Step Up! Support Scholarships for Our Badgers!
by Carol White

It’s that special time of the year when the University League actively supports University of Wisconsin-Madison students from the comfort of our homes. Please donate to our annual Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit.

Your contribution means so much to these delightful, deserving scholarship recipients, as well as to the well-being and advancement of our nation and planet.

Contributing is easy. By early February the “Step Up!” invitation to donate to the University League Scholarship Benefit will arrive. Please return the donor reply card with your donation check as soon as possible. Donors’ names will be published in the League Letter, acknowledging their support. Donations will be accepted through May 15th.

Please read the article featuring charts with estimated academic year costs on page 5 of this newsletter. Clearly, many students need scholarships. Your donation of any size helps. Increasing your last year’s contribution would be magnificent. Give for the first time if you’ve never participated. Encourage others to donate. Recently about one-third of League members donated to the Stay-at-Home Scholarship Benefit. Help University League increase our scholarship gift. Thank you for your generosity.
Welcome to 2020. I hope this finds you all well and recovered from recent holiday celebrations with friends and family. Speaking of celebrations, I’d like to thank all who attended our recent Candlelight Concert evening at Maple Bluff Country Club. The Peruvian dancers were great as were the Ryan Meisel QuArtet with their jazzy renditions of holiday favorites. The venue, as always, was beautiful. Thank you to the Program Committee for such an outstanding effort.

Very shortly you will be receiving your “Stay-at-Home” Scholarship Benefit materials. The Scholarship Benefit Committee has created a beautiful invitation. The invitation includes student quotes from their thank-you letters. The students all say how much our contributions make their lives easier. Please consider giving to this year’s “Stay-at-Home” Benefit. Thank you to the Scholarship Benefit Committee for all your hard work on this important campaign.

Our spring luncheon will be held in March at the Nakoma Golf Club. The topic is “Kids with Incarcerated Parents.” Our guest speaker will be Julie Poehlmann-Tynan, PhD, the Dorothy A. O’Brien Professor of Human Ecology in the Human Development and Family Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is an affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty and the Center for Healthy Minds. She has been studying children and families affected by parental incarceration since her first National Institutes of Health grant was funded in 2001. I’m sure that her presentation will be fascinating.

I want to wish each of you a happy, healthy 2020.

Barbara Rogers

University League Initiates Strategic Planning

Beginning with a January 23 meeting, the University League Board will be developing a new five-year strategic plan to replace the expiring 2015-2020 Strategic Plan with the leadership of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. The plan will set goals and prioritize League Board activities so that University League will continue to fulfill its mission and serve its members’ changing needs.
University League Announcements

**Dining for Scholars**

On October 30, University League teamed up with IHOP and GroupRaise in order to raise scholarship funds. League members and friends dined at the IHOP at 2830 University Avenue. When each person marked her/his receipt “University League,” IHOP donated 20% of the total bill to League scholarships. Member receipts totaled $240.49 for the day, so $48 will go to the University League General Scholarship Fund. This was a fun event with good food and good service. We will be doing another “Dining for Scholars” event on **January 29**. This is how it works:

- January 29 (ONLY)
- Dine at IHOP, 2825 University Ave. (This location ONLY, between Ridge Road and University Bay Drive)
- Dine any time the restaurant is open on January 29, between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- Tell your server you are with University League and mark your bill “UL” (very important)
- IHOP will send 20% of the League receipts for January 29 to our scholarship fund.

There isn’t an easier way to earn dollars for scholars so gather your friends, including non-members, and enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner at IHOP on January 29.

Questions? Contact judy.stang@gmail.com or 608-712-4293.

**New Member Coffee**

Left (right to left): Our New Member Coffee Hostesses, Kathleen Murphy Sherry and her sister Patty, and Ellen Lewis. Ellen prepared the traditional University League Coffee Cake in celebration of Kathleen’s Birthday. Right: The New Member Coffee.
Why We Give!

by Susan Lauffer

We have all experienced the good feeling of being able to help someone who needs support. During the University League Scholarship Benefit, we join together to participate in the annual opportunity to help University of Wisconsin-Madison students.

Why give here and now with the University League? Your entire gift is given to students selected for the scholarships by the UW schools or colleges.

Why do University League members support these scholarships? One member stated that our country depends on educated people to keep our democracy strong. Another person mentioned that giving to future generations provides the donor with a life-long legacy as well as the joy of giving students a lifetime of possibilities.

Yet another said she gives to “pay back” the three scholarships she received when she was in school. Someone else reflected that she gives because it helps a deserving young person get a better start in life.

Some University League members give scholarship funds in remembrance of loved ones or in honor of a family member or friend.

Together, we have the opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of these students. Please join the effort, whatever your own reason to “Step Up.”

Letters and Science Reception

by Barbara Rogers

The reception for recipients of scholarships in the College of Letters and Science was held at Varsity Hall in Union South on September 12, 2019. Joan Leffler and I attended the reception. Although there were at least twenty students receiving awards from University League, only five were present.

The students who we were able to talk to were warm, personable and very bright. Each was very appreciative of the monies awarded them. While talking to them about the majors they chose, I found them to be excited and motivated to be successful in school and beyond. When I asked what they wanted you to know about them, they each said to thank you, University League scholarship contributors, so very much for their scholarships.

Shelli Kayser, Lindsey Knuth, Jacob Ludwig, Megan Berg
Help Students Afford the High Cost of Education  
By Carol White

The costs of studying and living at universities have skyrocketed nationwide. Many of us studied in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s when these costs were lower. Now students assume huge debt with a myriad of loans, often taking decades to pay them off. Our University League scholarship contributions help, but they need to increase. Scholarship recipients are extremely grateful. It means so much to them to receive our dollars.

How can we increase our scholarship donations?

1. Members who never donated in the past are urged to “Step Up” and donate to scholarships.
2. Former donors need to contribute again.
3. Previous donors can consider increasing their donation.
4. New members need to be recruited to become potential donors.
5. Everybody is encouraged to ask Badger supporters, family, friends, and small, medium and large companies to assist us. Knowing that all of our donations reach scholarship recipients is a powerful incentive to donate.

Upon studying the estimated costs published by the UW-Madison Office of Student Financial Aid, you will understand the necessity of financial assistance in the form of scholarships of all sizes and types.

Source: https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/

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<th>Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA) for ONE Academic Year - UW Madison 2019-2020</th>
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<th>Undergraduate Non-Resident</th>
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Let’s build our University League Scholarship Benefit’s impact.

**Step Up with a Scholarship Benefit donation between February 1 - May 15, 2020!**

Simultaneously smile for doing good for others.
Thank you so very much.

Interest Group News

Bird Study Group
Despite the unusually wet and cold fall, the Bird Study Group saw many interesting birds on our weekly walks. The back newsletter page shows the group at Horicon Marsh on a rare nice day. Participants saw 50 bird species including Trumpeter Swan, Great Egret, Whooping Crane, and White Pelican at Horicon Marsh.

The group meets Friday mornings at 9 a.m. in the spring and fall at the Covenant Presbyterian Church parking lot on the corner of Segoe and Mineral Point Roads. We welcome beginning birders. If you do not have binoculars, contact one of the leaders before the field trip and the leader will bring you a pair to use. Even non-birders will enjoy the January 24 trip to Sauk City to see Bald Eagles, including a stop at the Blue Spoon Cafe to visit and warm up.

This winter the leaders will have two indoor educational programs at 9:30 a.m. at the Panera Bread on University Avenue. On January 31, Jill Feldkamp will present an overview of field guides, cell phone apps, and other bird identification resources. On February 14, Roma Lenehan will discuss how to identify waterfowl.

On March 13, the spring field trips begin with swans and other waterfowl at Goose Pond. In March the group focuses on migrating waterfowl, in April on early song bird migrants, and in May on neotropical migrants like warblers, orioles, and flycatchers. Potential highlights include Pheasant Branch on May 8, Governor’s Island on May 15, and the all day trip to Devil’s Lake/Sauk Prairie Conservation Area on June 5. The full schedule is posted on the League website, www.univleague.wisc.edu, under Interest Groups (dates may change depending on weather or rare bird sightings). Contact Jill (jeldkamp@gmail.com or 692-0450) or Roma (rlenehan@charter.net or 238-5406) for more information.

Come to one or multiple field trips – you never know what we will find!

Armchair Travelers
Armchair Travelers meets on the first Monday of the month from October through May at 7 p.m. at Heritage Oaks in Oakwood West (doors to the building lock at 6:58 p.m. – so arrive early). Here is the spring schedule of programs (no January meeting):

- February 3 – “Poland, the homeland of Chopin, Madame Curie, and Nicholas Copernicus” – Irene Swiggum and Deb Ankowicz will take you on a tour of this beautiful country of diverse landscapes and colorful history.
- March 2 – “Norway” – Experienced traveler Alenka Weinhold will present her family’s adventures.
- April 6 – “Deep Spain: Spanish Life outside the Center” – Julie M. Dhal, PhD, Director of the Language Programs in Spanish, Portuguese, German, Korean, and Chinese, Division of Continuing Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will share her travels through the Spanish countryside and the small towns of Andalusia and Extremadura to discover fascinating glimpse of Spanish culture both past and present. From family kitchens to the town squares to sports stadiums, we will learn about life in deep Spain. Dr. Dahl has spent over 20 years teaching Spanish language and culture and has lived in different regions of Spain.

Note: The April meeting will be held at the Sequoia Library on Midvale Blvd at 6:30 p.m.
Come and bring a friend. For more information, contact Mary Jo Willis (467-8608).
As guests arrived to find their nametags and places at tables, they were invited into the ballroom to watch two performances of the Peruvian dance group, Mosaico. The dancers performed a folkdance using scarves and baskets, then launched into a joyful, hip-swinging, festival dance. Very enjoyable!

Ryan Meisel and his QuArtet, saxes, a bass, keyboard and drums, played both during and after the delicious dinner, entertaining us with jazzy renditions of Christmas music and soft jazz to which we were invited to dance.

And, as usual, everyone had a wonderful time!