Kennedy named Wisconsin Family and Consumer Teacher of the Year

Mary Larson Kennedy, BS ’77 MS ’92, a family and consumer education instructor, was named the 1990 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (WAFCS) and a top ten finalist by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AACFS). The award was presented at the WAFCS State Conference held in March in Waupkesha, Wis. National recognition was given at the AACFS annual meeting held in Nashville, Tenn. this past June.

WAFCS and AACFS awards recognize “the outstanding contributions of family and consumer education teachers to the improvement and quality of family life” and identifies “exemplary education programs, teaching, and strategies that provide incentive for other educators.” She has been employed by the Elkhorn Area School District since 1977.

Her program emphasis began with the need to provide career direction for students, and to build business and education partnerships to provide potential educational, vocational, health care services and occupations. The program also integrated with other courses taught at the high school. It provided classroom learning and “hands-on” experience in local health facilities for nursing assistant was coordinated with Gateway Technical College. What began as a tech-prep initiative evolved into a school-to-work transition focus through an apprenticeship three-school grant.

Vanderloop named Wisconsin Vocational Teacher of the Year

Tom Vanderloop, ’73 industrial technology and industrial education, a mechanical design instructor at Chippewa Valley Technical College, was named Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Vocational Association in Green Bay recently.

The honor is made annually by the association to one of its more than 2,000 members. Innovation, student community impact, and instructional effectiveness were evaluated in the selection process.

In the past 10 years, Vanderloop has twice guided the CVTC chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers to national honors. The CVTC student organization was chosen first among more than 220 chapters nationwide in “overall excellence” in 1985-85 and in 1990-91. Vanderloop sees student success—academic and career—as his primary objective as a college instructor.

In 1991, Nancy Sabelko, then a student of Vanderloop’s, was honored by USA Today and Phi Beta Kappa as a two-year college Academic All-American. Sabelko is employed in computer aided design at Cray Research.

In a nomination letter supporting Vanderloop, Sabelko wrote that “Tom helped prepare each of us by supplying us with the tools we needed to be successful to achieve in today’s workplace, community and even making a difference in our world by reaching out to help others.”

Another student of Vanderloop’s last year set what many in the college believe is a record. Mechanical design graduate Dave Packard received eight separate job offers. Tom Vanderloop was the contact with industry in order to place as many graduates as possible in their field of study,” said Cal Towns, a human resources manager with Ingersoll Milking, a firm that has hired more than 60 CVTC graduates since 1986.

Kennedy has served on numerous local and state committees. She advises a high school FHA-HERO chapter and serves as the high school representative on the Elkhorn Area Schools Overstate Committee for the promotion of Village Partnerships. As a family and consumer education teacher leader for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Kennedy has assisted with in-service for family and consumer educators, especially in the southeast part of Wisconsin. Kennedy serves on the Gateway Health Advisory Board for the Elkhorn campus.

Previously Kennedy was awarded the “1995 Distinguished Home Economist Award” for the Wisconsin Family Consumer Educators (WFCE). The 1994 “Image Award” presented by the Gateway Tech Prep Consortium, and the 1988 “Outstanding Vocational Educator Award” presented by the Wisconsin Association of Secondary Vocational Administrator (WASVA). Kennedy resides with her husband, Steven, and two sons, Matthew and Michael, in Delavan, Wis.

Flowers Industries’ Mrs. Smith’s Bakeries Inc. has named Karen J. Gunderson ‘77 vice president of marketing/product development of its Food Service Group.

Gunderson joined Flowers in 1988 when she was named director of product development for its Pies Inc. subsidiary in Chaska, Minn. In 1994, she was named marketing director for Flowers Specialty Foods. Prior to joining Flowers, Gunderson held product management positions at Glacee Frozen Custard, Swiss-Miss, and Beatrice. She also owned a retail bakery.

Gunderson, a native of Spring Valley, Wis., holds a degree in home economics in business from UW-Stout. Gunderson, her husband Earl, and their daughter Kara Jae reside in Spring Valley, Wis.

Mrs. Smith’s Bakeries Inc. is headquartered in Duluth, Ga. It is a strategic business unit of Flowers Industries Inc.

Flowers Industries, headquartered in Thomasville, Ga., produces and markets a variety of fresh and frozen baked foods for retail and food service customers. For its most recent fiscal year, which ended June 29, Flowers Industries reported $1.24 billion in sales. Flowers also is co-owner of the Keebler Company, the nation’s second largest cookie and cracker business.

Funk named milk board marketing VP

Linda Funk has been appointed vice president of marketing, food service for Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board (WMMB). In her new positions, she is responsible for the strategic planning and execution of all WMMB cheese marketing, promotion and advertising programs in the food service channel. In this capacity, she will work directly with Wisconsin cheese manufacturers and marketers to develop programs in conjunction with food service distributors, brokers and key operators.

Funk joined WMMB in 1988 and most recently was director, National Product Communications, working with consumer, retail and food service audiences. She has worked in food marketing for nearly 20 years, previously with Ambrosia Chocolate in Milwaukee and with Pepsi-Cola in Southern California.

Funk serves on the Board of Trustees of the Culinary Institute of America and is also a board member of the Stouff University Foundation. She has served on the Board of Directors of the International Food Service Editorial Council and the American Institute of Wine and Food, Milwaukee, Wis. Chapter, and is an active member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals.

A 1976 graduate of UW-Stout with a degree in family and consumer educational services, Funk grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm still operated by her family. Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is a non-profit organization funded by the state’s nearly 27,000 dairy farm families. It promotes the awareness, sale and consumption of Wisconsin cheese and other dairy products through marketing, research and educational programs.

Nikolai named to coaches hall of fame

Of his 29 teams, 27 finished in the top five in 16-school sectional meets. Nikolai started the girls’ cross country program in 1987, and promptly coached the girls’ team to the state championship. He coached the girls’ team for seven years, producing three state-qualifying teams, two FRVC titles and one FRVC runner-up.

Nikolai also has coached track at Lincoln for 28 years—13 as an assistant and as head coach for the last 15 years. When he was an assistant, Lincoln won state track titles in 1976 and 1980. A 1967 graduate of Stout State University, Nikolai was a four-year track letterman in college. He was a member of the mile relay team that won the Wisconsin State University championship in 1965.

Nikolai, 51, and his wife, Diane, have three grown children — Tim, Melissa and Heidi. A Manitowoc Washington Junior High School technology teacher, Nikolai still runs 20 to 30 miles a week and enjoys competing in 10-kilometer races, and ran his first marathon, in Milwaukee, last year at age 50.

Nikolai was on the WIAA cross country coaches advisory committee from 1985–87; was a district representative for the WCCA from 1983-86; and was president of the coaches association from 1986-88.