

EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Know Your Purgolder: Larry Meiller

“Conversations With Larry Meiller” host started speaking career as student at East High School

Larry, class of '62, is a professor in the UW-Madison Department of Life Sciences Communication. He teaches and advises students on everything from news writing to communication theory to radio broadcasting, and serves on many UW committees and boards. He has been a Wisconsin Public Radio host for over 30 years. “Conversations With Larry Meiller” is heard on 18 stations; it covers a range of topics, including science, popular culture, sports, the environment and gardening. In addition, he co-hosts a national show, “Calling All Pets,” heard on 130 stations. Larry lives on the shore of Lake Monona with his wife Renee and two-year-old daughter Emily. His daughters from a previous marriage, Diann and Carolee, live in Milwaukee.

Life before East:

I grew up on a farm near Cottage Grove. I attended a one-room school through 6th grade, school in Cottage Grove for 7th and 8th, and then East.

Favorite teacher:

Vo ag instructor Irv Gerhardt. I had him all four years. He helped me become comfortable speaking to groups. Also, speech class with Miss Williams.

Extracurricular activities:

I was active in Future Farmers of America. Competing against schools from across the country, I was the

national dairy products judging champion. I got a gold medal — just like the Olympics! I also won several public speaking contests through FFA.

Education after East:

My degrees are all from UW Madison: BS (Meat and Animal Science), MS (Agricultural Journalism), and PhD (Mass Communication).

Teaching style:

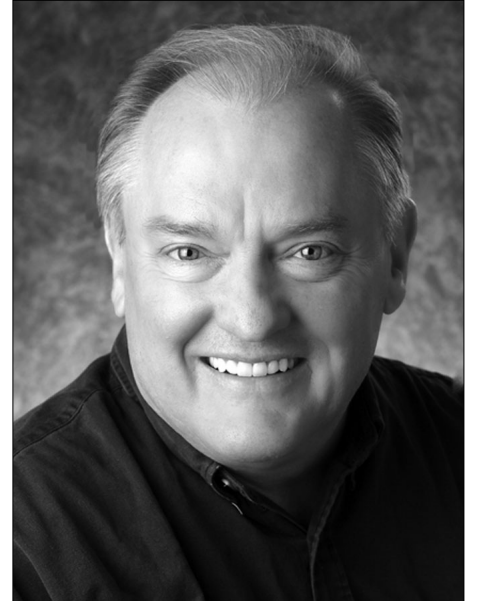
I love teaching and students seem to like the energy I bring. My lectures are like informal discussions; I invite lots of questions and I bring real-life stories and events to the classroom. I've been fortunate enough to win several teaching and advising awards in my career.

Outside the classroom:

I've traveled all over the world to help countries establish radio and extension communications programs. A military guy in Nicaragua pointed a rifle at me and accused me of being with the CIA. Once I was asked to run an airport in central Jamaica for an afternoon, and I agreed to! I had the most harrowing car trip of my life in Pakistan, being driven from Islamabad to Peshawar.

Radio style:

I learned to loosen up and be myself. That was key — not trying to be someone I wasn't. Jim Mader, for years a well-known personality on WIBA



Larry Meiller then and now. At East, nurtured his interest in interest in agriculture and public speaking, which serves him well in his current role as host of “Conversations With Larry Meiller.”

radio, had a style I liked, probably because it matched my personality. So he influenced my style, such as it is!

Professor vs. radio personality:

People recognize my voice — that's fun. They'll blurt out things like “I thought you were younger,” or “I thought you would have more hair.”

Future goal:

To break 80 on the golf course! We're talking about touring the old courses of Scotland; the trip is more realistic than my breaking 80!

How East prepared me for Life:

I learned speaking skills I have used my entire life. Also, its size helped me adjust to UW Madison; I found it much easier than friends from smaller schools. And the diverse student population is something to be cherished.

Advice for students:

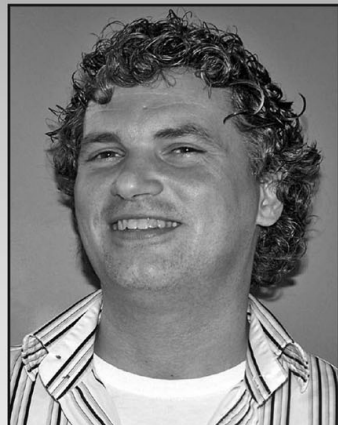
Know your teachers, work hard in class, maintain a variety of outside activities, and excel whenever you can. You are building memories at East that you will have your entire life. Do your best to make those memories positive!

Welcome Anthony!

Anthony has joined the team at DuWayne's Salon.

Anthony has 26 years of experience as a stylist, salon owner, instructor and Paul Mitchell educator.

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