

# Alumni News



## 2003 Distinguished Alumni Service Award

### Sheila Bugalecki '93

The Junior League of Racine (JLR) is committed to volunteerism and to making the community better through positive action. It should come as no surprise that Sheila Bugalecki is the president of JLR given her commitment to the same goals.

Whatever community service projects the JLR is involved in — Community Meals, Make a Difference Day, Foster Care Backpacks — Bugalecki is involved, too. And she approaches each project, in the words of one JLR member, with a “spirit and enthusiasm for the Junior League and volunteering in general.”

Bugalecki's enthusiasm for volunteering isn't limited to one organization. Outside the JLR, she has served as a tutor for the Racine Youth Leadership Academy and as a guide at the Racine Zoo. She is a regular at Racine's Festival of Trees and she has assisted Junior Achievement, a Boy Scout Explorer Post, and Racine Unified School District's “Pluto Program.”

UW-Parkside also benefits from Bugalecki's community commitment. In addition to being a regular patron of the university's arts and cultural programs, Bugalecki recently talked with student leaders about the importance of serving others as part of a pilot program called The Chancellor's Leadership Institute.

Bugalecki's enthusiasm for volunteering has won her several awards. She received an Outstanding Young Wisconsin honor in 2002 and a prestigious H.F. Johnson Community Service Award in 2001. UW-Parkside is proud to join those who have honored Bugalecki by presenting her with the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Service Award.



## 2003 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

### Linda Roberts '71

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is given to a UW-Parkside graduate who has sustained a successful career. In the case of 2003 award winner Linda Roberts, the honor is given to someone who had sustained two successful careers.

After graduating with a Life Science degree from UW-Parkside in 1970 and earning a degree in bacteriology from UW-Madison just one year later, Roberts became a bacteriologist and investigator in the Chicago offices of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. For the next eight years, she analyzed food and water sample in a six-state area, helped train state health inspectors, and gave guest lectures at UW-Parkside.

Roberts left the FDA in 1979 to raise her two daughters but she never stopped learning. She began her quest for teacher certification at UW-Parkside in 1985 and three

years later she launched a second career as a teacher at Kenosha's Armitage Academy.

Armitage Academy director Patricia Johnson said Robert's love of science “rubs off on her students. As a result, science is everywhere at Armitage.” Armitage parent Russell Beckman said like hundreds of other students before, his children got the science bug from Roberts. “My children regularly come home from school and share stories about how ‘cool’ science class was today,” he said.

Since joining Armitage in 1988, Robert's reputation as an exceptional teacher has grown along with her collection of awards. And in 2002, she received the nation's highest award for science and math teachers: the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She was selected from more than 600 national finalists for the honor.

The UW-Parkside Alumni Association is proud to present Roberts with the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.



## Chancellor's Award Erin Enright, Biological Sciences

Erin Enright is this year's recipient of the Chancellor's Award as the outstanding graduate. Academically, Enright was among the best students at UW-Parkside. She also distinguished herself as an athlete. She has been on cross-country and track teams all four of her years on cam-

pus, serving as captain of both teams. She received All-American academic awards in 2001, 2002 and 2003 and she was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year in January. Enright was active in other campus and community groups, serving as a campus tutor and being active in the Pre-Health Club. She volunteered at the Kenosha Medical Examiners office, a local pediatrician's office, and at Northwest Community Hospital's emergency room. She has also made two trips to the Dominican Republic, where she volunteered her time at a local hospital caring for women and children. Enright hopes to attend medical school after graduation.

## Computer Science Alumni Gathering



Computer science graduates gathered at the home of Karen Holland ('94) in March. It was a time to catch up with old friends and visit with faculty. Alumni received an update from department chair, Tim Fossum. Faculty also shared plans for the 25th anniversary of the department that include initiating a computer science scholarship. The goal of the scholarship fund drive is to raise \$400,000 to provide up to four full-tuition scholarships for deserving computer science students. Alumna Karen Kent spoke to the group of her commitment to the scholarship program.



Volunteers were recruited to help with the scholarship drive. Those in attendance included alumni Eric Anderson and his wife, Carrie; Ann Bausmann; Janet Fisher and her husband, Mark; Holland; Ruth Jones; Kent; Sam Naegele and his wife, Kim; Bjorn Nelson; Frank Porcaro; Scott Singer; and Karen Tuinstra. Faculty members in attendance included Erica Eddy, Fossum, Susan Haller, Stu Hansen, Tim Knautz, Karen Larsen, Susan Lincke-Salicker, and Lester McCann. Members of University Advancement included Sheila Egerson, Lenny Klaver, and Andrea Simpson.



## Alumni Day on Campus 2003

Many dedicated alumni returned to campus in late April to take part in Alumni Day on Campus. Alumni talked with students about their careers, the value of their UW-Parkside education and the latest trends in their particular field.

Alumni who participated included Amanda Albrecht '01, Gabriela Anaya '99, Joan Downey '88, Jean Goers '02, Christopher Henkes '91, Karin Henkes '91, Pamela Hicks '02, Yolanda Jackson-

Lewis '95, Mark King '86, '92, Char Mano '90, Cory Mason '90, John Merrill '71, Greg Pfarr '77, Octavia Roberson '98, Gary Smith '94, and Richard Wade '75.

Sharing of "real world" expertise with students enhances their educational experience. The encouragement and perspective offered gives students more than classroom lessons alone can provide. If you would be interested in participating next year, please contact the Alumni Association via e-mail at [university.advancement@uwp.edu](mailto:university.advancement@uwp.edu) or call (262) 595-2233.

## Upcoming Alumni Events

### Milwaukee-Area Alumni Regional Reception

Show your Ranger Pride and attend the Milwaukee-Area Alumni Reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003, at SWANK (A posh eatery), 628 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Cost is \$5 per person. Refreshments and a cash bar will be offered. R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, Sept. 17, to Karen Reiher at (262) 595-2443 or email [university.advancement@uwp.edu](mailto:university.advancement@uwp.edu). Guests are welcome.

### Pre-Holiday Shopping Trip

Make plans now to join UW-Parkside alumni for a day on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003. Trip includes continental breakfast, and motor coach transportation. The cost is \$20 per person. Space is limited, so reserve your spot(s) early. For more information please call Karen Reiher at (262) 595-2443 or email [university.advancement@uwp.edu](mailto:university.advancement@uwp.edu).



## – 1970s –

**Suzanne Chernik** ('70) was honored by the Kenosha Unified School District. Chernik is a library media instructional technology consultant for the entire district.

**Robert Wirch** ('70) has been appointed to the following Wisconsin state Senate committees for the 2003-05 legislative session: the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the Energy and Utilities Committee, Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the Homeland Security, and the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

**Patricia Liesch** ('71) has been hired as program coordinator at Racine Emergency Shelter Taskforce. Her office is in the United Way Building and she hopes to better serve the homeless population of Racine.

**Vern Wienke** ('71) retained his seat as supervisor on the Somers, Wis., town board in the April 1 election.

**Frank Germinaro** ('72) will become the principal at St. Mark's School, a Catholic elementary school in Kenosha. He will retire from the Racine Unified School District in July after 31 years of service.

**Jan Fuller** ('73) was honored for outstanding sales achievements with the 100 Percent Club Award for 2002 at the RE/MAX North Central 17th annual awards celebration.

**Nancy Granger** ('74) was honored by the Kenosha Unified School District. Granger teaches fourth grade at Stocker Elementary.

**James R. Filipek** ('75) was recognized by the Racine/Kenosha Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors for reaching the Million Dollar Round Table during 2002. Filipek is with Northwestern Mutual Life.

**Carrie Michelson** ('75) and Robert Michelson, both attorneys, traveled to Xi'an, China to teach college students as part of the Global Volunteers program.

**Michael Kocol** ('76) was named to the All-American Team of the American Funds Group of mutual funds. Kocol has been an investment representative with the Kenosha office of Edward Jones since 1999.

**Gary Meier** ('77) and his wife, Patti, have reached Reliv International's top profit/discount rate based on one-month personal/group sales volume for area distributors.

**Gregg M. Pharr** ('77) was promoted to senior vice president with Southport Bank in Kenosha. He has 24 years of banking experience.

**Greg Edgerle** ('78) was recognized by the Racine/Kenosha Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors for reaching the Million Dollar Round Table during 2002. Edgerle is with Northwestern Mutual Life.

**Kim Adriano** ('79) was named corporate controller by SC Johnson. She previously served as regional sales controller for Europe/Africa-Near East.

**David G. Braun** ('79) was honored with the President's Club Award for outstanding sales achievements at the RE/MAX North Central 17th annual awards ceremony.

**Mary Waid** ('79) has joined Girl Scouts of Racine County, Inc. as membership director. Her responsibilities include membership recruitment and retention in five of the council's 10 service areas.

## – 1980s –

**Dr. Todd Armstrong** ('80) and his dental office staff conduct an annual food drive. Patients and other members of the community are invited to drop off nonperishable food items at his office in Kenosha through June.

**Susan Greenfield** ('80) retained her seat as Caledonia, Wis., town chairman in the April 1 election.

**Mary L. Moore** ('81) received the Executive Club Award for outstanding sales achievements at the RE/MAX North Central 17th annual awards ceremony.

**Fran Romano** ('81) was honored by the Kenosha Unified School District. Romano is a K-5 mathematics consultant for the entire district.

**Steve McNeilly** ('82) was promoted to sales administration manager with The Precise Corporation of Racine.

**John Watson** ('82) was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year by students at Wilmot High School in Wilmot, Wis. He teaches sociology and history and is the head coach for wrestling, boys' soccer and girls' soccer.

**Paul Frederickson** ('83) was promoted to application engineering manager with The Precise Corporation of Racine.

**James Kreuser** ('83, MPA '86) was named the Democratic minority leader of the Wisconsin state Assembly. Kreuser also received the New Town award from Carthage College for being an advocate for interests important to Kenosha area residents.

**Mary Ann Perozzo Wu** ('83) had a special connection to the Columbia space shuttle. The shuttle housed several of her crystal experiments in the 1990s. Wu and other researchers were growing zeolite crystals in zero-gravity conditions in space in hopes of breakthroughs in medicine, semiconducting and other fields.

**Ryan Reed** ('83) joined CelebrationPureFlo MPC as a project manager in the process systems division. He has 20 years of experience designing, fabricating and assembling sanitary process systems.

**Julie Kinzelman** ('84) is a microbiologist in the Racine Health Department laboratory. She is the principal author of a scientific paper appearing in the January issue of the journal "Applied and Environmental Microbiology" that looks at whether E.coli or enterococci is the better indicator of pathogens.

**Ben Schliesman** ('84) is the director of the Kenosha County Division of Emergency Management and recently completed the level-four series of the emergency manager certification program.

**Elizabeth A. Andersen** ('85, '91 MBA) was promoted to vice president by the marketing communications agency, Charleston/Orwig, Inc. She is also account group director for C/O's Miller Brewing Company issues management team.

**William J. Evans** ('85) joined Robertson Ryan & Associates, Waukesha, Wis., as vice president.

**Kevin Wanggaard** ('85) was elected supervisor No. 3 on the Caledonia, Wis., town board.

**James A. Wynstra** ('85) was promoted to vice president at Trustmark Insurance Company in Lake Forest, Ill.

**Mary Day** ('86 MPA) was honored with the UW System's Women of Color Award for her role in encouraging minority students to pursue higher education. She has been the director of UW-Parkside's minority pre-college program since 1999.

**Terry Sexton** ('86) has performed Irish music for 25 years in bands, duos and as a solo artist, making a name for himself throughout the area. He was recently featured in the Kenosha News.

**Garry Childers** ('87) was appointed interim director of human resources for Lincoln Lutheran. He previously held the position of director of benefits.

**John Fisher** ('87) of the Burlington, Wis., Police Department and his K-9 partner, Nando, a narcotics and patrol dog, presented a special program to students of St. Charles School. The students celebrated being drug free during Red Ribbon Week by wearing crazy or mismatched socks, "Sock it to Drugs," or by turning their shirts inside out or backwards to "Turn Their Backs on Drugs."

**Karen Kristopeit** ('89) joined the Shorewest Realtors 2002 Million Dollar Club.

**Brian Paragamian** ('89) joined National Securities in Racine as senior account executive.

## – 1990s –

**Janet Days** ('90) a first-time candidate, was elected to the Racine Unified School Board in the April 1 election.

**Mark Totts** ('90) was promoted to assistant vice president, direct accounts, at Trustmark Insurance Company.

**Anna Maria Smetana** ('91) serves on the Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce education committee and helped plan the "Smartie Pants Career Day" program for seventh and eighth grade girls. The girls met with local women who have nontraditional jobs, showing the girls they can be whatever they want to be.

**Ben Lake** ('92) helped to organize Kelsey's Loaner Closet in Kenosha, a place where specialized equipment can be donated, reused and borrowed by families of children with physical, mental and emotional disabilities.

**Deirdre Reeves** ('92) recently won the masters ladies division at the 2002 United States Adult Figure Skating Championships in Ann Arbor, Mich. She also won the championship in 2001.

**Angela Smucker** ('92) of Smucker Insurance has been awarded the Lewis I. Dublin Community Service Award by the Racine/Kenosha Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

**Sue Palubicki** ('93) represented the Racine Fire Department during the "Smartie Pants Career Day" program sponsored by the Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce education committee.

**James P. Rosso** ('94) joined the medical staff of Columbia St. Mary's at its Milwaukee campus.

**Boyd Frederick** ('95) received the Democrat of the Year Award at the Kenosha County Democratic Party's annual dinner. Boyd also serves on the UW-Parkside Alumni Association board of directors.

**Cheryl Montgomery** ('95) is executive director of Bridges Community Center in Kenosha. She was recognized in a recent edition of the Kenosha News for offering building space for meetings after Club Breakaway was destroyed by fire.

**Jeff James** ('96) opened the Hometown Café on Main Street, Union Grove, Wis. James and his, Stephanie, and his parents, Jim and Sandy James, are partners in the venture.

**Joe Kane** ('96) a teacher at Jerstad-Agerholm Middle School in Racine appeared on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire," which aired January 23. His "phone-a-friend" list included UW-Parkside professors Greg Mayer and Gary Wood.

**Amy Matsen** ('96) an officer with the Racine Police Department, was instrumental in opening a daytime shelter for the homeless in downtown Racine. Matsen and REST, Racine Emergency Shelter Taskforce, worked with St. Luke's Episcopal Church to shelter the homeless on days when the temperature drops below a certain level.

**Stephanie Biesiada-Webers** ('99) was named program director and site manager for the council's Trefoil Oaks Program Center with the Girl Scouts of Racine County, Inc.

**Michael J. Martin** ('99) was hired by Jones Sign, Green Bay, Wis., as national project manager.

**Brett F. Templin** ('99) was appointed a financial representative at the James A. Schwertfeger Group.

## – 2000s –

**Sharon Geertsen** ('00) was hired as the director of finance for the Sisters of St. Dominic, more commonly known as the Racine Dominicans. She works at the Siena Center in Caledonia, Wis.

**Tonia Tworek** ('00) was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree and is UW-Parkside's first microbiology graduate to be commissioned. She will be stationed at Fort Dietrich in Maryland after undergoing officer's training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

**Kristin Paschal** ('02) joined the Racine Police Department. She and six other recruits were recently sworn in as officers.

### Fresh PERSPECTIVE

Have you seen *Fresh PERSPECTIVE*? If not, check out the latest edition at <http://www.uwp.edu/fresh> with these stories and more:

- UW-Parkside alum Dr. Nick Akgulian and his personal mission to Armenia to help educate doctors in this tiny European country.
- Wisconsin Campus Compact (WiCC) has a new executive director. Headquartered at UW-Parkside, WiCC is helping generate teaching and learning opportunities that prepare students for lives of civic engagement and service to society.
- Meals on Wheels allows many residents around the country to lead independent lives. Volunteers from UW-Parkside keep the "Meals" rolling in Kenosha.
- The Southeastern Wisconsin Educators' Hall of Fame inducted six new members, three with ties to UW-Parkside.
- In February, tragedy struck the UW-Parkside women's basketball when it lost junior Christine Rathke in an automobile accident. Rathke's number was retired during a home game that saw the Rangers defeat nationally ranked Northern Kentucky in overtime.