

# Science and Health News

E-Newsletter for the College of Science and Health

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

## Connecting...Via the Five Olympic Rings



**David Waters, Graduate Program Director, Sport Administration, Exercise and Sport Science Department, inside “birds nest.”**

The Olympic Games, symbolized by five interconnected rings, may be seen to unite the world's five continents in its sports festivals held every four years. In August, 2008 more than 200 National Olympic Committees and approximately 16,000 athletes and their coaches convened in Beijing, China for competitions and cross cultural immersion at the XXIXth Summer Games. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to become more intimately connected to the Games and Olympic Movement, which ran from August 8-24.

Like many American children, my family, friends, and I always role-played and practiced Olympic sports (summer or winter) and envisioned our Olympic stature as medalists. While never climbing a podium as an athlete, I have had an opportunity to attend previous Games, such as the 1988 Seoul Olympics and watched athletes I was training even win a medal there and at the 1992 Barcelona Games. As an Olympic educator I have felt close ties to Olympism

via trips to ancient Panhellenic Games sites in Olympia and Delphi, Greece.

It was an honor, therefore, to be invited by Beijing Union University (BUU) administrators to visit their campus and assess their sport/physical education/recreation facilities. Their campus facilities were to be the site for pre- and in-game training for soccer referees and officials. Meeting with BUU sport administrators – over several sessions – I evaluated and provided feedback on indoor and outdoor multi-purpose halls, sports fields, and stadiums. Another responsibility during the trip to Beijing, of a teaching and service nature, was to oversee the day-to-day activities of two graduate students from our UW-L Master of Science Program in Sport Administration. On their own monetary initiative, but with donations from community members, they booked stop-offs in South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand... before their Asian odyssey brought them to

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Beijing. Prior to their U.S. departure the students, Aaron Carley and Staunton Peck, had met with me to plan an independent research project based upon observations and interviews that were to take place in Beijing. So, with several of my roles defined (e.g., facility consultant, academic advisor, and even tour guide!), I applied for – and received – an International Development Grant during the past school year.

Thus, connections and re-connections with the recognizable multi-colored rings were to commence and I returned to China where I first traveled in 1987. Going down lanes and streets I had seen more than 20 years ago, I marveled at Beijing's systematic changes brought about by conscientious urban renewal, development of sport at all levels, increased consumerism, dedicated transportation infrastructure, improved technology, fashion upgrading, and what seemed like an enhanced quality of life. Whereas in the 80's I had utilized rental bicycles and rickety, non-air-conditioned buses to ply the vast boulevards, now improvements in subway construction and motor vehicle transport enabled the efficient movement of 16 million citizens. However, I longed for the sounds of yore, such as the cacophony of bicycle bells and millions of commuters or delivery people using pedal power in the dedicated bike lanes of this huge metropolis.

It seemed that it was on alternate days throughout the three weeks of the Games that we had Olympic events tickets. So, I would meet Aaron and Staunton who independently commuted from their campus dormitory to the various venues. As part of their study abroad experience, they also immersed themselves in a Mandarin Chinese language course with a BUU tutor. Our extended hours at Olympic venues were like a classroom, allowing evaluation and discussion of the administration of: spectator transport and venue access, safety and security, directional signage, seating, planning, organizing, staffing, product and promotion placements, newly constructed arenas and stadiums, renovated facilities, event management, as well as food and beverage options and their availability (or not!). Although we were only able to view about ten Olympic



**From UW-L to Beijing (left to right), Staunton Peck, current Sport Administration student, Jeff Steffen, former Sport Administration student now with the USOC in the Military Program Project and US Paralympics, Nicki Robinson, former Sport Administration student and now Assistant Manager of Operations for the USOC in Colorado Springs, and Aaron Carley, current Sport Administration student.**

events, I could sense they were connecting with the Olympic spirit, enjoying non-traditional sports such as kayaking, rowing, or beach volleyball – but also some marquee events such as basketball, boxing, and track and field. While retaining their American partisanship, their appreciation for effort of all the mixed background athletes reminded me they were absorbing and realizing the Olympic Creed: “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”

I re-connected with the newly refurbished Worker's Stadium, now as a spectator along with 60,000 others, at several Olympic soccer matches we attended. Back in 1990, I had entered this then national icon facility during opening ceremonies as a national coach of the Taiwan delegation to the 1990 Asian Games. I reminisced how subdued Beijing and this stadium felt in those days and yet an Olympic fervor was experienced when we tried to no avail to get access to the pins and souvenir shop at Worker's Stadium!

Lastly, we met and interviewed a vast number of global sport leaders and learned of their ties to the rings. Over coffee, we discussed international sports marketing and

strategies for athlete positioning with a renowned sports marketer from Shanghai, Terry Rhoads. We had a long lunch with U.S. Olympic wrestling coach Terry Steiner to understand systems of training and heard his previous experiences in bringing teams to China. We toured the United States Olympic Committee's Beijing headquarters. We interviewed Wayde Clews, national coordinator for elite sport in Singapore, on the day after his nation had won a silver medal, to learn of small nations' efforts at attaining Olympic results. We intimately found out more of Beijing media systems during an extended lunch with Beijing Bureau Chief for the Chicago Tribune, Evan Osnos.

In closing, it is appropriate for the Olympic Games to have been played out in Beijing, the capital of the world's largest country. I feel that unity is an inherent nature of sport and Beijing's hosting of the Games assisted in bringing the world closer to China and vice versa. I thank the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for allowing me to professionally and personally experience the power of those interlocked rings.

David Waters welcomes invitations to meet with classes or organizations on management and the background of the Olympic Games and to present a slideshow. He can be contacted at [waters.davi@uwlax.edu](mailto:waters.davi@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-8167.

## Winter Olympics, 2010, Vancouver?

Laura (Delaney) Roessler, at the tender age of seven, began Curling, the Scottish sport developed in the 1800's that many have likened to "Shuffleboard on Ice." In the years since, Laura has made quite a name for herself in the sport; she was named Rookie of the Year at the Junior Curling Nationals in 1996, she went to Nationals again from 1997-2000, and was part of the bronze medal team at the Junior World competition in 2000 (where she won the All-Star Award and the Sportsmanship award), after winning the Nationals that year. These days, this decorated curler can almost always be found on the 4th Floor of Cowley Hall, where she serves as the Department of Chemistry's Stockroom Manager. In early 2008, Laura found out that she would have the opportunity to be a part of the international curling scene again, when she was invited to join Team Potter in their bid to represent the United States in Women's Curling at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

A quick glance at the resumes of Team Potter on the United States Curling Association website (<http://www.usacurl.org>), suggests even to those unfamiliar to the sport that their chances of going to Vancouver are extremely high. In addition to Laura, the team boasts two former Olympians, Cassie Potter and Jamie Haskell, and Jackie Lemke, who was the U.S. Junior National Champion in 2006. Together, these four have recently begun competing in national and international competitions to prepare for the National Olympic trials in Broomfield, CO, which will be held in February.

When asked what she likes best about curling, Laura was quick to answer: the strategy involved in playing the game well. "It's like chess on ice," she said. "You have to be able to see what the game will look like five moves ahead." Laura also likes the fact that even though she's currently in the midst of a rigorous training schedule (Team Potter has tri-weekly workouts), any

age group can play. "Both the youngest (14) and oldest (in her mid-50's) U.S. Winter Olympians were curlers, so it's a sport I'll be able to enjoy for a long time," she added.

We in the Chemistry Department are glad to have Laura with us, and we wish her the best of luck in her Olympic pursuit! If you would like to help Laura and Team Potter on the road to Vancouver, they are still looking for team sponsors to help defray some of the costs associated with competition travel (email [roessler.laur@uwlax.edu](mailto:roessler.laur@uwlax.edu) for more information). You can also help by purchasing a \$5 "Support Team Potter USA Curling Pin" on eBay (<http://www.ebay.com>). The team's progress is kept up to date on the web at <http://www.curlpotter.blogspot.com>.

For further information please contact Janet Kirsch at [kirsch.jane@uwlax.edu](mailto:kirsch.jane@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-8655.



Team Potter, from left to right: Jackie Lemke, Laura Roessler, Jamie Haskell and Cassie Potter.

## College of Science and Health Hyperlinks

You can learn more about the college, its departments and programs, and the campus by visiting us online.

College of SAH Homepage:  
[www.uwlax.edu/sah](http://www.uwlax.edu/sah)

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse:  
[www.uwlax.edu](http://www.uwlax.edu)

UW-L Alumni Association:  
[www.uwlalumni.org](http://www.uwlalumni.org)

UW-L Athletics:  
[www.uwlax.edu/athletics](http://www.uwlax.edu/athletics)

## From the Dean: La Crosse - A Gathering Place for All People, for All Times



In April 2009, just a few short months away, approximately 2500 bright, motivated, and talented students from across the nation will gather on the campus of UW-La Crosse to participate in the 23rd National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). UW-L is the first university to host both NCUR as well as the national CUR (Council on Undergraduate Research) conference. NCUR typically attracts students from 45 states representing over 300 institutions, ranging from comprehensive research universities to small liberal arts colleges. During the two and a half-day conference, students present their research and creative works in poster, platform, visual arts and performing arts venues. Special sessions focused on institutionalizing or enhancing undergraduate research will be available to faculty and administrators.

The conference planning effort is being led by Gubbi Sudhakaran, Chair of the Physics Department. The abstract review process, overseen by Scott Cooper, Professor of Biology, entails the review of almost 3000 research abstracts by a team of faculty from 60 disciplines. Bill Schwan, Professor of Microbiology, is chairing the Program Committee, which has the monumental task of organizing the accepted abstracts into poster sessions, presentations in the campus art gallery, artistic performances, and a multitude of simultaneous platform presentations spread out over 50 classrooms across the campus. Becki Battista, Assistant Professor of Exercise and Sport Science, is organizing the 500 to 600 student volunteers that will be required to successfully host the conference.

The conference will bring several noteworthy, national-class speakers to campus. The opening plenary session will be headlined by Jack Horner, one of America's best-known paleontologists. Day two will feature two speakers -- Bill Miller, a Mohican Indian from northern Wisconsin who has become a Grammy-award winning singer/songwriter and one of the most admired figures in Native American music, and Mark Lee, an astronaut who has flown as

both a mission specialist and payload commander on several space shuttle flights. Female adventurer and polar explorer, Anne Bancroft, will serve as the final plenary speaker. She is the first and only woman to cross the ice to both the North and South Poles.

Conference organizers anticipate that over 100 universities will send representatives to UW-L to recruit students as part of the conference Graduate Fair. Students and staff have planned the big social event of the conference, Viva La Crosse, to be held at the La Crosse Oktoberfest grounds and includes a live band, traditional Wisconsin food (bratwurst, cheese curds), a casino night, and a mocktail bar.

Follow the latest conference developments at <http://www.uwlax.edu/ncur2009/index.htm>. All UW-L faculty and students are welcome to attend the poster, platform and plenary sessions. This is your opportunity to find out first hand why La Crosse is the gathering place for all people, for all times.

For more information you can contact Karen Palmer Mc Lean at 608-785-8218 or [mclean.kare@uwlax.edu](mailto:mclean.kare@uwlax.edu).

## Phil Wilson, Editor, Professor Emeritus, Exercise & Sport Science Department

In our 2008 winter newsletter (Vol. 3, # 1), we introduced the Q and A section. The topic of the River Studies Center and Tom Clafin (1966-2001), was very well received by our readers. The concept of the Q and A was to "highlight" a program, and interview the founder of that program. An additional aspect of the Q and A is the interview of the person who started that program, by the UW-L faculty member currently responsible for the program. Tom was interviewed by Mark Sandheinrich, Chair of the Department of Biology and the River Studies Center.

The Special Populations Program and interview of Lane Goodwin (1965-1993), was the

Q and A for the 2008 summer issue, (Vol. 3, # 2). Lane was interviewed by Manny Felix, current Coordinator of the Undergraduate Adapted Physical Education Program. And now, in this issue, we are highlighting the Nuclear Medicine Program. Interviewed by Jeff Bryan, current Director of the Nuclear Medicine Program, is Willie Niekarcz (1969-1999) and Paul Taylor (1978-2005).

**Now, we need your help!** If you have a suggestion for a program to highlight in a future Q and A please contact me. We are not only looking for programs of a historical nature that are still in operation, but also programs which may not be historical,



but are currently in operation and are very unique, innovative, and successful.

I look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions. You can contact me at [pkwilson@centurytel.net](mailto:pkwilson@centurytel.net) or 608-782-8350.

## Got Running Shoes? First Annual La Crosse Fitness Festival

Need an excuse to come visit La Crosse this spring? Well here it is. In Spring of 2008 it was officially announced La Crosse will host its first annual marathon and half marathon on May 3, 2009. Since this announcement much excitement, anticipation, and planning has been happening in the La Crosse area. For those of you who are alumni, I am sure you remember how active this community is. What better way to remember UW-L and the La Crosse area than to celebrate and participate with the community in the 2009 La Crosse Fitness Festival. This event will not only highlight what a beautiful area this is, but will also bring a positive spirit to La Crosse. The goal of this event is for one day, to make La Crosse the healthiest city in the United States.

There will be many events happening for this first of what all hope to be, an annual event. The marathon and half marathon are scheduled on Sunday, May 3rd. However, the entire weekend will be full of events. On Saturday, May 2nd there will be a Fitness Expo, a 5K race, and various children's events. The Expo will be held at the La Crosse Center with exhibitors featuring the latest in fitness, nutrition, and performance. Exhibitors will include many local area businesses and clinics as well as programs associated with UW-L.

The race course and other pertinent event information can be found on the website: (<http://www.lacrossefitnessfestival.com/>). For this first year, the marathon and half marathon will end in Myrick Park. However, in June of 2009, the finish will be at



**Phil Esten, Barry Schockmel, Becki Battista, and Dave Bange standing in front of a map of La Crosse, location of the half and full marathon.**

the new UW-L stadium and track. The course will take participants on a tour of both La Crosse and Onalaska using city streets and the trail system. It is a relatively flat course and will be certified.

The development of this marathon is truly a community effort and has utilized many members from UW-L. The members of the planning committee include Race Director Dave Bange (Mathematics - retired), as well as Becki Battista (ESS), Barry Schockmel (ESS - retired), Phil Esten (ESS - retired), and Pat Stephens (Foundation).

This event will be one of a kind and is sure

to be a big hit in the community. We invite all alumni and other readers to attend this amazing weekend of activities. After all, what better reason to come back to UW-L then to participate in one of the events during the Festival? Who knows, maybe you will see some of your former faculty members running in the races?

Best of luck, and we hope to see you all in May, 2009.

For further information please contact Becki Battista at [battista.rebe@uwlax.edu](mailto:battista.rebe@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-8182.

## Learn More About Our Academic Programs and Interdisciplinary Centers

The web is an excellent place to learn more about our many academic programs and interdisciplinary centers. Links to each are conveniently located on our web page ([www.uwlax.edu/sah/html/programs.htm](http://www.uwlax.edu/sah/html/programs.htm)). For questions about the College of Science and Health, please contact the Dean's office at (608) 785-8218 or [science@uwlax.edu](mailto:science@uwlax.edu).

## Girls in Science - Ten Years and Going Strong



What do middle school girls do in the summer? For eighty girls from across the state and surrounding area, they spent a weekend on the UW-La Crosse campus learning more about science and mathematics. In June UW-L held its tenth annual Girls in Science weekend. The program is directed by Sandy Grunwald (Chemistry), Susan Kelly (Math) and Karen Langgaard (Continuing Education) and is a joint program with the College of Science and Health, UW-L Continuing Education, and the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth. The goals of this program are to offer hands-on academic exploration, provide students with the opportunity to work with other young women of similar abilities and interests, and create an environment in which everyone wants to further their knowledge and talent in science and mathematics.

Each two-hour workshop of sixteen girls is taught by a UW-L faculty member with two college student teaching assistants. This

past summer's program began on Saturday afternoon with a welcome from Chancellor Joe Gow. The girls then each took two of the following workshops: *Crime Scene Investigation-The Case of Jason Worth* (Faye Ellis - Biology), *Everybody is Happy* (David Reineke - Math), *Movie Production through Computer Programming* (Kenny Hunt - Computer Science), *Candy Meteors and Other Sweet Math* (Jon Hasenbank - Math), *Catch a Flying Car* (Susan Kelly - Math), *Gak, Goop and Grape* (Sandy Koster - Chemistry), *Got Milk?* (Sandy Grunwald - Chemistry), *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* (Janet Kirsch - Chemistry), and *Light, Color and Kaleidoscope* (Bob Ragan - Physics).

After four hours of science and mathematics, the girls were hungry and ready for some recreation. After eating on campus they had an evening of fun with college science student resident assistants. They each share a dorm room with another participant, and engaged in activities such as

seeing how much snack food one can eat, and how long one can stay awake. This is one time that the college students find they are the ones who wish they could go to sleep sooner.

The girls gathered on Sunday morning for a Mississippi River "Science Cruise" on the Island Girl. UW-L faculty members Roger Haro, Kris Rolfhus, Mark Sandheinrich, Eric Strauss and Jim Wiener from the River Studies Center directed the girls on a two-hour scientific cruise of the river. They learned about the science, history, ecology and chemistry of the river. The work included analyzing water samples taken from the river. Funding for the river boat cruise was provided by the College of Science and Health.

When the girls returned to campus, it was time for pizza, punch and cookies. Yes, girls can eat lots of pizza! After this the girls broke into groups for one final workshop each. Their choices this time were *Mrs. Jones's Kidney Problem* (Bernadette Taylor-Winfrey - Microbiology), *Food is Fuel and Munch Munch More* (Peg Maher - Biology/Nutrition), *You Go Girl* (Rebecca Battista - Exercise and Sport Science), *The Amazing World of Fractals in 1.33 Dimensions* (Bob Ragan - Physics) and *Math is Everywhere* (James Peirce - Math).

The success of the program can be measured in several ways. Many girls return to the program for a second or third year. This past summer's program filled up in March with over 30 girls on a waiting list. For next summer (2009), the hope is to expand the number of workshops so that the program can accommodate approximately about one-hundred girls.

While the summer 2009 program is only in its planning stage, the central workshop for the year has already been determined. Michael Zach from UW-Steven's Point's Chemistry Department will be presenting chemical and social issues related to power for the 21st Century. While employed at Argonne National Laboratory, he worked with a team that developed Ar-

gonne's Ultrafast, Ultrasensitive Nanostructured Hydrogen Sensor. This device will be used in future hydrogen applications, such as cars, to shut off the flow of hydrogen from a leak before the lower limit of flammability is reached. He will demonstrate properties of hydrogen (boom), hydrogen and oxygen (BOOOM!) and other gasses (WoW!, can we do that again?) and discuss how his sensor was made and how it functions to make the use of hydrogen safer than traditional fuels.

Girls in Science attracts girls entering grades 6-8 who have participated in the Midwest Talent Search for Young Students or Midwest Talent Search. Other girls may also attend by submitting a letter of recommendation from their gifted and talented coordinator or math or science teacher along with a grade report. If you know of a girl who may be interested in this year's program, please check out the Girls in



Science web page at [www.uwlax.edu/Conted/youth/girlsinscience.html](http://www.uwlax.edu/Conted/youth/girlsinscience.html). Sign up for the program typically starts in late January or early February and fills up fast.

Most of the funding for the Girls in Science program is generated by the cost to participants. We have been careful to keep costs as low as possible, but currently are looking at expanding the program and addressing increases in some costs. We are seeking about \$1,500 in annual dona-

tions to offset these new costs. If an individual or corporation would be interested in giving a one-time donation or an annual pledge, please contact Susan Kelly, Math Department, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601. Gifts are appreciated and deductible.

For information on Girls in Science contact Susan Kelly at [kelly.susa@uwlax.edu](mailto:kelly.susa@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-6610.

## Pass it On

Why not send this newsletter (or its web address) to a classmate, friend, family member, professional colleague or others who would enjoy reading it. You don't have to be an alum to be added to the mailing list. Forward this newsletter and encourage the recipient to sign-up for their own copy at [www.uwlalumni.org/whatsnew.htm](http://www.uwlalumni.org/whatsnew.htm).



## Therapeutic Recreation Students: International Service

Have you ever heard someone say, "Students these days just don't care anymore?" Well, that's not our experience and it is not true of several therapeutic recreation undergraduate students. Four therapeutic recreation students independently engaged in amazing international service opportunities during the summer of 2008.

**Erin Silber** travelled to Urubamba, Peru for two weeks through a Service Corps organization, Pro World. Fifteen students and ten health-care professionals traveled to small villages in Peru (sometimes after a 2 hour bus ride and a 1 hour hike), to set up health care clinics. Lack of running water or proper sanitation, combined with malnourishment, was a learning experience like no other. Dentistry, obstetrics,



general medicine, lab, triage and pharmacy were offered. Erin gave fluoride treatments to over 200 children, and collected blood samples to test for anemia and glucose levels. She also presented workshops on hand washing, teeth brushing, nutrition, and physical activity. In addition, the group improved health and the environment by building mud adobe brick stoves and chimneys in small one-room houses. "It was the most amazing experience of my life, and has definitely

changed my outlook on life for the better," says Erin.

**Bobbi Jo Pansier** was invited by the pain management team in the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa, to start a Child Life program within the hospital. Bobbi Jo educated the doctors, nurses, surgeons, volunteers and other staff. In addition she worked with



individual patients and families, using play as a means of enjoyment during illness, distraction during procedures or pain, and education of the families. She also assisted the nurses at the Sarah Fox Hospital by playing with the babies and toddlers and feeding the children.

**Meagan Blank** visited Siedlce, Poland to teach conversational English to 8-11 year olds for two weeks at a summer camp through Global Volunteers, an affiliate of Peace Corps. Her day began at 8 a.m. with a group meeting and breakfast, followed by four forty-five minute sessions of English lessons. After lunch the children participated in sports, art, and drama activities while the volunteers worked on the next day's lessons or participated in day trips. Each night, the camp counselors planned an activity such as charades, Pictionary, a lip-syncing contest, and camp initiation for first time campers. One of Meagan's favorite activities was the "adult"

bonfire where she enjoyed conversing and learning about Polish culture. At the end of the two weeks, campers performed a play, dances, and an English-spoken performance, primarily songs. Meagan states that "the experience was unforgettable. When I have both the time and money, I will do another volunteer experience with Global Volunteers".

**Abbey Jewell** travelled to Romania with Joni and Friends, a Christian organization, through a program called Wheels to the World. This group distributed wheelchairs to individuals who needed but could not afford them. Family members would carry their loved one with a disability and the group would then fit them properly for a chair. "The greatest part was watching the children receive their first wheelchair."



For a child's entire life, their mobility depended on their parents. "Watching the joy on their face when they realized they could self-propel was unforgettable. Even though I could not understand the language, the people of Romania expressed gratitude like I have never seen before." In the five days, the group distributed 92 wheelchairs. "It was an experience that has impacted me greatly, and I will never forget it."

Nancy Navar from RMTR can be contacted at 608-785-8213 or [navar.nanc@uwlax.edu](mailto:navar.nanc@uwlax.edu).

## New Faculty and Instructional Staff



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### Strutt, Jackie

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## NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

**Q&A with Willie Nieckarz and Paul Taylor, Professors Emeriti, Chemistry Department.  
Interviewed by Jeff C. Bryan, Director, Nuclear Medicine Technology Program.**

### Background

**Willie** grew up in Chicopee, Massachusetts, earning his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from MIT and Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry from Carnegie Mellon. He served in the Army Chemical Corps from 1967 to 1969, performing research on the neutron-induced fission of lithium. He came to UW-L in 1969, founding the NMT program at UW-L and served as its Director from 1969 to 1993. His first wife, Aline, passed away in 1990. Willie has two children, both UW-L graduates, and three grandchildren. Willie remarried, to Marilyn, in 1994. They currently split their time between their homes on the Washington coast and in La Crosse. He enjoys spending time on the beach, biking, history, and collecting stamps, coins and model trains.

**Paul** grew up on the south side of Chicago and was a White Sox fan, but now he is a Cubs fan. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL, and then taught high school chemistry for a few years, in Arling-

ton Heights in suburban Chicago, before returning to NIU to earn a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. After a postdoctoral appointment at Purdue University, he accepted a position in the Chemistry Department at Wright State University in Dayton, OH, was promoted to Associate Professor and earned tenure, and then moved to La Crosse. He was convinced to come to La Crosse when then Chemistry Chair Dick Kistner took him out on the Mississippi River in his cabin cruiser at the end of the formal interview. After a beautiful evening cruising down the River to a dinner at Rocky's Supper Club in Stoddard; seeing eagles, egrets and herons, he thought, "if they make me a job offer, I'll jump at it". He and his wife Karen are celebrating their 48th anniversary, have one son, Peter, and two granddaughters, Wilma and Lucy. Paul enjoys golf, tennis, reading and spending time with his granddaughters, in nearby Viroqua, WI. Paul was the NMT Program Director from 1994 to 2005.

**Q. How did the NMT program begin at UW-L?**

**Willie:** Before I was hired, there was a lot of funding available to purchase nuclear laboratory equipment. Ken Lindner of the Chemistry Department obtained much of the original equipment used in our Radiation Center. Part of the idea was to have an off-site nuclear counting facility for the Genoa nuclear power plant just down the river ... just in case it had a catastrophic accident. Since I had been involved in educating some of the very first nuclear med techs during my Army research work, Ken suggested I start a formal program at UW-L. It gradually evolved over the next several years.

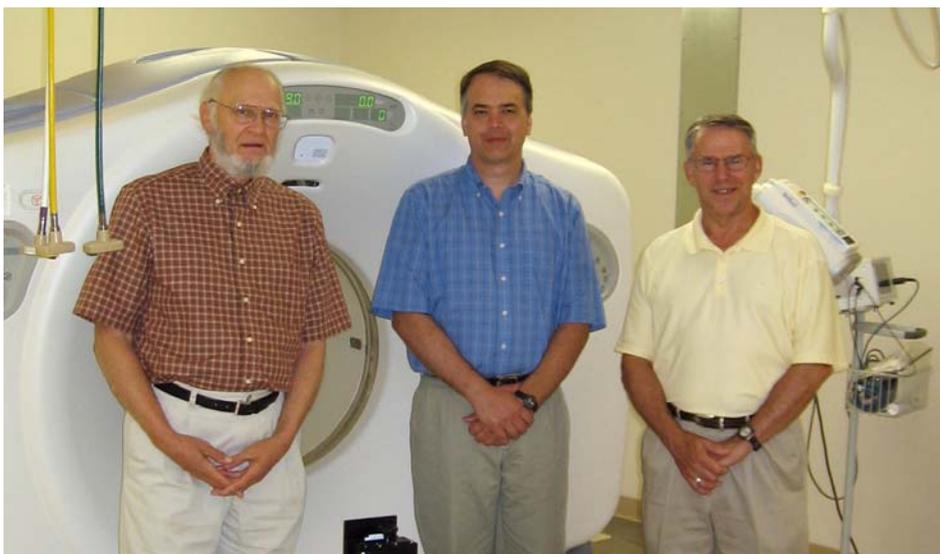
**Q. There are a number of health professions degree programs at UW-L today. Was NMT the first?**

**Willie:** No, the med tech program preceded NMT. This parallels what was happening in the profession. The profession of NMT grew out of med tech ... hence the name nuclear med tech. The very first NMTs were med techs that were specially trained to handle radioactive materials. NMT was one of the first health professions programs started at UW-L.

**Q. NMT students perform a one-year internship at a clinical site to complete their degree work. Where were the first internship sites?**

**Willie:** St. Mary's Hospital in Madison and Hennepin County Hospital in Minneapolis. Both later dropped out of the program. Milwaukee General (now Froedtert) and St. Luke's were next. Mayo started their NMT program in the mid-70's. We had an internship site in St. Louis for a number of years, but they eventually dropped out because UW-L's tuition (which is passed on to the clinics) was significantly lower than other schools.

**Paul:** The relatively low UW-L tuition has remained a problem in maintaining NMT internship sites, as well as setting up new ones.



Left to right, Willie Nieckarz, Jeff Bryan and Paul Taylor standing in front of the new GE PET/CT scanner. Photo by Jay Bjorklund, Gundersen Lutheran.

**Q. How has the NMT program changed over the years?**

**Willie:** Originally there were 32 undefined credits for the internship. Sheila Rosenfeld (the Educational Coordinator at the St. Louis V.A. Hospital), and I had to create the total curriculum of studies for NMT as 15 courses that covered the topics on the internship. They had to be of varying credits so that all of the hospitals could use the same course numbers. Originally \$50 was charged to the students each semester to keep their student records open during their internship. Now the students are charged full tuition plus a clinical experience fee from the university for the internship year.

**Paul:** The placement of students at the internship sites has changed a couple of times. It is now based on the med tech program's process which is very much like a sport draft. The students express their preferences on a special rating sheet; the sheets are mixed, and then turned over one at a time. Their first clinical choice gets the first opportunity to accept the student for placement, and so on. Typically about 75% of students intern at their first choice hospital.

There are also more colleges and universities feeding into the same internship sites that we do, increasing the level of competition for internships, and creating more uncertainty whether our students will obtain a placement.

One important change was the UW-L Program Director started visiting the hospitals on a regular basis. It is important to see the internship environments and to listen to and exchange information with the students and clinical educators.

Finally, we've made a number of curricular changes based on student and clinical feedback. These changes have reflected the changes in the profession over the years.

**Q. How do the NMT students from UW-L fare when taking their exams to become certified nuclear medicine technologists (CNMT), at the end of their internship year?**

**Willie:** Our students have always done well on the certification exams. Over the years, all of the students have passed one of national exams: ARRT-N, ASCP-N, or CNMT. When the exam from the Society of Nuclear Medicine became the exam of choice in the late 1970's they did even better with top scores or near top scores each year.

**Paul:** The students do an exceptionally good job. There are typically 1700 students taking these exams, nationally. On several occasions students from UW-L were the top score! On one occasion the top two scores were from UW-L students. Typically, the median score of UW-L students is about at the 85 percentile. As I recall, typically 15% of those taking the certification exams fail them. I do not believe a student from UW-L has ever failed their certification exam. Much of the credit for the outstanding performance on these certification exams goes to the hospital internship sites, but I'd like to think that their preparation at UW-L was also a big factor.

**Q. Why is NMT in the Chemistry Department?**

**Willie:** It started in the Chemistry Department because med tech was in the Chemistry Department at that time - just as NMT was a professional outgrowth of med tech. Our version of NMT has more chemistry requirements than other such programs. I think this is one reason why our program is so strong - particularly because we require analytical chemistry (CHM 301). Analytical teaches students to pay attention to detail and to be careful in their measurements.

**Paul:** It has stayed in the Chemistry Department, in part, because the curriculum is still strongly based in the department, and because of the support of the chemistry faculty.

**Q. What did you enjoy most about being NMT Program Director?**

**Paul:** That it is a great major and the success of the students. They have professionally and financially fulfilling jobs. I also enjoyed the advising and helping to keep

students on track. I especially enjoyed watching the students, during their hospital internship year, mature and go from "book learners" to confident clinicians.

**Willie:** Even when access to classes was very limited, I was proud of my colleagues in the Chemistry Department for finding spaces in their classes for the NMT students. I especially enjoyed watching the students grow from wide-eyed freshmen to confident professionals. It is remarkable what just a few chemistry courses can do for a student.

**Q: Willie, I heard that you used to throw parties for students about to start their internships.**

**Willie:** (laughs) Yes, we would have a party and a bonfire in my backyard. My wife would prepare goodies over the months ahead of the party and freeze them. I thought it was nice to get the students together socially before they went off to the various hospitals.

**Q: What did you like least about being NMT Director?**

**Willie:** The travel. There was a lot of travel that needs to be done and I just don't like to travel. I'm a bit of a geek, and would sometimes rather be alone. I wish I had enjoyed traveling more.

**Paul:** One of the problems is that graduates and their colleagues tend to associate their education more with the internship site rather than with UW-L.

**Q: What do you see for the future of the program?**

**Paul:** Good job prospects will be around for a long time.

**Willie:** The way labeling molecules has changed, but the work is still pretty much the same. There will be demand for this profession for many years.

For more information on the Nuclear Medicine Program please contact Jeff Bryan at [bryan.jeff@uwlax.edu](mailto:bryan.jeff@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-8271.

## FOCUS ON DEPARTMENTS

### UW-L's Recreation Programs Nationally Accredited for Twenty Years

The Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation Department was recently re-accredited by the National Recreation and Park Association's Council on Accreditation. Since 1988 the department has been reviewed every five years. However, the tenth year review, like this one, is much more in-depth. Prior to the visit, the team reviews the department's very detailed self-study report. During the accreditation team's visit, they meet with students, faculty and staff, as well as top university officials. During the review and visitation, the team's mission is to evaluate the curriculum, the individual instructors' performance and expertise, and the Recreation Department and university's resources and support services. Reviewing involves measuring whether the department and its academic programs have met all 125 standards as set by the Council on Accreditation.

For the Recreation Department, this review was quite historic. With the reaccreditation announcement the department is now celebrating 20 years of continuous accreditation. This achievement is even more significant considering that in the United States, of the 350 to 400 universities offering recreation degree programs there are only 10 Recreation Management and 36 Therapeutic Recreation degree programs accredited. Equally important, in this review the department received its best review rating ever. Among the 125 standards it was to meet, there was only one standard not met. It is common to have a dozen or so standards that are not met initially. The Council said in its letter to UW-L Chancellor Gow, "The Council commends the program for their impressive commitment to students and for their rich tradition of preparing quality professionals."

Currently, the Council on Accreditation

does not accredit graduate level programs. Nonetheless, during the department's self-study analysis, the department's two Master's programs (Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation), were also evaluated and held to similar standards of achievement. As evidence of the quality UW-L graduate programs, this year U.S. News & World Report listed UW-L as the number two public master's degree university in the entire Midwest.

The RMTR Department is indeed pleased with the accreditation review team's report. And, they vow to continue offering a curriculum capable of producing young professionals who become major players in the recreation profession.

George Arimond, Department Chair, Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation, can be contacted at 608-785-8205 or [arimond.geor@uwlax.edu](mailto:arimond.geor@uwlax.edu).

### First Master's Degree Occupational Therapy Class



The Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is proud of two recent major accomplishments: reaccreditation of the program and outstanding success of the first class of students in the Master's Degree program.

This past June, the program was successfully reaccredited by the American Council

for Occupational Therapy Education. This rigorous accreditation process was the first for the Master's program, and is for a minimum of 7-10 years. This is the longest amount of time allowed before reaccreditation must take place again.

In addition, the program is proud to announce that the first class of students who

graduated with a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy (December, 2007), were 100% successful in passing the national occupational therapy certification examination, and they did so with flying colors. Their scores were much higher than the national average. Even better news is that many of the students had multiple job offers at the time of graduation and all of them were employed shortly after taking the examination.

The Occupational Therapy Program is proud to be part of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's array of outstanding health profession educational programs. Indeed, results like these are a testament to the high quality of education available from UW-L and our subsequent impact in the greater healthcare arena.

For more information on the UW-L Occupational Therapy Program, please contact Peg Denton at [denton.pegg@uwlax.edu](mailto:denton.pegg@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-8303.



## Center on Disability Health and Adapted Physical Activity Established



A new name has been designated for a highly regarded UW-L program with national and international reputation. The Department of Exercise and Sport Science recently changed the name of the Special Populations Program to the Center on Disability Health and Adapted Physical Activity (Center). The former Special Popula-

tions Program (SPP) had operated since the early 1970's. Today, the Center continues to serve vital roles to meet the health and physical activity needs for persons with disabilities of all ages from La Crosse and surrounding communities. The Center is a key component for regular and adapted physical education (APE) teacher candidates' preparation to gain knowledge and skills to improve the health and physical well-being of persons with disabilities across the lifespan. Manny Felix, Center Director, noted "the name change was made for several reasons including use of contemporary terminology; more recognizable services for parents and persons with disabilities; closer alignment with college and department missions; greater opportunities with external funding agencies (see related newsletter item on General Mills Foundation grant); and collaboration with on and off-campus programs."

The Center consists of numerous professional preparation and community service

programs offered in affiliation with the College of Science and Health, Department of Exercise and Sport Science, and the School of Education. The primary mission of the Center is to offer quality physical activity, fitness, and wellness programs to improve the health status of individuals representing a wide array of disabilities and ages. Individual and group instruction is provided year-round to participants who may not be able to meaningfully participate or benefit from other programs in the community. Many Center programs prepare persons for transition to more inclusive community-based facilities. Highly visible community service programs in the Center include the Motor Development Program, the Adult Therapeutic and Physical Fitness Program, Physical Activity Mentoring Program and the Adapted Aquatics Program.

For further information contact Manny Felix at 608-785-8691 or [felix.emma@uwlax.edu](mailto:felix.emma@uwlax.edu).

## Nishele Lenards Becomes Professional Organization President

This past August, UW-La Crosse Medical Dosimetry Program Director, Nishele Lenards became the President of the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD). Lenards has been the Director since the program's conception in 2003. She has a Master's Degree in Education from UW-Stout. In addition, she is a certified medical dosimetrist, registered radiation therapist, and registered radiologic technologist.

Since the beginning of her AAMD presidency, Lenards has been hard at work developing the organization's web site and increasing the public's awareness of the organization. In addition she is working on increasing collaboration with other professional organizations and offering more continuing education opportunities for members.

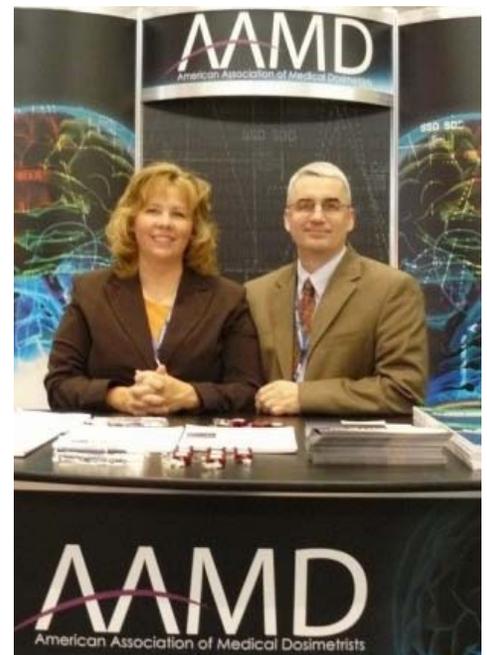
The AAMD is the international professional organization of certified medical dosimetrists. Currently, the AAMD has over 2400 members. The AAMD offers its members

continuing education through directed readings and annual national and regional conferences. In addition members have access to a continually updated job bank.

The Medical Dosimetry Program began in August of 2004 and has been entirely an online program. Students are able to either train on the job and take the formal online courses or complete a formal training program at one of the affiliated internship sites. It is during this formal training that the student learns the necessary skills to become a medical dosimetrist; as well as complete the online didactic work. To this date, there have been 53 graduates of the program in its four year existence.

For further information on the AAMD, please visit [www.medicaldosimetry.org](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org).

If you are interested in more information on the UW-L Medical Dosimetry Program please contact Nishele Lenards at 608-785-5071 or [lenards.nish@uwlax.edu](mailto:lenards.nish@uwlax.edu).



**Lenards with AAMD Executive Director, Greg Robinson at the annual meeting of the American Society of Therapeutic Oncology in Boston, MA.**

## FOCUS ON STUDENTS

### UW-L Students Score Highly in International Math Modeling Competition

Solving Sudoku puzzles is a popular pastime with a well known link to mathematical thinking. However, the challenge of constructing Sudoku puzzles turns out to be even more mathematically involved.

	5		2	6				
				7			9	
	3			4	8			
7	8							5
3					9	1		
			5			8	3	
		4						3
2				9			6	
				8	4			



Left to right, Kirk Wienkes, Gus Borstad, and Jarod Hart.

In February of 2008, three UW-L math students were presented with the task of creating an algorithm to generate Sudoku puzzles with unique solutions at varying levels of difficulty. Jarod Hart, Gus Borstad, and Kirk Wienkes (all Spring 2008 graduates), tackled the Sudoku problem as part of the annual COMAP (Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications) Mathematical Contest in Modeling. Over 1100 teams of undergraduates from around the world participated in the competition. The contest rules allowed 96 hours to construct their solution and report their results. The

UW-L team's solution earned them a "Meritorious" rating, placing them among the top 14% of contest entries and among the top 31 U.S. teams addressing the Sudoku problem.

The team's solution involved establishing a metric for determining the difficulty of a Sudoku puzzle, creating a computer program to solve puzzles, and developing a reverse algorithm for removing entries from a completed Sudoku board to form a well-posed puzzle. Their algorithms were created to mimic the human logic typically

applied to solving Sudoku puzzles.

Jarod, Gus, and Kirk shared their results at a seminar in the UW-L Math Department in May. Barb Bennie served as the team's faculty advisor.

The team worked extremely hard on the contest problem and should be congratulated for their great results!

For further information contact Barbara Bennie at [bennie.barb@uwlax.edu](mailto:bennie.barb@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-6605.

## The UW-L Alumni Center

Both UW-L alumni and guests will enjoy connecting with our campus and its graduates through the UW-L Alumni Center. The Center's web page address is [www.uwlalumni.org](http://www.uwlalumni.org).

## Sport Management Alumnus Jordan Schneider Associated With Golf Industry Marketing and Promotions

During the summer of 2007 Jordan Schneider received a very competitive internship position with the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA). Then because of his expertise in event operations and athlete development, he was invited to join the International Junior Golf Association (IJGA), for a one year advanced internship. In a recent email to Chia-Chen Yu, the UW-L Sport Management Program Director, Schneider credits his experiences in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and UW-L Career Services for helping him to achieve both successful internships.



**Jordan Schneider presents awards to International Junior Golfers in his role as Assistant Tournament Director. Schneider is a 2007 Graduate of the UW-L Sport Management Program.**

This past September, Schneider joined the IJGA as an Assistant Tournament Director and Director of the College Coach Program. Schneider's responsibilities involve supervising all aspects of nationally sanctioned IJGT golf tournaments. Schneider is also the athletic scholarship liaison with golf coaches at over 200 colleges and universities. Schneider appeared recently on the Golf Channel TV show featuring Hank Haney, Tiger Wood's coach.

UW-L's Marcia Naber, Career Services Specialist, was not surprised with Schneider's achievement in the competitive golf industry. "Jordan was a determined, motivated student at UW-L, and we look forward to learning more about his career in the golfing industry".

For further information on UW-L's Undergraduate Sport Management Program, contact Chia-Chen Yu at 608-785-6549 or [yu.chia@uwlax.edu](mailto:yu.chia@uwlax.edu).

## Comments

**We hope you enjoy receiving this convenient, periodic update from the UW-La Crosse College of Science and Health, produced for alumni, and friends. Send comments or story ideas to the editor, Phil Wilson, at (608) 782-8350 or [pkwilson@centurytel.net](mailto:pkwilson@centurytel.net).**

## FOCUS ON GRANTS

### Woman's Sports Foundation Awards Scholarship to Kristina Meissen, UW-L Sport Management Alumnus

Kristina Meissen, a Sport Management alumnus from the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, has received the 2008 Dorothy Harris Scholarship. The scholarship/award is presented to a female graduate student pursuing a career in sport management, sport psychology, sociology or physical education.

Meissen was on the UW-L women's track and field team specializing in javelin. In addition to her role as a student-athlete, Meissen completed her sport management internship with the Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation in Madison, WI, and her strength and conditioning practicum at Acceleration-Madison and the UW-Madison Athletic Department. According to Chia-Chen Yu, UW-L's Sport Management Program Director, "Meissen is a gifted student who deeply examines issues and has an honest desire to learn".

Currently, Meissen is completing a graduate degree in Collegiate Sport Administra-

tion at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and assists in student-athlete development for the UNC Athletic Department. She also contributes to various campus committees including the Carolina Leadership Academy, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and coordinates student-athletes community outreach initiatives.

Yu adds "Meissen is a role model for females seeking a career in sports. Her UW-L undergraduate education, her athletic achievements and strong commitment to sport administration continue to move her career forward". In the future, Meissen plans to be a Director of Student-Athlete Development within a collegiate athletic department and pursue a Doctorate Degree.

For further information on Kristina Meissen and UW-L's Undergraduate Sport Management Program, you may contact Chia-Chen Yu at 608-785-6549 or [yu.chia@uwlax.edu](mailto:yu.chia@uwlax.edu).



### Center on Disability Health Receives General Mills Foundation Grant



The Center on Disability Health and Adapted Physical Activity (Center) in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science is implementing a grant of \$10,000 received from the General Mills Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to assist in expanding the scope of the UW-L Physical Activity Mentoring Program for Children with Disabilities. The Champions for Healthy Kids grant incorporates nutrition education into the existing program via a collaborative initiative with dieticians from

Gundersen Lutheran. For the past three years the physical activity mentoring program was supported by a grant from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health - Wisconsin Partnership Program.

Center Director Manny Felix said, "This is another example of how the Center links with community agencies to meet the health and physical activity needs of persons with disabilities in the Seven Rivers Region. UW-L students gain valuable experiences as they prepare for professional roles in health, physical activity, and disability-related fields." According to Project Director, Garth Tymeson, "The grant will impact at least 50 children with disabilities ages 5-18, their families, and numerous UW-L students who serve as physical activity mentors. This new funding allows us to infuse another piece of the

healthy living puzzle, and assist children, parents, and UW-L students. We have worked with the Gundersen staff to design Winning Weighs for Kids with Disabilities that serves as the basis for nutrition content." In addition for individualized physical activity programs, the grant provides nutrition workshops for children, parents, and UW-L student mentors. Each year since its inception in 2002, the General Mills Foundation has awarded 50 Champions for Healthy Kids grants to community-based groups that develop creative ways to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle.

For additional information about the project, contact Garth Tymeson at 608-785-5415 or [tymeson.garth@uwlax.edu](mailto:tymeson.garth@uwlax.edu). Visit [www.GeneralMills.com/foundation](http://www.GeneralMills.com/foundation) for more information about the grant program.



## Melissa Weege Awarded Elekta Scholarship

Melissa Weege, Radiation Therapy Program Director, was one of four recipients of the Elekta Radiation Therapy Educators Scholarship awarded by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) for 2008. Elekta and the ASRT Education and Research Foundation are committed to the retention and recruitment of talented radiation therapy educators.

Melissa accepted the position as Director of the UW-L Radiation Therapy Program in the fall of 2007. She was no stranger to UW-L as she received her radiation therapy undergraduate degree here in 2001 and completed an online certificate program in medical dosimetry in 2006.

The Elekta Radiation Therapy Educators Scholarship Program assists educator therapists who are pursuing their baccalaureate, Master's or Doctoral Degree to enhance their position as a program director, faculty member, clinical coordinator or clinical instructor. Scholarships of \$5,000 are awarded annually to each recipient. Melissa is enrolled in a Master of Science in Education Degree Program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Adjunct clinical staff, Amy Health, who is the Clinical Education Coordinator for the Radiation Therapy Program at the UW-



Amy Health (2nd from left) and Melissa Weege (3rd from left)

Madison clinical affiliate, also received this scholarship for 2008. Amy is enrolled in the Clinical Practice Management Master's Degree Program at George Washington University.

For further information please contact the Radiation Therapy Department Chair Nishele Lenards at [lenards.nich@uwlax.edu](mailto:lenards.nich@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-5071.

## Departments

The College of Science and Health is home to 11 academic departments including:

- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computer Science**
- **Exercise and Sport Science**
- **Geography/Earth Science**
- **Health Education and Health Promotion**
- **Health Professions**
- **Mathematics**
- **Microbiology**
- **Physics**
- **Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation**

Learn more about them here: <http://www.uwlax.edu/sah/html/departments.htm>

## FOCUS ON RESEARCH

### A Step in the Right Direction



Nearly all of us are familiar with the concept of putting your foot in your mouth. That's an activity that most of us try to avoid. But when that phrase is taken literally, what foot motions would you use? More importantly, what words would you use to describe the changing positions of the foot that are associated with this, or perhaps a more mundane activity? The community of International Foot and Ankle Biomechanics specialists (I-FAB), has realized that there are no good answers to these questions. They have asked Thomas M. Greiner, the anatomist in the Department of Health Professions, to lead an international effort to develop standardized

descriptive terminology for the foot and ankle.

The initial steps in this effort were addressed at a conference this past September at the Centro di Ricerca Codivilla-Putti Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli (IOR Research Centre), in Bologna, Italy. At this meeting of over 160 international scholars, Greiner presented some of the results of his current research efforts. His own research, done in collaboration with Kevin Ball from the University of Hartford, focuses on the movements of the intrinsic foot joints. Yet, he finds himself in a quandary when reporting these results, for how do you describe movements when no appropriate words are available?

Greiner has shown that some of the current terms used to describe foot motions have as many as 20 different published definitions. People who talk of "foot pronation" may actually be describing a foot action that someone else would think of as "foot

inversion." While these terminological differences may seem trivial, perhaps even whimsical, they can have important clinical implications. The lack of standard terms means that there is great opportunity for miscommunication among members of clinical teams that are discussing and treating patients with foot problems. A foot orthosis designed to correct a specific movement disorder, may actually cause harm if misapplied. When the terms of movement are not standardized, there is no way to know if the designed movement properly matches the diagnosed movement disorder. The international effort to develop standardized terms for the foot and ankle will work to alleviate this problem. At least we may all finally know what we are talking about.

And, that is the best way to keep our foot out of our mouth.

Thomas Greiner can be contacted at 608-785-8476 or [greiner.thom@uwlax.edu](mailto:greiner.thom@uwlax.edu).

### Radiation Therapy Senior Wins National Essay Contest

This past April, radiation therapy senior Tracy Katzer presented her research paper entitled, "Complimentary Therapies for Radiation Therapy Side Effect Management" in Chicago. Katzer's paper was selected as the first place winner of more than 100 papers submitted to the Chicago Area Radiation Therapists Student Seminar and Review Bowl. The paper presentation was part of the many activities during a three day seminar for graduating radiation therapy students. Each student also participated in several sessions presented by various radiation therapy faculty representatives from around the country. The sessions were designed to help students review for their certification registry exam by highlighting important concepts from many exam components such as radiation biology and radiation physics. It is imperative for a graduating radiation therapy student to take the national board exam given by the American Registry of Ra-



**Emily Denis and Tracy Katzer competing in the student board review bowl.**

diologic Technologists (ARRT), before beginning their practice as radiation therapists.

In addition, Katzer and classmate, Emily Denis represented UW-L in the review bowl portion of the conference. Katzer and Denis placed second in the competition out of more than 15 teams. The final competition with Rochester's Mayo Clinic team

came right down to the last question. Katzer and Denis brought back to UW-L this large trophy representing their accomplishment.

For additional information about the Radiation Therapy Program at UW-La Crosse, please contact Melissa Weege at 608-785-6979 or [weege.meli@uwlax.edu](mailto:weege.meli@uwlax.edu).