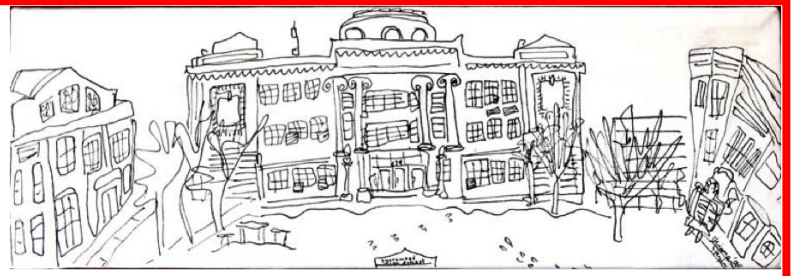


# The Shorewood Connection

Shorewood, Wisconsin  
www.shorewoodalumni.org



A Newsletter for Members of the Alumni Association of Shorewood High School:  
The Leadership Edition

Summer 2009/ Eighth Edition



The Leadership Edition features six interviews with leaders from our vast alumni community: Steve Wexler, VP of Journal Broadcast Group; Anne Hérrison-Leplae, Executive Director of Alliance Française; David Banaszynski, Shorewood Police Chief; Lori Holton, Performer; Kris Coffey, Philanthropist; and Helene Gresser, New Board Member.

Steve Wexler, Class of '76  
(By Tony Lorino, Class of '99)

The location: a small bedroom in a house on Morris Boulevard, just steps away from 1701 East Capitol Drive.

The scene: a Shorewood High School senior, rattling off the latest weather forecast into a tape recorder for a class project. "Gonna be a beautiful Spring day in Shorewood, a high of 65. It's 52 degrees right now at WEXL in Shorewood!" Back then, many of his classmates may have thought the Student Council President and SHS drama club member had an obsession with radio. A weird obsession. But the young man who he says, "was impatient to get his career started," took his bedroom tapes, his boisterous personality, and the lessons he learned at Shorewood High School and established quite the career after his graduation.

Today, Steve Wexler serves as the Executive Vice President of Journal Broadcast Group, overseeing TV and radio stations in three markets – including Today's TMJ4, 620 WTMJ Radio, and 94.5 "Lake FM" right here in Milwaukee.

His journey started after graduation, when he took on-air radio jobs at WTMJ and the former WKTI. After several years, he found himself at WTMJ's cross-town rival, 1130 WISN. A year later, Seattle called, and he took the challenge. Then, in 1993, the hometown boy had the opportunity to return to his roots at WTMJ – literally blocks away from his old stomping grounds. Then he went to Arizona and now, finally, he and his family are home. And with Shorewood High School just down the street from the office, it's hard not to drive past with fond memories, he said.

"I met my future wife (Amy James) on stage during the spring musical, 'Anything Goes,'" Wexler said. "Barbara Gensler put us both on stage and told us we were supposed to look into each other's eyes and act like we were falling in love. Guess this was the one time I listened to a teacher's instructions at SHS."

All joking aside, Wexler says the climate at Shorewood helped him grow as a young man, and set the stage for his leadership today. [See *Leadership* p. 5]

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- P.7 Renew Your Membership
- P.8 D2D Sports Field Update

Email:  
shorewoodconnection@gmail.com



SHS Alumni Association sponsored a Butterfly in the Shorewood-wide art exhibit: [Butterflies in Flight](#) featuring 30 hand-painted and embellished resin 3'x3' butterflies that are on display around town. Our #16 represents the High School and pays homage to the front lawn and many memories sent to the artist. It is called "SHS: Launching Leaders" and will be on display until Aug 23 in front of the [Community Fitness Center](#). Hubbard Lodge [Benefit Auction August 30](#) –all proceeds to the [Shorewood Foundation](#).

## REUNION NEWS

### REUNIONS – COMING HOME!

Everybody likes to go home. And Shorewood High is 'home' to many of our times of growth and fun and challenge.

Coming Soon! **The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the Class of '59** is July 24 – 26, 2009, starting at [Brew City Grill](#) in Mequon on Friday. The fun continues with an SHS Tour on Saturday led by Sonja Ivanovich. Saturday afternoon there will be a golf outing and dinner at [Brynwood Country Club](#). Festivities conclude with a brunch at the Anchorage on Sunday morning. Many volunteers have worked on a memory book, SHS scarf gift and fun door prizes.

Contact Pat Benway 414-332-7172 or email [benwaypp@hotmail.com](mailto:benwaypp@hotmail.com).

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the Class of '79** was May 29 – 30, 2009, organized by Nelson Chiu. Festivities included Aliota's on Friday, a tour of the High School Saturday morning and Dinner at the Milwaukee Athletic Club Saturday night!



Check out more pictures on the [Facebook](#) page at [Shorewood High School Class of 1979](#).



*Class of '79 on the SHS Reunion Tour*

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the Class of 1989** was held the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup> and was a complete success! The event was chaired by Tomika Gray-Vukovic and Deborah Peterson. Friday night, alumni Ryan Gray and Jake Sharinski, owners of the Cudahy Tap Room, hosted a well-attended 80's party for the classes of '88, '89 and '90. Saturday events included a school tour and a picnic in Estabrook Park for friends, family and teachers. The day culminated with a cocktail dinner complete with King and Queen of the Reunion.



*Class of 1989 at their 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion*

An online [video](#) was created of the reunion, available on the [Facebook group page](#) at SHS Class of 1989 Reunion or email: [shorewood89@yahoo.com](mailto:shorewood89@yahoo.com).

### PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR!

The **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the Class of '60** has been announced for September 10-12, 2010, pursuant to a vote amongst alumni. Their Saturday night celebration will be at the [Wisconsin Club](#), chock full of many memories. Stay tuned for more details. Contact Terry Lampiris at [tgl@aol.com](mailto:tgl@aol.com).

**Planning a Reunion?** Want to find out if someone already is doing this for your class? Contact us at [shorewoodalumni@gmail.com](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.com) to help spread the word about your reunion, help with class lists, organizing tours of the school, or joining the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade for 2010!

### Upcoming Reunion Schedule

#### SATURDAY JULY 11

**Late-breaking news: COME TO THE First-Ever All-Alumni Reunion Picnic July 11, 2009 from 10-6 at Lake Park, Site #2 (Locust and Lake)! \$5 Donation, BYOB, be a part of making history! Next year's picnic is already in the planning stages. July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week in July? Email [shorewoodalumni@gmail.com](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.com) to vote.**

### Class of 1959 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Dates: July 24-26, 2009

Contact: Pat Benway, 414-332-7172 or email her at [benwaypp@hotmail.com](mailto:benwaypp@hotmail.com).

### Class of 1984 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Class of 1984 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Planned for September 25 – 27, 2009. For more information or to volunteer, contact Steve Berg, (Cell) 612 385-3125. Facebook site: [Shorewood High School Class of 1984](#).

### Class Websites

Does your class have a website or facebook page? Add it to the list! Send the link to [shorewoodalumni@gmail.com](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.com).

Link your group to the [Shorewood High School Alumni Group](#) on Facebook to expand your reach to over 650 members and to stay in touch with the SHS Alumni Association!

**Email your Reunion info, pictures and questions to:**  
[\*\*shorewoodalumni@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.com)

**Message from Jenny Steinman Heyden,  
New SHS Alumni Association President**



The SHS Alumni Association's primary goal is to help you stay in touch with other alumni and the Shorewood community, and help the high school continue its tradition of academic excellence and community connections. As your new president, I am dedicated to creating an active association that will help fulfill this mission. We will be updating the website, creating more opportunities to connect with other alumni, and making sure your contributions and ideas are realized.

I feel passionate about keeping community involvement and academic rigor strong for the future at SHS. The alumni association is working on creating the first Alumni Endowment as a way to help contribute. Scholarships are great for our graduates, but keeping students in contention for the best colleges is something an endowment could help secure.



We are happy to unveil the new alumni identification that preserves the Hounds! A window cling and new T-shirt are now available to proudly display your red and grey. (The shirt has the dog on the back!) See back page of this newsletter for ordering info.

See you around the Village!



**Sincerely,**  
**Jenny Steinman Heyden**, Class of '86  
SHS Alumni President

You can reach the Alumni Assn at:  
Alumni Email: [shorewoodalumni@gmail.org](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.org)  
Website: [www.shorewoodalumni.org](http://www.shorewoodalumni.org)



[www.greeningshorewood.org](http://www.greeningshorewood.org)

Students and Community Collaborate for Energy, Water and Food!

A coalition of students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members is working to make Shorewood a **leader** in the movement for environmentally sustainable communities.

Greening Shorewood, with over 100 members, has a three-part mission: to ensure Shorewood students an environmental education, to lessen the school district's environmental footprint, and to aid enrollment by creating a progressive image for the schools. Within that mission, the group has focused its energy into three areas: Energy, Water, and Food.

Although the group is less than two years old, they have already had a large impact on the High School. Through their efforts, grants have been received from Focus on Energy and WE Energies for the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the SHS and SIS rooftops. A series of solar thermal panels will also be installed at SHS. The combination will curb the district's electrical costs and will also bring down the natural gas needs for heating the SHS and VHE pools on the high school campus.

Stormwater runoff, particularly from the SHS parking lot, is another area of concern. Grants have been written and received from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) for best management practices of storm water within the SHS parking lot. A series of bioswales will be designed along the parking lot edges to filter particulates and oils from stormwater as it seeps into the ground.

In addition, a series of raised garden beds were recently on the south edge of the SHS Auditorium building. The garden beds are used by several school groups including the New Horizons charter school and the Foods Club. Community members also have access to the gardens through a class offered by the Shorewood Recreation Dept. Come check out the organic produce at SHS!

A variety of similarly themed projects are planned for the future, both at the high school and throughout the rest of the district. Greening Shorewood hopes to see eco-literacy woven into much of the school curriculum, and is also striving towards achieving the Wisconsin DNR's "Green and Healthy Schools" designation. For more information, please see <http://www.greeningshorewood.org>

## Shorewood Today: Teachers, Departments, News

### Retiring: Gary Pruett - Technical Theater Director, Mentor



Gary Pruett, working on Saturday, June 27, 2009.. Retired??

Gary Pruett retired this year after 35 years at SHS. I reached him at the stage on a Saturday in June, "just making some important electrical changes." A few hours later, I had some notes.

Pruett moved to Shorewood from Mount Airey, NC for this position, via UW-Steven's Point, in 1973. The son of a fire chief and building inspector, Pruett had the perfect preparation to ably fix things, create large-scale structures that can bear the weight of dancing stomping teenagers, and work as part of a team.

Pruett has a passion for teaching and connecting with even those students who "have to be given a little time and care to thrive, like letting the cream slowly come to the top." Because of his commitment to the Shorewood High School Theater, he has often been around - after hours and on weekends, over the past thirty+ years. He is the person who has been there, happy to talk to us alumni as we wander around and tell him about our seat, our locker, our memories, and he remembers us all and our stories touch him to the point of tears. With Pruett's exit also goes a caring mentor with a level of institutional memory to rival a Smithsonian-level of detail. We will miss his touching grace at the helm of the theater, the school, the open door to our own histories.

(By Jenny Steinman Heyden, '86)

### Incoming: Tim Kenney, Asst. Principal at SHS to become Atwater Elementary Principal

By Casey Tolan, Ripples Staff.  
Excerpted from original published in [Ripples, volume 87, Issue 10, Spring 2009](#) After working at SHS for 12 years, Assistant Principal Tim Kenney is leaving to become Atwater Principal on July 1, replacing current Principal Bonni Haber, who is retiring.

"It's a little surreal [to be leaving SHS]," Kenney said, although he is excited to take his new job. "I will miss this place dearly." Kenney said he applied for the job for several reasons. One of Kenney's goals was to become a principal, and he took the opening when it presented itself.



Tim Kenney, up North with his sons.

"Opportunities like these don't come around very often," Kenney said. "Sometimes you just have to jump in."

Kenney also cited his experience with the age group, his home's proximity to the school, and the fact that his children attend Atwater as reasons he took the job.

Kenney worked as a math teacher for ten years and as an assistant principal for two. "I've enjoyed it very much," Kenney said. "As an administrator, I've taken on leading and meeting students and taking on district responsibilities." He said the practice will be very helpful to him at Atwater. "I see myself at this point staying in that role for a while," Kenney said, anticipating finishing his education by completing his PhD.

[Kenney, continued]

Superintendent Blane McCann said the board agreed that Kenney was the right fit for Atwater. "**Kenney is going to be wonderful at Atwater**," McCann said. "He's earned it."

"I see it as a challenge, one I can live up to and one I will enjoy," Kenney said. "I love Shorewood, and I'm committed to helping it improve."

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**Ripples Newspaper is Online!**  
[www.shorewoodripples.org](http://www.shorewoodripples.org)

**DID YOU KNOW** – you can subscribe to Ripples for \$15.00 per year.  
Shorewood Ripples  
1701 E. Capitol Drive  
Shorewood, WI 53211

Recent Stories:  
[Donna Sheperd](#), Teacher Bio

**COMING SOON!** New Feature – a Link to the "Where are They Going?" MAP of college destinations for the Class of 2009 at [www.shorewoodripples.org](http://www.shorewoodripples.org).



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The original Ripples Desk is still there, complete with the drawer that has been signed by the editors since its inception, including the 16<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the United States, William H. Rehnquist!!

## SHS: Launching Leaders

*Leadership, cont'd from p. 1:*

*Lori Holton Nash, Class of '87*



I recognize leadership in someone who is willing to stand up for what they believe in even when it isn't popular. Leadership is taking responsibility for your actions right or wrong and learning from their effects. Leadership is believing in yourself enough to welcome and accept the ideas and contributions of those around you. SHS gave me the room to grow and flourish as an individual. Principal Linnehan especially gave me the latitude to explore my potential, and then Mrs. Gensler gave me the opportunity to exercise my new skills in the theatrical forum. If I had not had the experiences I had at SHS I never would have been as courageous in college, and thus in my adult life. I have built my career on the foundation that SHS helped me establish.  
SMILE ON!

*Kris (Skogstrom) Coffey, Class of '60  
SHS Alumni Association Board Member*



Critical to my future development was the diversity that Shorewood High fellow students taught me. Culture! Religion! Interests! Economics! To this day, in leadership roles, I am grateful for those experiences.

*[Continued p. 6]*

*David M. Banaszynski Class of '76  
(By Doris Kitazaki, '86)*

Dave Banaszynski is the 8<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police in Shorewood as well as the President of Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.



Even back in high school, his tendency to lead was evident when he was elected president of his senior class. "Shorewood High School and the whole Shorewood School system influenced me and taught me leadership because of the teaching staff. I look back and remember most of my teachers, some habit they had and that they just had an air of success about them. They would do everything in their power to make sure I did not fail and would get the most out of me."

Dave's dedication to education continued as he earned a Master of Science Degree in Management from Cardinal Stritch University, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He is also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, the FBI Academy in Quantico, and the UW-Madison Certified Public Manager's program.

"Shorewood High School always had several activities going on at any time during the year. Shorewood made it easy to get involved and once involved, I always wanted to help make the organization better, so I went for office. Shorewood teaches success." asked the Chief to tell us about the leadership police officers take in the community. "We are the only ones in the State of Wisconsin that can legally take a life or take away someone's freedom."

*Bano, cont'd*

We don't take that obligation lightly and use discretion every day. Most officers do it without any supervision and must make split second decisions that courts sometimes take months or years to decide if it is correct. We might be leaders, but it is the community that makes us that way.

*Anne Hérisson-Leplae, Class of '78*



SHS gave me a great basic education and a passion for learning – these were the tools I needed to strive towards what I wanted to do in life. After graduating from SHS in 1978, I went to a good college, served in the Peace Corps and found a job that I love. Twenty years after graduating from SHS and leaving Shorewood, I chose to come back to give my daughter the same opportunities I was given.

The Shorewood school system creates a community that encourages our children to see teachers and school administrators as allies in their thirst to understand the world around them. Where else but in Shorewood do grade school children beg their parents to bid for the "Lunch with the principal" auction package, and middle schoolers get up early on a Saturday morning to serenade their orchestra teacher at her wedding shower, and high schoolers rejoice at finding their favorite middle school teacher again in high school.

*Kris (Skogstrom) Coffey, cont'd*

The pursuit of excellence ingrained in my being by my peers and special teachers have led to successful leadership roles, both professionally and in voluntarily giving back to communities across the world. Thank you, Shorewood, for your leadership, so ably passed on!

#### GOOD THINGS IN THE WORLD

Diversity in the world! Shorewood High prepared and challenged me. 47 countries to date, with nearly a dozen trips each to China and Argentina, for instance, have enabled not only our emerging global understanding, but also have given us a special opportunity to share with our world brothers. Two particular trips come to mind: El Salvador and Cambodia.

Through the Newman Center at the University of New Mexico, we participated in a small mission to El Salvador. There we experienced firsthand the results of some United States foreign policy and training at the School of the Americas. We worked in far-flung villages eking out an existence midst overwhelming circumstances.

There are indeed many person-to-person groups desperately trying to help their neighbors raise themselves up, particularly through education and scholarships for worthy families. In Cambodia, we met with Ponheary Li whose father was killed by the Kymer Rouge, just because he was a teacher.

Now Ponheary and her family sponsor education for the next generation so that they can stand up for their country's best. We participated in her schools in in remote villages and we are not the same. Needless to say we contribute to her efforts financially. The magnificent temples at Anghor are far outshaded by the story and works of a simple woman.

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*Helene Gresser, Class of '84*

#### *New Board Member*

[Editor's note: We are thrilled to welcome our Newest SHS Alumni Board Member, Helene Gresser. Her diverse background including standup comedy in New York will be much appreciated on the board. She shared thoughts about SHS in her application, excerpted here.]



*Helene Gresser*

From the moment I started attending Lake Bluff Elementary, with the wonderful Ann Furlong as my first-grade teacher, to my last day at Shorewood High School, Michael Huth as my strongest influence and brilliant guide, I have felt indescribably lucky to have had a Shorewood public school education.

I loved going to school every day, and participated in student government as a student council president at SIS, class president for my freshman and sophomore years at SHS, Drama Club

president junior year, Ripples Features Editor senior year, Chorus secretary, Gymnastics team manager, Academic Decathlon medal-winner, forensics team member, SHS pool and Atwater Beach certified lifeguard, and even SHS bookstore clerk. I'd stay after school to play "Password" with Mr. Huth and other eager classmates, just for fun – though we were always learning as we played.

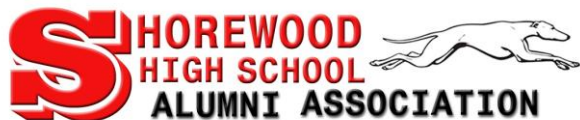
As a proud alumnus, it is my duty and my pleasure to give something back to the community that nurtured and educated me and generations of high-achieving, independent thinkers. Every Shorewood alumnus I've spoken with has felt as I do; that SHS gave them the opportunities and advantages needed to succeed, not just in college or in the professional world, but as well-rounded, critical-thinking members of society.

The SHS Alumni Association exists to not only raise funds for possible scholarships and needed SHS projects, but to give a forum to and raise awareness of the need for a diverse and demanding public school education.

Check out Helene's latest effort at [www.heyrude.com](http://www.heyrude.com).

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**JOIN NOW** – The SHS Alumni Association is looking for two more board members to round out our board. Like Helene, you have a passion for Shorewood yet don't need to live here to remember your alma mater. We're able to use technology to make meetings possible. Applications are being accepted for August now! Email [shorewoodalumni@gmail.com](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.com).



## New and Renewing Membership Form

### Annual Renewal for School Year 2009-2010

The Shorewood High School Alumni Association is an organization dedicated to supporting our graduates with connections to SHS and each other, and to helping our alma mater continue to provide an excellent educational experience. Members will receive *the Shorewood Connection* -- the periodic alumni newsletter, occasional SHS news updates via e-mail, invitations to school and alumni events, and assistance with reunion planning.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive the Newsletter: Via Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Via Delivery to My Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes or Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Address for Tshirt (**Send as a Gift!**): \_\_\_\_\_

#### One-year membership \$20; Lifetime membership \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership (\$20 one year, \$250 Lifetime)

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Window Clings (\$2) (One is Included with Membership)

\_\_\_\_\_ Alumni T-Shirt (\$10 + \$4 shipping). (Please state Quantity\_\_\_\_, Size\_\_\_\_ )

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation to be used by the Alumni Association as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

**Please make checks out to SHS Alumni Association.**

**Mail a copy of this form and your payment to:**

**SHS Alumni Association Membership Committee**

**1701 E. Capitol Dr., Shorewood, WI 53211**

Our SHS Alumni Association was formed in 2003 as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization in order to provide a means for alumni to maintain contact with and support Shorewood Schools and each other. All donations are tax deductible; purchases of merchandise are tax exempt.

The Shorewood High School Alumni Association Board Members are:

Jenny Steinman Heyden '86 (President, Editor-in-Chief of *Connection* newsletter),

Kris (Skogstrom) Coffey '60 (*Connection* contributor), Alexander P. Fraser '86, Rachel de Hartog '95

(*Connection* contributor), Doris Kitazaki '86 (*Connection* contributor),

Desty Lorino '75, and Helene Gresser '84.

**If you have an interest in joining the Alumni Board, or being a helper with Alumni Association activities, contact: [shorewoodalumni@gmail.com](mailto:shorewoodalumni@gmail.com). Website: [www.shorewoodalumni.org](http://www.shorewoodalumni.org)**

## Drive-to-Distinction Progress Report



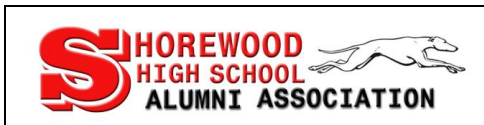
Thanks to the generous support of Shorewood alumni and community members, the new athletic field and track at SHS has become a reality. In addition to the SHS and SIS sports teams, PE classes, and marching bands, the Shorewood Kickers, UWM Panther Football, WI Youth Soccer Associations, Eastside Lacrosse, and the MSOE Lacrosse Club have utilized the field. More groups are coming as summer sports get underway, including the St. Francis Monarchs, a semi-pro football team that has made Shorewood their home field.

However, the project is not finished yet! [Drive to Distinction \(D2D\)](#) is still fundraising to build a new grandstand, replacing the rented bleachers and rented bathroom facilities currently being used. Once completed, the grandstand will include team rooms, restrooms, a concession stand and press box. It will also be used as a community gathering place for art fairs, farmers markets, which will be a significant contribution to the Village.

If you are interested in making a donation or pledge, they can be mailed to Shorewood High School/D2D, Attn. Lynn Rentmaster, 1701 E. Capitol Drive, Shorewood, WI 53211. For more information/donation forms, please see the D2D website <http://www.drivetodistinction.org> or call 414-963-6920.



*Aerial View of SHS new field and preparation for grandstand.*



1701 E. Capitol Drive  
Shorewood, WI 53211  
[www.shorewoodalumni.org](http://www.shorewoodalumni.org)

Mail To: