Art graduates Eliza Wheeler ’06, in books, and Jason Sadler ’94, at the movies, are making national names for themselves.
Do you have news to share?
We’d love to hear from you, and your fellow alumni would too! Drop us a line about your promotion, a reunion or just to reminisce.

Stout traditions
Your alumni association is interested in learning what traditions were part of your days on campus. Were there bonfires after the hockey games; did you have weekly dances; what event(s) did your fraternity or sorority hold each year? As you think back to those events, please share them with us.

Share the love
Share your love for UW-Stout with others. Do you have children, grandchildren, neighbors, people at church or synagogue, children of people you work with that might be interested in a UW-Stout education? Send us their names, and we will reach out to them.

Email
alumni2@uwstout.edu

Mail
Stout Alumni Association
Louis Smith Tainter House
320 South Broadway
Menomonie, WI 54751

Online
Share your news or ideas at www.uwstout.edu/alumni

Check out our online features at www.uwstout.edu/alumni, facebook.com/uwstout and twitter.com/uwstoutnews for complete stories, extra features, event calendar, event registration, links and more.

editorial board
Mark Parsons
Vice Chancellor, University Advancement and Marketing

Juliet Fox ’92
Director, UW-Stout Alumni Association

Doug Mell
Executive Director of Communications and External Relations

Jerry Poling
Assistant Director, University Communications

Becky Richartz ’02
Graphic Designer, University Advancement

Hannah Flom
Communications Specialist, University Communications

Layne Pitt ’81
Director, Sports Information

Jennifer Rudiger ’94
Director, Annual Giving, Stout University Foundation
2 Message from the Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen

3 Not all wet Ephemeral ponds focus of grant-funded study.

4 Sky’s the limit Make almost anything at new Fab Lab

5 New provost Joe Bessie takes the reins

6 Face to face Online students meet at commencement

7 Survey says Efforts to curb alcohol abuse working

8 National champs Students’ video game takes title

9 Engaging Students enjoy jobs with TV bridal show

10-12 First-rate Eliza Wheeler succeeds with debut children’s book

13 Silver screen Jason Sadler’s characters make the movies

14-15 Record revival Benders song a hit 47 years later

16 Double trouble Twins chronicle New York childhood

17 Climbing the ladder Settersten named Ulta Beauty CFO

18 Snail mail friends Classmates haven’t lost touch

19 Fire and ice Sculptor inspired by nature

20 Love story Restaurant owners help neighbors after fire

21 Back on campus Teacher returns with class in tow

22 Annual report Update from Vice Chancellor Mark Parsons

23 New director Juliet Fox to lead alumni office

24 Resourceful Kelly Matter making a difference at Resource Inc.

25 Major gift Businessman donates $1 million for Weidner Center

26-29 Class notes, marriages, births, deaths.

28 Cover story First-rate Eliza Wheeler succeeds with debut children’s book

30 Blue Devil Hall of Fame Five to be inducted

31 Extra efforts Baseball field renewal, team reunions planned

32 Rough spring Winter declared spring sports champion

33 Favorite Facebook posts from 2012-13

34 Attention alumni Homecoming gathering, career mentor program, Golden Reunion.

BACK COVER

STOUT OUTLOOK SUMMER 2013
Welcome to another edition of Outlook, our publication for our valued UW-Stout alumni. I have had the pleasure to connect with many of our alumni during my years at UW-Stout and am constantly amazed at the innovative and productive ways they used their UW-Stout educations.

Each of you is a testament to the value of a UW-Stout education, and I am proud of all the alumni we have produced during my tenure at UW-Stout.

The cover story for this issue of Outlook tells the story of alumni who put their education, along with their imaginations and artistic abilities, to good use as illustrators. Eliza Wheeler, a 2006 graduate, had her debut book “Miss Maple’s Seeds” appear on a New York Times best-seller list. Jason Sadler, a 1994 graduate, has made a name for himself in the film industry as an artist for the blockbuster animated films “Horton Hears a Who” and “Rio.”

Other stories in the issue discuss a $1 million donation to help our real estate property management program produce more graduates; a new Hall of Heroes that will be constructed in the Memorial Student Center to honor our fallen service men and women; and the new director of our alumni office (who also is a familiar face around the UW-Stout campus).

We also relish the opportunity to feature our successful alumni, and this edition of Outlook is no different. We tell the story of Joe and John Gindele, twins who received master’s degrees in industrial education from UW-Stout and became successful teachers and, now, published authors. Their story: “Yorkville Twins: Hilarious Adventures Growing up in New York City, 1944-1962,” was a finalist for the prestigious 23rd annual Midwest Books Awards.

Then there is the heartwarming story of nine women who graduated from UW-Stout in 1955 and have remained in touch through a chain of letters.

We tell the story of the owners of the popular Minneapolis restaurant, Amore Victoria, who reached out and led a fundraising effort to help the victims of a fire in a condominium building in their neighborhood that displaced nearly two dozen people.

Outlook also has features on Kelly Matter, a 1989 graduate who has spent her career in the nonprofit world and now runs one of the largest agencies in the Twin Cities; and a 1960s student band, the Benders, who recorded a song that has withstood the test of time.

I know you will enjoy this issue of Outlook, just as I have enjoyed working with all of the tremendous alumni I have gotten to know during my time at UW-Stout.
PROFFESSORS RECEIVE $550,000 FEDERAL GRANT TO STUDY WETLANDS

The effects of development and other environmental changes on small wetlands in the Chippewa Valley will be studied by UW-Stout faculty and their students through a $550,000 federal grant.

Amanda Little, an associate professor of biology, and lecturer Jim Church secured the funding through the National Science Foundation to examine forested ephemeral ponds, which are small seasonal wetland patches that occur within larger forested areas.

The Chippewa Moraine Ephemeral Ponds Project will look at 60 of these wetlands in west-central Wisconsin over five years and research how environmental changes, the interactions of species, landscape and other factors affect the insects, amphibians, plants and water quality in the areas.

Ephemeral ponds may flood in the spring and dry completely at other times, making them good for this research on “metacommunities,” or interconnected ecological communities.

“Research into ephemeral ponds is important, because these fish-free wetlands provide critical breeding habitat for declining populations of frog and salamander species,” Little said. “Due to their small size, ephemeral ponds are not well-protected by existing conservation laws. They are very easy to destroy through filling with dirt.

“We hope to determine which factors are most important in affecting species survival so that conservation managers can use our information to design management strategies.”

The research will be conducted in the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area around the Ice Age Trail and the Chippewa County Forest near New Auburn, Little said.

“We have an exciting opportunity to educate citizens and our students about the importance of these ephemeral ponds through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center and through our courses.”

The office of U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, D-La Crosse, assisted with the grant application.

“This funding will help researchers at UW-Stout make important discoveries about the wildlife inhabiting local wetlands, helping preserve Wisconsin’s incredible biodiversity,” Kind said.

The grant brings to 10 the number of NSF projects on campus.

“Our faculty and staff researchers have brought in about $2.6 million in NSF grants for current projects,” said Jackie Weissenburger, associate vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. “That speaks volumes about our dedication to applied research at UW-Stout.”

Along with Little and Church, Professor Chuck Bomar, biology, and Assistant Professor Matt Kuchta, physics, will work on the project.
In the television series “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” anytime a crew member needed something that wasn’t available, a machine on board would whip it up, pronto.

A digital fabrication laboratory, or fab lab, was dedicated in February at UW-Stout with the assertion that the “Star Trek” future may be nearer than most people think.

“The ‘Star Trek’ replicator really is what we are after,” said Sherry Lassiter, program manager for the Center for Bits and Atoms at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lassiter was describing the fab lab established by the Discovery Center, UW-Stout’s umbrella organization for applied research, outreach and economic development, with the assistance of a multiyear $520,000 Growth Agenda award from the UW System.

Fab labs were introduced more than a decade ago by the MIT Center for Bits and Atoms. Fab labs offer users computer-controlled machines and equipment that employ many types of materials to create a wide range of products. They are connected across the globe by a communications network that allows users to share files and other ideas for the products they want to make.

Lassiter said fab labs have been used to produce, for example, a complete solar house in Europe.

Fab labs will play an increasingly important role in education, she said, by ensuring students graduate with the job skills they need for high-tech work. “This is a beautiful environment to develop that kind of workforce,” Lassiter said.

Lassiter added that the number of fab labs, currently 150 across the globe, is projected to double in less than two years.

Neil Gershenfeld, director of the Center for Bits and Atoms, said fab labs are part of the effort to develop the capability to “build from the atoms on up” to “create complete functional products.”

 Manufacturers are having a hard time finding students with the skills they need and fab labs can be an important part of developing that workforce, Gershenfeld said.

UW-Stout joined MIT’s global network in 2005 as part of a multi-institution research project; the new Discovery Center Fab Lab is expected to bring more global collaboration opportunities to UW-Stout.

Fab labs stress cooperation among users interested in making similar products, said Randy Hulke, Discovery Center director. Computer files to make a certain item are open to anyone to use or alter, at their discretion.

Equipment in the fab lab, which occupies about 6,000 square feet in the Applied Arts Building, includes:

- A minimill that can machine solid materials such as wood, plaster and resin
- A vinyl cutter that can create professional-grade graphics and signs
- A laser engraver that can cut and engrave on wood, acrylic, glass, plastic, stone, fabric, etc.
- A router to cut wood or plastic
- A 3D printer to allow rapid prototyping and manufacturing using resins that are layered on top of each other to create an item

UW-Stout officials say the Discovery Center is working with faculty and staff across campus to involve students in the fab lab. The fab lab also is expected to be a resource for school districts in the region by working to develop curriculum to advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in K-12 schools.
Joseph D. Bessie began work in May as UW-Stout’s new provost and vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

He arrives from Saint Martin’s University in Lacey, Wash., where he also was provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

“My initial goals include working closely with Chancellor Sorensen, the administrative team, faculty and staff to set an energetic course for growing the financial resources of the school, continuing to develop the school’s regional, national and international reputation and further developing high-quality programs that help draw new people and resources to the region.”

Bessie replaces longtime provost Julie Furst-Bowe, who left to become chancellor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

“Joe has the educational background, academic experience and higher education vision that we need to help guide UW-Stout in this complex and challenging environment,” Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen said. “We’re happy to have Joe on our senior leadership team as we work together on the issues that confront us today and plan for a bright UW-Stout in the future.”

Bessie had been at Saint Martin’s University since 2009. He has more than 30 years of experience in higher education, including as vice president for Academic Affairs at Valley City State University in Valley City, N.D., from 2006-09 and dean of instruction for transfer programs at Ridgewater College in Willmar, Minn., from 2000-06.

Before becoming an administrator, he held various teaching appointments at colleges and universities in the Twin Cities and, from 1990-2000, was a professor of philosophy at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Okla. He has a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz (1978), a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Minnesota (1991) and a Master’s of Business Administration in management from Southwest Minnesota State University (2003). His areas of academic specialization include the philosophy of science, mathematical logic and management ethics.

The provost serves as chief executive officer of the university in the chancellor’s absence and provides leadership for the Academic and Student Affairs division. The division includes four academic colleges, as well as other schools, centers and offices.
For most of the 1,382 students graduating in May from UW-Stout, commencement ceremonies were a goodbye. Commencement is a formal farewell to the campus where students spent years rushing to classes, hanging out with friends and living in the residence halls. They may return someday but probably not to eat pizza with friends at midnight or to pull an all-nighter studying for a final exam.

Commencement day has a much different feel for some graduates. For online students it’s more of a hello than a goodbye. It often is their first chance to set foot on campus.

The latter scenario was the case for a group of graduates from the Master of Science in education program. Students from at least five states outside of Wisconsin came to campus for the Friday, May 10, Graduate School ceremony at Johnson Fieldhouse. The master’s degree graduates not only were visiting UW-Stout for the first time but were meeting classmates and professors in person for the first time. Angela Wilson came from New Orleans with her parents. Fiorella Velarde came from Miami with her daughter, Oriana, 6. Lisa Klein came from New Jersey with her husband, three young children and mother. There to meet them were other cyber classmates: Melissa Magnuson-Cannady from New York with her husband, Will; Stacy Harvey from Minnesota; and Mara Werner from 100 miles away in Hayward.

The outlier of the group was Linda Young, who works at UW-Stout as the transfer coordinator but also was graduating with her master’s.

Assistant Professor Renee Chandler, the program director, was there to greet all of them, having helped orchestrate the meet-and-greet. Graduates and Chandler exchanged handshakes and hugs in the Memorial Student Center about an hour before commencement, happy to finally meet some of the people they had gotten to know online.

The M.S. in education program had a total of 21 graduates from eight states. “I loved my entire experience at Stout online,” Klein said. “I made some great friends who I know will be lifelong friends. It was easier than I imagined to attend graduate school online.” Klein and her husband, from Flanders, N.J., decided to turn the occasion into a family vacation. “We surprised the kids, since we didn’t think we would be able to bring them. I honestly don’t know who’s more excited, them or me!” said Klein, who added that they spent the day before commencement at the Mall of America after flying into Minneapolis.

With her master’s, Klein plans to return to the classroom after 14 years away from teaching. Wilson is a baking and pastry instructor at the Louisiana Culinary Institute. Werner is a kindergarten teacher in Hayward. Harvey is a fourth-grade teacher in Osseo, Minn. Magnuson-Cannady works for the National Park Service at Ellis Island in New York City.

Velarde completed a certificate in instructional design, as well, and planned to stay in Menomonie for several days to meet with Career Services at UW-Stout. “I wanted to see the city and the school. Stout has a great reputation,” she said.
A class from the School of Art and Design wrapped up the spring semester in early May by bringing student work to the public.

A steamroller, the type used in road paving, was brought to campus for large-scale, wood block printing.

The event, called Under Pressure, was held in a parking lot across 13th Avenue from the Applied Arts Building.

Students from Printmaking 217 were assigned a large-format project. Teams created intricate designs on wood panels ranging in size from 4-feet-by-4-feet to 4-feet-by-8-feet. They carved out areas where they didn’t want ink to help create the relief prints.

On printing day, the designs were rolled with ink then laid on the ground and covered with the material to be used for the print. Most students used bed sheets to save money.

Then the steamroller slowly rolled over one print at a time, applying plenty of pressure to transfer the ink.

Assistant Professor Joseph Velasquez, the instructor, was the steamroller driver. Students used hand signals to let him know when he had finished rolling over the board.

“This project breaks down the barriers between the studio, the gallery and the public by taking the process out to the public for everyone to engage in,” said Velasquez.

EFFORTS TO CURB ALCOHOL ABUSE ARE PAYING OFF

Three years ago Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen announced stricter measures to reduce alcohol abuse among students. A new survey indicates the effort is working.

The average number of alcoholic beverages consumed by drinkers is down, as are the number of underage drinking citations processed in Dunn County Circuit Court and students disciplined by the Dean of Students office. Just as important, the percentage of students who are abstaining from alcohol is increasing.

“I am pleased that our strong and decisive steps to address alcohol abuse on campus apparently are starting to work,” Sorensen said.

In March 2010, Sorensen sent a memo to campus detailing the steps he believed were necessary “to address a serious situation on our campus affecting the lives, safety, health and well-being of our students and the community — the high-risk abuse of alcohol by too many of our students.”

UW-Stout had lost six students in alcohol-related incidents in two years, Sorensen wrote.

The steps Sorensen outlined included holding more Friday classes to encourage students to drink less on Thursday nights; boosting the disciplinary measures taken by the Dean of Students office for alcohol-related offenses; and working with community partners to curb the availability of alcohol off campus, including cracking down on large house parties.

Campus officials, following the chancellor’s memo, put together details of a plan with a three-pronged approach to combat alcohol abuse: engagement, education and enforcement.

“This has been a comprehensive approach that has a lot of people involved and invested,” said Joan Thomas, dean of students. “It’s going in the right direction, but we still have work to do.”

According to a survey of UW-Stout students, conducted by the campus Applied Research Center:

- The average number of weekly alcohol beverages reported by drinkers decreased from a high of 10.7 in 2007 to 8.9 in 2013. Declines were among male and female drinkers.
- The percentage of students who said they abstained from alcohol use during the previous 30 days increased from 17 percent in 2005 to 29.1 percent in 2013.
- The percentage of students who said they were aware of drug and alcohol regulations increased from 59 percent in 2007 to nearly 79 percent in 2013.

The number of class sections held on Fridays has increased from 403 in fall 2009 to 529 in fall 2013.
UW-Stout can hang a new banner from its rafters: National video game champion.

Flash Frozen, a video game created by a team of UW-Stout game design and development students, was declared national co-champion June 13 at the Entertainment Software Association E-3 conference in Los Angeles.

UW-Stout’s game tied for first in the inaugural E-3 College Game Competition. The other co-champion was Lost in Thought, a game from Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design. The games were judged by leading professionals in the industry.

“This is an outstanding accomplishment from this talented and innovative group of students and their advisers,” said Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen. “This award proves that students can come to UW-Stout and achieve great success on a national stage.”

Nearly 400 U.S. colleges and universities offer video game design programs. UW-Stout, Savannah and three other schools were named finalists out of 60 entries and presented at the conference, considered the premier world event in the video and computer game industry.

More than 48,000 people from 102 countries attended the conference.

Diane Christie is the program director. Dave Beck is the program’s art coordinator.

Flash Frozen is a survival horror game. Players are trapped on an iceberg in a haunted, shipwrecked vessel. Players must escape the ship while surviving the harsh, frozen environment and its many dangers. For more information about the game, go to www.flashfrozengame.com.

A total of 12 students developed Flash Frozen in the senior 3D Game Design class taught by Christie and Beck.

Eight of the 12 students who created Flash Frozen are artists and four are programmers. Students in UW-Stout’s program can concentrate on art or computer science aspects of video and computer games.

In March, UW-Stout’s game design and development program was named one of the top 30 in the U.S. and Canada by Princeton Review. It was the only program in Wisconsin or Minnesota that made the list.
Karli Courrier and Lindsay Frank said “yes” to the internships, and they couldn’t be happier.

The UW-Stout students enjoyed a Cooperative Education program experience that seemed almost too good to be true: They traveled the country during the spring semester getting real-world experience in their major and working alongside a cable television celebrity, Randy Fenoli.

Fenoli is the star of the TLC hit reality show “Say Yes to the Dress.” The high-energy, bridal gown guru helps brides-to-be and their entourages select wedding dresses in New York.

Fenoli also has a spinoff show, “Randy to the Rescue,” which aired in late spring and summer. In “Randy to the Rescue” Fenoli leaves New York and hits the road, criss-crossing the U.S. to help the betrothed.

Courrier and Frank, as production assistants, went to 10 cities with Fenoli during “Randy to the Rescue” filming. They flew out, all expenses paid, together on Thursdays or Fridays and returned to UW-Stout the beginning of the following week.

The trips included Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Oklahoma City, Savannah, Ga., and Washington, D.C.

Courrier and Frank were Fenoli fans before they landed the internships, having watched his shows. They became even bigger Fenoli fans.

“On the eighth city of the tour, he still had the same enthusiasm as he did on the first one. He gives every bride more than enough of his time,” Frank said. “He’s high energy. It’s amazing to see. He couldn’t be any more likable or down to earth.”

Working behind the scenes for “Randy to the Rescue” was honeymoonlike but also a highly educational experience for Courrier and Frank, who are majoring in hotel, restaurant and tourism management with an emphasis on event planning.

“Randy to the Rescue” weekends were highly organized events, starting when the show’s semitrailer loaded with dresses rolled up. “You can hear people screaming like crazy when the truck shows up. When we were in Oklahoma City I’d never seen so many excited people,” Frank said.

In each city four brides-to-be were chosen to meet with Fenoli for dress consultation and filming. They came from a pool of up to 200 women looking for that special dress in an elaborate salon set up at a hotel or convention center.

Courrier, a senior from St. Cloud, Minn., helped set up dress displays, change sets and dress extras for filming. Frank, a sophomore from Ellendale, Minn., coordinated appointments for brides-to-be and assisted the TLC camera crew.

Courrier and Frank were hired by the Wedding Guys, a Twin Cities company that holds major bridal shows around the country. The Wedding Guys provides the bridal show infrastructure for “Randy to the Rescue” and TLC.

The Wedding Guys has hired UW-Stout students in the past and, as a result, interviewed members of the Stout Events Society for the “Randy to the Rescue” jobs, Frank said.

“I’m getting to see the side of events I want to experience, such as setting up larger events for weddings or corporate,” Courrier said of the “Randy to the Rescue” position.

Frank said she hopes to work in the hotel industry and may use this experience someday to start a wedding planning business.
BREAKTHROUGH DEBUT

RIGHT: Eliza working in her studio. Photo by Adam Wheeler.
The cover and other illustrations from “Miss Maple’s Seeds” / Photos Courtesy of Penguin Young Readers Group.
Alumna Eliza Wheeler makes a New York Times best-seller list with her first book, a children’s story that she wrote and illustrated

Eliza Wheeler’s debut as a children’s book author was impressive: Less than one month after publication, “Miss Maple’s Seeds” appeared on a New York Times best-seller list.

Some people might call that an overnight success, but Wheeler, a 2006 UW-Stout graduate, would reply that the seeds for her first book were planted as a child, nourished with inspiring teachers and bloomed after years of hard work.

Still, she was as surprised as any first-time author might be to see her work reaching the No. 10 slot April 28 on the Times’ list for picture books.

“It’s really exciting for a brand new author,” Wheeler said in a telephone interview from her home in Los Angeles. “At the most I pictured that my friends and family would buy this.”

What stands out about Wheeler is that she didn’t just write the 32-page book, published by Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Books of New York. She also was the illustrator.

She’s an illustrator by trade, having majored in art with a graphic design concentration, and happens to be talented enough to also write her own books. “Through illustration I realized I had stories I wanted to tell,” Wheeler said.

“Miss Maple’s Seeds” is about Miss Maple, a tiny woman who lives in a cozy maple tree house, gathers orphan seeds and raises them. Miss Maple imbues the seeds with motherly knowledge before letting them loose into the big world.

Publisher’s Weekly praised Wheeler’s work. “Confident artistry and an intuitive knowledge of what the world looks like to a very small person make a winning combination in Wheeler’s debut. Wheeler has clearly had a good time inventing fairy-house fixtures for Miss Maple: flower lantern boats and hollow-log houses make one yearn to escape our big, unwieldy world and inhabit hers.”

Wheeler’s story is an allegory for parents and teachers, who also must send their progeny and protégés into the world.

“They’re the caretakers. That’s the role they have to go through, and there’s the attachment they have to children and students. At some point they have to let go,” Wheeler said.

DEDICATED TO HER TEACHERS

Wheeler could be one of Miss Maple’s seeds. She dedicates the book to five art teachers, the first of which was her father, Gary Swanson, at Solon Springs Elementary in northern Wisconsin. Another art teacher, at Solon Springs High School, was Dave Zosel, a UW-Stout alumnus. Two others were professors at UW-Stout, Charles Matson Lume and Amy Fichter.

Lume isn’t surprised by his former student’s success. “As I recall, Eliza was remarkably talented in drawing. But talent will only take one so far. She had a will to succeed that manifested itself in self-imposed high standards and a strong work ethic,” Lume said.

“Her fellow students often worked harder because she set the standard so high for the class. Over time, I saw in her a growing sense of self-confidence in her skills and her ideas. She was unafraid of risks and frequently sought ways to challenge her own ways of thinking. Needless to say, Eliza was a delight to work with, and it’s not surprising to see that she has found success in so many ways,” Lume added.

Wheeler, who fell in love with drawing as a child, said she comes from a family of teachers, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Her mother, Jean Swanson, was her elementary and high school music teacher.

“The whole story came together through different inspirations in my life. My grandmother was a gardener. The idea of this woman shepherding seeds and caring for seeds came through this influence,” Wheeler said.

Wheeler admits that her heart was in drawing, or studio art, but decided to focus on graphic design at UW-Stout because she and her parents thought it offered more job opportunities. Still, she learned plenty about drawing in her art and design foundation classes.

“We were required to take a lot of painting and drawing courses, and those were the ones I loved the most. That’s where the passion was. Even though I wasn’t an illustration major, I still got a lot of what I needed. There are cross-over skills that I’ve been able to incorporate into my illustration work,” Wheeler said.
She first met her future husband, Adam Wheeler, in an art class at UW-Stout. They both worked at the University Library part time, and Eliza also worked as a student graphic designer for a campus office.

After they graduated in 2006, they moved to Los Angeles in 2007 to help further Adam’s career in multimedia and film. Adam, a Ladysmith native, also has done music videos for the Eau Claire-based band The Daredevil Christopher Wright.

Eliza credits Adam with pushing her to be better and providing valuable artistic feedback, calling him her “creative partner.”

**PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS**

Eliza’s career took off after she began attending Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators international conferences in Los Angeles. She won SCBWI awards in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and began making key professional contacts.

One of the awards was for a mentorship with Cecilia Yung, art director for Penguin. Yung was impressed with Eliza’s skills and work and invited Eliza to submit book ideas. Her first proposal was for “Miss Maple’s Seeds,” which editor Nancy Paulsen loved.

The process from book inception to publication took two years, with “Miss Maple’s Seeds” coming out April 4. Eliza created 28 full-color, richly detailed drawings for the book.

Eliza did the initial work on “Miss Maple’s Seeds” while back home in northern Wisconsin for a few months house-sitting for family friends. No seeds were flying — it was midwinter — but she used the experience of being holed up in the snowdrifts as a writing retreat, she said.

She already has a contract for a second book with Nancy Paulsen/Penguin.

Since 2011 Eliza, who has an agent, also has worked full time as an independent illustrator. Her work graced the cover of a middle grade novel, “Doll Bones,” by Holly Black, another New York Times best-selling author. “Doll Bones,” from Simon & Schuster, was released in early May. It includes 12 chapter drawings by Eliza.

The website for Blue Sky Studios, with delightful, vibrant characters seemingly jumping off the page, is like a movie marquee for kids and kids at heart.

The headlines blare: “Ice Age: Continental Drift,” “Get ready for some Peanuts with popcorn,” “Join our Epic adventure” and “Rio 2 keeps it Rio.”

Some of the biggest and best animated movies in recent years, productions that have helped define the burgeoning industry, have come from Blue Sky Studios, www.blueskystudios.com.

During that time UW-Stout alumnus Jason Sadler was right in the middle of the creative action. Since 2005 Sadler has been an artist at Blue Sky, a subsidiary of 20th Century Fox, creating characters and sets that end up on the silver screen.

For example, he designed the two main human characters, Linda and Tulio, for the 2011 hit “Rio.” For the 2008 blockbuster “Horton Hears a Who,” Sadler’s first job for Blue Sky, he designed the secondary character Dr. Mary Lou Larue, along with the mayor’s 96 daughters and many of the animals in the Jungle of Nool. He did environmental design on “Ice Age” and “Epic,” was heavily involved with character design on the new “Rio 2” and helped with Blue Sky’s “Peanuts” film, based on the comic strip, coming out in 2015.

For Sadler, who grew up in southeastern Wisconsin with a sketchbook in hand, working at Blue Sky is pretty much a dream come true.

“I always enjoyed drawing,” said Sadler, who used to draw nothing but dinosaurs and once thought of becoming a paleontologist. “I love it. There are lots of really talented people at Blue Sky. That makes coming to work awesome.”

He wasn’t doing too badly even before Blue Sky offered him a job in 2005.

A 1994 UW-Stout graduate in art, with an industrial design concentration, Sadler worked for the first 11 years of his career in California. Right out of college, he helped animate the popular video game and TV series “Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego,” while working for Broderbund Software.

Then he worked on several “Mini Shows” for the Web at Mondo Media in San Francisco, animating on the popular “Happy Tree Friends” and designing and directing “Heavy Metal Guy.” He also worked for Leapfrog Enterprises, which makes educational toys, and illustrated a short story in the book “Out of Picture” for Random House.

Transferred to UW-Stout for art
Sadler grew up in Raymond, a small town near Racine. He went to Union Grove High School, when he decided to go into art. Seeing the “Little Mermaid” in 1989 convinced him that he wanted a career in animated movies.

He spent his first three semesters at UW-Madison before transferring to UW-Stout for its respected art program. At that time, UW-Stout didn’t offer classes in animation so he took summer classes at Sheridan College near Toronto.

“Stout’s art program was the strongest and most applicable for what I wanted to do,” he said.

Although Sadler didn’t end up using his art-industrial design education to do actual product design, he believes his art training at UW-Stout was spot-on for his career, citing life drawing classes taught by former professor Doug Cumming that “were fantastic. He got down to brass tacks and really taught me how to draw.”

Creating characters for animated movies involves drawing but “is very similar to product design. You make a blueprint for what you design, exactly like what you would prepare for the factory floor. You have to make sure everything is appealing and works from every angle. It’s uncanny how similar the process is, whether you design automobiles, toasters or a character that resides only in a virtual 3D space,” he said.

Notin’ but blue sky
Sadler’s career went to another level at Blue Sky, with its high-end productions. Because it’s a large company, he has to specialize in visual development-design and doesn’t get to animate, but that’s OK with him.

About 20 artists work in the visual development department at Blue Sky, which is in Greenwich, Conn. Their work goes on to several other departments — modeling, rigging, materials, fur, cloth, assembly, animation, lighting and stereo — before it gets to the screen several years later.

“The characters have to be modeled and rigged before they become movable puppets. In rigging, they make the model move with all the proper joints. It’s one of the many underappreciated art forms in the process,” Sadler said.

The culmination of the work by Blue Sky is when employees get to see the movies they’ve created during a special screening and party at Ziegfeld Theater in New York. “Just seeing the voice married to the character is something special,” Sadler said.

“You want to be around people who are better than you so it will hopefully rub off. There are lots of really talented people at Blue Sky. That makes work pretty fantastic. It’s a lot of hard work, but I absolutely love it.”
A 45 THAT’S STILL HOT AT 47

A LITTLE-KNOWN SONG BY THE BENDERS, A 1966 STOUT BAND, STILL DRAWS RAVE REVIEWS AND, AS A RESULT, HAS BECOME HIGHLY COLLECTIBLE


The song “Can’t Tame Me” by The Benders wasn’t one of them.

Rock and roll was alive and well nationwide when four young men at UW-Stout formed their own band, The Benders, and decided to try their hand at fame by recording a 45-rpm single in a little studio in central Wisconsin.

“Can’t Tame Me” wasn’t one of the 100 best singles of the year, but some 47 years later it has become a hit with collectors.

In fact, the then-19-year-old students, Paul Barry, ’67 BS and ’75 MS, Gerry Cain, Geno Jansen and Tom Noffke who formed the band, could never have imagined the value of their creation today.

The four met in college and were strongly influenced by the popular music of the day — Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, the Rolling Stones. The Benders developed their own “hard driving rock and roll sound” said Cain, lead guitarist.

They played the local-bar and frat-party circuit and quickly became popular because they were the “first real rock band” at the college, Cain said. The legal age for drinking was 18, “so there was an abundance of what were called teen bars,” he said.

The group would jam together and make up lyrics, but in 1966 they decided to cut a record with the hope of being discovered and joining the galaxy of rock and roll stars. They wrote the song “Can’t Tame Me” and on a weekend drove to Duke Wright Studios in Wausau to record it on the Big Sound label. The ballad “Got Me Down” was on the B side.

“We just went in and banged it out,” Barry said.

“Paul and I and Geno just threw the song together as our idea of what we thought a rock song should sound like. Just having fun jamming as young college dudes,” said Cain.

That was the only song they ever recorded, and they ordered a few hundred copies to sell at local gigs and give to friends.

After the four left UW-Stout, they went their own ways and figured that part of their lives was over.

They were wrong. Somehow collectors interested in the 1960s garage band sound got wind of the record, and a single copy in the original picture sleeve has sold for as much as $2,000 online.

Barry and Cain have been amused and astonished by the attention the record is receiving. One collector has ranked “Can’t Tame Me” at 87th on a list of the 1,000 rarest U.S. 1960s garage 45-rpm singles and hazards a guess that perhaps only 20 copies of the record exist worldwide.
“I do have one copy left that I’ll probably sell for the right price. If I knew how valuable they were going to get, I wouldn’t have given so many away,” Cain said.

Barry, who also has a couple of copies left, is waiting for the right time to sell. To his surprise even the paper sleeve — sans record — has become valuable.

Music remains a constant for Barry and Cain. Barry, lead vocalist and drummer for The Benders, performs regularly during the winter months. After retiring in 1998 from Cudahy High School where he taught industrial arts, he chose to move to The Villages in Florida, where live music is played nightly 365 days a year. The residents — all over 55 — love rock and roll oldies, and Barry loves to deliver. He also has written his own material and recently recorded a solo CD.

Cain, who had always been interested in music, planned to be an industrial education teacher when he attended UW-Stout. But his plans took an unexpected turn when he met the three musicians and started to play music for the college scene.

“A turning point in my life was going to UW-Stout,” he said, saying that he found he was more interested in pursuing music than studying for metals class, for example.

Cain left after about 1½ years and became a full-time musician, playing with small bands and duos and teaching guitar. He lives in Menominee, Mich.

Jansen left UW-Stout after 1½ years and transferred to UW-Eau Claire, where he graduated in 1969. He then moved to Texas, where he still lives. Upon hearing the news of the popularity of the 45, Jansen was recharged, dusted off his guitar — he played bass — and started to practice.

This July, after 47 years, Jansen, Barry and Cain — Noffke is deceased — reconnected for a weekend at Barry’s home near Watertown. “We swapped old stories of our Stout days, jammed and even went into the studio to record,” Barry said.

The group did a remake of “Can’t Tame Me” with three other tracks, which they plan to release on a CD in the fall.

The original recording uploaded by Barry is available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKbhjU9Xs8.
Joe and John Gindele have been retired from teaching for more than a decade, but in the past year they have discovered that their careers are far from over. They have been educating people of all ages from Minnesota to New York with tales from their childhood via their memoir, “Yorkville Twins: Hilarious Adventures Growing Up in New York City, 1944-1962.”

The book chronicles their formative years as adventurous twins born to immigrant parents in Yorkville, a mixed ethnic neighborhood on Manhattan’s upper east side. Because of the book “the world is our classroom. We’re still teaching,” John said.

The Gindeles, who earned master’s degrees from UW-Stout in 1971, taught industrial arts and served as librarians and audio visual specialists for nearly 30 years in the Robbinsdale, Minn., school district, retiring in 1999 and 2000. They live in nearby Crystal, Minn.

The memoir came out in 2012 and has been a hit. It was a finalist and then named runner-up in the social science category of the prestigious Midwest Book Awards, held in May in Bloomington, Minn. Books from 12 states were nominated.

“Yorkville Twins” is more than a story about two wild and crazy boys. It’s about the history of New York, immigrant life, culture, family, coming of age, perseverance and the American dream.

That’s one reason it has resonated both in New York and halfway across the country in Minnesota, where the brothers have lived for more than 50 years.

At New York’s Mercy College, the book was required reading in 2012-13 for students in two classes, “Critical Inquiry: The Immigration Experience in New York City,” and “Critical Inquiry: History of the Hudson.”

“One of the reasons we wrote this memoir is to preserve our heritage and culture,” said John.

“And to honor our parents,” added Joe. “Because of them we lived the American dream too. They put five kids through college, which was unusual back then.”

The Gindeles, who have lived together their entire lives except for one year, embody the American dream. Born to a mother from Czechoslovakia and father from Germany who didn’t have high school educations, the twins achieved the highest levels of education, landed good jobs and lived productive lives in the suburbs of Minneapolis.

After graduating from high school, they moved to Minnesota to be near family and earned their bachelor’s degrees in industrial arts education from St. Cloud State; Joe also earned a bachelor’s in math.

While starting their teaching careers in Robbinsdale, they attended UW-Stout during the summers of 1969-71 to earn their master’s degrees in industrial education.

“If we had known about Stout initially, we would have completed our bachelor’s degrees there. We didn’t know what Stout was all about. We had a terrific (graduate) experience and terrific professors,” Joe said.

Eventually, they earned education specialist degrees from St. Cloud and doctorates from the University of Northern Iowa.

By then they had fully matured and recovered from their rough and tumble childhood. “The stories in the book are true. What our parents went through, we can’t even imagine,” John said.

“The book was a culmination of Christmas letters we wrote to family and friends about the history of our family. We stopped writing them for a while and they protested. We thought, ‘If they liked the stories, maybe other people would,’ ” Joe said.

They were right. The twins also are planning an autobiography that will pick up where their adolescent years left off, including their experiences at UW-Stout. They began learning the craft of writing while doing their master’s theses at UW-Stout, they said.

Their master’s theses adviser at UW-Stout, Ervin Dennis, eventually left for the University of Northern Iowa, where they followed him to pursue their doctorates, they said.

Below: John, left, and Joe Gindele of Crystal, Minn., have written a book, “The Yorkville Twins,” about their adventurous childhood together in New York City.
In March, Scott Settersten '84 was appointed chief financial officer and assistant secretary of ULTA Beauty. Settersten has been with the company since 2005.

ULTA Beauty is a national, specialty retailer of beauty products including prestige, mass and salon products and services. ULTA Beauty has more than 575 stores across the U.S. and generated more than $2.2 billion in sales in 2012. The corporate office is in Bolingbrook, Ill.

Settersten graduated Cum Laude with a degree in general business administration. After graduation, he spent four years in the restaurant industry with Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises in Chicago before pursuing an advanced degree at DePaul University.

Scott followed his brother Randy, also '84, to UW-Stout. Initially interested in hospitality and restaurant management studies, Scott ended up choosing the business field. He recalls important lessons he learned at UW-Stout.

“Study habits and disciplines developed during my time at Stout helped prepare me for a master’s degree and subsequent CPA and CMA exams,” he said.

He also found that faculty and administrators alike “set the right tone for students by role modeling strong values — respect, honesty, directness and reliability.”

It also suited him that the university offered small classes with ample opportunities to follow up with professors, valuable in-class team exercises as well as career planning and placement.

“Everyone had a job offer when they left Stout,” he said.

Before coming to ULTA, Scott worked as a certified public accountant for 15 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers, including senior manager roles with multinational clients and a temporary two-year transfer to Munich, Germany.

Scott offers some simple advice on achieving success.

“Show up, on time and prepared; be technically excellent in your area of expertise; be a positive contributor to your team; meet your commitments and always give your best effort.”

“The challenge is being disciplined enough to do all of those things at a high level on a consistent basis. But — as I have demonstrated — anyone can do it,” he said.

NEW MEMORIAL IN STUDENT CENTER

The Hall of Heroes project was approved in early June by Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen and tentatively will be dedicated during homecoming week, Oct. 14-19.

The university’s goal is to recognize students, faculty and staff who died while serving their country. They will receive individual panels in the Memorial Student Center, in the first-floor corridor between the Cedarwood and Maplewood rooms.

The student center, which opened in 1985, and its predecessor — now the Communication Technologies Building — were dedicated as war victim memorials. The new project will attempt to identify and recognize all those individuals from campus since the school’s inception in 1891.

A total of 39 people have been identified to date.

The Hall of Heroes Project Committee is gathering information and working on the design. Individual panels would include the service member’s rank, branch of service and information on how they died and their connection to UW-Stout, if available.

The committee plans to include students who graduated from the university, those who attended at one time and whether they died in combat, while in a training accident, from illness or other means related to military service.

HOW TO HELP

Donations are being accepted by the Stout University Foundation. To donate or to submit information about a former student, faculty or staff member who died while serving their country or to see a list of those already identified, go to www.uwstout.edu/lib/archives/heroes.cfm.
“The year was 1952, during the darkness of mankind’s predigital age,” wrote Virginia Lathrope Brown ’55 in her 2012 memoir “Nine Women.”

In 1951 nine young women — Delores “Dolly” Sauey, Barbara Clemons, Joanne Fritz, Shirley Duel, Virginia Lathrope, Patricia Jenson, Carole Tickler, Rose Peper and Diane Klemme — were freshmen at Stout State College. One year later as sophomores they met through the sorority Pallas Athene and formed what would become a lifelong connection.

As students they “put forth the effort to be above average,” Virginia said in her memoir. They also found time for the other important details of coed life: parties, dances, ski trips, boyfriends, church and school clubs.

All changed June 3, 1955, when the nine graduated from Stout State and found the future upon them and the past, as they knew it, no more.

The women wanted to stay in touch with each other and decided on a process, which they have maintained for 58 years. They came up with the round robin letter idea. Handwritten letters were to be mailed in a package to each woman in turn.

“When the package is received, she reads all the new letters from her old friends, replaces her previous letter with a fresh one and sends the whole works to the next name on the list. The package completes the circuit two or three times a year and brightens our days as it goes along,” Virginia explained.

In that hurried long-ago moment in June, the women vowed to faithfully participate. Each time the letters went around they would share news about their jobs, families, activities and other aspects of their lives.

After all, there was no email, Facebook or Twitter in those days, and telephoning was cost-prohibitive.

In the years that ensued, the women married — some to young men they met on campus — had children, chose teaching careers and stayed connected through their letters.

Patricia said the round robin system is an important part of her life. “It has come at times of great joy and at times of unhappiness but lifts me up at both times,” she said.

The women didn’t see each other until 1985, when they attended their 30th class reunion in Menomonie. “There (we) discovered a stunning reality,” Virginia said. “Stout had changed more than (we) had,” she said.

Buildings were gone or remodeled, and the campus had grown from the four buildings they knew so well.

Over the years the women have emerged out of the “darkness of mankind’s predigital age” and have become computer literate. “Our Stout education taught us how to learn new stuff” one of the nine said. But they still prefer to communicate via the old-fashioned handwritten letter.

“You have something real. You can pick up and hold before you pieces of paper still warm from the hands of friends you’ve known and loved for over half a century,” Virginia said.

“You can visualize her sitting at her desk with a pen in her hand, putting forth a little extra effort to tell you about the latest happenings at her house and in her life. It lets you know she still thinks about you and values your friendship.”

Even if one of the nine can’t physically write the letter, the round robin carries on. After a stroke left Carole unable to write, her husband, knowing the importance of the letters, writes for her.

When one of the nine, Delores “Dolly”, passed away in 2011, Patricia went to her funeral and discovered that the round robin was known outside of the immediate group.

“I stopped at a table of her relatives to express my sympathy and introduced myself as Pat, one of Dolly’s round robin friends,” she said. “Their faces lit up and they said, ‘We know you! Dolly always shared the round robin with us!’ ”

In 2005 for their 50th reunion, the women got together. “Such a momentous year as this could not pass without being properly commemorated,” Virginia said.

They met in Wisconsin Dells with their husbands, ate, swam and exchanged memories. They had such a good time that they resolved to keep on meeting every year. “The parties will go on every year, until nobody’s left to get together. But for right now, life’s a ball and we intend to enjoy it,” Virginia said.
David Aschenbrener ’89 from Shawano, Wis., is not necessarily happy when the Earth spins to give us summer in the Northern Hemisphere. He loves the cold, winter and most of all ice, for it is that climate and medium where he finds his source of inspiration. Aschenbrener spends his days making ice sculptures in bronze using the lost-wax method.

Lost-wax casting is the many-stepped process by which a metal sculpture is cast from silver, gold, brass or bronze. Casting is the process of pouring liquid metal into a mold. The ancient process dates back to 3500 B.C. and is labor intensive but worth it, Aschenbrener said.

It is something he is passionate about. He can give forms as transient as melting ice a permanent home in bronze. "The possibilities are as endless as my imagination," he said.

Aschenbrener, with a studio in northern Wisconsin, makes his sculptures from natural ice formations — icicles, ice sheets pulled from the frozen lakes and chunks from an ice dam near his house. He climbs on the dam and harvests ice formations on cold days. “It’s very dangerous and exciting in its stillness,” he said.

In college Aschenbrener discovered his skill and love for sculpture through the encouragement and inspiration of the German exchange teacher and instructor Alan Gamache. Aschenbrener first sculpted in cement and then with Gamache when he did his first pour at a local foundry. “I knew in my heart that is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” Aschenbrener said.

The idea of ice sculpting also came to him while at UW-Stout, although he was told at the time it couldn’t be done.

Since graduating with a degree in art and a minor in English, Aschenbrener has worked in an art foundry, has painted murals and painted houses. In 2007 he went into business with a partner and formed Aschenbrener Bronze, www.aschenbrenerbronze.com.

Aschenbrener has had exhibits in galleries in Chicago, Minneapolis, Utah, Arizona, Oregon and Mexico.

In a Vimeo video “Fire and Ice,” he describes his process of finding ice formations to fashion into forms using the lost-wax method.

Working with ice is ever evolving and transcending, he said. “I want this work to live on and inspire others long after the ice has melted and I am gone from this Earth.”
Amore, the Italian word for love, is defined as a feeling of great affection, devotion or zest. Songs have been sung, poems have been written and wars have been fought in its name.

Jenna and Alex Victoria ’01, owners of the restaurant Amore Victoria in the Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis, put the word into action in January when they came to the aid of neighbors after a devastating fire destroyed a nearby apartment building.

When the condominium and everything in it was burned, the Victorias did what a restaurant can do best — they offered hot, free meals to fire victims until all were relocated. They also hosted a fundraiser and silent auction on the restaurant grounds, with all proceeds going to the victims, and organized a clothing and toiletries drive for the approximately 20 people who lost their belongings.

“We feel like we’re a part of this community,” Jenna said. Many of the victims were customers. “We’re all neighbors here,” she said.

In June the restaurant and neighborhood went through another disaster of sorts. Mother Nature decided to let loose with a storm that shut down the area for a few days. Trees fell, water coursed through the streets and the power went out.

“We had to throw food away because we had no power for three days,” Alex said. “If we had known the power would’ve been out for so long, we would have given it all away,” although no one else had a way to keep it cold either, he explained.

Alex, from Los Angeles, grew up cooking Italian food with his brothers, who were restaurateurs. In 1991 an event occurred in L.A. that changed the course of Alex’s life and put him on the path leading to UW-Stout: The Rodney King beating and, in 1992, the riot that ensued.

“My high school was out of commission,” Alex said. In order not to miss school, his parents moved him to Appleton to live with one of his brothers.

After high school Alex chose UW-Stout. He had heard about the hospitality and tourism management program. He and the school were a good fit. “It was better than I expected,” he said.

While he was there the program received the James Beard Award, the highest honor for food and beverage professionals in North America, he said.

After graduating he worked in restaurants, including three years with the Chipotle chain.

“I wanted to work in a restaurant but didn’t want to own one,” Alex said.

However, after his experience working and establishing new Chipotle restaurants, “I felt more confident about having my own restaurant,” he said.

In 2005 Alex and Jenna took the plunge and opened their place at 1601 West Lake St. The couple chose a traditional Italian trattoria design and through their name, Amore Victoria, asked the community to love them. “The Uptown area has quirky names,” he said.

Nine years later the restaurant has expanded, has a new kitchen and is going strong.

Alex, who chooses the menus and oversees food production, offers classic Italian food made from scratch. One of Alex’s favorite recipes — Mushroom Passion — was actually created by him while he was a student at UW-Stout.

ABOVE: Alex, a 2001 UW-Stout graduate, and Jenna Victoria opened their Italian restaurant Amore Victoria in 2005 in Minneapolis.
A DAY TO REMEMBER
FIELD TRIP BRINGS TEACHER BACK TO CAMPUS

It was a field trip third-grade students from Almena Elementary won’t soon forget.

They spent a day last spring at UW-Stout and learned how to screen-print their own T-shirts, had their photo taken with the chancellor, toured campus, had lunch and even taught college students a thing or two.

Exposing young children to a college atmosphere was one of the day’s goals. The other was to have UW-Stout alumna Carisa Schlosser, a 2008 graduate from the early childhood education program, provide teaching tips to current UW-Stout students.

Almena students went to an early childhood education class, where Schlosser talked about using new technology and hands-on activities to engage students. Her class demonstrated some of the activities to UW-Stout students.

Schlosser also explained one of her secret teaching weapons: photography. She incorporates photography into almost every subject. Schlosser’s father, Pete Schlosser, is an assistant professor at UW-Stout and teaches photography. He assisted in some of the day’s events.

Students at Almena, part of the Barron school district about 50 miles north of Menomonie, have been excelling in math and reading.

Apparently they like their teacher. When they had their picture taken with Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen, he asked them what the best part of their year had been so far. One boy raised his hand and said, “Our teacher.”

RISK CONTROL
ALUMNUS HELPS JUDGE NATIONAL SAFETY CONTEST

Brad Luedtke wouldn’t be wrong if he said he rubbed shoulders recently with a few famous people.

The UW-Stout alumnus was, indeed, on the same judging panel as the U.S. secretaries of labor and education, the co-hosts of the popular Discovery Channel TV show “Myth Busters,” the head of OSHA and others.

Luedtke, however, never met his co-judges in person. They did their judging online for the Worker Safety and Health App Challenge, a Department of Labor national contest designed to educate young people on safety and health risks in the workplace.

Luedtke is a safety engineer for 3M in Aberdeen, S.D. He graduated in 2009 from UW-Stout with a master’s degree in risk control. He also earned a bachelor’s in business administration from UW-Stout in 2007.

At 28, his young age may have played a role in being chosen as a judge, along with his education and work experience. He works with many federal safety and environmental regulations daily at the 3M plant in Aberdeen.

“...A lot of people don’t know much about safety regulations. I didn’t know that much about it when I started the (risk control) program at Stout, and I was a college graduate. A contest like this can really open people’s eyes about safety and the four-letter word ‘OSHA’ and how it plays into their jobs,” Luedtke said.

OSHA, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, enforces workplace safety regulations.

The winning entry was submitted by the University of Tennessee.

For more information, go to www.workersafetyhealth.challenge.gov.

Luedtke has worked at 3M in Aberdeen since earning his master’s at UW-Stout.

“You take on the role of a cop sometimes. When you see a deviation, you have to correct that deviation. That’s when workers see me as ‘that darn safety guy.’ But the next worker might be happy to see me when I bring in a mechanized hoist to reduce the lifting they have to do,” he said. “I enjoy my job. It’s very diverse.”
This year’s report provides an opportunity to highlight very positive results in the ongoing growth and development of the Stout University Foundation.

One of the most exciting events was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Foundation during the scholarship reception Sept. 13. It was wonderful to have Chancellor Sorensen and former vice chancellors David Williams and Patricia Reisinger as guest speakers to share stories about the Foundation’s history.

Another major milestone was achieved in January as the assets of the Foundation exceeded $40 million. The steady growth of assets since the tremendous economic downturn of 2008-09 is clearly very positive news, which now allows the Foundation both to provide more funding for the benefit of the university and also enhance its staff and service capacity.

I continue to be grateful for this wonderful opportunity to serve as executive director of the Foundation, an organization with such a strong tradition of leadership and service. We have a wonderful team of professionals who are passionate about their work and really are making a difference in the lives of students, alumni, donors and friends of UW-Stout. I wish to thank them for their dedicated service and recognize them for their tireless efforts to fulfill our vital educational mission.

NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR NAMED

It is my distinct pleasure to announce the hiring of our new alumni director and development officer, Juliet Fox. We are excited about the leadership Juliet will bring to our alumni program and her business skills that will be invaluable in developing philanthropic resources. Read more about Juliet on the opposite page.

During this year we said goodbye to Sue Pittman, who retired in January, and also Terese Wentworth, who moved to Outreach Services in the Discovery Center. Many thanks are due to both for their wonderful work in building our alumni relations program.

GIFTS, PLEDGES SUPPORT MANY CAUSES

Once again I would like to highlight the amazing work of our campus call center staff, which is made up of 20 students who attempt to personally reach nearly all our alumni, friends and families of UW-Stout. During the academic year the call center generates more than $150,000 in support to the university. Gifts to the college campaigns not only support programs but professional development opportunities for students, undergraduate research and many other programs.

Gifts and pledges made through the college campaigns provide opportunities for faculty and students that otherwise would not be possible in these difficult times for higher education. A special thanks to all who pick up the phone and engage our students and give back to enhance the quality of UW-Stout’s educational experience.

Another highlight from this past year is the Chancellor’s Challenge campaign to raise support for the Foundation’s Stout Scholar scholarship program. Thanks to a challenge gift from Chancellor Sorensen and Toni Poll-Sorensen, the members of the Foundation and alumni boards, Chancellor’s Advisory Council as well as committed alumni and friends have helped raise nearly $95,000 in cash and pledges to date.

In addition to this success, I am proud to announce that last year the Foundation was able to provide more than $570,000 in student scholarships. Beyond that, we have ambitious goals to increase this amount through establishing 15 new annual and endowed scholarships per year over the next five years to provide new sources of scholarship support for present and future students.

DEAN WEIDNER’S $1 MILLION DONATION

A final highlight of the year was receiving the wonderful transformational gift from Dean Weidner, owner and founder of Weidner Apartment Homes, designated to the real estate property management program within the School of Hospitality Leadership and the College of Management.

We are enormously grateful for Dean Weidner’s extraordinary generosity and commitment to becoming a partner with UW-Stout.

A SINCERE THANK YOU

In conclusion, I’d like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Foundation Board of Directors. Once again they have attained 100 percent giving to the Foundation on top of their dedicated service and volunteer contributions.

One of the reasons our Foundation and Alumni Association have been so successful is due to the commitment and sacrifice of their members, and we are grateful for the many ways they are giving back to UW-Stout and leading us into an even brighter future!
A UW-Stout graduate and former instructor was named in May as the new director of the Alumni Association office and as a development officer for the Stout University Foundation.

Juliet Fox, most recently co-owner of a consulting and product design company, “brings a wealth of experience to this key role within University Advancement,” according to Mark Parsons, vice chancellor for University Advancement and Marketing.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Juliet’s breadth of global business and community success to lead our alumni program and build philanthropic relationships with UW-Stout alumni and friends,” Parsons continued. “She has an exceedingly strong background of accomplishment in event management, business development, community engagement and leadership.”

“T o be working for such an impressive global group of alumni is an honor. I feel like I am coming home.”

Concerning her goals for the position, Fox said, “As the world of alumni networks changes, we are seeing a desire for alumni to be engaged in new ways. I am eager to connect with our alumni to tailor programs, services and engagement toward their particular interests and needs.”

Fox was a senior lecturer at UW-Stout from 2000-09 in the department of apparel and communication technologies. She went on to Future IQ Partners as co-owner and chief executive officer. The company works with organizations and other entities around the country on planning, managing change and social networking.

For example, Fox helped organize a global think tank on Building Sustainable Regional Communities in Today’s World at Windsor Castle in England in 2012.

Fox is a former member of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors and was the founder and executive director of Visioning Dunn County.

Fox succeeds Sue Pittman, who retired after more than 15 years at University Advancement.

Fox has a Bachelor of Science degree from UW-Stout in business administration. She has a master’s degree from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Scholarships through the Stout University Foundation for current and future UW-Stout students are made possible through support from alumni, friends and corporate partners. A gift of a scholarship to a student is much more than a financial boost; it’s an investment in our next generation.

Your support today will be put toward student scholarships unless otherwise indicated. For more information about available scholarships or supporting our scholarship program go to www.uwstout.edu/foundation
If it wasn’t for Lou Klitzke, Kelly Matter might not have made it to UW-Stout. That would have been truly unfortunate for the myriad people she has helped since leaving campus with her vocational rehabilitation degree in 1989.

Matter was in high school in the small southwest Wisconsin town of Belmont and had made somewhat of a name for herself as a cross country runner. Klitzke, a coach and member of the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame, approached Matter about joining the women’s team.

“Lou reached out to me because I was a runner,” she said. “He was my first introduction to UW-Stout.”

As luck would have it, Matter already was interested in the vocational rehabilitation field because of some testing she did while in high school. “Vocational rehabilitation was not a common major,” she conceded.

Matter’s cross country career at UW-Stout was short-lived because of a stress fracture, but her career in helping people get back on their feet took off. She recently was named president of Resource Inc. in Minnesota, which provides employment, training, chemical health, mental health and disability services to help people improve their personal, social and economic situations.

Matter previously was vice president of mission services at Goodwill/Easter Seals in Minnesota and was vice president of advantage services at CommonBond Communities.

Matter leads an agency that helps more than 19,000 people a year in Minnesota, with a budget of about $25 million. A recent initiative in two counties is intended to help people get off public assistance, and Matter wants to raise money for building upgrades.

“I think I am rare in that I majored in vocational rehabilitation and my entire career has been around voc rehab,” Matter said. “Getting people with disabilities and other barriers connected with the economy has been a focus of my career.

The role of nonprofit organizations is continuously changing, and that shift accelerated after the near collapse of the U.S. economy five years ago, she said.

“We need to continue to recognize that everyone is employable,” she said, adding that it’s important for nonprofit organizations like Resource Inc. to partner with the business community.

“It’s about knowing the business trends, not just the human services or social services trends,” she said.

Matter spent a decade at Easter Seals/Goodwill before a stint in the for-profit sector. She then was drawn back to Easter Seals/Goodwill for another decade in a vice president’s position. “I still say ‘we’ when I refer to Easter Seals/Goodwill,” Matter said with a laugh.

“UW-Stout prepared me well for working with three incredible organizations,” Matter said. “We walk the walk when it comes to making changes in people’s lives. I feel really fortunate to have landed with an incredible organization” in Resource Inc.

Matter also is busy on the home front as the married mother of two daughters, ages 11 and 13. But she has carved out time to serve on the Stout University Foundation Board of Directors and leads the scholarship committee.

“It has been fabulous,” Matter said of her Foundation service. “I have enjoyed reconnecting with UW-Stout.”

Mark Parsons, vice chancellor for University Advancement and Marketing, said he appreciated that Matter “stepped up to the leadership on the important scholarship committee” shortly after joining the Foundation’s board.

“In this capacity Kelly has been instrumental in helping to establish policy and procedures for scholarship awards and providing general oversight as we continue to grow and enhance this stellar Foundation program,” Parsons said. “Also, Kelly has done an outstanding job serving as the emcee of the Foundation’s annual scholarship awards ceremony, which is the highlight of the Foundation’s calendar each year.”

Matter said she knows that listening to her former cross country coach made a real difference in her life.

“I am an example of the UW-Stout approach working,” she said, which is “connecting people to real careers. I think the experiential learning I did is what helped me get a job in my area and stay in my chosen field.”

Kelly Matter speaks at the 2012 scholarship awards ceremony.
GIFT ESTABLISHES WEIDNER CENTER

A MAJOR DONATION EARLY THIS YEAR TO UW-STOUT BEGAN MAKING AN IMPACT JUST THREE MONTHS LATER.

In January the Stout University Foundation and property management undergraduate degree program received a $1 million gift from Dean Weidner, founder and owner of Weidner Apartment Homes of Kirkland, Wash.

The money was used to establish the Weidner Center for Residential Property Management within the College of Management’s School of Hospitality Leadership. The center is in Heritage Hall.

In addition to providing ongoing support for the program, some of the money also was designated for scholarships. In April seven students were named recipients of the first Weidner Center scholarships totaling $10,000.

Marie Virgilio, director of recruiting for Weidner Apartment Homes, attended the scholarship announcement during the program’s advisory board meeting on campus. “It’s very exciting to see such outstanding students receive the first Weidner Center scholarships, and I look forward to helping the property management program continue to develop the future leaders of our industry,” Virgilio said.

The program produces graduates who can work in a variety of areas, including public housing, apartments, condominiums, community associations, vacation properties, offices, industrial parks and shopping centers. More information is available at www.uwstout.edu/programs/bspm. The property management program was renamed real estate property management in June.

“We’re grateful to Dean Weidner for his philanthropy and input into the program,” said Mark Parsons, vice chancellor for University Advancement and Marketing, in announcing the scholarships. “His donation is designed to help grow the program to enhance its regional and national reputation and to assist deserving students like these.”

Weidner said that the UW-Stout program came to his attention after the company recruited several graduates. Weidner has rental properties in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Washington and Canada.

“We want to help the university make it the best property management program for a student’s money possible and to attract more students,” Weidner said about his gift. “The three-part goal is to broaden the exposure of the program, grow the number and quality of the courses and expand it through giving students incentives to enroll through more scholarships.”

Weidner said he has been impressed with the quality of the property management program, although it is only three years old.

“Better than that,” he said, “the university is interested in improving and expanding the program. The level of work ethic and knowledge of students we have hired from the program is good and could get considerably better. We felt that making such a contribution to the program would enable it to be developed further.”

College of Management Dean Abel Adekola said the gift will enhance the college’s “strategic objective of maintaining industry partnerships to attain and optimize resources in meeting the department and the program’s evolving needs.”

BOTTOM LEFT: Six of the seven UW-Stout students who received the first Weidner Center scholarships are, from left to right, Daniel Holperin, Katherine Anderson, Jill Webb, Joshua Pax, Zachary Vierling and Rick Wolski.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A worker installed the new Weidner Center for Residential Property Management sign at Heritage Hall.
1970s

Wesley Anderson ’70, Cedarburg, is chief engineer at Regal Beloit.

James Smith ’70, Georgetown, Texas, serves on the International Board of Directors of Shriners International.

Ellen Hain Gibb ’71, York, Pa., retired in March 2013 from McCormick.

Kristine Magnuson ’72 is a software instructor at ESRI, Charlotte, N.C.

Judith Bonhiver ’73 has moved back to St. Paul after living in San Francisco for more than 20 years. She retired from San Francisco State University in 2010. She works part time at Friends for a Non-Violent World and belongs to several community and national organizations.

John Ryan MS ’73 has retired as CEO of Little Friends, Naperville, Ill.

Cynthia Graham Pettyjohn BS ’74, MS ’75, Muskogee, Okla., has retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs after 35 years. Her last position was clinical nutrition manager at Jack C. Montgomery VA Hospital.

Sandra Strauch Gregar BS ’75, MS ’76, associate director of Tomah Veterans Affairs Medical Center, is retiring after more than 36 years of federal service.

Jon Schoenborn ’75 was promoted to lead designer at International Paper, Indianapolis.

Kevin Schenk ’76 is in his 37th year of teaching automotive courses at Pulaski High School, Milwaukee, and has served as department chair for the past 14 years. He planned to retire in June this year.

Christopher Awonubi BS ’77, MS ’78, Abuja, Nigeria, is head of administration and human resources at Abutment Nigeria, an aluminum manufacturing company.

Kit Hoffman Werner ’78, Plover, received a Ph.D. from UW-Madison in educational leadership and policy analysis. She recently accepted a position as clinical assistant professor and nutrition science clinical director in the departments of kinesiology and health sciences in the College of Health Sciences at UW-Milwaukee.

Kevin Mannel BS ’79, MS ’80 is executive director of Positive Alternatives, Menomonie.

1980s

Curtis Allison ’80 is an export distribution licensee manager for Dairyland Seed, Kewaskum.

James Stiloski ’80, Oconto, is a teacher at Oconto High School.

Charles Harper ’81 is general manager of Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Neb.

Susan Cash Swinick ’82 is a family and consumer science teacher at WittBirn High School in Wittenberg.

Patrick Gove ’83 was promoted to director of design and construction at Golfsmith International, Austin, Texas.

Karen Huber Hague ’83 is a senior HR business partner at Equinix, Redwood City, Calif.

Cynthia Kinn Kievet ’83, Stevens Point, is assistant portfolio manager of alternative investments at Sentry Insurance.

Gilbert Blomdahl BS ’84, MS ’81 is owner and manager of Out of the Wood Solutions, Brookfield.

Linda “Lynn” Knitter Frank MS ’85 has retired after 42 years with Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, the last 27 as vice president and chief nursing officer.

Richard Goulet ’86 is a logistics supply chain engineer at Nissan North America, Smyrna, Tenn.

Lisa Malepott Fix ’87 has retired from Marriott International after 25 years and has started a new career as director of customer service for the Clark County Public Utilities District in Vancouver, Wash.

Nancy Gunderson Gallagher ’87, South Range, has earned an M.A. degree from UW-Superior in speech communication.

Tony ’87 and Carol Fletter Lundell ’88 reside in Ellicott City, Md. Tony is director of refrigeration for AmeriCold; Carol is a research specialist and instructor at Howard County Library.

Bradley Zorn ’87 has been named recycling plant manager at Waste Management, Germantown.

David Sandstrom ’88 has joined Landaas, Milwaukee, as vice president and investment adviser.

Merlin Moore BS ’50, MS ’52, Eau Claire, was presented two Medals of Honor from the Philippine government for his defense of the islands during World War II. Moore served on a PT boat and was stationed in the Philippines at the largest PT boat base in the world.

Thomas Grosskopf ’59, Beaver Dam, is retired from the Lindberg Division of SPX as a design engineer.

1950s

Thomas Hogan BS ’66, MS ’71, Keizer, Ore., retired in July 2012.

Donald Daebler ’67, Ardmore, Tenn., retired Dec. 17, 2011, after a 42-year engineering career in defense and aerospace. He has authored 11 technical papers and received five U.S. patents.

Gary Valine ’69 is a technical instructor and curriculum developer at Harley-Davidson Motor, Milwaukee.
1990s

Cheryl White Haila ‘90 was promoted to vice president at PNC Bank, Milwaukee.
Chrisy Mount-Kapp ‘90 is owner of The Vintage Painter, Luck.
Veronica Tostado-Span MS ‘90, Tarzana, Calif., is global manager at Cisco Entrepreneur Institute, Cisco Systems.
Richard Eggert ‘91 is a culinary instructor at The International Culinary School at the Art Institute of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
Joseph Kurth ‘92 is general manager of The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee.
Stephanie Logan Bynum ‘93 is vice president of programs at Kohl Children’s Museum, Glenview, Ill.
Randolph Morrissette II ‘94 is owner of Setters Liquor Store, Hudson.
Ronald Erdmann MS ‘95 is deputy director of research for the U.S. Department of Commerce OTTI, Washington, D.C. He was one of eight team members within the U.S. Department of Commerce to receive the Bronze Medal Award for providing outstanding and critical direction to the implementation of the Travel Promotion Act. The Bronze Medal Award is the highest honorary award given by the Under Secretary for outstanding performance and achievement of major significance to the International Trade Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Susan Peterson ‘95 is owner of Suzetta, Minneapolis. The women’s clothing and accessories boutique is expanding to a second location in Woodbury, Minn.
Jui-hsu Chang Shen BS ‘95, MS ‘97 is manager of KDM Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan.
Kevin Duncan ‘98, Shakopee, Minn., was promoted to ESD program manager at Seagate.
Kevin Kelley BS ‘96, MS ‘99 is a safety manager for Ecolab, St. Paul.
Juan Macias ‘98 is a principal manufacturing engineer at PGC, Edina, Minn.
Gary Campbell MS ‘99 is a school counselor at Meyer Middle School, River Falls. He has recently co-authored and published a book titled “The Boys Guide to Girls,” published by Book Press LLC.
Barbara Ledbury ‘99 is a global logistics and packaging engineer with Ingersoll Rand, Davidson, N.C.
Paul Mullen ‘99 is a mechanical engineer with Tech Logic, White Bear Lake, Minn.
Donald Saunders ‘99 is owner of Kenwood, a new restaurant in Minneapolis.
Renee Rykal Zimmerman BS ‘99, MS ‘06, Baraboo, was promoted to training and food safety manager at Culver Franchising Systems.

2000s

Aaron Brown ‘00 is general manager of Candlewood Suites Milwaukee Airport.
Erika Schorbahn Bronder ‘00, Eau Claire, has been named regional sales specialist for Milwaukee-based Bank Mutual’s northwest bank offices.

Jason Nesbitt ‘00 was promoted to vice president of transportation and business growth at Murphy Companies, Minneapolis.
Bradley Dobbs ‘01 is an instructor of supervisory management at Western Technical College, La Crosse.
Kayla Kleinwort Farrell ‘01, Orrville, Ohio, is a graphics and prepress specialist at Buckeye Container, a corrugated display company.
William Adams ‘02 is a design sales manager with SieMatic, San Francisco.
Tiffani Calmes Roltgen ‘03, Madison, was named executive director of the Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Roltgen was also awarded the state-level WAFCS 2012 New Achiever Award. The award was introduced by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences in 1984 to recognize emerging professionals who have shown potential for making significant contributions in the field. She will compete for the national New Achiever Award at the 2013 AAFCS Annual Conference in Houston.

Kaitlin Haase ’07, Wausau, is a family case manager for Marathon County Child Development Agency.
Jason Lindemann ’07, Colby, is vice president of agricultural lending at Abby Bank.
Andrea Brower ’09 is an account manager with CH Robinson, Eden Prairie, Minn.

2010s

Thomas Gunderson ‘10 is engineering and maintenance supervisor at Nestlé Nutrition, Eau Claire.
Courtney Hilgendorf BS ‘10, MS ‘12 is a vocational evaluator with Opportunity Partners, Minnetonka, Minn.
Megan Jurecki ‘10 is visual merchandising art director for The Bon-Ton Store, Milwaukee.
Jennah Brodersen ‘11 is an executive assistant with Storyworks OnDemand, Minneapolis.
Brittany Warwick McGuire ‘11, Antigo, is a Head Start and early childhood teacher for Merrill Area Public Schools.
Kelsey Arrigoni Karjalaiti ‘11 is a transportation representative for UCare Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Jesse Pischlar ‘11 is a manufacturing engineer in the Neuromodulation Division of Medtronic, Fridley, Minn.
Laura Abel ‘12 is a business analyst for Target, Minneapolis.
Hayley Evrard ‘12 is an employment specialist with Rise, Spring Lake Park, Minn.
Julia Guettler ‘12 is a visual merchandiser with American Girl Place, subsidiary of Mattel.
Eric Haapakoski ‘12 is a graphics coordinator for American Packaging, Columbus.
Jonathan Hunter ’12 is a packaging engineer for Unisource Worldwide, Brooklyn Park, Minn. Lauren Jeffrey ’12 is a teacher for Bering Strait School District, Shishmaref, Alaska.


arrivals

Richard ’91 and Angela Eggert, Hartford, a son, Brayden Gregory Curt and Sarah Branstad Fluegel ’98, Hudson, a son, Ellis Thor Jason and Jennifer Strangis Lundquist ’00, Plymouth, Minn., a son, Graham David Brian and Renee Schooley Running ’01, Rosemount, Minn., a son, Kyle Mark Chris and Kiley Zahrte Sahr ’01, Crested Butte, Colo., twins, Ayla Maree and Alia Rae Chad and Alison West Kurch ’02, Minneapolis, a daughter, Isabelle Rae Ryan ’05 and Sarah Mehringer Boylen ’03, Burlington, a son, Gabriel Arnold Nathan ’06 and Tiffany Grabow Anderson ’06, McKinney, Texas, a son, Nolan Scott


passings


Carol Dobrunz, of Menomonie, 77, died July 30. Carol began at UW-Stout in 1965 and worked in different positions until her retirement as assistant vice chancellor in the Provost’s Office in 1994.


Daniel C. McAlees, 75, died Aug. 29, 2012, at Red Cedar Medical Center in Menomonie. McAlees worked for the university from 1976 until retiring in 2000 as director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center and co-director of the Continuing Education Center within the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute. He also was a professor in rehabilitation and counseling.


Philip Schleifer, 76, died Aug. 21, 2012, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. Schleifer worked at Student Health Services as the physician from 1984 until his retirement in 1997.

Sue Schmitt, former faculty member, died Sept. 28, 2012, in Seattle. She was a professor of rehabilitation, a department chair and director of the Independent Living Center.

Radi Teleb, 66, of Menomonie, died Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012, in Eau Claire. He was a professor of mathematics from August 1989 until his retirement in May 2010.

Samuel E. Wood, of Menomonie, 83, died Feb. 11, 2013. Wood worked at UW-Stout from 1964 to 1991. He retired as assistant chancellor for Student Services/Dean of Students. The Samuel E. Wood Medallion, the university’s highest and most prestigious nonacademic student award, is named in his honor.

Chancellor Robert S. Swanson BS ’49, MS ’50 Former Chancellor Robert S. Swanson was remembered Feb. 16 as a humble man of deep commitment to many causes. One of those causes was the place where he spent much of his life, UW-Stout.

A memorial service was held at Harvey Hall Theatre on campus. The location was fitting: Swanson spent many hours at the theater, which also was the school auditorium, as a student in the late 1940s as he began to form a lifelong bond with the university.

Swanson, 88, died Jan. 27 in Rochester, Minn., of complications from Alzheimer’s disease.

He was chancellor from 1972-88 and part of the school for more than 40 years, including as a student, professor and dean. Swanson was eulogized as a man who loved his country, his family, the Menomonie community and UW-Stout and its students.

“It was a life well-lived,” said Marcy Mackey, his daughter, as she recounted his days as a youth near Superior, his World War II service, his love for inventing, woodworking, teaching, storytelling, eating desserts and many other things.

Nearly a dozen people helped tell the story of his life. He was remembered as a visionary leader during the years the school became part of the UW System but also as a down-to-earth man who built his own house in Menomonie and was known to most people simply as Bob.

“Bob was born to be a university chancellor, and fortunately it was here at UW-Stout,” said Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen, who succeeded Swanson, calling him an “extraordinary man” and “the most gracious and civil person I ever met.”

“He developed and maintained close relationships with students, particularly international students, and he simply never forgot who they were or their names,” Sorensen said. “Truly he was devoted to students, their education and their well-being.”

Swanson earned bachelor’s (1949) and master’s (1950) degrees from UW-Stout and married a 1948 alumna, Margaret “Penny” Pennington Swanson.

The memorial service included a reading of a citation passed by the state Legislature honoring Swanson’s life.

Flags on campus were flown at half-staff the day of the service, and the James Huff Stout Bell in Bowman Hall rang a funeral toll at the end of the service.
SPORTS UPDATE

FIVE TO JOIN
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Former UW-Stout athletes will be inducted Saturday, Nov. 2

The Class of 2013 will be honored at halftime of the 1 p.m. UW-Stout-UW-Eau Claire football game. The Hall of Fame banquet will be held that evening at the Stout Ale House in north Menomonie. Tickets and information can be obtained by calling the UW-Stout athletic office, 715-232-2224 or by going online to Shoppes@Stout.

Matt Lunde
As a starter Matt Lunde could be called upon to finish what he started, pitching 11 complete games in his four-year career from 1999 to 2002.
Lunde pitched the most innings, 247, in Blue Devil history. He recorded 144 strikeouts, third most in school history, and posted a 21-11 record, the third most wins.
Lunde surrendered only 63 walks, allowing .26 per inning, second best in school history. He was all-WIAC first team in 2002 and honorable mention in 2001.

Cara Fenhouse Pond
Cara Fenhouse Pond was a four-time all-conference softball player from 1997 to 2000 and was the WIAC West Division Player of the Year in 1998. Fenhouse, who played second base and catcher, posted a .369 career batting average and appears in the top 10 of nearly every hitting category.
She ranks ninth in school history in runs batted in (71), sixth in runs scored (84), eighth in hits (155), fourth in doubles (34), fifth in triples (11), sixth in home runs (7) and third in stolen bases (49). Fenhouse earned all-district honors in 1998 and 2000.

Bob Raczek
Bob Raczek spent five years at Stout State College, then went on to a high school coaching career that spans more than 50 years.
Raczek was an offensive lineman for the Blue Devils from 1956-60, earning all-conference honors his senior year as a center. He also was a three-year wrestling letter winner, member of the track team and an assistant football coach in 1961 as he pursued his master’s degree.
Raczek started his high school coaching career at Plainfield Tri-County High School, then moved to Stevens Point Pacelli in 1967 and has been there since, posting a 360-265-2 record, which ranks him second in Wisconsin in total wins.
His Pacelli teams have won 12 conference titles, reached the state championship game nine times and won state titles in 1986, 1995 and 2005. The Pacelli field was named in honor of Raczek in 2008. Raczek passed away July 28 after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Jamie Spielman
Jamie Spielman’s motor never stopped. The Menomonie native found a spot as a feared middle linebacker for the Blue Devils, starting all four years from 1999 to 2002.
A key defensive player on the 2000 WIAC championship team, Spielman was a two-time first team and two-time second team All-WIAC selection as he led the Blue Devils in tackles three seasons.
As a senior he was named to the American Football Coaches Association first team, was an AP Little All-America pick, was a finalist for the Gagliardi Award — the Division III equivalent of the Heisman Award — and was team captain for the Aztec Bowl, a Division III all-star game. Spielman finished his career with 333 tackles, 63 tackles for loss and 21 quarterback sacks.

Amy Zelinger
To find Amy Zelinger on the basketball court, a Blue Devil fan had to look all over the court. Zelinger was capable of playing all five positions, and the Blue Devils used her versatility throughout her career from 1998 to 2002.
The Blue Devils captured the WIAC title in 2001-02, a season Zelinger was the leading scorer on a team that had extremely balanced scoring. In the 2002 conference tournament championship game against UW-Oshkosh, Zelinger scored a game-high 21 points, pulled down five rebounds and had a team-best seven assists.
Zelinger earned first team all-WIAC honors in 2000-01 and 2001-02. She ranks eighth on the UW-Stout all-time scoring list (1,046), holds the school record in steals (275), is third in blocked shots (83) and 15th in rebounding (423).
2013-2014 ALUMNI EVENTS
SPONSORED BY BLUE DEVIL ATHLETICS

2013 HOMECOMING set back cover for complete details.

CITY NETWORKING EVENTS specific dates set in fall
Milwaukee-Milwaukee Brewers game
Minneapolis/St. Paul-Minnesota Twins game
Appleton/Green Bay-Wisconsin Timber Rattlers game
Madison-Madison Mallards game

ALL YEAR LEGACY REUNIONS
Soccer - Saturday, September 21 at 2 p.m. against UW-Oshkosh
Pregame social gathering with food and drink provided
Men’s and Women’s Golf - Saturday, May 3
Golf tournament at Chippewa Valley Golf Club with reception afterwards
Baseball - Sunday, May 4 at 12 and 3 p.m. against Stevens Point
Pregame social gathering with food and drink provided

CHAMPIONSHIP REUNIONS
Men's Golf 25 year reunions ('87, '88, '89)
In conjunction with Men’s Golf legacy reunion on May 3
Baseball 25 year reunions
('87 Northern, '89 Northern, '90)
In conjunction with Baseball legacy reunion on Sunday, May 4

UW-STOUT BASEBALL FIELD RENEWAL PROJECT
Built in the mid-1970s, the UW-Stout baseball complex will get a major facelift during the next several years.

The Baseball Field Renewal Project is underway to replace the dugouts, install a new scoreboard and improve the irrigation system and playing surface.

The dugouts were demolished in late May, and construction was expected to begin in July. The first base dugout will include a media facility on a second level. Both dugouts will be moved farther down the base lines, allowing more seating behind home plate. The infield is expected to be replaced with new sod.

The scoreboard, which will remain in centerfield, will be replaced with a new one. The athletics department hopes to raise $100,000 for the project. Approximately $25,000 had been raised as of early June. More information is available at http://bit.ly/12QzaPJ.
MOTHER NATURE DECLARED **SPRING SPORTS CHAMPION**

Winter in west-central Wisconsin stretched into May and played havoc with the spring sports schedules in an unprecedented manner. The UW-Stout baseball team did not play a single home game on Nelson Field. The softball team did not use Alumni Field but cleared snow several times from the artificial surface of Don and Nona Williams Stadium to set up a field.

While the track and field teams had no home outdoor meets scheduled, their road schedule was altered. The men’s and women’s golf teams had their home meets canceled, although the men’s team did manage to move its tournament to the La Crosse area.

Sports Information Director Layne Pitt has been associated with Blue Devil athletics for more than 30 years, and this was the worst spring he has seen.

“I have seen baseball players shovel the warning tracks and play with soft foul lines,” Pitt said. “I have seen coaches snowblow the track, golfers wear so much clothing you hardly recognize them, but I have never seen a season where the baseball team was not able to play a home game.”

**BASEBALL**

The baseball team became road warriors, playing all 39 games on the road. The Blue Devils played “home” games at UW-Oshkosh, UW-Whitewater and UW-Platteville on consecutive weekends.

The UW-Stout grounds crew used heavy machinery to clear the baseball and softball fields in early April. While the snow did melt, it continued to fall. The Blue Devils were scheduled to host UW-Superior May 2, but the games were moved after a final major snowstorm.

After a spring break trip that included a 10-inning, 3-2 loss to the Minnesota Twins rookie squad, the Blue Devils finished the season 12-27 overall, 6-16 in the WIAC.

**GOLF**

The women’s golf team qualified in the fall for the national meet, held in May in Florida. The Blue Devils played an abbreviated spring schedule, but even that schedule was limited because of the weather, and they couldn’t practice on their home course all spring.

The Blue Devils placed 18th in the national tournament, led by Brittany McNett-Emmerich, who finished 52nd. Earlier that week, McNett-Emmerich was named second team All-American, UW-Stout’s first in women’s golf. It also was the Blue Devils’ first national tournament appearance.

McNett-Emmerich was WIAC medalist and player of the year in the fall, when UW-Stout won the conference title to earn an automatic bid to the national tournament.

In men’s golf, Josh Grisa narrowly missed qualifying for the national meet. He was named third team All-American.

**BASEBALL**

Williams Stadium became somewhat of a destination for conference softball teams. The Blue Devils held all their scheduled home games and hosted some of their “away” games. In addition, River Falls and Superior played some of their “home” games at Williams Stadium.

The conference tournament, scheduled May 3-5 in Eau Claire, was moved to Onalaska and limited to one day.

The Blue Devils finished 23-13, their most wins since 2005. They were 9-7 in the WIAC, giving them the fourth seed in the conference tournament, where they advanced to the second round.

Taylor Workman was All-Central Region and was joined on the All-WIAC first team by catcher Sam Hastings. Centerfielder Alison Gray earned first-team academic All-American honors.

**SOFTBALL**


On the men’s team, Zach Anderson defended his WIAC outdoor decathlon title and finished 17th in the national meet. Nick Lubinski and Patrick Jenkins also competed at the national meet. Lubinski broke the school triple jump record three times during the season, including at the national meet where he placed 10th. Jenkins placed 15th in the 10,000-meter run at nationals.
Commenting on news that a 45 record made by The Benders, a mid-1960s band made up of Stout students, has become a highly sought-after collectible:

“Listened a few times to this band at Pine Point Lodge. Also, Stout had a few other bands in the ’60s and one of those was The Tradewinds. ... I think I can still hear that band in my head.”

- Richard Larson

“Don’t forget Tongue, which formed in 1968 in the Stout dorms. By the fall of 1970, they had recorded an album (“Keep on Truckin’ ”) that led to touring with the James Gang and other groups. Tongue was comprised of Robert Collins, Richard Weber, Michael Larson and Paul Rabbitt.”

- Don Steffen

Commenting on a 1965 homecoming parade photo, featuring a packed parade route on Main Street and a hot Corvette:

“Expecting to see an Animal House moment soon after that picture was taken.”

- Jeff Eisenreich

“That corvette is nice but the ‘65 GTO convertible (also in the photo) is absolutely beautiful!”

- Matt Morris

“The Chatter Box Cafe had the best malts and burgers!”

- Steven Braker

Commenting on the 10-plus inches of snow that fell in Menomonie May 2:

“I loved going to Stout, but this is why I went to grad school in Texas!”

- Melody Palmer-Arizola

Commenting on winter commencement Dec. 15:

“Wow, do I remember that day well. Congratulations. Welcome to the UW-Stout alumni family!”

- John Richards

“I graduated in December of 1973, 39 years ago ... holy moly! LOL!”

- Wayne Novotny

Commenting on the death of former Chancellor Robert S. Swanson:

“Dr. Swanson laid a foundation for the UW-Stout of today, a Stout that continues the tradition of meaningful, relevant education for students to take to industry.”

- Dave Lylie

“When I was an undergrad, he was larger than life to me. But once we met, he never forgot my name. I don’t think he ever forgot anyone’s name. He was so special.”

- Sharon Nelson

“He had an influence on my parents when they attended Stout and on me when I attended! I’ll never forget him whispering in my ear as I walked across the stage at my graduation in 1986 saying, “Say hi to your folks from me!”

- Jenifer Werblow Schulz

“Chancellor Swanson was our “father” at Stout. As International students we felt he was genuinely concerned that we were comfortable. He never missed an International Students Dinner. He was an excellent leader, very humble...who walked with kings but never lost the common touch.”

- Avril and Colleen Sampson, Trinidad and Tobago
Join your fellow UW-Stout alumni for a homecoming pregame party
SATURDAY, OCT. 19.
The party begins at 11 a.m., and the football game at 1 p.m. against UW-La Crosse. The cost is $12 for adults and $10 for children 12 and younger. You will receive one game ticket and one meal ticket for food and drinks. There also will be games and prizes.
For more information go to www.uwstout.edu/alumni

If so, consider becoming a career mentor to provide career exploration and advice to UW-Stout students.
Sign up for the Alumni Career Mentor Network at www.uwstout.edu/careers/career_mentor_prog.cfm