

# Alumni Spotlights

**Susan Metzger '83** recently sent us this update on her career:

"My story is short, but my journey was long. Since I was little I always knew that when I grew up, I wanted to be a clothes designer. Over the decades the only thing that really changed was the title - fashion designer.



Metzger

"UW-Stout taught me the technique of putting clothes together, knowledge of the industry, and the ability to create. Dr. Karen LaBat was the strongest influence in my education, giving me permission to follow my dream, commenting on my talent, and otherwise guiding my course. Dr. Heintz also had a positive impact on my education, and my expression of creativity was always encouraged.

"Prior to graduating, I knew my objectives were to live in the Twin Cities, be a fashion designer, and make a living at it. The journey towards those goals began with first establishing my own style of design. I worked in Paris, France, for a year as an assistant fashion designer in haute couture. Shortly after coming home, I opened a small dress shop on Grand Avenue in St. Paul, making and selling my dresses. Three years later I made a transition from retail to wholesale by relocating in the warehouse district of downtown St. Paul. Two years went by, and I knew that going forward in wholesale would never let me be as creative a designer as would retail. So I again regrouped and transitioned back into retail.

"There's an expression, that if you want to do something successfully, copy the way someone else does it. To that end, I took a job working at a middle range clothing store for over two years, then went to a high end store for a year, and finally a very low end clothing store. Working in wardrobe for two movies made in the Twin Cities (*Mall Rats and Mighty Ducks*) was a fun diversion during this period.

"As I was gaining experience in retail, I never deviated from my original goal, and kept an eye open for some little building to house my 'dream shop.' Finally the time was right, the price was right, and 1128 Grand Avenue was purchased in June of 1997. Now the challenge was to create a business where I could be a fashion designer 50 percent of the time, and a business person 50 percent of the time, to take the best of what I do and use that as my strength to separate me from the competition. I design one-of-a-kind outfits, and alter them for the specific client free of charge, thus using my knowledge of fashion and fit to offer something unique. I named my shop C'est Fou, which means 'It's crazy' in French, and is an expression my Paris friends often used in describing my actions!

"Four years have now gone by and I'm happy to say that my objective is accomplished. I live in the Twin Cities, I'm a fashion designer, and I'm making a living doing it!"

**Anne Engels '97**, assistant director of residence life at North Central College in Naperville, Ill., has received the 2001 Student Governing Association Distinguished Service Award.



Engels

The award was presented May 15 at Honors Convocation, an annual spring event that publicly recognizes student excellence in the academic and co-curricular life of the college. Every year, the committee of the Student Governing Board recognizes one member of the faculty, staff or administration who serves the college.

Engels began her position as assistant director after serving as an area hall director during 1999-2000. As a hall director, she was known for her high level of enthusiasm and ability to create a sense of community and pride. Her professionalism and commitment to the campus community was demonstrated earlier this year following the death of Christopher Hickenbottom, the director of residence life, in an auto accident. Engels can be seen working late into the night and is involved in every aspect of student life. "Her leadership qualities are a constant, positive motivator, which provides stability and support for the entire student population," said Aldrich.

Engels earned her B.S. degree in human development and family studies at UW-Stout, and holds a master of arts degree in human development: family life education from Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minn. She currently resides in Naperville, Ill.

**Charles E. Goodremote '81** was promoted to managing director for the Automotive Division of Modine Europe in March. Goodremote has been with Modine for 19 years and has served in both engineering and management positions, most recently as general manager of the Modine Climate Systems Division in Harrodsburg, Ky. He joined Modine in 1982 as a design engineer in the Automotive Division.



Goodremote

Goodremote earned his B.S. degree in industrial technology with a concentration in product development at UW-Stout, and his MBA from UW-Parkside in Kenosha, Wis. Throughout his career with Modine, Goodremote has served as product engineer, application engineer, product manager, product engineering supervisor, application engineering manager on highway products, and applications and product engineering manager, Truck Division. He also served as plant superintendent at McHenry, Ill., previous to his position in Harrodsburg and is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

**Michelle Lechert May '96** received the master of arts degree in youth and family ministry from Luther Seminary on May 27 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.



May

May is a 14-year resident of Ramsey, Minn., and a current resident of Brooklyn Center, Minn. She earned her B.S. degree in human development and family studies from UW-Stout, and is a 1992 graduate of Anoka High School in Anoka, Minn.

May is currently a full-time senior high youth minister at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Minn. St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church supported her seminary education.

**Steve Lunseth '74** has been living in Grand Forks, N.D., since graduation. He and his wife Marlyce have a blended family with four children. Steve enjoys great hunting and fishing in his native North Dakota. His company, Aatrix Software Inc., provides payroll and accounting software for the Macintosh. In addition to the company's accounting software Mac P&L (*purchased from State of the Art*) and Aatrix Accounting (*formerly Peachtree for*



Lunseth

*Macintosh*), the company's payroll software TopPay is shipped with Quick Books for Macintosh.

This newest venture took five years of research and development. The company's Electronic Forms Division offers Windows compatible federal and state payroll reports for all 50 states and includes 250 electronic reports. Aatrix's forms and FormReader are available for Great Plains Dynamics, Cougar Mountain Accounting, TopPay for QuickBooks-Mac, AgSoft Payroll, and for other accounting and payroll companies. The company's electronic forms division will soon begin production of sales tax, human resource and other forms.

Lunseth credits success in software development with his education at UW-Stout. "The mechanical reasoning I learned in industrial technology was directly applicable to software development. Break the project down into components, analyze and create each part, then combine everything for the finished software product. As head of the activities division, I also gained valuable budgeting, writing and people skills," Lunseth said.

**Tom Neckvatal '70**, director of graphic services at Minnesota Life Insurance Co., in St. Paul, Minn., received the BestPrep 2001 Volunteer Service Award. The award is given to individuals who contribute time, expertise and resources to prepare Minnesota's youth for success in life and work.



Neckvatal

"Tom is a big supporter of BestPrep, and his hard work and dedication in printing our special event program was exemplary," said Bob Kaitz, president and CEO of BestPrep. "This year's 'Birdies for BestPrep' four-color program was recognized by all of us as the finest document ever produced by the BestPrep organization. Minnesota Life and its associates have supported BestPrep for more than 20 years with financial and volunteer resources."

Neckvatal graduated from UW-Stout with a major in general business administration. BestPrep, formerly known as BEEF (*Business Economics Education Foundation*), was established in 1976. The nonprofit organization is committed to the goal of bridging business and education resources in Minnesota so that students will be better prepared for the future.

**Kathleen Wood '85** is president of Elliot Solutions, a branch of the Elliot Association family. Elliot Solutions is an organization and strategic development firm specializing in the areas of strategic, human resources, leadership, operational and business development. As the pre-mier consultant to the food service industry, Elliot Solutions is committed to providing practical and profitable solutions enabling clients to be competitively positioned.



Wood

Prior to initiating Elliot Solutions, Wood was the senior director of travel and entertainment for MasterCard International. In this position, she was responsible for aligning partnerships with hospitality organizations to develop products and services to enhance their organizational systems and profitability.

Previously, as director of new business development for Friday's Hospitality Worldwide, Wood was responsible for extending Friday's Hospitality Worldwide brands into non-traditional marketplaces. These renowned

brands include TGI Friday's, Friday's American Bar, Itallanni's and Front Row Sports Grill. Today there are more than 425 locations in 44 states and 23 countries.

Wood initially made her mark in the industry as the director of sales and marketing for the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association. She and her team were responsible for the sales of educational training materials to more than 600 academic institutions, 200 corporations and 40 associations. She also has an extensive background in both restaurant and hotel operations including Taco Bell, Carson International and McDonald's.

She most recently served as the 1997 president of the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Trainers. She has served as a board member of the Women's Foodservice Forum and has also held board positions in the Roundtable for Women in Foodservice. In 1999 she received the Corporate "Pacesetter Award" for the Roundtable for Women in Foodservice. The North America Foodservice Equipment Manufacturers Association also awarded her the prestigious Honorary Doctorate of Foodservice in 1997.

**Helmuth Albrecht '60** did not learn his real name until his older brother introduced him to his first grade teacher. The nickname "Pookie" stuck throughout school, college and his professional career.



Albrecht

Albrecht enjoyed his college years at Stout, serving as the Stout Student Association president, a member of the Sigma Tau fraternity and, of course, pursuing a very active social life.

Many may remember Albrecht as head resident of the men's residence halls in the 1960s. He continued at Stout for 35 years in many capacities, including overseeing the men's and women's residence halls, Dining Services, Student Center, Student Health, Counseling Center, University Protective Services and Parking.

Albrecht recalls many stories of those times, including traveling with Miss Killian and winning the respect of students living in the dorms by felling a bat in midair with his bare hands.

Albrecht retired three years ago as an administrator of Student Life Services. Today he can most likely be found in Holcombe, Wis., at his business, All Season Sports Center, where he sells big toys for big boys (*and girls!*) He and his wife, Donna, continue to reside in Menomonie where they are enjoying life as grandparents.

If you would like to have your profile published in the "Spotlight" section of the Outlook, please submit a two to five paragraph article to the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association reserves the right to edit all submissions before publication.

Please use the "Keep us Posted" form on the back page of the Outlook, and return it to the Alumni Association with your photograph.