



Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

February 1, 2010

In This Issue

- Maintaining Excellence in Higher Education During Challenging Times
- Afghanistan First to Use New Polio Vaccine

Guests

- Doug Mell – UW-Stout Director of University Communications
- Kristina Skornikova – Rotary Exchange Student from Slovakia

Resignation:

- Jane Gobler (2/1/2010)

Leaves of Absence

- Dan Donnellan (12/01/2009 – 1/31/2010)
- John DeRosa (10/25/2009 – 3/31/2010)
- Jeanne Chilson (1/25/2010 – 3/31/2010)
- Kris Becker (10/13/2009 – 4/13/2010)
- Glenn Horejsi (1/13/2010 – 4/30/2010)
- Ron Dulitz (11/22/2009 – 5/10/2010)
- Dennis Vanden Bloomen (1/1/2010 – 5/31/2010)

The 4-Way Test

Of the things, we think, say or do:

1. Is it the 'Truth'?
2. Is it 'Fair' to all concerned?
3. Will it build 'Goodwill' and 'Better Friendships'?
4. Will it be 'Beneficial' to all?

Maintaining Excellence in Higher Education During Challenging Times by Dr. Charles W. Sorenson

(Thanks to Don Huebscher for providing this program summary)

University of Wisconsin-Stout Chancellor Charles W Sorensen spoke at our February 1 meeting, mainly about how UW-Stout is trying to maintain educational excellence during a challenging period. Here are some highlights from his remarks.

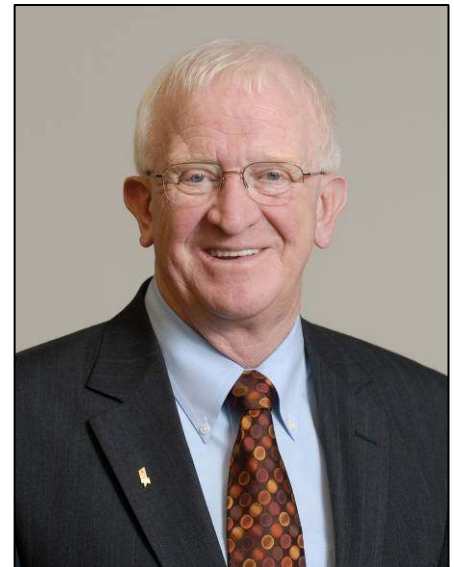
- 1996 – decision to modernize UW Stout’s infrastructure, which meant developing a wired and wireless environment;
- 1996-1997 – decision to introduce a laptop initiative; the pilot was rolled out in 1999 and adopted in 2001;
- 1999: decision to apply for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and won the award in 2001.

Why did UW-Stout seek designation as “Wisconsin’s Polytechnic University,” and what are the characteristics?

It differentiates and brands UW-Stout differently. Its characteristics include career focus, applied learning to solve real-world problems, and student-faculty research:

The polytechnic model at UW-Stout is built around four pillars:

1. Ethics Center – made possible in part by a \$1 million donation.
2. Program incubation Center – produced 15 new programs in the last six years. It now has a total of 40 undergraduate and 20 graduate programs in such areas as engineering, gaming, cognitive science, and supply chain management.
3. Honors Program – has a goal of 300 students.
4. Discovery Center – made possible in part by a \$2.1 million donation. It is



Dr. Charles W. Sorensen

served as a teacher, historian, academic dean and academic vice president prior to joining the University of Wisconsin-Stout staff in 1988 as the sixth person to head this century-old institution.

A native of Moline, Illinois, Dr. Sorensen received a baccalaureate degree in history and political science from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and an M.S. degree in history from Illinois State University. He holds a Ph.D. degree in American history from Michigan State University and attended the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management.

Our Calendar

February 8 – The Obesity Epidemic by Dr. William J. Klish; Youth Rotars Honored

February 15 – Club Assembly

February 17 -- Board Meeting at Bank Mutual

February 22 – American Red Cross Update, by Kyle Kriegl

March 1 – The World of Professional Bike Racing by Tom McCarty

March 8 – to be announced

March 15 – How the FBI Serves Eau Claire by Special Agent Dave Fitzgerald

Officers/Board of Directors for the 2009-10 Rotary Year

President – Jacqe Lahn

President-Elect – Jon Niebergall

Vice President – Sara Antonson

Secretary – Mary Knight

Exec Sec / Treas – Jerry Reinecke

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Club – Angela Hite

Community – Bob Schmidt

International – Mark Morse

Vocational – Marcia Van Beek

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Rotary District 6250
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an umbrella for applied research and has produced 20 viable projects since last July. Overall, 50 projects have been staged or launched, and 19 have been completed. Areas of investigation include fuel cells, dental crafters, food science and more than a dozen new products developed. We also are initiating a patent on an adjustable table for a science lab

The results of these initiatives include record enrollment, new programs, increased fund-raising and national visibility through a national conference for polytechnic universities held in 2009, and a second conference scheduled for this year.

Afghanistan First to Use New Polio Vaccine

(Reprinted in part from Rotary International News as edited by Mark Morse.)

A new oral polio vaccine, developed to stop the transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polio viruses simultaneously, made its world debut during Subnational Immunization Days in Afghanistan in December, 2009.

An estimated 2.8 million children received the vaccine during the campaign, which was funded by the Canadian government.

According to the [World Health Organization](#), the bivalent vaccine is also intended for introduction in India and Nigeria by late January and is expected to be a critical new tool in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Of the three wild polioviruses, known as types 1, 2 and 3, type 2 hasn't been seen anywhere in the world since 1999. This achievement led to the development of monovalent vaccines, which provide more effective protection against a single type than the traditional trivalent vaccine. In a clinical field trial completed in June, the newly developed bivalent vaccine proved to be at least 30 percent more effective than the trivalent vaccine and almost as good as the monovalent vaccines.

As of December 22, 2009, Afghanistan reported 31 polio cases in 2009, 28 of which occurred in the southern region.

Families there are frequently on the move because of the changing security situation, limiting health workers' access to children. The bivalent vaccine simplifies the logistics of optimally protecting each child.

One reason health workers encountered little resistance during the immunization campaign was the effectiveness of social mobilizers. Before the effort began, volunteers trained by WHO, UNICEF, and the health ministry visited homes and explained the importance of vaccination.

Another reason was the agreement of Taliban leaders to allow immunization in the areas they control. Health workers who went house to house to vaccinate children carried letters from these leaders endorsing the campaign.

The ongoing effort to end polio in the country is staunchly supported by Rotary's Afghanistan PolioPlus Committee, chaired by Ajmal Pardis, a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad.



A health worker administers the new bivalent oral polio vaccine to a child in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of UNICEF)