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GREETINGS FROM OUR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



UW-Whitewater is experiencing an exciting period of significant growth and transformation. Our students are not just excelling in the classroom, but also earning national recognition, securing competitive internships, and launching successful careers. Our faculty are driving innovation and research, and our campuses are evolving to meet the needs of future generations. These achievements are a testament to the impact of UW-Whitewater in the academic and professional world.

At the heart of this momentum is a **bold fundraising campaign**—the largest in our university's history. This campaign, with its urgent need for your support, will expand scholarships, enhance academic programs, invest in faculty excellence, and improve spaces that inspire learning and collaboration. And thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, **we've already surpassed the halfway mark.**

Now is the time to come together and push this campaign across the finish line. Your support—whether through a gift, volunteering, or sharing your UW-Whitewater story—will make a significant and lasting impact. Together, we can create life-changing futures for UWW students for generations to come.

Visit uww.edu/campaign to learn more and join me in this historic effort. Together, let's make a difference for UW-Whitewater and its students.

Katie Kuznacic

Vice Chancellor for University Relations & Foundation President

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Guiding the Future:

A Message from Chancellor Corey A King



Dear alumni and friends of UW-Whitewater,

I am now several months into my third year as chancellor, and I can say I have never been prouder to be part of the Warhawk family.

Across our Whitewater and Rock County campuses, we are engaged in the important work of transforming lives. Under the mentorship of our faculty and staff, our Warhawk students are thriving, learning and achieving. I encourage you to check out our news site at uww.edu/news to read more about all the good things happening here.

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide a few updates:

- **ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION.** Enrollment for this past fall was 11,752, the largest at the university in four years. We retained 78 percent of our 2023-24 cohort. Our goal is to achieve enrollment of 13,000 students — which would be a record for UW-Whitewater — and to reach a retention rate of 82 percent.
- **BUDGET.** Due to our focus on increasing enrollment, increasing retention and continuous improvement, we're on our way to eliminating our budget structural deficit by fiscal year 2025-26. This reflects outstanding work by the Chancellor's Cabinet and the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, which includes faculty, staff and shared governance leaders.
- **BUDGET ADVOCACY.** Under the leadership of President Rothman and our colleagues at the Universities of Wisconsin, we're navigating the next state budget cycle. Wisconsin currently ranks 44th out of 50 states for the funding of its public universities. This level of underfunding jeopardizes the quality of — and access to — education that students deserve and parents and families expect. We recently conducted research that shows UW-Whitewater and our alumni contribute more than \$1.4 billion dollars to Wisconsin's economy each year. I have communicated with the governor and key legislators that it is time for UW-Whitewater to receive the appropriate funding levels to continue to advance our mission and core values toward student success.



► **FEDERAL LANDSCAPE.** The new presidential administration has signed several executive orders and personnel actions with potential impacts across higher education. UW-Whitewater and the Universities of Wisconsin are closely monitoring these developments to assess their implications for the educational, service and access missions of our campuses. As a community, we remain committed to addressing these changes thoughtfully, within the bounds of the law, and in alignment with our mission and core values.

► **FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN.**

In June, we will launch the largest fundraising campaign in our university's history. "Our Stories. Our Future: A Campaign for UW-Whitewater" will seek to raise at least \$50 million dollars to address priorities aligned with our strategic plan. You can read more on page 14. It's up to all of us to encourage alumni, friends and prospective donors to connect with UW-Whitewater through events and giving days, and to share the impact of our university.

Thank you for your support of UW-Whitewater. With your help, we can continue to be **Warhawk Bold!**

Corey A. King
Chancellor



UW-Whitewater celebrated the achievements of 620 graduates at the commencement ceremony held at Kachel Fieldhouse on Dec. 16, 2023. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)

Below: Chancellor Corey A. King, right, applauds the men's and women's tennis teams and gets some applause in return. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)

Opposite page: Chancellor Corey A. King and Willie Warhawk greet students at a SOAR event.





Giving Forward:

Tom Smith's Return to UW-Whitewater and a Legacy of Generosity

When Tom Smith walked onto the UW-Whitewater campus last fall for the first time in more than 50 years, it was more than a nostalgic visit. It was a homecoming — and the next step in a generous, ongoing commitment to students following in his footsteps.

Tom, who earned his BBA in accounting in 1970 and M.S. in 1971, is the founder of the Thomas A. Smith Accounting Scholarship, established in 2021. His mission? To give forward — a value he holds deeply after receiving scholarships that helped make his own education possible.

During his time at UWW, Tom was a student leader, athlete, and fraternity officer. After graduation, he launched a successful career in public and private accounting, eventually becoming an independent CPA and international consultant. Despite moving to cities across the country — and building a remarkable career — his connection to Whitewater remained strong.

Tom's return visit in September 2024, accompanied by his wife, Ronnie Lidstone, was packed with meaningful moments. They toured the beautifully transformed campus, met with current scholarship recipients, and shared stories over dinner with Chancellor Corey A. King and faculty leaders. "Tom could've talked with the students for hours," one colleague remarked — and it's clear that the spark of mentorship still burns bright.

What made the visit even more special was Ronnie's involvement. A successful CPA herself and a Cornell University graduate, Ronnie also chose to support UW-Whitewater, making a personal gift to the Foundation. Her curiosity about campus life and sincere interest in our students' experiences made a lasting impression. We look forward to seeing her voice reflected in future initiatives.

Currently, the Smith Scholarship supports four awards annually for accounting majors who demonstrate leadership and community engagement. During the visit, Tom expressed a desire to expand the program to five recipients per semester, and increase the financial award— a remarkable vision for even broader impact.

At the conclusion of their visit, Chancellor King presented Tom with a Chancellor's pin in honor of his contributions. The gesture, though small, clearly meant a lot to Tom — a man whose generosity is rooted in gratitude and a deep belief in what UW-Whitewater can offer.

Make a Difference— Your Way!

Giving back to UW-Whitewater is easier — and more rewarding — than ever! Whether you have a few dollars or a few hours to spare, you can help power the next generation of Warhawks.

The fastest way to make an impact? A direct gift! Simply use the envelope in this magazine or mail your donation to:

UW-Whitewater Foundation, Inc.
800 W Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190

Want to go digital? Grab your phone, scan the QR code, or visit uww.edu/give to give in seconds. Even better — set up a monthly gift.

\$84 per month = \$1,000 annual gift!

Double (or triple!) your impact by checking if your employer offers a matching gift program. Learn more at uww.edu/foundation/how-to-give/matching-gifts.



Not ready to give financially? No problem. There are so many ways to stay involved!

- ▶ Volunteer at campus events.
- ▶ Join the Alumni Mentor Program (see page 10).
- ▶ Help your company recruit Warhawks for internships or careers.
- ▶ Host networking or fundraising events to expand our circle of support!

Every gift—of time, talent, or treasure—moves UW-Whitewater forward. However you choose to give back, **you're part of something Warhawk Bold!**

uww.edu/give



A Benson Hall Sisterhood of 50 Years:

Honoring A Friend, Inspiring Future Teachers

In the fall of 1969, six young women arrived at UW-Whitewater, their suitcases in hand and hearts full of hope. As freshmen living in Benson Hall, they quickly became more than roommates — they became lifelong friends. Over the decades, through weddings, careers, raising children, and the heartache of loss, their bond has never faltered.

For more than 50 years, this remarkable sisterhood has gathered every year without fail. They've seen each other through life's milestones always with love, laughter, and unwavering support. In 1998, the group faced one of their greatest heartbreaks: the passing of their beloved friend and roommate, Laurie Couzens Swartz, a 1973 grad with a degree in elementary education. Laurie, left behind a legacy of compassion and dedication to elementary education, along with her young son and husband.

As the sisterhood celebrated the golden anniversary of their friendship, Diane Green Pillard, who built her career in higher education, proposed an idea that would honor Laurie and give back to the university. Why not create a scholarship in Laurie's memory — a tribute not only to her but to their enduring friendship? Moved by the idea, Diane, Jan Schlueter Lasky, Vikee Sykes Loudon, and Maggie Bromley established a one-time scholarship for a UW-Whitewater student pursuing a career in teaching. Last November, at the College of Education and Professional Studies' scholarship event, they gathered alongside Laurie's husband, Chris, and son, Kyle, who also contributed to this scholarship, to meet the first recipient: Emma Bergeson.

“I am incredibly honored to be the first recipient of the Laurie Couzens Swartz Future Educator’s Scholarship and to have met the remarkable women who created it. Their friendship and shared commitment to education are truly inspiring.” —Emma Bergeson

From the moment they met Emma, the women were captivated. Emma's passion for teaching and her vision for the kind of educator she hopes to become reminded them so much of Laurie — dedicated, thoughtful, and determined to make a difference. Because of this, they have decided to keep Laurie's scholarship moving forward and help other Warhawks aspiring to become future teachers!



Diane Green Pillard, Kyle Swartz, Emma Bergeson, Chris Swartz, Vikee Sykes Loudon, and Maggie Bromley. Jan Schlueter Lasky was unable to attend.

BE WARHAWK BOLD

This story reminds us that anyone can make a meaningful impact on future Warhawks. Whether it's a one-time scholarship, an ongoing gift, or a collective effort among friends, your generosity can change a UW-Whitewater student's life.

If you've ever thought about honoring a classmate, professor, or experience that shaped you into the Warhawk you are today— now is the time. BE WARHAWK BOLD TODAY!

Visit www.edu/foundation to learn how to create your scholarship.

A Fond Farewell to the Current Winther Hall— And a Bold Step Into the Future

For nearly 160 years, the roots of UW-Whitewater's College of Education and Professional Studies have been deeply woven into the fabric of campus life, impacting more than 24 million lives across generations. Today, the College proudly holds the title of producing the most educators in the State of Wisconsin. Now, as we are preparing to say farewell to the current Winther Hall as we know it, we also look ahead with excitement to a BOLD new future.

On February 22, 2025, the Wisconsin State Legislature approved the final budget of just over \$89 million as part of the state's capital budget bill, which was signed into law by Governor Tony Evers on March 6, 2025. This historic investment sets the stage for the complete renovation of Winther Hall, beginning in April 2026 and concluding in Spring 2029.

The new Winther Hall will be nothing short of transformational:

- ▶ Expansive large windows and abundant natural light
- ▶ Two new elevators for improved accessibility
- ▶ A welcoming Student Services Center on the main floor
- ▶ Spacious, modern bathrooms on every floor
- ▶ and many other improvements designed to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's students.

We invite you to be a part of the Winther Hall transformation.

Reflect on your time at UW-Whitewater:

- ▶ Did a professor, classmate, or roommate change your college journey?
- ▶ Was there a moment or experience that shaped your path?
- ▶ Do you have advice or wisdom that's stayed with you?

Share your Warhawk Story and consider contributing to the future of Winther Hall. Naming rights are available for the building, classrooms, programs, professorships, department chairs, fellowships, and even the elevators.

Be Warhawk Bold. Help shape the experiences of future Warhawks and carry on your legacy alongside the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Contact Cori Olin at olinc@uww.edu for more details about how you can be a part of the future of the new Winther Hall.



Winther Hall exterior (Rendering)





Warhawk Alumni Give Back through Mentorship

The Alumni Mentor Program pairs current UW-Whitewater students with alumni and friends who share similar personal and professional interests. These meaningful connections are built on shared experiences, offering students the opportunity to explore ideas, ask questions, and gain perspective. Mentors provide valuable insight to help students navigate opportunities and challenges, bridging the gap between academic study and the realities of the professional workplace.

Mentors and students are expected to connect at least once a month between October and May, with the freedom to meet virtually, in person, or over the phone. They'll receive tools and resources to help shape a successful partnership, and program staff are always available for support.

Why become a mentor?

As a mentor, you'll:

- ▶ Share knowledge about your education, career path, successes and failures, and what your experiences have taught you
- ▶ Acquire experience in coaching and fostering the talent of current Warhawks
- ▶ Increase the value of a UW-Whitewater degree by investing in student success
- ▶ Cultivate a stronger connection with UW-Whitewater
- ▶ Deepen your knowledge of the current student body and campus community
- ▶ Network with other alumni participants
- ▶ Experience renewed pride and excitement for your work
- ▶ Gain a heightened sense of purpose and belonging

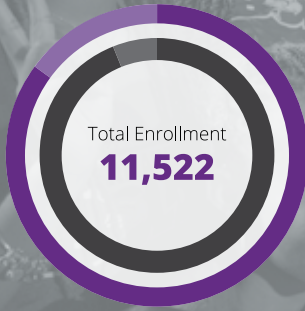


Ready to become a mentor?

Visit uww.edu/alumni/mentor to learn more and to create a mentor profile.

Contact program coordinator Emily Matteson at MattesonEC07@uww.edu or 262-472-1482 with questions.

2023-24 Enrollment



9,815
Undergraduate

1,707
Graduate

10,826
Whitewater
Campus

696
Rock County
Campus

Foundation Impact 2023-24

\$3,551,901
Total Support

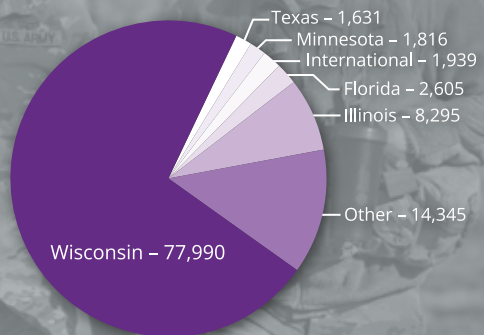
\$1,302,456
Direct Scholarship Support

\$2,249,445
Faculty, Staff, and Other Support

Warhawk Strong Alumni 2023-24

108,621
Warhawk Alumni
Representing
75
Countries

29%
are Donors



Foundation Fundraising Results 2023-24

4,169
Total Gifts Made

\$9,651,940
Total Dollars Committed

\$40,793,107
6/30/24 Endowment Fair Market Value



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Our Stories Our Future

A Campaign for UW-Whitewater

As UW-Whitewater embarks on the largest philanthropic effort in its history, *Our Stories. Our Future.* is more than a campaign—it is a movement that will shape the future of UWW and the generations of Warhawks to come. This ambitious initiative, with a goal of raising a minimum of \$50 million, will drive transformational impact in scholarships, program funding, faculty excellence, and capital improvements. At the helm of this historic effort is a distinguished group of dedicated university champions whose leadership, generosity, and passion for UW-Whitewater will inspire the entire Warhawk community to rise to the occasion.

MEET THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Our *Our Stories. Our Future.* Campaign Co-Chairs John and Wendy Buckley are passionate champions of UW-Whitewater. Their commitment to the university has been evident through their philanthropic support, engagement with students and alumni, and their leadership in rallying the Warhawk community behind this transformative initiative. Together, they will serve as ambassadors, mobilizing fellow alumni, corporate partners, and the Warhawk family to rally behind this campaign.

John and Wendy Buckley

John and Wendy Buckley bring a wealth of experience and deep ties to UW-Whitewater as they step into their roles as co-chairs of the university's fundraising campaign. John, a 1982 UW-Whitewater graduate with a degree in accounting, excelled as a member of the men's tennis team and built a successful career in medical technology companies and entrepreneurship. Wendy, a 1983 graduate of UC-Berkeley, has an extensive background in law firm administration and nonprofit leadership. Together, they have been dedicated supporters of UW-Whitewater, supporting generous scholarships and hosting alumni events and the men's and women's tennis teams for California Spring Trips. Their leadership, philanthropy, and passion for higher education will be instrumental in driving the success of this campaign.

John and Wendy's leadership in the *Our Stories. Our Future.* campaign will help drive meaningful change, ensuring future generations of Warhawks have access to scholarships, innovative programs, and enhanced learning environments.





HONORARY CHAIRS: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

In addition to Co-Chairs John and Wendy Buckley, *Our Stories. Our Future.* is honored to have Emeritus Chancellor Gaylon and Hannah Greenhill as Honorary Chairs. Their legacy at UW-Whitewater is one of unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and deep passion for the success of students and faculty. Their wisdom, influence, and advocacy will serve as a guiding force throughout the campaign.

Emeritus Chancellor Gaylon and Hannah Greenhill

Gaylon and Hannah Greenhill have been pillars of the UW-Whitewater community for decades. As chancellor from 1991 to 1999, Gaylon Greenhill played a pivotal role in shaping the university's growth, academic excellence, and student success initiatives. Alongside him, Hannah Greenhill has been a steadfast advocate for student support and community engagement. Their leadership and generosity continue to inspire the Warhawk family, and their involvement as Honorary Chairs reflects their enduring dedication to UW-Whitewater's future.

JOIN US IN MAKING HISTORY

As we launch into this exciting new chapter, the impact of *Our Stories. Our Future.* will be measured not just in dollars raised, but in lives changed. Scholarships that make college accessible. Faculty support that fosters academic excellence. Enhanced facilities that provide cutting-edge learning environments. And the legacy of Warhawks coming together to build a stronger future.

We invite you to be a part of this transformative journey. Whether through philanthropic support, advocacy, or engagement, every member of our Warhawk community has a role to play in writing the next chapter of UW-Whitewater's story.

To learn more about *Our Stories. Our Future.* and how you can contribute, visit uww.edu/campaign or contact the UW-Whitewater Foundation at foundation@uww.edu.

Together, we are shaping a future filled with possibility, purpose, and Warhawk pride.

INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT?

One of the key ways to get involved in the *Our Stories. Our Future.* campaign is through our Affinity Group efforts. These groups unite alumni, donors, and friends who share a common connection to UW-Whitewater—whether through an academic program, student organization, or shared experience. Affinity Groups play a crucial role in the campaign by fostering engagement, raising awareness, and mobilizing support.

If you're interested in leading or joining an Affinity Group, visit uww.edu/campaign to learn more and sign up. Your participation can help strengthen the Warhawk community and make a lasting impact on the future of UW-Whitewater.



Building a Legacy:

The King/Chávez Scholars Affinity Group

“They saw something in me before I saw it in myself.”

“The program gave me confidence and a community.”

“I had a group I could be with.”

These are just a few of the voices from King/Chávez Scholars—past and present—who have experienced the life-changing impact of this program. Established by Dr. Roger Pulliam and Dr. Richard Telfer, the King/Chávez Scholars Program was created to support first-generation college students with significant financial need, providing a merit-based scholarship and a structured first-year experience to help students excel at UW-Whitewater.

The program’s learning community model is at its core, allowing scholars to live together, take courses as a cohort, and participate in academic and cultural activities that shape their college journey. From Chicago trips and theatrical performances to study nights and mentorship connections, the program offers more than financial support—it provides a built-in family.

But the true strength of the King/Chávez Scholars Program extends far beyond a student’s first year. The launch of the King/Chávez Scholars Alumni Council has created a powerful network of distinguished alumni who remain engaged with the program long after graduation. These alumni serve as mentors, advocates, and champions for future scholars, offering career guidance, networking opportunities, and continued support.

Affinity groups like the King/Chávez Scholars Alumni Council play a critical role in keeping alumni connected to UW-Whitewater while providing current students with valuable professional and personal mentorship. By staying engaged, alumni help to ensure that future generations of scholars have even greater opportunities—whether through internships, career connections, or financial contributions.

Now, we are setting our sights on growth. Currently, the King/Chávez Scholars Program supports students for just one year—but imagine the impact of expanding it into a full four-year experience. Increased mentorship, leadership development, and community support would empower scholars to achieve even greater success, from undergraduate research to graduate degrees and beyond.

To make this vision a reality, we need your help. The King/Chávez Affinity Group is dedicated to strengthening the program—but we can’t do it alone. Whether through mentorship, event participation, or financial support, your involvement ensures that future Warhawks continue to benefit from this incredible legacy.

Learn more about joining the King/Chavez Affinity Group at [**www.edu/foundation/kc-scholars**](http://www.edu/foundation/kc-scholars).



Photos: Chancellor Corey A. King celebrates with graduating senior sociology major Montana Petersen, a former King/Chavez Scholar. (UW-Whitewater photos/Craig Schreiner)

UNITED IN WARHAWK ATHLETICS:

A Year of Strength, Success, and Spirit

The 2024-25 academic year was a testament to the strength, perseverance, and unity of the UW-Whitewater athletic community. In a year that began with unimaginable heartbreak, Warhawk student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and supporters came together to honor, uplift, and achieve — embodying the true spirit of the Warhawk family.

The Warhawk community faced profound sorrow with the unexpected loss of Kara Welsh, a beloved member of the gymnastics program, just prior to the start of the academic year. Despite the loss, UW-Whitewater held true to its tradition of excellence with remarkable success across many sports.



The fall semester brought a wave of historic accomplishments. Christian Patzka etched his name into the UW-Whitewater record books, becoming the first individual national champion in men's cross country history. He led the team to its best-ever national finish — fourth at the NCAA Division III Championships. The Warhawk volleyball team surged to the national championship match, finishing as the national runner-up.

During the winter season, the Warhawk women's gymnastics team honored Kara Welsh in the most profound way — by persevering through a season filled with



emotion and finishing as the national runner-up. Paige Magel and Tegan Haberstock shared the individual national title on the balance beam, showcasing excellence and grace under pressure.

The women's basketball program captured its fourth WIAC Tournament championship and extended its streak of NCAA Tournament appearances to nine with a run to the Sweet 16. Senior standout Kacie Carollo capped her decorated career as a finalist for National Player of the Year, cementing her place among the conference's all-time greats. This season the UW-Whitewater wrestling team qualified four athletes for the NCAA Championships.

Meanwhile, the Warhawk women's bowling program added to its tradition of excellence by qualifying for the Intercollegiate Team Championships. Jordyn Norvell also competed at the Intercollegiate Singles Championships. Track and field continued its national presence, sending 10 student-athletes to the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships.

Spring sports have carried the torch of success forward. Coming off a national runner-up finish in 2024, Warhawk Baseball earned another trip to the 2025 NCAA Division III World Series. Softball continues to impress on the national stage while proudly representing UW-Whitewater in its 25th NCAA Tournament appearance this season. The Warhawk men's and women's tennis programs also made return trips to the national tournaments.

As we close the chapter on an unforgettable year, we celebrate more than wins and titles — we honor the heart, character, and commitment that define Warhawk Athletics. From adversity came strength. From sorrow rose determination. And through it all, UW-Whitewater stood united — together, as Warhawks.

Go Warhawks.



UW-Whitewater Founders Day Award Recipients 2025

Seven individuals who have achieved exceptional professional success or have made significant contributions to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater are being honored as the university proudly celebrates its 157th anniversary. The 2025 class of award honorees include graduates with job responsibilities as diverse as managing grizzlies in a national park to playing a purple trombone in extreme conditions to coaching an NFL team — all reflecting the spirit of Warhawk Boldness and a culture of philanthropy that characterize the campus culture at UW-Whitewater.

The awards were presented at the Founders Day Celebration, held at UW-Whitewater on Saturday, April 26, 2025.



This year the university is honoring the professional achievements of two outstanding recent alumni. **Tyler Brasington**, who earned a B.S. in environmental science in 2017, has been serving as a bear management ranger

with the National Park Service at Grand Teton in Wyoming since 2019. **Dr. Sylvia Washington**, who earned a B.S. in sociology and criminal justice in 2016 and an M.S. in professional development and higher education leadership in 2017, serves as the director of DEI and partnerships at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions in Baltimore, Maryland.



UW-Whitewater is also honoring two distinguished alumni for their professional achievement. **Eric Studesville**, who earned a BSE in physical education in 1989, is associate head coach and running backs coach with the Miami Dolphins. His professional football coaching career includes a number of positions with collegiate teams, quality control coaching with the Chicago Bears, and stints as running back coach with the New York Giants from 2001-2003, the Buffalo Bills from 2004-2009 and the Denver Broncos from 2010-2017. Studesville describes former head coach Bob Berezowitz and former defensive coordinator Bruce Bukowski as mentors who meaningfully shaped his time on campus and his ability to forge meaningful, long-lasting relationships with the players he coaches.



Also receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement is **Lisa Werner**. Werner, who earned her B.M. in music education-instrumental in 2001, is music teacher and band director at St. Bruno Parish School in Dousman and as the senior symphony orchestra manager with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra organization. In order to show her students that music is connected to everything, she has participated in unique interdisciplinary learning programs that have taken her — and her purple plastic trombone — into zero gravity, out to sea to conduct research, to Antarctica to engage in music-related activities often inspired by her students, and, later this year, to Africa on a Fulbright.



Jeff Angileri is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to UW-Whitewater. After earning a B.A in journalism in 2006, Angileri worked as a broadcast journalist for several years and then returned to campus, where he serves as executive director of University Marketing and Communications. Angileri has used his communication

and marketing talents to champion UW-Whitewater during its greatest triumphs and achievements and to serve as a rock of stability and strength during the university's most challenging times. A student speaker at his own graduation, he has mentored 35 student commencement speakers as well as supervising dozens of student interns. He meaningfully contributed to the university's 150th celebration by serving as host of the gala event and authoring the book created to honor the occasion. And as the recipient of college scholarships who experienced first hand the impact of philanthropy, he donates annually to the Warhawks Give and Giving Tuesday fundraisers.



The recipients of the S.A. White Award for Contributions to UW-Whitewater are **Dick and Roni Telfer**. The Telfers have made an imprint on the campus and the surrounding community in numerous ways. Dick Telfer provided 30 years of professional service to UW-Whitewater, culminating in his role as chancellor from 2007 to 2015. Roni Telfer's contributions

in education encompassed leadership roles in the community, including serving as co-president of the Whitewater Community Foundation, and an instructional technology position with UW-Whitewater. At UW-Whitewater the couple established the Richard and Veronica Telfer Fellowship Program and the Telfer Incentive Program and have provided financial support to numerous programs at UW-Whitewater, including the College of Education and Professional Studies, the College of Arts and Communication and the Young Auditorium, Hyland Hall, Athletics, and Wheelchair Basketball, programs that ardently supported while in their campus roles.

"This year's alumni award winners embody the spirit of Warhawk Bold—both professionally and in their communities," said Chancellor Corey A. King. "UW-Whitewater has a strong track record of producing talented, versatile graduates. I am proud to recognize and celebrate the achievements of these Warhawks."

"We are incredibly proud of this cohort of award winners, whose dedication to their communities, the university, and student success is truly inspiring," said Amy Oeding '90, Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. "Their professional achievements and continued commitment to service and support exemplifies the spirit that defines the Warhawk family."

Read full awardee stories at uww.edu/alumni/awards2025



Founders Day Award Recipients in attendance on April 26, 2025 at the Founders Day Celebration: Tyler Brasington B.S. '17, Dick & Roni Telfer, and Jeff Angileri B.A. '06.
(UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



For Kiefer Sullivan, UW-Whitewater isn't just a workplace—it's home. As a proud alumnus and a Major Gift Officer with the Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement team, Kiefer brings a deep personal connection and years of experience to his role, helping advance the university through donor and corporate sponsorship support.

Major Gift Officers (MGOs) play a vital role in higher education, building relationships with alumni and supporters who have the capacity to make transformative contributions. Their work fuels scholarships, facilities, academic programs, and more—helping universities grow and thrive. Kiefer leads these efforts by connecting donors and corporate partners to high-impact opportunities. As liaison to Warhawk Athletics and lead on corporate partnerships, he helps align philanthropic support with university priorities, enhancing student experiences and advancing key initiatives.

Kiefer's path to this role is rooted in his Warhawk story. He transferred to UW-Whitewater in 2007, drawn by his interest in journalism and the chance to compete on the bowling team. He quickly found his place on campus, earned a B.A. in Journalism and an M.S. in Corporate Communication from UW-Whitewater, and later completed an M.S. in Recreation Management and Policy at the University of New Hampshire. He returned in 2015 to begin his professional career with Warhawk Athletics, bringing his student, athlete, and leadership experiences full circle.

To learn more about supporting UW-Whitewater, contact Kiefer or others within the UW-Whitewater Foundation by visiting uww.edu/foundation.



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Waves of Impact: 61 Years of WSUW-FM

At exactly 5:30 p.m. on January 10, 1964, three students and a faculty member at UW-Whitewater took over the 97.1 megahertz frequency to officially launch the WSUW-FM campus radio station. Little did they know that 61 years later, the station would still be going strong — shaping the lives of thousands of students and community members.



Humble Beginnings

One of the station's founders, Richard "Skip" Lubenow '65, was approached by Professor Sederholm, an English faculty member who knew Skip had experience working at a local radio station. Sederholm had an idea: start a campus station to "expand the popularity of the college by informing the community about the college through radio."

In the early days, WSUW-FM broadcast school updates and the popular music of the time. But it soon became more than just a bulletin board — it became a way for students to understand and share ideas, and to connect with each other's lives.

The station's popularity skyrocketed. By June 1968, its power was boosted from 10 watts which reached a 12-mile radius to 250 watts. This expanded its signal to listeners as far away as Beloit, Delavan, and Oconomowoc.

Lubenow reflected on how the experience shaped him personally. "I used to stutter, but the moment I got on air, I stopped stuttering. Working at the station changed my life because I was able to communicate and share my ideas more clearly." He credits the station with giving him tools that later helped him develop and uplift others in his various careers.

Global Proportions

As the station grew in the 1970s, Edward Hung '77, an international student from Hong Kong, hosted East Meets West and The Voice of Hong Kong, delivering Cantonese news and partnering with Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting to send student greetings home — a global bridge long before the internet.



91.7 The Edge Today

According to Logan Waller, current senior and Program Director, "I'd say the station is better than ever — we're making upgrades, updating broadcasting equipment, welcoming floods of new students, and finding creative new ideas for shows."

WSUW now runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. About 30 students work at the station, producing around 25 specialty shows covering diverse music genres, sports, news, and more. Popular programs include Hawk Talk, The Ryan Hoke Show, and For the Record.

Reflections Across Time

Reflecting on how a small idea from the 1960s had blossomed into something with lasting positive impact on students, alumni, the community, and the world, Skip shared "This conversation helped me see that my purpose of helping people has been fulfilled."

Find ways to support programs like 91.7 The Edge at tinyurl.com/uvuxe9vp



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MS COMMUNICATION

Show Your **Warhawk Pride** with a **WARHAWKS WAY BANNER!**

Our Warhawks Way Banners provide a unique opportunity for alumni and supporters to proudly showcase their UW-Whitewater pride. These custom banners will be displayed on lamp posts along Carter Mall for the 2025-2026 school year, offering a distinctive tribute to cherished memories, organizations, teams, or individuals important to you.

Your \$500 donation per banner will go to the Warhawks Give Fund, which supports access to education and the university's greatest needs. Each banner serves as a visible reminder of the incredible impact made by donors, families, organizations, sports teams, Greek organizations, and countless other valued members of the Warhawk community.

Celebrate your connection to UW-Whitewater by reserving a banner today. Visit **uww.edu/foundation/banners** to learn more about customization options and secure your spot.



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“Where Life is Added to Years”



A group of UWW Greeks from across the years gathered in Whitewater in October 2025.



A series of Purple Pint Nights were offered around the country this year, including events in Phoenix, Arizona in January 2025 and Lombard, Illinois in March 2025.



Homecoming is a great time to come back to UWW to reunite with old friends and rekindle your love for the university. Homecoming 2024 did not disappoint.



Always a Warhawk — Reuniting, Remembering, Reconnecting



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Take UW-Whitewater's Fiscal and Economic Research Center (above). Under the direction of Dr. Russ Kashian (far right), students analyzed the university's statewide economic footprint. Their findings? UW-Whitewater's operations and 38,000+ alumni in Wisconsin's workforce contribute **\$1.4 billion to the state's economy every year.**

How Can We Help You?

Discover how a CoBE partnership can help your organization—and how you can help shape the future of business in Wisconsin.

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More details to come: uww.edu/homecoming

