

Editor's note: Carrie May Poniewaz of the Kenosha News contributed to this story.

Ron Singer Leaves UW-Parkside

Associate Vice Chancellor Takes New Position with UW-System

Ron Singer competes in the Racine, Wis., 10-mile Lighthouse Run, June 16.

Twenty-eight years ago, Ron Singer had two big decisions to make: Whether he should leave New York and come to Wisconsin, and whether he should shave. When Singer applied at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for an assistant professor's position in the School of Modern Industry (now the School of Business and Technology), he was sporting a beard. Working in the attorney general's office for the State of New York, the beard was OK. Singer, however, was unsure how his facial hair would be accepted in the Midwest.

"While I was working in New York, I took a three-week vacation; it was the summer of '71 or '72. During the vacation I grew a beard," he said. "I don't think I've taken a three-week vacation since."

Getting ready for his interview at UW-Parkside in 1973, Singer thought the beard might create a negative impression. "Beards weren't as common back then," he said, "but I decided to leave it on."

At the interview, Bill Moy, then dean of the School of Modern Industry, was the first person Singer met. Moy also had a beard. "When I saw Bill with that full beard, I was smiling on the inside," he said.

Singer got the job; kept the beard for another 20 years; and began an impressive 28-year career.

On July 13, Singer left UW-Parkside as associate vice chancellor for planning, budget and resource allocation, and graduate dean. He's started a new challenge as associate vice president for academic affairs with the University of Wisconsin System.

"I see it as a really ideal next step," Singer said. "I was involved in academic planning at the campus level and this will be the same kind of planning at the system level."

During his time at UW-Parkside, he was a department chair and interim dean of the School of Business. He assumed his asso-

ciate vice chancellor position in 1996. In his new role, Singer will be involved with academic planning, review and development for the UW System. In addition, he will supervise the directors of the Office of Professional and Instructional Development, the Woman's Studies Consortium, the PK-16 initiative and other academic planners.

Although Singer is moving away, he does not feel as if he is saying goodbye to UW-Parkside.

"I do expect to be working with UW-Parkside as part of system administration, so I'll have the chance to get back here every so often," he said. "I have many fond memories and I've worked with many wonderful people here -- that I'm going to miss."

Ron Singer Fun Fact

During his 28 years at UW-Parkside, Ron Singer never purchased a campus parking permit.

He accomplished this amazing feat by:

- Riding a bicycle
- Jogging
- Taking the bus
- Hiding his car in out-of-the-way places
- A, B & C

Answer: e. riding a bicycle, jogging and taking the bus to and from campus.