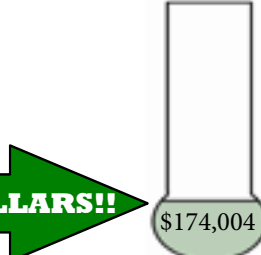


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Berlin High School Alumni Association - "The Oldest in the State"

Speaker takes chances, finds success

By Payton DeMaster, 2014

Karen (Eagen) Wolff, Berlin graduate of '88, will be speaking as the 25-year speaker at the Alumni Banquet this May. Wolff's speech will focus on how one can become successful.

"By believing in yourself, taking chances when they are presented, stepping out of your comfort zone and working hard, one can be successful," Wolff said.

After graduating from BHS, Wolff attended UW-Eau Claire and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in psychology. She then went on to graduate school at UW-Madison and received a Master of Science degree in plant breeding and plant genetics.

Wolff's first job after graduate school was with Harris Moran Seed Company in California as an assistant carrot breeder. After two and a half years working in California, Wolff moved to Oregon and worked on genetically modified fruits and vegetables for an agricultural biotechnology company, Agritope.

"If you ate baby carrots in the late 1990s, they were likely a variety I helped select and put on the market," Wolff said. "I feel lucky and proud that I worked on the leading edge of field research."

After working at Agritope, Wolff took leave



Photo Submitted

Karen (Eagen) Wolff '88 resides with her family in Oregon. Her speech will be about how to become successful.

to become a stay at home mom in Oregon. Wolff believes that BHS helped her with her success today.

"I would have to say that Mrs. Zietlow's home economics class at BHS was probably the most relevant class that helped with where I am today," Wolff said. "I have always been thankful for the education I received in Berlin. I felt prepared for the rigors of college and graduate

school." After taking chances and working hard, Wolff has had quite a successful life so far.

"Don't be afraid to take the entry level jobs, Wolff said. "Work hard and show that you can do the job. Promotions and success will follow."

In ten years, Wolff sees herself with her family and working at the Portland Rose Garden, doing research on new rose varieties.

Endowment Fund rewards seniors

The BHS Alumni Association Endowment Fund continues to grow and to be used to give six graduating seniors a scholarship to assist with college tuition. In addition, it is used to fund The Echo newsletter. The Alumni Association would like to acknowledge that since 2009, our donations exceeded the costs for the scholarships and banquet. Thank you for helping to reward both past and present Berlin High School graduates.

The 2012 BHS Alumni Association Scholarship recipients, who received \$1,200 each, were

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Thanks to the **Farmers & Merchants Bank** and to the **First National Bank of Berlin** for underwriting the costs of postage for this newsletter. Also, thank you to the **Berlin Journal** for public relations support throughout the year.

Gosenheimer selected as 50-year speaker

By Danielle Fralish, 2014

Life-long Berlin resident, Judi (Thomas) Gosenheimer was chosen this year to be the 50-year speaker at the alumni banquet.

She wants her topic to focus on what things were like back when she was in school.

"I started off in a one-room school house. From third to

eighth grade I went to St. Joe's school," Gosenheimer said. "Then, I graduated from Berlin High School in 1963."

As she pursued her love for English she attended Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and majored in English. She then went on to get her masters in curriculum writing.

"After retirement I went on to doing ministry work

with my church, and I love it," Gosenheimer said.

Gosenheimer is honored to have been chosen to be the speaker and feels that this speech will honor her mom and dad because they both graduated from Berlin.

"My whole family will be in the audience," Gosenheimer said. "It's a celebration of keeping our legacy going."

Alumni Spotlight: Parmigiani finds her voice

By Lauren Schmidt, 2014

After graduating from Berlin High School in 2004, Maria Parmigiani first attended Fox Valley Technical college where she majored in Communications.

She then transferred to UW-Milwaukee where she changed her major to International Relations, and then back to Communications.

"I found myself always coming back to communications," Parmigiani said. "That's when I knew this is what I wanted to do."

After graduating from UW-Milwaukee in 2010, Parmigiani became the face and

voice of CW 14.

Parmigiani was also given the opportunity to guest host on the WIXX "Murphy in the Morning" show.

"Through networking, I had met Murphy and he asked if I was available to guest host during March," Parmigiani said.

She enjoyed working in the different atmosphere, Parmigiani especially loved the fact that she did not have to be so serious while on the radio.

"It is so different from TV, but the best part is I don't have to be make-up ready at five in the morning," Parmigiani said. "It was great!"

Parmigiani is proud of her

accomplishments in life and only hopes to continue being successful.

"My biggest accomplishment in life, besides my beautiful daughter and wonderful husband, is not letting anyone stop me from going for my dream," Parmigiani said.

Parmigiani was told that she would not be able to have a family and be successful in the communications field.

Although Parmigiani is content with where she is in her career, she hopes to eventually become a talk show host on her own entertaining morning news show on a national level.

Highlights from the Red 'n' Green

Hess finds reward in giving back

by Becca Wenig, 2013

After experiencing an incredible month long journey in Kenya, Berlin alumna Megan Hess has returned home.

Hess, along with 10 other students from LaCrosse participated in the program, "Kenya Make a Difference." They collected many donations and helped build a kitchen onto an elementary school in Nakuru, Kenya.

When Hess first arrived in Kenya at around 3 a.m. she was immediately aware of how fascinating nature was there.

"I remember opening the door of the matatu and instantly noticing the fresh air," Hess said. "The next morning, I walked onto the porch and saw the beautiful view of Lake Nakuru."

During the trip, it did not take

long for the students to develop a strong relationship with the children.

"The children followed us around every day, and we became very attached to them as they did to us," Hess said.

Hess enjoyed spending time with the families in Nakuru, but she became especially attached to the children without families.

"My favorite part of the trip was going to the orphanage and playing with the children," Hess said. "They just wanted to be loved and I could have held them all day."

When it finally came time to go, Hess had a hard time leaving everything and everyone behind.

"There were a lot of tears shed from leaving that still happen today," Hess said. "The most special moment for me was receiving a necklace from



Photo Submitted

the kids. Those kids do

not have the money to buy something like that every-day, but they wanted us to always remember them."

Overall, Hess says that she has become a more understanding and loving person from this experi-

ence.

"One thing is for certain, whether it is giving up a pair of shoes, doing manual labor or spending time with others, it's amazing how your life can change if you put others before yourself," Hess said.

Nitzke restores military vehicle

by Danielle Fralish, 2014

Working sun up to sun down for two summers and spending about \$1,500, senior Bradley Nitzke finally met his goal of restoring his very own military vehicle, a 1970 M35A2 2 1/2 ton truck.

"It was actually my friend Mark's idea," Nitzke said. "He got me started in this stuff."

Since the truck he restored was a military truck and is much bigger than a regular truck, he had to prepare himself for the difference.

"My first step was getting larger tools, which consisted of a lot of trips to Fleet



Farm," Nitzke said.

With such a big project, problems are to be expected.

"I found myself not having enough time," Nitzke said. "I would make deadlines that I could not reach. After a while

it got boring and I would lack ambition."

However, Nitzke had a lot of support through the restoration whether it was from his mother, brother or girlfriend.

"I was glad to see him doing something he loved," mother Linda Nitzke said. "He was not getting into trouble. I knew where he was and I am very proud of the man he is becoming."

His mother believes that his hard work and dedication paid off in the end, and he should be proud of his accomplishments.

"Seeing it when it was done was a great feeling, knowing I did it on my own," Nitzke said.