

Alumni in the News

Stout grad dies in rescue

Rachel E. Stassen-Berger, St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 5, 2001

Christopher Chapman wouldn't like to hear himself be called a hero, say his friends and family.

"He would be very humbled by it," said Sheila Rzepecki, his sister, who said Christopher was one of the quietest of the 10 children in their family.

But to many, including the family of the 10-year-old boy he tried to save from a roiling Florida ocean Tuesday, Chapman was a hero. The boy survived, but the Edina resident didn't make it out of the Gulf of Mexico alive.

Chapman, 44, his wife and their two teenage children were on the Pensacola Beach, enjoying a spring vacation they had long saved for, when they saw the 10-year-old boy's mother shouting for help. There was a yellow flag posted that day, warning people of the strong riptides, but the boy was in the water anyway and had been pulled far from shore by the force of the tides.

Chapman barely hesitated, diving right in to save the child, said his family.

"He wasn't brave or athletic or anything like that. He was just the type of person who would do the right thing," said his brother Ned Chapman.

As his wife, Johanna, and two children watched, Christopher Chapman stopped moving in the ocean. An off-duty lifeguard who was nearby went into the water to try to save him but instead brought his lifeless body back to shore.

"He saw a 10-year-old boy who was in distress and attempted a very heroic deed... (and) instead he became imperiled himself," said Escambia County Sheriff's Office's spokesman Joel Mooneyham.

The beach area where Chapman died is unguarded, although there are lifeguards about half a mile away. Chapman's death was the first of the season, but every year there are several drownings in the area, Mooneyham said.

Chapman was one of several people who worked to save the boy, whose name was unavailable. The others were unharmed.

The off-duty lifeguard who tried to rescue Chapman said the riptide was unusually strong when he pulled Chapman's body to shore,



Christina Chapman, Johanna Chapman, Christopher Chapman '81 and Charlie Chapman.

Mooneyham said.

Family members said they were shocked by news of Chapman's death but not surprised by the way he died. "That was his nature," said Ned Chapman, the oldest of the children. "He had a really caring way."

His wife and children, who left their car in Florida to fly back to the twin cities on Tuesday, have not figured out how to deal with Christopher Chapman's death, said family members who gathered at the Edina home of his parents Wednesday. "His kids are taking it really hard. They saw it happen," said Ned Chapman.

Christopher Chapman's son, Charlie, told his aunt Wednesday that his father was always a hero to him.

Family members said Chapman, who was a manager at Hazeltine National Golf Club, returned the idolization.

He never missed one of his children's sporting events, never would opt to hang out with his buddies when he could be with his kids and would often entertain the entire family with skits or plays he put together with his brother at family gatherings.

"He adored his kids and his wife," said Sheila Rzepecki. "They were his entire life."

After Chapman's body was brought to shore, the mother of the 10-year-old told Johanna Chapman that her husband had saved the boy's life.

That is only some comfort, said Rzepecki. "There is someone that is alive and their family is intact, and ours is not," she said. "There is never going to be a complete family picture again."

Albrechts are still running strong after 50 years

Perhaps the training in football and baseball while at Stout helped prepare Bill Albrecht, BS '51, MS '61 for his current pastime. At 74, Bill is still participating in the Ironman Triathlon. This past October he just completed his fourteenth Ironman.

The Ironman is a demanding competition consisting of a 2.4-mile open ocean swim, 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile run. This must all be completed in 17 hours. The conditions on the Kona coast of Hawaii in October are an added obstacle with the temperature in the high 80s and winds gusting to 35 mph.

While training for competition consumes many hours each week, the benefits derived from this are tremendous. "Our general health, energy and attitude are the same as they were 20 years ago, and it has enriched our lives beyond measure. Travel and new friends from around the world are benefits that we probably would not have had without our sport," said



Bill BS '51 MS '61 and Veryl Sneen Albrecht '50

for younger athletes and students, and we count among our good friends people who are much younger than we are."

Albrecht received his BS degree in industrial

education and MS in vocational education from Stout. After graduation he taught in Three Lakes and Rhineland, Wis., and Marquette, Mich., where he was the downhill ski coach for many years. At the age of 45, he started running marathons with a personal best of three hours, two minutes. At the young age of 58, he decided to try and qualify for the Hawaiian Ironman and compete by the age of 60. He qualified that year and every year since. Bill's best time for the Ironman was 13 hours, two minutes - that was in 1990, just three months after major surgery. Besides Hawaii, Bill has also competed in the Ironman in Roth, Germany, four times.

Bill isn't the only one in the family who has a pair of running feet. Veryl Sneen Albrecht '50 has her own accomplishments. Veryl was one of only 30 women who qualified for the triathlon national team for women in her age bracket. She has run twelve marathons, completed half of the Ironman triathlon and participated in a number of other triathlons.

Veryl received her BS in home economics education from Stout and taught home economics in Three Lakes, Wis. until the children arrived (two sons and one daughter). This has become a family affair. Veryl said she and Bill have also run marathons with both their sons. In regard to Bill's participation in the Ironman, Veryl said, "Qualifying for the Ironman is not easy. It means going to races around the country and/or the world for one of the few spots in your age group. It has been a fantastic sport for both of us, and we are grateful for the good health and opportunities that have come about."

Bill and Veryl currently live in Marquette, Mich., and would be happy to hear from fellow alumni who are also runners, and are looking forward to their Golden reunion this summer. "We are really looking forward to our upcoming class reunion on June 22-23 and hope to see many of our former classmates," Veryl said.

Alumni Testimonials

What Stout Did For Me

"I graduated from Stout University in June 1944, and have been most grateful for all the opportunities and experiences while in attendance. After my family of two children graduated from high school, my teaching career began. I taught home economics for 20 years! This experience provides memories of students, teachers and official personnel that will linger in my mind forever. Stout also provided a background that enabled me to be a better parent, spouse and, yes, a better person."



Jean Turney Wollum '43

"To have graduated from Stout continues to be a very strong influence on my life. The solid, basic and relevant education that was received at Stout prepared many of us well for our chosen field of teaching.

"The most important part of our Stout education was learning to accept change. It is a different world today than it was 50 years ago. Stout continues to offer the solid, basic and relevant education, but as it has grown and changed with progress, it has also shown us that to exist, prosper and to enjoy life you must accept and embrace change.

"This summer, many of us will have the opportunity to celebrate the changes on campus and to renew friendships at our Golden Reunion. Do plan to come to Menomonie June 23 and 24 and see that these changes have been good."

Carol Hansen Miller '51

"I am 60 years old now, and Stout has been an integral part of my life for the past 40 years. As a student, I benefited from a hands on, minds on education in ways that surprised even me. I was not a dedicated student and graduated with an unimpressive academic record.

"I joined the International Harvester Company in 1964 as a management trainee along with more than 20 other recent college graduates from many other 'name brand' universities. As we rotated through the huge manufacturing facility it became obvious over and over that I had a great deal more technical knowledge than anyone else despite their 'much-better-than-me' grade point average.

"I have been teaching at Stout for 30 years now and am proud to be at a university held in such high regard by the organizations that hire our graduates. Another testimony to Stout's applied and pragmatic values and beliefs was revealed recently in a national survey of high school guidance counselors. They created a list of about 25 'hidden gems' of colleges and universities when asked where they would go for their degree if starting over. They were also asked to create a similar list of places they most often would prefer to recommend to high school graduates. Out of all the institutions of higher education in the entire country, only five institutions were on both lists—and of course, Stout was one of those.

"Over the years many of my family have come to Stout as a result of my most positive acclaim for it. Included are my wife, two daughters, one niece, one brother, two nephews and two sisters."

Jerry Coomer '65



Davis' enjoy active lives

Eddie L. Davis BS '71, MS '71 and Susan Rodgers Davis '71 began their partnership during their time at UW-Stout, and have both gone on to achieve personal and professional success in their lives. The Davis' lead very active lives, and are very involved with their community and church.

Eddie is involved in several civic organizations in Hartford, Conn., including the Hartford Courant Foundation Board, the Walter 'Doc' Hurley Scholarship Board, the Hartford Action Plan, the American Leadership Forum, and the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut.

Among the organizations Susan is involved with are the Hartford Food Policy Commission, the Connecticut Dietetic Association and the Connecticut School Food Service Association. Susan's radio show, "On a Sound Note," can also be heard on the Hartford Public School station WQTQ.

Both Susan and Eddie are very involved with St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Hartford. Eddie is the Senior Warden of the Vestry, and Susan is involved in several programs at St. Monica's Church including the Just a Sister Away study group, a summer tutorial meals program, the Food Pantry and Sunday School. Eddie has 29 years of experience as an educator, coming up through the ranks as a teacher, vice principal and 10 years as principal of Weaver High School in Hartford. He is now bureau chief at the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Bureau of School-Family-Community Partnerships. He was formerly the



Susan Rodgers '71 and Eddie Davis BS '70, MS

superintendent of Manchester and Hartford Public Schools.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Eddie earned his bachelor's degree in technology education and master's degree in vocational education from UW-Stout, and began his teaching career in the Baltimore City School District. He has also earned his Sixth Year Certificate and Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Connecticut.

Davis has also received awards from the NAACP Greater Hartford Chapter, Hartford Seminary's Black Ministries Program, the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and the National Conference's Human Relations Award.

Susan is a registered dietitian, currently running a private practice. She provides consultation services to the Hartford Public Schools' Food Services and Nutrition Education

Department, the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and the Birth to Three Program. In the Hartford schools, she teaches nutrition to students, parents and staff; promotes the school breakfast program; and analyzes their nationally recognized school lunches. At the medical center, Susan promotes and teaches optimal nutrition to children and their parents who are infected with HIV. Her cultural awareness of the African-American diet enables her to teach individuals and groups methods to maintain good health through a healthier diet. In addition to all of this, she also consults for the state champion Weaver High School football team.

She has also founded and organized the annual "Susan's Christmas Bus Ride," which she based on a program in Washington D.C. In this program, Susan and more than 80 friends deliver baskets of Christmas dinners and treats to the families of Hartford public school children. A native of Washington D.C., Susan's father encouraged her to attend Stout because it appeared a "safe place to be." The late '60s were a time of unrest on many campuses, and he wanted to make sure she was in a "safe environment." Encouragement also came from Susan's high school home economics teacher, Jeanette Hansen Fitzgibbons '39. When Fitzgibbons learned Susan was interested in becoming a dietitian, she strongly recommended Stout. Susan earned her bachelor's degree in dietetics from UW-Stout, where she met Eddie. She was later accepted at Vanderbilt University Medical in Nashville for her internship and began her career in Baltimore. She and Eddie came to Connecticut

in 1974 so Susan could obtain a master's degree from the University of Connecticut in community nutrition.

Susan and Eddie are the proud parents of two daughters. Christine, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, is following in her father's footsteps. She is a first grade teacher in Hartford and is completing her master's degree in elementary education at the University of Hartford. Michelle is a freshman at Pennsylvania State University in the animal biosciences program. The Davis' have also "adopted" a son, Rondell Tyson, who is a graduate student at the University of New Haven completing his degree in criminal justice.

While putting some thoughts together for this article, Susan and Eddie reflected on their experience at Stout. "We are so grateful for the education and experience we received at Stout; they were the basis for our professional lives. Those experiences have benefited us greatly and allowed us to lead the life we have enjoyed.

"We are also grateful for the lifelong friendships that developed during those years at Stout. There were very few black students in the late 1960s. We have maintained contact with some of our friends from Stout, including Bradford Marshall, Glenda Wesley, Jerry Collins, the late Myla Lewis Collins, Reggie Holmes, Carl Evans and Melvin Coleman."

Eddie and Susan can be contacted via e-mail at: dvseldvs@aol.com.

Dream comes true with "Once Upon a Child" for grads

How many stories have you heard beginning with "once upon a time?" That was just the beginning for a nationally recognized chain of stores called "Once Upon A Child."

When Lynn Quadracci '75 (*home economics in business*) and Dennis Blum '75 (*industrial technology*) met, they knew they had the potential for building something very special. Of course at that time, they were thinking in terms of marriage—which has been a true partnership in more ways than one.

From the solid basis of their marriage, they have ventured out into the world of retail, creating "Once Upon A Child." It has taken several years and a number of jobs and relocations to get there, but nonetheless their business is a success.

While their relationship began at Stout, Dennis remembers that not everything went smoothly. He was "requested to leave the dorm" and had to scramble to find alternative housing. Lynn, on the other hand, lived quite a distance from the campus and sometimes struggled to find rides into town.

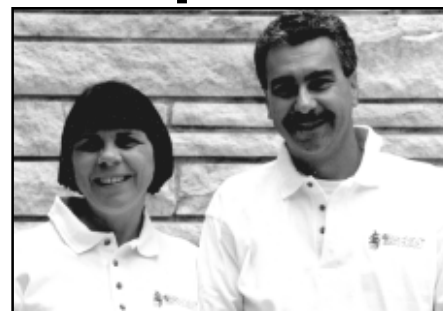
Their road since graduation, however, has been filled with adventures and children. Using her home economics degree, Lynn worked in the catering business preparing food for various day-care establishments while maintaining a sales representative job as a food broker. In 1978 she started a career with Gerber as the first female sales representative in Chicago. When

Gerber expanded from food only to include other merchandise, Lynn moved along with them.

About that time Dennis was found by a "headhunter" and recommended for a job in New York as plant manager with Hunt Wesson. This was to be the first of several moves escalating Dennis' career. After their son, Ben, was born in 1979, Lynn returned to work with Gerber in New York. Word came next that Dennis was being relocated to the Hunt Wesson plant in Chicago, again as plant manager. Lynn then went to work for Johnson & Johnson on a part-time basis.

Their second son, Brian, came in 1983, and Dennis was transferred to Holland, Mich., to build a new plant. Billy was born in 1984, and with the new plant up and running in Holland, Dennis was sent to Toledo, Ohio, as the plant engineer for the Hunt Wesson tomato division. While keeping busy with three sons, Lynn was building upon an idea she had envisioned many years before. Being very aware of the cost of children's clothing and knowing how little wear they actually get, Lynn developed a plan for a children's used clothing store.

Their move to Ohio prompted her to make the move from her minds eye to an actual store. "Dennis was enthusiastic and very supportive about all of it and helped in anyway he could in launching my new venture," Lynn said. "I can remember sitting around, brainstorming with



Dennis and Lynn Quadracci Blum

Dennis to think of a suitable name. Then, out of the blue we hit on 'once upon a child' and just knew it was a winner." The first *Once Upon A Child* was opened in September 1985 with 300 square feet, no phone, homemade signs and no funding to advertise. Lynn was not discouraged. "We had a dream and strong convictions that this was right," she said. Two years later in 1987 they moved to a better and larger location, with 2,000 square feet.

In that same year Dennis took a new position in Columbus, Ohio, with Purity Packaging as director of engineering. Keeping the first store in Toledo, they opened a second one in Dublin. The success of the stores prompted Lynn to open a third store 10 miles away and a fourth one on the west side of Columbus. Within a short period of time, they had eight stores—all within a 25-mile radius. After they sold their first franchise, Dennis left his job to become a

full partner in the business. By 1992 they had 11 of their own stores and 11 franchises covering Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

In 1992 they also began to work with Growbiz International who own *Play it Again Sports*. They sold their trademark and franchise rights to Growbiz, but maintained ownership of their own stores. As their children grew, so did their ideas. *Plato's Closet*, a shop for teens and young adults, opened in 1998 followed by four more stores within one year.

Lynn and Dennis compliment the education and training they received at Stout. With two of their own sons in college, they know the importance of providing financial assistance to students and have recently established an endowed scholarship for students in the retail merchandising program.

"Last summer we had the opportunity to visit our old alma mater and had a wonderful reunion. We were both a little disappointed in the turn out and hope future reunions will bring more of you back to Stout. We also invite and welcome you to visit our own stores in Columbus and if you do, please give us a call. We have now expanded to include *New Uses*, our general store and *Clothes Mentor* for adult women clothing," Lynn said.

So if you are in the market for good children's clothing, don't forget *Once Upon a Child* because it was founded by two Stout grads.



Anderson receives James Huff Stout Award

James H. Stout was a true visionary in both his profession and personal life. His philosophy of “learning through involvement” was the beginning of what is now known as UW-Stout. The implementation of his ideals brought positive changes within the community and the lives of thousands of individuals. The alumni association acknowledges one individual each year to honor the ideals and visions of James H. Stout by presenting their most prestigious award to a UW-Stout alumnus who has exemplified his attitude and manner both personally and professionally.

The James Huff Stout Award recipient for 2000, Richard T. Anderson, has spent 43 years in the Wisconsin Technical College System as a teacher, guidance counselor, curriculum coordinator, and assistant director for instruction, making a great impact on education in Wisconsin. For the last 18 years he has served as president of the Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC).

Throughout his career in technical education, Anderson has developed and implemented a number of educational programs and services that have impacted southeast Wisconsin, the state and nation. A few of those educational programs and services include establishing a 2+2+2 printing and publishing program between high school, WCTC and UW-Stout, for which both he and Chancellor Sorensen received recognition from the governor; development of organizational opportunities for women within the college; and a statewide and nationally recognized program for workforce development in Waukesha County that is called the Regional Center for Workforce Development. This center

includes the co-location and integration of employment, training, education and economic development services for job seekers, workers and employers.

Anderson has also played a significant role in various national and state organizations that have reflected the preparation he received from UW-Stout and in turn expanded the prestige of the university. He has received a number of recognitions from the governor relating to creative program development and services for the citizens of Wisconsin. Likewise, his involvement nationally in a number of organizations has reflected positively on the WCTC and UW-Stout.

Under his leadership, he established the first associate degree program in international trade in the Midwest that now includes Wisconsin’s international trade library. This program has developed a wide range of instructional programming and professional opportunities for students, area employers and college staff in order to assist them in understanding the globalization in the workplace and the cultural realities that accompany it. He has been active in various trade missions to foreign countries on behalf of Wisconsin businesses and industries that also emphasized the quality of Wisconsin’s postsecondary technical education, both at the technical college and university level.

His compassion for serving the public is reflected in the many boards he has served throughout southeastern Wisconsin, often serving as president.



Anderson

Mikitarian’s life is an ‘adventure’

Sam Mikitarian ’54 attended the Stout Institute during an unusual period in history. The period was book-ended between the World War II veterans and the newly minted Korean War veterans. The college was still very small, and the attitude on campus was serious but open. At times, it was difficult to distinguish between the faculty and the students. It was, as it has been said many times, a perfect balance between technology and academics. This environment became the foundation for many of Mikitarian’s adventures during the last 47 years.



Mikitarian

After graduation he was obliged to enter in the service of the country, as were all young men of the era, and chose to enlist in the Navy, specializing in naval aviation. The recruiter outlined a program that would put him back on campus to continue his advanced education in four years, but it did not quite work out that way. He retired from the Navy after 30 years of service—24 years active duty service plus six years of prior reserve time.

During his active duty years, he went through flight training and was commissioned a naval aviator in 1956. During his shore duty periods, he taught advanced aviation, created curricula for advanced all weather flight and managed the training department for teaching the course. Other assignments included conducting research

in scheduled maintenance of all Navy aircraft and the development of a periodic maintenance process that became the fleet standard. His last shore duty assignment was in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.

His sea duty assignments included deployments to the Mediterranean Sea area and Southeast Asia. His last active duty operational assignment was as the commanding officer of an all-weather attack A-6 squadron.

Mikitarian also received educational assignments at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.; the National War College in Washington, D.C.; and earned a master’s degree in international affairs, from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

After military retirement, he has worked as a program manager in research and development, business development manager for new technology acquisition, and business consultant to the defense industry. He is currently employed as a program manager in the international telecommunications industry.

Billie, his wife of nearly 40 years, has shared in his many travels and relocations over the years. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Sam and Billie currently reside in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Sam says, “Life has been a great adventure so far.” Both he and his wife, however, are trying to figure out what they are going to do when they have to “grow up.”

Stout Memories

Reminiscing

“I found it easy to keep track of all my expenses when I went through Stout. I graduated in 1952 by going three years with two summers at the University of Minnesota and two correspondent courses. The entire cost was \$3,300, which included food, one year at Tainter Hall and the other two in a private home. I shared a bedroom in both places.

“I remember one morning when it was 43 degrees below zero when we walked to school.

“I should say that I never felt deprived. One thing I remember as being especially enjoyable were the hikes south of town in the spring. Several couples would go and then have a picnic.

“I enjoyed all of my courses except chemistry. It was a great three years!

“I also took my time signing a contract as a teacher because I wanted to teach on the west coast. When I signed, it was for \$3,400—the highest salary of any graduate in 1952. The job was in a small town in Washington. A person would have to hike three miles to catch a bus to leave. A bridge was finally built a few years later connecting us with Astoria, Ore. It worked out fine because people were very kind about offering rides, dinner, etc.”

Joan Schwanemann Augustine '52



Augustine

“The University of Wisconsin-Stout means a lot to me for many different reasons. I graduated in 1989 in hotel and restaurant management and have very fond memories of the university, teachers and my classmates.

“In my field of hotel and restaurant management, I have come across a lot of different people from various backgrounds, and when I mention where I graduated from, everyone knows Stout as a well-respected university. They all speak highly of our graduates.

“One lesson I learned at Stout was from Dr. Charles Metelka. The one thing that stood out from his class for me was the statement ‘don’t pass the monkey.’ Dr. Metelka’s translation—if a problem comes to you, don’t pass it on, even if it is not your problem. Address it and get the monkey off of your back for good. To this day, I still apply this story to my everyday life.

“My friendships at Stout are endless. Being a smaller university, I think our friendships became stronger and more meaningful relationships. We always knew we would run into each other at the student center, classes or the bars.

One of my most special friendships was my roommate from Jeter Hall during my freshman and sophomore years, Renee *Durocher* Flis ’89. We helped each other through some tough and wild times. One time we planned a co-ed mud volleyball game with the guys from Tainter Hall. People thought we were crazy when we walked through town all covered in mud and singing songs, but everyone had a fantastic time.

“As I look back at my four years at Stout, I realize that I have been blessed to have met so many wonderful people that have touched my heart, especially my friend and roommate Elaine *Mercier* Bruesewitz ’89. I have much gratitude toward the university for providing me with an excellent education and a university that I am proud to say I graduated from.”

Dianne Markowski Brady '89

“The decade of the 1950s was a time of change and uncertainty. Our country was involved in the cold war and new technology was being developed at a rapid pace. In contrast with these stresses and changes, the Stout Institute and Stout State College provided a stable learning environment for students. Curriculums for our programs were well defined, and our instructors had a strong belief in what they taught.

“We had a limited number of times we could miss class, and dorm hours to keep us out of trouble. If someone did err, Merle Price would come to the rescue. Our lab courses also provided extensive application of the skills and concepts presented in our classes.

“There were a lot of opportunities for us to have fun and grow socially during that time. With more than 30 organizations on campus, plus the athletic teams, there were ample opportunities to become involved with campus life. Homecoming events were always exciting and, if I remember correctly, there was usually some concern about whether all of the bonfire materials were ‘donated.’ Plays, concerts and proms provided many opportunities to relax and forget about school work for a while. All of this for only \$28 per semester!

“Our class was the first to graduate from Stout State College, and based on the feedback I have received from many classmates (*and my own experiences*), we were well prepared for the challenges we encountered after graduation. As the 45th anniversary of our graduation approaches, most of us have made the transition to retirement. Our reunion this fall will be an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances and friendships. It will also be a great chance to see the changes that have taken place at Stout since you were last on campus and to learn about the university’s plans for the future. Hope to see you in September!”

Orville Nelson '56



Brady



Nelson



"Tongue" to reunite for Homecoming 2001

Bob Collins '71

Nearly 30 years have passed since a phenomenal period of Stout's history. Over the years, I have continuously reflected on everything that occurred amidst this period of turmoil in our nation's history. Being a "Mother Trucker" and member of "Tongue" band, all the great times, the not so great times and the really difficult ones we endured. The friends made, the friends lost. Fond memories and some regrets. Enough of this mush! Then I come back to reality and realize it was all "Rock n' Roll!"

To celebrate the re-release of "Keep on Truckin'" in 2000 (www.swiftsite.com/gearfab), the Tongue band is ready to "rock n' roll" again and we want to invite all the Mother Truckers to reunite. At homecoming 2001, October 20, the band will perform in the Great Hall of UW-Stout's Memorial Student Center. Band members Paul Rabbitt, Dick Weber, Mick Larsen and Bob Collins will be on the "2001 Bite Your Tongue" tour (*another one night stand*).

We are working with Ron Verdon, chair of UW-Stout's department of art and design, to include an art show for all those still practicing the trade. Please contact him by e-mail at verdonr@uwstout.edu to let him know what you will be bringing to the show.

Mark your calendars, round up your artwork, your spouse or significant other and your "Rock n' Roll" shoes, and join us for this one-time event. Pass the word—we hope to see you in October!

For additional information, you may contact Paul Rabbitt at paul@rabbittanalytics.com, Dick Weber at rweber1@triad.rr.com, or Bob Collins at rc2@medianone.net. Ticket information is available at the student center service desk 715/232-1122.

"Tongue" will be reuniting for a concert during homecoming 2001. At the left, "Tongue" as they were in 1971—still "rockin'" after all of these years. (l-r) Bob Collins '71, Dick Weber, Mickey Larson, Paul Rabbitt '72.



Otto named president and CEO of Marcus Hotels and Resorts

William J. Otto '78 became president and chief operating officer of Marcus Hotels and Resorts, the full-service lodging division of The Marcus Corporation (NYSE: MCS), on April 1, 2001.

Otto joined Marcus Hotels and Resorts in 1993 as senior vice president of operations and was promoted to senior vice president and chief operating officer in 1996.

With 22 years of experience in the lodging industry, Otto has worked with a variety of companies in a number of positions. Prior to joining Marcus Hotels and Resorts, he worked for the Stouffer Group of hotels for 15 years in



Otto

positions of increasing responsibility, including serving as general manager of the Stouffer Nashville hotel in Nashville, Tenn. He began his career with Hyatt Hotels in Chicago in 1978.

A leader in the Wisconsin hospitality industry, Otto is currently serving as chair of the Governor's Council on Tourism and chair of the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau. He is past chair of the Wisconsin Innkeepers Association and was a Wisconsin delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. Otto received a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management from UW-Stout and has earned the Certified Hotel Administrator designation from the American Hotel and Motel Association.

Otto and his wife, Michele, reside in Wauwatosa, Wis., with their sons Christopher, Jonathan and Nicholas.

Zmyewski and Buelow use "horse sense" in business

Stephen '77 and Jenell Anderson Zmyewski '77 have ventured into unusual territory during the last decade.

As an 18-year-old in Clifton Park, N.Y., Steve made the decision to attend UW-Stout after being recruited by basketball coach Dwain Mintz. "That decision has directed the rest of my life," said Steve. "I thank Coach Mintz for that."

While Jenell is a family and consumer science teacher at Fillmore Central High School in Harmony, Minn., Stephen has developed a business with former UW-Stout university relations director Chuck Buelow, raising and racing horses.

The Zmyewski's bought their first horse with Chuck and Janet Buelow in 1995, and now own five horses together. They are also co-owners of a public racing stable, Root River Thoroughbreds, where they train horses for a variety of clients. They focus their racing on Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn., and Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa.

"I've been interested in horses ever since I can remember," said Steve. He started out working at the Saratoga Racetrack in upstate New York during summers while he was in college. Soon after graduating from Stout, Steve became involved with show horses, and continued showing until 1990 when he decided to get into thoroughbred racing. "My key interest was always in racing thoroughbreds," he said. Although Steve did have success in the show ring, a major part of that success was a world champion stallion.

Steve and Jill reside at their family farm and



l-r: Chuck Buelow, Steve Zmyewski '77 and Rex Gilligan pictured with a filly purchased in Lexington, Ky.

home of Root River Thoroughbreds in Houston, Minn. They have two children: Kristina, 20, who is employed at the Mayo Clinic; and Justin, 18, who will be a freshman in packaging engineering at UW-Stout next fall. Justin will also pursue a position on the football team as a place kicker.

With family and farm coming first, Steve's other interests include commodity trading, Texas Longhorn cattle, buffalo, Justin's racing, and a continued venture as an airplane pilot.

"My education academically, athletically and socially at Stout has been invaluable. The relationships I established while at Stout are some of my greatest treasures, and my relationship with the Buelows is a part of that treasure. Even though my path has not crossed with many of those people since leaving campus, they remain with me for a lifetime," Steve concluded. "Being inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997 allowed me to become a part of Stout forever, and I am grateful for that."

Roomies Reunion



l-r: Barb Berkseth DeLander, Eileen Sievert Bartok, JoAnn Hansen Meuret, Alice Schweizer Schleg, Jeanine Larsen Stauffacher. Unable to attend: Jo Salm Bauer. All of the "roomies" have kept in touch since their graduation in 1960, and about six years ago Alice Schleg organized the first reunion. It has been an annual event ever since. "It is amazing how we can pick up where we left off from one year to the next," said Stauffacher. "We are never at a loss for conversation, and have a great time reminiscing about our friends and activities during our college days."

45th Reunion!

Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, 2001
Detailed information will be on the way this summer.
You may contact the Alumni Association at 715/232-1151
or email alumni2@uwstout.edu