

Whitewater

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER MAGAZINE • SPRING 2023



UW-WHITEWATER 2023 FOUNDERS DAY AWARDEES

THE CHAIR'S CORNER



Dear Warhawk Family,

This has been an exciting time to be a Warhawk. We've seen great strides in our alumni giving and engagement this past year.

I've had the pleasure to serve as the UW-Whitewater Foundation's Chair for the past two years. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to work with an inspirational team of dedicated staff, committed directors, creative students and world-class faculty.

With the arrival of our new Chancellor, Dr. Corey King, I'm positive that we are well positioned to continue our progress and achieve every success for UW-W students.

Following the Board's recent election of officers, I am pleased to announce that my successor will be Sandy Dunst '79, who has most recently served as the Vice Chair and interim Foundation President. Also, please join me in welcoming Katie Kuznacic as the new Foundation President in addition to her role as Vice Chancellor of University Relations.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our alumni magazine, and please take a moment to reflect on how you can help support our shared goals and vision for our alma mater: UW-Whitewater.

Tim Hyland, '82
Chair of the UW-Whitewater Foundation



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COVER: Henry Schwartz BBA and B.A. '11, Monica Kelsey-Brown BSE '90, M.S. '92, Ed Steckley B.A. '18, Chris Chrisman B.S. '59 and Carlene Chrisman, and Therese Kennedy were honored at the UW-Whitewater Founders Day celebration on April 22, 2023. (Artwork/Ed Steckley)

The printing and distribution of this publication were made possible through contributions from alumni, friends and corporate sponsorship.

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Always a Warhawk

WARHAWKS HAVE BEEN BUSY GATHERING ACROSS THE NATION



We had a great turnout for Warhawk Alumni Night at the Milwaukee Bucks game in March. Great to meet all these Warhawks and shoot a free throw after the game!



UW-Whitewater alumni enjoyed a winter break in February in Naples, FL. The social was hosted by Barry Brandt from the class of 1985. Left to right: Missy Haggerty, Troy Schwenn '86, Marci Brandt, Barry Brandt '85, MBA '13



Everyone came out a winner by meeting new Warhawk friends at the Las Vegas Alumni Social in April. Left to right: Cliff Lemmerhirt '81, Doug Graff '89, JC Covey, MBA '04



A group of Warhawk alums gathered for a social before going to a Brewers Spring Training Game in Phoenix, AZ in March.

Follow us on social media.



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King's first day in office was Wednesday, March 1, 2023. (UW-Whitewater Photos/Craig Schreiner)

A Q&A with Chancellor King

By Jeff Angileri

On March 1, Corey A. King became the 18th chancellor of UW-Whitewater.

Why did you choose UW-Whitewater?

I came here because of the commitment to student success, inclusivity and access to higher education. UW-Whitewater is known for its academic excellence and distinction, and as an economic engine for the region.

What have you learned about UW-Whitewater and its people that you didn't know before?

You don't have to convince people that this institution is great. They know it. They feel it. They believe it. For me, the greatest focus is to harness all that energy and provide direction.

What are your priorities for your first 120 days?

In addition to launching our new strategic plan, I'm focused on enrollment growth and financial stability, shared governance, investing in the Rock County campus, reimagining our inclusivity, diversity and equity efforts, and engaging with students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader community.

Is it true that on your interview day, you visited Perkins Stadium during a student-led tour and were inspired to sprint across the field?

Yes! (laughs) I used to play football and it's been a while since I've been on a campus with a football team. When we arrived at the stadium in a golf cart, I asked Will Hinz (student body president) if I could run on the turf. He said, 'Sure!' I jumped off the golf cart and took off to the 50-yard line. It was an incredible feeling. I can't wait for the Warhawks' home opener on Sept. 9.

Has purple completely taken over your wardrobe?

Yes, yes and yes! I now have purple sunglasses, ties, shirts, socks, coffee cup mug, flowers, everything.

What were you like as a college student?

People might say I was boring. I didn't go to college with the intention to have fun, grow and develop as a person. I went with the intention of paving the way for others — very focused on my studies. I was an engaged student leader, an RA, orientation leader and student government member.

How was your own university experience transformational?

Academically, I knew that I would be challenged, and I would get a degree in a discipline. I didn't realize there was a leader inside of me waiting to come out. Because of my experiences in college, I received a "degree in life," becoming a responsible community member and servant leader.

What should alumni know about current students?

They are engaged. Passionate about what they believe in. There's both a desire to learn and a desire to serve. Many of our current students are first generation, and they come from multiple diverse communities.

What can alumni do to stay engaged and support our students?

Find a way to contribute – financially or with your time. It was important to me when I graduated that I donated what I could afford to my alma mater. I was giving 50 dollars a month. It was something I could do to pay it forward. For those with the ability to mentor current students – reach out to the UW-Whitewater program of your discipline.

Our students would greatly benefit from your mentorship and advice. Reach back and pull people forward with you.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love to bake, exercise, play golf and watch a good action or thriller movie.

Anything else you'd like us to know?

To be in the chancellor's office is surreal. To work for a university that has transcended to become a family is beyond my wildest dreams. It's not "work" anymore. I love doing what I do now. It's a way of life.

Thirty Years of Higher Education Leadership

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UW-Green Bay

Vice President for Enrollment Management and
Student Financial Services -
Bethune-Cookman University

Vice President for Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management -
Florida Atlantic University

Leadership positions at East Carolina University, Wheeling
Jesuit University, and the University of Florida



UW-Whitewater Chancellor Corey A. King, right, finishes a conversation with education students Victoria Stratton of Tinley Park, Illinois, and Brooke Gierhart of



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UW-Whitewater Photos/Craig Schreiner

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SAVE THE DATE! HOMECOMING IS OCTOBER 28, 2023

- Homecoming parade
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The 2022 Homecoming Court including, from right, Delon Blanks, a marketing major from Mequon, Honey Cawthorn, a psychology major from Milwaukee, royalty John "JJ" Benish, a psychology major from Lodi, and Erin Bleicher, a business education major from Verona. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)



Alumna Susan Mealy '64 enjoys the Homecoming parade. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)

Warhawks help with qualified charitable distributions—QCD

HOW IT WORKS



You must be 70 and a half or older to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to a public charity like UW-Whitewater Foundation, Inc. That is also the age when you must begin taking distributions.



You can make a QCD of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to UW-Whitewater Foundation, Inc., and it will be excluded from your taxable income.



Contact your IRA custodian and tell them to make a QCD gift to UW-Whitewater Foundation, Inc. Then tell us what fund or funds you want to support with your gift.



Your gift must be completed by Dec. 31 to earn the tax benefit in that year.

BENEFITS TO YOU



Your gift can be used to satisfy all or part of the required minimum distribution (RMD) you must take from your IRA.



Your gift will reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Your gift will go into the fund(s) that you choose, where it will work to support our mission: A better UW-Whitewater.

Wisconsin's largest business school welcomes a new dean



Dr. Paul Ambrose was named dean of the College of Business and Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in January 2023.

Since 2005, Dr. Ambrose has been part of the UW-Whitewater community, serving in multiple roles, from faculty member to department chair to associate dean, and most recently as interim dean.

“Dr. Ambrose brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the position with ideas about how to meet the needs of a broader group of students,” said Robin Fox, then interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “He has already begun work on multiple articulation agreements with the technical colleges and has been a leader in discussions about retaining students from underrepresented groups. Under his leadership, I believe the college — Wisconsin’s largest accredited school of business — will not only continue its high-quality programs, but there will be an expansion in the students served in our region and online.”

What can we expect to see from the College of Business and Economics under Dean Ambrose?

Dr. Ambrose is committed to an ever-developing, inclusive, world-class college dedicated to creating future executives who lead through ESG – a focus on the Environment, Social ramifications, and Governance. Dr. Ambrose states:

“The more we develop our students to look at the decisions that they could be making in the future—how their decisions impact the environment, affect society, and how they organize their systems and organizations—is key. The goal is to ensure that we are good stewards of work, the environment, and people. This is how we put education into practice. We see it as an opportunity, an obligation, to transform students and to transform the future.”

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater College of Business and Economics (CoBE) is Wisconsin’s largest business college. It is home to the #1 ranked online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in the state, of single schools, and is the only college in Wisconsin that offers an AACSB-accredited Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) program. Degree programs are available on campus or in 100% online formats. CoBE is in the top 2% of the world’s business schools having earned both AACSB and AACSB Accounting Accreditation. For more information on the College of Business and Economics, visit uww.edu/cobe or email cobe@uww.edu.



Dean Paul Ambrose of the College of Business and Economics talks with members of the Foundation and Stoughton Trailers in the conference room of Hyland Hall on March 9, 2023. (UW-Whitewater photo/Nick Pook)

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The Warhawk Path: Summer Camp



Kellie Ha's journey as a Warhawk began during her enrollment in a summer tennis camp. Kellie is a finance major and captain of the Women's Tennis Team. Originally from Palatine, Illinois, Kellie shared her thoughts on how summer camp led to her enrolling at UW-Whitewater.

What was the campus experience like?

The campus made me feel really cool because I was a junior in high school touring a lot of different colleges, but it felt like I was getting a sneak peek into what college would be like. I was staying in the dorms with a roommate, walking to the facilities and dining halls all within five minutes, and felt like a "college student." The campus was nice to walk around and felt like a college campus because it was safe. I did not have to worry about getting on a bus for transportation or the danger of a real city because the campus is laid out perfectly.

How did summer camp influence your decision to attend UW-Whitewater?

Since I was able to stay for a week in the dorms, eat dining hall food, and to experience the "college life," it influenced me to attend UW-Whitewater. I was grateful to experience the campus life and play at the tennis facilities because it was easy for me to imagine myself there for the next four

years. It also gave me comfort because I would already know how to get to the dining hall and the athletic facility.

Why should someone attend a UW-Whitewater summer camp?

UW-Whitewater has been known for their summer camps for years because the coaches and teams have won conference and national titles. The summer camps set you up to learn how to love the sport you are doing and to see a glimpse of it at a college level. The summer camps at UW-Whitewater make the most memorable summers for everyone.



Kellie Ha, left, a finance major from Palatine, Illinois, is introduced by Molly Rueth, class of 2022, her former Warhawk Women's Tennis doubles partner, at the RSM tax and consulting table at the Spring Hawk Career Fair in the University Center on Feb. 14, 2023. Kellie will be an intern at RSM this summer. (UW-Whitewater Photos/Craig Schreiner).

WARHAWK NAMING OPPORTUNITIES



Alumni and friends have shared their time, dedication and resources to name landmarks across our campus. Warhawks have named spaces in honor of friends, family or faculty members who were key mentors during their educational journey.

Naming a building, laboratory or other available space is a remarkable way to establish your legacy at UW-Whitewater. Gifts that support facilities help to create and maintain environments for teaching, learning, engagement and recreation.

To learn about the wide array of spaces available, from classrooms, labs, conference room, buildings, etc, please contact me. Your gift can be dedicated to revitalizing a specific area or to establish an endowment to support the long-term support of our shared facilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Kuznacic".

Katie Kuznacic, Vice Chancellor



Winther Hall (rendering), UW-Whitewater produces the most educators in Wisconsin. A proud tradition of excellence, our roots in education date back over 150 years, directly impacting over 24 million lives. A comprehensive range of collaborative places and naming opportunities is available as a part of a complete remodel to support teaching and classroom experiences.

Timothy J. Hyland Hall is the home of the College of Business and Economics and was constructed in 2008. A variety of rooms are available.





UW-Whitwater at Rock County. A tradition in Janesville, the campus boasts numerous renovated spaces that provide a welcoming educational environment.

The Harold G. Andersen Library is on the University of Wisconsin-Whitwater campus and has been the center for academic pursuits since 1953. Numerous study, reservable rooms and public spaces are available.



Laurentide Hall, which underwent a \$17 million renovation in 2013, is home to the College of Letters and Sciences. Spaces available include faculty offices, research labs, conference rooms, a cafe and meeting rooms.

University Housing. Generations of Warhawks have built their formative relationships while living on campus. Notable naming opportunities include: Wells Lobby Meeting Room, Esports Studio, Academic Success Center, Ma'iingan rooms (our newest residence), as well as Arey and Fricker Hall multipurpose rooms.



Founders Day honors 2023 award winners

“All of these accomplished individuals speak to the breadth and the depth of the impacts that our graduates can have, both professionally and in their communities,” said Chancellor Corey A. King. “As evidenced by these individuals, our academic programs have a strong track record of producing talented, versatile graduates, and I couldn’t be more proud to recognize and celebrate the achievements of these Warhawks.”



This year’s recipient of the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award is **Henry Schwartz**. The award recognizes the professional accomplishments of Schwartz, who earned a B.B.A. in entrepreneurship and a B.A. in Spanish in 2011 and co-founded MobCraft Beer that same year. Schwartz continues to lead that company, which is expanding to its fourth brick-and-mortar location and generates \$4.5 million in annual sales, with a team that includes several fellow Warhawks.



Byron “Chris” Chrisman and **Carlene Chrisman** are this year’s recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to UW-Whitewater. After earning a B.S. in business administration with an emphasis on accounting in 1959, Chris Chrisman embarked on a career spanning tax law, commercial real estate development and diverse businesses. The Chrismans funded the Mary Poppe Chrisman Success Center with an initial gift of \$1.5 million in 2016, and a subsequent estate gift in 2019 of \$5 million—the largest gift to date in the university’s history—targeted four endowment funds: Student Success Fund, Warhawk Emergency Fund, Wheelchair Athletics and Rugby.



The recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement is **Monica Kelsey-Brown**. Kelsey-Brown, who earned a B.S.E. in elementary education in 1990 and an M.S. in curriculum and instruction in 1992. She is the first superintendent of color in the School District of Brown Deer, a district of 1,600 students that is one of the most diverse in the state. Kelsey-Brown took the helm in July 2020, in the early days of COVID-19, after working in various roles at Milwaukee Public Schools since 2002.



Also receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement is **Ed Steckley**. Steckley, who earned a B.A. in graphic design and a minor in art history in 2018 after an initial stint on campus in the early 1990s, is an award-winning freelance illustrator whose work has appeared on “Saturday Night Live,” in MAD Magazine, and in children’s books — including the “Rube Goldberg” series — as well as in magazines, newspapers and a range of advertising campaigns.



The recipient of the S.A. White for Contributions to UW-Whitewater is **Therese Kennedy**. Kennedy has worked at the Office of Recreation Sports and Facilities for more than 30 years, serving as director since August 2020, and has left an indelible imprint on the campus and the community as a member of the Athletics Hall of Fame Board, a board member of the Tip Off Club and Quarterback Club, mentoring scores of students, and working on behalf of Wally and Rod’s Warhawk Raffle. She also serves as co-president of the Whitewater Community Foundation.



Henry was introduced by his mother and daughter. Lindy. Connie Ross, Lindy, Henry Schwartz and Chancellor Corey A. King.



Therese Kennedy, Ed Steckley, Chancellor Corey A. King, Monica Kelsey-Brown, Carlene and Byron "Chris" Chrisman.



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