



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

NEWS RELEASE

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UW-Eau Claire Foundation celebrates 50th anniversary

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EAU CLAIRE — The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary at the organization's annual board meeting Oct. 16. As part of the celebration, eight former board presidents and chairs received the lifetime emeritus director designation.

Receiving the emeritus director designation were David G. Anderson, Janice Ayers, Richard Cable, Duane Dingmann, Jon N. Homstad, Joseph Mirr and Ken Vance, all of Eau Claire; Larry Weber of Durand; and Carole Halberg, former president of the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, of Madison and Eau Claire.

"Over the past 50 years, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation has provided millions to support the mission of the university," said Casey Sylla, Foundation board president. "The hundreds of alumni and friends who have served as Foundation directors and staff leaders have all been committed to a singular purpose — to fulfill the university's long-standing goal of excellence. We are pleased to have been such an integral partner in the university's success and look forward to the next 50 years of providing financial resources and value."

The initial purpose of the UW-Eau Claire Foundation was to raise matching funds for the National Defense Education Act, which provided student loans that required a local match on a 1-9 basis. The Foundation's first act of business in May 1959 was to match \$16,000 in federal funds with a student loan allocation of \$1,600. After then-UW-Eau Claire President W.R. Davies died in December 1959, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation conducted its first memorial fund campaign and raised \$15,000. More than 45 years later, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation celebrated the success of the Fulfilling the Promise of Excellence campaign, which raised nearly \$53 million.

In addition to the 50th anniversary celebration, the Foundation re-elected the following officers: Casey Sylla, Barrington, Ill., president; Charlie Grossklaus, Eau Claire, vice president; Betsy Kell, Eau Claire, secretary; and Jo Ellyn DeCesare, Eau Claire, treasurer.

Five individuals were elected to the board: Charles Graupner, a 1974 UW-Eau Claire graduate and a partner at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee; Robert E. Mickelson, a 1959 UW-Eau Claire graduate and retired executive from the Aid Association for Lutherans (now Thrivent Insurance) in Appleton and president of the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association from 1988-89; Julie Peck, a 1994 UW-Eau Claire graduate and an internal audit director for Johnson Controls in Big Bend; 1985 UW-Eau Claire graduate Terry Schadeberg, president of Nord Gear Corp. in Waunakee; and Kim Schultz, who received bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Eau Claire in 1979 and 1981, respectively, and is a community volunteer in Oconomowoc.

The Foundation honored 10 board members who completed terms of service and retired: Richard Gannon of Eau Claire and Florida; Dr. Thomas Grewe of Eau Claire; David and Marilyn Karlgaard of Great Falls, Va.; Jane Moore of Newport, R.I.; Dean Olson of Eau Claire; Jon Stowe of Waukesha; Michael Swenson of Eau Claire; Charles Thompson of Wisconsin Dells; and Dr. Phillip Zivnuska of Valley Center, Kan.

Everyone in attendance received commemorative 50th anniversary medallions.

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