

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## CARL HEIGL '70

Carl was recently inducted into Horlick High School (Racine, Wis.) Graduates of Distinction Hall of Fame. (From the *Journal Times*) "... Heigl has had a number of firsts, they include: first Wisconsin chiropractor to be invited to the Sports Medicine Internship Program at the USOTC, Colorado Springs; first Wisconsin chiropractor to become a board-certified diplomate, chiropractic sports physician; and the first Wisconsin chiropractor to be elected treasurer and then president of the American Chiropractic Association Council on Sports Injuries and Physical Fitness."

## STEVE KRATOCHVIL '82

Steve is an editor with United Communications Corporation. He earned the UW-Parkside Athletics Career Achievement Award in May 2011. "I enjoyed the many social functions as a student. 'The End' was something very unique and highly popular. Even students from other campuses attended the event (a weekend-long outdoor bash with live bands). The men's basketball games were fun to go to because the team rarely lost at home and there was big community backing. The 'animal band' helped give the gym a great, upbeat atmosphere."

## KEVIN LAZARSKI '94

Kevin is president and owner of Haven Creek Homes and Remodeling. "My experiences at UW-Parkside were invaluable and prepared me to enter into the work/job force immediately upon graduation. I was able to utilize my educational background from UW-Parkside and put it to immediate use as product manager at Bosch power tools and then as a marketing manager at Case Construction. After eight years of real-global-world marketing and business experiences—coupled with my strong UW-Parkside education—I successfully left the work force to start a lifelong dream of becoming a small-business owner."

## TODD MEYER '04

Todd is a certified nursing assistant and activities aid with Parkside Manor, Kenosha, Wis. He was recently placed on the Wisconsin Nurse Aid Registry.

## 2005 COMMUNICATION GRAD ON SET FOR "OPRAH" FINALE

Rita Thomas was one of a select grouping of celebrities, national figures, Harpo employees, and everyday people who experienced a day that will go down in television history. The Oprah Show ended its reign on daytime television after 25 years, with a two-day farewell, including a star-studded bash at the United Center in Chicago. Since 2007, Thomas was part of the Oprah Winfrey-owned Harpo Radio team, which develops and produces programming on the Sirius XM Satellite Radio network broadcast nationally to more than 20 million subscribers.

"We were given a lot of creative freedom there. Our ideas were heard and listened to. I felt comfortable pitching ideas," she said. "That was a huge part of

## ANDREW GIANESELLI '05

Andrew was promoted to controller of the Hospira medical device manufacturing facility in Buffalo, N.Y. He previously held positions in commercial finance in Lake Forest, Ill., international finance in Amsterdam, and corporate FP&A for Abbott Labs in Abbott Park, Ill. "The accredited business school at UW-Parkside most certainly prepared me for what was to be expected in the real world and helped acclimate me to this change very quickly."

## JACKIE (KLOET) GEROU '06

For the past six years, Jackie has been a project manager for Hospira. She is currently involved with supply chain management and is pursuing APICS training for supply chain management.

## SARA DRUEKE '07

Sara is an education specialist with Cedar's Youth Program. She earned an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from ACU in May 2011. "The staff was wonderful at UW-Parkside. I loved all my sociology and teacher-education professors. Dr. Linda Crafton had a large impact on me in choosing curriculum and instruction for my master's degree."

## MICHAEL RASH '07

Michael finished an M.F.A. in theatre and performance at the acclaimed PATP at the University of Washington in Seattle. "The art and theatre departments laid a groundwork of creative expression and opportunity that has directly led to my life and career pursuit of art, theatre and music. Faculty members such as Doug DeVinny and Dean Yohnk encouraged an atmosphere and love of the disciplines of art and theatre."

## TYSON FETTES '08

While at UW-Parkside, Tyson was elected student body president and later went on to be elected town supervisor for the town of Burlington, Wis. He is currently an active member of the UW-Parkside Alumni Association Board of Directors. "UW-Parkside gave me the tools necessary to succeed, and I'm so proud to be a Ranger!" As the Racine County register of deeds, Tyson and his team manage

what made working there so much fun."

Thomas looks fondly on her days at UW-Parkside as a student and campus resident. "It was a huge help for me personally. It forced me to be more independent and take my future into my own hands. It helped me mature" she said.

It all began with a tour of UW-Parkside as part of a pre-college program. Thomas said she felt a bond with her professors and stays in touch with five of them. "My friends can't believe that. That's truly unique about UW-Parkside. They actually care. I love Parkside," said Thomas.

Thomas is currently living in Los Angeles, working in the radio and television industry.

more than 30,000 real-estate documents, and serve thousands of people annually. Additionally the office maintains all copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates.

## VASKRSIJE JANKOVIC '10

Vaskrsije is a production supervisor with CNH Corporation, Racine, Wis. "I remember most the great teachers and classes in the Economics Department. They have helped build a mindset that I use in the workplace today."

## JENNIFER SHORT '11

Jennifer is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Alumni Association Board of Directors. She served as a campus ambassador; First Year Experience peer mentor; Sociology Club president and secretary; and was a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda and Sigma Tau Delta. "I have learned how much becoming involved with your community really means. Involvement opens many doors!"

### UW-Parkside Alumni Association Board of Directors (2012–2013)

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