"As an alumni of UW-Stout, I have many interesting and fond memories of the people and places I experienced while studying there. One of the more interesting experiences involved Carol Dobrutz. Carol was not the most jocular of the faculty, but she had these sudden attacks of humor that would seem to come out of nowhere, like a Mohamed Ali uppercut.

The finest example of this was the day Carol pushed opened the door to the men’s locker room and yelled, “You guys cover your eyes. I’m coming through!” This threat was met with immense hilarity on the part of those present. The joke continued for days as students passing in the halls or in the student union would yell “Cover your eyes” and go chortling down the corridors to the consternation of those not in the know.”

Michael Pierre '76

"The buildings [at Stout] now seem to be named after many of the administration and faculty who were on campus during my years at Stout. For example, President Verne Fryklund (Fryklund Hall); John Jarvis, dean of the School of Industrial Education (Jarvis Hall); Ray Wigen, director of the Graduate School (Wigen Hall); Merle Price, dean of men (Merle M. Price Commons); Ray Johnson, athletic director (Johnson Fieldhouse); Thomas Fleming, English professor (Fleming Hall); and J. Edgar Ray, drafting professor (Ray Hall). I consider myself lucky to have had my life touched by these people. I guess I wasn’t the only one who had positive feelings about them.

“When I think about other faculty who had an impact on my being able to perform on the job after graduation, I remember Robert Swanson, woodworking and statistics (he was way ahead of the times); Wesley Face, my graduate adviser (a tireless worker and leader); and football coaches Joseph Gerlack and Robert Bostwick. Three years as football manager with trainers Bill Buckley and Pete Miller and a great group of players was an excellent learning experience. Glenn Harke, you were one fine athlete!

“Remember the Four Preps (26 miles)? How about the presentation of John F. Kennedy on his way to the presidency? I have fond memories of playing double deck pinochle with Dean Merle Price, and classmats Bob ‘Gunner’ Lorenz and Roger Senft. But most of all, my Delta Kappa Fraternity experiences will never be forgotten. It was the friendship, support and comradship. Roommates Virgil Grottall and Gary Fontaine, where did life take you? My good friend Jerry Kain, where are you now?

“The national conventions in Milwaukee; Ithaca, N.Y.; and Frostburg, Md., were enlightening to say the least. The Inter-Fraternity Council, the fraternity/sorority parties, buck ($) nights, and intramural athletics all have a place in my heart and mind. In general, Stout was a total education. It prepared me for work by providing a solid skill set, and it prepared me for change, the one constant in life. For you young people, if it is worth doing, it is worth doing right. Give it your best shot but also have fun doing it.”

Peter Fulcer BS ’60, MS ’66

Bauer leads IBM team at Nagano

When Roy Bauer ’67 graduated from Stout, little did he know he would be associated with the Olympic Games. Granted, Bauer is a man of many talents; however, sports on the Olympic skill level is something he did not achieve. So just how was Bauer invited to spend weeks in Nagano, Japan, in training prior to the games and a month during the games? And, he has already spent time in Australia in preparation for the summer games in 2000.

Following graduation, Bauer was employed at IBM for 24 and a half years. He was an industrial technology major who went right to IBM in manufacturing engineering. During his tenure with the company, he served in various positions including site operations manager, corporate manager of manufacturing engineering and director of quality. Bauer was a major player in the success of IBM’s quality leadership and for the recognition they received via the Malcolm Baldrige Award — a yearly “Oscar Award for business.” As the IBM team leader for this award, Bauer has been recognized as an expert in the field of quality.

This experience led to Bauer’s first book, The Silverlake Project, which traces the transformation of IBM Rochester from product to market-driven business. This book has been published in Chinese, Russian, Korean and Indian.

Bauer took an early retirement from IBM in 1992. “There was too much traveling involved, and I was away from home too much,” he said. “You know in your heart when it’s time to do something different. At first, he followed through on some consultant jobs, then began work on his second book, The Quality Journey, published in 1993. “The publication of this book sort of refueled things,” he stated. In 1996 his third book, Competitive Dominance, was published. While Bauer’s business began to take off, IBM was experiencing some difficulties during the Olympics Games in Atlanta. They hired Bauer and his company to put processes in place to assure success during the next games. “I applied the Baldridge principles to the Olympics to establish a new leaders system to manage the information technology, changed the overall strategy, got focused on the customer, mapped end to end the critical processes, and ensured that all people were trained and understood the games work system,” Bauer stated. “IBM will use this information for the 2000 Olympics with some modifications and improvements. Fundamentally, it is now a systematic process.”

Bauer noted, “There were 98,000 Internet hits in one minute when that one person won the ski jump event. There were more Internet hits in the first three days than in all of the Atlanta Olympics. The use of technology has become so much more pervasive, not only in operations of the games but also in the involvement of spectators.”

Bauer continued, “Running the Olympic Games is like building a billion dollar corporation in four years, then shutting it down in two weeks after the games. All sorts of people are involved (volunteers and staff), and all must be synchronized at one time. It’s quite amazing.”

While at Stout, Bauer played and sang in a band called the “Mustangs.” Other band members included Dan Vranckx and Bernie Malherbe.

He hasn’t lost his singing ability. While in Japan he participated in a karaoke sing-along, putting on quite a show singing “New York, New York,” with other Japanese businessmen. Bauer noted he was a “KLB (Kappa Lambda Beta) in the first pledge class after the fraternity got legitimate.”

When asked how Stout helped prepare him Bauer commented, “Stout teaches theory and shows how to apply it. My strength was in knowing how to apply. People have good ideas but have difficulty in making them happen.”

When asked what recommendation he would have for young people Bauer said, “Keep your life in balance. Maintain that balance between your work life and family life. You’ll know when it’s time to do something different.”

Bauer and his wife, Liz, who are in the process of moving from their home in Rochester, Minn., to Wisconsin, have three daughters. Stephanie and her husband, Jeff Dehler, are both ’85 UW-Stout graduates. Nicci is married and currently living in Mencie, Ind.; and Sara is a student at UW-Madison. Bauer’s business will be located in Durand, Wis.

Besides the trips taken for the Olympics, Bauer is involved with the Board of Examiners, serving as senior examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. He also serves on the Stout University Foundation Board of Directors.

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This section came about as a result of a letter to the Alumni Office from Viola Luembke Brehmolt. “40 requesting we devote more space for campus memories. She stated she would like to see more articles and information mentioned from the earlier classes. It’s a wonderful idea and one we believe is worth pursuing. We have solicited a response for this first run but are counting on you to send your campus memories for future issues. Also, we need a name for this column. Any suggestions? Note: We reserve the right to edit all comments.
Wausau Insurance Companies

Wausau Insurance was organized in 1911 to meet the requirements of America’s first constitutional state workers compensation law in Wisconsin. Since that time, Wausau has grown into one of the most sophisticated all-lines insurance companies in the country, offering insurance services including property, casualty, surety and a full range of employee benefits such as group health, retirement and workers compensation.

Wausau has also become known as an innovative leader in the forefront of product and systems development to better serve the needs of business: early intervention and return-to-work programs, CareManaged WorkersComp, integrated disability management (IDM), loss analysis and control, alternative risk programs and much more.

Products and services are distributed through employed sales representatives, independent agents and brokers. Headquartered in Wausau, Wis., the company operates through a national network of seven divisional offices with 5,250 employees. More than 3,000 of the company’s employees are based in Wisconsin, where Wausau is the largest workers compensation carrier.

In 1985, Wausau Insurance became affiliated with the Nationwide Insurance Enterprise, the nation’s fifth largest property and casualty insurer. Wausau and Nationwide have an AA+ (Superior) A.M. Best rating.

Currently, Wausau Insurance Companies has 35 Stout graduates employed in various positions. "Wausau Insurance has had a positive, long-standing recruiting relationship at UW-Stout," said Bill Tolly, vice president of human resources. "Over the years, we have found our relationships with the placement office and the professors to be extremely beneficial in connecting with the students. UW-Stout appears to do an excellent job of keeping their curriculums current with the needs of business, allowing their students to make relatively easy transitions from the academic environment to the business world. Wausau has certainly benefited in a variety of key areas from hiring the talent of Stout graduates."

Kent Bills ’91 commented on the training and education received from Stout. "My graduate studies at UW-Stout gave me a wonderful foundation in the science of counseling, adult education, leadership and people development. As a senior consultant for organization and executive development, I apply those principles every day. One of the most memorable aspects of my experiences at Stout was the chance to work with great people. The academic staff and the student services staff I had the privilege of working with were always supportive, helpful and kind. Now I teach our leaders here at Wausau to be that kind of example to the people they work with. My ongoing relationship with UW-Stout is a joyful experience. I’ve had the chance to teach on an adjunct basis, and I currently serve on the advisory board for the master’s degree program in training and development."

Brian Huesby ’77, director, Loss Analysis and Loss Control Services states: "The University of Wisconsin-Stout has provided me with a learning experience which has supported my career and personal life since the first day I arrived on campus in 1971. There are the typical academic types of experiences that have enriched my ability to be successful, but there are other experiences, which I have found of great value.

"Foundation in the curriculum during my attendance was a message that classroom training along with real life business experience offers a stronger start in your career. Many of the programs provided work experience at a local hospital in maintenance. As a result, I gained experience working with boilers. Little did I know it would eventually lead me to working for Wausau Insurance. After graduation an insurance company approached me to become a boiler inspector because of my degree and experience with boilers."

"Twenty-two years later I still have a career in the commercial insurance industry, although the role I play has changed. Today, my responsibilities are primarily leading the development and implementation of corporate strategic initiatives for our Loss Analysis and Loss Control Services. These services help clients understand and control business risks to help prevent human and financial loss within an organization. Personally, I find a great reward in my career knowing the Wausau control professionals daily help prevent someone from becoming injured while helping businesses improve their financial results. I would encourage any student to consider the career value of work experience when related to a formal education.

"During my attendance at Stout, I made many lifelong friends. I would not underestimate the value of social experiences. They will form a set of values on how you conduct business and guide your career. These experiences combined with a formal education are invaluable. Throughout my business travels, it is amazing the number of people I meet who are Stout graduates or know of the university’s reputation.

"In summary, Stout’s unique combination of programs, work experience focus and an excellent social environment have given me the confidence to be successful in a changing work world. You will not know what your career will bring in the way of future opportunities; therefore, plan to experience as much as possible early in your education so you can better meet a changing world."

Dwight Davis, president and chief operating officer for Wausau Insurance Companies and a 1966 Stout graduate, commented, "In addition to the knowledge necessary for my initial post college employment, Stout provided the opportunities to develop organizational and leadership skills which have served me throughout my career as both a college and corporate executive."

Voc Ed group honors Fulcer

In April, Peter Fulcer BS ‘60, MS ‘66 was recognized by the National Association of State Directors of Vocational-Technical Education Consortium (NASDITEC) as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Recipients of this award must demonstrate a high level of leadership, vision and achievement in vocational-technical education. Nominees must demonstrate the highest meritorious contribution to vocational-technical education through innovative or unique achievement, expansion of the impact of vocational-technical education on students, or evidence of superior performance.

In addition to this most recent recognition, Fulcer has also been selected as the Teacher of the Year, (Fredericksburg, Va.), awarded the Virginia Department of Education Vocational Education Service Award, the Distinguished Technology Educator Award and the Supervisory Achievement Award. He has published numerous articles in educational journals.

Fulcer is currently the director of vocational and adult education in Loudoun County. He was responsible for designing, building, equipping and staffing of the county’s Charles S. Monroe Vocational and Technical Center — the crown jewel of the school district and one of the most respected vocational centers in the country.

Peter and his wife, Mary Jean, have two children and three grandchildren.

An athlete while at Stout, Fulcer continues to bring athletics to the young people in his community through involvement in various programs promoting sportsmanship. One of the founders of the Youth Basketball League, he has put a little elbow grease into the construction of bleachers and an announcer’s box for the county’s Little League. He served as an officer on the Sterling Park Golf, Swim and Tennis Club, and provided continuous maintenance on the high school’s baseball field.

What Stout Did For Me

”Stout helped me with career-related programs. As a beginning teacher, Stout allowed me to borrow teaching aids which I utilized in my adult education millinery classes. Later I wrote the curriculums for housekeeping careers and nursery school aide programs which I also taught.”

E. Bernice Johnson Susens ’49

”I am proud to be a Stout grad! I believe that my four years of quality education at Stout were solid and comprehensive. I fondly remember how many knowledgeable professors who provided a variety of hands-on learning experiences. I believe that I have been able to successfully transfer that concept into my own family and consumer sciences classroom. Through the years, I have received instant credibility among peers when Stout is mentioned for its outstanding academic tradition.”

Tori Giezle Fuentez ’75

”The overall experience of going to school at Stout was a great influence on me. The best years of my younger life were spent there. Getting my degree in hotel and restaurant management has opened many doors for me. The degree was important, it gave me and my career a specific direction. But, more importantly, the goal of getting a degree and accomplishment of that goal are the crucial factors. All through life we need to continue to set goals and work on achieving them. Stout is able to accomplish this along with giving you skills to excel in your careers. The statement of ‘it is not what you do but how you do it’ comes to life. Attitude is everything. Attitude determines how you do everything and your outlook upon it. Stout has given me a great attitude for what I have accomplished in the past and the changes taking place now for my accomplishments in the future. I have fond memories of Stout and always look forward to visiting the campus again.”

Keith Gartland ’86

Alumni Testimonials

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