

1982 – Fall 2021 Class Letter

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Dear Classmates,

Greetings from your Class Agents!

Some of us here in the Midwest are experiencing a hint of fall in the air! That always takes me back to the exciting “back to campus” feeling from so many years ago, even for a brief time. As I (**KRISTEN RASMUSSEN OLSON '82/P'20**) watch my youngest leave for college, I get to experience the promise of what a new semester can bring – new classes, friends, in-person learning (fingers crossed--isn't that something we all took for granted!), extracurriculars, plus more. I feel fortunate to have had the solid college learning experience at Ripon, along with the added bonus of friends made and memories shared. As we know, some of those friendships can last a lifetime. And some of those friendships can be rekindled after 40 years of being apart! That is just what we hope to do next summer as we celebrate our 40th Class Reunion!

Alumni Weekend:

The College reports that alumni and guests from 29 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, were on campus, Aug. 6-8. A handful of our classmates gathered in August for Alumni Weekend (moved to late summer due to the pandemic). Despite some rainy weather, we had a great time. Most events were moved indoors, but it was still fun to see people gathering together to reminisce and rekindle those friendships! A highlight for me was taking over the Hughes House porch with other classmates during a huge thunderstorm on Saturday evening, while enjoying pizza from Roadhouse, beer, pop and wine. **NANCY BUCK '82/P'10** and **PETER HINTZ '82/P'10** joined me and my husband, Eric P'20, along with **LISA KRCHAK '82**, **CINDY TRAYNOR '81** and Deb and **JEFF McANDREW '81**.

News from the College:

It wouldn't be a class letter without some news from the College!

A record-breaking 2,087 donors from all around the world supported Ripon's fourth annual giving day on April 28, known as #OneDayRally. Way to go, Alumni!

Ripon College's endowment has surpassed \$100 million and now sits at \$112 million. Gifts to Ripon College during FY'21 included \$3,104,934.10 in unrestricted funds; and \$7,838,390.35 in restricted funds, for a combined total of \$10,943,324.45.

Classes started on Monday, August 30, and the academic year is in full swing with in-person classes. The College is continuing to follow CDC and Fond du Lac County Health Department guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety protocols.

Farr Hall has seen a renovation to the McCullough Family Lounge (a favorite place for students to study and work collaboratively), and a Data Visualization Lab was installed in Todd Wehr Hall—a great asset for math, computer science and data sciences departments.

Class News Notes:

LAURA NORRIS '82 of Minneapolis, Minnesota, writes, "I'm working as a Social Work Supervisor for Hennepin County in Minneapolis, for a program helping individuals at risk for institutional placement, live in the community with services. I've been married to Henry for 26 years and we live near the city lakes in Minneapolis. Our 24-year-old son, Sam, is a newspaper reporter in Ketchikan, Alaska. Our daughter, Elizabeth, is a sophomore studying public health at American University in Washington D.C. Our dog, Byrdie, is annoyed that her nap schedule has been interrupted by the new work from home schedule courtesy of the pandemic."

KRISTEN RASMUSSEN OLSON '82/P'20 of Austin, Minnesota, shares, "My husband, Eric P'20, and I have had a long-standing rivalry around who has seen the best bands. We attend most concerts together, although there are some that appeal more to one of us than the other. Anyway, a few weeks ago we had the chance to attend Ashley for the Arts in Arcadia, Wisconsin, which is a four-day outdoor event showcasing pop, rock and country bands. We enjoyed listening to the Marshall Tucker Band, Jefferson Starship and Foreigner, among others (takes me back!). We missed out on several concerts this year, due to postponements, including Elton John, The Guess Who and Barry Manilow. Some of us never grow up! Here is a picture of the family at Ashley for the Arts."

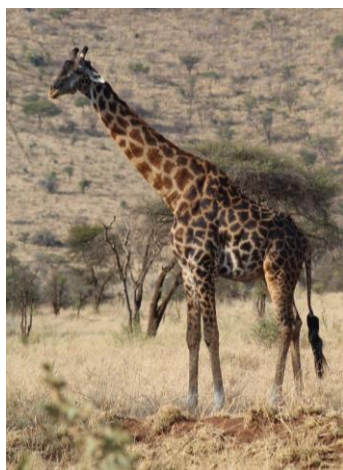


DAWN BENNING LABARBERA '82 of Fort Wayne, Indiana, writes, "I just started a Physician Assistant Program at Mercy College of Ohio. It was exciting to matriculate our students and quite the learning curve to do synchronous live distance learning. I did retire from my part time clinical practice job as a PA in family medicine this summer. Bittersweet indeed. Maybe this will leave me with more time with my two grandkids soon."

LAUREL STEWART '82 of Palatine, Illinois, sends her update, "I recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of living in Palatine, Illinois. I believed it to be a good community when I moved into a new townhouse in January 1991, but I didn't realize I'd end up spending most of my adult life in the area! Palatine was a convenient place to live while working in downtown Chicago, which I did until 1997. However, it became even more so when one of the attorneys I worked with in Chicago changed fields and opened up a financial business only two miles from my house! The move from working in the legal sector to the banking and financial sector was a nice change, and I've been here for close to 25 years now. I'm expecting the guys I work with to retire within the next few years, and at that time I'll probably do the same. I'm looking forward to attending our 40th Reunion at Ripon next June and catching up with classmates!"

KRISTIN KOHLES JANSSEN '82 of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, writes, "We were in Alaska until the 22nd and then I flew to California on the 26th to help my parents pack up and move to Wisconsin. It's no small feat as they've lived in this home 46 years! After being evacuated three times in the last four years because of fire, it was time to make a change. So they're coming to live with us! Other news, we're empty nesters. Our daughter, Jenna, finished her Masters in March and moved to Madison to work for Catalent Pharma Solutions in their Human Safety division. Our son Michael & his wife, Silvie, gave us our first grandchild, a girl, Lenna Rose, in April! We're over the moon! I get to watch her once a week (when we're not traveling). We just found out that our son, Greg (a past Ripon College Men's tennis coach) and his wife Lindsey are expecting a baby in the spring and that our son, Geoff, and his fiancée, Cleopatra, are planning a wedding for September 2022! Life is good. Our family just keeps growing and we couldn't be happier!"

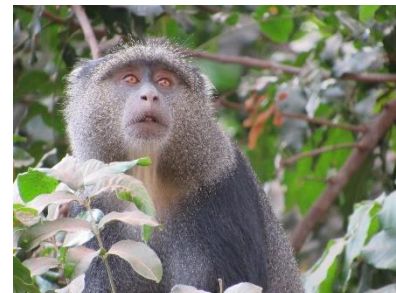
PETER HINTZ '82/P'10 of Rochester, Minnesota, writes, "**NANCY BUCK HINTZ '82/P'10** and I have completed our move from Green Lake to Rochester, Minnesota, and we are exploring what southern Minnesota has to offer. We enjoy being closer to and visiting our family who live in nearby Minneapolis and LaCrosse. I have accepted an English teaching position in a district just outside of Rochester. I find it odd to be in new teacher training again. Nancy is especially enjoying spending more time with the grandchildren. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our reunion next year."



LINDA JENSEN HALL '82 of Cedar Falls, Iowa, shares, "In early August, **KEVIN HALL '82** and I traveled to Tanzania for a safari that took us to the Serengeti National Park where we caught the great migration of wildebeests and zebras. Not only were we lucky enough to catch three river crossings as part of the migration, but we saw some of the more difficult to see animals, such as black rhino and leopards. We visited the Ngorongoro Crater, which is an amazing place with its own ecosystem. We originally booked this trip for 2020, but had to delay travel to this year because of the pandemic. This was a good time to travel because there were not a lot of tourists. Therefore, we had our own private guide, and stayed in some

amazing safari lodges along the way. Our last three nights we were tent camping on the Serengeti, which allowed us to get close to animals and hear their calls at night and at daybreak. We feel truly lucky to have taken this trip when we did because we got to see and do so much more than what we anticipated.”

Enjoy some photos from her trip!



GREGG RIEDER '82 of Little Elm, Texas, writes, “Our daughter, Lauren, graduated from Ole Miss in May 2020 and landed a teaching position in Allen, Texas that fall. Earlier this year my wife, Toni, and I became empty nesters as Lauren decided it was time to move out on her own; funny enough, she does make it a point to stop by for a home cooked meal on Sunday evenings. Hard to believe Toni and I have now been living in Little Elm, Texas for almost five years. The move from Illinois was at the ‘suggestion’ of my employer, Nokia. As so many folks did during the pandemic, we were looking for some outdoor adventures, deciding to take advantage of the nearby lake and became boat owners. Most weekends this summer you could find us zipping around Lake Lewisville. Looking forward to returning to Ripon in June.”



CHRIS SHEPARD '82 of Sedona, Arizona, completed his seventh Ragbrai, a seven-day bicycle ride across Iowa and he proudly represented Ripon!

KEVIN SHERIDAN '82 of Evanston, Illinois, sends his update: “My girls are healthy, happy, and doing great at their respective schools. Morgan is currently completing her senior year at the University of Texas at Austin (Yes, Hookem’ Horns!). She spent the summer working in Austin and working very hard. She is majoring in I/O Psychology and wants to pursue a related profession once she finishes school. I am very proud of Morgan and all she has accomplished. Hannah’s academic path has been amazing to watch. Straight A’s throughout high school at New Trier in Wilmette and she

was accepted to every college/university to which she applied. She also received a major scholarship from the University of Vermont; my pride in her forgetting that has nothing to do with the money and ALL to do with her hard work and accomplishments. I can’t wait to see what she does next! Personally, my big news is that I finally extracted myself from the State of Illinois and am currently living in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. I found a really nice two-bedroom, two-bath, luxury condo in a development called San Merano in a wonderful neighborhood called Mirasol. I hope to never move again! I gladly welcome visitors, especially those of you who will continue to experience cold and harsh winters in the

north. My keynote speaking practice is re-awakening post-pandemic as event planners are beginning to schedule live in-person events again. Yeah! I also thank God that the second management book I wrote, *The Virtual Manager*, is all about remote work, remote workers, and best practice remote management practices. I have to admit that it was sheer luck that Career Press asked me to write on that subject 14 years ago! Lastly, I have continued to stay fit and cannot wait to begin traveling again! I am hoping all is well with you and yours!

40th Class Reunion:

Save the Date: June 23-26, 2022

It's hard to believe that nearly 40 years have passed since we left the halls of Ripon College! With that being so, we are gearing up for our next big reunion, June 23-26, 2022! There is a strong reunion committee of our classmates dedicated to helping create a memorable event next year. Watch for updates and requests for information to come your way over the next few months. In addition to planning fun events over the Reunion Weekend, we plan to create a "memory book" of "then" and "now" photos and remembrances that will be shared with all classmates.


Now that you know the dates of the 40th Class Reunion, don't wait too long to make your reservations! There are blocks of rooms available at all popular Ripon hotels, in addition to the Heidel House in Green Lake. At our request, the College has reserved the old Davis Hotel downtown (refurbished and now called the Mapes Hotel) for June 23-26, 2022, for the class of 1982! The rate is \$125 a night, and you can register by going to their website (<https://mapeshotel.com/>) and entering this code: RCABJUNE.

If any of you would still like to get involved with planning our Class Reunion, please email me, **KRISTEN**, at kolsonc21@yahoo.com or **PETER** at hintzp@gmail.com and there will be a spot for you to share your ideas or talents!

That's it for now! Keep on smiling!



KRISTEN RASMUSSEN OLSON '82



PETER HINTZ '82/P'10