

Department History Project: 1978-1987

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The era of 1978 through 1987 was considered to be “cool” and “heinous”, with important events ranging from record low unemployment rates in 1978 to the drinking age changing to 21 in 1986 (Pearson, 2024a; Pearson, 2024c). There were many positive and negative things that took place in this decade that had major effects on students studying psychology at the University of Wisconsin - Stout. This paper is our group's interpretation of the effects these events had on the alumni researched throughout this time period.

We researched ten different Stout alumni who had completely different backgrounds, but their common characteristic was being a psychology major. Two of said students graduated in 1978, named Esther Springer-Godfrey and Douglas Kules. Then, in 1979, Wendy Zell and Mark Hyllested graduated, followed by Craig Amoth in 1982. Three students were from the class of 1986, which included Cheryl LaFountain, Rhonda Martinson, and Michele Pufahl. Kenton Davis and Faith Hill were the most recent graduates from 1987. These people had various experiences during their time at Stout due to their involvement on campus as news reporters, athletes, tutors, or other occupations. They all accomplished great things during their time at the University and after.

Part I – Individual Alumni Histories

Esther J Godfrey-Springer - Class of 1978 (written by Anna Karrow)

Esther J Godfrey-Springer is from the Port of Spain – Trinidad and taught physical education there before coming to the United States for higher education. She was quoted in an article of the school newspaper saying she chose an American school because “they offered the best courses” (“Music, Spicy Food Mark Holiday”, 1979). She was married to the late Winston

Godfrey-Springer, and they had no children. She attended the University of Wisconsin – Stout, and graduated in May of 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (Student Life & Services, 1978). After finishing her undergraduate degree, she continued on with her education at UW-Stout by graduating with a Master of Science degree in Guidance in August of 1979 (Student Life & Services, 1979).

She has a brother who lived in New York while her sister and two other brothers stayed in Trinidad. She has described herself as vivacious, optimistic, and ageless. She also mentioned how flexible she is, so it was easy for her to adjust after coming to the U.S. despite missing her home. In the article, she said that she plans to return home in the future so she can contribute, although it is unknown if she did. Godfrey-Springer was featured in several articles of volume 70 of the campus newspaper, called *The Stoutonia*, which was published in 1979. While attending UW-Stout, she was the assistant foreign student advisor and a graduate assistant directed by Admissions. She eventually became the foreign student advisor, although her position was taken over by Giselle Bawnik in the spring of 1981.

She is also religious and wrote a statement in support of WVSS-FM airing *Jesus Solid Rock*, a Christian radio show. She even invited the editor and their family to attend a Thanksgiving worship service at the First Congregational Church here in Menomonie to “give thanks even if we are from differing faiths and religions” (“From the Readers: WVSS Jesus Radio Debate”, 1978). In another article, she detailed Christmas traditions from Trinidad. Her favorite holiday foods are rum punch and pastelles, also known as Christmas dumplings, and she even provided the recipes for them (“Music, Spicy Food Mark Holiday”, 1979).

During her time at Stout, she was also the curator of a new foreign student exhibit that opened in Harvey Hall on Friday, September 29th, 1978. She collected objects from students

from all around the world and put them on display to “introduce American students to culture from other lands so they can take some of it with them and we can leave with some of theirs” (“New Foreign Student Exhibit to Open on Campus”, 1978). At the time, she was one of 145 foreign students attending Stout. The exhibit included countless articles, including clothing from Nigeria, table settings from Jamaica, wall hangings like a fortune mask used in Peking, China Theatre, and much more. She had plans to continue to add to the exhibit throughout the year so she invited people to come visit as many times as they would like to view the new features. Additionally, she created a collage of maps showing the countries where Stout foreign students are from and a slideshow presentation of the different countries (“New Foreign Student Exhibit to Open on Campus”, 1978).

The search process for Godfrey-Springer was much more strenuous than the previous person I chose for this assignment. I started by browsing through the commencement programs between the years of 1978 and 1987, looking for people who have unique names that wouldn't get easily mistaken for someone else. It was not difficult to find things about her within the school's newspaper, *The Stoutonia*, because she was featured in multiple articles. There was a picture of her in one article, but the quality is not good enough to actually identify her.

It wasn't until after the rough draft was submitted that I realized she was also named in another commencement program, meaning she also received her master's degree at UW-Stout. However, I had no such luck when trying to find information about her life after graduation. I did find her name within the alumni directory, which gave an address in Trinidad and Tobago, but it is unclear if that was where she lived before or after her time at Stout.

Perhaps information is scarce because she was from another country and maybe she returned, or remarried and changed her name again. I attempted to use various sources like

ancestry.com, LinkedIn, Google, the UW-Stout's Alumni Association contact form, and several other sources from the university library's digital collection. None of these brought about any successful results.

Douglas Peter Kules - Class of 1978 (written by Kelsie Closson)

My first person is Douglas Peter Kules. His wife is Kathleen Kules with his Father being Joseph Kules and his mother still unknown at this moment. He was born in 1952 and raised in Minneapolis, MN and moved to multiple different places during his time in the United States Air Force. He then attended Stout from 1974-1978, graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (UW- Stout, 1978). He decided to attend college because he, "felt I had more to learn to become self-actualized and I was interested in learning" he also, "didn't feel I wanted to go through life in a blue-collar job" according to a statement he made in the (Oehlke 1979, p.8).

When at Stout Douglas (Doug) had gotten married to Kathleen (Kathy) McLean in 1977. Throughout his time at Stout, he was involved in the soccer club. He was also in the Stoutonia stated as an "older student" and was 26 years old when he graduated, with his wife being 23. Because he went to school later in life, he focused mainly on schoolwork and was not involved in a lot of clubs and activities. According to my research, I couldn't find a lot of information on extracurriculars which leads me to believe that he didn't do that much outside of schoolwork and his general social life with his now wife.

I have information that leads me to believe that he went back to the United States Air Force (USAF) (University News Service 1985, p.12) that stated that he was a captain in the USAF and was a standardized flight evaluator with the 552nd AWACD. After graduation he pursued the Air Force and became a captain living in Painesville, OH. He then retired from the Air Force and moved to Penn Valley, CA, where he resides with his wife.

My research started with finding names under the commencement program, and I initially used the Stoutonia and the Tower yearbook to find if they had any significant contributions. From there I investigated Facebook and LinkedIn, I didn't find anything from these. I also considered his age and didn't think these would be good sources anyway. So, I decided to investigate ancestry where I found information on his life predating school that linked with the information, I had found from the Stoutonia. I then went to google and searched his name to see if anything significant came up. This was also a dead end in most ways besides confirming what I already knew. During my research I also found that he had the nickname "Doug", so I went back to Stoutonia and the Tower Yearbook and used Doug rather than Douglas. This gave me information about his involvement in the soccer team. After finding this out I went to the athletics collection and was able to find more information.

My biggest roadblocks were the confusion of why he had lived in so many places, because I had doubts if I had the right person or not. However, when I found out about the military, I connected the dots and it all made sense. The most useful places for researching Douglas thus far have been the Stoutonia and Ansestery.com.

Wendy C. Zell - Class of Spring 1979 (Written by Suzi McLendon)

Wendy C. Zell was born in November 1956 (Operations, n.d.). She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UW-Stout on May 5, 1979, and was living in Eau Claire then (Student Life and Services. 1979). She has lived in at least five different places, with 110 Laramie LN, Janesville, WI 53546 as the most recent (Operations, n.d.). Her dad passed away March 21, 2020, and she has two brothers, Wade and Marc (Lenmark, 2020). I was unable to find any information about what she did at Stout. I was able to get in contact with her on Facebook; however, she never followed up with me to set up an interview. She had stated, "Now

you have my attention”, but never followed the instructions to set up an interview. After Stout, she went to UW-Whitewater (Wendy Zell, 2024). I was unable to find exact dates for this or what she studied, as the only location I found on it was posted in her bio on Facebook. She has never been married and has a stepdad. Currently, she works at Bark N Bites Boutique in Janesville, which she is the owner of. This business sells dog treats and modifies dog clothing. It was difficult to find this information, as the Facebook page for the business did not explain what their business does. I had to find the information in comments and reviews left about the business (Bark N Bites Boutique, 2024). On Facebook, she posts a lot of inspirational quotes and the Facebook page for her business is also just dog memes.

The best source for finding information was Facebook and Ancestry. I was unable to find any information regarding her time at Stout beyond the commencement program. I was able to get in contact with her on Facebook, however she never followed up with me. I had difficulty finding information at first because there is also an Author with the same name and my results kept pulling her up. As of May 1, 2024, she is still alive and has not answered my interview request.

Mark Tyler Hyllested - Class of Summer 1979 (Written by Suzi McLendon)

Mark Tyler Hyllested was born on July 7, 1952 in Rice Lake, WI (Barron County, 1935-2014). He received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, degree from UW-Stout on August 3, 1979, and graduated as magna cum laude (Student Life and Services. 1979). Only one other person graduated with a psychology degree at this graduation.

While at Stout, he was quoted in the Stoutonia article “In the Shadow of the Tower” regarding allowing 24-hour visitation, this means that students would be allowed to visit the dorm at any time of night, or even spend the night. In the article, he was quoted saying, “It’s just

making it legal. People have been violating visitation for a number of years. Now they are trying to make it legal. Laws are always ten years behind. Basically, it will let the resident advisors get away with it... now the students can't blackmail them!" (McLoone, 1975). Before he graduated, he wrote a poem for The Student Literary Publication in 1979 (Hyllestad, 1979).

He was married on Aug 15, 1981, and later had two children. His last known place of residence was 3375 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, Michigan. He died on June 19, 2002, in Chelsea, Michigan (Barron County, 1935-2014). I was unable to find any information about what he did with his degree after leaving Stout even after searching through the bulletin and searching through the archives again.

First, I attempted to look through the archives for information about Mark. I was able to find some information, such as the quote from Stoutonia, a poem he wrote, and information regarding his graduation from the commencement program. After that, I was able to find the rest of my information on Ancestry. At first, it was difficult because I was not finding any information and I even switched people a couple times due to not being able to find information. In the search for information about Mark, Ancestry was the most useful and the Archives were second best.

Craig D. Amoth - Class of 1982 (Written by Alexis Williams)

My first person is Craig D. Amoth. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout from 1979-1982 and graduated from Stout in May 1982 with Summa Cum Laude (Student Life and Services, 1982). During his time at UW-Stout, he wrote an article to Stoutonia addressing a previous article written in the February 15th article where he stated his views and opinions on women and romantic relationships in the March 1, 1979 (From the Readers: Traditions Backed, 1979, 526). In this short article that he wrote to the editors, he shared how women should be

grateful society allows them to have one-night stands without backlash. He also seemed to do photography on the side since he got honorable mention for a black and white photo in the April 17th, 1980, Stoutonia edition (Photo Contest Results, 1980, p.534). Later, he won both color and black and white photos in the April 22nd, 1982, Stoutonia edition (6th Annual Photo Contest Winners, 1982, p.23).

After he graduated from Stout, he came back to Stout 2 years later and was a guest speaker for the Stout Council Family Relations meeting on February 20th, 1984 (Club News, 1984, 19). Also applying these same skills, he worked for the nonprofit Greater Nashua Mental Health in Nashua, New Hampshire. Greater Nashua Mental Health is focused on providing mental health services for people so they can live hopeful and fulfilling lives. In 2015, Craig joins their agency as president and CEO before retiring later in 2020 and someone else took over as official president and CEO (Greater Nashua Mental Health, 2023). He also is a part of the National Council for Behavioral Health, which is committed to providing advocacy for access to mental health and addiction treatment services (Amoth, n.d.).

To start the search process, I first started by picking commencement programs in my era and writing down all the names of people graduating with psychology majors. From there, I checked in with the list of people my group members chose already and that were taken last semester as to not repeat. From there, I spent time searching all these people for a Facebook or LinkedIn page. This proved to be the most difficult part as I either could not find them or would find around 10 people with the same name and couldn't find anything on these pages confirming who was the one who graduated from Stout.

Once I confirmed that this was the right person (as they had Stout as their graduating school on LinkedIn), I looked up the company they worked at and gathered information off their

website. Once I got that, I went back to the Archives and searched their name in the Stoutonia page to get what they were doing while in school. LinkedIn was my best resource to gather information. There was a lot on there to work with and they gave me more things to look up from that page to gather more information about him.

Cheryl Lynne LaFountain - Class of 1986 (written by Kelsie Closson)

The second person I researched is Cheryl LaFountain. Her husband was Donald Hinds, together they had two sons, Zac, and Jake. Cheryl's mother was Patricia Legault, and her father was Thomas A. LaFountain. She was born May 3rd, 1964, and unfortunately passed away April 14th, 2004, at the age of 39, in Atlanta, Georgia, the cause of her death was from Leukemia and breast cancer (Legacy, 2004). Before she passed, she attended Stout from 1982-1986 and graduated in May of 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology with Cum Laude honors at the age of 22 (UW- Stout, 1986).

Cheryl LaFountain was very involved during her time at Stout. Through my research in the Stoutonia and the Tower Yearbook I have found that she was involved in lots of writing activities. This includes the copy staff of the Tower Yearbook in 1986, the Stout Student Association (SSA) in 1986. Cheryl also was a Stoutonia staff reporter from 1984-1986 and wrote many articles including, "Involvement in Campus Activities Can Benefit Students" (LaFountain 1984, p.17), and "Super Women Activities Advisers" (LaFountain, 1984, p.8), both articles were from Volume 75. She was also the group coordinator for the video cassette from 1985-1986 and involved in the media advertising committee (Wagner, 1986, p.13).

With her involvement in activities, she was also well known for her academics, she was awarded with the "Who's Who award" and the "Medallion award" (Stoutonia Office 1986, p.20), while also graduating with Cum Laude. Cheryl was very involved and listed in many articles for

being a reporter while also getting recognition for her outstanding academic achievements. By seeing all the articles, she had written throughout my research I could tell that she was a busy student and had a relatively large social life because of that.

After graduation Cheryl moved to Atlanta, Georgia and married her husband Donald Hinds, this is also where they had their two sons Zac and Jake. Some information hinted that she moved to Atlanta in 1988 and worked with an American Sign Language (ASL) association. She then passed away in 2004 at the age of 39, leaving her with time to get her life going, but no time to complete and fulfil her life (Legacy, 2004).

The research process for Cheryl LaFountain was relatively repetitive throughout. This includes using the commencement program to find a name and using the Stoutonia and the Tower Yearbook to find initial information. Cheryl was not one of the original people I found. I originally found Brian Ewing and I struggled to find information for him, so I changed to researching Cheryl.

The main differences between researching Cheryl and Douglas were that I spent more time looking on Facebook and LinkedIn, I felt this would be more beneficial considering Cheryl lived at the prime time for Facebook. However, I didn't find anything and later found out that she had passed. This explained why I couldn't find any social media accounts from 20 years ago. A lot of the leads I had would go farther into her life, I then realized a lot of this information was false because it was the wrong person, considering she had passed away.

I looked at obituaries, the information from the obituaries were not lining up with the information I had already found so I didn't trust them completely. That is why the biggest challenge was finding the correct information on what she did after graduation, after further investigation I learned she passed before she was able to continue her life. The most useful

resources I used were the Tower Yearbook and the Stoutonia because I was able to find a lot of information about her life during her time at Stout.

I also used Ancestry slightly to find information on her family and her death. The largest part of my research consisted of me going back and forth from sources to my notes, writing down any detail I found along the way. The intent for this was that I could fact check myself easier with the more things I learned.

Rhonda Joan Martinson - Class of 1986 (written by Anna Karrow)

Rhonda Joan Martinson is from Menomonie, Wisconsin, and she graduated from Menomonie High School before attending the University of Wisconsin - Stout, also located in Menomonie. She was born on July 18th, and although the year of her birth is unknown, she is estimated to be around 70 years old currently based on the information available. Her parents got a divorce in 1979 after 26 years of marriage. Her mother, Joan Kathryn Hintz Keller, died in 2012, and her father, Ronald Arling Martinson, was a sheriff's deputy/investigator for Dunn County who died in 2016 (Rhonda Martinson, n.d.b; R. Martinson, personal communication, March 19th, 2024).

She got married right out of high school to William Wayne Krause in 1972 and although no divorce record was found on ancestry.com, an oral history interview confirmed that they are no longer together due to domestic violence (Dunn County, 1820-2004; R. Martinson, personal communication, March 19th, 2024). She graduated in December of 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (Student Life & Services, 1986). She is a summa cum laude graduate, and she was able to complete her degree in just one and a half years because she was able to test out of quite a few courses (Rhonda Martinson, n.d.c; R. Martinson, personal communication, March 19th, 2024).

She was an older student and had been out working in the world for a while before going to college. During her time at Stout, she continued to work full time while in school, so she didn't have a lot of extra time for student organizations, but she was a reporter for the student newspaper, *The Stoutonia* (R. Martinson, personal communication, March 19th, 2024). Her work is featured in volume 76, which was published in 1986. In total, she wrote 11 articles on various topics ranging from student spending habits to policies dealing with alcohol abuse in UW school systems (Martinson, 1985a; Martinson, 1985b). Looking back at her time at Stout, she said she enjoyed being around people who also valued education, reading, learning, and the overall intellectual stimulation that college provided by being around like people (R. Martinson, personal communication, March 19th, 2024).

After completing her undergraduate degree, she continued her education at the University of Wisconsin – Madison where she studied law for two years before receiving her degree. During her time in law school, she was a clerk for Dane County Circuit Court Judge Angela Bartell. Immediately after, she got a job as a prosecutor in La Crosse and soon moved to Minneapolis to work as an attorney advisor with the Battered Women's Justice Project in 1996, where she worked until 2010. She is also a former attorney advisor at AEquitas, a prosecutor's resource on violence against women, from 2011 to 2013 in Washington D.C. She still lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has her own business called Rhonda Martinson Consulting, LLC (Rhonda Martinson, n.d.c).

She works as a consultant for coordinating and assessing criminal justice responses to domestic violence. Also, she trains in domestic violence investigation and prosecution and writes articles, reports, and training materials on criminal justice response to domestic violence. She has done around 75 projects across the United States that has examined hundreds of domestic

violence police reports and conducted focus groups with victims.

She went on to manage a three-city research program to collect qualitative research on witness intimidation and domestic violence cases (R. Martinson, personal communication, March 19th, 2024). She is an advisor to Emerge's Abuser 201 Training Project and a past advisor to the Stalking Resource Center, National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative and Family Justice Center Alliance. She also has experience as a 911 call taker/jail officer (Rhonda Martinson, n.d.a).

The search process was quite long and grueling, with several dead ends. I started with the commencement programs and tried to find people whose names also brought up results when their name was searched in The Stoutonia newspapers. She was a reporter, so there wasn't much information about her specifically, but she wrote quite a few articles that I was able to read.

From there, I tried looking at other websites, and I found the most valuable information from her Facebook page and LinkedIn profile. All her professional career accomplishments were found mostly through her LinkedIn, while more personal information was found through more recreational social media like Facebook. I contacted her through LinkedIn and although it took a while, I was finally able to conduct an oral history interview with her, which provided lots of personal accounts of her time at Stout.

Michele M. Pufahl - Class of 1986 (Written by Alexis Williams)

My second person is Michele M. Pufahl. She was at Stout from 1982-1986 and graduated from Stout in May 1986 with Summa Cum Laude (Student Life and Services, 1986). During her time at Stout, she volunteered at the Academic Skills Center as a tutor and was thanked in the December 12th, 1985, Stoutonia paper for it (Thanks to the Volunteer Tutor Program, 1985, 397).

After graduation, she married Randy Alan Okan in June 1986 (Wisconsin Marriage

Records, 1986), about a month after. She is currently working at Thomson Reuters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a company that deals with trusted data, workflow, automation, and AI. She's currently a global premier partner specialist, or someone who manages communications, reviews payments, contract renewals, sales deliverables, etc. globally along with creating training materials for partners and providing insights on health and performance. She started the job back in November of 1996 and is still working there, 27 years and 5 months later (Pufahl, n.d.).

My search process for her was basically the same as Craig's. List of names from the commencement and searching online. My biggest issue was the lack of information on her LinkedIn. There was enough to confirm I had the right person, but there wasn't as much as my other person had. I also searched the Ancestry database for her name and found out when she was married from there though, so that was one major difference between the two people I did.

Kenton Doyle Davis- Class of 1987 (written by Trey Jensen)

Kenton Davis was born August 7th, 1963, he started college as 20-year-old freshmen graduated in the class of 1987 and started his college career in 1984. Kenton Davis grew up in Ripon, Wisconsin. Kenton Davis married Renee Mousel 5 years; Kenton Davis and Renee Mousel got married on September 15th, 2001, in Eau Claire. After graduating from UW-Stout in 1987, he moved back to Ripon Wisconsin. Kenton Davis used bachelor's psychology to then become a buyer for Menards, using skills in negotiating for the company of Menards, finding sources for products for the store and assisting in the company's supply chain. I couldn't find information on Kenton Davis on what exactly he did at UW Stout I Looked on Stout community News, Stoutonia, tower yearbook and campus news couldn't find him there. I then checked ancestry.com and found out he married Renee Mousel. With the marriage documents (U.S

marriage records, Eau Claire County, 1992) I found his work history, leading me to the position title he was working in for Menards. I checked four social media sites including Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. He was not on any form of social media from my research.

Faith Clarine Hall- Class of 1987 (written by Trey Jensen)

Faith Hall graduated in 1987, then moved and now lives in Bozeman, Montana and got married to Steven P. McNally (U.S marriage records, Burnett County, 1992). I then looked her up on Facebook and found out she started a plumbing business with her husband Steven McNally the business is called “McNally Plumbing” this business turned out to be very successful, she used her psychology degree to run human resources for the plumbing business. I couldn't find information on Faith Hall on anything she did at University of Wisconsin- Stout.

I Looked on Stout community News, Stoutonia, tower yearbook and campus news couldn't find her on there. I Was about to give up and pick a new person until I looked on ancestry.com and found information on there. I didn't realize her name changed when she got married so I couldn't find her on Facebook. But I found her new last name on ancestry.com. So, then I could find her information on Facebook That she lived in Grantsburg, Wisconsin and the information came stumbling in from there.

On her profile, she showed that she loves traveling and hiking in adventures like traveling to the Rocky Mountains to hike and watch elk on the trails or to yellow stone to watch buffalo on the plains. I then searched for a linked-in account and found out that she used her psychology bachelor's degree and graduate degree of school counseling at University of Wisconsin- Stout to become a high school counselor at the Grantsburg school district for six years. But while she was a counselor, they started their Co-owner plumbing business called Marine Plumbing where she did office management.

Part II – Context of the Stout Experience

Although our assigned decade begins in 1978, there was still one important event worth mentioning that happened a few years earlier. Trinidad and Tobago, which is where Godfrey-Springer is from, became a republic in 1976 with the former governor-general, Ellis Clarke, as president, and Eric Williams as prime minister (BBC, 2012). Jimmy Carter was the president of the United States and would be until 1981. During his presidency, the value of the U.S. dollar started decreasing to a record low, and worldwide unemployment continued to rise (Pearson, 2024). These factors would negatively affect recent graduates from Stout as the dollar would not have as much of an impact as it did before and finding a job would be harder.

The Cold War was also ongoing during this time and resulted in poor global relations (Pearson, 2024). This led to America banning the sale of the latest computer technology to the Soviet Union. All these issues combined at the same time created a lingering tension, creating an uneasy atmosphere on campus and around the country.

Despite the many negative events that were happening, several accomplishments were made all around. Within the field of science, the first successful birth of the first test tube baby from in vitro fertilization happened in England (Pearson, 2024). This made headlines around the world in newspapers like the *Evening News* due to the revolutionary science that made it possible (Glanz, 2018). IVF would become an alternative for families who were struggling with fertility and wanted to have a child with genetic similarity in the future.

Some legislation was also passed in Wisconsin during this time. With Lee S. Dreyfus winning the election to serve as the governor of Wisconsin, he would go on to pass legislature to help the LGBTQ+ community by barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in jobs and housing. This was also the year that the Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl XII, so many

students at Stout were likely celebrating this accomplishment and filled with pride in the following weeks (Pearson, 2024).

We were also able to access the courses that were offered within the psychology department during this year, which are very similar to those offered today. However, there were some unique ones, such as Introduction to Behavior Modification, Animal Behavior, Psycholinguistics, Psychology of the Exceptional Child, Psychology of Marriage and the Family (Undergraduate Bulletin, 1978-1979, p.62). These courses reflect the state of psychology during this time and show how it developed. These courses also reflected the popularity and views of the behaviorist movement as it was becoming focused less on whole and more on small and specific moments (Roediger, 2004).

1979 was a year filled with ups and downs throughout the world, with major effects on our Stout students. This was the first time that a gay and lesbian civil rights movement took place in Washington (Pearson, 2024). This not only influenced LGBTQ+ students on campus, but anybody who identified as gay around the country. Some students likely became more confident and felt free to express themselves, although, there was also probably some backlash as well.

In Wisconsin, the first woman was elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1979 by the name of Shirley S. Abrahamson, after she served by appointment for 3 years (Ferguson, 2011). This was huge step for women in power for the state of Wisconsin and for the Midwest as a whole. It showed that women could hold a position of power and was likely inspiring for many women. For the female student body at Stout, this was a great motivator to continue to succeed for life during college and post-graduation.

While some great things were happening around Wisconsin, there was also a fluctuation of good and bad events occurring within the town and college campus. One threat on campus

during this year was an unknown man that received the name “Chester the molester” by the women on campus. The man would approach women in parking lots, armed with scissors or a knife. Multiple women came forward, saying that they had been molested, but the weapons were not used on them (“Menomonie Molester Stalks Parking Lots”, 1978). This series of attacks created an unsafe environment for the women on campus. It is not known if the man was ever caught, but the incidents did eventually stop.

On a more positive note, construction of the new library learning center was beginning at UW-Stout. This was influential for the Stout students and gave them more resources to learn from (UW-Stout, n.d.). This building would help improve the student’s education and experience at UW-Stout.

During the year of 1981, President Reagan was inaugurated as the President of the United States, and within that same year, he was shot in the chest on March 30th. Ronald Reagan ended up surviving the assassination attempt and lived until his death in 2002 (Presidential election of 1984, 2024). Also in 1981, serial killer Ted Bundy was captured and arrested in Pensacola, Florida (Montaldo, 2020).

Another event that occurred in 1981 was the first case of someone positive with AIDS in the United States of America, causing the start of an epidemic (Nall, 2021). Another medical discovery was the invention of the PET scan, making big steps for the psychology world and medicine. Despite the new accomplishments being made around the world, UW-Stout was experiencing some setbacks with their accomplishments as the opening of the Library Learning Center was put on hold in late August due to the shelving supplier going bankrupt (Klauda, 1981). This was likely a huge disappointment for students who were planning on utilizing the new library before they graduated.

In 1982, Wisconsin's unemployment rate was the highest it had been since the Great Depression likely causing some troubles for students. Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus signed the nation's first statewide gay rights law in 1982 (Glauber, 2023). This was also the year that Milwaukee put on its first Summerfest. On September 12th, an F1 tornado went through Menomonie, although the damage was minimal (Pyun, 2023). During this year, Stout got approval to turn an old library building into a vocational rehabilitation center.

In sad news, a foreign student at Stout was found dead behind a local bar in downtown Menomonie called "The Den", and the suspect was still at large 3 months later. In the following year, 1983, was marked Menomonie's anniversary of being founded. During this period, Menomonie had a town value of \$56,102,800, while also having population of 2,626 residential properties, 32 mercantile and 187 agricultural properties (WHS Library-Archives Staff, 2009).

A powerful F5 tornado destroyed Barneveld, Wisconsin in 1984, and the damages costed 40 million dollars. Nine people were killed, 200 others were injured, and the majority of resident's lost their homes (Jones, 2019). Although this tragic storm did not pass through Stout, people from around the state were mourning this loss, Student may have been affected by the property damages or dealing with the grief of others they may knew effected by the tornado.

Three of our chosen alumni graduated in 1986, so many major events that occurred then directly affected those students. The President of the United States at this time was still Ronald Reagan. Some major changes were happening around the country, including the introduction of sweeping tax reform legislation and a ban on smoking on all public transport, including trains, planes, and buses. To give an idea of what it was like to live during this time, a gallon of gas was around \$0.89.

On a darker note, the Mad Cow Disease was discovered, the Chernobyl disaster occurred,

and seven passengers died when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded (Pearson, 2024c). Bringing in more international news, the 1986 FIFA world cup was hosted by the U.S. this year (Pearson, 2024c). On the topic of sports, the Milwaukee Brewers appeared in the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals. Additionally, legislation passed regarding the operation of casinos on Native American land called the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (Justia, 2023).

1986 was also the year when farmland values dropped across Wisconsin. Another big change was that the drinking age was raised to 21, which likely caused some outrage on campus (Ferguson, 2011). This also had an unforeseen negative impact on bar owners in Menomonie. The Campus Police Supervisor already noticed a substantial increase in underage drinking violations less than a month after the legislature was enacted (Smith, 1986).

The foreign student who was murdered behind a local bar in 1982 finds justice after a man from Texas gets charged. Stout's bookstore also implemented a new plan to help decrease shoplifting (Landis, 1986). Within the Menomonie community, a group called the Menomonie Area Working Women were having monthly meetings to promote the unique interests of working women and offer support and friendship for one another (The Dunn County News, 1986, p. 8).

Lots of newsworthy events happened in 1987, including President Reagan's famous speech at the Berlin Wall, and the approval of the amendment to allow pari-mutuel betting and a state lottery. Pari-mutuel betting is the betting process of better betting against one another rather than a bookmaker. On October 19th of this year, America's stock market crashed in an event known as Black Monday, causing lots of chaos that spread throughout the country, causing the American economy to slow down and housing market to plummet. The crash also resulted in new regulations in the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) to prevent another stock market

crash or any financial crimes in America (Bernhardt & Eckblad, 2013).

Safety measures were also implemented, including a mandatory seatbelt law, which was an attempt to make driving safer (Ferguson, 2011). One piece of transformative news on Stout's campus was that Chancellor Swanson announced his retirement (Lemire, S, 1987). Lots of major events occurred between the years of 1978-1987, whether it be worldwide, countrywide, statewide, or citywide. Its effects could be felt even at an individual level for students at UW-Stout.

Part III – Reflection

After gathering our own research on the years between 1978 and 1987, and hearing from fellow classmates talk about important events of their decades, we have noticed some changes in the students here at Stout and their experiences over time. One huge change was when the drinking age was raised to 21 in 1986, which changed the dynamics surrounding students, alcohol, and local police. In fact, Stout started to add more classes that happened on Fridays as a result of many student deaths on campus (K. Harris, personal communication, April 12 2024). As technology has advanced, the atmosphere on campus changed as well. An example of this can be seen with communication styles between students and faculty and among students in general. For example, there is now a popular app for college students that allows them to connect with other students from their university and talk about what is going on around campus. This, as well as things like email, is dramatically different than the in-person communication that was normal in the past.

The COVID-19 pandemic was another event that had extensive effects on the experience of students attending college during this time. The delivery of courses switched to online formats, masks were required to be worn by everyone in public spaces, and the format of

graduation ceremonies changed drastically. This was also around the time when campus mental health services were becoming popular, which was good news in the sense that students were taking advantage of the services provided by Stout and seeking help. Unfortunately, the counseling center became overwhelmed and understaffed during COVID times (E. Brittingham, personal communication, April 12, 2024).

In addition to these noticeable changes, we have also noticed some consistencies. For instance, over the 56 years that our class researched, the majority of students have lived in Wisconsin or Minnesota before attending this university. It was not uncommon to see Stout students marrying other Stout students, whether it occurred 50 years ago or just last year. Over the years, students have continuously taken part in activities on campus, including sports, clubs, or other organizations. However, the clubs themselves have come and gone as new interests foster the creation of new clubs to find like minds. The UW Board of Regents officially designated Stout “Wisconsin’s Polytechnic University” in 2007, although many of the major fields of study have always been polytechnic in nature (Anderson, 2013).

By learning about the details of students within this program, we can get a better understanding of how the psychology major fits into the larger history of psychology. There have been significant changes in student’s focus on different aspects of psychology, which reflects the ever-changing, dynamic field. By observing the lives of psychology alumni throughout the years, you can recognize the versatility of this degree after graduation. Some have taken the path through the legal system by going to law school and becoming an attorney advisor, some decided to go into the U.S. military, and others started up their own small businesses. Stout now offers a course called Positive Psychology, which has become a popular topic of interest in recent years. Despite the increasing awareness of mental health topics within the LGBTQ+ community,

gender dysphoria is still considered a mental disorder within the most recent DSM. However, this issue is addressed in the Abnormal Psychology course at Stout.

Based on what we have learned about the program's students, we can also recognize how the psychology major fits into the larger history of the university, state, nation, and the world. One of the largest upsets happening in the world of psychology was from 1967 through 1977, which involved behaviorism dying out in America (E. Woolever, personal communication, April 12, 2024). This affected the types of classes being held at UW-Stout as students were not able to take classes around that school of thought because it wasn't as popular anymore within the field. However, other aspects of psychology were emerging during these years. For example, sports psychology started to make an appearance between the decade of 1996-1977, which provided a new area for psychologists and psychology majors to explore (E. Woolever, personal communication, April 12, 2024). This is still relevant today, as some current psychology majors at Stout plan to continue their education in sports psychology.

In 1988, the University of Wisconsin – Stout changed the psychology major requirements to 152 credits in order to graduate (G. Brandt, personal communication, April 12, 2024). Several years later during a transition period of 1993, there was another change to the psychology curriculum. They separated the course load into five categories to be fulfilled, making the lives of psychology students and advisors slightly easier by categorizing requirements. The credit requirement changed again in 1996 back down to 124 required credits (G. Brandt, personal communication, April 12, 2024). This significantly changed the course of the psychology major at UW- Stout for many years and has not been changed drastically by only going down 3 credits in more recent years.

You can notice that progress made within the field as psychologists continued to research mental illnesses, which is reflected in the new publications of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). For instance, the DSM-5 was released in 2013 and one of the changes that was made replaced gender identity disorder with gender dysphoria, which is still listed as a mental illness to this day (H. Aguilar, personal communication, April 12, 2024).

Along with the edits to DSM-5, growth mindset was becoming a larger area of conversation throughout the school system. Growth mindset was being introduced to classrooms around 2015 which made for a new motivation for not only college students but for all school age children and teachers to implement. The idea of growth mindset was also affected by positive psychology interventions.

There was a new popularity with positive psychology that didn't focus solely on created happiness. It started to develop into the idea that positive psychology could be used as a form of intervention to get people a new start through a new mindset. This was a huge influence on the world with emotional health especially during the 9/11 upset in 2001 (K. Gross, Personal communication, April 12, 2024) and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. There were a lot of mental health issues that were discovered when people were faced with huge losses physical and emotionally within the United States along with being locked in their houses for months on end all over the world. With growth mindset being introduced earlier in 2015, positive psychology continued to grow significantly during 2020 for people trying to find new outputs and forms of mental support.

Overall, completing this project has assisted our knowledge regarding the importance of conducting historical research. Studying the history of psychology is crucial to understanding the context of current issues in psychology. This is because the history of psychology is dynamic,

meaning changes are always happening, and progress is continuously occurring to further our understanding of psychological research topics. It also helps us to find unity within the diversity of the field of psychology, whether it is regarding subject matter, research methodology, or other related matters.

Looking back at what we learned about at the beginning of the semester compared to the research conducted for this project, we now have a better grasp on how biased perspectives, translation issues, inaccurate memories, or restricted information can create difficulties with studying history. For example, the ancestry website wouldn't allow you access a newspaper that was cited as a source for their information, and government paperwork regarding Douglas Kules' time in the Air Force was locked to the public. Additionally, there is no way to fact check some of the information that was given through oral history interviews, so inaccurate memories may go unnoticed.

After working on the project for many weeks, we also understand why it is so important to look at the history of psychology within the context of its time by using a historical, naturalistic, and external perspective. By doing this, we can get a better idea of how the zeitgeist and ortgeist were influencing the ideas of each decade. This project has also made us realize the importance of documentation as an event is occurring because poor documentation makes it much harder for future generations to learn about history.

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