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Dear Friends of UW-Superior,

There’s always feelings of excitement with each new academic year, but this year is even more meaningful. This academic year marks the University of Wisconsin-Superior’s 125th anniversary — our quasquicentennial. It’s at this time that I’m reminded of a story that former provost, the late John Haugland, shared with me about how the Superior Normal School (the precursor to UW-Superior) came to be.

The State of Wisconsin wanted to build two normal schools: One at the central location of Stevens Point, with the other location yet to be determined. Many cities throughout the state clamored to be selected as the location for the other normal school, including Ashland, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Neillsville and, of course, Superior.

This was not a friendly competition, with many counting Superior out. The Ashland Daily News said Superior “lacked the culture that should characterize the seat of an institution of learning.” Other objections were heard by the Board of Regents against Superior, including that the “moral tone of the city was poor.”

The City of Superior fought back, and, not only raised the funds necessary for the application, but were tireless in seeking support. In the end, the decision came down to La Crosse and Superior. Enter Regent Ostrander, who was from River Falls, but had an affinity for Superior. He arranged to have Senator Fisher, who he believed would not vote in favor of Superior, taken out for a trip away from the capitol and be kept away until after the vote. Superior won the vote over La Crosse, 15-14 and, in 1893, the Superior Normal School was born.

The guts and tenacity marked by our founding is a hallmark of who we are. We are the hub of arts and culture in the city. As the celebration of our quasquicentennial unfolds, we look forward with much anticipation to the next chapter in the life of UW-Superior. I thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our joint efforts to ensure the university’s strong future.

Renée M. Wachter
Chancellor
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Superior Alumni is published annually for alumni and friends of the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

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ith a host of events planned throughout this year, it’s a great opportunity to see how far UW-Superior has come and explore the ways it will continue to serve the community.

Through the Years

Founded in 1893, the campus first opened its doors in 1896 as the Superior Normal School. Established by the Wisconsin Legislature, Normal Schools were state-run institutions that trained elementary and secondary school teachers to meet the educational needs of small towns and rural school districts in Northwestern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

The original building included labs, classrooms and a working elementary school for the teachers in training. At the time, requirements for enrolling in a normal school included being at least 16 years old and having completed the 8th grade. Tuition was $3 per month and the average professor made $1,000 a year – the same salary paid to the custodian.

Sadly, on the night of March 17, 1914, an electrical fault sparked a fire that consumed the stately building. While no lives were lost, the facility was a complete loss with all books, records, documents and furniture destroyed. Amazingly, not a single day of school was missed and for the next year and a half, classes were held around the City of Superior while a new building was being constructed. Now known as Old Main, the new Superior Normal School reopened on campus in 1916.

There’s so much to look forward to in the coming months at UW-Superior as the university celebrates its 125th anniversary this academic year. Festivities started in July with a kickoff celebration and have continued on to our recent All-Class Reunion – a weekend filled with fun and fellowship.

With a host of events planned throughout this year, it’s a great opportunity to see how far UW-Superior has come and explore the ways it will continue to serve the community.

Even Better With Age

UW-Superior Celebrates 125th Anniversary
At the onset of WWII, many students left to enlist in the armed forces including Jim Dan Hill, the president of Wisconsin State Teachers College, as the institution was known then. Hill was granted a leave of absence to serve in the U.S. Army as a colonel with the 125th Field Artillery. The students’ departure was offset by the arrival of college training detachments – army air corps cadets prepping to become officers, which included Richard Ira Bong, one of the Flying Aces of WWII.

The post war years brought both physical and academic growth to the campus. The "Wisconsin Idea" of a well-rounded liberal arts education was adopted. In 1951 the institution’s name was changed to Wisconsin State College Superior to better reflect its expanded mission. Wisconsin State Colleges were eventually reclassified as universities, so in 1964 the school was renamed Wisconsin State University Superior. Finally, in 1971 it became part of the University of Wisconsin System and acquired its present name.

The university broadened its focus to include research with the founding of the Lake Superior Research Institute followed by the Transportation and Logistics Research Center and the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute.

The 1970s saw the addition of the Holden Fine and Applied Arts Center and a south campus site was purchased where residence halls and Siinto S. Wessman Arena were built.

continued
The 21st Century heralded a new phase of construction on campus. The Marcovich Wellness Center was completed in 2003, Jim Dan Hill Library was remodeled in 2009, and the Yellowjacket Union opened in 2010. Swenson Hall welcomed its first classes in the fall of 2011, and in 2013 a link was built between Ross and Hawkes Residence Halls.

A Bright New Future

UWS continues to build on its liberal arts legacy, evolving to meet the needs of the region and the world.

As an active member of the Superior community, UWS has the ability to work with businesses and organizations of any size. With an array of resources including four research centers, expert faculty and staff members, and students eager to put what they’ve learned in the classroom into action, there are few situations UWS is unable to assist.

Yet, for those unfamiliar with the internal workings of the university, finding the correct contact may seem daunting.

That’s a challenge the new Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) hopes to solve. The center serves as a central
point of access for the public to leverage expertise at the university, a catalyst for civic engagement and a connector for Academic Service-Learning opportunities. CCEL, in consultation with several community members, is in the process of developing a Civic Action Plan that will serve as a guide, with goals and action steps, for UWS to realize its community engagement priorities for all of campus.

Look for these positive changes to not only impact the university, but the community as well. It’s an exciting time to be a Yellowjacket. For more information about our 125th anniversary, visit uwsuper.edu/125.

1. In 2010 the Yellowjacket Union replaced the Rothwell Student Center to become the vibrant center of student life on campus.

2. Jim and Sue Swenson socialize with the Swenson Scholars at the annual dinner.

3. The Lake Superior Research Institute celebrated 50 years in 2017 with a free conference open to the public featuring keynote speaker Alexandra Cousteau.

4. Swenson Hall opened in fall 2011 and has 21 classrooms, a lecture hall, faculty offices and offices for student services.

5. This fall, UW-Superior held a dedication ceremony on Indigenous People’s Day, Monday, Oct. 8, for the Maawanji’idiwin – “The Place Where We Come Together” Medicine Wheel and Community Gathering Area.

6. Designated in 2010 in partnership with UW-Superior, the Lake Superior Reserve became part of the larger National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

7. The Twin Ports experienced one of the worst floods on record in 2012. The Jim Dan Hill Library had nearly six feet of water in the lower level.
UW-Superior Celebrates Graduates at Spring Commencement

UW-Superior conducted its commencement on Saturday, May 19, at Siinto S. Wessman Arena with Chancellor Renée Wachter presenting diplomas to more than 540 students who earned associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Among those graduates was Philip Benkert, who at the age of 72 received a Bachelor of Science degree. Benkert’s original enrollment during the 1960s at UWS was cut short when he was deployed to Vietnam.

“I’ll never forget opening that email from [Natural Sciences Department Professor] Dr. Schmude,” Benkert recalled. “He said my final paper was extremely well-prepared showing lots of effort, that it would be an excellent resource for other students to use, and it was highly deserving of an ‘A.’ I was so relieved! It felt good to do it not only for myself, but also for my parents, who have now passed. They invested so much in my education and I know they’d be proud.”

Hailey Kontny didn’t originally plan on attending UWS. But after one year at the University of Minnesota Duluth, the Superior native returned to her hometown.

“UWS felt like a family from day one,” said the basketball standout for the Yellowjackets. “I was welcomed warmly by teammates, classmates, and everyone I met. My professors knew me by name – I wasn’t just a number. This school gave me the opportunity to grow not only as an athlete and student, but as a person.”

For Maryelle Nyeck, graduation day meant overcoming a challenge that began with not even knowing English. Nyeck grew up in Cameroon, Africa, where the native language is French. After earning her high school diploma, she decided to embark on an adventure sparked by her aunt and five cousins, all of whom are UWS alumni. They told her about their experiences at the university, and though she’d never visited the campus and didn’t speak a word of English, she knew it was the place for her. A Chemistry major, Nyeck was accepted to graduate school at Alabama State University.

The student speaker was Jessica Buelow, a Bachelor of Arts degree graduate with Magna Cum Laude honors. A Biology major with minors in Chemistry and Spanish, Buelow came to UWS and quickly became an active member on campus. She served as a Campus Ambassador assisting with campus tours, representing the university at campus events and assisting in the Admissions Office. Beginning in 2015, Buelow became a First Year Experience Peer Leader leading groups of students during the Weekend of Welcome freshman orientation.

The Chancellor’s Leadership Award was presented to Rachel Bursik, a double major in Math Secondary Education and English Secondary Education; Victoria Greer, an English Education major with an Individually Designed major in Spanish Secondary Education; and D’Andre Robinson, a double major in Sociology and Communications – Digital Cinema Track. This award is given to members of the graduating class who are committed to personal growth and have made a positive contribution to their peers, campus and community.

For more highlights of commencement, visit UW-Superior’s YouTube channel at uwsuper.edu/spring18.
Every single one of you sitting here in front of me, and up in the stands; you are intelligent, you are powerful, you are more important than you will ever realize.

– Jessica Buelow
class of 2018 student speaker
The intelligence and complex social structure of honey bees is extraordinary. These tiny creatures have a sense of smell 300-times stronger than a dog. They fly up to three miles from the hive to collect pollen and nectar, remembering the scent of the flower they visited and the route they took. They communicate this information to other bees in the hive through a complex set of motions, called a “waggle” dance. These remarkable attributes and many others make research possibilities virtually unlimited and critically important, given the bees’ decline.

Undergraduate students are afforded graduate-level research opportunities with the honey bees under the guidance of Burkett. Students are investigating the use of honey bees as a way to monitor climate change, to determine the influence of pesticides on bees’ ability to learn and remember, and even to detect the presence of breast cancer.
“Our students are conducting research that is comparable to graduate-level initiatives at larger institutions,” said Burkett. “Students are encouraged to propose their own research topics rather than just what we assign them, which increases their preparation for graduate school. We get to know our students personally and focus on helping them attain their education and career goals.”

STUDENT RESEARCH SOARS WITH BEES

Uday Patel (’19 Biology major, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) minor) approached Burkett with an interest in determining if bees could be used as a means to monitor global climate change.

“I wanted to see if bees could be used as an indicator of global warming,” said Uday. “I thought it would be the perfect way to combine my interest in Biology and GIS. But, Doc Bee helped me realize my topic was too broad to complete while I am a student here, so he helped me refine my research scope to a more manageable size.”

Uday spent the summer collecting pollen samples from bees, analyzing them under a microscope, and plotting them on a GIS map to identify the plants they were foraging on and their location. The database and map he is creating will form a basis to monitor phenology, the study of plant life cycles and how they are influenced by climate change.

Future students will continue Uday’s work to answer the research question he originally posed. In the meantime, his work will enable the Urban Honey Bee Program to inform area homeowners about what plants are important for honey bee health and hopefully encourage them to plant more.

Another student, Annika Saari is continuing a research study started by Jessica Buelow, who graduated this spring. Jessica first posed the idea of training bees to respond when exposed to the odor of breast cancer cells to Burkett. He then helped her formulate a training method for the bees. By giving them a reward – a small drop of sugar water – the bees learn to stick out their proboscis, which is like a tongue, when they ‘smell’ cancer cells. In the future, Burkett and his students hope their work will show that bees can be used to detect breast cancer in a manner that may be less invasive and costly.

In addition to biology and ecology-related education opportunities, students who take the honey bee biology course also learn beekeeping skills that they can use throughout their life as a hobby or for employment and entrepreneurial ventures.

For all of these reasons, honey bees have become welcome residents on campus. Students hope their work will help preserve these important creatures and ensure that they will be enjoyed by generations to come.

*abfnet.org/page/PollinatorFacts
THE PRUITT CENTER FOR MINDFULNESS AND WELL-BEING BRINGS A NEW COMMITMENT TO CAMPUS

“...This is so phenomenal to see where they have come in such a short amount of time and the passion and the enthusiasm that they have for this concept.”

– Becky Pruitt
The world has become more complex and stressful and it’s taking its toll on our well-being. One example is how our sense of time has been distorted. It has fractured increasingly into smaller and smaller bits as technology has led to multi-tasking, 24-hour news, and a constant state of communication and feedback via social media. Researchers have noted a corresponding and substantial rise in stress levels and mental health issues among all age groups. But there is hope.

Neuroscience has demonstrated that techniques related to increasing psychological well-being such as practicing gratitude, kindness, and focusing on the moment at hand via mindfulness can significantly reduce stress, depression, and anxiety and increase resilience and the ability to cope. Time Magazine even had an issue devoted to The Mindful Revolution in February of 2014. The power of these practices to help communities and students K-16 who are challenged is why UW-Superior has made the commitment to advancing them a priority.

Becky (Black) and Doug Pruitt first brought the mindfulness and well-being research and concept to the attention of Chancellor Renée Wachter and Vice Chancellor for Advancement Jeanne Thompson back in 2014. Becky, a 1965 alumna, has been involved with mindfulness and well-being practices her entire adult life. She serves on advisory boards for the Greater Good Science Center at UC-Berkeley and the Center for Mindfulness, Compassion and Resiliency at Arizona State University.

“One of my greatest joys as Chancellor is getting to know our wonderful alumni, learning about their passions and interests, and hearing how their UW-Superior education has made an impact in their lives,” said Chancellor Wachter. “Becky, and her husband Doug, are true believers in the wonderful research and education being conducted at UC-Berkeley and ASU. It wasn’t long before we were all sitting with the Greater Good Science Center folks in California to learn more.”

Over the next two summers, nine faculty and staff members attended the Greater Good Summer Institute at UC-Berkeley, with funding provided by Becky and Doug. Upon returning to campus, the Well-Being Working Group (as they called themselves), began implementing best practices on campus with students, faculty and staff. From Mindfulness Mondays, Gratitude Tuesdays, Walk & Talk Wednesdays, Thoughtful Thursdays, and Fully Charged Fridays, their efforts were well received. The idea of bringing this research, education and practices to a broader audience was met with great enthusiasm and brought about many “what could be” discussions.

Through a very generous gift to the UW-Superior Foundation, the “what could be” has come to fruition. The Becky and Doug Pruitt Center for Mindfulness and Well-Being opened its doors in August and will utilize a multi-dimensional framework that recognizes a diverse population in the surrounding region and on the campus.

Interim Director Randy Barker, a 2015 Summer Institute attendee who has a strong professional background in counseling, is leading the Pruitt Center. Its opening event was a free day-long workshop devoted to infusing well-being techniques into educational settings and was open to K-12 educators in the region and at the university. Led by Dr. Vicki Zakrzewski from The Greater Good Science Center at UC-Berkeley, The Science of a Meaningful Life Workshop attracted over 150 participants from five area school districts and the university.

“Educating our area educators and our campus community has been a part of the mission of the Pruitt Center since it was first talked about. It ties to the university’s commitment to our campus community, as well as building stronger partnerships within our region,” said Barker. “Addressing subjects like mindfulness, emotional intelligence, gratitude, compassion, sleep and exercise all lead to a more meaningful life for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.”

Following the conference was a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. “We thank all of you who are involved, and we thank you for spreading this very important work,” said Becky Pruitt. “We are overjoyed – it is our joy, our pleasure, and our privilege to get behind this idea and this center.”

In September and October, the Pruitt Center hosted an eight-week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction course on campus in collaboration with Essentia Health. This course was based on the highly successful program established in 1979 by Jon Kabat-Zinn at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, and is offered worldwide. Those who complete the course report one or more of the following: lasting improvements in physical and psychological symptoms, increased ability to stay calm and to think more clearly, increased self-awareness and self-confidence, greater energy and enthusiasm for life, reduction in pain levels, and the ability to cope more effectively with stress.

Most recently, the Pruitt Center has begun working collaboratively with local schools in Superior and Duluth to identify ways of promoting and enhancing the well-being of their staff and students.

The Pruitt Center for Mindfulness and Well-Being is located on the third floor of Swenson Hall.
Pamela Adie’s (’06) work as an LGBTQ+ activist earned her an invitation to the Obama Foundation Leaders: Africa Program and a place on Nigeria’s 100 Most Inspiring Women list.

“For most of 2011, I suffered from depression. It was the lowest point of my whole life. I was still married to my ex-husband, but I was living at odds with who I really am. Finally, I decided it was time to come out, so that my ex-husband could live the life he wanted and deserved and I could be free to be who I was created to be.”

These are the words of Pamela Adie, (’06), and they mark the moment her life as an ‘accidental activist’ began.

“Many people in Nigeria think homosexuality is a disease that needs to be cured. In fact, my mom insisted I was under spiritual attack and went to speak with a prophetess,” she said. “She even brought some concoction home for me to drink so I could be ‘healed’. To tell you the truth, we had a lot of verbal clashes and finally she asked me to leave. We didn’t speak for a long time. I also lost a lot of friends.”

But, despite the difficulties she faced, Pamela began to share her thoughts and experiences publicly on social media, never expecting anything more than a personal outlet to come of it, but people began to take notice.
“I discovered a whole new world of people like me and quickly developed a following,” she said.

“But, when I returned to Nigeria in 2014, I realized the only stories about LGBTQ+ people in the public space were negative — things that portrayed us as people to be feared. So, I thought the only way to change that was to add to it.”

Finding Her Life’s Work

With that goal in mind, Pamela left her job in public relations at Exxon-Mobil in Nigeria to become a senior campaigns manager for All Out, one of the largest LGBTQ+ rights organizations in the world.

Pamela loved the job, but discovered she wanted to focus on her home country of Nigeria, where she said most gay rights organizations were focused on gay men and AIDS prevention, and weren’t paying much attention to lesbian, bisexual and queer women.

With undying optimism and determination, she started her own nonprofit organization — The Equality Hub — to advance the rights of female sexual minorities in Nigeria.

A Leading Lady

Pamela’s optimistic, bridge-building approach, combined with her wit and playful demeanor, garnered widespread attention, and she quickly became one of the world’s leading activists. In 2017, she was invited to speak at the World Economic Forum and in 2018 she was named one of the “100 Most Inspiring Women in Nigeria” by Leading Ladies Africa, a non-profit aimed at developing and equipping African women for leadership roles. Recently, she was also named to the Awesome 50 Annual List of Inspirational LGBTQI Africans.

Pamela said the biggest honor of her life came this year when she received an invitation to participate in the Obama Foundation Leaders: Africa program. The year-long program aims to inspire, connect and empower emerging leaders from Africa.

“1 couldn’t believe it! I had to turn my phone off and back on when I got the message, just to make sure I wasn’t dreaming,” she said. “Over 10,000 people applied to participate and only 200 were chosen.”

Enriched by Liberal Arts

Pamela said her experience at the UW-Superior helped prepare her for her role as co-founder and Chief Servant/Executive Director at The Equality Hub.

“My time at UWS was really enriching,” she said. “I loved that it was a liberal arts college that gave me exposure to a lot of different things and broadened my horizons.

“I also loved UWS because it was very diverse and there were people there from all parts of the world. There was never a time I felt out of place or unwelcome. My brother and cousins went there, too, and I’ve been an outspoken ambassador for UWS.

“My advice for students who identify as LGBTQ+ is to live their truth and be their authentic self. Each person brings something to this world that no one else can bring. I tell them, ‘If you don’t share your gifts with others, it’s a disservice.’

“When I came out, I looked around my country and I couldn’t find a single person to look up to or to be my inspiration,” she said. “I want to be that inspiration for others. That’s what motivates me to keep going every day.”

Pamela is producing and directing a feature-length documentary film about her life and her coming-out story, which she hopes will help change public perception towards acceptance of LGBTQ+ people in Nigeria. Visit https://bit.ly/2MfcSn0 to watch the teaser.

1970 | A LOOK BACK

UW-Superior has had a long history of working to ensure that all students feel welcomed and supported on campus. In 1970, the campus opened a Women’s Resource Center (WRC) that provided programming on women’s and gender issues for three decades. The WRC was housed in the Rothwell Student Center until it was replaced by Yellowjacket Union. Today, the Gender Equity Resource Center located in Swenson Hall collaborates with many departments and student organizations to provide programs and resources that empower students of all genders and sexual identities to have a successful college experience.
Another successful year for Yellowjacket Athletics, in the sports arena as well as away from it. This was among the most successful years in the department’s history.

**3PEATS**

Two Yellowjacket teams claimed conference championships for the third-straight year in 2017-18. The Yellowjacket women’s basketball team, paced by Hailey Kontny who earned her third-straight UMAC Player of the Year award, won the conference regular season and playoff championships for the third year in a row, qualifying the program for the NCAA tournament for the third time.

The men’s outdoor track and field team also earned its third UMAC Championship in a row, and the competition wasn’t even close, with the Yellowjackets nearly doubling the point total of the runner-up. Junior thrower C.J. Pillath earned UMAC Field Athlete of the Meet honors. Men’s cross country won their third consecutive UMAC championship after the 2018 season.

In addition to the three-peats, men’s indoor track and field team won their second straight conference championship in 2017-18.

This season has been a special one for the men’s golf team. Throughout the year, the Yellowjackets were among the top finishers in each event. A new chapter to the program was written as they won a one-hole playoff over Northwestern to claim its first-ever conference championship in program history.

With the win, the Yellowjackets earned a UMAC automatic qualifier into the NCAA Championships, also a first in the history of the program.

**INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS**

Evan Walpole became the third consecutive Yellowjacket to win the UMAC men’s cross country championship, joining previous champions Charles Corbett (2015) and Jackson Lindquist (2016). Joey Cummings also made history, becoming the first Yellowjacket to win the UMAC men’s golf championship.

**SMASHING DEBUT**

UW-Superior restarted its men’s and women’s tennis programs in 2017-18, and under the guidance of head coach Kolin Dean, both programs immediately achieved success in the UMAC. The men went 10-7 while the women were 9-10 and both earned third-place finishes in the regular season, qualifying them for the post-season tournament in their debut campaigns. Josiah Borst for the men and Alison Tollas and Emily Wald for the women earned All-UMAC honors.

**NCAA ACTION**

The men’s soccer team won its second-consecutive UMAC championship with a 3-1 win over The College of St. Scholastica. With eight student-athletes being named to the all-conference team and UMAC Coach of the Year Joe Mooney, the Yellowjackets headed to the NCAA Tournament for the second-straight year, getting its first tournament win 2-1 over Augsburg.
**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Athletics focused its cause efforts for 2017-18 on the area’s youth sports programs, raising funds to benefit six different youth organizations. Every Yellowjacket sports team hosted a game during the season where youth were admitted free, the team wore Superior High School’s Columbia blue apparel, and the ticket revenue was donated. At the end of the year, Yellowjacket Athletics was able to donate $5,000 to Club Superior Volleyball, Superior Youth Organization, Superior Amateur Hockey Association, Superior-Douglas County YMCA, Superior Basketball Association and Superior Soccer Association.

Throughout the year, Yellowjacket staff and student-athletes donated a record number of hours in community service. From evaluating senior projects at Superior High School, to soliciting food donations through Caroling for Cans, to the initiative with Special Olympics, Yellowjacket Athletics supported numerous local organizations by giving nearly 1,600 hours of community service time.

**COACHES OF THE YEAR**

Several coaches earned Coach of the Year honors in 2017-18. Paul Eberhardt (men’s golf), Kolin Dean (women’s tennis), Zach Otto-Fisher (women’s basketball) and Glen Drexler (men’s cross country, men’s indoor track and field, men’s outdoor track and field) were all honored by the UMAC. Meanwhile Dan Laughlin was named WIAC Coach of the Year in women’s hockey.

The 2018-19 season is already off to a great start with Drexler, Eberhardt, Allison DeGroot (women’s soccer), Mooney (men’s soccer) and Lynne Deadrick (volleyball) winning UMAC Coach of the Year honors.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

There were 88 student-athletes honored by either the UMAC or the WIAC (men’s and women’s hockey) for their accomplishments in the classroom in 2017-18. To be named to the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll, a student-athlete must carry a grade point average of at least 3.0. The mark is higher in the UMAC, with a student-athlete needing a 3.5 or better to achieve academic honors. Yellowjacket student-athletes earned a higher cumulative grade point average than the general student population at UW-Superior for the 11th straight year, and 13th time in the last 15 years.

**1970s | A LOOK BACK**

UW-Superior has had teams competing at the varsity level dating back to the 1890s, but it could never boast a national champion until 1976. After making its debut in the NAIA tournament in 1972, the Yellowjacket men’s hockey team needed four tries to grab glory. Mark Palmer scored the eventual game-winning goal as the Yellowjackets defeated St. Scholastica 8-5 to win the NAIA National Championship at Wessman Arena.
While the Foundation was officially established in 1949, it wasn’t until 1955 when its first charitable contribution was received. In fact, a coin toss between Dr. Jim Dan Hill (University President) and Paul Holden (a Superior business leader) decided who would “go down in history” as the very first donor to the Foundation. Even though Paul Holden won, both men wrote a check to the Foundation for $1,000 (which in 2018, is equivalent to $9,233). For the first 40 years, the primary focus of the Foundation was to raise scholarship support for students with financial need. From 2000 – 2010, the Foundation also played a major role in securing contributions for new buildings and renovations of existing buildings on campus.

Today, with new facilities in place, the Foundation and its Board of Directors are not slowing down. Scholarships are still an important funding priority, as is securing contributions for current university priorities such as undergraduate research and internships, faculty and staff development, curricular and co-curricular programs, and community outreach efforts.

Looking ahead, UW-Superior and the Foundation are counting on its loyal alumni and friends to keep this momentum going. With your help, the Foundation envisions being able to say it is providing $2 million of support annually to UW-Superior and its students. For more information on how to make a gift, please contact University Advancement at 715-394-8452 or email give2uws@uwsuper.edu.

Foundation is strong and growing

While the Foundation was officially established in 1949, it wasn’t until 1955 when its first charitable contribution was received. In fact, a coin toss between Dr. Jim Dan Hill (University President) and Paul Holden (a Superior business leader) decided who would “go down in history” as the very first donor to the Foundation. Even though Paul Holden won, both men wrote a check to the Foundation for $1,000 (which in 2018, is equivalent to $9,233). For the first 40 years, the primary focus of the Foundation was to raise scholarship support for students with financial need. From 2000 – 2010, the Foundation also played a major role in securing contributions for new buildings and renovations of existing buildings on campus.

Today, with new facilities in place, the Foundation and its Board of Directors are not slowing down. Scholarships are still an important funding priority, as is securing contributions for current university priorities such as undergraduate research and internships, faculty and staff development, curricular and co-curricular programs, and community outreach efforts.
As we pause to reflect during this 125th anniversary year, we are reminded of the generosity shown by our many alumni, friends and community members who have financially supported extraordinary opportunities for UW-Superior and its students.

Much of this financial support has come from gifts to the Superior Fund, the Foundation’s annual fund program and area of greatest need. Contributions of any size made to the Superior Fund fuel the important work of the Foundation and benefit student scholarships, curricular and co-curricular programs, undergraduate research opportunities, faculty development and so much more.

Looking toward the future, the Foundation will continue to rely on the big-heartedness of its amazing alumni and friends. Gifts to the Superior Fund today will ensure the university remains Forever Superior.

Give today to the Superior Fund

Make your gift today!

uwsuper.edu/give
715-394-8452

Mail your contribution to:
UW-Superior
Foundation Office
Old Main 237, PO Box 2000
Superior, WI 54880
Thank you to our alumni and friends who gathered in Superior during Reunion Weekend to help us celebrate 125 years!

Visit uwsuper.edu/reunion for more photos and alumni updates.

Socialize with us!

@superioralumni
@uwsuper
@uw_superior
@uwsuperior
Alumni Events

Mark your calendars, and please join us for these upcoming events!

**January 17 and 19**
Southern California Events
San Diego and Los Angeles

**January 26**
Alumni Family Event: Basketball Games
Mertz Mortorelli Gym

**April 15**
Psychology Alumni Social
Yellowjacket Union

**April 25**
An Evening of Wine & Jazz
Yellowjacket Union

**April 26**
Opening Night Reception – The Comedy of Errors
A collaboration with Wise Fool Theatre
Manion Theatre, Holden Fine and Applied Arts Center

**May 9**
Fox Valley Event
Holidays Pub & Grill
Neenah, WI

**July 19**
Yellowjacket Golf Outing
Nemadji Golf Course
Superior

Visit uwsuper.edu/reunion for more photos and alumni updates.
In 1993, during UW-Superior’s 100th year, the Alumni Association compiled a list of 100 Outstanding Alumni. Now, in honor of the 125th Anniversary celebration, an additional 25 Outstanding Alumni have been added. These remarkable individuals are being recognized for their noteworthy professional accomplishments, volunteer and charitable endeavors, and support of the University of Wisconsin-Superior’s mission and dedication to its students.

John “Little Bird” Anderson served as a tribal chair on the governing board of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band and was active in the planning of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, serving as its first president. He directed the Native American Studies programs at the University of North Dakota, The College of St. Scholastica and Mount Senario College, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2005. He also provided guidance for the UWS First Nations Center.

Sara Balbin, Visual Arts, ’75 and ’92
Sara Balbin is northern Wisconsin’s most recognized visual artist and her large steel sculptures can be seen in numerous public places in the region. In 2014, she was the first Wisconsin artist selected to receive the Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Award. Her work as an art therapist has led to the co-founding of See My Art, Inc. (SMART), a non-profit corporation supporting people with disabilities through art, where she currently serves as president.

Lt. Col. Curtis Balko, Music, ’56
Lt. Col. Curtis Balko served in the United States Air Force for 25 years, logging 4,525 hours of flying time and 132 combat missions before retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1981. His medals and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Services Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters, the USAF Commendation Medal, the USAF Combat Readiness Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and many more.

John Berchild, History and Political Science, ’65
John Berchild served with the United States Navy in Vietnam and left as Lieutenant Commander. He then earned his J.D. Degree (cum laude) from the University of Minnesota Law School and is a retired partner of the law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton in California. He was a member of the UWS-Superior Foundation Board for nine years and was president for two years. He is the current chairman of the Board of Directors for the Duluth-Superior Symphony Association.

Esther Bubley, Visual Arts
Esther Bubley attended UWS from 1937-1939. She was one of America’s most recognized freelance photographers during the early 1940s to the late 1960s. She worked with well-known photographers of the era such as Gordon Parks and Edward Steichen, who included her work in his traveling exhibition, “The Family of Man,” which is considered to be the finest project of his career. Her work appeared in magazines such as Life, Ladies Home Journal and numerous other publications.

Paul Buckley, Accounting, ’76
Paul Buckley has worked for Morgan Stanley since 1986 and is currently First Vice President, a Financial Advisor and Branch Manager. He received the Ed and Betty Kossak Service Award from the Alumni Association in 2010. He and his wife, Vikki, have also established an annual scholarship with the UW-Superior Foundation.

Rod Campbell
Rod Campbell attended UWS from 1942-1943. He was the president of Campbell Lumber for many years, and continued to work for the company even after selling the business to his employees. He was the chairman and director of National Bank of Commerce for over 30 years. He also served on the UW-Superior Foundation board for over 40 years.

Margaret Culbert, Sociology, ’70
Margaret Culbert also has a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University, National War College. She was one of the nation’s top intelligence analysts on Africa, having worked as a Defense Intelligence Officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency and the broader Department of Defense Intelligence Analytical Community. She spent the greater part of her 28-year career serving in the Pentagon, where she provided a full range of analysis support on Africa.

John de Graaf
Having attended UWS from 1967-1969, John de Graaf is an award-winning producer of more than 40 public television documentaries and films. Fifteen of his films have aired nationwide in primetime through PBS. He is the author of four books and has presented at more than 100 universities and conferences in the United States and abroad, taught filmmaking at the University of Washington and The Evergreen State College. He has also returned to UWS to lecture on filmmaking.

In 1993, during UW-Superior’s 100th year, the Alumni Association compiled a list of 100 Outstanding Alumni. Now, in honor of the 125th Anniversary celebration, an additional 25 Outstanding Alumni have been added. These remarkable individuals are being recognized for their noteworthy professional accomplishments, volunteer and charitable endeavors, and support of the University of Wisconsin-Superior’s mission and dedication to its students.
Steve DeVinck, Accounting, ’81
Steve DeVinck served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of ALLETE prior to retiring in 2017. Upon his retirement, ALLETE honored him with a substantial contribution to the UW-Superior Foundation, naming the Yellowjacket Union North Atrium the Steve DeVinck North Atrium. He served previously as president of the UW-Superior Foundation.

David DiFrancesco, Visual Arts, ’71
David DiFrancesco has worked in computer graphics at the New York Institute of Technology, Lucasfilm Computer Division and Pixar. During his time at Pixar, he was responsible for the design and development of PixarVision, the world’s first laser-based film recorder and scanner system for motion pictures. DiFrancesco has won two Scientific and Engineering Academy Awards and holds 10 patents. His résumé includes films such as Back to the Future II and III, Ghost, Toy Story, Cars, Finding Nemo and Monsters, Inc. He established the Mr. David J. DiFrancesco Fund, which supports a visiting artist program.

Mike Finn, Geology and Geography, ’67
Mike Finn is responsible for the expansion and growth of Ragstock, a company that now operates 36 stores located in nine states. He, along with his brother Jeff and sister Cindy Kanter, have endowed the William and Ruth Finn Scholarship with the UW-Superior Foundation in honor of their late parents.

Robert Jansen, Communicating Arts, ’73
Robert Jansen has been a prominent leader in the Duluth/Superior community since the early 1980s, founding the Greater North AIDS Project, the Duluth Preservation Alliance and serving on the Duluth Human Rights Commission. He was the owner of the Main Club, a gay bar in Superior from 1983-2017 and has been a member of Duluth/Superior Gay Pride for over 30 years. He has received both the Chancellor’s GLBT Advancement Commission Award and the Fabulous Farewell Community Award from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Ernest Korpela, English, ’59
Ernest Korpela served as superintendent of three Wisconsin school districts: Solon Springs, South Shore and Washburn. In 1968 he was elected to the Assembly District for Bayfield, Ashland and Price Counties for two terms where he served on the Joint Committee on Finance. At the Cooperative Education Service Agency 12 (CESA 12), he played a key role in forming the partnership between UWS, WITC, CESA 12 and the Superior Schools that resulted in the creation of NWECS ITV (interactive television) system.

Patricia Luostari, English and Communicating Arts, ’60
Patricia Luostari served for 51 years as a high school English teacher and leader of the Northwestern High School drama program, retiring in 2017. In 2010 the School District of Maple recognized her service by naming its new auditorium the Patricia Luostari Theater for the Performing Arts.

Harold (Hal) Mattson, Mathematics and Physics, ’68
Harold (Hal) Mattson has held many executive leadership positions in the fields of software development, marketing, mergers and acquisitions, and management. Currently an AARP Foundation’s Tax-Aide local coordinator for the Mission Viejo, Calif., area, he is very generous with the time he spends volunteering. At UWS he purchased the naming rights to the Archives Room when the Jim Dan Hill Library was being renovated and recently endowed a scholarship in his and his mother’s name. Mattson currently serves on the Foundation Board of Directors.

Dave Moen, Accounting and Business Administration Management, ’69
Since retirement in 2006, Dave Moen has volunteered over 1,000 hours annually. In 2000, he and his wife, Terrie, joined the Burnsville Lions Club, part of Lions Clubs International (LCI) and he was elected as a District Governor in 2007. He served six years on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (MLVF), including three years as Board Chair, and served as the chair of a $20 million fundraising effort to build a Lions Eye Institute at the University of Minnesota. He has also served on the UWS Alumni Association Board of Directors.

John Munson, History, ’75
John Munson served as the Northern Regional Manager for Wisconsin Public Radio, playing a significant role in shaping the WPR we know today. He wrote a regular column in the Superior Telegram for numerous years and chaired the Board of Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua. For 14 years he was the voice of Yellowjacket hockey, delivering play-by-play coverage, for which he received the Carl Vergamini Award in 2005.

Roger Nelson, Political Science, ’72
In 1970 while attending UWS, Roger Nelson began working for Burlington Northern Railroad (BNI), where he would hold several executive management positions. In 1996, along with two former BNI executives and equity partner Goldman Sachs, he founded North American RailNet (NAR), where he currently serves as founding Co-Chairman, President and CEO of RailNet Logistics. Nelson has served on the Foundation Board and has sponsored scholarships since 1983.
Ann Marie Novack, Elementary Education and Elementary Vocal Music, ’64
Ann Marie Novack taught in the Superior School District for 25 years, serving on the planning team for Northern Lights Elementary School. She is also a member of PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization) where she has held various offices, including president, and has been a member of a Wisconsin State PEO Committee. Novack has served on the Alumni Board of Directors since 1988, and is an emeritus member of the board. She received the Alumni Association’s President Award in 1997.

Becky Pruitt, Medical Technology and Biology, ’65
Becky Pruitt worked as a medical technologist before receiving her master’s degree in Human Science with an emphasis in Consciousness Studies and Health Psychology, and has since worked as a Certified Personal Life Coach. Volunteering at a wide-variety of organizations in the Phoenix area, she was involved with Arizona State University President’s Community Enrichment Program and its Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, the Arizona Chapter for the Department of Peace, ASU’s Center for Mindfulness and Well-Being and served on the board of the Arizona Interfaith Movement. In addition, she has served on the UWS Alumni Board and as the Arizona Alumni Chapter Leader. She and her husband Doug recently funded the UWS Pruitt Center for Mindfulness and Well-Being.

Mike Simonson, Political Science, ’05
Mike Simonson was awarded two national Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio-Television News Directors Association, as well as multiple Wisconsin Broadcaster Association, Associated Press, Northwest Broadcast News Association and Press Club of Atlantic City awards. During his long career, Simonson worked as a radio news reporter for KDAL and KQDS in Duluth, a TV news assignment editor in North Carolina and for 25 years in the WPR Superior Bureau.

Jim Swenson, Chemistry
Sue Swenson, Elementary Education ’60
After completing military service, Jim worked for several large companies in the Twin Cities area, until founding Details Inc., a producer of engineering prototype circuit boards. After graduating from UWS, Sue went on to earn a degree from California State University in Fullerton. She served for 10 years as Director of Patient Services, first at Acute Care Hospital and then at Rehabilitation Nursing Home. Jim and Sue established the Swenson Family Foundation, supporting many charitable organizations, including the UW-Superior Foundation. They funded the naming rights to Swenson Hall and established the Swenson Scholars Program. They also brought the idea for Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships to UWS, funding them and many other university initiatives. Jim was an Emeritus member of the Foundation Board.

Lynn Sprangers
Lynn Sprangers attended UWS from 1974-1976. She was president and CEO of the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, retiring in December 2017. Sprangers previously served as vice president of Community Impact at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, and also held executive roles with the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club and the Milwaukee County’s Executive’s Office. Prior to her business roles, Sprangers spent nearly 20 years in broadcast journalism, winning many awards for her work.

Mike Wiggins, Jr., Criminal Justice, ’92
Mike Wiggins Jr. is the Tribal Chairman of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. An avid hunter, fisherman and harvester, he is an advocate for natural resources and environmental stewardship. Wiggins has supported tribal youth as a Home School Coordinator at Ashland High School, urging numerous students to further their education beyond high school. As the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Conservation Warden, he has protected, enforced and reinforced the continued learning of treaty reserved rights.

Complete biographies and a list of the original 100 Outstanding Alumni can be found at uwsuper.edu/125alumni
UW-Superior kicked off its 125th anniversary with a special event on July 19. The event included music, historical photos and also an official proclamation from City of Superior Mayor Jim Paine declaring July 19 as UW-Superior Day. In September, Athletics put on a country concert to open up the school year with Justin Moore performing at Wessman Arena. Friends and Family Weekend, held in late September, included a variety of events and activities such as a campus carnival and Veterans and Nontraditional Student Center 5K Run/Walk, which drew the record-setting field.

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Join us for a day of celebration for the campus and greater community. A free, family friendly event including campus tours, games, food, art and other activities – including a performance by Big Top Chautauqua!
The UW System Board of Regents honored this year’s recipients of the Academic Staff Excellence Awards at its April meeting in Madison. These awards recognize exceptional service to the university and are the UW System’s highest recognition bestowed on members of its academic staff.

UW-Superior’s Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) was among those selected, making it the first non-instructional academic staff program at UWS to receive the award.

Currently directed by Matthew TenEyck, the LSRI conducts environmental research and provides services that benefit the people, industries, and natural resources of the Upper Midwest, the Great Lakes region and beyond. Its researchers study and provide guidance on water resources, as well as air and soil quality. Staff have diverse expertise ranging from biological assessment, restoration, trends analysis in plants and aquatic organisms, and environmental toxicity.

LSRI benefits students by sponsoring self-directed undergraduate research projects and providing annual scholarships in partnership with the UW-Superior Foundation and Advancement Office. Many LSRI students have gone on to pursue post-graduate education and/or careers in the sciences. LSRI has developed strong partnerships with more than 150 local, state, federal and tribal governments. It is one of only five labs in the state certified to conduct certain tests related to water quality. In collaboration with its partners, including the Environmental Protection Agency, LSRI has achieved an international reputation for environmental research.

Matthew TenEyck, LSRI Director, receives the Academic Staff Excellence Award at the UW System Board of Regents Meeting on Friday, April 6. From left: Ray Cross, UW System president; Bryan Steil, Board of Regents member; TenEyck, LSRI director; John Robert Behling, Board of Regents president.

Drum ceremony during an October 8 Indigenous People’s Day celebration for the Maawanji’idiwin – “The Place Where We Come Together” Medicine Wheel and Community Gathering Area.

The university has recently initiated the first Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the history of the institution.

“There have been so many groups involved,” said Jerel Benton, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity and Senior Diversity Officer. “It’s been great. It gives us an opportunity to look at policy and practices to make sure we are fostering an inclusive environment.”

This plan marks UWS’s continued commitment to giving everyone the opportunity to develop to their full potential. The tasks included defining diversity and inclusion, identifying why it was important to the institution, along with the importance of diversity at UWS.

The diversity statement speaks to the commitment to recognize, include and value inherent worth and dignity of each person; foster tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, mutual respect and justice among its members; and encourage everyone to strive to reach their own potential.
Molly Smith named Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Molly Smith was appointed in April as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She began her new role June 1.

“Dr. Smith brings with her a wide range of experience across many areas and educational systems, which will serve the campus well as it remains true to its liberal arts foundation and works to serve and support the region,” said Chancellor Renée Wachter.

Previously, Smith served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of English at Saint Martin’s University in Washington. She has also served as Provost of Wheaton College, Executive Director of Pratham U.S.A., President of Manhattanville College and Dean of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall University, where she also held the rank of Tenured Professor.

“I am thrilled to be joining the University of Wisconsin-Superior community, which I have already found to be warm and welcoming,” said Smith. “I look forward to serving students, faculty, and staff, supporting UW-Superior’s liberal arts foundation, and working to strengthen the university’s ability to serve Superior and the surrounding communities.”

UW-Superior prides itself in offering large-campus opportunities with a small-campus feeling. In the area of athletics, it boasts 17 NCAA Division III sports teams, and with more than 60 student organizations, plus an array of music ensembles and theatre productions, there is something for every interest. With nearly all the ‘bases covered’ there’s one sport not represented on campus – until now.

Amy Lemanger may be the first female boxer on campus.

Lemanger, a Criminal Justice major from Duluth, is currently ranked eighth in the country at her 165-pound weight class. She recently competed in the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association National Championship hosted by the University of Illinois. With competitors from schools throughout the country – many with organized NCAA or club teams – Lemanger claimed victory in her class.

“It was a good fight,” said Lemanger. I gave [my opponent] two standing eight counts in the first round. It was a fun fight to be a part of.”

While a knee injury after high school spoiled Lemanger’s plans for collegiate hockey, it enabled her to return to Duluth, attend UWS and continue her commitment to boxing. Lemanger’s success has created quite a following on campus.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

In November, UW-Superior Theatre presented the Tony Award-winning comedy “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.”

“I read the first 20 pages of the script and decided this was it,” said director and theatre professor Cathy Fank. “The characters are very realistic, but slightly skewed.”

Written by Christopher Durang, the play follows aging siblings who share a home where they bicker and complain. When their movie-star sister comes to town with her boy-toy, old resentments flare and so does the comedy.
1939
Vivian Williams Lund reached the age of 100 on Dec. 4, 2017. She graduated as an “Owl and Serpent” (honors), and went on to earn a master’s degree. She wrote several books, including “Ding-Dong the Rural School is Gone.”

1953
Beulah Cheever traveled from her home in California to Wisconsin in July to attend her high school all-class reunion in Gordon.

1958
David Osterlund returned to Minnesota in June, after 29 years on faculty at Columbia International University in S.C. He taught for 60 years in various locations, including UW-Superior, UW-Madison and in Ethiopia.

1959
Joanne Burgraff Cox has been a teacher, an assistant high school principal, an elementary school principal, and an assistant superintendent. She has also worked as a consultant of research labs in Portland, Ore., and Charleston, W. Va., and served as adjunct staff for several universities.

1961
Dan Mosca retired as a fine arts coordinator, adjunct professor of art and art history lecturer, after 32 years of teaching experience in public schools and colleges in Wisconsin.

1962
Don Olson taught for 45 years and recently retired as director of the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park University in Chicago.

1964
Robert Wittrout is retired and lives in Tony, Wis.

1967
Leonard Susmilch is retired and lives in Gold Canyon, Ariz.

Tom Sczygielski and his wife, Heather, went on a 13-day pilgrimage to Poland in May 2017. In August 2018, they went on a baseball tour, which took them to eight major league ballparks in the Midwest and Canada.

1968
Beth Bowden Good has returned to the Northwoods, moving from Spokane, Wash. to Gordon, Wis. Although retired, she is still teaching private violin and viola students and performing. Beth also enjoys hiking, boating, fishing, writing and snowshoeing.

1969
Thomas Morris is retired after a 42-year career as a band director. He is enjoying retirement and is grateful for his years as a college student at UWS.

1970
Galen Peterson retired from the Sun Prairie Area School District, having taught physical education for 28 years. His wife, Janice, taught first grade for 33 years in the same room in the same building. They have two granddaughters, Brinley and Avery, for whom they help care for. Galen sends “all the best!” to his classmates and friends.

Richard Theien was selected as one of the top performing agents at Coldwell Banker East West Realty for October 2017.

George “Bud” Brand was a contributor to the seventh edition of The Nemadji Review. He has now had more than 80 poems appear in print.

1972
Lloyd Williams is now retired from his position as surgical first assistant with Cape Neurosurgical Associates in Mo.

Kathy Taylor lives in Conn. with her husband, Bob. They have two grown boys. Kathy went on to study clarinet at Julliard and just retired after 40 years from the Grammy-nominated chamber group, Borealis Wind Quintet. She continues to have an active playing career with work on Broadway, in several orchestras and chamber music groups. She teaches at both Sacred Heart University and privately in her home studio.

1973
Steven Tiefenthaler recently joined the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an air carrier safety inspector, with oversight of American Airlines compliance and certification in Dallas.

1974
Frank Gallagher devoted 35 years as a school psychologist. A writer of country songs, Jim Ed Brown recorded Frank’s “Wake up, Jacob” on a Christmas album. Recently Frank published a memoir, “Bumping the Wind.”

Sherry Carlson LaBar is retired as an elementary and middle school general music educator, and is loving living across the street from four violin-playing grandkids. She also enjoys traveling, especially to Alaska where her 20+ grand dogs and their awesome caregivers live.
1975
James Foote is now the chief operating officer of CSX Corporation, and based at the company’s headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla.

Sharon Parish Nelson and her husband, Wayne "Rocky" Nelson, Class of 1975, are retired after a combined 70 years in education. Rocky continues working with area students through a ski program at Cascade Mountain in Portage, Wis., and they spend summers at Lake Nebagamon, Wis.

Susan Wahl worked as a nurse at North Memorial in Minneapolis for 10 years, and is now retired and loves spending time with her granddaughter.

1976
William Tecku’s poem “Superior’s First” was accepted for publication in the 2019 Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Calendar. Samples of his poetry and stories are available at www.roadreflections.com.

1977
Aleda Wahlstrom Bourassa is the manager of business development for International Customs Services, Inc. in Sussex, Wis.

Susan Cage Meyers is retired and lives in San Clemente, Calif. with her husband, Kenneth.

Mark Van Vlack retired in May, after 41 years in practice as a certified public accountant and a partner with Maitland, Singler & Van Vlack, S.C.

1979
Gary MacDonald is a business development manager at Greenheck in Wausau, Wis.

1980
Margaret Dittburner Rutenbeck has been involved with Special Olympics for three decades, and has coached in the Special Olympics World Games six times. She was selected as head coach for the Special Olympics USA Snowshoeing team, and went to Austria in 2017. She was also selected as Outstanding Coach of the Year for Special Olympics Illinois in 2017.

Michael Swartz is the vice president of operations control with Genuine Parts Company, and lives in Woodstock, Ga.

Charles Milliren welcomed his fourth grandchild in June 2017. Kade Milliren was welcomed home by his big sister, Ava. Charles was elected as the Mayor of Owen, Wis., in 2017, after serving two years on the city council.

1982
Don Yahn and his wife, Zolia, have retired and reside in Phillips, Wis.

Douglas Conklin has been married to his college sweetheart, Rosemary Bates, for 38 years.

1985
Rick "Nelly" Nelson retired from teaching at Ladysmith Elementary School after 32 years of service. He accepted a fifth-grade teaching job at Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith in September 2017. He and his wife, Amy, are building their retirement home on Lake Ruth in Iron River, Wis.

Susan Eilertsen celebrated her 30th year with the El Paso County Department of Human Services where she is currently the staff development manager. She has worked in ongoing child protection, with adolescent parents, in kinship, adoptions, child welfare intake, supervised visitation and was the clinical consultant for the agency. She also serves as a field instructor for interns and provides LCSW supervision. She loves her current position and is involved in hiring and training.

1986
Annette Hackbarth-Onson is the Dean of Students at Seward County Community College, located in Liberal, Kan.

1987
Matthew Collins, a special education administrator with Cooperative Education Service Agency #9, earned his Educational Doctorate from UW-Oshkosh.

Mark Tomzak is now the executive vice president and general manager of PointClickCare’s Home Care division.

1989
Thomas Noltner finished his third year as head football coach at Waupaca High School, where he was an assistant coach for the past 26 years. He has a son in college and a son who is a senior in high school, and has been married to his wife, Tracey, for 23 years.

1990
Randy Lee was named as the Minnesota Music Educators Association’s Educator of the Year, and received his award in Minneapolis on Feb. 23.

1992
Rody Bowers was hired as a TRiO Educational Opportunity Center adviser with Lake Superior College in Duluth in October 2017.

Carol Anderson Hudson, Class of 1975, wrote a children’s book entitled “What Does It Take to be a Dog?” in 2016. Carol also visited Antarctica, her seventh continent, a few years ago.
1993
Margie Dorshorst retired from her position as principal of Mead Elementary Charter School in Wisconsin Rapids, where she has worked for more than 30 years.

1994
Debbie Aleff received a 2016 Box Office Star Award from VenuesNow. Debbie is director of ticketing for the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center and AMSOIL Arena.

Col. Christopher Blomquist assumed command of the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth in December.

Sheryl Pohl Lucas is married with five children, and lives in New Richmond, Wis. She is a full-time nursing instructor at WITC and faculty in the RN to BS online program at The College of St. Scholastica.

1995
Joseph Kaufenberg is the artistic/theatre director for Northeast Range School, and ISD 2142 lead coordinator. Married 25 years, he and his wife, Jennifer Kaufenberg, Class of 2011, have five children. Jennifer is an English teacher at Northeast Range School.

Aaron Cole and Sahaya Josephine were blessed with their second son last year. Augustine Aaron was born on January 25, 2017. The family lives in California.

Mark Groves was elected as the 2018 President of the Minnesota Corrections Association. He has been working in community corrections since 1977.

Terry Mahoney retired from the Essentia Health Cancer Center this past spring. During her 20 years at Essentia Health, Terry received two national awards: The American Cancer Society Lane Adams Quality of Life Award and the Hematology/Oncology Social Worker of the Year.

Tanya Wick Milanowski is a school psychologist, starting her fifth year at Saint Croix Falls School District, and loves being back in Wisconsin with all the wildlife on her property.

Karl Morrin has been the director of pupil services for the Menominee Indian School District for the past three years, and hopes to pursue a district administrator position in Wisconsin or Minnesota within the next two years.

1996
Doug Stetzer, chief scientist at Kent Precision Foods Group, was promoted to director of innovation in October, and will join the newly created Enterprise Innovation group at Kent Corp. Stetzer joined KPFG in 2011 when his company, Clearly Superior in Superior, was purchased by Kent Corp.

1997
Kimberly Haas was recognized on December 4, 2017, by the Wisconsin Supreme Court for her six-year commitment as a member of the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners. Chief Justice Rogensack presented Attorney Haas with a plaque during the board’s meeting in Madison.

Janne Kivihalme is now the boy’s hockey head coach at Lakeville South High School in Minnesota.

1999
Ryan Sather is now a shareholder at the accounting firm of Esterbrooks, Scott, Signorelli, Peterson, Smithson, Ltd. He has more than 19 years of public accounting experience, and his concentration is on business and individual tax, tax planning and assisting clients with buying and selling their businesses.

Todd Maki is the strategic planning director for GPM, Inc. in Duluth.

2000
Lee Graves accepted a teaching position in Corona, Calif., and is teaching Physics and AP Physics at Santiago High School.

2002
Marsha Francis Lue is now the TRIO Student Support Services advisor at Lake Superior College (LSC) in Duluth, after 13 years in the TRIO McNair Scholars Program at UW-Superior.

Pam Huston is the new assistant principal of Ashland/Lake Superior High School in Wisconsin.

2003
Mary Garness is now St. Louis County’s director of public records and property valuation.
2004
Liz McConkey and her husband, Steve, have been active in athletic ministries for over 37 years, beginning in the fall of 1981.

Jodi Broadwell was named to the Duluth News Tribune’s 20 under 40 list in 2018, which recognizes the community’s young do-gooders.

Bill Wietman is now the principal at Mesabi East High School in Aurora, Minn.

2005
Abbas Mammadov is now the adviser to the chair of Azercosmos OJSCo, a national satellite operator of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He is married with two children and lives in Baku, Azerbaijan.

2006
Jason Cress is now the principal at Viroqua High School in Wis.

Jessica Gast works for Duluth’s Vikre Distillery as a brand ambassador in the Twin Cities.

2007
Kelly Kroon was recently promoted to the position of district reading specialist for the Wisconsin Heights School District in Mazomanie, Wis.

Matt Stengl is a photographer and the owner of Framing By Stengl in Superior.

Joseph Olson is a supply corps officer with the United States Navy, and lives in Calif.

2008
Travis Powell became the superintendent for Ironwood Area Schools in July.

Zach Otto-Fisher is now the women’s basketball head coach at UW-Superior.

2009
Brooke Bailey is a pharmacist with Walgreens, and lives in Menomonie, Wis.

Carissa Nord Thielbar is an assistant coach for the South Dakota State women’s basketball team.

Michael Harvey is the land services director for Benton County in Minn.

Travis Larson was named the Green Bay Packers High School Coach of the Week in September. Travis is the head football coach for Ashland High School in Ashland, Wis.

2010
Noa Martinsen is a special education teacher for the Waterloo School District in Wisconsin.

Cory Martens is now the principal of Cameron Elementary School in Cameron, Wis.

Loni Lyons married Aaron Schweiger on August 11 in Phuket, Thailand.

Ryan Ruzich served as a probation officer and digital forensic investigator for the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation from 2010 until 2017. In August of 2017, he started a new position as investigator within the Office of Special Investigations for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, focusing on the investigation of level 3 predatory offenders.

2011
Tracey Schumacher Inglimo is a program manager with the Department of Defense-NSA.

Cassie Hansen Roehmildt is a financial specialist with the UW-Superior Transportation and Logistics Research Center.

Heather Bradford was named to the Duluth News Tribune’s 20 under 40 list in 2018, which recognizes the community’s young do-gooders.

2012
Marie Peterson Moore is a lifeguard, swim instructor and water aerobics instructor with the New Richmond Area Centre in New Richmond, Wis.

Danelle King is the senior program manager with MANA House in Phoenix. MANA House is a peer-run program that provides individualized basic resources, community and advocacy for veterans experiencing homelessness.

2013
Cody Akason married Meredith Dietz on May 6 in Welch, Minn. Cody is a logistics coordinator at Avid 4 Adventure and a ski instructor at Loveland Ski Area in Colorado.

Teri Cadeau is a reporter for the Lake County News-Chronicle.

Autumn Gray, Class of 2015, and Jake Gran, Class of 2013, recently became engaged. Autumn is a digital marketing specialist with Goodmanson Construction in Roseville, Minn.
Danielle Davis welcomed a baby boy, Rider, on March 8, and recently moved back to the Twin Ports area from Florida.

2014
Samantha Lokken Minor is married and had her first child in 2017. She is a product specialist with the nonprofit organization, EALgreen, which receives donated goods that are then offered to colleges/universities for a discounted price. The funds saved go toward scholarships at the college/university.

2016
Paige Arneson is attending the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and is participating in one of the nation’s first doctoral research training programs in regenerative sciences. Her research focuses on the loss of muscle mass from disease and aging and metabolic regulation of muscle stem cells.

Arynah Bentley is a regional sales executive with AdvantageEmblem.

Tim Luedtke is an ITS I-Support technician with Lake Superior College.

2017
Brandon Barnes is now an officer with the Brodhead, Wis. Police Dept.

Nyanyika Banda is the owner and chef of Martha’s Daughter, a restaurant in downtown Duluth.

Nichole Sahlen is a senior accounting officer for Lake Superior College.

2018
Teri Thompson became engaged, and is a special education teacher for the Superior School District.

Joseph Wambach is a job coach with Superior Vocational Center in Superior.

Joseph Hedman is training to be a tattoo artist, and hopes to travel around the country.

Philip Benkert and his wife, Faye Patchin Benkert, live in Deforest, Wis.

The Association has appointed five new directors to its board. The new directors are Lorraine Little of Duluth, class of 1994, a public relations executive with Enbridge Energy; Joscelyn Skandel of Superior, class of 2002, an administrator with Superior Water, Light, and Power Co.; Beth Moravec Tomscak of Oak Grove, Minn., class of 1988, program manager with Junior Achievement; Jackie Wallgren of Pueblo, Colo., class of 2007, assistant athletic director at Colorado State University-Pueblo; and Ryan Yingling of Superior, class of 2003, regional sales manager for ImageOne Uniforms. Zach Otto-Fisher, class of 2008, head women’s basketball coach, will serve as a staff representative.
In Memoriam

Ellen Anderson (1934), Duluth, Minn., January 24, 2018
Nona Scheide Grunseth (1941), Elkhorn, Wis., March 4, 2017
Sigrid Carlson Johnson (1941), Superior, Wis., July 1, 2018
Florence Munnings Voynic (1941), Superior, Wis., May 6, 2018
Mary Gray (1945), Superior, Wis., November 18, 2017
Edmond Baclawski (1946), Sarasota, Fla., June 13, 2017
Alice Bjorkman Morrow (1946), Excelsior, Minn., June 23, 2017
Jeanne Benson Beatty (1947), Duluth, Minn., June 7, 2017
Arthur Rasmussen (1948), Superior, Wis., March 27, 2018
Arlene Hanson Peterson (1949), Washburn, Wis., November 3, 2018
Irving Ekelund (1950), Scottsdale, Ariz., November 18, 2017
William Kolbe (1950), San Marcos, Texas, February 15, 2018
Bernadette O’Connell Ring (1950), Virginia, Minn., March 2, 2018
Raymond Scharenbrock (1950), South Milwaukee, Wis., July 1, 2017
Henry Beglinger (1951), Garden Grove, Calif., October 14, 2017
Katherine Hart Bourgeois (1951), Monticello, Minn., October 14, 2017
Hymen Bear (1952), Highland Park, Ill., February 4, 2018
Gordon Gee (1952), Chippewa Falls, Wis., August 26, 2018
John Longtine (1952), Lake Nebagamon, Wis., May 18, 2018
Donald Susens (1952), Saint Petersburg, Fla., January 13, 2018
Arthur Carlson (1954), Superior, Wis., December 30, 2017
David Pease (1954), Barnes, Wis., November 7, 2017
Margaret Christian Thiele (1955), Centerville, Ohio, January 21, 2018
Edward Drolson (1956), Plymouth, Minn., November 18, 2017
Charles McDonald (1956), Niceville, Fla., November 22, 2017
Bart Allen (1957), Grand Junction, Colo., May 5, 2017
Daniel Winters (1957), Duluth, Minn., February 8, 2018
Clyde Norell (1958), Rochester, Minn., February 4, 2018
Jean Goldsmith Sharer (1958), Hudson, Wis., April 15, 2018
James Tracy (1958), Superior, Wis., December 22, 2017
Nancy Liljegren Bubalo (1959), Duluth, Minn., January 7, 2018
Donald Lindsey (1959), Washburn, Wis., February 20, 2017
James Nordling (1959), Ironwood, Mich., May 7, 2018
Betty Thomson Strum (1961), Superior, Wis., January 27, 2018
Daniel Conway (1963), Superior, Wis., May 20, 2018
Walter Nilsen (1963), Superior, Wis., May 24, 2018
Barbara Quinn Anderson (1964), Valparaiso, Ind., March 9, 2017
Terence Churchill (1964), Duluth, Minn., June 19, 2018
Richard Dickey (1964), Franklin, Ohio, November 7, 2017
Norma Westerlund Nelson (1964), Fairfax Station, Va., June 18, 2017
Joseph Novack (1964), Turlock, Calif., March 20, 2018
Myrtle Rogina (1964), Duluth, Minn., August 25, 2018
Jerry St. Catherine (1964), Hayward, Wis., April 21, 2018
Arnold Ahlgren (1965), Hayward, Wis., October 26, 2017
Pearl Rasmussen Hedlund (1965), Grantsburg, Wis., May 26, 2018
William Rathssack (1965), Fredonia, Wis., October 8, 2017
George Sampson (1965), Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., April 27, 2018
Sister Mary Felten (1966), Duluth, Minn., August 23, 2017
Arthur Gast (1966), Watkinsville, Ga., April 14, 2017
Carson Gotham (1966), Holmen, Wis., July 20, 2017
Frank Hunter (1966), Bettendorf, Iowa, November 30, 2017
Thomas Martinson (1966), Cloquet, Minn., August 5, 2018
Robert Rantal (1966), Grantsburg, Wis., February 25, 2018
Bette Jacksino Rookey (1966), Corona, Calif., May 10, 2018
Charles Stodola (1966), Crivitz, Wis., June 10, 2017
Stanley Chase (1967), Emily, Minn., December 24, 2017
Edward Connors (1967), Janesville, Wis., May 20, 2018
James Negrini (1967), Eau Claire, Wis., February 10, 2018
Patricia Peterson (1967), Charlotte, N.C., February 12, 2018
Yvonne Swanson (1967), Aiken, S.C., September 2, 2017
Marvin Babler (1968), Wausau, Wis., February 8, 2018
Ronald Erickson (1969), Greensboro, N.C., July 15, 2017
Laura Akers Lapenskie (1969), Barrie, Ontario, Canada
August 16, 2018
Willis Siver (1969), Hazelhurst, Wis., January 29, 2017
Gregory Gerdes (1970), Dallas, Texas, June 25, 2017
Leroy Lepasti (1970), Poplar, Wis., February 25, 2018
Stella Hamre Olson (1970), Cloquet, Minn., November 6, 2017
Sylvia Kappauf Patterson (1970), Superior, Wis., May 17, 2018
Leon Stilwell (1970), Superior, Wis., August 8, 2018
William Blakeley (1971), Walworth, Wis., April 19, 2018
Edward Erickson (1971), Superior, Wis., May 12, 2018
Norman Heitman (1971), Middleton, Wis., January 28, 2018
Bruce Batley (1972), Rockford, Ill., November 1, 2017
Rev. Edmund Henkels (1972), Washington, D.C., January 27, 2017
Cecilia Farris Knight (1972), Washburn, Wis., January 23, 2018
James Nikstad (1972), Wausau, Wis., July 7, 2017
John Shubitz (1972), Waukegan, Ill., September 7, 2017
Charles Skeels (1972), Ladysmith, Wis., November 9, 2017
Edward Ziek (1972), Rutherford, N.J., November 17, 2017
Jeannie Pavlik (1973), Marshfield, Wis., April 10, 2018
Audrey Smith (1974), Superior, Wis., May 12, 2018
John Torzewski (1974), South Range, Wis., January 31, 2018
George Hutchinson (1975), Esko, Minn., August 25, 2017
Robert Rickard (1975), Wakefield, Mich., May 2, 2017
Steven Schneeweis (1975), Saukville, Wis., March 30, 2017
Michael Hedeen (1976), Rochester, N.Y., May 2, 2018
David Lockwood (1976), Aurora, Minn., October 16, 2017
Mary Ann Nitkowski Nevitt (1976), Oshkosh, Wis., March 10, 2017
Charles Trieschmann (1978), Clover Valley, Minn., December 20, 2017
Francine Hicks Hare (1979), Ashland, Wis., June 8, 2017
Elaine Hamberg Elness (1980), Duluth, Minn., August 12, 2017
Dana Rickstrom Haeger (1980), St. Paul, Minn., April 23, 2018
Marie Oliphant Marro (1980), Superior, Wis., July 20, 2018
Elizabeth Pelzer Schmidt (1980), Superior, Wis., December 11, 2017
Ruth Gehling Baillie (1981), Brule, Wis., January 25, 2018
Muriel “Joanne” Cutler Torrey (1981), Superior, Wis., November 4, 2017
Jennifer Smith Akers (1983), Andover, Minn., May 1, 2018
Barbara Johnson (1983), Superior, Wis., January 20, 2018
James Swenson
UW-Superior Foundation
Director Emeritus

UW-Superior and the UW-Superior Foundation are deeply saddened by the passing of Jim Swenson on Oct. 5. Jim was born and raised in Superior and attended UW-Superior for several years before transferring to UMD where he graduated with a chemistry degree in 1959. Jim's wife Sue, also originally from Superior, graduated from UW-Superior with an Elementary Education certificate.

Jim and Sue, and their Swenson Family Foundation, have been extremely generous supporters of UW-Superior and its students. The Swenson Family Scholarship program is the most prestigious scholarship offered through the Foundation, funding nearly 40 full-tuition four-year scholarships each year. Their philanthropy also goes beyond scholarship support. They funded the university's newest state-of-the-art academic facility – Swenson Hall, as well as Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF), academic programs, and so much more. Jim's devotion to the university, along with his true passion to help students succeed, will be greatly missed, but his legacy and entrepreneurial spirit will live forever.
Canadian Rockies by Train
September 15-22, 2019

Discover the western Canadian coast and the natural beauty of the Canadian Rockies on a tour featuring VIA Rail’s overnight train journey. Begin your journey in cosmopolitan Calgary, then discover the natural beauty of Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and the powerful Bow Falls and the impressive Hoodoos. Feel like royalty at the grand Fairmont Banff Springs, known as the “Castle in the Rockies,” where you’ll enjoy a luxurious two-night stay in Banff. Journey along the unforgettable Icefields Parkway, with a stop at Athabasca Glacier and Peyto Lake – a turquoise glacier-fed treasure that evokes pure serenity – before arriving in Jasper, nestled in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Board VIA Rail’s The Canadian for a once-in-a-lifetime overnight train journey and head to the lush green Pacific Coast of Vancouver. Relax in the dome car and experience panoramic views of snow-capped mountains, glacial lakes, rushing rivers and the sheer unspoiled wilderness of Canada.

Rediscover Cuba: A Cultural Exploration
February 20-27, 2019

Join us as we cross a cultural divide, exploring the art, history and culture of the Cuban people. Develop an understanding of who they are when meeting with local shop keepers, musicians, choral singers, dancers, factory workers and more. Discover Cuba’s history visiting its historic cathedrals and colonial homes on city tours with your local guide, and experience one of the world’s most culturally rich cities, Havana, and explore much of the city’s unique architecture. Throughout your journey, experience the power of travel to unite two peoples in a true cultural exchange.

View itineraries and optional tours at uwsuper.edu/alumni/travel

Thank you to the 2018 Alumni Association Platinum Sponsors
Dear Friends of UW-Superior,

There's always feelings of excitement with each new academic year, but this year is even more meaningful. This academic year marks the University of Wisconsin-Superior's 125th anniversary — our quasquicentennial. It's at this time that I'm reminded of a story that former provost, the late John Haugland, shared with me about how the Superior Normal School (the precursor to UW-Superior) came to be.

The State of Wisconsin wanted to build two normal schools: One at the central location of Stevens Point, with the other location yet to be determined. Many cities throughout the state clamored to be selected as the location for the other normal school, including Ashland, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Neillsville and, of course, Superior.

This was not a friendly competition, with many counting Superior out. The Ashland Daily News said Superior "lacked the culture that should characterize the seat of an institution of learning." Other objections were heard by the Board of Regents against Superior, including that the "moral tone of the city was poor."

The City of Superior fought back, and, not only raised the funds necessary for the application, but were tireless in seeking support. In the end, the decision came down to La Crosse and Superior. Enter Regent Ostrander, who was from River Falls, but had an affinity for Superior. He arranged to have Senator Fisher, who he believed would not vote in favor of Superior, taken out for a trip away from the capitol and be kept away until after the vote. Superior won the vote over La Crosse, 15-14 and, in 1893, the Superior Normal School was born.

The guts and tenacity marked by our founding is a hallmark of who we are. We are the hub of arts and culture in the city. As the celebration of our quasquicentennial unfolds, we look forward with much anticipation to the next chapter in the life of UW-Superior. I thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our joint efforts to ensure the university’s strong future.

Renée M. Wachter
Chancellor
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