is now the news director at WGBA/NBC26 in Green Bay. Throughout her career, she has won 48 journalism awards, including six Emmys.

1995
Tanya Wick Milanowski is still enjoying her position as school psychologist for the St. Croix Falls School District, and recently bought a new home in Balsam Lake, Wis.

Aaron Cole and his wife, Sahaya, celebrated the birth of their first child, son Lucian Sahaya, celebrated the birth of their first child, son Lucian, in April 2014.

1999
Angela Dahlberg Gran was promoted to director of finance at Mercy Hospital in Moose Lake, Minn. Her husband, Isaac Gran (Class of 2000), is maintenance supervisor for Safe Transitions, based in Barnum, Minn.

2000
Amy Brown is a social worker with Counseling Service of Addison County, and lives in Middlebury, Vt.
2001
Wayne Whitmore defended his dissertation in April. He received his master’s degree from UW-Madison and his Ed.D. at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Jeremy Egnash is now the chief financial officer at National Bank of Commerce in Superior.

Dave Antonson was promoted to assurance senior manager with McGladrey LLP.

2003
Melissa Oja was named dean of students of grades 7-12 for the School District of Hurley, Wis.

Mari Jo “MJ” Reid Cooper and her husband, Cory, welcomed a son, Reid Joseph, on February 27, 2015. He joined big sister, Finley. The family resides in Lake Geneva, Wis. MJ has been teaching kindergarten at Union Grove Elementary School for over 12 years.

Cassie Evenson Carey is the head women’s basketball coach at Central Lakes College in Brainard, Minn.

Catherine Pulikinen was appointed to the Council for Exceptional Children’s (CEC) Diversity committee, as well as the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)

2004
Jeffrey Finstad is now the principal of McFarland High School in McFarland, Wis.

Terry Fawcett is the head football coach at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Minn.

2005
Heidi Jaros St. John is a program associate with the Northland Foundation in Duluth.

Leah Gregorich Kirschbaum joined the commercial lines team of Otis-Majie Insurance Agency Inc., in July as a customer service representative/account manager.

2006
Melissa Burlaga is now a media marketing specialist at St. Luke’s in Duluth.

Courtney Johnson Aluni is the office manager for her sister Whitney Cobby’s dental practice in Gilbert, Minn. Courtney lives in Virginia, Minn., with her husband, Casey, and their two daughters, Aubri and Emmi.

2007
Jamie Lee earned her Ph.D. in May 2015, and is an assistant professor of digital culture, information, and society in the School of Information at the University of Arizona.

2008
Eric Bottolfsen is now the regional director of sales for MassMutual’s disability and long-term care product lines, and is managing the sales and distribution in eight western states.

Katie Bergstrom Sorensen is a physician assistant with specialty in neurology at St. Luke’s, and is a fellow member of the American Association of Neurology.

2009
Whitney Johnson Cobby opened a private dental practice, Northern Lights Dental Care, in May 2015, in Gilbert, Minn., and employs nine individuals. She and her husband, Ryan Cobby (Class of 2009), live in Virginia, Minn. They have a daughter, Harper, and welcomed their second child in August. Ryan is currently selling real estate for Culbert Realty, and coaching the Virginia Blue Devils hockey team.

Mike Sullivan successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, where he also received his master’s degree in July 2012.

Justin Terch was named director of human resources at Duluth Edison Charter Schools.

Kelsey Lesny Olin graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a master’s degree in counseling.
Amada Graumann married Matt Weberg (Class of 2008) in August 2014, on the North Shore. Matt is the Assistant Fisheries Supervisor at the Grand Marais DNR office, after completing a master’s degree in fisheries at Virginia Tech. Amanda is preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Cook County.

2010 Cassandra Sanford is a manager at Dolly Parton’s Dixie Stampede in Branson, Mo.

Michael Dudero and his wife, Charlene, welcomed a son, Henry, on October 4, 2015.


Meaghan Vaughan is a senior characterization specialist with Stericycle.

2011 Ryan Hebert is a graduate fellow with Housing Action Illinois through the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development at Illinois State University, and lives in Chicago.

Kurt Zeman is a system administrator with Camber Corporation, and lives in Georgetown, Texas.

Joshua Weir graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School, and received an appointment as an assistant attorney general for the State of Washington. He works in Olympia, where he represents the state’s sexually violent predator program.

Kevin Johnson is a computer technician with discoverpc.net Computer Solutions Center in Superior.

Beth Gucinski married Jordan Sobczak (Class of 2015) on July 18, 2015, in Superior.

2012 Emily Kelly received the award for Outstanding Early Career Educator. The award is presented to an educator within the first three years of her/his professional career based on their positive impact on schools and communities, innovation in designing learning experiences and advocacy for their students. Emily is an English teacher at Superior Senior High School.

Zack Hoy is a business loan officer with The Entrepreneur Fund in Duluth.

Emily Borra is the advisement and registration/new student initiatives coordinator for the University of Minnesota Duluth’s Office for Students in Transition.

Matthew Warren achieved certification by the Credit Union National Association as a Credit Union Business Lending Professional. He is a commercial credit analyst with Superior Choice Credit Union.

Jana Farris married Cory Houglum on May 21.

Debora Bitencourt da Rocha is an information specialist with the Kodiak Island Borough School District in Alaska.

Holly Visger Breeden is an IRIS Consultant with TMG and lives in Superior.

Dustin Behlke married Sarah Hrudka on September 19, 2015, in Spooner, Wis. Dustin is an employment specialist for Mankato Rehabilitation Center Inc., in Shakopee, Minn.

Ashley Hammer-Paakkonen is a teacher at Hudson Middle School. She and husband, Sam Paakkonen (Class of 2012), live in River Falls, Wis.

2013 Kate Klinzing married Evan Erickson on July 9 in Solon Springs, Wis.

Alison Kilpo was featured in the April issue of The Woman Today for her work at Udac in Duluth as the Art Junction coordinator. She assists adults experiencing physical and intellectual disabilities through art wellness, open studio and individual lessons.

Craig Luedtke is a digital marketing adviser with 3five in Duluth.

Michael Schultz is a graduate student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a master’s of science degree in student affairs administration in May, and is the career services mentor advisor at Western Technical College.

Patrick Lilja is a sports announcer and camera operator for PSB Media, a Twin Cities-based web stream company, primarily working high school football and hockey games in the Twin Cities area.

2014 Tyler LaRose is teaching high school Spanish, as well as coaching varsity volleyball and baseball in Ellsworth, Wis.

Ryan Stumne recently bought a home, and was hired as a SLD/reading special education teacher for Pine City Jr./Sr. High School in Minnesota. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in special education.

Kevin Jenkins graduated from Purdue University with a master’s degree in communication in May. He works for Enbridge and lives in Katy, Texas.
Josh Kneeland is an officer for the Superior Police Department. Previously, Josh worked for the Duluth Police Department as a park ranger, a community service position.

Chase Parask is a system control operator/OIT with American Transmission Co.

Emily Larsen and Jody Geissler (Class of 2013), were married on February 14, 2015, in Duluth. Emily is a science teacher and Jody is a social studies teacher, both at Superior Middle School.

Miranda Sve is an HR assistant working in the UW-Superior human resources department. Her role consists of office management and assistance to the payroll and benefits process.

2015
Mack Peters is a volunteer specialist with Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines in Duluth.

Andrea Lynn Hicks married Aaron Leslie on October 3, 2015.

Jacob Braaten is a research and development chemist with IKONICS Corp.

Leah Karna wed Jari Mackie on August 29, 2015, in Superior.

Sarah Wargin is teaching English to Japanese children ages 3-14 at WinBe English School in Japan. This has been a dream of hers for many years, and she is excited to be immersed in a new culture.

Caleb Burch and Allie Nelson (Class of 2016), were married on July 9 in Eau Claire, Wis.

Kristina Wood is an employment recruiter with Remedy Intelligent Staffing, and lives in Wausau, Wis.

Maija Edwards married Jordan Sauter on September 30, and lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Kang Her is a section 8 tech with the St. Paul Public Housing Agency.

Brian Martin is the director of public relations for the American Automobile Association (AAA) national office in Heathrow, Fla.

2016
Cody Chaffee is a forecasting analyst-chain logistics with Gordon Food Service, and lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., with wife, Melissa Barsamian Chaffee (Class of 2015).

Joseph Collins was sworn into the Superior Police Department in May. He interned with the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office and the Superior Police Department.

Moira Villiard is the cultural program coordinator for the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) in Duluth. She also had her first solo art exhibition at the Zeitgeist Arts Center in June.

Crystal Jarve Loree is a staff accountant/tax professional with Serenity Tax and Bookkeeping Services in Duluth.

Bettina Peters is the local project manager for the Good News Project, a non-profit organization based in Wausau, Wis.

Linda Hill teaches language arts at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Park Falls, Wis.

Robby Allen Steltz is attending graduate school at Augsburg College in Minneapolis to pursue an MFA in playwriting. He has written plays and musicals, and has choreographed several numbers.

Ashley Kienitz (Class of 2012), pictured with her father, Paul Kienitz (Class of 1979), married Zachary Deering in Davie, Fla., on May 21.

Jenny Johnson (Class of 2009) married Mitch Apriesnig on October 10, 2015, in Duluth. Jenny lives in Laramie, Wyo., and is currently finishing her Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics at Colorado State University. Her research is focused on Great Lakes fisheries issues, including invasive species and fishery management. Jenny is passionate about teaching and hopes to find a position at a university near the Twin Ports where she can continue her research. Pictured from left to right: Shawn Mjelde Wisniowski (Class of 2009), Meagan Campbell Avery (Class of 2009), Dr. Bob Beam, Retired UW-Superior faculty, and Jenny.
Ethel Wiles Schelin (1933), Alborn, Minn., October 31, 2015
Mildred Seyler Ward (1938), Superior, Wis., August 26, 2016
Ruth Kovitz Ellin (1940), Chicago, Ill., April 4, 2016
Phyllis Kischel McCusker (1942), Verona, Wis.,
December 18, 2015
Harold Hanson (1942), Gainesville, Fla., April 7, 2016
Ruth Bodin (1951), Maplewood, Minn., October 5, 2014
Jon Nelson (1952), White Bear Lake, Minn., May 4, 2016
Velvie Finn (1953), Marinette, Wis., October 20, 2015
James Craft (1959), Sioux Falls, S.D., July 4, 2016
Shirley Davis Wallace (1959), Dayton, Wyo., March 25, 2016
Elizabeth Rookey Schultz (1959), Lakeland, Fla., June 15, 2016
James Sheridan (1961), Saxeville, Wis., January 20, 2016
Sally Jewson (1962), Superior, Wis., December 29, 2015
Stanley Ladich (1963), Lake Nebagamon, Wis., September 22, 2015
John Hagfeldt (1964), Superior, Wis., December 14, 2015
Richard Coda (1965), Maple, Wis., September 21, 2015
John McLennan (1965), Duluth, Minn., October 21, 2015
Deslove Zakula (1965), Duluth, Minn., August 18, 2016
Janet Mujwid (1966), Rice Lake, Wis., March 21, 2016
Joyce Klugow (1967), Brule, Wis., February 17, 2016
Herbert Sosinsky (1968), Tomahawk, Wis., July 28, 2014
Lawrence Neste (1968), Springbrook, Wis., August 13, 2016
Linda Hoff Granstrom Oberstar (1968), Verona, Wis.,
October 4, 2015
Marie Lenfestey (1968), Edmond, Okla., November 6, 2015
Helen King (1968), Phillips, Wis., December 17, 2015
Mark Johnson (1969), Bayfield, Wis., November 21, 2015
Ruby Lundgren Baker (1969), Bruce, Wis., February 29, 2016
Gary Arseneau (1969), Madison, Wis., April 1, 2016
David Sedin (1971), Duluth, Minn., January 1, 2016
Leo Goldapske (1971), Sun Prairie, Wis., November 20, 2014
Virginia Christianson Hart (1971), Superior, Wis.,
November 26, 2015
Donald Schow (1971), Cloquet, Minn., March 1, 2016
Elizabeth Smith Jewell (1972), Superior, Wis.,
December 13, 2015
Franklin Klawiter (1972), Phillips, Wis., January 13, 2016
Chauncey Riggs (1972), Duluth, Minn., March 16, 2016
Kathleen Markon (1972), Superior, Wis., March 20, 2016
Mary McGill (1972), Duluth, Minn., March 28, 2016
Laura West (1973), Superior, Wis., May 25, 2016
David Smith (1975), Superior, Wis., August 15, 2016
Dennis Vanderport (1976), Superior, Wis., December 25, 2015
William Doucette (1978), Duluth, Minn., March 18, 2016
Julie Kildahl Grube (1978), Poplar, Wis., July 6, 2016
Laura Heytens (1979), Superior, Wis., December 26, 2015
Catherine Charmelo Coletta (1979), Lake Nebagamon, Wis.,
April 25, 2016
Carolyn Stucky Glibbery (1983), Duluth, Minn.,
January 29, 2016
Edwin Olson (1984), River Falls, Wis., June 19, 2015
Robert Fox (1986), Pine Island, Minn., October 11, 2014
Robert Parsons (1987), Poplar, Wis., November 18, 2015
Joyce Pelletier Peterson (1987), Sturgeon Lake, Minn.,
May 31, 2016
Esther Ackos Winthrop (1988), Saint Paul, Minn.,
September 20, 2016
John Hanson (1989), Corvallis, Ore., December 8, 2015
Thomas Slattengren (1989), Hartland, Wis., March 31, 2016
Kathleen Connolly Edquist (1992), Superior, Wis.,
December 7, 2015
Sandra Petron (1993), Duluth, Minn., September 18, 2015
Cynthia Ruhnke Stauber (1999), Pike Lake, Minn.,
September 16, 2015
Mary Pillepich Lemke (1999), Duluth, Minn., April 23, 2016
Betsy Peterson (2015), Duluth, Minn., December 13, 2015
**Gladyce Nahbenayash (Iikwe wiidoog)** passed away on December 29, 2015. She taught American Indian Studies at UW-Superior from 1991 until her retirement in 2007. Gladyce was a member of the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Lake Superior Band of Chippewa. She was a published poet and was very involved with Native American ceremonies.

**William “Bill” Morgan III** passed away on Jan. 9, 2016, in Superior. A long time and distinguished member of the faculty and supremely talented painter, he started his service at UW-Superior in 1965 in the Department of Visual Arts. He became an assistant professor in 1967, and was promoted to associate professor in 1972. In 1978 he became full-professor, which was the position he held until his retirement as emeritus professor on March 4, 2014. He served as the faculty marshal at graduation for many years, and was respected and admired by faculty, staff and students alike.

**Patrick Quinn (Class of 1964)** passed away on April 23, 2016, in St. Cloud, Minn. He earned his bachelor’s degree at UW-Superior, majoring in Business Administration and English. He also served in the United States Navy, both in active duty and in the reserves for 30 years, and retired with the rank of captain. Dr. Quinn taught finance for 30 years, and retired from UW-Superior in 2000 with emeritus status. During his time at the university, he had also served as department chair and dean.

**Paul Kending (Class of 1956)** passed away on May 16, 2016, in Minong, Wis. As a student, he worked with Dr. O. Gayle Manion and others to produce programs which were broadcast on Twin Ports radio stations. He later returned to UW-Superior, and became an instructor in the department of Speech-Drama-Radio-TV-Film. Paul was active in the early programming of WSSU/KUWS Radio, the development of closed circuit television on campus, and the establishment of a studio. In 1970, he was appointed director of Instructional Media Services and he continued teaching in the newly named Department of Communicating Arts, where he later served as chair. In the late 1970s, Paul became part of the newly created Center for Continuing Education and the Extended Degree Program, now known as the Distance Learning Center. He retired in 1994 and earned emeritus status.

**Orvin Clark (Class of 1966)** passed away on May 16, 2016, in Bayfield, Wis. He grew up in Superior, and was inducted into the Superior Hall of Fame for boxing and football. As a student, he was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity. Dr. Clark’s career consisted of 49 years in education as a school business manager, assistant superintendent (business and administration in Wisconsin and Illinois), and a professor of Educational Leadership and Educational Administration. He began teaching at UW-Superior in 2000, and upon his retirement in 2015 he was awarded the status of professor emeritus. He also served as a member of the UW-Superior Foundation for nine years and the Athletic Hall of Fame committee for seven years.

**John Kotter** passed away on June 16, 2016, in Duluth, Minn. A lifelong Superior resident, he was a 1957 graduate of Superior Central High School. He retired from grounds maintenance at UW-Superior after 32 years.

**Michelle Vinoski (Class of 2004)** passed away on August 25, 2016, in Duluth. Michelle started her career teaching in Green Bay, Wis., and was later a middle school math teacher and assistant principal at Cathedral School in Superior. Throughout her teaching career, coaching was her way of bringing her love of sports to her students, and she was an invaluable volunteer and referee at the annual Tony G 3-on-3 Memorial Basketball Tournament. When she passed away, Michelle was the academic coordinator of the McNair Scholars Program at UW-Superior.

**UW-Superior will miss the faculty, staff and alumni who passed away this year**
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If this issue is addressed to an individual who no longer uses this as a permanent address, please notify the Alumni Office at UW-Superior of the correct mailing address – 715-394-8452 or alumni@uwsuper.edu.