



Going for the Green

New, eco-friendly campus facilities are flushing inefficiency.

On a rain-splattered Earth Day, a construction worker ran a sweeper on Linden Drive to clean up a muddy slurry left behind by dump trucks hauling dirt from the excavation site for the new Microbial Sciences Building. The work keeps soil from running into storm sewers that drain into Lake Mendota.

Later that same morning, officials gathered under the canopy of a nearby gas station to announce a university-funded program that will exchange more than four thousand old gasoline storage cans for new, environmentally friendly ones that Dane County homeowners can use to cut the release of ozone-making ingredients into the atmosphere.

Elsewhere, architects are working on environmentally sound campus buildings, students are using plumbing fixtures that save water and energy, and diesel trucks are using cleaner fuels.

All across the campus, a green movement is picking up steam.

The planned addition to Grainger Hall, for example, will incorporate a number of environmentally conscious design principles, including daylighting — a way of positioning the building to make maximum use of the sun's rays and reduce the need for artificial light. Designers are using more aggressive energy-saving technology and relying on recycled materials, says Kurt Zimmerman, an architect with Milwaukee's Zimmerman Design Group.

"We're talking about the environment going hand in hand with form and function," Zimmerman says.

Near where the sweeper clatters down Linden Drive, the new Microbial Sciences Building will feature the campus's first designed "green roof," which will feature plants and ground-cover in a lightweight soil to help reduce stormwater runoff.

But it's not just new construction that is receiving green scrutiny. The university has invested more than \$29 million

fill its tanks with a blend of ultra-low sulfur diesel and a soybean-based biodiesel fuel in an effort to improve air quality. The new mixture yields a 13 percent reduction in hydrocarbons, a 16 percent decline in emissions of carbon dioxide, and a 15 percent reduction in soot emission.

Not everything on campus is so squeaky clean. The UW's coal-fired heating plant, for

OVER HEARD

"You get to meet people and have eye-to-eye contact, not looking at bright lights. And it's a forum where you get feedback and interaction. I really enjoy it."

— Popular recording artist **Sting**, on why he led a UW-Madison English class a day before a scheduled concert in Madison.



MICHAEL FORSTER ROTHBART

Old toilets are lined up outside Ingraham Hall, one of several campus buildings that has received upgraded facilities in an effort to conserve water and energy.

over several years in improving efficiency in existing buildings.

Alan Fish, associate vice chancellor for facilities, says more than 12 million square feet of university buildings have been audited for energy use, and new energy management systems have been installed.

"We have concentrated on wise use of resources across the campus, replacing 2,000 motors with premium-efficiency motors, installing more than 8,500 occupancy sensors, retrofitting 6,000 lighting fixtures with high-efficiency units, and replacing 3,000 toilets with water saving, ultra-low flow models," Fish says.

Earlier this year, the university's diesel-powered truck fleet became the first in Wisconsin to

example, still receives much criticism from environmental groups as a source of air pollution. The university has invested \$12 million in the past decade to ensure it meets state and federal air standards, and Fish says that officials are evaluating the costs and benefits of additional changes — such as more clean and efficient technology and switching fuels.

But even obsolete buildings may turn out being green in the end. When Ogg Hall is demolished to make room for new student housing, its concrete towers will be ground up and reused in roadbeds. In fact, 75 percent of the old residence hall will be recycled.

— *Dennis Chapman '80*

Making it (Point and) Click

A tool for the instant-feedback generation may help learning.

Professors occasionally look out at the sea of faces in a lecture hall and wonder, "Is this stuff sinking in?" A new technology gaining popularity at UW-Madison and nationally is helping to answer that question before final exams settle the matter for good.

Personal response systems — better known as "clickers" — allow instructors to get instant feedback to questions posed during a lecture. A growing number of professors are finding the devices helpful for getting a quick read on what students understand or need to review — and injecting some active engagement into the normally passive lecture-hall environment.

Here's how they work: along with textbooks, students purchase a clicker that's roughly the size of a television remote and has about a dozen response buttons. During a lecture, professors ask students to respond to questions by punching a button on the clicker, which beams the answers to a receiver. The results are tabulated by software and can be instantly displayed on a projection screen.

Psychology instructor **Jeffrey Henriques MS'89, PhD'98** is a believer in the technology. He uses it in his two-hundred-student introductory psychology course, and he says it yields meaningful information on how well students are absorbing classroom material.

"I like the fact that I can go over material from the previous week," he says. "If a lot of students are getting the answers wrong, I can go back and reinforce those concepts."

Henriques admits he was skeptical at first, since the technology is an added cost to students. (The system he uses charges twenty-five dollars per student.) But he says he is determined to have students get their money's worth by



JEFF MILLER

About the size of a TV remote, the new clickers send an infrared signal to a receiver, where the data are analyzed and formatted into graphics that show instantly how well students are understanding the material.

using it at least once in each class, and feedback from students is generally positive.

"There's an anonymity that students like about this technology," he says. "When you ask for a show of hands in a lecture hall, many students won't raise them. This allows everybody to get involved without making yourself conspicuous by committing to the wrong answer."

Clickers have a long way to go before they're as common as lecterns and chalkboards, but they're clearly drawing more interest. The devices were demonstrated recently at UW-Madison's Teaching and Learning Symposium, an annual event during which colleagues share ideas for improving instruction.

"Clickers can be used to facilitate a 'natural' active and cooperative classroom," says **Jay Martin**, a mechanical engineering professor who was introduced to the technology

through a National Science Foundation coalition. He and engineering colleague **John Mitchell** have developed a methodology they call "assessment-centered instruction," which relies heavily on clickers.

"We ask multiple-choice-style questions that have all sorts of different purposes," Martin says. "Some questions probe specific concepts, others probe definitions, others probe specific skills, and some even address student understanding of how things work."

Not all students like the additional expense of a clicker, but Martin says more students in his classes appreciate it than reject it.

"I want the classroom to be a place where students are actively engaged in learning and assessing their understanding," he says. "The technology assists with this in a big way."

— *Brian Mattmiller '86*

one
number

43

Number of UW-Madison faculty who are members of the National Academy of Sciences, following this spring's election of anthropologist **Karen Strier**. UW-Madison has more professors in the academy than any public university east of California.

The Benefit Deficit

The UW wants to extend benefits to domestic partners — but some object.

Q AND A

Joe Thompson

Life can be tough when you're an upright-walking badger, which is why the UW has people such as **Joe Thompson '84** around. A staffer in UW Athletics' community relations department, Thompson lends a paw ... er, hand ... to help Bucky interact with his fans, including maintaining Bucky's Badger Den Web site (www.uwbadgers.com/for_kids/) and driving the mascot to community events.

Q: So why can't Bucky drive himself? Is it the paws?

A: Yes, it is the paws. They tend to shred the steering wheel, not to mention he gets distracted waving to so many people.

Q: All those fans must keep him busy. What's his schedule like?

A: Bucky is busier than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Not only is he at all of our sporting events, but he spends time visiting schools and hospitals and all sorts of other places, spreading Badger cheer in his inimitable way. I'm kind of like his own personal Secret Service agent, minus the sunglasses and earphones.

Q: What's the first thing kids ask when they meet Bucky?

A: Usually, it's if they can get a hug. They also ask things like, "Where do you live?" and "Why do you wear shoes?"

Q: Why does Bucky wear shoes?

A: Cement is hard on his paws.

Karen Ryker loved her students, her colleagues, and her work as an associate professor in UW-Madison's theater and drama department, where she planned to finish her career.

But the University of Connecticut offered her something the UW did not: health insurance benefits for her partner of twenty-five years, Sarah Jo Burke.

"I was very happy there, and I know they were happy with me," says Ryker, who left the UW in 2002, after more than a decade. "But this is a big issue, and we had to look out for our own future health and well-being."

It is also becoming a big issue for the UW, which is the only school in the Big Ten that does not provide health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of employees. The Board of Regents and Governor **Jim Doyle '67** are now calling for a change to the state law that currently forbids the UW from offering the coverage. At the same time, six lesbian state workers, including three UW System employees, have filed a lawsuit against the state, claiming it discriminates against gay employees by not providing those benefits.

"Even colleagues that are close to you, who know you're gay or lesbian, they might not realize UW doesn't offer benefits. They just assume," says **David Danaher**, an assistant professor of Slavic languages who married his partner of ten years in Canada in 2003.

At least one hundred employers in Wisconsin, as well as more than two hundred Fortune 500 companies, provide benefits for domestic partners of employees. "Given that there is projected to be a significant labor shortage coming in the next ten to fifteen years, you want the very best talent you can possibly get," says **Danae Davis JD'80**, director

for diversity at Miller Brewing Company and a member of the UW Board of Regents. "I think it gives you an edge."

But Doyle's proposal to let the UW begin offering the benefits — part of the two-year state budget he submitted to

into the category of social issues that elicit an "either-you're-with-us-or-against-us type of mentality."

"Because of that, it just doesn't seem to be something the Republican legislature's willing to go along with," he says.



JEFF MILLER

This spring, **Janice Czynscon (left)**, an editor with UW-Madison's College of Engineering, celebrated twenty-five years with partner **Crystal Hyslop**, a paralegal with the Wisconsin Department of Justice. But without a change in state law, neither is eligible for benefits such as family health insurance, which they say leaves many gay couples feeling undervalued.

the legislature in February — comes in an already charged political environment. Republicans who hold a majority in the legislature are pushing for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages, which has sparked emotional debate on both sides. **Scott Fitzgerald**, a Republican state senator who serves as co-chairman of the powerful Joint Finance Committee, says the legislature should be concerned about factors that cause the university to lose qualified staff. But he also notes the proposal to provide domestic partner benefits falls

Fitzgerald says lawmakers who oppose benefits for domestic partners are firmly in line with their constituents, adding that many Republicans would be "more than willing to go home and kind of make the case that they were the ones that killed this entire idea."

The university does offer other benefits to domestic partners of faculty and staff, including resident tuition and dental insurance. But Ryker, who won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1997, isn't the only professor who has cited the lack of health insur-

ance benefits as a reason for leaving. That makes UW officials worry they won't be able to attract top recruits and more professors will decide to pack their bags.

"It goes beyond frustrating," says UW-Madison Provost **Peter Spear**. "We want to get the very best people to come here in all of the disciplines in which we're hiring, and to lose people for a reason like that seems a terrible shame, and it clearly impacts the quality of the university."

Spear says the lack of domestic partner benefits makes a job offer from UW less competitive than one from a peer institution, and he says it sends a message to gay and lesbian couples, as well as unmarried heterosexual couples, that contradicts the university's efforts to make them feel welcome.

"They feel that they're somehow singled out, that the state isn't welcoming to them, and that makes them question whether it's a place they want to come live," Spear says.

Another complication is the cost of extending coverage. Doyle asked the legislature for \$500,000 a year to fund domestic partner benefits at all UW System campuses, but opponents argue that the state can't afford it, given tight budgets and exploding health-care costs. And the price tag could go up because changing the law would enable other government agencies to offer coverage, potentially including some sixty thousand state employees.

UW System officials estimate about 1 percent of the sixteen thousand faculty and academic staff would seek domestic partner health benefits, based on the experience of other Big Ten schools. **Jack Wilson**, a financial analyst for UW System, says that would cost about \$1 million a year, and that the difference

could be made up with other funding sources outside the state budget.

But that's only if the proposal survives this summer's budget negotiations, a prospect many see as unlikely. Danaher, who serves on a committee for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues, says university officials are unwilling to push the issue because they don't want to spend too much politi-

cal capital as lawmakers weigh cuts to the UW System.

But Spear says it may take time for the issue to resonate. "Perhaps in another budget cycle or two, people will see that this isn't just a passing fad. It really is a serious need on the part of the university in order to hire and retain faculty and staff," he says. "And furthermore, it's the right thing to do."

— *Jenny Price '96*



SPENCER WATTS

Code Red

Wisconsin's Badgers may strike fear in the hearts of football and basketball teams, but it's the university's Harmless Fluffy Bunnies that dominate the field of computer programming — at least in the Midwest.

The Harmless Fluffy Bunnies are graduate students **Matthew Anderson** and **Patrick Davidson** and senior

Alex Frase '05, and they clobbered their competition at the regional stage of the Association of Computing Machinery's International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). Of 187 teams taking part in the North Central North America region — four of which came from the UW — the Bunnies finished first, earning a spot at the world finals in Shanghai, China, in April.

That makes four straight years that the UW has been represented at the world finals of the ICPC, which judges student programmers on their speed and analytical reasoning. Teams write programs to solve a set of computing problems — such as calculating how much sunlight a given apartment would receive, based on the length of the day and the height of surrounding buildings. The team that solves the most problems in the shortest time wins.

"Really, each problem has two parts," says Frase. "You've got to figure out the right way to solve the problems they've given you, and then you have to write a program that will successfully do what you want."

Frase says that he and his teammates chose their mascot largely out of irony. "We figured that most of the teams would take threatening-sounding names based on computer science puns," he says. "We went with Harmless Fluffy Bunnies because we thought it was funny, and because it seemed like the least scary name we could come up with."

At the global competition, the Bunnies proved a bit too harmless, managing to complete only one of ten problems and finishing sixty-eighth out of seventy-eight teams. The home team, Shanghai's Jiao Tong University, took top honors, with eight correct solutions.

"We did all right," says Frase, "though obviously we'd hoped to do better."

— *John Allen*

Provost **Peter Spear** — UW-Madison's second-highest ranking administrator — has said he will retire at the end of this year. Spear, who first joined the UW faculty in 1976, returned to serve as provost in 2001, after a five-year stint at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and has been most visible leading the university's efforts to increase diversity among the faculty, staff, and student body. Spear, who is sixty, says his long-standing desire has been to close out his academic career "at a point when I was really able to enjoy retirement. I'm delighted it's worked out that way."

Carl de Boor became the ninth UW-Madison professor to claim the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest honor for research scientists. An emeritus professor of computer science and mathematics, de Boor has written more than 150 papers and books on subjects related to numerical analysis and is a leading expert on spline functions. He received the medal at a ceremony at the White House in March.

UW-Madison engineering faculty donated more than fifty **World War II maps and historical photographs** to the U.S. Department of Defense's National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which will preserve them in its archives. The documents, including invasion maps and a 1944 air photo taken in northeastern France just prior to the Battle of the Bulge, were collected by Eldon Wagner, a now-deceased professor of civil and environmental engineering who led an army battalion that made maps for the Allies. After the war, he used the maps to launch UW-Madison's first course in photogrammetry, an aerial mapping technique that has been used in civil engineering and other fields.



Spin Control

How the UW and high-tech mapping may figure into the Tour de France.

When the Tour de France begins in July, many people will be watching to see if Lance Armstrong can win the cycling race for an unprecedented seventh consecutive time. But for **Jeff Sledge**, the real interest is in how one of Armstrong's top rivals fares.

Sledge, a researcher with UW-Madison's Land Information and Computer Graphics facility, helped design equipment that American rider Floyd Landis will use to monitor his energy consumption during the race. As the mountains of France test Landis's body over the course of the grueling three-week event, they'll also test the promising new technology, yielding information that could benefit many more people than just elite cyclists.

"From a research standpoint, this is one of the very few opportunities we get to measure people who are putting out energy at the limits of human performance," says Sledge, who developed the



WOLFGANG HOFFMAN

A device installed on the wheel of Jeff Sledge's bicycle logs data about the bike and its rider, including the torque and energy produced by the bike. After putting in hundreds of miles testing this "rolling laboratory," Sledge will soon learn how the equipment does in cycling's premier event, the Tour de France.

equipment in cooperation with Saris Cycling Group, a Madison company that manufactures

high-end cycling gear. "We expect to learn a lot."

The system involves a unique marriage of physiology and the tools of high-tech mapping, an outgrowth of Sledge's graduate studies in land resources. While many performance monitors measure a rider's heart rate or pedal cadence, the new device is one of the first to combine those data with his or her exact location, which is tracked using a bike-mounted global positioning system (GPS). The result is that it can learn to predict how much energy a rider will need to complete a particular route, given its geography.

For racers like Landis, that means instant feedback on how their bodies are performing at every point on a race route, enabling them to gauge whether they need to conserve energy or crank it up. When

Beam Me up North

They're coming from Illinois, plowing through Wisconsin en route to northern Minnesota. But these tourists won't clog up the roads. In fact, you won't even know they're there.

That's because they are neutrinos, subatomic particles that zip through the universe unhindered by planets and matter. Scientists have begun beaming the tiny particles through subterranean Wisconsin as part of a five-year project aimed at demystifying their elusive nature.

Produced by nuclear reactions on the sun and other stars, neutrinos have almost no mass and no charge, says **Albert**

Erwin, a professor of physics who is participating in the project. Yet he and other researchers believe neutrinos play a role in the formation of atom-building particles such as protons, neutrons, and electrons.

To understand them better, they are aiming a beam of neutrinos from the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, toward a detector set deep in an old iron mine in Soudan, Minnesota. They hope to take more



SPENCER WAITS

accurate measurements of the particles, but the window of opportunity is small. The particles make the 450-mile trip in about two and a half milliseconds. Typical Illinois drivers.

— Staff

Landis used the technology during a time trial at the Tour of Georgia earlier this year, he not only won, but he beat Armstrong by more than a minute. If the France test goes well, Saris — which supplied Sledge with equipment and expertise — plans to market the system as part of its CycleOps brand of training products.

But researchers who have collaborated on the project are equally excited about how the technology may soon be used by those outside the exclusive circle of endurance athletes. Understanding how much energy it takes for people to move across a particular landscape could turn up all kinds of new insights, which may influence anything from how doctors treat childhood obesity to how city planners design bicycle and pedestrian routes.

“We think it’s one of the coolest things that’s come down the road in a while,” says **Randy Clark ’80, MS’84**, manager of the UW’s Exercise Science Laboratory. “It’s still very new, but it’s groundbreaking stuff. There’s great potential there.”

The promise lies in the integration of time- and space-related data. As the bike rolls along, its GPS unit communicates with satellites, both tracking position and tapping into huge databases of information about the landscape, including elevation, terrain, and atmospheric conditions. Those specifics put the physiological data collected by other monitors into a geographical context, accounting for hills or high winds that might affect someone’s performance. The information is logged in a file that can be broken down second by second, like an instant replay of your ride.

Clark’s lab has begun using the monitors as part of an ongoing study of childhood obesity, for which a local school has been assigning students bike rides as “homework.” Having a GPS record of where the kids go not only makes it virtually impossible to cheat, it also reveals how different routes affect their bodies, which could help doctors tailor exercise regimens right down to the exact route they should take. The same kind of test might help bike commuters find routes that allow them to pedal to work without getting tired and sweaty.

For Sledge, a triathlete who bicycles three hundred miles a week, that hits close to home. He never set out to design technology that would be used at

cycling’s premier event when he began experimenting with GPS data as a doctoral candidate in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. He chose to focus on the sport mainly because it supplied the dynamic data he needed to make real-time assessments. Still, he’s an avid fan, and this year he’ll closely monitor Landis’s progress from his computer in Madison.

“Obviously, I want to see Floyd do well and the CycleOps equipment do well,” he says. “But the goal all along has been to create something that helps people at all levels.” And that’s why, after this year’s race, the guy in the yellow jersey may not be the only one who comes out a winner.

— *Michael Penn*

COOL TOOL

Lake Effect

In southern Wisconsin, lakes are paying the price for our perfectly manicured lawns and productive farms. Phosphorus from fertilizer runs off into the water, creating a problem known scientifically as eutrophication, and to everyone else as a lot of algae. Researchers from the UW Center for Limnology are studying the phenomenon with a powerful buoy.

Tim Kratz, a senior scientist with the center, directs the UW’s research station at Trout Lake in northern Wisconsin, where the instrument floats on the water. The buoy measures differences in water temperature, dissolved oxygen, wind speed, and other factors to create a picture of what’s going on under the surface. “We want to learn how metabolic processes are changing in the northern lakes over time,” says Kratz.

Researchers are hoping to learn how the makeup of the lake is changing by studying dissolved gas concentrations in the water. At night, tiny lake organisms consume oxygen, and during the day, they consume carbon dioxide. When too many nutrients are added to the lake, the rate of metabolism speeds up, resulting in algae blooms. And though it’s not a major problem in Trout Lake, the research could help create a greater understanding of how lakes react to change.

— *Erin Hueffner ’00*



How’s the water? A research buoy floating on Wisconsin’s Trout Lake keeps a vigil.

JEFF MILLER



Scientists have discovered a pathway by which **plant cells** protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun, a development that could hold important implications for agriculture and the development of bioenergy resources. The research explains how plants are able to ward off a potentially toxic byproduct of photosynthesis known as singlet oxygen. With that knowledge, it may be possible to modify plants and other photosynthetic cells to harness more energy from sunlight without increasing the risk of damage from singlet oxygen, which could improve crop yields or the efficiency of solar energy resources.

A **homing device** that helps firefighters find their way out of burning buildings won top honors at the College of Engineering's annual Innovation Days. Designed by students Nick O'Brien, Chandler Nault, and Mitch Nick in cooperation with Madison firefighters, the system uses radio transmitters to beam directions to firefighters when they're navigating smoke-filled buildings. The competition's \$10,000 prize will go toward developing and marketing the system.

A team of UW-Madison scientists successfully used single bacterial cells to make tiny bio-electronic circuits, which could facilitate the evolution of **nanotechnology** by making it far easier to manufacture the tiny devices. Using microbes as the basis for nanoscale structures could spare nanotechnologists the meticulous work of fabricating devices at the tiny scale, opening the door to a new wave of tools that are faster and easier to build.

Fascination in Summation

A grad student unravels a legendary numerical mystery.

Early in the last century, Srinivasa Ramanujan scribbled a few notes into a tattered notebook and sparked one of the great lingering mysteries of mathematics. Now, a UW-Madison graduate student has solved a problem that has haunted generations of number theorists.

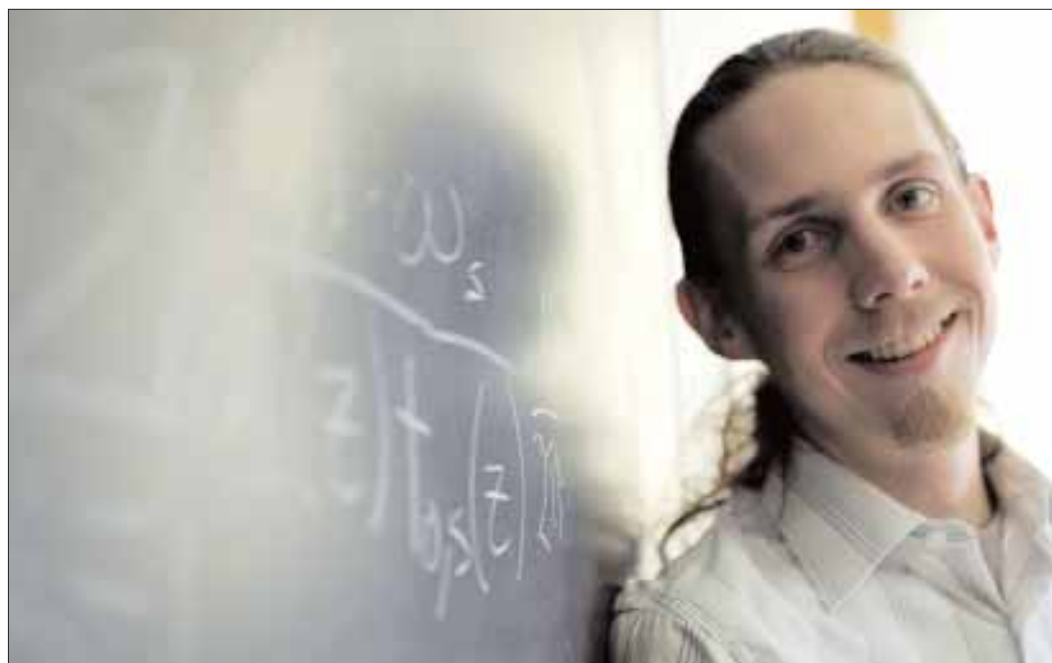
After a year of calculations, **Karl Mahlburg PhDx'06** found a formula that helps explain Ramanujan's congruences — the curious patterns in the ways that numbers can be

up in poverty, he received little formal training in mathematics, yet produced a vast body of work before contracting a mysterious illness that took his life at age thirty-two. He is particularly famous for observing how numbers break apart into "partitions," or sums of smaller numbers.

The number 4, for example, can be expressed five ways — 4, 3+1, 2+2, 1+1+2, and 1+1+1+1 — giving it five partitions. Working with the prime

discoveries. In the 1990s, however, came a breakthrough that nobody could have anticipated. Working on an unrelated problem, Ono spotted an obscure formula embedded in Ramanujan's scrawl, and the chance sighting led him to the amazing discovery that congruences exist not only for 5, 7, and 11, but for all larger prime numbers.

The finding entranced Mahlburg, who began searching for simple ways to explain the patterns in all of these congru-



After a year of calculations, Karl Mahlburg came up with a solution to a legendary mathematics mystery.

broken down into sums of smaller numbers, which the legendary mathematician noted in his journals.

"This [work] is the final chapter in one of the most famous subjects in the story of Ramanujan," says math professor **Ken Ono**, Mahlburg's graduate adviser and an expert on Ramanujan's work.

The father of modern number theory, Ramanujan was born in India in 1887. Growing

numbers 5, 7, and 11, Ramanujan noticed patterns that seemed more than just mere coincidence: beginning at the number 5, for instance, the number of partitions for every seventh integer is a multiple of 7, and starting with 6, the partitions for every eleventh integer are a multiple of 11.

For decades, mathematicians inched forward in the search for elementary ways to explain Ramanujan's elegant

ences. After manipulating "ugly, horribly complicated" numerical formulae for a year, he says he began to see a pattern.

Mahlburg's solution is sufficiently complex to fill every page of this magazine, so it's enough to say that in the eyes of number theorists, he came up with "a fantastically clever argument," says Ono. And in the story of a math legend's great quandary, that's a great addition.

— Paroma Basu



Craft as Art

Boatwright Josh Swan explores the art of woodwork.



JEFF MILLER

Seen from underneath, Josh Swan's Maine peapod boat takes shape in the woodshop at the Mosse Humanities Building. Here, from left to right, Swan and undergraduates Annika Ushio and Reuben Foat clamp steamed cedar planks to the boat's skeleton.

On May 4, the surface of Lake Mendota became a canvas to show the work of **Josh Swan**, one of the UW's spring 2005 artists-in-residence. Painted in hues of deep red and white, the untitled piece is not just art but craft — seacraft. Swan used his residency to display the skill of traditional woodworking while he built a rowboat by hand.

The boat's May debut "was really successful, if you ask me" says Swan. "I mean, she's seaworthy. And that's the most important thing."

Swan's creation was a Maine peapod rowboat, a thirteen-and-a-half-foot-long, four-foot-wide vessel designed for use in the New England lobster fisheries. When Swan started his project in January, the boat was no more than a pile of rough cedar boards. Working in a studio on the seventh floor of the Humanities Building, Swan and ten students spent four months sawing, sanding,

steaming, and caulking the wood into a shape.

Swan, the founder of Madison's JW Swan Boatworks, came to the UW with the aid of art professor **Tom Loeser**, also a woodworker. Though initially drawn to boatbuilding as a means for learning about traditional woodworking in general, Swan fell in love with

the process. "I don't want to earn a living doing anything else," he says.

After its launch, the boat has seen relatively little water. It currently resides in Swan's back yard, awaiting sale. Proceeds will go, in part, to support future UW artists-in-residence.

— John Allen

Badger Read

Quick: what is Wisconsin's most important export?

The Harley? Cheese? Incessant polka music?

Raphael Kadushin '75, MA'78 makes a strong argument for great literature. The UW Press's humanities editor has assembled some of the best of it in *Barnstorm: Contemporary Wisconsin Fiction*, now available from the press's Terrace Books imprint. With selections from state luminaries **Lorrie Moore**, Jane Hamilton, and **Kelly Cherry**, as well as promising newcomer **Dean Bakopoulos MFA'04** and others, it's a rare chance to ponder the state's literary talent — and wonder why more people haven't noticed.

"When you think about it, literature is one field where Wisconsin can really claim to be doing world-class work," says Kadushin.

True, but cows look better on quarters.



— Michael Penn

Conspiracy Theory

Victoria Pagán views ancient conspiracies through a modern perspective.

When Julius Caesar met his end on the Ides of March, where was Marc Antony? Exactly who stood to gain from the dictator's death? Was it just the work of a group of disgruntled senators, or were there others, pulling strings in secret? For classics professor **Victoria Pagán**, such questions are as tantalizing as theories about whether the Mafia, the Cubans, or even LBJ was behind the assassination of President Kennedy.

Pagán recently published *Conspiracy Narratives in Roman History*, an examination of the way Roman historians wrote about the troubling, secret conspiracies of their day. But, she

says, her hypotheses apply just as much to accounts of modern events. Both ancient and modern conspiracy stories, she contends, display the same mix of

theorists to create their own hypotheses as to what really happened and why.

Similarly, the Romans of the late Republic and early



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Et tu, James Mason? Hollywood sticks it to Caesar, circa 1953.

COLLECTION

Tunes of the Times

The band Edelweiss & Betty may never show up on anyone's iPod. Nor will their techniques be taught in any class, nor the band members be inducted into any hall of fame. But they're part of American music history nonetheless. There's a great deal of range between classical and classic rock, and thanks to **Ford Porter**, that history is being preserved at UW-Madison.



COURTESY OF MILLS MUSIC LIBRARY

Porter was a letter carrier in Milwaukee for most of his career, "but his passion was record collecting," says **Steve Sundell** of the Mills Music Library. Most of the records reflect what was popular in Wisconsin during the first half of the twentieth century — jazz, big band, polka, and folk music. "He collected music in a lot of different styles, but one of the most interesting areas was folk and ethnic music from the upper Midwest. A lot of this falls under the broad banner of polka." The size of the collection and the breadth of its recordings are, Sundell believes, unique in the U.S.

Porter died in 1998, and last year, his widow and son donated his records — 8,981 forty-fives, 14,806 LPs, and 41,975 seventy-eights — to the music library. It's taken the staff at Mills a year just to unbox the entire collection and record what it contains, and librarians are still putting together a database that indexes the records. The Porter Collection is available to anyone.

— J.A.

paranoia, power, and the search for meaning.

Conspiracies tend to fall at important points in history. "There's a moment when all that you think you know goes black," says Pagán. "History has changed. And that's really scary to think about. When a conspiracy is uncovered, people don't know whom to trust or where the next attack will come from. We saw this in America after 9/11 — there was an attack out of the blue, and suddenly we felt we were living in a different world."

What separates conspiracies from other historical changes is their secrecy. "An epistemological gap is the cornerstone of any conspiracy," she says. "At the bottom, there's something unknowable." The Kennedy assassination has its Zapruder film, during which the president's limousine passes behind a highway sign at a crucial moment. The Watergate tapes have that eighteen-and-a-half-minute erasure. The lack of knowledge enables conspiracy

Empire created narratives to explain the upheavals in their politics. Pagán looks at five of these conspiracies — the assassinations of Caesar and Caligula, an attempted assassination of Nero, and two efforts to overthrow the Republic — and examines how ancient historians described the plots.

"For the Romans, history is display," she says. "It's the big show and tell." Roman historians used conspiracy stories to show how the universe was kept in balance. The wicked might disrupt society, but they are ultimately discovered, caught, and punished. "They wanted to assure their readers that the perpetrators were caught and that their crimes wouldn't happen again."

By contrast, modern conspiracy narratives show perpetrators who often get away with their crimes. "In America," Pagán says, "it's completely up for grabs."

— John Allen

Sensitive Act

Drama course puts race relations at center stage.

An African-American man sits in the first-class section of a plane, where a white passenger strikes up a conversation with him about what it's like to "be black." It quickly becomes apparent that the gentleman's multicultural "education" has come from watching *Pimp My Ride* on MTV.

"I'm the only white guy in America who knows that O.J. didn't do it!" he says.

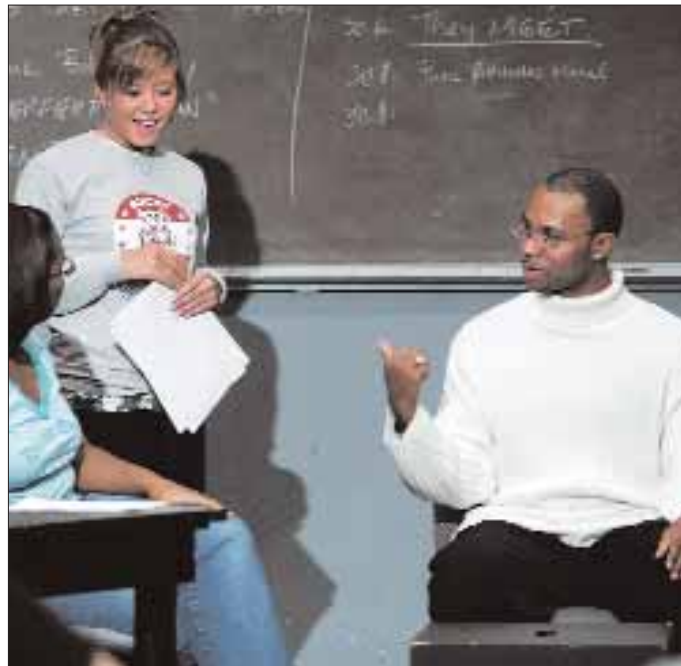
What sounds like the punch line to a bad race-relations joke is actually both a real-life experience and a blistering example of Theater for Cultural and Social Awareness, a new course and outreach program piloted by **Patrick Sims**, a UW-Madison assistant professor of theater and drama. Sims, an actor with a background in psychology and race relations, is using the power of live theater to shred the barriers that prevent people from discussing hot-but-ton racial and cultural issues — both in the classroom and the business world.

"This is a real meld of race relations and acting," explains Sims. "If you present these issues in a format that has a story, tension, and drama, you have the potential for real discussion."

Sims discovered this concept while working on his MFA at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where it was known as Human Experience Theater. The program used short plays as a diversity training tool for corporate clients such as Harley-Davidson and Miller Brewing. After three years of acting in the program, Sims was tabbed to lead it. In 2004, state budget cuts made UW-Milwaukee's loss UW-Madison's gain; last fall, the university snapped him up and turned him loose.

In the classroom, Sims' students read and study scripts featuring tangled racial issues.

Then they write, develop, produce, manage, and act in their own plays, each twelve-minute vignette based on an experience Sims or one of the students has had. Topics trip the usual set of land mines — affirmative action, hate crimes, and conflicts over religious practice in the workplace.



JEFF MILLER

Assistant professor of theater and drama Patrick Sims, right, rehearses lines with teaching assistant Letecia Bryan, seated, and student Meghan Hurley as the group develops a class performance based on social and ethnic stereotypes.

Theater majors are attracted to the concept, but so are psychology and sociology students. Sims believes that developing a different sort of skill set holds a huge advantage for traditional theater majors, who'll eventually seek work in a field struggling with a high unemployment rate.

"They're learning the vernacular to ease tension in difficult situations," he notes. "Students have a hunger for it, but they don't know how to ask what I call 'the dumb questions' about race relations."

That was the case for **Jodi Beznoska x'05**, who took the course last fall.

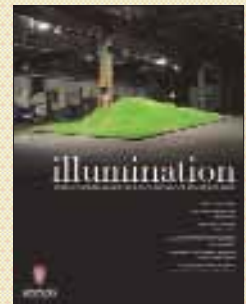
"I was surprised to discover just how uncomfortable the issues we discussed made me," says Beznoska, a New York resident who's studying to become an arts administrator. "I've been taught that you don't talk about these things, because to

talk about them makes them real. It was really wonderful to actually discuss some of these issues without fear of being labeled bigoted or racist."

Next fall, the program will add an outreach component, offering its unique approach to diversity training to campus clients. Sims and his students are already busy developing a full-length play dealing with Americans with Disabilities Act issues for their first client: the UW Hospital and Clinics.

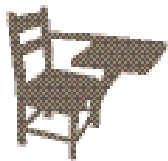
— Aaron Conklin MA'93

Washburn Observatory is hosting an art installation by Martha Glowacki '72, MFA'78 entitled ***Starry Transit***. Sponsored by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art and the Department of Astronomy, the installation uses sculpture, text, and recorded sound to explore the mysteries of nocturnal bird migration. It will be on display from August 27 through November 6.



Undergraduate writing enthusiasts and artists have a new outlet with the launch of ***Illumination***, the UW's new undergrad journal of humanities. Founded by Adam Blackburn '05 and designer Marieka Brouwer '05, the publication is devoted solely to the work of UW undergrads. Blackburn says he received more than 500 submissions of poetry, fiction, essays, and artwork for the first issue, which came out in April. *Illumination* will publish at least once a year. For more information or to read it online, see <http://illumination.library.wisc.edu>.

For its 150th anniversary, the Wisconsin Historical Society Press is holding a **Big Book Give-away**. It will give one school or public library a set of all its books in print — more than 100 titles. The winner will be chosen by random drawing and announced on October 17.



Behind the Lens

Students use science to shed light on the arts.

You don't have to be a photographer to understand the inner workings of a camera. You just need to think like a physicist. At least, that's the idea behind Physics 109: Physics in the Arts.

The syllabus was designed with humanities students in mind — those who study the arts but are not confident in their scientific abilities. Though Physics 109 is an introductory class, that doesn't mean it's easy. The course covers a wide range of topics — everything from the vibrations of a guitar string to the way our eyes

detect the spectrum of colors in the world around us.

After a Sterling Hall lecture that focuses on light waves and lenses, students spend lab time experimenting with photography using old-fashioned cameras. They giggle nervously at the sight of these gigantic, 1950s-era contraptions, with exposed black accordion bellows that must be manually adjusted to focus the lens — a far cry from the tiny, modern digital cameras they're used to.

The challenge for **Yoshi Hirai '96**, a teaching assistant, is imparting the physics of film photography through hands-on lab work. He shows the students how to load the film cartridge, manipulate the camera's lens, and gauge the correct exposure time using a light meter. The twelve students break into three groups, posing for photographs and struggling to set the cameras at just the right angle while trying to figure out which button triggers the shutter.

Once they're finished taking photos, everyone crowds into a small darkroom at the back of the lab to take turns developing their film. **Jessica Jordan x'08** carefully places her film into the chemical bath and waits a few minutes. Slowly, a faint image of the guitar she photographed begins to appear, but to her dismay, the picture is overexposed and blurry. "Well, that's depressing!" she says with a laugh.

Though her photo won't win any awards, Jordan hasn't failed the experiment. The lab isn't about taking artful pictures. It's about learning how the pieces of a camera — a lens, shutter, and film — work together to produce an image. That's the point of this class:

physics is everywhere, in everyday things.

Physics in the Arts was developed in 1969 by **Willy Haerberli** and **Ugo Camerini**, UW professors who wanted to offer an accessible science course to students of diverse educational backgrounds. More recently, Professor **Gelsomina DeStasio** contributed her knowledge of optics. The class is hard to get into, partly because it's known as one of the least painful ways for humanities students to fulfill their science credit requirement, and partly because the only prerequisites are high school algebra and geometry.

The course is divided into two main areas of study, sound and light, and lab work gives students hands-on practice with the complex scientific concepts taught in lecture each week. Grades in the lab are based on effort, and at the end of the course, there's no final exam. According to the syllabus, no one who attends lecture regularly and tries to learn in the lab fails this course.

"Physicists are sometimes thought of as a bunch of irrelevant old dinosaurs," says Professor **Robert Morse**, one of the course's lecturers. "But talking about how physics is in the arts — music, photography, film — shows how physics is relevant to your everyday artistic life."

Morse uses the principles of physics to unlock secrets that great artists seem to know instinctively: how to use light to capture a photograph, which musical notes create a pleasing harmony, and why violins that look identical are not alike in their sound quality. During a lecture about musical scales, he teaches his ninety undergradu-

CLASS NOTE

Managing Mother Nature's Risk

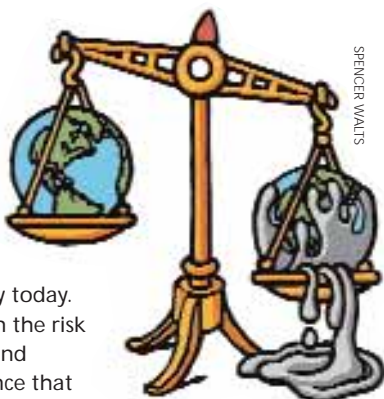
Risk Management and Insurance 365 and 765: Environmental Risk Management

It's a dicey world for industry today. Not only do corporations run the risk of damaging the world around them, but there's also a chance that the world might strike back. Environmentalists launch lawsuits, boycotts, and legislation to try to punish those companies that they believe are harming nature, turning profit into loss. There's a danger in environmental irresponsibility. But it's a predictable danger, and a preventable one. Just ask **Dan Anderson**.

Anderson is a professor in the School of Business's Department of Risk Management and Insurance, and a few years ago, he began to perceive a trend among companies to address environmental and social justice issues. "Historically, companies have been accused of causing a lot of damage," he says, "from global warming to exposing populations to chemicals to depleting natural resources. The results have included liability suits and boycotts. Companies have to strategize against this to prevent financial losses."

Anderson developed Environmental Risk Management in the spring of 2003, and the course has seen increasing enrollment each year since then. During the semester, students examine case studies of how companies work to protect themselves against environmental backlash. "There's a lot that companies can do to lessen the damage from — or better yet lessen the risk of — a suit or major boycott," Anderson says.

— John Allen



SPENCER WAITS

MICHAEL FORSTER ROTHBART



Teaching assistant Yoshi Hirai helps undergraduate Brooke Pfaff, right, and other students in Physics in the Arts learn how a medium format Graphex Speed Graphic camera works. During the lab sessions on light, the students learned about lenses, apertures, and how photographic equipment works. Then they took pictures of each other and developed the film in a darkroom. Physics in the Arts aims to teach non-science majors about the physics principles that underlie sound and light.

ates about sound wave forms, explaining that the more harmonic frequencies an instrument can produce, the brighter its sound will be.

To prove that theory, Morse asks Jordan, a music major, to play her violin for the class. She steps to the front of the room, carefully tunes her instrument, and draws the bow across the strings, producing a clear A note. Morse captures the violin's sound wave on a spectrum analyzer, a piece of scientific equipment that displays the strength and number of the harmonic frequencies present in the note. Jordan's violin, Morse notes, "is loaded with harmonics. It's very brilliant."

Now Morse asks Jordan to play the same note on the physics department's violin. She

tries several times to tune the instrument, wincing at the off-key sound it makes. The tone this violin makes is muddier than Jordan's, and it has a weaker sound signature to match — fewer harmonics register on the spectrum analyzer. The two violins may seem identical at first glance, says Morse, but they each have a different sound DNA. As a musician, Jordan knew that some violins are inherently better than others, but she never thought there was a scientific way to measure that elusive quality.

"It's interesting to see music in a different light, but it's weird to put formulas to stuff that I've known since I was five," says Jordan. "A scale was always just a scale. I never thought of it as fractions."

The science may be difficult, but Morse makes it accessible by changing the terminology. Instead of talking about sines and cosines, he draws a light wave form on the blackboard. Rather than practicing calculations, students learn about sound by hearing a violin in class. The ideas aren't watered down, just presented in a different way, and students who once shied away from physics gain a new sense of confidence. That's especially important, Morse says, when teaching students who have a fear of math.

"Our ultimate goal is to have fun while learning," says Morse. "This just happens to be learning about sound and light."

— Erin Hueffner '00

The university is preparing for a return to Jerusalem for the first time in three years. The UW is reestablishing its study-abroad partnership with **Hebrew University**, an arrangement that was suspended in April 2002 after a series of bombings at and near the university killed five Americans. However, in recent months, the Israeli-Palestinian political environment has improved, and terrorism has decreased. The first students to resume the program will head to Jerusalem in fall 2005.

In the fall of 2006, the UW will admit its first candidates for a master's degree in **women's studies/gender studies**. Although the university has had a women's studies program for thirty years, and has offered an undergraduate major since 1985, it has only offered a minor in the discipline at the graduate level. In the spring of 2005, the UW System board of regents approved expanding the women's and gender studies offering to full master's degree status.

Theater and the classroom merge at the **Summer Drama Institute**, which the Department of Continuing Studies is holding from June 13 to July 29. The institute includes a series of workshops on such topics as producing musical theater, directing, and constructing a dynamic drama curriculum. The program is designed for theater educators, producers, specialists, and artists.

Civil and environmental engineering professor Jeffrey Russell received a **Presidential Award for Excellence** in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in May. Russell has been a national leader in increasing awareness of diversity issues within engineering education and practice.

with a little help from their

posse

For decades, UW-Madison has put up woeful statistics when it comes to retaining students of color. But the **Posse Program** aims to change that — by turning small numbers of students into tightly knit support networks.

by john allen
photos by jeff miller

When Danielle Berry x'06 made her first trip to Madison — a two-day visit shortly before classes started in the summer of 2002 — she noticed something wasn't quite right. A graduate of Chicago's Whitney Young College Prep High School, where white students are in the minority, she was used to living in a highly diverse environment.

The UW looked very different.

Where, Berry wondered, were all the black people?

"It was the worst weekend of my life," she says. "I didn't see another African-American the entire time I was here. I actually went into a store on State Street and asked the clerk where all the black people were. She didn't know. I couldn't believe what I'd gotten myself into. I cried the whole bus ride home."

Berry had arrived in Madison with seventeen other incoming freshmen from Chicago, knowing that it was, in part, their job to change this impression of Madison. They were the first students to enter the UW under the Posse Program, one element of the university's Plan 2008 effort to increase diversity.

Posse is based on the theory of safety in numbers. It matches groups of about ten students together into "Posses" while they're still in high school. The idea is that, if they all enter the same university at the same time, they can help each other through the transitions and culture clashes of college so that they'll be more likely to graduate. The program emphasizes not only academic abilities, but also leadership potential — UW-Madison wants its Posse students to succeed, but it also wants them to act as change agents on and off campus, to help create an environment in which other students of color will be more likely to succeed as well.



danielle

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students in New York, sending her first group off to Vanderbilt University. The program has since expanded to include students from Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and it will soon add Washington, D.C. Some twenty-two colleges and universities currently admit Posses, including UW-Madison, which has accepted two Posses each year since 2002. In 2004–05, there were a total of fifty-nine Posse students at UW-Madison — four groups from Chicago and two from Los Angeles.

The students receive a full-tuition scholarship for up to four years, and during their senior year of high school and their first two years of college, they go through intensive preparation and support: weekly meetings to build a sense of teamwork, individual meetings to instill positive habits and strategies, and a graduate student mentor to counsel them both individually and as a group about academic and personal issues. The Posse Foundation finds the students and builds the teams; the colleges and universities provide the mentors and the money.

And it's a lot of money. Since the UW's Posses come from Chicago and Los Angeles, all of the students are from out of state. For the 2004–05 academic year, full-time, nonresident tuition was \$19,866.16, so a Posse of ten students, should they all take four years to graduate, would cost nearly \$1 million, including ancillary expenses. It's a sizable price tag for just ten students, particularly when the goal is increasing the ethnic

The Posse story began long before Danielle Berry made that first trip to Madison. The program is the brainchild of Deborah Bial, and it's been sending groups of kids out of cities and into colleges since 1989.

Bial was twenty-three when she first conceived of the idea for Posse. She'd studied English lit at Brandeis University and was working with a youth program in New York City when she noticed that a high number of urban students left college after only six months. She asked one of the kids why, and he told her that it was a lack of peer support that had made school unbearable.

"I never would have dropped out," he said, "if I had my posse with me."

Inspired, Bial reasoned that a posse — a solid set of friends — was the key to keeping students in school: if they went to college in groups, they could provide each other with a ready-made support system. And if those groups included a diverse selection of talented individuals, they would increase their chances of success — and would "serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development" at the institutions they attend.

Bial created the Posse Foundation and began working with high school

kannitha

"I'm worn out, absolutely worn out. I'm tired of always having to give the people-of-color perspective. I spend half my time defending myself. Every time I'm in a class and the topic of racism comes up, if no one else is talking, I can see the [teaching assistant] eyeing me. I'm just tired of it."

diversity of a student body of forty thousand. But if it works, it will produce leaders in the struggle to give the university a more welcoming climate so that future students of color will feel more at home here.

That they don't is as much a result of Madison's sympathy as its hostility. "You know how this place is," says Kannitha Sith x'06, a Posse student from Chicago. Born to Cambodian parents in a Thai refugee camp, she came to America at the age of six and has often felt herself under scrutiny because of her background.

"I'm worn out," she says, "absolutely worn out. I'm tired of always having to give the people-of-color perspective. I spend half my time defending myself. Every time I'm in a class and the topic of racism comes up, if no one else is talking, I can see the [teaching assistant] eyeing me. I'm just tired of it." That exhausting attention is part of what has made diversity efforts so difficult at UW-Madison — and why the university has been willing to spend so much on Posse.

The program's payoff comes when students like Sith are given the strength to push through their discomfort. Like many Posse students, she says her "passion is to fight for social justice through many facets of life," and thanks to the support she felt from her Posse, she helped coordinate a poetry slam conference in 2003, "creating a new medium to fight and talk about social justice issues." She has worked to create a more inviting community for international students,



and in her junior year, she spent a semester at Thailand's Chiang Mai University, returning to the land of her birth for the first time since 1989. In her senior year, she'll be a multicultural resident consultant for the learning center in Witte Hall.

Since the program focuses on energy rather than just academics, it's finding leaders in unlikely places. Judged by the raw numbers that admissions offices use to screen prospective college students, Henry Gomez x'06 might not have caught the UW's attention. Though he says he "kept up a decent GPA" when he was in high school in Des Plaines, Illinois, he wasn't

at the top of his class. No other member of his family had ever been to college before. His parents, Colombian immigrants, work long hours for low wages — his father drives a taxi; his mother works in the financial services department of a hospital. But he is active and well-rounded — a musician who plays three instruments and is a licensed pilot, flying a Cessna whenever he can. Though initially suspicious of Posse's diversity goals — "That stuff is too p.c., too political for me," he says — he came to like the program's focus on leadership. "Being a leader, being dynamic — I see that as a challenge."



henry

Active and well-rounded, Gomez is a musician who plays three instruments and is a licensed pilot. Though initially suspicious of Posse's diversity goals — "That stuff is too p.c., too political for me," he says — he came to like the program's focus on leadership. "Being a leader, being dynamic — I see that as a challenge."

curtail out-of-state enrollment, which hampered efforts to recruit for a more diverse campus.

By 1988, students of color made up less than 6 percent of UW-Madison's student body, and diversity had become such a concern that the UW System launched Design for Diversity, a ten-year plan to double the number of undergraduates from four targeted ethnic groups: African-American, Southeast Asian, Hispanic, and Native American.

Of the plan's eight strategic initiatives, however, only one specifically aimed at retaining those students after they enrolled. Design for Diversity produced higher numbers of incoming students in all four groups, but because of poor retention, only the Asian group showed a significant increase. After ten years, the minority student population had increased to just 9.2 percent.

In 1998, the university released a Retention Strategic Plan, recognizing that minority students "face additional burdens of cultural isolation and exclusion simply because of who they are and their physical characteristics as a person of color." Aware that these burdens were causing heavy attrition, the UW System placed more emphasis on improving retention and graduation rates when it drafted its second ten-year diversity effort, Plan 2008. The university was open to ideas like Posse — it just needed Wade Fetzer '59 to come along and make the program a reality.

Gomez has made a career out of facing challenges. He served in student government positions with Associated Students of Madison's legal affairs committee and its Student Services Finance Committee. He sings in the gospel choir, gives salsa music lessons, and was the vice president of Madison's Latino Men's Group. He also helped start Breaking the Law, a break-dancing event that attracts upwards of five hundred students.

Posse hopes that people like Gomez and Sith will be part of the answer to UW-Madison's diversity difficulty.

Diversity first blew up

as an issue in 1969, when a group called the Black Peoples Alliance launched a strike against the university, disrupting classes and holding demonstrations. They eventually issued thirteen "non-negotiable demands," one of which was to recruit more students of color. The strike was the largest mass student action up to that time, and though the university responded sympathetically, the tactic backfired. It scared the regents, who believed that the era's protests and demonstrations were the result of agitation by students from outside Wisconsin. The regents put pressure on the UW to

vanessa

She doesn't feel the urge that many members of her Posse do to get deeply involved with organizations that are focused entirely on her ethnic group. "That's kind of why I wanted to come to the Midwest. I didn't want to hang out with people like me all the time. I wanted to experience something different."

Wade Fetzer is the sort

of person who didn't feel at all out of place when he came to Madison in the mid-1950s. He's Midwestern and relatively well off, having grown up in Chicago's affluent northern suburbs. He had the support of many friends, including his girlfriend and future wife, Beverly Below Fetzer x'60. And he's white.

The UW was good to Fetzer, and in return, he's been good to it — his family helped fund campus's Below Alumni Center, and he's a member of the UW Foundation's board of directors and co-chair of its \$1.5 billion capital campaign. When he mentioned Posse to university administrators, they were willing to listen.

Fetzer had become familiar with the program through the action of his own posse. His friend Tim Ubben was trying to get the Posse Foundation's Chicago section started in 1998, just as the UW was issuing Plan 2008, and he roped Fetzer into helping to raise funds. Fetzer saw the program's promise immediately and began encouraging the UW to get involved.

"What I really like about Posse," he says, "is that it isn't an affirmative-action program. It isn't about numbers, but about recruiting high-quality students. It's about identifying leadership potential. Posse provides a group of kids who know how to deal with the diversity issue. They aren't just going to go to class and take up space. They're leaders. They're involved. They're the kind of students you really want to have on campus."



It took some convincing, however, to get Posse and UW-Madison together. Deborah Bial "thought the UW was too big and that their kids would get lost," Fetzer says. "She didn't think that the Posses would be able to make much of an impact here."

UW-Madison administrators, facing a perpetually tight budget, were equally uneasy, especially as Posse put more stock on the vague concept of leadership than on something quantifiable, such as grades or test scores. Before UW-Madison, Posse had never sent students to a state university, never had to justify

scholarship selection to anyone but collegiate officials.

"We had certain concerns that Posse had never dealt with before," says Walter Lane, the associate dean in the School of Education who serves as director of UW-Madison's Posse Program. "There are a lot of people that we're responsible to, both at the university and the state level. Before we spend this kind of money on students, we have to be sure that they have impeccable qualifications."

But Fetzer persisted. He brought Bial to Madison in May to meet with Chancellor John D. Wiley MS'65,

PhD'68 and his staff and to experience campus at its most charming. He promised the UW a perpetual supply of energetic students who would give the university a more welcoming climate — students who would “show not just academic ability, but also energy and excitement, both about Posse and about going to Madison.”

It took three years, but he wore both the UW and the Posse Foundation down, and in 2001, UW-Madison entered into a contract with Posse, promising to take in at least one Chicago group a year from the fall of 2002 through the fall of 2006. Today, Fetzer boasts, Chicago Posse applicants select the UW more than any other participating school as their preferred destination.

When Danielle Berry entered her senior year of high school, she had absolutely no desire to apply to UW-Madison. “Wisconsin wasn’t even on the map,” she says. “I had my own expectations of what college should be, and they didn’t include attending a large, predominantly white university.”

Her father had gone to the historically black Morehouse College, and she intended to follow in his footsteps. “I wanted to feel the sort of connection that an HBUC [historically black university or college] can provide,” she says. “That sense of community is important to me.”

But the Posse scholarship was too much to pass up.

Berry joined the hundreds of students who apply for Posse scholarships each year. “They’re the greatest pool of kids,” says Fetzer. “Many of them have grade point averages that run above 4.0.” But Posse isn’t just looking for bright students — a high GPA doesn’t necessarily mean that a student will be a good team member, a generous friend, or an agent for improving campus climate. To find the candidates who possess those unquantifiable characteristics, Posse Foundation administrators put those hundreds of candidates through a series of evaluations —

large- and small-group activities, individual interviews, writing samples, and resumes. Last year, some 5,500 students applied for Posse scholarships; only 5 percent of them made the final cut.

In the winter before the students enter college, the Posse Foundation presents twenty finalists to be evaluated by their intended institution. The UW’s decision team consists of Lane; Fetzer; admissions director Rob Seltzer; Judi Roller, the associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Letters and Science; and Darrell Bazzell ’84, who, as UW-Madison’s vice chancellor for administration, oversees Plan 2008 efforts. The team then has to choose about ten students to include in the Posse.

Berry had the impeccable qualifications that Posse and the UW wanted: near the top of her class, an accomplished pianist, an athlete who played tennis and ran cross country, and a leader with Top Teens of America, an African-American community-service group. When the

this only exposed the difficulty she had connecting with the members of her Posse. “At first,” she says, “they thought I was some kind of stuck-up bouzhy,” a middle-class girl who thought she was too good for the program. She felt disconcerted by the workshops and frank discussions that were designed to break down barriers. “I thought Posse was some sort of cult,” she says. “Everybody wanted to be my family — they were trying to get too close, and the whole thing felt claustrophobic.”

But she stuck with the training, and when she arrived on campus, she discovered how helpful it could be. The transition to college struck her particularly hard. The university wanted the Posse students to spread their influence as widely as possible and not merely to club together, so it arranged that they not live together. “We encouraged them to live with other students,” says Walter Lane. “We wanted to be sure that they interacted with other people.”

“What I really like about Posse,” Fetzer says, “is that it isn’t an affirmative-action program. It isn’t about numbers, but about recruiting high-quality students. It’s about identifying leadership potential. Posse provides a group of kids who know how to deal with the diversity issue. They aren’t just going to go to class and take up space. They’re leaders. They’re involved. They’re the kind of students you really want to have on campus.”

UW’s decision team saw a group of finalists that included Berry, Kannitha Sith, and Henry Gomez, they faced a difficult decision — “one of the hardest decisions I’ve ever had to make,” according to Fetzer. And so they chose not to decide. That first year, the UW didn’t take ten students for one Posse; it took all twenty. Two groups entered from Chicago in 2002.

Initially, Berry found the Posse experience uncomfortable. The students were put through thirty-two weeks of training — weekly after-school meetings designed not only to prepare the students for college, but to turn them into a team. But

For many Posse students, this worked out well enough, but Berry started out on the wrong foot with her roommate. Feeling isolated on the UW’s overwhelmingly white campus, she lost motivation and increasingly cut herself off from those around her. Further, she was in a difficult relationship with a possessive boyfriend who discouraged her from getting involved in Madison life. At the end of her first semester, she was on academic probation and wondering why she had ever come to Wisconsin at all.

Continued on page 60

Posse

Continued from page 27

This was just the crisis Posse had been created for, and Berry's team — particularly Jai Thomas x'06 and Dominique Davis x'06 — rode to her rescue. "Jai and Dominique and I, we were like a Super Posse," says Berry. "Especially Jai. I think of her as my sister. They were very honest with me, even when I didn't want to hear it."

Freshman year was a difficult adjustment for Berry, but slowly things began to get better. "In my second year, I was more comfortable," she says. "I was meeting other people, being myself." By her junior year, Berry knew she could survive at the UW.

While UW-Madison's

Posses were struggling to gain a toehold on campus, Fetzter was advocating expansion. In 2002, he convinced the university to enter a five-class contract with Posse in Los Angeles, and he hopes to add more. "Our dream," he says, "is to have Posses at the UW from all five participating cities. That would give us at least two hundred Posse students on campus all the time."

In its first three years, the program has experienced considerable success. Every year, it holds a retreat, with each participant inviting at least two non-Posse classmates for a weekend of discussions. In February 2005, the retreat brought some 160 students, along with UW administrators, to Lake Geneva to talk about the role of privilege in higher education. To encourage Posse students to keep a focus on academics, Fetzter pays out of his own pocket to give a laptop computer to each one who earns at least a 3.0 grade point average after their first year. Of the sixty-two Posse students who have enrolled at UW-Madison, fifty-nine are still on campus. Should that retention rate — 95 percent — hold over to graduation, it would put Posse well above the current graduation rates for both white (79.3 percent) and minority (54.2 percent) students.

Impressed with the program's results at the UW, more public universities have added Posse to their diversity efforts. The University of Illinois joined in 2004, and the University of Michigan in 2005.

In spite of that record, however, Posse's future at UW-Madison is in trouble. In 2003, Wiley called Fetzter to tell him that the program had hit a financial snag. "The funding just isn't there," Fetzter says. "But John could see the impact that Posse is having, and he gave me a mandate to raise the money privately to keep the program going."

But it's a lot of private money — about \$1.5 million a year to meet the program's current needs. Last year, Fetzter was able to raise only \$675,000. "We're just getting started," he says. Still, expansion is doubtful.

"We're developing a broad-based fund-raising strategy" to aid Posse, says vice chancellor Darrell Bazzell. "But unless we're able to bring private dollars to the table, we will not likely expand to additional cities. And it's uncertain whether we'll be able to continue our commitment to Chicago and Los Angeles beyond our initial commitment."

No matter what future

the Posse Program has at UW-Madison, the groups have made an impact. As the Posse students work their way through college, they're beginning to take the leadership roles that the program promised — and finding ways to make campus more amenable for themselves and the students of color who follow them.

Like Henry Gomez and Kannitha Sith, Danielle Berry now says she feels like she "fell into the proverbial gravy pot" when she linked up with Posse and the UW. In spite of her initial resistance, she's seeing the program's rewards play out in her own life, and she hopes to pass that benefit along to others. She and Jai Thomas are now involved with a campus Women of Color Support Group, and Berry became a house fellow at her residence hall, where most of the eighty-eight students in her house are freshmen.

"Everything is falling into place for me," she says. "I feel motivated again,

like I know my purpose. And I feel like I can help other people."

Those other people include students like Vanessa Gonzales x'08.

Gonzales is part of the Los Angeles Posse that entered the UW in 2004. Intending to study journalism, she hopes to work in television or perhaps with a fashion magazine.

Like many of her predecessors, she hadn't really thought about Madison until Posse came along. Instead, she'd hoped to go to New York University or the University of California-Berkeley. But a year ago, the UW was the only sizable school offered to L.A.'s Posses — the other choices, Iowa's Grinnell College and California's Claremont-McKenna, held little appeal for her.

She quickly made friends on campus — her roommate at Ogg and her coworkers at the Gordon Commons dining hall. School, she says, is "going okay," and she has a good shot at a 3.0 GPA and earning one of Wade Fetzter's laptop computers. It's not that she needs the computer — rather, she wants what the computer symbolizes: achievement. "When the Posses get together and they read off everyone's accomplishments, I want to be sure the others see I'm doing well," she says. "I don't want my name to be the only one with nothing after it."

Though she was surprised when she arrived in Madison to see how white the UW campus is, she doesn't feel the urge that many members of her Posse do to get deeply involved with organizations that focus entirely on her ethnic group. "That's kind of why I wanted to come to the Midwest," she says. "I didn't want to hang out with people like me all the time. I wanted to experience something different."

However, she does feel the effect of the previous Posses, and she says that those students have given Madison a more welcoming climate. "They say hi to you," she says. "When you see them in the hall, they know your name. And that kind of friendliness just makes you more comfortable. It makes a huge difference."

John Allen is associate editor for *On Wisconsin*.



The Last Fugitive

Thirty-five years after four young radicals bombed Sterling Hall, three have been caught and brought to justice. One was never heard from again. To this day, there is one lingering question about UW-Madison's turbulent Vietnam days: what happened to Leo Burt?

By Doug Moe '79

The tips started coming almost immediately.

On October 31, 1970, two months after a bomb exploded outside Sterling Hall on the UW-Madison campus, a waitress in a restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio, thought one of her customers was Leo Burt, one of four men wanted in connection with the bombing. She had seen his face on an FBI Ten Most Wanted poster.

Later that night, the customer from the restaurant came out of a Cleveland movie theater, where he had just watched *Easy Rider*. As he started to open his car door, several uniformed police officers approached, guns drawn, and told him to put his hands over his head. An FBI agent approached him and said, "You're being charged as a fugitive from justice."

After an hour of questioning, authorities realized that the man was a second-year law student named Richard Routman, and not a notorious fugitive. Today, Routman is an attorney in Kansas, and every once in a while, he wonders whatever became of Leo Burt.

In 2003, thirty-three years after that Halloween night in Cleveland, FBI special agent Kent Miller got a call from Denver. Someone had tipped police that a homeless man in the area might be Burt. Miller, who had worked the Burt case for fifteen years out of the bureau's Madison office, compared a photograph of the Denver man to age-enhanced images of Burt the bureau had made. There were resemblances, although the homeless man's hair was longer.

"He was real mysterious," Miller recalls. "He wouldn't stay in the same homeless shelter more than four or five nights, wouldn't tell anybody where he was from."

The FBI enlisted an employee of the homeless shelter, who managed to retrieve a soda can the man had held.

But the prints did not match. The homeless man was not Leo Burt.

The tips keep coming, but they are always wrong.

This summer, thirty-five years will have passed since the August night when four young radicals parked a van full of explosives in the driveway outside Sterling Hall. Targeted at the Army Math Research Center as a protest against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, the bomb killed Robert Fassnacht, a thirty-three-year-old postdoctoral

"Leo simply disappeared."

researcher in physics, and touched off an FBI manhunt for the bombers.

Three men who carried out the bombing — erstwhile UW student Karleton Armstrong, his brother Dwight Armstrong, and then-freshman David Fine — were all eventually arrested, served time in prison, and have gotten on with their lives. But their suspected accomplice, Leo Frederick Burt '70, remains at large, making him perhaps the last fugitive of the Vietnam era. Thousands of tips have been investigated, hundreds of theories advanced, and the mystery of Burt has only deepened.

After he published *Radix*, his 1992 book about the bombing, newspaper reporter Tom Bates MA'68, PhD'72 thought he might hear from Burt. When he didn't, Bates grew even more fascinated by the fugitive. In 1995, Bates wrote a long story for a newspaper in Oregon, claiming Burt was the Unabomber, the domestic terrorist who killed three people and injured dozens more with bombs, usually mailed, from 1978 to 1995. Bates based his claim largely on similarities between the Unabomber's "Manifesto," which had been recently published by the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, and an article written by Burt for the left-wing journal

Liberation after he disappeared into the underground in 1972. There were striking similarities in the prose, but the man eventually arrested as the Unabomber was Ted Kaczynski, not Leo Burt.

Through the years, there have been rumors of sightings — in Norman, Oklahoma, in the early 1970s; in Algeria in 1972; and in Costa Rica in 1990. None have panned out. If anything, it is the utter lack of credible information on what has become of Burt that most distinguishes the case.

That's what struck Allan Thompson, the Madison FBI agent who handled the

investigation prior to Miller, about the case when I talked to him in 1995. "I did fugitive work for twenty-three years. In every case I worked, someone in the woodwork knew where the person was. Family, friends — somebody," he told me. "With Burt, there was an intense investigation of his parents and relatives. Nothing came of it. Not one iota or indication in twenty-five years that he's been sighted, heard from, or spoken to."

But if Leo Burt has vanished, the interest in him has not. Joe Brennan, Jr., a thirty-six-year-old student in the graduate writing program at Johns Hopkins University, is currently revising a lengthy manuscript about Burt, with the working title *The Last Radical*. Brennan's interest in Burt comes from his father, who was a classmate and rowing teammate of Burt at Monsignor Bonner High School in Pennsylvania. Brennan thinks Burt's upbringing, and especially his involvement in rowing, is critical to understanding what happened in August 1970 and perhaps the years since.

Burt was born April 18, 1948, into a middle-class, Catholic Philadelphia family. He and his six siblings grew up in a brick bungalow, across the street from a cemetery. Leo was an altar boy, and Friday dinners in the Burt home were fish

In 1970, Burt joined fellow radicals (from left) Karl-leton Armstrong, Dwight Armstrong, and David Fine as part of the New Year's Gang, which vowed to wreak havoc on operations it saw as complicit in the Vietnam War. The bomb at Sterling Hall did little damage to its intended target, the U.S. Army Math Research Center, but killed a researcher who was working inside the building. Burt's co-conspirators all have been captured and sentenced for their roles in the attack.



UPI/BETTMANN

or meatless spaghetti. He was a decent student, but it was crew — a widely popular sport around Philadelphia in those days — that interested him most. “The central thing in his life was rowing,” says Brennan.

A number of East Coast universities wanted Burt to row for them, but he chose Wisconsin, which under coach Randy Jablonic ‘60 had established itself as one of the best crew programs in the country. “He went to Madison solely to be part of the men’s rowing team,” Brennan says. “He wanted to be with the best. It was a fateful decision.”

Fateful because while Burt enjoyed some success in his first year rowing in Madison, the hard reality was that at five feet, eleven inches tall, he was shorter than the raw, big-boned kids Jablonic favored. It was physics: a tall man can move a boat faster than a shorter one. Burt’s experience and his intensity — remarked on by all who knew him — carried him for a time. He could outwork anyone and became a weight room legend. Yet by his junior year, with the Badgers scheduled for a big race out east, Burt was dropped from the traveling squad. While he didn’t quit then, he began to clash with Jablonic, and when the coach told him to get a haircut, Burt cleaned out his locker.

“His whole life was being a varsity rower,” Brennan says. “It left a huge hole.”

Tim Mickelson ’71, a rower originally from Deerfield, Wisconsin, may have

been Burt’s best friend on the team, having spent the summer of 1968 with Burt and his family in Pennsylvania, where they trained for Olympic trials and the coming season. Mickelson remembers Burt as someone who never fought and rarely argued with anyone, even in the sometimes heated and competitive atmosphere of the locker room. “Never

The others remembered Burt weeping in the back of the car when the radio delivered the news a man had died. But then Dwight Armstrong sensed a change. He looked at Burt and thought, “He’s cold as steel.”

swore, never told a dirty joke, never had a date, as far as I know,” Mickelson recalls. “It was rowing and studies. Leo was a good, but not great, student, and he studied a lot.”

When Burt left the team, he and Mickelson remained friends, while seeing each other less. “He let his hair grow and

started writing a lot for the *Daily Cardinal* and SDS [Students for a Democratic Society],” Mickelson says. “At some point, he started believing what he was writing.”

Political activism was hard to avoid on campus in 1969. Two years earlier, student demonstrations against the Dow Chemical company had erupted into bloody riots. After he left the crew, Burt’s circle refocused around *Daily Cardinal* reporters and the anti-war activists he met while covering protests. He forged friendships with Fine and Karl Armstrong. “It became another culture, like rowing, for him to immerse himself in,” Brennan says.

In the spring of 1970, when news broke that the National Guard had shot four students during a protest at Kent State University, the already edgy UW-Madison campus erupted. While covering a melee between police and students on Bascom Hill, Burt was beaten by police. And with that, he was no longer an observer.

Over beers at the Nitty Gritty, Burt talked politics and revolution with the Armstrong brothers and Fine. “It was a chance to be part of something bigger than himself, yet be a big part of it himself,” says Brennan. Their discussions turned to the Army Math Research Center, which had recently received a \$1.8 million contract from the U.S. Department of Defense, and they started to plot. Something had to be done.

In the predawn hours of August 24, 1970, Kent Miller was working as a support employee for the FBI in his hometown of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In those days, FBI offices were required to test their teletype machines every twenty-four hours, and on that night, Miller was supposed to send messages to the office in Milwaukee.

"I'm merrily talking to this guy [by teletype]," Miller recalls, "and he sends a message back that the phone was ringing. He comes back and says, 'Big explosion at the university. Got to go.'"

It was big, all right. The blast at Sterling Hall killed Fassnacht and caused more than \$6 million in damages. But it also changed the course of Miller's life. Eighteen years later, he would be in Madison, leading the FBI's ongoing investigation, which by then centered on Burt, the only suspect whom they hadn't succeeded in finding.

After planting the bomb, Burt, the Armstrongs, and Fine had packed into a small Corvair and headed north out of Madison, toward Sauk County. The others later remembered Burt weeping in the back seat when the radio delivered the news that a man had died in the bombing. But then, as they sat on a bluff near Devil's Lake, Dwight Armstrong — as he would later tell author Tom Bates — sensed a change in Burt. The twenty-two-year-old, who had absorbed the work of the existential philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, reinvented himself as the sun came up. Armstrong looked at Burt and thought, "He's cold as steel."

The four actually drove back to Madison, lying their way out of a potential jam when they were stopped by Sauk County police, before heading for New York. They split up in Toledo; Karl and Dwight kept the car and dropped Fine and Burt at the Greyhound station, with an agreement to meet a week later in Times Square.

That meeting never came off. While Fine and Burt did go to New York, they were intent on getting out of the United States. From New York, Burt sent a dis-

From the underground, the bombers wrote in the radical journal *Kaleidoscope* that they regretted the death of Robert Fassnacht, but remained defiant that their actions were necessary as part of a "worldwide struggle to defeat amerikan imperialism."

patch to the Madison underground paper *Kaleidoscope*, which lamented the death of Fassnacht but said: "The destruction of AMRC was not an isolated act by 'lunatics.' It was a conscious action taken in solidarity with ... all other heroic fighters against U.S. imperialism."

Burt also wrote his parents in Pennsylvania. He told them he was looking for journalism work in New York City and added, "Did you hear about the explosion in Wisconsin? I didn't get to see it, but you could hear it far away."

From New York, Fine and Burt hitched a ride with a friend to Boston, where they spent a night with Fine's sister. According to Bates in *Radz*, from there the pair got a ride into Canada, checking into a rooming house in Peterborough, sixty miles northeast of Toronto. They had only been there a day when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police appeared at the door. Bates wrote: "David and Leo hurriedly discarded their wallets with their IDs, useless now that they had registered with them, and exited by a rear window. Then they parted company. David hitchhiked south and west, heading for the border crossing at Detroit."

Bates's next sentence echoes across thirty-five years: "Leo simply disappeared."



Meanwhile, at a rowing event in Canada a few days after the bombing, Mickelson was approached by mounted police, who wanted to know if he'd heard from Burt. They believed Burt was still in Canada and might try to contact his friend for money. Mickelson recalls feeling "total surprise" when he heard his friend might be involved. He'd not been contacted, but authorities would remain interested in their friendship, following up repeatedly over the next few years.

Before the decade was out, the Armstrongs and Fine would be apprehended. All four of the alleged bombers were immediately put on the FBI's famous Ten Most Wanted list, which brought the intense heat of a nationwide manhunt on them. Since the debut of the list in 1950, more than 90 percent of the fugitives that have wound up there have been captured.

Karl Armstrong was the first one arrested; he'd been living under an alias

in Toronto before he was caught in 1972. Another tip led to Fine, who was busted in 1976 in San Rafael, California. A year later, Dwight Armstrong was captured in Toronto. Dwight, Bates wrote, “was so tired of living underground that he had in effect given up hiding.”

It would seem nothing could prepare someone for a life underground. Abbie Hoffman, a longtime fugitive from that era, wrote upon surfacing: “A fugitive’s brain is filled with a mass of data — Social Security numbers, job histories, birthdates, coded contacts, even different birth signs. There are at least two dozen names I used. If I examined the problem of who I was, something everyone does in introspective periods, the problem only gets magnified. A simple “What’s your name?” can produce insane giggles.”

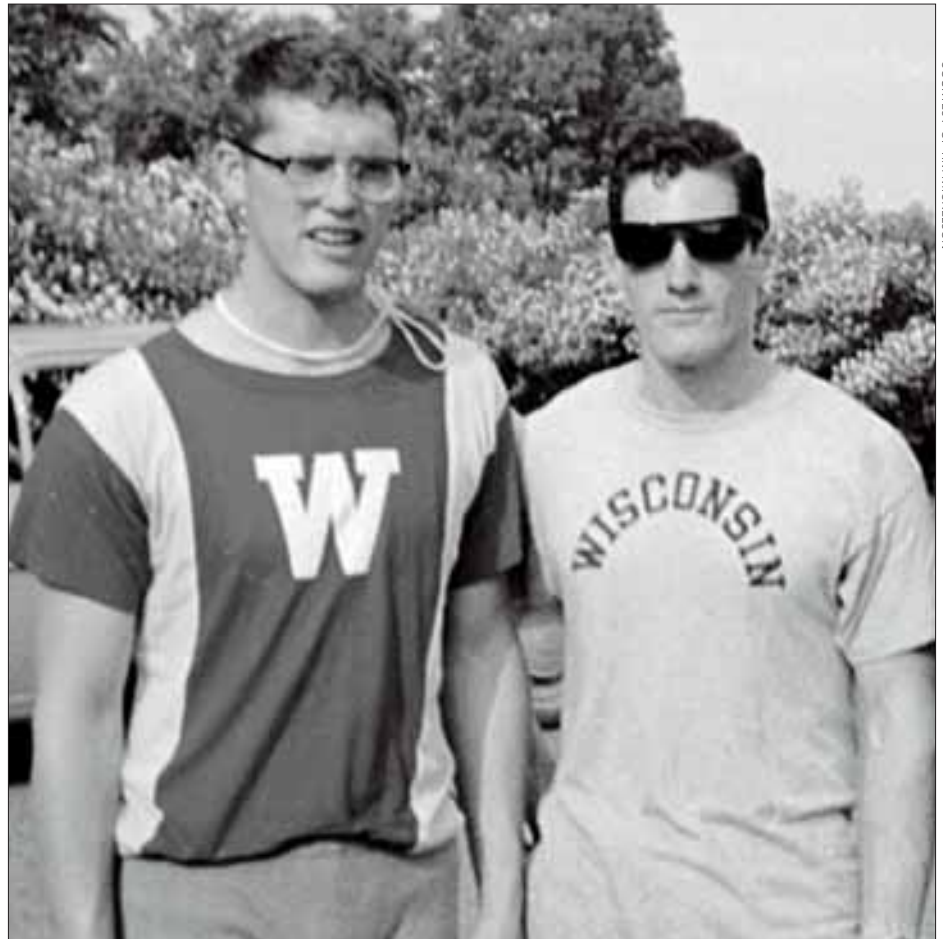
It is the difficulty of life underground — the lies, the constant sense of vulnerability, the complete cutting of ties to friends and family — that makes some people believe Leo Burt is not still on the run.

“I think he died, and nobody bothered to tell us,” Chuck Lulling, the lead Madison police detective on the case, once said.

But there’s no proof of that, either. When he took over the investigation in 1988, Miller sent copies of Burt’s fingerprints to all the medical examiners in the United States to compare with any John Doe bodies.

“That came back negative,” he says.

Like Allan Thompson before him, Miller never did feel like the bureau was close to catching Burt, who would now be fifty-seven years old. Miller had agents around the country take pictures of Burt’s living male relatives to create models of what Burt might look like today. He has also pitched the case to true-crime television programs such as *America’s Most Wanted* and *Unsolved Mysteries*. “I thought we were going to get on *Unsolved Mysteries*,” he says. “But then someone on the production team



COURTESY OF TIM MICKELSON

On the rowing team, Burt fit in with athletes like Tim Mickelson (left), who shared his work ethic and competitive spirit. Mickelson recalls him as a serious student who never fought with anyone. But after Burt quit the crew, he drifted away from his former teammates and toward a different circle of friends.

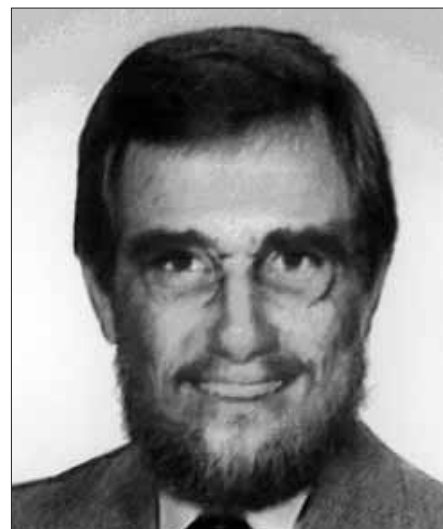
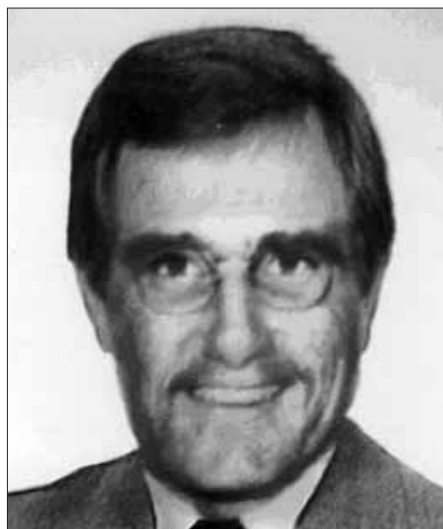
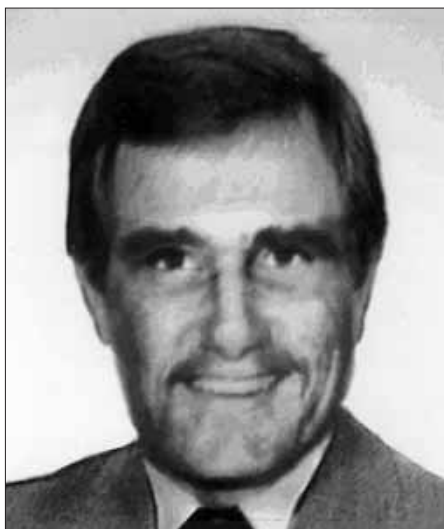
told me, ‘We really sympathize with this guy. We were against the war, too.’ ”

If he did survive, Burt’s life underground got easier in 1976, when he was removed from the FBI’s most-wanted list. Fine had been arrested and returned to Madison to face charges, and a federal magistrate had granted him bail — unusual leniency for a man who had spent six years running from justice. The FBI took that as a sign that the bombers were no longer regarded as serious threats and removed Burt from its vaunted list.

The practical effect for a fugitive would have been huge. To be on that list is to have your picture everywhere. More than that, it means even distant relatives have their phone records

checked and their mail perused. When an agent is responsible for a suspect on that list, Miller says, “every thirty days you have to submit a report to headquarters telling them about all the fine work you’re doing [and] all the hard investigating you’ve done and are planning to do in the next thirty days. It’s a lot of work.”

Burt wasn’t on the list when Miller got the case, which meant that the FBI checked in with Burt’s brothers and father (who is now deceased) from time to time, but it didn’t maintain round-the-clock surveillance. “Every once in a while, you might get a subpoena and pull some phone records to see if they had gotten a phone call from Ontario or some place,” Miller says. “Of course, if



Three pictures capture how Burt might look now, when he would be fifty-seven years old. The FBI used pictures of Burt's relatives and computer technology to create the images, although agents admit the chances they will find Burt grow more remote every day.

he'd been on the Ten Most Wanted list, we'd have been camped outside their door."

But if the reduced attention makes it easier to stay in the shadows, it also reduces the risk of stepping out of them. After pleading guilty to a charge of second-degree murder and receiving a twenty-three-year jail sentence, Karl Armstrong was paroled in 1980 and lives in Madison. Fine and Dwight Armstrong each did short terms in prison and have returned to lives above ground. Miller wonders why Burt wouldn't have turned himself in, accepted a relatively light sentence, and been done with it.

"That's why, late on some nights," Miller says, "I say, 'Well, maybe he's dead.' It's either that, or he's so comfortable as a fugitive that he's somewhere where he's convinced he'll never be caught."

The truth is that we don't know, and we may never find out. Firsthand knowledge of the case is fading. Bates died of pancreatic cancer in 1999; Lulling passed away in 2000. Both Miller and Thompson have retired from the FBI.

Tim Mickelson no longer gets calls from the FBI, which is just as well. In thirty-five years, he has heard nothing from Leo Burt.

But the theories live on. On the Internet, you can read countless far-fetched notions of what happened to Burt. One theory, largely discounted, is that Burt was actually working undercover for the authorities against the anti-war movement.

"He let his hair grow and started writing a lot for the *Daily Cardinal* and SDS," Mickelson recalls. "At some point, he started believing what he was writing."

Brennan, who admits to having something of an obsession with Burt, said recently that "everybody who knew him has a theory of what has happened to him." Most everyone agrees that the strength of will — the kind of mind-over-body strength that earned an average-bodied rower the attention of the nation's elite crew programs — would have served Burt well as he abandoned

his old life. "He's cold as steel," Dwight Armstrong said, and that's the kind of resolve one would need.

"I think he's still alive," Brennan says, "and I think he's only caught if he wants to be caught."

In June 1999, police and FBI agents acting on a tip surrounded a white minivan in the suburbs of St. Paul, Minnesota. The driver, a woman named Sara Jane Olson, was a mother of three, married to a doctor — except that she turned out to be Kathleen Soliah, a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, a radical group perhaps best known for kidnapping Patty Hearst in 1974. Soliah had been on the run for twenty-five years.

That leaves Burt, who vanished a decade ago longer than that, as the last piece of a puzzle that we can't seem to put away. And we may never know the full picture — because if he isn't dead, he might as well be.

"He won't come forward," Brennan says. "Remember this: whoever he has become, he has been that person a lot longer than he was Leo Burt." ■

Doug Moe '79, former editor of *Madison Magazine* and now a columnist for the *Capital Times*, has heard from dozens of people during his career who claim to know where Leo Burt

FLOUR POWER

Paul Stitt has been a longtime pioneer in getting Americans to eat healthier foods, but when it comes to school lunches, his impact can only be described as super-sized.

By Niki Denison



In 1998, Wisconsin's Appleton Central Alternative High School was dealing with worrisome discipline problems in the classrooms. Students were caught with drugs and weapons. They were hostile to each other and to their teachers, and behavior was out of control.

Did the school turn to a psychologist, a consultant, or an education specialist? No — they contacted Paul Stitt MS'69, the owner and founder of Natural Ovens Bakery.

"When the Appleton school system came to us and said could you help us, we said we'd love to," Stitt says. "And we said, 'Certainly, we know how to correct the situation. Throw out the vending machines with all the high-sugar, high-fat foods; throw out the pop machines loaded with sugar; put in water coolers; and start educating kids about what they need to do to be good to their bodies.'"



PASKUS STUDIO (3)

“The human brain needs nutrients to function,” says Paul Stitt (above, surrounded by students). “Any biochemist can tell you that, without proper neurotransmitters in the brain cells, nothing is going to happen, no matter what teaching method you use on kids.”

Stitt and his spouse, Barbara, underwrote a program that allowed the school to start serving a menu emphasizing fresh fruits and vegetables, whole-grain products, entrees free of chemicals and additives, and energy drinks.

The results were dramatic. Truancy rates took a nose dive. Grades shot up. Vandalism and littering went down. The alternative school went five years with

no expulsions, no dropouts, no drugs on campus, no weapons, and no suicides. It was the only school in Appleton that had a perfect record during that period.

Although the food costs were higher, the school saved money because it no longer had to pay for a full-time police officer, and with better discipline, it was able to increase class size from eight to fifteen students.

Seeing this success, the entire Appleton school district is now phasing in a healthier lunch program for its fifteen thousand students. The first year, they removed the soda and candy machines from the schools (and even from the staff lounges). Now they’re working with a private hot-lunch contractor to improve food choices and quality. Even PTA meetings and bake sales now feature trail

mix and carrot sticks instead of cupcakes, says Assistant Superintendent Lee Allinger. Since the district started paying more attention to what its students are eating, he adds, “our teachers feel the kids are more focused in the classroom.”

Nationwide, what we eat has become a hot topic, as obesity rates have grown to epidemic proportions in the last twenty years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 60 percent of American adults are overweight or obese, and 13 percent

ests. Stitt’s team synthesized a protein from methanol, and they felt it had great potential as an inexpensive way to feed malnourished millions. Despite the team’s success, however, the project was inexplicably canceled. Stitt, baffled and frustrated, moved on to Quaker Oats.

There he was in for more disappointment. Stitt claims that what he calls the corporate food giants, in the interest of increasing profits, have deliberately set out to get consumers to overeat. He learned that they put appetite stimulants

ing healthy, whole-grain breads, which were hard to come by at that time. Like many new businesses, the bakery got off to a rocky start. But Stitt persisted, expanding his distribution throughout the Midwest and by mail order. He augmented his product line with bagels, muffins, and other items, and fortified his products with flax and vitamins. Although Stitt relies solely on word-of-mouth advertising, the company’s 2004 sales came in at \$26 million, and it has experienced steady growth, averaging nearly 15 percent per year.

He maintains that his is the only company in the United States with an original mission to make foods so filling and satisfying that people could not overeat. “The wisdom within the food industry is that you always have to make foods so that people can’t stop eating, or you’ll never sell enough to stay in business. And we say that’s hogwash.” If you make foods that don’t cause people to overeat, he says, word will spread, “and you’ll be gaining new customers all the time.”

Natural Ovens’ success has allowed Stitt to get involved in community efforts like the Appleton school initiative. Through his nonprofit Nutritional Resource Foundation, he and Barbara started the Peak Performance Program to provide the company’s energy mix and Brainy Bagels (which include flaxseed to optimize brain function) to the Appleton Alternative School and more than thirty other Wisconsin classrooms for breakfast. That later grew into the lunch program.

According to Ken Zeichner, assistant dean in the UW-Madison School of Education, public schools are hamstrung by the need to provide subsidized lunch programs. “The government gives support in the form of surplus food, things they need to get rid of that they dump on the schools that is of questionable nutritional value,” he says.

Zeichner believes that this type of fare can distract students from learning. “A lot of kids in the public schools are drugged with Ritalin and other things because they’re supposedly hyperactive,” he says, “and kids are being defined as



Spurlock included a segment on the Appleton school lunch program in the movie Super Size Me, contrasting it with a typical lunch program at an Illinois school that centered around pizza and French fries.

of children aged six to eleven are overweight — almost double the figure of two decades ago.

Experts agree that a big part of the solution must focus on instilling healthier eating habits in children. Many school districts are removing junk-food machines or replacing their offerings with healthier choices, such as juices, energy bars, or baked snacks instead of fried. Others, spurred by parental concern and overweight kids, are starting to revamp their lunch menus. Even McDonald’s restaurants are starting to offer fruit and other healthy selections.

And Paul Stitt couldn’t be happier. These are changes that he and Barbara have been advocating for years. In fact, Stitt has made it a lifelong mission to get people to eat more healthfully — a mission born of his disillusionment with the corporate approach to feeding America.

Stitt got his graduate degree in biochemistry, and after graduation, filled with visions of helping to solve the problem of world hunger, he signed on for a special project with Tenneco, a multinational corporation with petroleum inter-

in snack food to encourage consumers to eat more. For instance, in his book *Beating the Food Giants*, Stitt claims that Oreo cookies have “twenty-three different appetite stimulants,” along with eleven artificial colors. The primary purpose of artificial sweeteners, he claims, is not to make foods sweeter, but to get people to eat more of them. Sugar consumption has increased since artificial sweeteners came on the market, he says. The average person has consumed seventeen pounds more sugar per year since 1980.

Further, he maintains, most food processing strips nutrients from food, leaving the body unsatisfied and causing us to eat more.

When Stitt brought up these issues with his former employers, he was branded as a troublemaker. After moving him to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Quaker fired him, and Stitt says he was black-balled and couldn’t get another job interview in the food industry. He decided he could do better on his own.

In 1976, he started Natural Ovens of Manitowoc Bakery (now just known as Natural Ovens) with the intent of mak-



Why You Can't Eat Just One

Some of the most weighty research on food cravings has come from Ann Kelley, a UW-Madison professor of psychiatry. Kelley and her research team are studying the chemical systems in the brain that regulate our response to food — specifically, high-fat and high-sugar foods.

If you hear the cheesecake in the refrigerator calling to you, you can thank your opioid system. This neurotransmitter system in the brain seems to be important in the pleasurable and emotional response to food.

Kelley found that if she overstimulates the opioid receptors in rats, “they pig out. They will eat three to four times as much fat as they usually do.” Rats enjoy sweetened fat, and over the course of three hours they might typically eat five to seven grams, she says. “But the rats that we treat with this compound [that activates the opioid system] can eat up to twenty-five grams in three hours.” Conversely, Kelley found that when she blocked the opioid receptors, the rats ate a lot less.

Scientists agree that a built-in attraction for high-fat foods was beneficial in evolutionary development for ensuring the consumption of relatively scarce, high-energy food sources. But in modern times, Kelley says, this mechanism is highly maladaptive. In the Western world, “we are surrounded with unlimited supplies of high-fat, salty, sweet, and calorically dense foods. These foods are everywhere we go — convenience stores, schools, check-out lines — and often come in the form of huge portion sizes.” This scenario, combined with a sedentary lifestyle, has led to an epidemic of obesity.

Kelley has also discovered another ingredient in our makeup that leads us to pack on the pounds. She found that a habitual diet of rich foods causes long-term alterations in brain chemistry. In one study, she gave rats a diet of chocolate Ensure (a nutritional supplement drink) for several weeks, and she learned that it induced a change in gene expression in their brains. The rats had a decrease in the amount of a gene that helped to regulate their reactions to food.

“Interestingly, this pattern is similar to what happens if rats are given morphine or heroin for several weeks,” Kelley says. “In other words, rich, calorically-dense foods can have marked, long-lasting effects on brain neurochemistry, and perhaps overindulgence in these foods primes the system to want more and more, in a manner similar to addiction.”

These findings have implications for developing weight-loss drugs that act on the opioid system. However, there are also other systems in the brain involved in processing information about food. The amygdala, which is involved in emotional processing and learning, is one of them. “If we block the amygdala in rats,” says Kelley, “they don’t binge-eat anymore.” Consequently, “weight-loss drugs are going to need to target multiple chemical systems in the brain.” Humans are wired with such a powerful system to get us to eat that it’s really hard to turn it off, she says. This complexity tempers her optimism about developing effective drugs.

It’s much more important, she says, to begin early in life to change eating habits, reduce food intake, and increase exercise. “In terms of policy and government and education, I would really focus on young people,” she says. “Because once the setpoint [the point at which the brain gauges how much fat is stored] changes and keeps creeping upward, it’s harder and harder to push that down. The idea is to really stabilize early in teenage years or young adulthood.”

— N.D.

emotionally disturbed. There’s no question in my mind that at least some of it — I’m not saying all of it — has to do with the quality of nutrition. Parents are busy at all income levels; they’re not necessarily making sure that their kids get access to good-quality food.

“To see an independent businessperson doing [what Stitt is doing] is wonderful,” Zeichner says. “I can’t say enough positive things about him.”

The Appleton program was originally inspired by Barbara Stitt’s work as a probation officer. She realized that a lot of her probationers were junk food junkies who lived on soda, caffeine, and sugar,

and not much else. When she showed them how to follow a healthy diet, those who stayed on it were amazed at how different they felt, and their improved attitudes and behaviors helped them to stay out of jail. She figured that if it worked for them, it would work in the classroom.

The lunch program caught the eye of filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, who made the movie *Super Size Me* based on what he felt like when he ate all his meals at McDonald’s restaurants for thirty days in a row. The previously fit and healthy Spurlock gained twenty-five pounds, and his cholesterol and liver profiles became

so unhealthy that his doctors begged him to stop the experiment.

Spurlock included a segment on the Appleton school lunch program in the movie, contrasting it with a typical lunch program at an Illinois school that centered around pizza and French fries. Spurlock and Stitt are now working on creating a version of *Super Size Me* that is suitable for showing in schools. It’s obvious that the two are kindred spirits. Stitt says that Spurlock is “very high energy — he’s just the neatest guy to work with. He’s full of laughs all the time, and he’s having a ball with this concept. The food industry just doesn’t know how to take it.”



Since Stitt started Natural Ovens of Manitowoc Bakery in 1976, it has grown to a \$26 million-a-year business. Food industry wisdom, he says, dictates that “you always have to make food so that people can’t stop eating, or you’ll never stay in business. We say that’s hogwash.”

Spurlock, for his part, maintains that Stitt “has been leading the charge for healthy school lunches for many years. He is setting an example that districts nationwide should follow.”

Stitt is also helping to fund a research project with the University of Minnesota duplicating Spurlock’s diet with college students. (“I wish it were being done at UW-Madison instead,” Stitt says.) If science can demonstrate that others experience the same negative effects as

Spurlock, Stitt observes, “the fast food industry could be in serious hot water.”

Meanwhile, the Appleton lunch program has been featured on *Good Morning America*, Stitt has gone on the speaking circuit, and the school’s story has been written up in a number of newspapers. “Hundreds of school systems have contacted us for information on how to do [a program] like Appleton did — we get up to ten requests a day,” he says. Since last October, his staff has sent out 1,400

packets with seventy-five pages of information about how schools can make similar changes, along with a short DVD telling the story of Appleton Alternative.

“The human brain needs nutrients to function,” Stitt says. “Any biochemist can tell you that, without proper neurotransmitters in the brain cells, nothing is going to happen, no matter what teaching method you use.” Older teachers maintain, he says, that today’s students “are much less able to think and remember than they could forty years ago.”

To what does he attribute this astounding claim? “My theory is, it’s just plain old lack of nutrients in the food — that the children’s food providers are abusing them in not providing them with adequate nutrients,” he says. Before the advent of fast foods, children weren’t eating so many empty calories. “If you look at the ingredients in Chicken McNuggets,” he says, “it’s a chemical conglomeration with a little chicken added. When I was a kid, when my mother served me chicken, it was all chicken.”

In some cases, he says, kids are going to school without breakfast. “They just kind of run on empty until lunch time. We found that these kids are not too fussy about how the food tastes, as long as there’s enough of it. They’ll eat anything that’s loose.”

One technique that Stitt says was especially effective with the Appleton students was an agreement that if the kids would eat healthy foods for a month, then they would get a junk food day. But after one day of eating all the snacks, desserts, and soda they wanted, he says, “they were so shocked and dismayed at their awful behavior and the terrible way they felt that some of the teenagers actually begged us never to require another junk food day. They couldn’t believe they could go from feeling so good to just becoming an animal. No one ever imagined that a simple thing like vitamins and minerals and so forth could make such a huge difference. They thought it was a lack of religion or training or home life or something else.”

Mary Bruyette, an English teacher at the school, concurs. "Students told me how awful they felt after junk food day, and they said they never wanted to feel that way again." It was a lesson for a lifetime, Stitt says. "And whenever they're tempted to eat junk food, they can think about how they felt last time."

This past school year, the Stitts started a similar lunch program with Chicago's Perspectives Charter School, which includes grades six through twelve. Eighty-six percent of the students come from low-income backgrounds, and they are accepted for the school via a lottery.

According to Dianne Campbell, director of external affairs, the new food program is "off to a roaring start. It's a

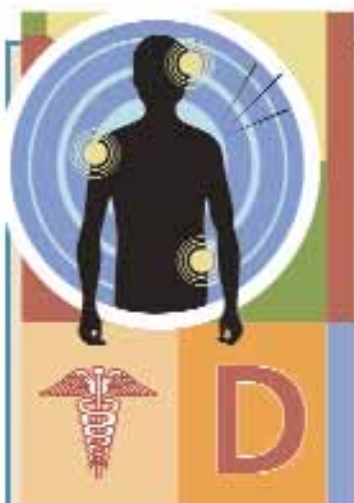
huge adjustment from eating food that we get from one of our public school vendors to healthy — lots of green vegetables, lots of great stuff." It's not easy to switch courses, she says, especially because Perspectives has been constructing a new building and doubling the size of the student body at the same time. "So it was a time of great growth for Perspectives, and there were times when we thought, 'I don't know if we can really do this.'" But the fact that Stitt kept encouraging them helped a lot, she says.

"The other thing about Paul, in addition to being visionary, is that he's just a person with great heart," she says. "At every turn, we're inspired by the fact that he cares so much. He's a remarkable man with a tremendous

commitment to young people and to the link between good nutrition and performance."

Thanks to Natural Ovens Bakery, she says, the school has been able to hire an outstanding chef, and some of their students are interning in the kitchen. The school food policy is modeled in part after Appleton's. Perspectives is also working with teachers to build information about healthy lifestyles into the curriculum and to integrate the message throughout the school. "There are huge benefits for the faculty and staff as well," says Campbell. "We're all eating together and we're loving it." Those benefits will soon extend to some five thousand students, since the school board

Continued on page 61



Easing Pain with Vitamin D

Now that Paul Stitt is semi-retired from Natural Ovens Bakery, he has turned his attention to researching nutritional products that help relieve pain. "My mission is to help people get free of pain one person at a time," he says. "I've discovered that [a lot of] pain is caused by deficiencies, specifically vitamin D and C and calcium and magnesium."

There are currently about one hundred people following a dietary pain-relief program overseen by Stitt's Nutritional Research Foundation. "We find that within six weeks, two-thirds of the people are almost pain-free," he says. Those who try his program include people with everything from chronic back pain to fibromyalgia.

Many experts believe that the recommended daily allowance for vitamin D, currently set at four hundred international units per day, is too low. (That's why Stitt supplements most of his bakery products with the vitamin.) When vitamin D was discovered, the RDA was based on how much it took to prevent the bone disease rickets. "Now this whole subject needs to be revisited," Stitt says. "Especially in the last seven years, research around the world has shown that vitamin D deficiency is involved in all types of cancer — it's involved in diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis — a lot of things besides rickets."

He cites a 2003 Mayo Clinic report on a University of Minnesota finding that vitamin D deficiency is a major cause of

chronic back pain. "They've demonstrated that by giving people adequate levels of vitamin D, that you can reverse chronic back pain," he says. "This was wholly unexpected. I think that's research that needs to be expanded on, because it could have huge ramifications for the cost of medical care."

Stitt has devised a product called Chocolate Sunshine Almond Clusters that contain 2,000 units of vitamin D per piece. They're being used in a Manitowoc nursing home to determine if eating the chocolates on a regular basis can help to reduce falls. Treatment of broken bones from falls represents a major expense in the nursing home industry.

Professor of Biochemistry Hector DeLuca MS'53, PhD'55, a UW-Madison vitamin D expert, cautions that too much vitamin D can be toxic, with a risk of hypercalcemia and destruction of organs such as the kidneys, heart, and aorta. "It's not something you play around with," he says. "I'd say that about 5,000 units a day would probably be just about where 99.9 percent of the population would be totally safe. I do think the RDA ought to be increased to 1,000 or maybe to 2,000 units," he says, but "the true safe level has never been totally determined. That's the problem."

Recent studies show that vitamin D3 is several times more valuable than the more commonly used vitamin D2, Stitt says. "When you stop to think about all the money that is spent on osteoporosis, and all the pain, it's a real crime, when three cents a day of vitamin D would prevent that problem if we only knew how much to take." Many researchers, he claims, are more interested in doing studies that lead to biotechnology or other patents, whereas vitamin D is not patentable. "[Determining the new RDA] is something that's desperately needed by humanity, but that is not necessarily going to make any company rich." — N.D.

Flour Power

Continued from page 39

recently voted to expand the Perspectives model, including the lunch program, to seven additional schools in the coming years.

For the first year, Perspectives has focused simply on getting the program up and running, so it's too soon to gauge its effects. Getting kids to eat healthful foods, which is no small feat, has been a bigger adjustment for the older students, Campbell says. But stay tuned for results — NBC is planning to monitor the program for the next four years and report on how it goes.

Stitt insists that university education departments should instruct future teachers about the impact of nutrition on learning and behavior. Ken Zeichner says that the UW-Madison School of Education requires elementary ed students to take a health course that includes a nutrition segment. But secondary teachers don't take the course, he says, and it's true that most teachers don't get that information.

"Our company from the get-go has been on a mission," says Stitt. "It just happens to be we make bread. But the real mission was to help mankind and to make food that's truly good for people." In *Beating the Food Giants*, Stitt attributes his altruistic leanings to his family and his upbringing on a farm in Illinois. In graduate school, his role model was UW Professor Karl Paul Link '22, MS'23, PhD'25, who developed the blood thinner dicumarol and its rat-poison counterpart, Warfarin.

"K.P. Link was just an extraordinary professor — probably the greatest oddball on earth," says Stitt. "He was a nonconformist, and he taught me not to accept conventional thinking." During the Vietnam War, he says, when the university wanted to prosecute student demonstrators, "Link gave the university money to give to the students to defend themselves from the university. He wouldn't do it in the typical way — he wouldn't give it to the students," he laughs.

UW-Madison's "sifting and winnowing" statement also resonated with the

idealistic graduate student. "That's the most important thing to learn to do — to separate the truth from the chaff," he says. "That's a mission I've been on all my life."

Sifting the wheat from the chaff might seem a fitting occupation for a baker, and indeed, Stitt sifted out the truth about another grain when he masterminded the acceptance of flax in the American diet. The seed had been eaten for thousands of years in Europe and Russia, but Stitt says that flawed U.S. studies led to the belief that it was toxic.

The key, he says, is not to cook the flax at a high temperature, as the researchers did, because high heat generates harmful substances. Stitt devised a process that included adding zinc to the seed, so that he could stabilize it and use it in his breads and other products.

"My feeling is that no one has a right to entice people to eat food that's bad for them."

"We got the FDA to do dozens of studies, and they published ten papers showing that flaxseed is safe and beneficial," he says. Since then, thousands of articles have touted flax as a source of valuable Omega-3 oils, which help to combat inflammation and disease and are hard to come by in the typical American diet. "It contains the very nutrients that people are most deficient in," Stitt says. "A lot of people ridiculed me at the beginning for promoting flaxseed," he says, "but now I feel totally vindicated to see all these hundreds of products using it."

Stitt believes that the obesity epidemic is "a far bigger problem than tobacco," given that only 25 percent of the adult population identifies themselves as smokers, and obesity is "killing two-thirds of the population." Government agencies agree that obesity is a factor in heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other serious diseases, and the CDC estimates that the

economic cost of obesity in the United States was about \$117 billion in 2000.

"I think it should be like the Manhattan Project during World War II," says Stitt. "[We need to] put those kind of resources into finding out how to solve the problem and how to prevent it."

Stitt's next book will feature accounts from individuals who have been successful at keeping weight off. "They have found that the most effective method of keeping weight off is for each person to work out their own method of doing it," he says. "Prescribed methods, from what I've read in the literature, have been pretty much gross failures. People get tired of following the book, but if it's their own idea of how to do it, then they tend to stick with it."

In February, Stitt went into semi-retirement from Natural Ovens. "But I don't want to slow down one bit," he emphasizes. He'll focus on researching nutritional pain-relief products (see sidebar on page 39), and on the school lunch program. Stitt has some strong words for Americans when it comes to eating habits, but what he is advocating basically constitutes a paradigm shift in the way our culture approaches food.

"My feeling is that no one has a right to entice people to eat food that's bad for them," he says. "It really is kind of immoral to put out these enticing desserts that people absolutely can't resist." Even after having a good, healthy meal, he says, "you destroy the nutritional benefits by eating one of those big, gooey desserts. The sugar totally overwhelms the system, and you have this huge blood-sugar spike with insulin and all the harm that it does."

Parents love to coddle their children by bribing them with food that's harmful to them, he says. "This is what parents do in our society." Instead of rewarding children with a candy bar, he'd recommend a game of catch or some other much-needed physical activity.

There's a lot at stake, he says. "I think there's nothing more important in the whole world than the next generation."

Niki Denison is co-editor of *On Wisconsin* Magazine.



Dancing *with* Her Mind

BY MICHAEL PENN MA'97

PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

*T*here have been two periods in Li Chiao-Ping's life when she did not dance. At first, she didn't know how. Then, years later, she had to learn it all over again.

It would be easy enough to find on-stage moments to mark the slope of Li's career: the shows in New York and Toronto, the success of her Madison company, the rack of grants and awards she's won in her ten years on the UW-Madison dance faculty, the reams of critical praise she's received. They're the bullet points on the resume of a rising star — and promises of what may yet come from the forty-one-year-old choreographer and performer.

But in some ways, dancing hasn't defined Li as much as not dancing has. It's in the interruptions that you find the spark of her creativity and the soul of the dancer.

The first one began around the time she was four years old, a little ball of kinetic energy bounding around her parents' house in the heart of San Francisco. Her father worked in a laundry, and there wasn't much money for extravagances like dance lessons. But it was in her, this desire to get up and move. On Sundays, she perched in front of the television, watching old musicals that ran during the afternoons. Then she turned the house into a sound stage, mimicking the moves of Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. In her mind, she leapt puddles and sang in the rain.

In China, her father was a teacher, an educated man who left his home in search of opportunities for his family. He had goals for his children, and they didn't include dancing. They would be mathematicians, doctors, nurses, professionals. And oh, did Li try not to dance. She majored in mathematics; she majored in

When a foot injury threatened to end her career, dancer Li Chiao-Ping discovered the limits of the body — and the limitless reach of the human spirit.



anthropology; she majored in psychology. But none stuck, none moved her, none consumed her the way that dance did.

The second time, she almost lost it all.

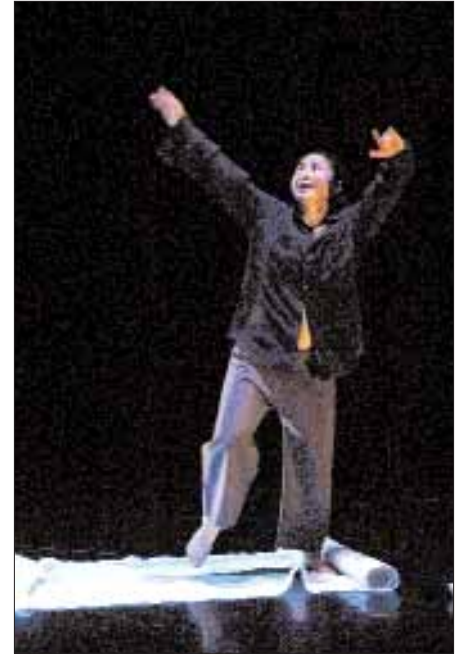
*I*t was freezing outside, seven degrees and all steel gray. The spring semester was just beginning, and there was much to do. As her partner Douglas Rosenberg steered their Jeep Cherokee north toward campus, Li occupied herself with the mundane affairs of a Monday. She didn't see the ice. There was a spin, an oncoming truck, the crunch of metal, and, then, nothing.

Li awoke in the hospital, perforated by tubes and wires. Her left ankle had been crushed in the accident, severing most of the tendons and blood vessels

that ran between her leg and foot. Doctors discussed amputation. She could not contemplate that particular horror. Her foot — the pivot for a thousand pirouettes and leaps — was the foundation of her dance and of her life. It had to be spared.

Fate has a cruel sense of irony when it deals with artists. Beethoven went deaf. Monet lost all but the last shred of his sight. And when it nearly took Li's left foot on that day in January 1999, everything changed.

Facing page: Li Chiao-Ping performs *Ba Ba*, a solo dance that explores her feelings about her father, a Chinese immigrant who worked for many years in a San Francisco laundry while nurturing an artistic side he rarely showed his children.



“I want [people] to embrace their creativity — to live in it and be proud of it.”

She had made her name as an athletic performer. A gymnast in high school, she filled her dances with bounding leaps and acrobatic poses. “She has such powerful legs,” says Cynthia Adams, the artistic director of the San Francisco-based Fellow Travelers Performance Group. Adams recalls how unmistakable Li was when they first met, at an American Dance Festival workshop in the late 1980s. “The dancers were all in a line, doing leaps across the stage. She just shot out above everybody else,” she says.

But even after nine surgeries to rebuild and repair it, that foot seemed useless. Li had been in the hospital for several weeks before she was able to dangle it over the side of her bed. A nurse timed her. The goal was to see if she could hold it there for five minutes.

“She was told she would probably never walk again without a cane,” says Rosenberg, Li’s husband and frequent collaborator, a filmmaker who is also on the dance faculty. “It’s hard to watch her dance now and remember that.”

Monet was seventy-two when he was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes. He told friends that he saw every-

thing “in a complete fog” and complained bitterly that he was ruined as a painter. He went on to complete the *Water Lilies* murals, among his most famous works. Beethoven, aging and ill, never heard a note of his Ninth.

Li was thirty-four at the time of the accident, and her career was flying. Hired by UW-Madison in 1994 to bolster a dance department that had fallen on hard times, she was garnering notice both as a performer and artistic director of her own company, Li Chiao-Ping Dance. She was coming off the *Men’s Project*, a series of well-received dances created for her by six leading male choreographers, with a television documentary directed by Rosenberg. After the accident, a Madison show and a tour were scrapped. But while many around UW-Madison privately whispered she might never dance again, Li had little doubt. The frequent visits from friends and admirers inspired her. She wanted to give something back, and what she had to give was dance.

In the hospital, Li underwent repeated tests to assess the blood flow in her newly constructed arteries. The doctors called it “venous flow”; if they heard the thrum of blood in the vessels,

that was good news. One day, Li and Rosenberg asked if they could record the sound. “I think the people at the hospital thought it was kind of weird, but they said okay,” says Rosenberg. That became the soundtrack to Li’s return to the stage, an April 2001 show entitled, appropriately enough, *Venous Flow: States of Grace*. Though deeply personal, including x-ray images of her shattered ankle as backdrop, the show strove to express Li’s appreciation of the community surrounding her — and began to articulate a new idea about her art.

“I had been working towards a virtuoso way of performing, a highly athletic and very technically skilled style of dancing,” she says. “For sure, my eyes got opened wide after the accident. Meeting people who helped me, I learned a great deal from their lives and experiences, and I saw the gift of that.”

Li’s work since the accident is striking for how little and how much it has changed. Though early on her body felt atrophied and foreign — “it was like I had suddenly turned seventy,” she says — she regained nearly all of her strength and athleticism. Only the ability to point her toes and some balance have not come

back to her. "It still gets numb if I'm on it for too long," she says.

What's changed is the emotional depth to her work. Before the accident, critics universally lauded Li's technical gifts, but some weren't as sold on her ability as a choreographer to dream up movements that resonated with audiences. One *New York Times* writer described a 1998 performance by her company as "more earnest than imaginative." There was the sense that her best work was yet to come, that age and experience would add dimension to her immense skill.

"I think early on, she could always fall back on her athleticism," says Adams. "As with any kind of artistry, you bring in your own experiences, and that's what she had to draw on." As terrifying as the accident was, it became a wellspring of new information and emotion for Li to explore. "She was forced to confront all kinds of issues you don't really think about when you're thirty-four," says Rosenberg. "It smacked her in the face."

Li says she began to "look outside herself," feeling movement less intuitively and seeing her work more objectively. Able to rely less on her body, she used more words and images to carry her meaning. Her choreography remains physically demanding, often putting dancers in precarious-looking positions that seem to flout the whole idea of gravity. But Li's new works have gone further in exploring emotions such as pain, loss, regret, and redemption. The physicality serves the expression. The bodies dance, but so do the minds.

On a Friday afternoon a few months ago, Li was standing at the center of a circle of sock-footed senior citizens, working on a segment for her latest show. They had been rehearsing their routine for days, but it still wasn't quite right.

"Here, let's try this," she said, lightly springing onto the stage. She raised her arms above her head, assuming the first of four positions she had invented for the

dance. "Remember these?" she said, demonstrating each pose. "These are the landmarks, but the journey between them is your own."

The show, a ninety-minute compilation of works called *Laughing Bodies, Dancing Minds*, debuted in Madison in March. A multigenerational, operatic affair, it counted among its cast ten senior citizens from one of Li's community dance workshops and fourteen elementary school students, who at times danced alongside professionals such as Heidi Latsky, a former principal dancer for the Bill T. Jones Company in New York.

Some choreographers make a habit of incorporating amateur dancers to give their pieces a communal feel, but since her recovery, Li has done it more extensively and daringly than most. She began leading eight-week workshops at two Madison senior centers, and several of the novice dancers have appeared in her shows. "It can be very tricky to bring community people into a show and stay clear about your intent," Latsky said

after one rehearsal. "But I think she does it, because she has a strong theme that ties it all together."

To knit that theme, Li had the dancers reflect on their different life stages, looking alternately forward and back on major decisions. For the seniors, she had choreographed a free-flowing routine formed around a few basic poses. Her idea was for them to come up with their own movements to get from one of those landmarks to the next, so that at times they'd all be doing the same thing but at others following their own creativity. "What I

Continued on page 63



Since her accident, Li has often created dance pieces that mix professional and amateur dancers, including senior citizens and elementary school children. While their moves sometimes lack the technical perfection of Li's trained company dancers, she says the spirit of their creativity shines through.

Dancing

Continued from page 43

love about it compositionally,” she explains, “is that everyone ends up in the same place, but they take different paths to get there. For me, that becomes a metaphor for how we all try to get from point A to point B. The shortest way is a straight line, but not everyone always follows the straight line.”

For Li, there have been few straight lines in life. When she finally gave up on math and switched her major at the University of California-Santa Cruz to dance, her parents were so disappointed that, for a time, they stopped speaking to her. “They wanted me to have a successful career, a house with a white picket fence, a husband, children,” Li says. And although she and Rosenberg do have a four-year-old son and a house in the suburbs, her own road to those comforts was very different from her father’s, who toiled at the laundry long enough to

eventually co-own it with his brother. Over the years, Li says their curiosity in her dance has been chiefly commercial: Is she making a living? How many tickets did the show sell?

Yet for all that time, her father nurtured an artistic fantasy that he concealed from Li and her three siblings. Sequestered in the garage, he painted elaborate calligraphy and stashed piles of fine clothes, camera equipment, and musical instruments. Li knew very little about his endeavors until after his death this past fall, when she helped sort through his private collections.

“I felt he lived this rich life that was outside what I knew about him,” she says. “It felt like such a sacrifice that he didn’t let us in on who he was, completely.

“Maybe it’s transference, but I want so much for that not to happen to other people. I want them to embrace their creativity — to live in it and be proud of it,

not feel like they have to divorce themselves from it.”

Back on the Lathrop stage, the seniors watched as Li repeated the moves, this time adding turns, steps, and gestures as she twisted through the routine. The effect was mesmerizing. With a pirouette here and a subtle movement of her hand there, she bridged the physical and emotional distance between positions, giving them meaning and direction. Joy tumbled into sorrow into reflection and rebirth. It was classic Li, a tiny slice of that effortless brilliance that neither age nor trauma have taken from her.

Several among the audience sighed, their appreciation tinged with perhaps a hint of envy. “She makes it look so easy,” one groaned. They could do the landmarks, but no one got from point A to point B quite like Li. 📺

Michael Penn MA'97 is co-editor of *On Wisconsin Magazine*.



Badgers at Bat

Baseball makes a comeback at the UW.

TEAM PLAYER

Jvontai Hanserd

Five things to know about Badger track athlete **Jvontai Hanserd '05**:

- It's all about speed for Hanserd, a senior who runs sprints for the Badgers. An All-American last season as a member of the UW 400-meter relay team, he is also one of the Big Ten's best in the 200 meters.
- He's quick off the track, too. Graduating with a degree in international relations, he's preparing for a career in foreign affairs.
- He actually competed in Camp Randall Stadium even before becoming a Badger. Growing up in Rockford, Illinois, he played bass drum for a drum-and-bugle corps and twice came to Madison for national competitions.
- Just how fast is he? His best time in the 200 meters is 20.9 seconds — which equates to more than 21 miles per hour.
- That's nothing compared to what he can do at the helm of a single-engine plane. As a licensed pilot, he's gone more than 200 miles per hour. And that's really flying.



JEFF MILLER

More than a decade after the university put its varsity program in the dugout, players on the UW's club baseball team show commitment that is anything but minor league.

At his position behind second base, **Matt Rink x'06** wears a red jersey with "Badgers" printed across his chest and a look of utter intensity on his face. He keeps a watchful eye on the runner inching away from first base as the crack of a bat resonates through the stands.

He's part of America's pastime, an athletic legacy that dates back more than a century at the UW. But if it weren't for one UW graduate with a genuine love of the game, he might not be there at all.

There was no baseball on campus in 1999, when **Brian Carlson '02** transferred to the UW from Winona State University in Minnesota. There were no practice facilities, no equipment, no coaches, and no funding. Eight years earlier, Badger baseball was caught in the glove of Title IX, the legislation passed by Congress that requires equal opportunity in athletics and academics. Facing a court order to restore gender

equity in an athletic department that was already deeply in debt, the UW cut baseball, and four other teams, from the varsity roster. At that point, it seemed Badger baseball was benched forever.

But Carlson, who had played baseball since he was a kid, couldn't imagine life without the game, and he decided to take a swing at building a team. He learned that the UW Division of Recreational Sports supported club teams — student-run organizations that offer intercollegiate competition — and was surprised to find that baseball wasn't among them. With the help of **Eric Wolosek '02**, he founded one, officially called Club Baseball at UW, and began recruiting players by word of mouth. When he saw somebody playing catch near the dorms, Carlson would go over and ask him to join his team.

It was a hit. In its first season in 1999, the club team had twenty players, but within three years, there were enough students on the roster to fill two

squads, A and B, the equivalent of junior varsity and varsity. But baseball wasn't just making a ninth-inning comeback at the UW — clubs were also popping up at other universities that didn't have varsity teams, such as Marquette University and Iowa State.

The National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) was formed in 2000 to set conferences and schedules, track standings, and enable the teams to compete on a national level. Each year, the top-ranked team in each of the NCBA's eight regions travels to Bradenton, Florida, to play in the club-level World Series. In 2003, the Badgers made a run for the national title, ending the season tied for third place.

Today, Club Baseball at UW competes in the NCBA's Western Lakes Conference against three other Wisconsin teams — UW-Eau Claire, UW-Whitewater, and Marquette. They're all tough competitors, but the Badgers' biggest rival is Eau Claire, the team that took the conference title last year. And though it's the conference games that

count, the Badgers also schedule games against local varsity teams. For club players, who pay out of their own pockets for most of the amenities that varsity athletes get for free, there's nothing like the respect that comes with sending a varsity team packing with a big red loss on their record.

"We're right up there with every Division III team in the area," Rink says proudly, "if not better."

From March until May, the Badgers are at bat every weekend and practice twice each week. Many games are on the road, because there's no suitable baseball diamond on campus and it spares the team hefty field-rental fees. When the team does play in town, it's usually at Warner Park, home to the local Northwoods League team, the Madison Mallards. The Badgers often practice indoors at the McClain Center, outdoors at Monona's Ahuska Park, and just about wherever else they can find space.

Money is a constant problem, and players do a lot of fundraising to keep their sport swinging. The club receives a few hundred dollars each year from the Division of Recreational Sports, and players contribute \$100 in dues per season to pay for field rental and umpire fees. Those who have cars drive to away games, and the others pitch in for gas. The team also sells hot dogs and soda at a Kohl Center concession stand during hockey games to raise extra dollars. Last year, the players chipped in for new red jerseys with their names stitched in white.

"Some of the guys bring their own batting helmets," says **Jeff Booth '02**, who volunteers as coach, "and everyone uses their own gloves."

Booth, a former player whose day job is selling Purina

chow to farmers, is only a few years older than many of the players, and some were his teammates a few years ago. He thinks of them more as colleagues than students.

"I really rely on the older guys. They're almost like assistant coaches," he says. "They know what I want to teach, and the younger ones look up to them. It's a huge help."

But while Booth volunteered as coach mostly to stay involved with a game he loves, that doesn't mean he takes his duties lightly. He and the players want to win, and these days, they've got the talent to do it. Three juniors on the Badger roster are standouts — pitcher **Olin Erickson** earned all-state honors in high school; catcher **Zak Koga** played with the University of Iowa's varsity team for a year; and right fielder **Richie Marrero's** athletic abilities caught the attention of the New York Mets,

who sent a scout to a Wisconsin game in April.

"Back when I was on the team, we weren't real serious. We played to have fun," Booth says. "These guys can take it to the next level."

Carlson agrees. Now a financial planner in Chicago, he volunteers as regional director for the NCBA, overseeing statistics and schedules for two conferences. He can't help feeling proud of how far the UW has come.

"Wisconsin is a competitive team," he says. "For the past five years, we've had basically the best team in the conference."

As of press time, the Badgers were second in the conference and competing to get into position to play in the World Series. It's a whole new ball game, and this time, they're determined that there will be no seventh-inning stretch.

— Erin Hueffner '00

Room to Row

After years of sharing a space too small to hold them all, Badger rowers finally have some room to stretch out, thanks to the UW's new boathouse. Completed in February along the Lake Mendota shore, the two-story structure contains fifty-two thousand square feet of breathing space for Wisconsin's three rowing teams, which comprise more than two hundred athletes. But what really excites coaches are its improved training facilities, including two moving-water tanks that allow rowers to practice their form even when cold



Freshman rower **Liz Grace** gets advice on stretching from team manager **D.J. Mattison** during crew practice in the new Porter Crew House.

temperatures keep them inside. And that may be just what they need to overcome the only opponent they've never managed to beat: the long Wisconsin winter.

Senior **Molly Engstrom** capped off her UW hockey career as only the second player in program history to earn first-team All-American honors.



UW SPORTS INFORMATION (3)

Molly Engstrom

She and fellow defender **Carla MacLeod**, who repeated as a second-team All-American, made things difficult for opponents during a historic season for the Badgers, who won twenty-eight games and earned the team's first invitation to the NCAA post-season tournament.

A strong finishing kick carried sophomore **Chris Solinsky** to victory in the 3000 meters during the NCAA indoor track and field championship meet in March. Solinsky's championship paced a strong showing by the Badgers, who sent a record thirteen competitors to the meet and brought home third place overall.

The UW men's basketball team tied a school record by winning twenty-five games in the 2004-05 season. The Badgers advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament for only the third time in the program's history, losing to eventual national champion North Carolina to finish the season with a 25-9 record. They are now one of just eight teams in the country that have won at least twenty-four games in each of the past three seasons.



Kammron Taylor



Family Matters

WAA honors UW-Madison's distinguished alumni.



A commitment to family distinguishes each of this year's Wisconsin Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Whether concerned with the human family, a biological family, a workplace family, or the UW-Madison family, each of the honorees is committed to making positive changes in the world.

The recipients, who came back to campus in May to receive their awards, included United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) director Florence Chenoweth MS'70, PhD'86; retired vice chair of Citigroup Paul Collins '58; and retired co-chair of Fel-Pro, Incorporated, Elliot Lehman '38. Chair of the board of Cisco Systems John Morgridge '55 and retired teacher Tashia Morgridge '55 received a joint award. The Distinguished Young Alumni Award, presented to an exemplary UW-Madison graduate under the age of forty, went to Anthony Shadid '90, the *Washington Post's* Islamic affairs correspondent based in the Middle East.

Believing in a true world family, **Florence Chenoweth** has



Paul Collins attended Alumni Weekend with his wife, Carol. Four different entities supported his nomination: the Schools of Business and Music, the Division of International Studies, and the UW Foundation.

devoted her life to alleviating the plight of hungry children around the globe.

In 1977, Chenoweth became the first woman appointed as minister of agriculture in Liberia. Under her leadership, new high-yielding varieties of rice were introduced and acreage expansion programs were developed.

In 1980, Liberia's president, William Tolbert, was assassinated in a coup. Chenoweth was

forced to leave everything she had behind. She returned to Madison and enrolled in the PhD program in land resources, earning her doctorate in 1986.

In 1995, she joined the FAO, which leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving as the main link between the FAO, the U.N.'s General Assembly, and the world, Chenoweth considers it her mission to deliver this daily message: "It is immoral that 842 million people go to bed hungry in a world that produces enough food to feed every single person on earth. And 170 million of those hungry people are children." With political will, she believes, we can change those figures.

During his thirty-nine years with Citigroup, **Paul Collins** forged relationships with corporate customers in more than one hundred countries. Although he retired in 2000, his global leadership and knowledge are still sought by top companies and organizations throughout the world.

A charter member of the original School of Business Board of Visitors, Collins was



From left: Joe Conduah, Jeanette Harries, Florence Chenoweth, and Carolyn Amegashie MA'79. Chenoweth, who returned to the UW after a coup in her native Liberia, describes the university as "a friend to international students. That helps you so much when you come from another country, and you are lost."

BRENT NICAstro (6)

instrumental in crafting the public-private funding partnership that resulted in the construction of Grainger Hall. He helped focus the goals of the international studies program and is vice chair of the UW Foundation's Create the Future campaign.

In the fall of 2001, to honor his mother, **Adele Stoppenbach Collins '29**, Paul gave the School of Music the largest gift in its history. The contribution will eventually provide for as many as sixteen graduate performance fellowships. He has also endowed two professorships for the school — the first in the performing arts on this campus. According to **John Schaffer**, director of the School of Music, Collins's gifts have "had a bigger impact on our program than any other single event in our 109-year history."

Elliot Lehman is co-chair emeritus of his family-owned company, Fel-Pro, a premier manufacturer of gaskets, sealants, and lubricants for automotive and industrial use. The company has been honored by *Fortune* and *Working Mother* magazines as an

innovator in creating a family-friendly workplace.

At Fel-Pro, Lehman initiated groundbreaking policies such as family leave, flexible hours, and job-sharing. He is an emeritus member of the UW-Madison School of Human Ecology Board of Visitors, where he lends his expertise in early childhood education.

Because Fel-Pro instituted a company family leave plan many years before it became national law, President Clinton requested that Fel-Pro be present at the landmark signing of the Family Leave Act in 1993. Lehman was the only representative of corporate America to be present.

John and Tashia Morgridge met during their high school years in Wauwatosa and pursued undergraduate degrees together at UW-Madison.

John became chair of the board at Cisco Systems and serves as director of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, the Tech Advisory Board for Milwaukee Public Schools, and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. He teaches part-time at Stanford University's



Elliot Lehman (left and above with his spouse, Frances, and sons Paul, left, and Ken, right) first came to the UW as a 15-year-old freshman. He has been involved in the life of the university for seven decades.

Graduate School of Business and is deeply involved with the Cisco Networking Academies, which prepare high school and university students to design, install, and maintain computer networks.

Tashia Morgridge taught disabled children for thirteen years and authored *Award-Winning Activities for All Curriculum Areas* in 1990. She is a supporter of Reading Recovery, a program for low-achieving first-graders, and serves on UW-Madison's Board of Visitors for the School of Education.

At UW-Madison, the Morgridges have established scholarships, helped fund the construction of Grainger Hall, and donated toward the Red Gym renovation. The Red Gym now houses the Morgridge Center for Public Service, which promotes volunteerism in college students. In 2004, the Morgridges gave UW-Madison the



John and Tashia Morgridge have supported many UW efforts because, Tashia says, they "can see beyond our own majors to the value that the university offers the world."



Anthony Shadid credits UW-Madison for turning him into a journalist. "I grew up in Vilas Hall," he says.

single largest gift ever received from individual donors, which was earmarked for the renovation of the Education Building.

The Islamic affairs correspondent for the *Washington Post* since 2003, **Anthony Shadid** earned the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 2004. At that time, the Pulitzer board noted "his extraordinary ability to capture, at personal peril, the voices and emotions of Iraqis as their country was invaded, their leader toppled, and their way of life upended."

As a student, Shadid augmented his studies in journalism and political science with Arabic language courses. After earning his undergraduate degree in journalism, he landed a position with the Associated Press as a Middle East correspondent in Cairo.

His daily work ranged from reporting on events in the West Bank to interviewing Taliban fighters on the Afghanistan front. His conversations with religious sheiks, students, and activists resulted in his 2000 book, *Legacy of the Prophet: Despots, Democrats and the New Politics of Islam*. His second book, *Night Draws Near: An Odyssey through Baghdad in War and Its Aftermath*, was published in 2004.

On March 31, 2002, shortly before he was to return to Madison to accept the School of Journalism's Ralph O. Nafziger Award for distinguished achievement within ten years of graduation, Shadid was shot as he walked away from Yasser Arafat's compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Two weeks after a bullet tore open his shoulder, he traveled to Madison to accept the award — and lead a forum for students interested in international news.

"UW-Madison gives alumni the education to change the world," says WAA President and CEO **Paula Bonner MS'78**. "These graduates exemplify the fluid meaning of family and how we are all connected."

— Candice Gaukel Andrews '77

Bucky Paints Green Bay Red and White

To alumni, Bucky Badger is a feisty mascot, but he's a superstar to the kids at Green Bay, Wisconsin's Jackson Elementary School.

On April 28, Bucky paid them a visit in honor of Badger Alumni Day in Green Bay, a first-ever, daylong extravaganza highlighting the impact

of UW grads on Titledown. To prepare for Bucky's arrival at her school, Jackson Principal **Kathy Costello '71, MS'77** read Badger trivia over the P.A. for two weeks, decked the school out in the children's drawings of Bucky, and hung a "Welcome Bucky" sign on the front door. The students and

teachers gathered for a special assembly in the school's gymnasium, eager to catch a glimpse of the popular musteline mascot and learn about the Wonders of Physics from faculty member **Jim Reardon**. He kept their attention with hands-on demonstrations until Bucky burst through the gymnasium doors in a cloud of smoke.

eyes — it was such a good, emotional thing to see them be that way with a mascot who is so positive and fun." WAA and the UW Alumni Club of Brown County co-sponsored Badger Alumni Day, a new program that was piloted in Green Bay because nearly four thousand UW grads live in the metropolitan area.

That morning, Bucky appeared on the Fox morning news program, where he moonlighted as a meteorologist and grilled bratwursts with the co-anchors. Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt officially declared April 28 "Badger Alumni Day" during a breakfast at Lambeau Field.

Later that day, Bucky and university leaders visited the Schneider National headquarters and an Associated Bank branch to meet with grads and discuss the ways those companies could collaborate with the UW. To see the Badger Alumni Day photo gallery, visit uwalumni.com/alumniday.

"The kids just swarmed around Bucky, chanting his name," says Costello. "I had tears in my

eyes — it was such a good, emotional thing to see them be that way with a mascot who is so positive and fun."

— Erin Hueffner '00



Students mob Bucky during an assembly at Jackson Elementary School in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Teachers led them in singing "If You Want to Be a Badger" in honor of WAA's first Badger Alumni Day.



Compiled by Paula Wagner
Apfelbach '83

early years

We enjoyed hearing from **Edwin Rothman MA'39** of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, who summed up his post-UW life this way: "Civil affairs and military government officer, ETO, World War II. PhD, Johns Hopkins, 1950. When I retired in 1983 as director of the eastern division of the Pennsylvania Economy League, I was cited by the national Governmental Research Association as a 'consummate researcher in his independence, integrity, and professionalism.' "

40s-50s

Inspired by the Winter 2004 *On Wisconsin* piece about the UW's French House, **Dorothy Wirtz MA'40, PhD'44** shared remembrances of her own experiences there. "When I finished my PhD," she writes, "I was equipped to teach French to military police in WWII and was kept on for civilian courses at three different universities, teaching every course in the catalog at the third one." Wirtz, of Phoenix, is now a professor emerita at Arizona State University and has published a book of poems titled *Evolution*.

To commemorate the one-hundredth birthday of Rotary International on February 23, the Kenosha, Wisconsin, Rotary Club saluted **Al De Simone '41**. A community-wide celebration hailed his many contributions as one of the city's leading citizens.

Alvin (Bob) Kantor '42 has served on the Council of Philatelists for the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., since the council began. Now retired from that post, he's off to other pursuits in his home

community of Bellevue, Washington. "In keeping with a family tradition," Kantor notes, "one granddaughter was in the Class of '03, and the other is in the Class of '05 at the University of Wisconsin."

Developing Power: How Women Transformed International Development (The Feminist Press at CUNY) includes a memoir by **Martha Wells Lewis '45** about her contributions to the "women in development" movement. Other alumnae who provided memoirs were the late **Elsa Chaney MS'65, PhD'71** and **Kathleen Staudt MA'72, PhD'76**, a professor of political science at the University of Texas-El Paso. Lewis, of Washington, D.C., is married to **Robert Lewis '42**, a former editor of the *Daily Cardinal*, and notes that "four of our four children," plus a daughter-in-law, are Badger grads. Grandson **Adam Lasker '00** of Chicago served as the *Daily Cardinal's* editor fifty-seven years after his grandfather did.

The Instructional Resource Center in UW-Eau Claire's foreign language department was dedicated to **Roma Borst Hoff '48, MA'51, PhD'56** in October. Last July, the Concordia Language Villages' Spanish village in Bemidji, Minnesota, called El Lago del Bosque, was named for Hoff and her spouse, **Donald Hoff**, a resident at the University Hospital in the 1950s. The couple lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

George Kennedy MS'50, a Hungarian native and Holocaust survivor, is commemorating the anniversary of the engineering and architectural consulting firm he began fifty years ago. Since then, the Chicago-based George A. Kennedy & Associates has provided services to the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois, the U.S. government, and a host of other clients. The firm is a pioneer in the practice of

inspecting architect/engineer services for lending institutions.

Thirty-six years of contributions by **Fred Patterson PhD'50** were fêted at Purdue University during a December ceremony and seminar that included endowing the Fred L. Patterson Chair in Agronomy. During his career, Patterson helped to develop more than fifty varieties of wheat, oats, and barley; experts have estimated that the wheat strains alone have increased U.S. farm income by \$3.4 billion. Despite his 1986 retirement, Patterson continued to arrive at his office at 6:30 a.m. to start the morning coffee, write, and mentor.

Juanita: Daughter of the Middle West, the self-published memoir of **Juanita Sumpter Sorenson '50, MS'52, PhD'71**, completes the trilogy about the life and times of Sorenson and her spouse, the late **Douglas Sorenson '51, MS'52, MS'56**. Travel was the couple's passion, and it led them to more than thirty countries. Juanita Sorenson now divides her time between Madison and Longboat Key, Florida.

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers has honored **J.D. (Junior De Vere) Seader PhD'52** and his contributions to chemical-engineering education by naming him a co-recipient of the 2004 Warren K. Lewis Award. He also received the 2004 CACHE Award for Excellence in Computing in Chemical Engineering Education. Seader has been a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City since 1966.

The black cover and stark, white type of *Near Occasions of Sin* (dOom-AH Books) certainly caught our eye. It's a collection of poetry by **Stuart Frieber MA'53, PhD'58**, who's written other poetry books, as well as prose, reviews, essays, translations, and anthologies. He's also taught German at Mount Holyoke, Harvard, and Oberlin.

Don't Forget to Write!

Please let us know about your recent accomplishments, transitions, and other significant life happenings. We're ready to intercept the (brief, please) details by e-mail at apfelbach@uwalumni.com; by fax at (608) 265-8771; or by post at Alumni News, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476. Even though we can't print everything we receive, we still love hearing from you.

Please e-mail death notices and all address, name, telephone, and e-mail changes to alumnicchanges@uwalumni.com; fax them to (608) 262-3532; mail them to Alumni Changes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; or call them in to (608) 262-9648 or toll-free to (888) 947-2586. Most obituary listings of WAA members and friends appear in the Insider, WAA's publication for its members.

Friebert, retired in Oberlin, Ohio, since 1997, has recently finished a memoir and a novel.

Early-1900s farm life, boyhood near a water-powered mill, university studies, and far-flung sea and jungle adventures ... Such is the stuff of *Old Mill Stream* (Trafford Publishing), the third book by **Earl Wobeck '53** of Roswell, Georgia. The author was an editor of *Popular Mechanics* and then spent many years in corporate communications for the space and nucleonics industries.

Since 1971, **Mark Silber '54** of Poway, California, has been the CEO and president of Mark Silber Associates, an international management-psychology firm that specializes in leadership education and performance growth. For the last ten years, he's also been a faculty member on the San Diego campus of the University

of Phoenix. Silber has recently co-written his third book, *Leader Champions: Success Secrets* (Authorhouse).

An exhibit of ivory sculptures is taking center stage until January at Milwaukee's Villa Terrace. Called *Chinese Myths, Legends, and Symbols: Oriental Ivory Sculpture from the Dr. and Mrs. Clifton Peterson Collection*, it was catalogued by **Janice Johnson Kuhn '58, MS'74**, an arts appraiser and president of both Chestnut Court Appraisal Associates and Milwaukee Auction Galleries. Retired UW Professor **Tse-Tsung Chow** and his spouse, Nancy Wu, greatly assisted Kuhn with her research on the pieces, and added stories about the figures from their childhoods in China.

UW grads were well represented on Academy Awards night in February: the executive

producer of Best Picture nominee *Ray* was **Bill Immerman '59** of Los Angeles; **Michael Mann '65** of Pacific Palisades, California, was a producer of another Best Picture nominee, *The Aviator*; and **Tom Rosenberg '68** co-produced *Million Dollar Baby*, which earned the Oscar as Best Picture.

60s

"Can you tell me how to get ... how to get to Sesame Street?" If you're now humming the *Sesame Street* theme song, imagine how attached **Joanne Baker Livesey '61** feels to it — she's the assistant VP of educational outreach for the Sesame Workshop in New York City. Livesey shared her work with the International Education Conference, held in March at the UW's Pyle Center, with a

presentation titled, "Paving the Way to Sesame Street: Using Material from International Productions to Educate Children about the World."

It's book number twenty-two for **Robert Murray Davis PhD'64**, a collection of informal essays and cultural commentary called *Ornamental Hermit: People and Places of the New West* (Texas Tech University Press). In Sun Lakes, Arizona, Davis also writes and reviews for *World Literature Today*, *Shade* magazine, *Southwest Book Views*, and *Western American Literature*, and is working on a book about the landscape and culture of New Mexico's Jemez Valley.

Hailed as a "safety pioneer, untiring advocate, and distinguished leader," **R. (Ronald) David Pittle MS'65, PhD'69** has retired. He's been the senior VP for technical policy at the Yonkers, New York-based Consumers Union (CU) — the nonprofit publisher of *Consumer Reports* — since 2001, but he joined CU in 1982 as its technical director. Pittle, who was also one of the original five commissioners of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, has been particularly praised for his efforts to reduce the deaths and injuries caused by vehicle rollovers.

"I've been teaching English and philosophy at St. Clair Community College in Port Huron, Michigan ... for thirty-eight years," began **Tom Obee MA'66**. In April 2004, he received the annual Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors' Alumni Achievement Award for his forty-two years (wow!) of service to the organization, which is the international honor society for two-year colleges. Obee notes that his career has been enhanced by "the excellent professors I had and the excellent TA training I received ... at Wisconsin."

Harry Morgan MS'67 had the pleasure of seeing a



Says Carol Blank Polis x'58, "I call 'em like I see 'em."

The First Lady of Boxing

Picture this: You're a professional boxing judge who's ringside at a title fight. The boxers' punches are hard, the crowd's shouts are deafening, the fighters are covered in sweat and blood. As a judge, you have a lot to prove to those fighters, to that crowd, to the promoters, and to the sponsors through your keen eye, unbroken concentration, experience, objectivity, and judgment. On top of all that, you have to prove yourself as a one-of-a-kind: you're our nation's first female professional boxing judge.

Such has been the experience of Carol Blank Polis x'58 — a former UW philosophy major. The perky, five-foot-one-inch mother of four and grandmother of three has a pair of Joe Frazier's boxing gloves hanging on her wall at home, and she makes her judging remarks in purple — her favorite color. And one thing's for sure: she has a lot of stories to tell.

It all began in 1971, when Polis' spouse at the time, Bob, was a boxing referee in Philadelphia. Carol hated the sport, which she found boring, barbaric, and bloody, but she went along to be with Bob. One night, he taught her how to score the matches, and at the end of the evening, turned in her judgments to the state athletic commissioner, who liked what he saw. For the next year and a half, the commissioner's assignment for her was to keep it up: keep attending fights, keep learning, keep scoring, and keep turning in her scorecards.

On February 1, 1973, then-Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp appointed Polis to the state's athletic commission as its first female judge. Since then, Polis, who's also a public speaker and realtor in North Wales, Pennsylvania, has traveled to London, Paris, Italy, Denmark, Japan, and Argentina, judging title fights for the World Boxing Association.

She's judged "before twenty thousand people in soccer stadiums and before ten people in seedy corner joints," and not surprisingly, Polis has also found herself on such television shows as *To Tell the Truth* and *What's My Line?*, and even managed to be part of the film *Rocky V*.

"[Judging] is important to me," she says, "because it has opened doors. I've seen things and done things I never would have been able to do."

— *RA*.

building named after him this winter when the Harry Morgan Head Start Center opened in Carrollton, Georgia. A professor of early-childhood education at the State University of West Georgia, also in Carrollton, his latest book is *Real Learning: A Bridge to Cognitive Neuroscience* (Scarecrow Education).

At the *Margins of the Renaissance: Lazarillo de Tormes and the Picaresque Art of Survival* (Penn State University Press) has earned **Giancarlo Maiorino MA'68, MA'69, PhD'71, MA'71, PhD'73** the Modern Language Association of America's annual James Russell Lowell Prize. Maiorino is a professor of comparative literature and the director of the Center for Comparative Arts Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Susan McDaniel '68 has accomplished a lot since she began her career teaching English to immigrants at Milwaukee's Manpower Training Services in 1969 — and now that work has earned her the 2004 ELL [English Language Learner] Teacher of the Year award, secondary level, from the Massachusetts Association for Teachers of Students of Other Languages and the Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education. McDaniel lives in the Bay State city of Winchester and teaches at Medford High School.

Bill Messner MA'68, PhD'72 has moved east. After seven years as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges, he's left that position to become president of Holyoke [Massachusetts] Community College.

Joyce Wilson MMusic'68, DMA'84 has earned the 2004 Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, where she teaches flute performance and music literature.

In recognition of the many contributions that **William**

Evans '69 has made to understanding lanthanide elements, the American Chemical Society has given him the 2005 Award in Inorganic Chemistry, its top honor in the field. Lanthanides have long been considered the "forgotten elements of the periodic table" because they don't form compounds easily, but Evans's research has made them a "fertile subject for study." He's a professor of chemistry at the University of California at Irvine.

New Yorker **Rocco (Fredric) Landesman '69** made headlines in the *New York Times* in February when he purchased Broadway's third-largest theater chain — the five designated-landmark buildings that constitute the Jujamcyn Theaters. Landesman has long been the chain's president, and now his business partner, **Rick Steiner '68** of Cincinnati, will also have a stake in Jujamcyn. Landesman and Steiner have been some of the producers behind the enormously successful *The Producers* — the largest Broadway hit in history, and the winner of twelve Tony Awards. They've had other huge hits with *Big River*, *Into the Woods*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Smokey Joe's Café*. Oh — and Steiner's also a world-championship poker player.

New to the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, is Professor **Thomas Shapiro '69**, whose latest book is *The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality* (Oxford University Press). He's also co-authored *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality* (Routledge), which won the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award and the C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Fran Ulmer '69, JD'72 has served Alaska well. She was the mayor of Juneau in the 1980s, spent eight years in the state's House of Representatives, and further served as Alaska's lieutenant governor from 1994 until 2002. Now she's become the new director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

70s

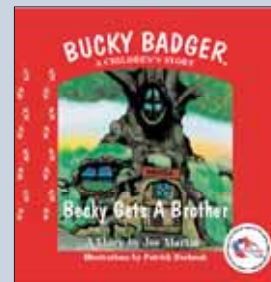
The Life Skills Foundation in St. Louis, Missouri, has a new board secretary in **Eileen Recht Schechter '70**, who's been on the board since 1978 and has also served as its president. Schechter is a co-owner and buyer for Lewis and London, a specialty juvenile-furniture company. The Life Skills Foundation helps those with developmental and other disabilities to work and live in the St. Louis area.

Dennis Schroeder '70 is the 2005 chair of the Construction Industry Institute, a research consortium based in the University of Texas-Austin's College of Engineering. (The UW has been among its funds recipients.) Schroeder is also the president of BE&K Engineering in Birmingham, Alabama.

With his eyes firmly fixed on the emerging markets of Eastern Europe, Russia, China, and India — but based at the Dallas headquarters — **Steve Watson '70** has become the chair of Stanton Chase International, a global executive-search firm. Watson previously spent twenty-four years with technology companies.

For his outstanding technical support of U.S. efforts to reconstruct the Iraqi health sector, **William Jansen II MA'72, PhD'75** has received the 2004 Superior Health Service to the Field Award from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Bookmark



Life is about to change for little Becky Badger as she acquires a baby sibling and gives him the nickname we all know and love in *Becky Gets a Brother* (Badgerland Books). It's a new children's book by **Joe Martino '92** of McFarland, Wisconsin, who's following Bucky Badger's childhood through three more books: *Treasure, Yard Sale*, and *The Storm*.

The series will include lessons in values, and 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the UW Children's Hospital Child Life program — a diverse set of resources for hospitalized children and their families.

"I'm looking to help kids because that's what Bucky would do," Martino says, and he should know: he "put on the fur" as a Bucky Badger mascot from 1988 until 1992 and is now compiling a list of former mascots — "to give them the recognition that they deserve."

Martino's also a design engineer with Refrigeration Systems in Madison, and he's created Badgerland Books to publish his stories. His brother-in-law, Patrick Bochnak, illustrates them.

Look for the books this summer through the University Book Store's Web site (www.uwbookstore.com), or reserve copies online at www.badgerlandbooks.com.

Currently USAID's senior health adviser to the Office of Iraq Reconstruction, Jansen has worked all over the world. He's also a research professor at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and a senior research fellow at Duke University in Durham. Jansen's spouse is **Kathy Allen Jansen MS'73, PhD'75**.

"Carolyn of many names" is how **Carolyn Lieberg Black-ann** (and now Lieberg again) '72 signed off when she wrote with news of her fourth book, a young-adult novel called *West with Hopeless* (Dutton Books). Two previous works are *Calling the Midwest Home: A Lively Look at the Origins, Attitudes, Quirks, and Curiosities of America's Heartlanders* and *Little Sisters: The Last but Not the Least*. "Just to complicate things further," Lieberg added, she once edited books for the Pleasant Company's American Girls Collection as Carolyn Hardesty. Lieberg lives in Portland, Oregon.

The Judson Center in Royal Oak, Michigan, provides "help, healing, and home" for abused and neglected children, disadvantaged adults, and families in crisis. At the helm is **Marn Myers MS'72**, who's been promoted from chief operating officer to president of the non-profit agency.

Madisonian **Rosalie Migas '73, MS'75**, a supervisor at the Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, recently finished her two-year term as president of the National Association of Social Workers' Wisconsin chapter.

Patrick Moore MD'74 (www.mooreongs.com) has shared this good news: he's been issued a copyright for 120 DVDs of his original songs and music videos, plus he's simultaneously released 121 one-hour DVDs of these works — "probably the largest release of music ever," he notes. Moore's talk show, *Louisville Latenite*, also

garnered a 2004 Reader's Choice Award from the *Louisville Eccentric Observer* for the best local cable-access TV show. Moore rocks and rolls in "Kentuckiana" — specifically, in New Albany, Indiana.

Two UW alumnae are putting their values where their feet are. On July 16 and 17, **Kathy Rust '74, MS'85** will be participating in Chicago's Out of the Darkness Walk (www.theovernight.org) — a twenty-mile journey, from sunset to sunrise, to raise both funds and awareness for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. After fifteen years as a UW academic staff lecturer in occupational and physical therapy, Rush now commutes from Madison to her "dream job" as a research coordinator of UW-Milwaukee's Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center. **Laura Kummer '93** will be walking this summer as well — nearly forty miles on June 25 and 26 — in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer (www.avonwalk.org) in Denver.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Mary Evans Sias MS'74, PhD'80**, who was inaugurated as the fifteenth president of Kentucky State University in Frankfort on April 9.

The International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) had an honor in store for **David Walsh JD'74** at its November conference in Amman, Jordan: as a co-founder and the first chair of the association, he was among the first class of IAIS distinguished fellows. Walsh, of Carmel, New York, is executive vice president and general counsel at SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company.

A horse lover and owner who started riding with Hoofers while at the UW, **Gloria Kaun Allaire '76, MA'86, PhD'93** "now finds the grass to be greener" in Lexington,

Kentucky, where she directs the Italian program at the University of Kentucky and specializes in medieval Italian works.

Allaire has translated and published a lengthy Tristan manuscript, *Il Tristano Panciatichiano* (Brewer); edited *The Italian Novella* (Routledge); and was the abridgement editor for Schaum's "Easy Outlines" *Italian* (McGraw-Hill).

Thomas Berner '76 has returned to the States after a year as the senior legal adviser to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Group. He advised the U.S. ambassador on legal matters and coordinated U.S. efforts to re-establish the Rule of Law in Afghanistan. Berner lives in Yonkers, New York.

The board of governors of the Wisconsin State Bar Association has elected attorney **Edward Hannan JD'76** to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates, its policy-making body. He heads the Hannan & Associates law firm in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Stepping into the newly created position of executive VP at American Farmland Trust (AFT)'s national headquarters recently was **William Kuckuck '76**. He was previously with Marine Harvest Europe in the Netherlands, Agribuys.com, and Ralston Purina. AFT, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit, advocates for farm and ranchland conservation, "planning for growth with agriculture in mind."

John Paul MA'76, PhD'81 is the new director of the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts — a network of seventy-seven church-oriented colleges and universities based at Valparaiso [Indiana] University. The program provides postdoc fellowships for teacher-scholars who wish to enrich their intellectual and spiritual lives while preparing for leadership roles in higher education. Paul has been on Valparaiso's theater faculty

since 1979 and its department chair since 1991. He's also a playwright and the founder of the Young Actors Shakespeare Workshop and the liturgical drama troupe Soul Purpose.

With World War II veteran Stanley Edwards, Jr., **Julie Oldenburg Phend MS'76** of Naperville, Illinois, has written *D-Day & Beyond: A True Story of Escape and POW Survival* (Burd Street Press). It's the story of Edwards's capture, escape, recapture, and internment in a German prison camp after his plane was shot down on D-Day. This is Phend's first book.

Forensic archaeology is a field we're hearing more about lately courtesy of the *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* TV series, and **Melissa Connor '77, MA'79** is a national expert. This fall, she was the senior forensic archaeologist investigating war-crimes and genocide allegations against Saddam Hussein's regime near the Iraqi village of Hatra, and she's assisted other exhumation teams in Nigeria, Cyprus, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Herzegovina, and Rwanda. The work of Connor and her spouse at the Custer battlefield has been featured on *History's Mysteries* and the History Channel, and she teaches forensic archaeology at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Thanks to proud brother **Jeff Connor '81** — senior vice president at Aramark Healthcare Management Services in Downers Grove, Illinois — for this scoop.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham has named **Richard Saykally PhD'77** one of seven winners of the 2004 E.O. Lawrence Award — the U.S. Department of Energy's highest honor — in the chemistry category, honoring his pioneering work in the field of spectroscopy. Saykally is a professor of chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley and is on the staff

of the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Chicago attorney and CPA **Jack Siegel '77, JD'81** created a resource for those who sought to determine which relief organizations would allow them to earmark donations specifically for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami in December. He studied the list of organizations published in the *New York Times* and posted his findings at <http://charitygovernance.blogs.com>.

The chief U.N. election organizer in Iraq is **Carlos Valenzuela '77, MA'78**. To read his BBC News interview with Sir David Frost in January, visit http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/breakfast_with_frost/4220277.stm.

As an international agricultural-development consultant and project director for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Bethesda, Maryland, **John Bowman MA'78, MS'80** specializes in the transfer of agricultural technology to poor farmers in remote, challenging environments. Part of his work is with an "alternative-development" project in Bolivia — "trying to convert coca farmers into legitimate growers of tropical fruits and vegetables."

"Exactly twenty years after graduating from the UW Law School, I received another law degree from the UW Law School. What?!" writes **Mike Weisman '78, MA'81, JD'84** of Seattle. He explains that in June 2004, he earned the Outstanding Student Award and a master of laws degree from the *other* UW — the University of Washington — in technology and intellectual property law and policy. "So now I have a matched set of UW law degrees, from schools 1,800 miles apart," he says.

Which Badger grad was the 2004 winner of France's silver Medal of Tourism, given to those who've contributed

significantly to the development of tourism? It was **Nancy Anderson '79**, the Midwest marketing and promotion representative for the French Government Tourist Office (Maison de la France) in Chicago. In commending her, France's director of the Americas said, "Everyone agrees that Nancy Anderson is the smile of Maison de la France."

"Winter has an almost mystical quality to it at Sundara," says **Carla Minsky '79** about the Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, inn and spa that **Kelli Trumble '79** envisioned, built, and has led as its CEO since it opened in March 2003. Sundara Inn & Spa

is set on twenty-six wooded acres and offers contemporary architecture, feng-shui-inspired suites, organic cuisine and spa treatments, a salon, retail shop, and recreation facility with hiking trails. Trumble was previously the executive director of the Convention and Visitor Bureau in the Dells.

80s

The Lansing Melbourne Group is the new planning, engineering, investment finance, and development company created by **Peter Flotz '80** of Melbourne Beach, Florida, and

Christian Luz '81 of East Lansing, Michigan. With offices in both cities — thus the firm's name — they're providing transportation and parking consulting services to the Petronas Twin Towers development in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as well as to that nation's federal-government administrative capital, Perbadanan Putrajaya.

Even before you read the title of the first novel by **Michael Kujawski '80** (pseudonym: Michael Parker), the intense stare of the gent on the cover tells you there's some wickedness afoot. The title — *Unequivocal Malice* (iUniverse)

Noodle On!

How's life for a guy with noodles on his mind in the wake of America's low-carb craze? *Great*, if your name is **Aaron Kennedy MBA'89**. As founder of Noodles & Company, a popular restaurant chain that brings international pasta dishes to the masses, Kennedy has a passion for food. It was a flash of inspiration, the financial support of his friends and family, and an entrepreneurial spirit that led him to leave his job as brand manager with Pepsi and open his first restaurant.

"I was living in [New York's] Greenwich Village, and one day, I passed a little Asian noodle shop while walking near my apartment," says Kennedy. "I knew that people all over the world grew up eating pasta, and why not bring all those wonderful flavors together on one menu? Make it fast, convenient, fresh, and flavorful, and people might like that. And by golly, people liked it."

In 1993, Kennedy opened Noodles & Company just outside of Denver. After that restaurant proved a success, he brought Noodles to Madison, where he found a State Street location in 1996 with the help of a friend he'd met in graduate school at the UW. It turned out to be one of the most challenging professional moments of Kennedy's life: torrential rains lashed Madison for a month after the restaurant opening, sending sales and hope down the drain. "We were literally and figuratively at the bottom of the barrel, bailing water out of the basement of [the] State Street [location]," he says.

But Kennedy rallied his team and eventually brought sales up to a rapid boil at the restaurant. Today, the State Street location alone averages more than \$100,000 in sales monthly. Nearly a decade later, Noodles & Company employs more than three thousand people at 141 restaurants nationwide and offers a more extensive menu, including some "noodle-less dishes for carnivores." The idea stemmed not from the recent low-carb diet fad, but from market research and casual discussions with diners — he found that some folks simply wanted fewer noodles and more meat.

Even so, nothing beats a "noodlicious classic." Wisconsin Mac & Cheese was a comfort-food favorite on the menu when Noodles & Company first opened, and it's still the restaurant's most-ordered dish.

These days, Kennedy is still a Badger at heart. In 2003, he was the first inductee into the UW-Madison School of Business Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, and the trophy — a signed UW football — has a place of honor on his desk. Looking back, Kennedy attributes much of his success to his years as a marketing graduate student at UW-Madison, and says he never would have made it this far without his alma mater.

— Erin Hueffner '00



Bookmark



"A Gateway to Sindarin: A Grammar of an Elvish Language from J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings" (University of Utah Press) came about in part because of *On Wisconsin*, began a letter from **Jeffrey Grathwohl '81**. "Perusing an issue several years ago, I noted a small article about UW grad student **David Salo MA'02** and his involvement as linguistic consultant with the *Lord of the Rings* movie series," Grathwohl continued. "He ... had a complete grammar for one of Tolkien's elvish languages and was thinking about looking for a publisher."

That's where Grathwohl, director and senior editor at the University of Utah Press in Salt Lake City, stepped in to ask Salo for his manuscript — a "rigorous treatment that would have made J.R.R. Tolkien the philologist proud." In *A Gateway to Sindarin*, Salo covers the language's grammar, morphology, and history, and adds vocabulary, a glossary, and more.

Salo, now a UW doctoral candidate in linguistics, is not the only Badger connection to Middle Earth — UW zoology department illustrator **William Feeny MA'78** created the book's cover art.

— then confirms that this tale involving a lust for revenge, a murderous madman, and a corpse is, as the author says, a "fresh combination of thrilling horror, crime detection, and insight into the news media." Kujawski is a former editor of several daily newspapers who lives in Fox Point, Wisconsin.

Here's a toast to **Thordur Aegir Oskarsson MA'80**, the newly appointed ambassador of the Republic of Iceland to Japan. His diplomatic career, since 1988, has included service at the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in the Icelandic delegation to NATO, as head of the NATO Affairs and Security Policy Division, as the permanent representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and most recently, as Iceland's permanent representative to the United Nations office in Vienna.

The new chief economist at the Investment Company Institute — a national association of U.S. investment companies based in Washington, D.C. — is **Brian Reid '83**. Previously the institute's assistant VP and deputy chief economist, he'll now head the research department, overseeing all statistical collection for, and analyses of, the mutual-fund industry.

Roxanne Miller Breunig Kunkel '81 has been selected to go to Indonesia aboard the USNS *Mercy* with Project HOPE to provide medical care to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. She resides in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Scientists **H. (Harry) Craig Dees II PhD'84**, **Timothy Scott PhD'85**, and **Eric Wachter PhD'88** have formed Provectus Pharmaceuticals (www.pvct.com) in Knoxville, Tennessee. The trio is working to develop therapies that will destroy the most lethal forms of cancer with minimal side effects, generate biotechnologies to detect viruses and increase vaccine production,

and create skin-care products, and license technologies for therapeutic medical devices.

The contemporary, mixed-media sculptures of **Ingrid Goldbloom Bloch '85** have appeared in *500 Beaded Objects* (Lark Publishing), *FiberArts* magazine's January/February 2005 issue, and the Fuller Craft Museum's touring show in January, called *Trashformations*. Bloch will also exhibit at Boca Gallery during the International Surface Design Conference in Kansas City in June. She lives in Needham, Massachusetts.

Bill Patek '86, '95 has been promoted from associate to principal to studio director at the Madison office of JJR, a landscape architecture, civil engineering, and urban design firm. Patek is involved with projects on the Madison, La Crosse, and Parkside campuses, as well as in the University Research Park.

When **John (Jeff) Varick III '86** isn't working as the director of marketing strategy for Johnson Controls Automotive Group in Plymouth, Michigan, he serves on the board of WaterPartners International (www.water.org) and has traveled to Honduras as one of its ambassadors. The nonprofit group has supported water projects in forty-five Honduran communities and operates in many other developing nations.

The National Center for Research Resources, part of the National Institutes of Health, has chosen **Franziska Grieder MS'87, PhD'89** of Bethesda, Maryland, as its new associate director of comparative medicine. The holder of a DVM degree and an expert in the Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus, she's managed the center's Laboratory Animal Sciences Program since 2000 and created the Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Centers Program. In her new role, Grieder will oversee grantmaking to animal-research projects.

Elizabeth Reninger MS'88 of Boulder, Colorado, has been a baker, bookseller, teacher of feminist theory, and research assistant — and now she's a yoga and qigong instructor. She's also published her first collection of poems, *And Now the Story Lives inside You* (Woven Word Press), about which one reviewer said, "To read her is like discovering some hidden, ancient grove where holy mysteries are celebrated."

In order to reduce maternal and child mortality in western Afghanistan, the child-relief organization World Vision is training midwives at the Institute of Health Sciences in Herat. Upon completion of the two-year program, they will work in rural, at-risk communities. **Gene Teofilo '88** has been doing communications work for World Vision in Afghanistan but was rerouted to Sri Lanka in January.

With a name like Tom, Dick & Harry, they've got to be good, right? That's perhaps what **Michael Herlehy '89** was counting on when he co-founded a Chicago advertising agency with this unlikely moniker. Herlehy says that another Badger founder, **Robert Volkman '82**, "had also endured the chaos of trying to get a science class as a freshman during Registration Week. I was comforted by the fact that he can deal with real, heart-pounding stress and knows how to succeed, despite very long odds."

90s

After his UW graduation, **Lorin Bradbury MS'90** first ventured south — to earn a PhD in educational psychology in 1992 from the University of Mississippi — and then far north, to Alaska, in 1993. He's now a clinical psychologist at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

and leads the United Pentecostal Church in Bethel. In 2003, Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski appointed Bradbury to the state's Psychologist/Psychological Examiners Board.

Best wishes to **Gretchen Koch '90**, who began Transitions Counseling — a solo practice specializing in grief, loss, and life changes — in November in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She's also an adjunct professor in counselor education at UW-Oshkosh.

Can you name the creator and organizer of World Music Festival: Chicago — the multi-day event that presents traditional and contemporary music from around the globe in a variety of Windy City venues? The man behind the music is **Mike Orlove '92**, program director of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs. Together with world-music fests in Madison and Bloomington, Indiana, the Chicago event is forming a "Midwestern Triangle" of world music. Orlove has also created Chicago Summer Dance, an eleven-week outdoor dance and concert series.

Josh Bycel '93 of L.A. went to Chad in April to assist the refugees — more than half of whom are children — who have arrived there after fleeing civil war and genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. Bycel, a TV writer and producer, says, "There's a reason that Sitcom Writers without Borders hasn't been created, but I'm going to raise money for — and awareness of — the true heroes: the doctors, nurses, and aid workers of the International Medical Corps (IMC)." Bycel committed to raising at least \$50,000 for the IMC, and worked with the group while in Chad.

Way to go, **Matthew Miller '93**! He's founded his own Chicago law firm, Miller & Sweeney, where he'll continue his practice in commercial and personal litigation. He's been a trial attorney since 1996.

A thesis titled "Large-Scale Expression Studies for the Developing *Rattus Norvegicus* Heart" was the last stop on the road to a University of Iowa PhD in genetics for **Jennifer Schreiber Laffin '96**. She's now a research fellow in ophthalmology and pathology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, working toward board certification in human cytogenetics and molecular genetics.

Brian Pope '98, MBA'02, formerly the director of UW-Whitewater's Small Business Development Center, has launched Clear Advantage Research & Consulting in Janesville, Wisconsin. The firm provides marketing research and management consulting.

Thirty-four years old and already in his third school-superintendent's post? That's quite a career climb by **David Schuler MS'98, PhD'04**! In January, he was named to the top job in Illinois' Northwest Suburban High School District 214 — that state's second largest — and plans to kick off a "new and energetic dynamic in an already top-notch system." Schuler currently oversees the Stevens Point, Wisconsin, school district and will begin his new job in July.

Chicagoan **Nathan Rabin '99** buzzed in to report that in December, he became a regular on the AMC movie-review panel show called *Movie Club with John Ridley*. The head entertainment writer for the *Onion's* A.V. Club, Rabin noted that a mention here would be much appreciated: "We're on basic cable after all, so we can use all the publicity we can get." (For more on the *Onion*, see *On Wisconsin's* Spring 2005 issue.)

"Local boy makes good" — good music, that is. Madison musician **Leo Sidran '99** produced a song — right here in Madison — for *The Motorcycle Diaries*, a film about an epic motorcycle trip across South

America taken by two young men, one of whom would one day be known as the revolutionary Che Guevara. Sidran, the son of **Ben '67** and **Judy Lutrin '69 Sidran** of Madison, produced the last (and longest) song on the film's soundtrack using the talents of Madison musicians **Jeff Eckels MMusic'87** on bass, **Carina Voly MMusic'97** on cello, and his father on piano. Their hard work paid off on Academy Awards night when the Oscar for the Best Original Song went to Jorge Drexler for his music, lyrics, and performance of the tune, "Al Otro Lado del Rio." *Gracias to O. (Oscar) Marcelo Suarez MS'93, PhD'00*, an associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, for telling us about Voly's involvement. "She was born in Argentina," he says, "like me and like Che."

2000s

This year's Sundance Film Festival had a bit of Badger flavor to it: a 35mm work called *Eating* (www.eatingthemovie.com), produced by **Dave O'Brien '00** of L.A., was one of eighty-two short films selected from nearly four thousand submissions. O'Brien has worked in TV and film production in New York, was accepted into USC's cinema- and TV-production MFA program, and directs films. *Eating* compassionately chronicles one morbidly obese man's battles with his food addiction.

Attention, West Palm Beach, Florida, residents! Did you know that ESPN Radio 760's drive-time host, **Evan Cohen '02**, is a Badger? He also appears regularly on the local NBC affiliate, is a frequent guest on ESPN Radio's nationally syndicated *The Herd with Colin Cowherd*, and writes for the *Palm Beach Post*. Thanks to **Lindsey Cherner '02**,

ESPN Radio 760's promotions/public relations director, for tipping us off.

obituary

The Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA), the university, the city of Madison, and the state of Wisconsin all lost an unparalleled supporter when **Arlie Mucks, Jr. '47** died in Madison in March. Mucks began playing football as a UW freshman in 1939, but was called into military service in 1942 as a fighter pilot. After returning to complete his degree in agricultural economics in 1947, he continued serving in the Air National Guard, becoming one of its original pilots in the Wisconsin division. Mucks led the Madison Chamber of Commerce as its executive director from 1952 until 1962, and then became the executive director of WAA. Among his initiatives were alumni travel, BADGER HUD-DLES®, the Wisconsin Singers, international alumni clubs, an educational program for alumni directors, a new Alumni House, re-establishing Homecoming, and acquiring the Bucky Wagon — a cherished UW symbol. After Mucks retired from WAA in 1989, he served as a special assistant to then-Chancellor **Donna Shalala**, and as a special consultant to the UW athletic department, joining the W Club's Hall of Fame in 2003. Wisconsin Governor **James Doyle '67** and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services **Tommy Thompson '63, JD'66** were among those who spoke at Mucks's memorial service, but his *Wisconsin State Journal* obituary may have summarized his boundless Badger spirit the best: "We will miss the man in red. On Wisconsin."

Compiled by Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83, who, frankly, doesn't care what x equals.