

Old Friends, New Horizons

by Michele Torner

UW-Parkside freshmen Michelle Lundquist, Sarah Markovina, Brian Tombari, Rachel Wesel, and Amber Zywicki have more in common than being new to campus life. They are all 2002 graduates of Whitnall High School in Hales Corners, Wis. A close-knit group, they each felt the choice to live on campus as an essential part of the college experience. Despite their bond, they also felt that it was important to meet new people. That is one of the reasons why the girls decided it would be best to room with students outside of their group.

Lundquist admits to being worried that she would not get along with her new roommate, a common fear among new students. Collectively, the girls were nervous about fitting in with the older girls who were already established at Ranger Hall. They have since overcome these initial apprehensions and have all managed to establish themselves comfortably here, welcoming new friends such as Stevens Point native Kristina Niekamp to their group. Equally fortunate is Tombari, who claims he is really happy with his floor, crediting its welcoming atmosphere to the many open doors and frequently playing music.

When asked what kind of advice they could offer to next year's incoming freshmen, they have a list of must-haves that each student should bring along. They all agree that while there are various computer labs available on campus, it is best to bring your own computer. This gives students more privacy and time while doing research or typing

for those last-minute papers. Hampers, mirrors, answering machines, and message boards are things that many students might initially forget. And while each room is provided with a phone, it is one of those old-fashioned, desk varieties, so if you want a cordless, bring one. The girls also recommend a basket that is easy to carry containing all of your bathroom essentials and toiletries. A small microwave and a refrigerator will come in handy for those after-hour cravings, along with a small tub for dirty dishes.

Lundquist suggests contacting your roommate before the start of the semester. Compiling an inventory of those larger appliances, such as a television, refrigerator, and microwave will save on any unwanted clutter. Lundquist also says that it is best not to bring everything all at once. She initially brought all of her clothes, only to find that despite the roomy closets, she did not have enough room for things such as sweaters. That can also be remedied by purchasing a large plastic crate, complete with drawers. Another way to conserve space is to ask to have your beds lofted, which is basically bunking your bed on

top, leaving the bottom part open for desks and larger items.

As the spring semester came to a close, these students finally felt as if they could call Ranger Hall home. The food in the cafeteria is pretty decent, and Zywicki praises Wyllie Place for its made-to-order subs as well as its mini-market purchase items. As for socializing, there is almost always some kind of event happening on campus, and the dining hall itself can be the place to go to meet new people or to find out what's going on. There are laundry facilities available for the residents, and any horror stories these freshmen might have heard about resident showers were dismissed when they saw the impressive facilities here, which include private, tiled shower stalls. Friends and visitors are allowed as long as roommates



Amber

Michelle

Brian

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are in agreement. Safety is also an issue that is never questioned, as UW-Parkside Police Department officers are always accessible, as are the Resident Advisors.

The final piece of advice that this group would like to pass on to the incoming students is to give their adjustment into campus life some time. Lundquist says that she was so homesick the first two weeks that she was ready to transfer to UW-Milwaukee. She is glad that she did not act in haste, as she now really likes it here and plans to return next year. Tombari agrees. He also admits to not liking campus life very much at first, but the longer he has been here, the more he enjoys it. They have all made a lot of new friends, and each has managed to find their niche, all while managing to remain closer than ever.

A Parent's Perspective

When it comes to first-year college jitters, parents are often forgotten. While the prospective student worries about not getting along with a new roommate, trouble finding classes, or being homesick, what kind of apprehensions do the parents have? The notion of a child leaving home for the first time can evoke a whirlwind of emotions.

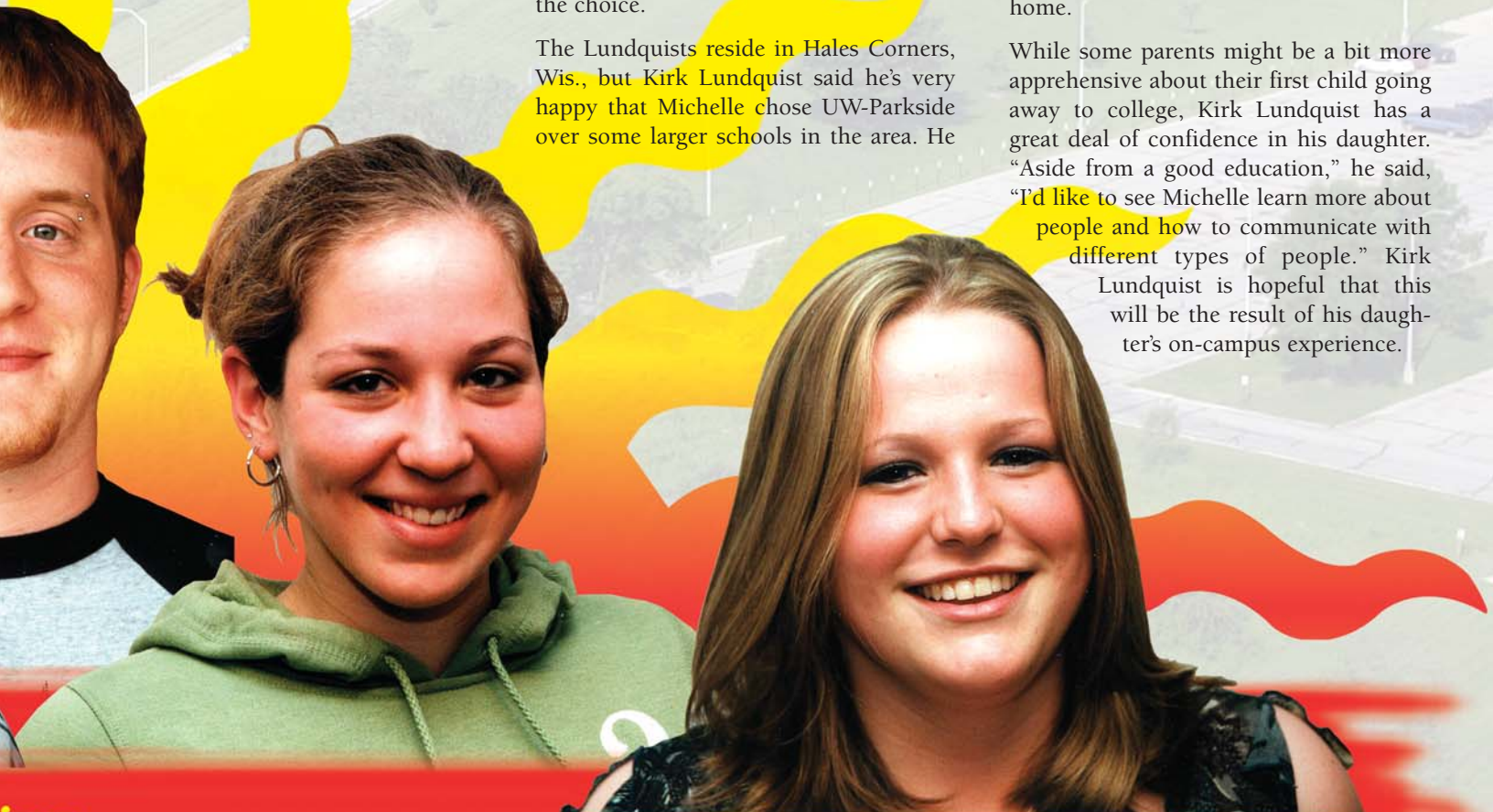
Kirk Lundquist's oldest daughter, Michelle, left for college in September 2002. When Michelle Lindquist first told her father that she was serious about going to college, he admits to being, "Very surprised, mostly because she waited until after her junior year to make the decision." Kirk Lundquist said that together they talked a lot about where Michelle would like to go and after narrowing things down, UW-Parkside was the choice.

The Lundquists reside in Hales Corners, Wis., but Kirk Lundquist said he's very happy that Michelle chose UW-Parkside over some larger schools in the area. He

thinks that at UW-Parkside there will be fewer distractions, allowing Michelle to get more out of the college experience. Kirk Lundquist attended a local college, and he hopes that Michelle's decision to live on-campus and experience living away from home will help her develop her independence. The idea also particularly appealed to him because his daughter has always liked to be around people.

Kirk Lundquist was able to get a feel for UW-Parkside's Ranger Hall, the place his daughter would call home, when he helped her move in last fall. By meeting some of Michelle's fellow residents, as well as faculty members, and getting a first-hand look at the facility, he left feeling good about the campus. He admits that while Michelle was a bit nervous that first week ("she called me twice a day," he said), once she got settled in it became very obvious that she had made herself at home.

While some parents might be a bit more apprehensive about their first child going away to college, Kirk Lundquist has a great deal of confidence in his daughter. "Aside from a good education," he said, "I'd like to see Michelle learn more about people and how to communicate with different types of people." Kirk Lundquist is hopeful that this will be the result of his daughter's on-campus experience.



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Sarah

Rachel