

Alumni in the News

ITEA honors two alums

Anthony E. Schwaller, a St. Cloud State University professor, was named the 1997 National Technology Teacher Educator of the Year for his exceptional dedication in the classroom, by the International Technology Education Association (ITEA).

Schwaller, who was graduated from UW-Stout in 1967, has been a professor for 19 years. He has published more than 40 articles and made 45 presentations to local, regional, and national organizations. Schwaller has written a total of seven textbooks for middle schools and secondary schools.

Don Price, a technology education teacher at D. C. Everest Senior High School in Schofield, Wis., received the 1996-97 WTEA Technology Educator of the Year Award for demonstrating outstanding service to the field of technology education. Price, a 1968 graduate of UW-Stout, has been a technology educator at D. C. Everest for 29 years. Within the last couple of years, he

has also been involved with the Auto Technician Youth Apprenticeship program and has been teaching an internship class for technology education students, along with various levels of automotive classes.

The ITEA is the largest professional education association devoted to enhancing technology education. Its membership encompasses individuals from throughout the world, and its mission is to advance the understanding of the positive and negative consequences that technological development has on society, culture and the environment. The ITEA represents more than 40,000 technology educators in the United States alone. Awards for the National Technology Teacher Educator of the Year were presented at the ITEA Conference held March 22-25 in Tampa Bay, Fla..



Price

Herman and Meyer start own company

When Scott Herman '92 and Steve Meyer '91 graduated from UW-Stout, each with a degree in industrial technology and a concentration in manufacturing engineering, they easily found good jobs in manufacturing. However, they soon realized that they were looking for something more in their careers. That is when they decided to start their own company.

At first, they were not sure what type of company they wanted to start, but with their experience and education in manufacturing, that's where they looked. Their first product, an all-in-one travel and play golf bag, was inspired by Herman's father, who took extreme measures to protect his golf clubs when he traveled.

After many nights and weekends spent prototyping the bag, Herman and Meyer quit their jobs and moved to the Menomonie area in search of a facility to make their golf bags. In the spring of 1996, they were accepted into UW-Stout's Manufacturing Incubator Program.

This program places Herman and Meyer as adjunct professors for the university. Each semester a handful of students gain real-life experience by working for Herman and Meyer on different aspects of the development and manufacturing of the golf bags.

In the fall of 1996, with the assistance provided by the incubator program, Herman and Meyer were able to market their first product—the Stone Legacy GX-8 Travel System. This past spring, Herman and Meyer began the prototype and development of their next production line. The new products will include protective cases for broadcast photographer tripods, video cameras, fishing poles, spotting scopes and custom specialty cases.

The Stone Legacy GX-8, with the UW-Stout "quill" logo embroidered on the bag, can be purchased by alumni. For more information, contact Stone Legacy Corp., PO Box 147, Menomonie, WI 54751 or call 1-888/858-4826.

Swick-Walter publishes *Parenting News*

It's been more than 20 years since Nancy Swick-Walter BS '74, MS '80 hiked up and down the UW-Stout campus in hot pursuit of stories for the *Stoutonia*. Since then, Swick-Walter has had an exciting career that has included teaching, training, personnel management and advertising. For the past four years, she has been the owner and publisher of *Family Times: The Newspaper for Chippewa Valley Parents*.

Family Times was founded in 1990 by three Eau Claire parents. When the paper was for sale in 1992, Swick-Walter jumped at the chance to buy it. "There was no question about it," Swick-Walter said. "It was an opportunity to combine what I have been trained to do (*family living education*) with what I loved to do (*newspaper production*)." *Family Times* is published six times per year and distributed to 15,000 parents and teachers in the Chippewa Valley area of northwestern Wisconsin.

The purpose of the paper is to educate and inform parents of the latest research and developments in the many aspects of a child's development. *Family Times* includes feature stories covering the educational, health, social and emotional concerns of children. Regular columnists review new books, music, health areas, family finance and law. The paper also serves as a community calendar for family-friendly activities occurring in the area.

"Parent's don't have time to sit down and read every how-to-parent book that comes on the market," Swick-Walter said. "We try to cover current issues and point parents toward local resources to help them with their parenting questions or for problems their children may be experiencing."

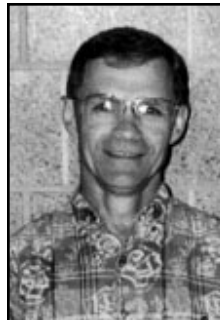
Parenting papers and magazines are a national trend in the specialty publications market. There are more than 150 parenting publications in the United States at this time. There are four parenting publications in Wisconsin alone.

"My editor and writers cover the editorial content of the newspaper," Swick-Walter said. "And I'm responsible for the advertising sales and design, production, and administration aspects." In addition to her local responsibilities, Swick-Walter also writes a syndicated column that appears in 20 parenting publications around the country.

Swick-Walter, who married Charlie Walter BS '74, MS '81 in 1975, is also the mom of 15-year-old Lindsay and 9-year-old Patrick. The best part of owning her own business, Swick-Walter said, is that she is able to coordinate the needs of her family around her publishing responsibilities. The hardest part, she confessed, is resisting the urge to use her own children as the cover models for every issue.

Alumni Testimonials

What Stout Did For Me



Bilderback

"I know that attending and graduating from Stout has made a tremendous impact on my life and my perspective on life. While attending Stout, I enjoyed a wonderful multicultural collegiate experience. The education I received was a great and direct preparation for my career as an industrial education teacher. I am always proud to tell people where I graduated from and enjoy bragging about 'my' university. Keep up the good work."

Jim Bilderback BS '67, MS '68



Hanson

"Stout provided me with an education I can use throughout my lifetime. I had the privilege of practicing my chosen profession as a home demonstration agent for five years. It was a very rewarding experience. When my husband and I started a family and I left my career, I applied the many facets of my education to my duties in the home as a wife and mother. I have been fortunate to be able to stay at home and raise our three children. I like to think that perhaps our nutrition was better, our meals tastier, our relationships stronger, and the responsibility of being a homemaker was a challenging and rewarding experience due in part to the education in home economics I pursued at Stout."

Nat Wick Hanson '57



Hendrickson

"I believe the classes I took at Stout gave me a wide range of skills, which I have found useful and valuable in my job. Some of the skills I gained from my course work at Stout are communication, problem-solving and listening. These skills are especially essential for the job that I do. I also found that some of the class work provided me with hands-on experience of situations that I now face in the workforce. I am thankful that I went to Stout, as I felt it was a university that gave me the skills I needed to succeed in my career."

Kristi Weir Hendrickson '96

DECA honors Burbach

The Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) recently recognized Marie J. Burbach, BS '74, MS '79 with an Honorary Life Membership, the highest award the organization bestows.

What began with a third place national award in the ad campaign competition of Delta Epsilon Chi has continued as a career of more than 27 years of service to DECA. Burbach has served DECA at every level. Wisconsin has a strong marketing education/DECA program, but Burbach's influence and contribution go far beyond the borders of Wisconsin.

Burbach has always worked hard and set high standards for her students, her teachers and, most of all, herself. She has been a classroom teacher, an adult assistant and series director at national conferences, a state supervisor and state adviser,

chair of the competitive event writer's workshop, member and president of the MarkEd Resource Center Board of Trustees, and member of the National Council for Marketing Education. She has served two terms on the National DECA Board of Directors; she was treasurer in 1991-92 and president in 1988-89.

During the past 27 years, Wisconsin has produced many national officers, competitive event winners and teachers who served on DECA councils and committees. Burbach has always put what was best for the students at the center of her decisions.

Marketing education and DECA have benefited greatly from Burbach's career. She has been a tremendous leader, friend and mentor to all in the DECA community.

Employer Profile

Red Lobster

In the last 30 years, many full-service restaurant chains have come and gone—but one has withstood the test of time. Red Lobster's restaurant success can be attributed to the ability of its managers and employees to meet today's changing business needs. Some of that success is due, in part, to UW-Stout's hospitality and tourism management program. Many UW-Stout grads have gone on to pursue successful careers with Red Lobster in a variety of places and positions.

Two of the nine UW-Stout graduates currently employed by Red Lobster are **Debbie Ruemler** and **Jeff Yeakel**. Ruemler '74, who sits on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, manages Red Lobster's training programs at their Orlando Corporate Office. Yeakel '89 is the general manager of the Red Lobster in Omaha, Neb. He joined the company right out of school and says, "Red Lobster continues to change in many different ways and maintains its stability through those changes," which is the main reason why he has stayed with Red Lobster for eight years.

This summer the company added two recent UW-Stout grads to its management roster. **Blake Dinger** '97 is in Roseville, Minn.; and **Kristen Petit** '97 is in Eau Claire, Wis. "UW-Stout is one of our company's top 10 schools to recruit at," states Chris Himebauch, manager of University Relations at Red Lobster. He adds, "Quality education combined with good work experience is what makes UW-Stout graduates one of the most sought after groups

of students in the country."

Accolades like that don't happen overnight. Red Lobster has developed a strong relationship with UW-Stout over the past few years, largely due to the success of its graduates.

All new managers at Red Lobster must complete a demanding 13-week training program. This helps them adapt the knowledge they have learned in the classroom to the Red Lobster environment. New manager training is an important step in creating a successful manager for Red Lobster. That's why the company also offers an internship program for seniors. "Internships are very helpful," Yeakel said. "They allow the students to learn all about the restaurants and how they operate. I role play with new trainees to help prepare them for difficult situations they will face in the future."

Yeakel has the following advice for students interested in entering the restaurant industry. "Take speech, communications and interpersonal classes rather than technical classes," he said. "We teach you the technical side of the business as it is related to Red Lobster. Your interpersonal skills are what helps you become a successful manager."



Ruemler



Yeakel

Alumni faculty members author books

Hopkins-Best book offers encouragement to new parents

Mary Hopkins-Best '77 writes about the challenges that adopting a toddler can create, in her book titled *Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft*. Hopkins-Best is an administrator at UW-Stout who specializes in child development, special education and rehabilitation. She and her husband, Richard, adopted their eight-year old son, Gustavo, from Peru when he was 17-months-old.

Hopkins-Best soon learned that adopting a toddler is much different and, in a sense, more difficult than adopting an infant or an older child. The difficulty, she says, lies in the fact that toddlers have memories and emotions which they do not know how to express.

In order to help Gustavo deal with his problems of attachment and to make his transition into Hopkins-Best's family a smooth one, Hopkins-Best searched the library for information on toddler adoption. To her surprise and dismay, there was not any, so she talked to other parents who had adopted toddlers. Through these discussions, she learned that she was not alone; that other parents who had adopted toddlers had experienced some of the same difficulties.

To help others avoid going through the loneliness and fear that she felt, Hopkins-Best decided to write a book on toddler adoption. *Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft* gives adoptive parents advice and guidance on how to deal with some of the unique challenges of toddler adoption. Hopkins-Best is quick to point out that she does not want to discourage toddler adoption, but rather to prepare parents for the difficulties that may arise. For Hopkins-Best and her family, she says, these struggles only lead to creating a strong and lasting bond.

Herr adds another title to early childhood resource list

Judy Herr BS '65, MS '67, an associate dean in the College of Human Development, has just released the third edition of *Working With Young Children*. Published by Goodheart-Willcox, the book focuses on the application of child development principles to teaching young children in early childhood settings. The text is part of a complete teaching package that includes a student activity guide, an observation guide, a teacher's resource guide, a teacher's resource binder, a transparency packet and test creation software. In addition to being used in educational settings, the book is also used for staff training and Child Development Associate Training (CDA).

Herr is the author or co-author of several books and curriculum guides including *Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom*; *Designing Creative Materials for Teaching Young Children*; *Creating Innovative Materials for Young Children*; *Creative Resources For Bulletin Boards*; *Early Childhood Writing Centers*; *Creative Resources for Art, Brushes and Buildings*; *Creative Resources for Animals, Seasons and Holidays*; *Creative Resources for Food, Plants and Occupations*; and *Creative Resources for accompanying the text Caring for the Developing Child*.

Herr is a past president of the Midwestern Association for the Education of Young Children. She received the association's prestigious Shirley Dean Award for distinguished service to early childhood education, and has also served on the board of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Currently she chairs the editorial advisory board for continuing education units, offered through UW-Stout's Office of Continuing Education, for *Early Childhood News*, the journal of professional development.

Herr's doctorate degree is in educational administration from the University of Minnesota. She is an associate dean in UW-Stout's College of Human Development and director of the early childhood program. Most recently, she has honed her administrative skills by attending the Harvard Development Program.

At 102, Watson still contributing to his community

At age 102, Robert Watson '16 has a lot of interesting stories to tell. He was raised on a farm two miles west of Maryville, Mo. After receiving a 60-hour teaching certificate from the college in Maryville, he came to Menomonee and completed his degree at Stout Institute. A former classmate from Maryville called Watson to come and teach in Dells, Ore.

After the 1917 school year had passed, he went to work in the Bremerton Navy Yard near Seattle, building barracks for the U.S. Marine Corps. He reported for military duty Oct. 3, 1917. The United States entered WWI in the spring. "Teddy Roosevelt Jr. was my commanding officer," he said.

Watson stated he had many close calls in the war. He took a machine gun bullet in his left leg and shrapnel in his back, shoulder, both feet and ankles. "I didn't do much walking for a while," said Watson, who still has the walking cane given to him by the American Red Cross in 1918. "This is quite a keepsake." For his efforts, Watson received the Silver Star, a Purple Heart, the Oak Leaf Cluster, the Victory Medal, the Verdun Medal and the French Fourragere.

In December 1918, Watson returned home to teach and started coaching basketball in Missouri. Married in 1924 to Elvira Ward, they had three children. During the next 20 years, Watson earned his master's degree in school administration from the University of Missouri. While superintendent of the school in King City, Mo., Watson invented the flip scoreboard which is now replaced by electric scoreboards.

Watson moved to Wichita in 1945 and became a Red Cross Worker at the Veterans Hospital. After retiring in 1960, he continued to volunteer at the VA Hospital. He is now in the American Red Cross Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. "Last year the Red Cross had over 2,000 retirees. I'm the oldest of all of them."

At age 96, Watson returned to college at Wichita State University for a course in finance. Currently, he keeps busy giving presentations to various groups, saying he is always happy to help out and says "I have lots of papers to read."



Watson

Barich's handcrafted silver

In 1933, Dewey Barich received a bachelor of science degree from Stout Institute. He began a career in teaching manual arts. After more than four decades in academia and industry, Barich moved to Tucson, Ariz. and set up a home workshop to begin handcrafting silver.

Barich became acquainted with a Norwegian silversmith, John Peterson, and was totally captivated by handcrafted sterling silver flatware. Today, Barich is creating sterling silver flatware pieces out of his garage. He intends to give one set to each of his children.

Barich believes the "human desire for creativity is being developed and expressed in other ways. For example, what I am doing with

sterling silver... If you've noticed, in recent years, there's been a kind of renaissance, if you will, of hand skills and artistic expression."

This gentle and learned man, who began teaching because of the influence of his teachers, now leaves another legacy in the forks, spoons and knives he lovingly creates out of sheets of sterling silver.



Barich

Photo courtesy of Serb World USA

Michalek makes a difference

The dedication of Christine Michalek MS '79 for her work at the North Texas Job Corps shines through even when singled out for an award. Michalek was nominated for the "Woman Who Makes a Difference in McKinney" award by a co-worker and friend.

Michalek serves as a liaison for students on the campus and in the community. Her duties include developing solutions for problems and concerns of the students, organizing and delivering programs and promoting positive images of the students, the Job Corps Center and the Job Corps.

Michalek describes her job as having a dual purpose: the first being to serve as spokesman for the students on campus, and secondly as the spokesman for the center off campus. She has helped coordinate close to 10,000 hours of

community service donated by the students to projects ranging from providing and serving meals at the Samaritan Inn to helping with Forever Free and the Boys and Girls Club, and performing in nursing homes.

"I feel it is important to mention (*all of these things the students have done*) because I am only a conduit for the students to be visible to the community and to give back to the community," Michalek said.

"My philosophy of life comes from Socrates who said: 'Spend your life for something that will outlast it.' It has been my philosophy throughout every career and personal decision I have made." Michalek said. "And the second is more lighthearted: 'The best thing about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others.' Those kind of keep a handle on my life."