Faculty and staff recognized


Forty years. Rita Christoffersen.
New beginnings

Another year has passed and we are upon the wonderful season of spring! This is my favorite time of year—fresh blooms on the trees, grass turns green again, the sun gets a little warmer and there is new life all around us. The beginning of a new season sheds new light on many areas of our existence.

For graduates, college and beyond, spring brings about the completion of an extremely important time in life. A whole new beginning to their ever-changing world. This is a time that decisions are of the utmost importance. “Who should I work for?” “Where should I live?” “Should I continue on to grad school?” These are the decisions that have an immediate impact on their quality of life.

Quality of life, a phrase that has been thrown into our culture and used in so many different scenarios, pertains to our wealth, our health, our work and our play, to name a few. How much money we make (or should I say keep) has a direct effect on our quality of life. Our health also directly contributes to our quality of life. If we are physically able to do the things we enjoy, then we have the capacity to enhance the quality of our lives. What we do to make our living is so important to our quality of life if we are following our dreams and are passionate about our work, we will be better able to contribute to our world and the professional environment of those around us.

And lastly, our play, how we relax and regenerate ourselves, is of the utmost importance to our quality of life. Many of us have had amazing choices throughout our lives as to how to spend our free time. These days, thousands of people feel that volunteering their time to mentoring others is a great way to “play.” It can take your mind off of the daily routine yet contribute greatly to improving the quality of lives of others. Volunteers that mentor others are able to “get out of themselves” a little and give what others might not be able to get anywhere else. The value of sharing your knowledge and showing others new things contributes to everyone’s quality of life. The recipients of mentoring benefit on many levels. Most importantly, it contributes to their quality of life.

At UW-Stout, we are given the opportunity to learn how to contribute to the world in so many different ways. One of the methods of teaching here has always included a “hands-on” approach. We are encouraged to dig in to whatever it is we are doing and not be afraid of making mistakes or hesitant to ask questions.

Unbeknownst to us, while we are being educated in an area of study, we are also being educated in how to live a life: a life that is contributing to the world around us, a life that is helping to improve the lives of others, a life that is full of new beginnings.

Enjoy this season of new beginnings!

Outlook going in for a makeover

The story begins in the soprano section of the Menomonie Community Choir. In 2001, Ejaz Saifullah, ’89, ’94, was searching for a copywriter for a special project. Ejaz’ wife sat next to Maggie Foote ’73 in the choir. Foote was available as a writer. Saifullah and Foote have been collaborating on marketing projects ever since. This summer, Ejaz and Maggie will be redesigning your alumni publication, the Stout Outlook.

Sue Pittman, interim assistant chancellor for Development and Alumni Services, is well aware that the Stout Outlook is often the only link between alumni and friends of UW-Stout and the university.

“When I visit with alumni throughout the country, they comment about what they’ve read in the Stout Outlook,” said Pittman. “We want to strengthen that connection for our alumni by doing everything possible to make the Stout Outlook interesting and readable. Converting to a full-color magazine format with bright photographs and links to additional online information will give the publication a fresh look and encourage readership. The decision to partner with Saifullah and Foote was simple. They not only bring professional writing and design skills to the project, but also their knowledge of the university gained through previous work experience on campus. Foote worked in University Relations and Saifullah in Student Life Publications.”

Saifullah, originally from Bangalore, India, lives in Hudson with his wife and three children. He had been the art director at Aha! Design, the in-house creative department of Conseco Finance, St. Paul, Minn., prior to venturing on his own as Corridor Design.

Foote had spent over 17 years as an arts administrator with nonprofit cultural organizations. She currently owns and operates the historic Oaklawn Bed & Breakfast on the east edge of Menomonie.

The brainstorming has already begun for the new design. Input from alumni will be essential for producing a publication that will meet their interests and needs. Alumni and friends are encouraged to send their ideas, suggestions and photographs. Keep your eyes open for the fall issue of the redesigned Stout Outlook, connecting you to the university and to alumni and friends across the country.

Three join board

Three new members were appointed at the annual meeting of the UW-Stout Alumni Association on September 20, 2003. President Susan Roman ’80 welcomed Jeff Baryenbruch, CHSP ’85, director of sales and marketing, Omni Ambassador East Hotel, Chicago, Ill.; La Rue Pierce B.A. ’97, M.S. ’00, Assistant dean of students, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and Christa Williams ’02, neighborhood coordinator, Neighborhood Housing Services, Duluth, Minn.

Baryenbruch graduated with a degree in hotel and restaurant management. He joined Omni Hotels following a more than ten-year career with Wyndham Hotels. He now heads the entire sales and marketing effort at the 285-room Omni Ambassador East, the national historic landmark hotel located in Chicago’s affluent downtown Gold Coast neighborhood.

Pierce earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology and his master’s degree in education. In addition to his role as assistant dean of students for St. Olaf College, he is also the dean for student affairs and the coordinator for judicial affairs.

Williams founded the National Heritage Education Foundation, which raises money for scholarships and pre-college programs to assist students of color with the cost of higher education.

Williams graduated with a degree in construction. Since graduation, she was employed in Washington State as a housing coordinator for La Clinica-Self Help Housing, and then moved back to the Midwest when she was offered the neighborhood coordinator position for NeighborWorks Services of Duluth. Williams also volunteers with many organizations including the Duluth Preservation Alliance and Bridge Syndicate.

Outlook President’s Message

President’s Message

Sue Roman

Greetings once again from UW-Stout’s annual phonathon callers! By now, most of you have had the opportunity to speak with us as we work through our 2003-2004 calling campaigns. We would like to thank all of you who have given—you’re support is vital as it helps to fund several areas of need including scholarships, computer and technology updates, and classroom resources.

To date, our phonathon efforts have raised over $250,000! This is a combination of dollars received for the unrestricted fund along with restricted pledges towards the College of Arts and Sciences. As you can see, your involvement can make a difference!