I Am an Old Decoy
By Ron Butterfield, 2012
Retired 1998
Rochester Center/Registrar

My new home is the fireplace mantel.
I am battered from many a duck hunting battle.

I have known those icy bays
And those gray November days.

But no more of that dirty dog smell
Or the smoke from a single shotgun shell.

Cracks and dents now cover my outer coat,
And an end to rides in that tippy boat.

Presently I am content to enjoy my retirement,
To reflect in a controlled environment.

Whatever happened to my fellow decoys?
And, those memories of our hunting joys?
**Director’s Report**

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for making this job so enjoyable! I love our conversations and seeing you all at events (or at the Westfield fish fry) – your stories and memories are amazing. Nancy and I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and hope your holidays are filled with family, friends and good cheer.

The Retiree Fall Reunion was a lot of fun! Great friends, food and banter and the Tau Center Rotunda gave us lots of room to mingle and visit. We are planning a December holiday gathering, so keep an eye out for an invitation. Of course December means the end of fall semester – hard to believe, isn’t it? Commencement is December 14 and, as always, you are invited to the ceremony. Please give us a call for details.

As winter approaches we want to remind you that Senior University classes are in full swing. When the snow flies, you have an opportunity to join us for interesting and thought-provoking classes. We have openings in *The Protestant Experiment* and a second session (the first filled quickly) of *Who Do You Think You Are?* Three of our spring semester classes are taught by WSU retirees! Classes include *Early Jazz, Ragtime and the Blues* by Lyelle Palmer; *Leaving a Legacy* by Carol Galbus; *The Philosophy of John Stuart Mill* by Stewart Shaw; and *Our Universe, Our Home* (Astronomy) by Jennifer Anderson, associate professor, Geoscience. All of this stimulation should shake off the winter doldrums and warm your body, mind and spirit!

I recently attended a meeting of the Winona Area Volunteer Administrators (WAVA) where I met wonderful people who represent Winona area non-profit and charitable organizations. Each of these organizations depends on volunteers to support its mission. WAVA brings together volunteer leadership with the goal of making a positive impact in our community and focusing on the amazing work done by volunteers. In this newsletter I have highlighted Project Fine’s current needs for volunteers. Please consider helping Project Fine or another local organization by volunteering.

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One of the nice things about electronic communication is all of the information I receive from my colleagues at other retiree centers. An idea that really appealed to me was setting aside an afternoon each week for Game Day. We could reserve the downstairs for an afternoon of chess, backgammon, checkers, etc. Let me know what you think of this idea and if you have board games you’re not using, bring them over to the Retiree Center. I will even make a pot of coffee!

Take care. We’ll see you soon.
Ann Kohner, Director, Retiree Center

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**Upcoming Events**

**Technology Tips**

Wednesday, November 7, 2012
12:45 – 2:15 pm.
Maxwell Hall 158
(1st floor TLT Suite)

Professor Paulson and his MIS students will provide one-on-one assistance with and answer questions on:

1. Cell Phones - including smart phones
2. Digital Cameras
3. E-mail
4. E-Readers/iPads/iTunes
5. eBay
6. Laptops
7. Using dual monitors

Please contact the Retiree Center office if you plan to attend or have questions – 507-457-5565 or akohner@winona.edu Include the topic(s) that interest you.

If you have questions pertaining to your laptop computer, please provide information on that laptop (make/model) and bring the laptop with you on November 7.

If there is interest we will schedule a Technology Tips class each quarter.
Genealogy Research

Volunteers provide peek into America’s past

Volunteerism can be a force to be reckoned with: this holds true for the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project. Through the efforts of more than 125,000 volunteers, the public can now take a look at some of the detailed information from America’s 1950 Census.

When the project began, approximately 7,000 volunteers signed up each week to help; since April 2, thousands of volunteers (many of them retirees) have now indexed more than 120 million records – data that reflect a time in our nation’s past that is uncannily parallel to the present day.

In 1940, there were 120,000 census takers (called enumerators), and census questions included the usual demographic information, but were supplemented with questions specific to the times, such as the work status of anyone over age 14. The Census wanted information on whether workers were engaged in serving private enterprise, the government in “non-emergency” work or in “emergency” government work (which included Depression-era projects such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Project Administration). There were also questions on unemployment. The enumerators were assigned to districts, their numbers divided by how long it would take to count people in a designated segment of a map. A newsreel on the Project’s website shows enumerators approaching both suburban townships and homeless encampments.

Finding Family Lore

This wealth of historic data can help families acquire more information about their past. The Project’s website makes it simple to search the records by simply entering a relative’s name, or an enumeration district or street, to find an image of the form filled out on their relative. Data shown include the number of people in a household, work status, marital status, residences over a five-year period, whether or not the household included boarders and more.

During WWII, the Bureau of the Census microfilmed the population schedules, and as of last April, after three months combing through 3.9 million images, these schedules have been digitized for easier viewing.

Partners in the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project include the National Archives and Records Administration, Archives.com, FamilySearch.org and findmypast.com. State records are available on the Census Project site, http://1940census.archives.gov/index.asp, and on all partner websites. Records will also be available in more than 7,000 public libraries through ProQuest. Anyone interested in volunteering can learn more and sign up to be an indexer at the1940census.com.

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Volunteer

Minnesota Marine Art Museum: Call for Docents

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona, MN, is accepting docent applications for the upcoming new docent training starting in January, 2013. To keep the ratio of active docents to tour opportunities equal we will only accept a limited number of applications.

What is a docent? The word “docent” is derived from the Latin word “docere” meaning “to teach.” In museums, docents are specially trained volunteers who facilitate tour experiences for visiting groups. Docents work with tour groups of all ages and backgrounds. It is the docent who helps to bring the Museum’s collections to life by creating meaningful and lasting impressions for visitors. Working with groups in the galleries, docents use inquiry, discussion and interactive strategies to help people make personal connections with the art as they learn.

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Project FINE

Project FINE's Digital Inclusion and Technology Education for Immigrants and Refugees program teaches adults basic computer and internet skills. Through this program, participants have attended training sessions and received a home computer. To help reinforce their training and continue learning about computers, we provide Technology Tutors who help individual participants learn more about operating their computers. Tutors travel to participant homes with an interpreter to provide information about how to use their computers, focusing on the programs or skills that are of interest to the participant. The tutoring sessions are flexible, with daytime or evening hours available. Tutoring sessions begin in late September and continue through the end of 2012. Volunteers do not have to be computer wizards; a working knowledge of the Internet and Microsoft Office or Open Office is just fine.

Volunteers are also needed in the following areas:

College Education Connection is a program designed to help the children of immigrants and refugees pursue post-secondary education. A program coordinator travels to three area schools to help students ensure that their graduation requirements are met, help prepare for the ACT and assist with college applications. The program also has a mentoring/tutoring component, which is held on Monday and Wednesday from 4-6 pm at the Winona Senior High School. During this time, volunteers help students with homework and post-secondary prep materials. Tutoring dates for Fall 2012 are November 5, 7, 14, 19, and 26.

English Language Tutoring: Project FINE is in need of volunteers to provide one-on-one or small group assistance to adult English language learners. Many of these individuals are studying for the United States Citizenship exam and also need tutoring in the areas of civics, government and history. Project FINE does have study aids and materials available to prepare for the Citizenship test. Hours are primarily in the evening but vary based on the individual student’s schedule.

Office Support: We are always searching for volunteers who are interested in helping in our office. Volunteers are needed primarily to serve in our reception area, which includes interacting with non-English speaking clients and service providers, operating a multi-line phone system, and greeting visitors. Hours are between 8am and 4:30pm and are very flexible, and training is provided.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions,
Katie van Eijl
Program Manager
Project FINE. 202 West Third Street. Winona MN 55987. 507.452.4100
Interesting things can happen when you retire.

Two years after retiring from WSU's Education Department, I was invited to join an exciting project in Rochester called InSciEd Out (Integrated Science Education Outreach), a collaborative partnership between WSU, Mayo Clinic, and the Rochester Public Schools.

InSciEd provides opportunities for in-service and pre-service teachers to grow themselves as scientists and science teachers, inviting multidisciplinary teams of teachers from a common school into Mayo Clinic’s Zebrafish Core Facility for 12-15 days. While at the lab, teachers learn more about genetics, development, the nature of science, and generative dialogue. Later, such knowledge is utilized to create inquiry-based curriculum modules for students. The internship opportunity embeds teachers in the culture of authentic science and provides them with cutting edge tools to utilize in their classroom. The partnership begins as an internship and continues in the form of continued mentorship, collaboration, outreach and support for 2 to 3 years.

InSciEd Out differs from other professional outreach programs in that teachers themselves create new curricula targeted specifically for real-world problem areas such as addiction, infectious disease, water quality, and diabetes/identified and environmental issues. Teachers and schools are provided with the tools to enable active, engaged learning by students and the support to help students achieve national and local science standards.

After three years of implementation, results are impressive. For example:

• 97% of students at InSciEd Out schools achieved high or medium growth in science proficiency in 2010-11
• The percentage of science proficient African-American students improved from 14% to 60% (2010)
• Value-added analysis shows a correlation between student outcomes and the efforts of InSciEd Out

*Learning outcomes were measured by scores on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) – Science, taken by 5th and 8th grade students.

This past year we have expanded in a number of ways. Regionally, we are expanding the program to the Twin Cities to support requests from the Richfield School District with potential new partnerships in Byron, Chatfield, Winona, and Kasson. Globally, we established a partnership with the International Community School in Kumasi, Ghana, where we delivered an internship in August and expect to return in the future to include more teachers.

In October, we will be visiting with government officials in India to establish partnerships with one or two rural schools. Additionally, there is potential for a similar partnership in Haiti in January 2013.

Jean Leicester, Professor Emerita, Education
Fleetwood Mac immortalized the song, "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow." Let me tweak the lyrics to say "Don't Stop Thinking about Your Trees Today." Just because the leaves are falling and the temperatures are dropping, this is not the time to stop thinking about your trees. If you do, there may be no tomorrow for them.

Let's face it, the weather has been on a brutal roller coaster this year. Extreme conditions have been the rule. A record setting warm March was followed by an oppressively hot July. Many trees were lost during this period, while others suffered stress like symptoms such as premature leaf drop. The entire year has been very dry with the drought like conditions continuing into the fall. In the last few days we have started to see rainfall again. A very welcome sign. However, it is important to remember that precipitation is down over 8 inches for the season and it will take an unusually rainy late fall to make up these deficits.

With that in mind I would like to stray away from my usual featured trees on the WSU campus and instead offer a few suggestions on caring for the trees in our yards. Despite the fact that we are approaching late fall, important steps can still be taken to ensure our trees go into the winter in the best possible condition. As we enjoy the last of the colors of fall, we can help our trees regain their health as we approach winter. Here are a few of the steps I take each fall to prepare my trees for winter.

First and most important, I continue watering my trees throughout October and often into November. When I water a tree, I make sure to water deeply and thoroughly. This will encourage proper root development. Depending on soil type and size of tree, it may take 45 minutes to 1 hour to water each tree. I have a very sandy soil so I can water longer. I concentrate on the trees that are 5 years or younger because I figure they don't have very deep roots. Watering in the late fall helps the root development which is active at this time of the year. The weather will dictate when to stop watering. If the soil has frozen for several days, it may be time to stop watering.

Along with watering the trees, I like to check the mulch. I look at the amount of mulch I have and add some if needed. A proper layer of mulch will help keep the moisture down in the root system and even help prevent cold temperature damage such as frost cracks and twig dieback above ground.

Finally, I like to protect my trees from the mice, rabbits and deer as much as possible. If I am trying to protect the trees from mice and rabbits, I use hardware cloth, a 1/2 inch by 1/2 wire screen that I use to protect the bark of younger deciduous trees. For deer protection I will pound posts in the ground and wrap chicken wire up 3-4 feet high around the tree. One last step I often employ is wrapping several of my special borderline hardy evergreens with burlap.

After all these steps have been completed, I will reward myself by going inside, grabbing a favorite beverage and relaxing in a comfortable chair, knowing that my trees are ready for old man winter.

Bill Meyer, 2010, Senior Groundskeeper
Contributing Columnist
Senior University Classes
The Protestant Experiment in America
Timothy Forester
Wednesdays: Nov. 7, 14, 28; Dec. 5, 12
Short History of Protestantism in America
Somsen 320; 1-3 pm
$40.00

Who Do You Think You Are?—2nd session
Janis Martin
Thursdays: Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20
Who are you? Where did you come from?
Review the possibilities for documenting your ancestry.
Maxwell 257, 2 – 4 pm
$40.00 – class size limited to 10

Early Jazz, Ragtime and the Blues
1900-1928: The Musical Migration from New Orleans to Chicago
Lyelle Palmer
Mondays: January 14, 21; February 11, 18
Maxwell 257, 1-2:30 pm
$40.00

Register online at:
http://winona.augusoft.net
OR
Please mail a check or cash to:
Winona State University
Retiree Center
P.O. Box 5838
Winona, MN 55987

Necrology

Leo Voelker
Facilities Services
August 8, 2012

Kenneth Wynia
Carpenter
August 9, 2012

Ray Brooks
Faculty
Mass Communications
September 9, 2012

Phyllis Malotka
Cultural Diversity & Publications
October 3, 2012

Kathi Gudmunson
Staff Development Coordinator TLT
October 9, 2012

In memory of Kathi Gudmunson:
I was Kathi’s boss for a brief time at WSU. Kathi was the receptionist in the Registrar’s Office. She handled that difficult position with dignity and courage. All of us who knew Kathi well will miss her very much.

Ron Butterfield

(Full obituaries available on the WSU Retiree Center Website: www.winona.edu/retiree/memoriam.asp)
If you know of colleagues we have missed, please contact Retiree Center at 507.457.5565, or send an email to retiree@winona.edu.
November 9: WSU Jazz Ensembles I and II and guest soloists from the David Berkman Quintet, 7:30 pm, PAC Main Stage | Free Admission

November 10: David Berkman Quintet with select students from the high school honor band festival, 7:30 pm, PAC Main Stage | Admission: $10 Adults, $6 Students and Senior Citizens (Free Admission to Friends of Jazz (FOJ) members)

November 19: Jazz Combos Fall Concert, 7:30 pm, Art Tye Lounge at Kryzsko Commons | Free Admission

November 30: Annual FOJ Jazz Ensembe Dance Fundraiser, 7-10 pm, Westfield Golf Club, Winona | Free Admission
  Donations accepted for FOJ

Please let us know if your address or email changes, so we can keep you informed of Retiree Center events.

Contact the Retiree Center at 507.457.5565 or Ann Kohner at akohner@winona.edu.