

CJ | Alumni

Current politics and pace test reporters

Andrea Mitchell, chief foreign affairs correspondent for NBC News, made a special trip to UW-Eau Claire to speak about the challenges facing journalists who cover the presidential election and White House news today. Mitchell has covered every presidential election since 1972.

Mitchell presented her speech, "The 2004 Presidential Campaign: New Challenges for Broadcast News," at the seventh annual Ann Devroy Forum in Zorn Arena on April 22.

The Ann Devroy Memorial Forum and a Devroy Memorial Fund were established at UW-Eau Claire to recognize the outstanding journalistic work of 1970 graduate Ann Devroy, who died of cancer in 1997 at the age of 49.

Devroy began her journalism career while still a student at UW-Eau Claire, interning at the *Milwaukee Journal* and reporting for the *Leader-Telegram*. Devroy joined *The Washington Post* in 1985. She covered the Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations. And Andrea Mitchell knew Devroy well.

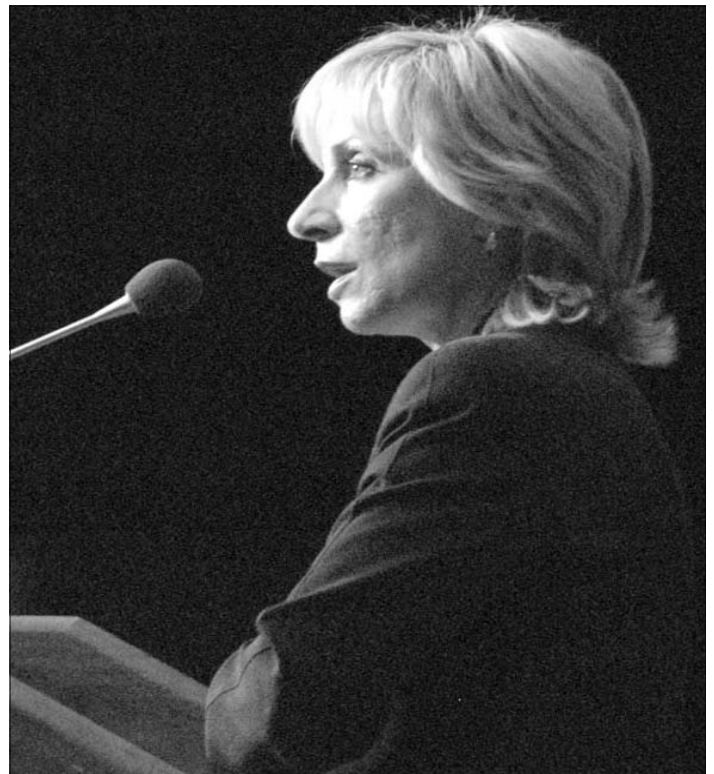
Mitchell first covered the White House for NBC News from 1981-1988. Since being named chief foreign affairs correspondent for NBC in 1994, Mitchell has reported on foreign policy issues in the United States and abroad for all NBC News broadcasts, including "Nightly News with Tom Brokaw," "Today" and CNBC and MSNBC. She hosted MSNBC's "The Mitchell Report" throughout the 2000 campaign. She interviewed newsmakers in Washington, D.C., and on the campaign trail.

In her speech at the Forum, Mitchell said accessing White House sources is much harder now compared to when she and Ann Devroy had the task. George W. Bush's administrative staff, unlike past presidents', is largely comprised of people who came with him from Texas and are very protective, Mitchell said. It's difficult now, she said, to break through. Although if anybody could break through, Ann Devroy would have been the one, Mitchell added. "There was never anyone better."

"In particular in this administration, it doesn't seem to be the kind of constant debating society we used to watch in the Clinton White House," she said.

Mitchell said another challenge in covering the presidential campaign is keeping on top of incredible amounts of information

delivered at high speeds via technology. She said, "Sometimes, I think it would do us all good to hit the pause button." She also praised Devroy. Mitchell said Ann, like nobody else, could accurately analyze volumes of information faster than anybody else.



Andrea Mitchell, chief foreign affairs correspondent for NBC News, spoke at the Devroy Forum to an audience of over 800 people.

Even though journalists must gather and report information rapidly today, those conditions must not compromise taking the necessary time to check accuracy, Mitchell emphasized.

Mitchell has reported on a variety of stories including the United Nations debate leading to the Iraq war, arms control, tax reform and the Iran-contra scandal. As a longtime analyst of the intelligence community, Mitchell has reported on Osama Bin Ladin and his al-Qaida network since 1996. She traveled extensively with President Reagan to summits with Mikhail Gorbachev and other world leaders.

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Chair's Corner

The most exceptional people — visitors, board members, alumni, faculty, families and students — contribute to this department's excellent reputation. Every *CJ Alumni* issue includes many of those people's names. This issue is no exception.

You read Andrea Mitchell, NBC News chief foreign correspondent, joined us to honor alumnus Ann Devroy. You read on the "Advancing Excellence" list that George Stephanopoulos, ABC News' anchor of "This Week," made a gift. Stephanopoulos made a \$25,000 gift to the Ann Devroy Memorial Fund. You read scores of outstanding supporters' names on our "Advancing Excellence" list and in "Classmates Updates" news. There is no doubt hundreds of people have this department on their radar.



From left, Gina Duwe, Andrea Mitchell, and Chancellor Donald J. Mash met before the Ann Devroy Forum. Gina, a junior journalism major from Wausau, Wisc., received the 2004 Ann Devroy Memorial Fellowship Award at the Forum. Duwe is a part-time reporter for the Eau Claire *Leader-Telegram* as well as a chief copy editor at *The Spectator*, the student newspaper. Her fellowship includes a three-week internship at *The Washington Post* during January 2005 and a paid internship at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* during summer 2005.

You read there are two new Advisory Board member names on the roster, Jeff Hovind and Jim MacLachlan. Hovind is the former publisher of the *Waukesha Freeman* and a long-standing contributor to the Wisconsin newspaper industry. Jim MacLachlan is the founder of Tartan Marketing, a business-to-business agency in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

All of the Advisory Board members do a splendid job as public ambassadors for the department and help with the department's "professionals-in-the-classroom" efforts. For example, Greg Leaf, Pam Pappas Stanoch, and Melanie Sommer each presented guest lectures to students in various classes this spring.

I've attached a photo of John Dye, editor of the *Utica Observer Dispatch*, here, too. John traveled from New York to spend a week in the department discussing journalism convergence with faculty and presenting guest lectures to students.



John Dye, newspaper editor from New York, spoke with many students during his visit as a journalist-in-residence.

And you read students are forever winning marks of distinction, working at a level that brings the department tremendous respect. A lot of superior students' names are on the "Excellence Award Winners" list. I'd like to add to those names senior Sarah Krans'. Krans was among some 60 SPJ members nationally selected to attend the Ted Scripps Leadership Training Program in June.

You read Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt joined us for the third annual "First Nations, New Nations Conference." Hamilton-Merritt's contributions were invaluable. Significant thanks are due to people at the Knight Foundation for funding this diversity effort.

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to the department. We simply couldn't do what we do, or nearly as well, without you.

Karen Kremer, chair

News of Hmong-American and Hmong needs to be in media

Reporting about Hmong news was the featured topic at the third annual “First Nations, New Nations Conference” March 11 hosted by the Department of Communication and Journalism at the UW-Eau Claire.

The annual conference is sponsored by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. South Dakota State University is the co-recipient of the grant, which is intended to increase journalistic skills and encourage Hmong and Native Americans to join the field of journalism.



Eau Claire high school student Yer Lee performed in “The Living Paj Ntaub,” during the “First Nations, New Nations Conference.” The historically based, fictional play is about prewar Hmong life in Laos, then through wartime, the refugee camp experience, the Hmong people’s subsequent flight to America and, finally, Hmong life in Eau Claire. The play was researched and written collaboratively by UW-Eau Claire academic staff and students, including Mary and Caitlin Lee, Yer’s older sisters. Caitlin is a 2003 UW-Eau Claire political science graduate, Mary will graduate in August 2004 with a history degree, and Yer will attend the UW-Eau Claire next fall and declare a major in communication and journalism.

Among the approximately 90 conference attendees were UW-Eau Claire students, area middle school students, professional journalists and members of the Hmong community from Wisconsin and Minnesota. The day’s events also were presented via a live Internet broadcast.

Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt gave the conference keynote address, “Covering the Hmong Story: Honest Media Mistakes or What?” The day’s events also included special recognition of Hmong veterans, an ethnic artwork display and a research-based play, “Living Paj Ntaub” (“The Living Story Cloth”), written and presented by UW-Eau Claire students. A panel discussion, “Raising the Bar in Reporting Hmong News,” featured several community leaders and journalists.

Other conference highlights included the showing of a documentary by UW-Eau Claire senior journalism major Sonya Swearingen about community attitudes regarding the Hmong and media coverage. Senior communication major Kyle Sucher and senior English major Dave Jaworski also presented a creative piece, a “pseudo radio show from the early 1970s - reminiscent of radio broadcasts heard while the Vietnam War was at its height of American involvement,” said Barbara Blackdeer-Mackenzie, Knight Journalist-in-Residence at UW-Eau Claire.

Blackdeer-Mackenzie said UW-Eau Claire communication and journalism students, with guidance from faculty members, were responsible for all aspects of public relations and advertising efforts before the conference, as well as videotaping the conference.

The conference helped raise awareness among area professional and student journalists about accurately reporting the story of America’s Hmong community, Blackdeer-Mackenzie said.



Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, journalist, photographer, war correspondent, historian, human rights advocate, and expert on Southeast Asia, spoke at the “First Nations, New Nations Conference.” She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 and again in 2000 for her work on behalf of the Hmong people of Laos. In 1969, she was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her coverage of the Vietnam War and was the winner of the Inland Daily Press Associations Grand Prize Trophy for her frontline combat photography in Vietnam.

The war continues in Laos for many Hmong people, and this fall Wisconsin stands to gain 3,500 Hmong who have been trapped in Thailand as refugees and who have received no aid from the United States for 12 years, Blackdeer-Mackenzie said.

“It’s important that we prepare to welcome our good friends to their new homes,” she said. “Hmong folks face genocide and mutilation by staying in Southeast Asia. Because of the aid the Hmong gave us in the Vietnam conflict, these refugees deserve a far better life than the life they are leading now.” Conference attendees indicated one of the most valuable aspects of the conference was hearing the stories of the Hmong veterans who were recognized, Blackdeer-Mackenzie said.

Stargazing

The sheer volume of excellence represented by almost 70 CJ-student stars that gathered for the department's annual Student Excellence Recognition Reception in May was in a word, impressive.

Chancellor Donald Mash opened the ceremony with remarks about the importance of celebrating excellence. During the ceremony students were honored for receiving one or more of 26 scholarship awards that total \$16,550. Two students were honored for receiving Outstanding Graduate Awards, one from the College of Arts and Sciences and another from the Society of Professional Journalists. A Kappa Tau Alpha (KTA) student received a Top Scholar Award and 14 students were honored as new initiates to KTA. Thirty-five top achievers received awards for excellence in research, writing, leadership and service.

A special treat at this year's ceremony was hearing junior Kelly Bender present her national award-winning speech. Her forensic performance was flawless. Bender was named "the" National Champion in Persuasive Speaking at the National Forensics Association (NFA) National Tournament in late April.

The entire Blugold Forensic Team placed ninth in the nation at the NFA competition this year. But this was the second year in a row that the NFA National Champion in Persuasive Speaking hails from UW-Eau Claire. Forensics director Karen Morris said, "We must be a persuasive place."

Sixteen forensics students received scholarship awards for their excellent forensics achievements, too, at the annual Forensics Banquet in May. Those awards total \$11,350 and were made possible by Grace Walsh as well as William S. Cody scholarships. An additional \$4,450 in awards will be given to forensics students in December.

Bravo, CJ students. What a galaxy.

Excellence Award Winners

Students earn \$16,550 in scholarships and numerous achievement awards

Timothy Ahrens, SPJ Mark of Excellence, First Place; Mark of Excellence, Second Place

Lindsey Amundson, CJO Secretary, KTA

Matthew Beasley, Excellence in Research

Kelly Bender, National Champion in Persuasive Speaking

Erin Biglow, SPJ Outstanding Graduate

Erik Borg, WNA Jerry Conner Freelance Writing Scholarship

Tara Bowlds, WNA Wallace Weil Advertising/Business Manager Scholarship

Julie Brown, CJO Peer Advising

Jennifer Bruch, KTA

Stephanie Buchholtz, Excellence in Research

Mark Bulinski, Excellence in Research

Amber Cohen, CJO Outstanding Member

Cheryl Constant, Excellence in Research

Steven Davis, Joseph Giordano Memorial Scholarship

Alison Donaldson, AAF Treasurer

Alex Drogseth, KTA

Gina Duwe, Marshall B. Atkinson Journalism Scholarship; Ann Devroy Fellowship; KTA

Mark Feneis, WNA Elwood Karwand Advertising Scholarship

Kaye Finne, Excellence in Research

Maighie Fitzgerald, Excellence in Research

Margaret Gilbert, Excellence in Communication Award

James Govier, KTA

Kurt Haberli, Excellence in Research

Marc Harter, Excellence in Research

LeeAnn Haupt, Excellence in Research, CJO Peer Advising

Rebecca Hebbing, Sally A. Webb Diversity Scholarship

Teresa Her, KTA

Alaine Johnson, Excellence in Research

Adrienne Klingsporn, Leslie D. Polk Scholarship; CJO President

Sarah Krans, SPJ Outstanding Member

Anna Kurth, CJO Historian/Web Developer

Jennifer Lawton, Sally A. Webb Organizational Communication Scholarship

Lindsey Lewandowski, Conner Spectator Excellence and Promise Award

Susan MacLaughlin, Lee and Esther Sanford Hench Memorial Scholarship; WNA Henry Lippold Editor Scholarship

Adam Mandel, CJO Outstanding Member

Jennifer Maurer, Excellence in Research

Kelly McBride, KTA Top Scholar Award

Elizabeth Meyer, Leslie D. Polk Scholarship; KTA

Seth Moore, WNA Dave Gordon Reporting Scholarship

Gina Nagler, KTA

Avisha Nair, Sally A. Webb International Student Scholarship

Nancee Nystrom, AAF Events Planner

Kaysie Olson, KTA

Jason Ortner, CJO Treasurer

Kelly Perkins, James E. Fields Journalism Scholarship; Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Journal Foundation/Walter Jay and Clara Charlotte Damm Scholarship; Cindy Schott Humanitarian Award

Emmalee Rathmann, Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Journal Foundation/Walter Jay and Clara Charlotte Damm Scholarship; Arthur L. Murray Memorial Journalism Award; WNA Wil Pautz Photo/Graphics/Design Scholarship

Natalie Rausch, KTA

Rena Reisdorf, IABC Secretary

Linnae Riesen, Excellence in Research; IABC President

Amy Rosenthal, Excellence in Research

Kara Rudie, KTA

Sam Simon, SPJ Outstanding Member

Dennis Slater, Outstanding Journalism Recognition Scholarship; Arthur L. Murray Memorial Journalism Scholarship; WNA Les Polk Copy Editing Scholarship; KTA

Julie Slowiak, Outstanding Senior in College of Arts & Sciences Award

Laura Smanski, Excellence in Research

Marie Smith, Kevin J. Schieffer Scholarship; KTA

Ashlee Streit, Excellence in Research

Michael Strubel, Excellence in Research

Gretchen Switalski, Excellence in Research

Adam Terzich, KTA

Deanne Thomsen, Donald L. and Geraldine T. Wolfarth Scholarship

Alison Troy, AAF President

Shannon Unze, IABC Vice President

Anna Valeri, Excellence in Research

Aaron Vehling, SPJ Mark of Excellence, First Place

Christopher Warren, Lee and Esther Sanford Hench Memorial Scholarship; Robert Smith Memorial Scholarship; Sally A. Webb Study Abroad Scholarship; AAF Interactive Director

Advancing Excellence

Thank you, everyone who supports excellence in communication, journalism, and mass communication here at UW-Eau Claire. It is certain your leadership by action and example impacts future leaders. On behalf of our students, staff, and families of named scholarships, we are truly grateful to the following people for their donations recorded June 2003 to June 2004.



Julie Slowiak received the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Senior Award from Dr. Bernard ("Duffy") Duyfhuizen, Interim Dean, at the department's Student Recognition Reception in May.



An intent audience listened as Kelly Bender presented her national award-winning speech, "The Race for a Cure: Rethinking the Course of AIDS Research," at the department's reception in May.



Dr. Judy Sims presented Kelly McBride with the KTA Top Scholar Award at the department's reception. McBride graduated with summa cum laude honors in May.

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Walker, Kenneth '79 and Janice
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Kathleen
Wright, Kelly Jo

We apologize if there are any inadvertent omissions or errors here.

Gifts-in-Kind Donator

The following gave actual items/capital property for the department's benefit in 2003-2004.

Gilbert, Craig and Guensburg,
Carol '79

Classmates' Updates

Please send us news of your activities, accomplishments, or of Blugold sightings. Just use the form on the back cover of the newsletter. We want to know where you are. Thank you!

'50s

Jean Henninger '51 teaches dance and has a dance company, Tapping Teachers. Her main focus is choreography and costume design. She returned to the UW-Eau Claire and earned a master's degree in education in 1970.

Gloria Lee Woest Anderson '58 graduated from the Wisconsin State College-Eau Claire with a major in speech. She lives in the San Bernardino Mountains community of Crestline. She is an active volunteer for the League of Women Voters and other organizations.

'70s

Charles Bylander '75 is communications director for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Victoria Amador '77 is a tenured professor at the University of Mexico but lectures about film and popular culture for the Edinburgh College of Art. She is married to a Scotsman and lives in Scotland.

Nancy Caldwell Klevgard '77 is a broadcast copywriter and journalist. She, her husband and two sons have moved back to Hixton, Wisconsin after 14 years in Wyoming.

'80s

Karen Birks-Pace '80 works at American Family Insurance Company as a subrogation examiner. She recently released her first book of poetry, *Never Give Up Hope: A Book of Poetry for the Living*. She and husband Robert live in Milwaukee. They have three children, Monica, 27, Angela, 16, and Mark 12.

Mark DeLap '80 does corporate writing for McCloud Services in Hoffman Estates, Ill. He is a published author and singer/songwriter who has many literary and musical works to his credit. His most recent novel, *In the Always*, went on sale last October. Additionally, Mark is a model.

David M. Hanson '80 is a radio sports broadcaster who works with **Hayes Callaghan '78**. The two broadcast high school football and basketball games on WCFW-FM in Chippewa Falls. Dave also is the public address announcer for many sporting events at the UW-Eau Claire as well as the Eau Claire Cavaliers' baseball games.

Cynthia Ann Vissers Tassoul '80 works at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Fox Valley as a pediatric acute-care registered nurse. She does freelance copy writing and photography, too. She and husband Paul live in Greenville, Wisc. with their two children, Christopher, 11, and Elissa, 9.

Patrick Desmond '83 is vice president of business development for The Revere Group in Milwaukee. The Revere Group provides business and technology consulting services to middle-market companies and was founded in 1991. He also is involved in many charitable organizations in the Milwaukee area.

Alan ("Chip") Pedersen '87 is a general manager in Microsoft's Xbox Games group working on the next generations of sports video games. He lives in North Bend, Wash. with wife Ann '85 and their three boys, Ryan, 13, Connor, 9 and Trevor, 6.

Carol Guensburg '79



Carol is the founding director of the Journalism Fellowships in Child and Family Policy program at the University of Maryland, which launched in March 2000. Previously, she worked for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, serving as a features reporter, Sunday magazine editor, food editor and copy editor. She also was an assistant editor at *American Journalism Review*, the national monthly magazine published by the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Guensburg has held reporting and editing positions with the late *Miami News*, the *Raleigh News & Observer* and the *Kingston (N.Y.) Daily Freeman*. Carol lives in Arlington, Virginia with her husband Craig Gilbert. Craig heads the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* Washington bureau.

Carol and Craig graciously provide three-weeks lodging for the department's Ann Devroy Fellows during their internships at *The Washington Post*.

Pictured at the right (from left to right) are Leah Thorsen '02, Tim Ruzek '03, Carol Guensburg, Gina Duwe, and Kelly McBride '04 at the Devroy Forum in April. Thorsen, Ruzek, and McBride were recipients of the Devroy Fellowship in previous years.



Lon P. Matejczyk '88 is publisher and vice president for Dolan Media Company in Minneapolis, Minn. He is responsible for all of the company's operations including the financial performance of the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*, the *Pueblo Business Journal*, *The Daily Transcript* and the *Colorado Springs Philharmonic Magazine*.

Chris Henry Coffey '89 is a '99 M.F.A. graduate of the Yale School of Drama in acting and lives in New York City. His production company, Sleeping Hero, is currently producing a 3D animated film based on a Hans Christian Andersen tale, "The Story of a Mother." The project's Web site is www.sleepinghero.com.

Charlie Gray '89 and **Lisa Kath-Gray '91** live in Rogers, Ark. with their three children, Amanda, 9, Davis, 5, and Aaron, 2. He is the director of sales for Tyco Plastics, a division of Tyco International. Lisa owns a company called Bed Bugs Baby & Child which offers custom furniture, bedding and home decor for children.

'90s

Randall Mortenson '93 is a Navy chaplain stationed at Naval Station Mayport, Fla. He and wife Betsy, an Eau Claire native, lived in Okinawa, Japan for three years before moving to Florida. Their daughter, Kyra Lee, was born in August 2003.

David Weerts '93 is the project director for the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE) and an adjunct professor at the UW-Madison. His research and teaching activities have focused on the interdependent relationships between colleges and universities and key external stakeholders such as state governments, community partners, and university alumni and donors.

Amy Weller Nowinsky '96 is the event marketing coordinator for Wausau Financial Systems. She and husband Mike live in Wausau with their two daughters, Lilly, 3 and Lauren, 1.

'00s

Heather Douglas '00 works as the sports editor for both *The Shakopee Valley News* and *The Jordan Independent* newspapers.

Todd Moen '00 is the editor of the *Norwood Young America Times*, a weekly newspaper located in Norwood Young America, Minn.

Michael Conrad '01 works for Campus Crusade for Christ. He and wife Laura live in Milwaukee.

Melissa Leef '01 is the program manager for Folklore Village, a nonprofit folk arts and community center in Dodgeville, Wisc. She does program planning, donor development, marketing and volunteer coordinating.

Eulalie Moe '01 lives in Appleton, Wisc. and works as a field sales coordinator for *The Post Crescent*, a Gannett Wisconsin Newspaper.

Stacia Halverson '02 is a customer service representative at United Bank in Osseo, Wisc. She recently became engaged to Matthew Korger. Matthew is an elementary teacher with the Osseo-Fairchild Schools.

Katie Legatt '02 is the marketing coordinator for Ebert & Gerbert's Restaurants in Eau Claire. She recently became engaged to Jeff Noe '01.

Maiknue Moua '02 recently earned her M.A. from the University of Minnesota Department of Communication Studies. Her thesis was entitled "An Examination of Hmong Student's Values and Beliefs Regarding Higher Education."

Alix Kuchan Bodin '03 is working at Christopher & Banks' corporate office in Plymouth, Minn. She and husband Derek, '03 Computer Science, live in Plymouth.

Kristi Boucher '03 is special events coordinator for the Minnesota Chapter of the National MS Society. She coordinates bike tours including the MS 60/30, a one-day tour either 30 or 60 miles, the MS 150, a 3-day event of 150 miles from Duluth to the Twin Cities, the MS TRAM, a five-day, 300-mile event, and the MS Challenge Walk, a 3-day, 50-mile walk.

Rachel Dunlap Martinez '03 lives in Corvallis, Ore. She works as an administrative assistant/account coordinator-in-training at an advertising firm called Sanda Communications. Her firm specializes in marketing, advertising and public relations for high-tech companies.

Matthew Karpinko '03 lives in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. He works as a sales representative for Hormel Foods.

Jill Steinke '03 works for the *Stevens Point Journal*, a Gannett paper in central Wisconsin, covering a neighboring village and the university.



Volunteer for the "Ask An Alum" program.

"Ask An Alum" is co-sponsored by Career Services and Alumni Relations. The program connects current students with UW-Eau Claire alumni and friends who are working in a variety of careers.

The "Ask An Alum" database currently holds close

to 400 alumni volunteers from 30 states and seven countries. We want to grow it to include more CJ alumni.

If you can help, register at <https://www.uwec.edu/asp/AskAnAlum/>. You may also contact Eileen Oswald by phoning (715) 836-5359 or emailing her at oswadek@uwec.edu.

