



# California Scheming

The governor proposes a plan to keep top faculty from going coastal.

Deep in the legislative minutiae of the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act, there is a line that worries Wisconsin. It charges the state's newly minted stem-cell research institute to "recruit the highest scientific and medical talent in the United States."

To many around UW-Madison's biology labs, that sounds like the launching of a talent war that could make those cow ads look chummy by comparison.

"This proposition is aimed at us," says

**Michael Sussman**, director of the UW Biotechnology Center. "Everyone recognizes that the research we're doing now will lay the groundwork for the future of medicine, both economically and scientifically. It's in the state's best interest to have that done here. But other places are catching up to us, and we can't afford to wait."

It was no mere coincidence, then, that Wisconsin Governor **Jim Doyle '67** waited just fifteen days after California voters endorsed a \$3 billion foray into stem-cell science to counter with a proposal of his own. As part of an overall plan that would pump \$750 million into biological research during the next decade, the governor wants to create a new research institute at UW-Madison that would help attract and keep talented scientists.

Dubbed the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, the new facility would consume two blocks of University Avenue and house not just biologists, but engineers and computer



JEFF MILLER

Stem-cell researcher **Su Chun Zhang PhD'91** (left) explains his lab's work to Governor **Jim Doyle** (center) and **Michael J. Fox** (far right) during a February visit to the Waisman Center. Fox's foundation, which he began after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, has awarded \$1.2 million to stem-cell research at UW-Madison, which the actor praised as "the gold standard" for research on the disease. "This is where we've pinned a lot of our goals," he said after touring the center.

scientists whose work is helping to push the convergence of science and technology. Doyle believes that easing the interaction among those disciplines — which has helped fuel progress in fields such as genomics and nanotechnology — will yield new discoveries that spark the development of high-tech industries in Wisconsin.

Coveting those same industries, states such as New Jersey and Illinois also have pledged public money for stem-cell research. But UW researchers say a strength of Doyle's plan is that it encompasses more than just the promising cells.

"I'm actually fairly embarrassed by the amount of press that this one area of research gets, because Wisconsin is a leader in most areas of biomedical research," says **James Thomson**, the anatomy professor who first isolated human embryonic stem cells. "I think that the [governor's] initiative goes a long way in maintaining our leadership position in an age of discovery."

Many potential snags loom for Doyle's plan. Although he has described building the institute as a public-private partnership, for example, several legislators remain skeptical about how the state will afford its share of the investment. There is also likely to be debate about whether the state should fund human embryonic stem-cell research, which some consider to be unethical. Eight states have banned or restricted using taxpayer money for such purposes.

"If the people in the state don't want a star university, this is their opportunity to make that known, because we're at a crossroads," warns Sussman. At the same time, he's already turned down one job offer from a California university, and he has no plans to leave anytime soon.

"I've learned to respect the people of the state," he says. "I think they want the best research, and I think they want it going on here, and not in California."

— *Michael Penn*

## one number

2,100

Students who received men's basketball season tickets free of charge after a computer glitch excluded some of the 3,700 students who applied for tickets from a lottery in October. The students' bonanza eventually will cost the UW — and the company it contracts with to provide ticketing services — more than \$300,000.

## OVER HEARD

"I probably got pretty lucky. I got an ace when I was down."

— **Brian Lomas x'06**, one of five UW intramural poker players who beat nine-time World Series of Poker champion **Phil Hellmuth x'86** during a tournament at the Red Gym in November. Lomas won a copy of Hellmuth's book, *Bad Beats and Lucky Draws*, and a T-shirt in the no-money exhibition, sponsored by the campus's intramural sports division.

## A Kinder, Gentler Exam Week

The new approach to finals stresses low stress.

Q AND A

### Tim Sell

As business manager of the SWAP (Surplus with a Purpose) store, **Tim Sell** has the perfect name for his job, which is finding new uses for equipment no longer needed by state or university offices. And when he discovered that state laws forbid selling such items on eBay, he had the perfect alternative. He founded his own auction Web site, which in its first year sold \$280,000 of surplus goods.

**Q: What was the most interesting item sold in the online auction?**

**A:** The stories behind what we sell are what make things interesting. For example, we have the chandelier from the Pabst mansion, which is incredibly ornate [and] covered with crystals, selling for one hundred and fifty dollars right now.

**Q: How about at the physical store — what will people wait in line for?**

**A:** When the athletic department switched their endorsement deal from Reebok to Adidas, we had semi trucks loaded with Reebok athletic gear, both new and used. The first day the items were available, there were two thousand people waiting in line.

**Q: What did people want most?**

**A:** Shoes. There were hundreds of pairs of shoes, sizes three and a half to twenty.

**Q: What is the most money you have ever gotten for an item?**

**A:** We sold an eye laser for half a million dollars about two years ago.

In the midst of final exams late last semester, a group of students gathered in the Natatorium to experience something pretty rare for that time of year: an hour of uninterrupted calm. As they moved gracefully through a series of yoga positions, you could almost see the headaches and hassles of exams melt away, if only temporarily.

Traditionally, exam weeks are synonymous with stress. But universities have come around to the notion that finals don't have to be an all-out assault on students' physical and mental well-being. Increasingly, they're offering courses in yoga, meditation, massage, and other stress-busting techniques to help students relieve the pressures of academia.

At UW-Madison, University Health Services now employs four massage therapists, offers relaxation classes throughout the semester, and guides a free meditation session on Monday afternoons. UHS and the Division of Recreational Sports also sponsor classes in yoga and other mind-body exercises, which often fill up during the academic year.

"The classes are so popular because they really do help," says **Rob Sepich**, a UHS stress-management counselor who leads a course on relaxation techniques.

Sepich says students often neglect their health because they feel overwhelmed and

don't think they have time to take a break once in a while. University officials worry that those stresses lead to unhealthy choices, such as cutting back on sleep, eating poorly, or drinking too much. So, in recent years, they've developed new ways to help students learn how to take better care of themselves — from organized discussions and

that students are paying attention.

"Everyone I know reads those tips," she says. "People are always looking for suggestions on how to get rid of some of their stress."

But that's true for more than just university students. Recent studies have shown that people who experience less



MICHAEL FORSTER ROTHBART

**Michele Price**, a graduate student in entomology, takes a break from fall finals to participate in a yoga class, one of the stress-busting options offered by the UW Division of Recreational Sports.

classes to simple reminders about healthy eating and sleeping habits. In his classes, Sepich teaches students techniques they can do on their own time, including muscle relaxation, guided imagery, and even the importance of napping.

"Just taking time out for an hour a day really helps relieve stress," says **Melissa Trinley x'06**. "Especially at the end of the semester, during finals."

Shortly before finals each semester, the university sends e-mails to all students with advice on how to maintain a healthy diet and relieve stress during exams, and Trinley says

stress are generally healthier and recover more quickly from illness or injury than others. Many businesses are beginning to realize that helping workers alleviate stress is a good bottom-line decision. As Sepich notes, it's cheaper to teach people how to cope with stress than it is to deal with potentially serious consequences of too much stress down the line.

"It is important to teach people now how to deal with stressful situations as early as possible," Sepich says. "It allows students to cope in a much more efficient and healthy way in the future."

— *Joanna Salmen x'06*

# Backward Thinking

Documenting campus's past will guide its future.

The UW-Madison campus is rich with historical significance — so rich, in fact, that it's still being revealed. Within the last three years, twenty-one new archaeological sites have been found on campus, each one containing fingerprints of people who once called the hills around Lake Mendota home.

Such discoveries are thrilling, but they also underscore a potential problem for a campus that is still developing. The university's current master plan calls for much-needed upgrades to student housing, an east campus pedestrian mall, and new classroom facilities — but can it build the structures of the future while protecting the treasures of its past?

That is the goal of a new effort to document UW-Madison's cultural landscape. Beyond just physical geography, a cultural landscape encompasses buildings, artifacts, open spaces, and other expressions of the people who have inhabited today's campus. Funded by the Getty Trust, faculty and students in the Department of Landscape Architecture, along with campus planning and landscape staff, are studying both archaeological sites and archival records to document those fingerprints, with the idea that a thorough accounting of campus's past will help preserve it.

"We're trying to uncover what's happened here and what it means," says **Daniel Einstein MS'95**, who is coordinating the project for Facilities Planning and Management. "Our examination ranges from prehistoric archaeological inscriptions, like the effigy mounds, to designed landscapes, such as Henry Mall and Bascom Mall."

Work is under way to evaluate high-profile landmarks such as the Union Terrace, Camp Randall, and Muir Knoll. The team will document sites for the next



MICHAEL FORSTER/ROTHBART

Near the Lakeshore Path, a goose-shaped effigy mound, built by Woodland Indians a thousand years ago, hints at the campus's rich heritage.

several months before making recommendations to consultants working on the overall master plan this fall.

The final resources plan, along with historic photos and papers, will soon be posted as

part of the library system's University of Wisconsin Collection (<http://webcat.library.wisc.edu:3200/UW/>), a searchable online archive that documents the university's storied past.

— Erin Hueffner '00

## IM@UW

These days, when students want to get to know each other better, they don't ask for a phone number. They trade instant-messenger screen names. IM, a form of Internet text messaging, has become a staple of college life. Most students now tap out a quick text message to friends instead of calling on the phone. But to the uninitiated, the messages going back and forth on campus computers may look like another language. Here's a key to deciphering some of IM's unique shorthand: — J.S.

...	I'm waiting
?	What?
BRB	Be right back
BICBW	But I could be wrong
CUL8R	See you later
DIN	Eating dinner
G2G	Got to go
GL	Good luck
HC	Helen C. White Library
HW	Homework
HW@HC	Doing homework at Helen C. White
IDK	I don't know
IMS	I'm sorry
JK	Just kidding
JIC	Just in case
K	Okay
MU	At the Union



NP	No problem
OIC	Oh, I see
ROTFL	Rolling on the floor, laughing
RUOK	Are you okay?
TTYL	Talk to you later
WTF	What the f***?
YT?	You there?

Announcing retirements in the past three months were Medical School Dean **Philip Farrell** and Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean **Elton Aberle**, and **Mary Rouse**, former dean of students who spent the past four years as director of the Morgridge Center for Public Service. Also on the move is **Timothy Mulcahy**, associate vice chancellor for research policy and one of the most visible advocates for UW-Madison's biological research program. He was lured to the University of Minnesota to be vice president of research.

The redevelopment of **University Square** — one of the most visible steps in the planned overhaul of the eastern part of campus — is moving forward. The UW Board of Regents earmarked \$58.5 million in its state budget request to erect a new student-services building on the site of the mall. A multi-story building, housing offices for student health services and student activities, is planned for the site, which will continue to be privately owned.



A new campus newspaper is diving into the crowded pool of student-run publications. The *Mendota Beacon*, supported by the right-leaning national Leadership Institute, debuted in February, promising a conservative viewpoint on local and national affairs. If that all sounds familiar, it's the same niche *The Badger Herald* pledged to fill when it emerged as an alternative to the fiery *Daily Cardinal* in 1969. But the *Beacon* editors may have a point about the void of voices from the right. After all, the *Herald* endorsed John Kerry.



## A Short, Tragic Bloom

Diaries reveal a different side of Japan's kamikaze attack force.

The photograph depicts a man doomed to die. Taken near the end of World War II, it shows a young Japanese kamikaze pilot as he prepared to fly his plane and himself into the side of an American warship as part of a desperate effort to turn the tide of the war. But was he a villain ... or a victim?

Sixty years after the end of the war, little is understood about the lives of the kamikaze, the four thousand young soldiers who made up Japan's most mythologized attack force. But **Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney** is out to change that. Drawing on personal diaries of kamikaze pilots that have never before been translated into English, the anthropology professor is putting a new face on these young soldiers: a human one.

In her 2002 book, *Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms, and Nationalisms: The Militarization of Aesthetics in Japanese History*, Ohnuki-Tierney argues that the kamikaze were

not the suicidal zealots history has made them out to be. Reading their own reflections as they prepared for their missions, she found "idealistic and intelligent young men who agonized over a fate they feel had been given to them," she says. "They felt they were forced to die."

That came as a revelation to Ohnuki-Tierney, who was born in Japan and lost two uncles to the war. Her previous research has focused on the significance of symbols in Japanese culture, and she set out to write not about war, but cherry blossoms, the delicate, short-lived



COURTESY OF UMEZAWA SHOZO

flowers that are revered in her native country. During her research, she kept seeing cherry blossoms deployed as military symbols, and that got her thinking: could flower power be enough to lead people into war?

## Putting the Habit on Hold

People always say that quitters never win, but you won't hear that from the staff at the UW's Center

for Tobacco Research and Intervention. The CTRI is the home of the Wisconsin Quit Line, a free service

devoted to helping the state kick the smoking habit, and in its sponsor's eyes, every quitter



wins — and boosts the state economy as well.

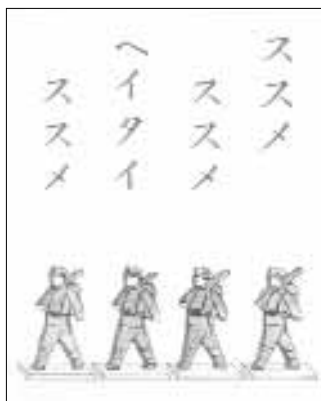
In 2004, the Quit Line helped some 1,791 smokers become smoke-free, more than triple its results for 2003. This is good news for the state of Wisconsin, which, according to the Centers for Disease Control, spends some \$1.5 billion on smoking-related medical care annually. By federal estimates, \$1,623 can be saved for each person who breaks the habit.

This means that, with the aid of the Quit Line, the residents of Wisconsin will spend some \$2.9 million less on medical care this year.

**Chris Hollenback '98**, the communications coordinator for CTRI, says that the key to the effort is counseling. The Quit Line tries to match every caller with an addiction counselor who can give advice on various cessation plans, offer information on insurance coverage, and even call smokers back if they seem likely to falter.

"Our quit rate has held steady at 22 percent over the last three years," Hollenback says. "The state and national average is only 5 percent for those who try to quit cold turkey, without counseling or medication."

— J.A.



Kamikaze pilot Umezawa Kazuyo (left, before his fatal mission) grew up reading textbooks that mixed military and aesthetic symbols, such as *The Cherry Blossom Reader* (above).

"The danger of symbolism is its multiplicity and ambivalence," she says. "Symbols can mean many things to different people, and people can resonate with them for different reasons."

Ohnuki-Tierney believes that such use of symbols

helped Japan coerce the kamikaze, many of whom were liberal-minded students of prestigious universities and would seem unlikely candidates to volunteer for a death sentence. Contrary to popular belief, the official kamikaze force, known as the *tokkōtai*, did not form until late in 1944, when officers envisioned it as a last-ditch attempt to stave off American victory. The "volunteers" were plucked from the ranks of draftees and barraged with imagery designed to stoke their patriotism and sense of honor. Prospective pilots were told that their duty was "to fall like cherry petals for the emperor," and blossoms adorned their planes and uniforms.

Ultimately, it worked. While their diaries reveal grave doubts about the war, many of the soldiers tried to convince themselves that they were like cherry blossoms, destined for a short, brilliant life.

Now at work on a second book that will include more diary excerpts, Ohnuki-Tierney has spent nearly a decade on what was supposed to be a two-year project. In her search, she has tracked down and read some thousand diaries, many of which were published by family members of the pilots. The photograph shown here, for example, was given to her by the pilot's brother, in the hopes that people would see not a ruthless warrior, but a boy stripped of his future.

"I feel like I have a moral obligation to introduce these young men," Ohnuki-Tierney says. "They did not commit suicide; they were murdered by their government."

— Michael Penn

## Tuned In

Research grants often require that faculty widely distribute their findings, a fact of academic life that creates an annual flood of books and conference papers. But some research is more show than tell — and that's where the Research Channel comes in.

As research universities' answer to reality TV, the Research Channel broadcasts lectures, interviews, and documentaries twenty-four hours a day. UW-Madison joined with a consortium of leading universities to supply content for the channel, which is available via the Dish Network, many cable operators, and online at [www.researchchannel.org](http://www.researchchannel.org). Currently, four documentaries are

running as part of the "University of Wisconsin Presents" series — three featuring acclaimed UW dance professor **Li Chiao-Ping** and one chronicling the inaugural year of the UW's Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute.

Professor **Douglas Rosenberg**, who directed the three dance documentaries, says he usually presents his work at film festivals, and the Research Channel brings a unique opportunity to share it with new audiences. "I'm hoping institutions that teach classes in related topics will be able to access [my documentaries] as course material," he says.

— Erin Hueffner '00

## COOL TOOL

### The Center of the Earth ... in Wisconsin

Otto Lidenbrock had it easy. When the hero of Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth* became curious about the planet's molten core, he simply slid down a volcanic crater and saw it for himself. But physics professor **Cary Forest '86** may have the next best thing. He rebuilt the center of the earth in a much more convenient place — a Wisconsin cornfield.

Seeking new ways to study dynamos, the fascinating but inaccessible engines at the cores of planets and stars, Forest and colleagues created a small-scale dynamo in an underground bunker outside of Madison. Powered by two electric motors, propellers churn more than two thousand pounds of molten sodium in a steel sphere, replicating the currents in the earth's core as a way to understand how the planet generates its magnetic field.

"We'd like to see this big ball of molten metal flowing in a certain way to produce a magnetic field," Forest says. That would allow them to do what even Verne could not have imagined — to tinker with the controls that drive the planet.

— M.P.



JEFF MILLER

## Waste Not, Want Not

A paleontology student finds a new view of *T. rex* in a pile of trash.

UW-Madison's Pine Bluff Observatory has a new device that is helping to light up the dark, murky parts of space. The **Spatial Heterodyne Spectrometer**, attached to a small telescope, analyzes invisible rays of ultraviolet light that emanate from vast clouds of dust and gas that lie between stars. Developed by a team led by UW astrophysicist Fred Roesler MS'58, PhD'62, the device gives researchers new clues to the elements that make up those clouds, which are important in the development of stars and galaxies.

The notion that kids get taller overnight may actually be true, according to new research from the School of Veterinary Medicine. Seeking to explain **how young bodies grow** and develop, scientists placed sensors on the leg bones of lambs to monitor changes. They found that 90 percent of bone growth took place when the lambs were asleep or resting, while bones hardly grew at all when they were standing or moving. The revelations may help doctors understand growth spurts in kids



— both the four-legged and two-legged varieties. Those **red, yellow, and purple carrots** cropping up at farmers' markets have more than sight appeal. A new study confirms they're great for rounding out a healthy diet. Researchers studied the newly developed lines of multi-hued carrots and found that they are far superior to dietary supplements at delivering substances such as beta-carotene, lutein, and lycopene to the body. So while there's no way around eating your vegetables, it may pay to make it

Some discoveries come in the laboratory. Others are made in the field. And others — well, they're hard to classify. **Daniel Hyslop x'05** and his hadrosaur rib fall into the last category.

Hyslop created a small sensation at a meeting of the Geological Society of America in November, when he gave a presentation describing the hadrosaur rib and its implications for the most famous predator of the Cretaceous period, *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The fossil bears striations — a series of parallel grooves — indicating that its original owner, a large, duck-billed, herbivorous dinosaur, had been eaten by a *T. rex*. What's more, the markings seem to show *how* the predator consumed its meal — pulling at it with a sideways motion.

Though it may not seem like an epoch-making discovery, paleontologists previously had little indication of how *T. rex* ate their meals. And anyway, Hyslop's fun has come more from the process than the end result.

Hyslop, a geology student, has made repeated trips to excavate with other UW students and faculty, and he's put in hours of work in the Geology Museum lab. But his discovery came in neither place — it came when he and several other students were digging through someone else's garbage.

"We were cleaning up an office in the museum," he says, "when I came across a package wrapped in foil. I didn't know whose it was — a lot of different students used that office, and the mess had been building up for some time — but when I opened the foil, I realized it was something exciting."

The package contained the striated hadrosaur rib, and Hyslop decided to turn the fossil into a project — which required

as much scientific detective work as if he'd dug it out of the ground himself.

The rib had been in a pile of other objects, and by exam-

the bone." He compared the striations to the Geology Museum's *T. rex* fossils and found their size — 0.7 millimeters apart — matched a series of



Student Daniel Hyslop's remarkable discovery about how the famed *T. rex* ate proves that one man's trash is another's treasure.

ining the items immediately above and below it, Hyslop was able to date its arrival in Madison to somewhere in the mid-1990s. The only excavation the UW had going on then was in Hell Creek, Montana, and thus he was confident that the fossil had been unearthed there — a fact he later confirmed through the museum's catalog index. Hadrosaurs lived during the Cretaceous, and the only sizable predator in the Hell Creek area in that period was *T. rex*.

"You can tell by these marks here," he says, pointing to the grooves, "that something pressed in and dragged along

serrations that run along the back of the teeth on the predator's lower jaw.

He concluded that the only way that a predator could have made the markings was by pulling meat away with a sideways jerk of its head.

"It may not be a controversial discovery," Hyslop says, "but it adds a little more to the picture of *T. rex*. Also, anytime you say '*T. rex*,' you get a lot of attention."

He hopes that this attention will help get him into a graduate paleontology program — and out of the garbage.

— John Allen



## Verse with Voice

James Kass gives young poets a chance to speak their piece.

Sometimes, children just want to be heard. **James Kass '91** has found a dynamic way to give those young voices a national forum: through poetry, and more specifically, through poetry slams — oral, open-mic performances in which presentation is often as important as the poems themselves.

Kass is the executive director of Youth Speaks, a San Francisco-based program that networks with youth organizations across the country to hold workshops, writing programs, and poetry slams designed to get the next generation of poets and writers interested in expressing themselves through the written and spoken word. In doing so, Youth Speaks is fueling a national youth poetry movement that's moving the art form far beyond couplets and quatrains.

Kass, a creative writing major, always loved poetry, but his brushes with it in public school left him cold. "For me, poetry was always taught traditionally, focusing on the form — blank verse, haiku, cinquain," he says. "It was always, if you do this or that, you've written a poem."

Modern poetry, fueled by popular influences such as spoken-word and hip-hop, left traditional forms in the dust decades ago. Kass stumbled across performance poetry in 1995, about the time that poetry-slam creator Marc Kelly Smith was crafting the concept at jazz clubs in Chicago. A year later, Kass founded Youth Speaks and began staging slams of his own.

When Kass nurtures these future Aya de Leons, he isn't just encouraging their literacy — he's also teaching them that oral poetry has a democratizing



YOUTH SPEAKS

**James Kass believes oral poetry is a democratizing art form. His Youth Speaks program gives a voice to aspiring young poets.**

effect, allowing them to have their say on the issues that affect them. And the immediacy of performance is a huge draw.

"When I was a kid, if I wanted to share [one of] my poems, I could send it off to a magazine or a journal, where it might get published — three months later," Kass says.

"Today, a kid can write a poem on a bus, go to an event, read it, and get a response from an audience. That's huge, because without an audience, a poet doesn't have power."

If that's true, hundreds of young poets are going to be feeling pretty powerful in the coming months. In February, Youth Speaks hosted a teen poetry slam; the top ten poets scored a chance to compete in the eighth annual Brave New Voices National Youth Poetry Slam Festival, set for April 20 to 24 in San Francisco. Don't worry, parents: the competitive element is definitely de-emphasized. "They're competing for bragging rights," says Kass. "It's supportive, not cutthroat."

— Aaron Conklin MA'93

## Gateways to the Big Apple's Core

Working for an artist whose latest exhibition called for sixty-five miles of fabric was no easy task, but it's one that **Thomas Garver**, liaison to the Friends of UW-Madison Libraries, came to love. An art historian by training, Garver recently spent two weeks in New York working at an information center for *The Gates*, the latest in a long line of public works by the renowned environmental

artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

"People would come in and say, 'Who is this guy, and why is he spending \$20 million for something that lasts two weeks?'" says Garver.

For sixteen days in February, *The Gates* wound its way through twenty-three miles of Central Park's footpaths like a massive, saffron-colored snake. The installation comprised

7,500 sixteen-foot metal gates draped with vinyl. Garver, who has known the artists since the 1970s, says Christo is a visionary who enjoys taking on projects that most people view as impossible.

"Christo creates things that rest very lightly and very beautifully on the landscape and then are gone without a trace," he says.

— Erin Hueffner '00





## All in the Family

After breaking from tradition, the Karps are on their way back.

It's like forgetting to move your white clothing to the back of the closet or failing to phone in your telethon pledge. Labor Day just wasn't right the last two falls, as the Karp family missed its annual concert, a UW-Madison tradition that has been building for nearly three decades.

Since 1976, UW-Madison School of Music professor **Parry**

**Karp MMusic'77**, his father, Professor Emeritus **Howard Karp**, and mother, Frances Reiche Karp, along with his brother Christopher and various

Friends have joined in throughout the years. "My fellow members of the Pro Arte Quartet have played at one time or another," says Parry. "Won-



KATRIN TALBOT

"Music is all I know," says Parry Karp (left, with his father, Howard). "My parents are passionate musicians." That passion has infused the entire family, to the benefit of the UW community. The Karp family will resume their annual concerts this fall.

### COLLECTION

#### Cloth Art

A single glance will tell you that the three-and-a-half-inch-square piece of cotton below isn't just another hanky. This is *Chinese Lady*, one of the nearly twelve thousand pieces of cloth art that make up the School of Human Ecology's **Helen Louise Allen** Textile Collection.

Allen was a professor of textiles and interiors from 1927 to 1968, and through four decades of teaching and research, she put together one of the nation's largest and most varied private assemblages of cloth. She left the collection to the university when she retired (well, no one has *that* much dresser space), and the UW has continued to add to it. Under the direction of curator **Mary Ann Fitzgerald**, the collection acquires around fifty new pieces a year.



CHINESE LADY BY MARY BERO, 1986

The collection boasts items that represent a vast variety of eras, places, and techniques. Its oldest piece is Peruvian and dates from around 400 B.C. Its newest items were created in the fall of 2004, in Professor **Jennifer Angus's** print and dye class. But the collection won't take on just any bit of lace. "We're pretty packed right now," says Fitzgerald. "Any new acquisition has to be an excellent example of something — embroidery, design, and so on."

Although primarily used by students in UW-Madison's Department of Environment, Textiles, and Design, the collection is also open to other researchers and to the general public. Visitors should call (608) 262-1162 in advance to make an appointment.

— J.A.

friends, have performed for classical music fans on Labor Day. "It was my idea when I came to teach here in 1976," says cellist Parry. "What a perfect time for a concert: the day before classes start. We didn't plan to do it year after year. But after ten years, we realized this is an annual event. And since then, it has always been the first performance of the year in the faculty concert series."

Howard was on UW-Madison's School of Music piano faculty from 1972 to 2000, and Frances is a renowned pianist, as well. Christopher, "a very fine violinist and pianist," according to Parry, is a research scientist and doctor at the University of Cincinnati and has occasionally played at the concerts since 1981. Parry's spouse, **Katrin Talbot MS'85**, a violist with the Madison Symphony Orchestra and an award-winning photographer, has taken part since the early 1980s.

derful wind colleagues have performed — Professor **Linda Bartley**, Associate Professor **Stephanie Jutt** — and many of my string colleagues, as well."

Having had a brief break, the family is excited about the 2005 Labor Day concert. Parry Karp and Katrin Talbot's daughter Ariana will be joining the group as a narrator, and they'll be trying out some new music. "We even have a world premiere of a piano trio written for us by Joel Hoffman, a faculty member of the University of Cincinnati," says Parry.

The Karp Family Concerts are held in Mills Concert Hall and, in recent years, have drawn crowds of seven hundred or more. "I think now there are people in town who expect a concert from our family on Labor Day," Parry says. "We plan to keep going. It's a nice tradition."

— Candice Gaukel Andrews '77



## Fighting Poverty with Poetry

### The Odyssey Project takes humanities to the underprivileged.

Each Wednesday evening, Professor **Emily Auerbach** goes on an odyssey. Leaving her office in Lowell Hall, she travels some thirty blocks south to the Harambee Center in one of Madison's poorest neighborhoods. With her she takes what she believes are the tools of survival — the poetry of Blake, Wordsworth, and Shakespeare.

These are vital not only for Auerbach, but for her students, the participants in UW-Madison's Odyssey Project. They may not have much in common with their counterparts on campus: all have incomes near the poverty level, most are single parents, and none is in a UW degree program. To outside eyes, what they seem to need most is practical help — vocational training, childcare, access to health facilities. But, Auerbach insists, this is short-sighted. The best tool for fighting poverty, she believes, is poetry — and philosophy, history, art, and music.

Now in its second year, the Odyssey Project aims to offer the benefits of a liberal education to some of Madison's poorest residents. People come to learn, and if they finish the yearlong course, their reward is six credits from the UW's Integrated Liberal Studies Program.

Of the twenty-four students who graduated from Odyssey's first year, three have been accepted at UW-Madison, ten are students at Madison Area Technical College (MATC), and one is enrolled at Madison's Edgewood College.

One of those former Odyssey students, **Denise**

**Maddox**, says that the program helped give her a goal in life. She had graduated from high school without being able to read, she says, and "I'd always felt dumb." But Odyssey opened her eyes to the ideas of Socrates and Thoreau. Now she's enrolled full-time at MATC

springs from her own background. "One reason I have a passion for this is that my parents came out of poverty through education," she says. Her father immigrated to America after fleeing the Holocaust, and her mother grew up in Appalachia. They met as stu-



MICHAEL FORSTER/ROTHBART

"I thought college was beyond me until I ran into this project," says **Joe Robinson** (right), who works for Head Start. "I learned more about myself than anything else, and it gave me the confidence to go on." Robinson, who participated in Odyssey last year, has recruited his brother into the program.

and hopes to work toward a career in writing.

"I want to write people's stories, to speak for those who can't write for themselves," she says. "I've lived with abuse and hunger and learning deficiencies and dyslexia. I understand people like that. I want to write down how they feel."

Auerbach says she's been impressed by the support the Odyssey Project has received. "I'm so privileged to be joined in the classroom by a whole team of distinguished UW faculty members," she says, noting the contributions of **Jean Feraca, Craig Werner, Laura McClure, Marshall Cook, Kathleen Sell, Gene Phillips, Booth Fowler, and Nellie McKay**.

Auerbach explains that the motivation behind Odyssey

dents at Kentucky's Berea College, an institution that was founded to educate the poor.

Both eventually came to work for UW-Madison, her father as a professor of zoology and her mother as a medical librarian. "Only through education can you break the cycle of poverty," says Auerbach. "It opens the door for whole families."

The Odyssey Project is Auerbach's attempt to pass that gift along. "When people ask me why we bother with the humanities, I remember an eloquent statement of my mother's," Auerbach says. "The poor, she told me, are closer to issues of justice and struggle, so the humanities have more meaning."

— John Allen

The Geology Museum has a very different idea of what the term **Rock Concert** means — but that's just what it's calling the April event in its Stony Muse series. The concert will feature the oldest known terrestrial object, a bit of the mineral zircon found in Australia, as well as a performance by the band Jazz Passengers. The group will play music composed by Roy Nathanson especially for this occasion — a collection of words and music that will explore the idea of "deep time" and answer the question What is 4.4 billion years? The Stony Muse is a series of events that feature intersections between geology and art.

Throughout the spring, the Elvehjem Museum of Art will be exhibiting the ceramic work of **Don Rietz**, who taught at the UW from 1962 to 1988. Some seventy pieces, created over the last forty-four years, will be on hand.

The **Wisconsin Film Festival** will run in Madison from March 31 to April 3, and once again it will feature competitions for students and for independent or emerging film-makers with Wisconsin ties. For the festival schedule, visit [www.wifilmfest.org](http://www.wifilmfest.org)

Wisconsin's impact on show business is highlighted in the documentary **Wisconsin Born and Bred: the Entertainers**, which was shown on Wisconsin Public Television in February and which may now be seen on the digital cable network Wisconsin On Demand. The program highlights the accomplishments of Daniel J. Travanti '67 and Jim Abrahams '70, among others.



## Plants and the Man

Tim Allen encourages students to give him something to chew on.

Some may say the title of Botany 240, *Plants and Man*, is outdated. The class, which debuted in 1971, is about how plants and humans have affected one another throughout the ages.

But if the title is supposed to reflect what students learn during the semester, then *Plants and Humans* wouldn't be suitable. Students learn the most from the latter part of the course name: the Man. Professor **Tim Allen**.

The first page of Allen's forty-five-page syllabus discusses the title, which in the past, the university has asked him to change. But the class and its name are iconic. In spite of the title's possible sexism, hundreds of students continue to enroll each fall on the recommendation of their peers.

*Plants and Man* focuses on the evolution of the biological, sociological, and political interaction between people and plants in the twenty-first century. The course specifically studies aspects of agriculture — including plants associated with historical wars and human migration, modern agriculture, economic plants, and sociology and ecological crisis.

Still, there's more to the class than that. Allen also tries to make his students more mindful about their relationship to the food in their lives. Students need not write term papers on plants and the effects of the Industrial Revolution. Instead, they have the option of brewing and bottling their own beer or making dinner for their teaching assistant.

But do not be fooled. No ramen or Kraft macaroni and cheese will be served.

The dinner "is a reflection of personal standards," says **Molly Mogren x'05**, who took the class in the fall.

Allen is quick to note that the dinner should not be a special occasion and is not just an excuse for him and his teaching assistants to be fed a delicious meal. The dinner should show how well the students understand the food they consume.

"Do you have high personal standards? That is what this is all about," Allen says. "I am very tough on them," he admits.

"I have never put more thought or time into a project for a class," senior **Maggie Stack** says as she chops vegetables and throws them into a pan. She and Mogren are conducting a practice run of their meal before they have their TA over for dinner in a few nights.

"Is there too much rosemary in this?" Mogren asks Stack as she tastes a red pepper from their roasted vegetable dish.

This is the last dinner Stack and Mogren will make before their final presentation. The menu tonight consists of mahi mahi, roasted vegetables with olive oil and rosemary, squash, Irish soda bread, and a caesar salad. For dessert: chocolate ice cream with a raspberry puree. But in a few days, it could all change.

"We will have to wait and hear what Sue recommends," Stack says. Sue is the local fishmonger, and Stack and Mogren have become well acquainted with her since signing on for the project. Allen advised anyone cooking dinner to get to know local food providers in order to get the best produce. Stack and Mogren plan on calling Sue the night before their dinner and asking what will be fresh the next day.

"We don't want to end up with farmed salmon," Mogren says, and both she and Stack laugh at the absurdity of the idea.

The dinner, like the rest of the course, isn't meant to be easy. Allen's exams are difficult, with a page of instructions on how essays should be written. No one recommends the class because it is a breeze.

"But it is a spectacular course," Allen says. "I don't know a teacher better than me."

### CLASS NOTE

#### Library Liberty

Library and Information Studies 645: Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

Change is afoot in this venerable library school offering: there's a new lawman in town. The voice telling the next generation of librarians about the rights and responsibilities of intellectual freedom belongs to **Anuj Desai**, a Law School professor. And though he's an expert in First Amendment law, copyright, and international issues regarding intellectual property, he isn't a librarian.

"Because I'm a lawyer, and I don't have an LIS [Library and Information Studies] background, I have a different perspective," he says. "I suspect this course has a different look when I teach it than it might have had before. It's more theoretical and historical."

The course, which includes twenty LIS graduate students, discusses the meaning and importance of intellectual freedom, as well as its limits and its relationship to other values that are important to American society. Students gain a knowledge of the philosophical issues surrounding intellectual freedom, and then apply them to current and historical issues, such as whether libraries have a duty to allow or restrict access to sexually explicit materials.

Desai hopes that his position as a lawyer will make the class more informative — for himself, as much as for his students. "There are some things that are well known in the library community that I don't know," he says.



BARRY CARSEN

— J.A.

MICHAEL FORSTER ROTHBART



Professor of botany Tim Allen teaches about the chemical composition of spices and the history of the spice trade while simultaneously making a caesar salad and cooking bananas Foster for his students. "Lecturing should be theater," says Allen. Students "are numbed by music television stations. I have to get them to respond some way." His popular class *Plants and Man* feels like an intellectual cooking show, and students may forgo a term paper and instead try a culinary project, such as bottling their own beer or cooking a meal for their teaching assistant.

His lectures are sometimes compared to a theater production. In one well-known session, Allen makes bananas Foster and a caesar salad while simultaneously giving his lecture. Students, he says, "are numbed by music television stations. I have to get them to respond some way."

Their response is nothing short of an acute understanding of his message.

"He is trying to inspire our generation," Mogren says. "People are so lazy. No one takes the time to prepare and enjoy food anymore. Our society is obsessed with fast food."

Stack and Mogren are now taste-testing wines to judge which one will fit best with their meal, while constantly checking the oven to monitor the mahi mahi.

"Do you think this is going to detract from the taste of the dinner?" Mogren asks, wincing at one wine's too-sweet taste. "Because I think it is a hangover waiting to happen." Stack agrees, and they quickly make a note to find a replacement.

Soon the students' roommates begin to follow the aroma of rosemary and fill the kitchen, waiting to be served.

Homemade dinners are now standard fare at their house. "I love when you guys study for this class," one of them says with a smile.

Stack and Mogren begin serving the food to their eager friends, and all of them spoon heaps of squash and vegetables onto their plates. Etiquette is not a part of the course.

"This is not about the seven forks," Stack says. "It is about the quality of the food."

Just like Botany 240 — it's not about the exams, it's about the lessons learned from the Man.

— Joanna Salmen x'06

Professor Gordon Smith is encouraging Law School students to exercise their legal minds in the public sphere with the launch of **Law & Entrepreneurship News**, a Web log (or "blog") that tracks developments related to launching new businesses. Sixteen student-editors are responsible for the research and writing that is posted on the site, which can be found at <http://entrepreneur.typepad.com/news/>.

The Sloan Consortium named UW-Madison's **Master of Engineering in Professional Practice (MEPP)** degree plan the 2004 Most Outstanding Online Teaching and Learning Program. Sloan granted the honor in December. MEPP was launched in 1999, and aims to give engineers the tools and capabilities to be more effective leaders.

Steroid use, total body makeovers, obesity surgery, limb lengthening — are they unethical or simply ways to use science to make people healthier and happier? Students in the fall medical history course **Body Modifications: Biology, Culture, and Technology**, taught by Linda Hogle, discussed these very topics. As a bonus, they heard from Stelarc, an Australian performance artist who's experimented with extreme body modifications, including a third ear, a robotic third hand, and a sculpture implanted in his stomach.

In December, students in the biomedical engineering department showed off the real-world application of their academic skills at **From Bench to Bedside: The Biomedical Engineering Student Design Expo**. More than a hundred undergraduates participated and created some twenty prototypes for devices ranging from a disposable drug-delivery system to a more ergonomic ultrasound probe.



# the next big thing is small

With applications that may include everything from supercharged electronics to self-cleaning windows, nanotechnology is a science with tiny proportions and huge possibilities.

By Rena Archwamety Beyer MA'04  
Photos by Jeff Miller

a black cloud looms over the Nevada desert as a small group of computer programmers and scientists wait, terrified, inside the laboratories that produced this runaway swarm of nanomachines. In a matter of hours, the tiny devices were able to coordinate, attack, kill, evolve, and reproduce. How long will it be, the scientists fear, until they multiply and spread, creating an epidemic beyond human control?

In his novel *Prey*, Michael Crichton's vision of what nanotechnology holds for the future is bleak, predicting tiny, intelligent, self-replicating machines that can either kill humans or take over their minds.

"The publisher sent me a copy, which I loaned to somebody," says Wendy

Crone, a UW-Madison engineering physics professor, as she rummages through the bookshelf in her office. "It's a very entertaining book. I enjoyed reading it, but the reality of it, as described in that book, is never going to happen. There are a lot of scientific flaws in that scenario."

Crone is one of dozens of UW-Madison researchers working on nanotechnology — a term that loosely classifies several emerging methods of working with things on an extremely small scale. While these researchers may not share science fiction's grim view on this tiny technology, they do agree with Crichton about at least two things: nanotechnology will be everywhere, and its impact will be beyond anything we can imagine.

Like Crichton's nanomachines, the offspring of this new technology are beginning to spread and multiply. Industries based on nanotechnology are

springing up across the country, and already a handful of nanotechnology-related companies have opened in Madison, many grown directly out of university research. To further explore the potential of the emerging field, the National Science Foundation has awarded grants to several universities — including one in September 2004 to establish UW-Madison's Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, or NSEC, the second large-scale center the foundation has funded for nanotechnology research on campus. This center not only provides funding to faculty working on new nanoscale technologies, but also supports research on the societal implications of nanotechnology, as well as educational outreach programs.

Already, nanotechnology is all around us. We only need to know where to look.



The face of physics graduate student Pengpeng Zhang is reflected in a port window of a scanning tunneling microscope, which uses electric currents to measure features the size of atoms. Such tools are enabling researchers to see and build a new breed of nanoscale devices that improve the efficiency of things like traffic lights. The signal on the facing page employs atomic-sized structures to hold light-emitting diodes, or LEDs.

## small science

A crowd gathers to see the two large display boards that have been set up in the atrium of the Engineering Centers building. Pieced together in pastel orange, yellow, green, and purple circles, the display is arranged to resemble atoms, with each atomic “bubble” holding information about this new field of nanotechnology. In one bubble are tubes of ferrofluid, a magnetic black liquid containing nanoscale particles that can be moved by magnetic fields into dramatic shapes and spikes (see box, page 26). It looks like a magic trick — and that’s the key to nanotechnology. There’s always more than meets the eye.

“The first sort of question that the public needs to grapple with is, ‘How small is the nanoscale?’” says Crone, who helped develop the interactive exhibit in collaboration with Milwaukee’s Discovery World Museum. “It’s hard to appreciate how different it is and how challenging it is for scientists and engineers to work at the nanoscale if [you] don’t understand how small it is.”

The nanoscale is defined by the nanometer — one billionth of a meter — which gets its name from the Greek prefix for “dwarf.” A single strand of human hair usually measures about fifty thousand nanometers. Ten hydrogen atoms or five copper atoms, laid side by side, equal one nanometer.

Generally, the field of nanotechnology involves work done at scales as large as several hundred nanometers or as small as less than one. “We work from the size of an atom up to typically the size of cells,” says Max Lagally MS’65, PhD’68, a materials science professor who is researching how nanotechnology can improve the performance of computers.

At that size, materials often exhibit different properties than they do lumped together in larger quantities. For instance, Lagally says, you can emit light from some nanosized objects that you wouldn’t be able to get from bulk materials. Magnetic particles can exhibit strange behavior when they’re at that scale, and sometimes particles can

prompt different kinds of catalytic activity when added to compounds, making new reactions possible. Those special properties open up new possibilities in just about any field you can name.

“Medicine, biology, computers, communications, transport, bioterrorism defense, customer products, entertainment — these all could be influenced by nanotechnology,” Lagally says. “It’s important in fishing rods, and better material in golf clubs. And in public health and safety, some are working on a

// Medicine, biology, computers, communications, transport, bioterrorism defense, customer products, entertainment — these all could be influenced by nanotechnology. //

DNA detection device that could identify a single molecule at a crime scene.”

The broad reach of nanotechnology is one of the reasons scientists expect it to eventually infiltrate nearly every part of our lives — from faster computers to stronger metals, to ...

“When do I get the self-cleaning windows?”

Back at the Engineering Centers building, a woman reads from a bubble that lists products already in the marketplace that use nanotechnology, including self-cleaning windows. They’re made by coating glass with a transparent layer of nanoparticles that, when exposed to sunlight, act as catalysts to break down dirt, allowing it to be easily rinsed away. The bubble goes on to list stain-resistant pants, which are coated with nanoscale fibers that keep water and oil from penetrating the fabric, and privacy windows that use nanosized liquid crystals to turn from opaque to transparent.

## nano on campus

Because nanotechnology is defined by scale, it is not limited to any one discipline. It is often considered more of an approach — a new way of looking at things that cuts across many disciplines and technologies. Nanotechnology can be seen in departments ranging from computer engineering to biology to social science, and often, the teams exploring the nanoworld are interdisciplinary.

One of these is a group of physics and engineering researchers who are creating nanoscale devices to test the possibilities of quantum computing. Instead of relying on transistors to store information, quantum computers would take advantage of the properties of a particle, such as the spin or magnetic pull of an electron. The team is working with quantum dots — box-like patterns about four hundred nanometers wide and ten nanometers thick that are etched into silicon chips. The dots would each contain a single electron, whose spin could be used to perform computations. In theory, quantum computers could solve certain types of problems millions of times more quickly than traditional computers could, but the work is in its beginning stages.

“It’s our fourth year of this, and in reality, when will we see a quantum computer?” asks Lagally. “I don’t know, twenty to forty years. It will be a while, because we’re still really studying the fundamental physics of it.”

One of the main advantages of a quantum computer would be its ability to factor large numbers and break encryption codes. Its potential power has garnered the interest of the U.S. Department of Defense, which partially funds the group’s research. But because of their limited functions, quantum computers would probably not replace traditional computers. Yet those, too, are becoming more powerful thanks to nanotechnology, which has enabled the creation of increasingly smaller and faster transistors.

While quantum computers may be decades away, other avenues of UW nanotechnology research are much closer to





In the sterile environment of a campus photolithography lab, students and staff fabricate nanoscale patterns on semiconductor chips under the glow of yellow-filtered lights designed to keep the highly light-sensitive materials from being exposed.

real-world applications. In biological research, for instance, nanotechnology is bringing about a revolution in how we read and interpret the genetic codes of living things. Researchers can now use tools on the same scale as single strands of DNA — which are typically two nanometers wide — to speed up the meticulous process of analyzing genomes. This may hold keys to understanding a host of genetic disorders.

Some of the most promising work is being done in the laboratory of David Schwartz, a professor of chemistry and genetics who specializes in analyzing genomes. Schwartz's laboratory invented a process involving a silicon chip imprinted with nanosized channels that

uncoil and separate long strands of DNA, enabling scientists to read their genetic information like a barcode. When held to the light, the fingernail-sized chip gives off a rainbow gleam. The iridescence, Schwartz explains, is what you can see of the tiny channels.

The students in Schwartz's lab use syringes to inject a mixture of DNA and water through long, thin funnels, which connect to the surface of the chip. The chip contains a series of channels through which strands of DNA are pulled and separated, placing each in its own compartment.

Sitting at his desk, Schwartz points to the foil compartments in a package of Nicorette gum to illustrate how DNA is

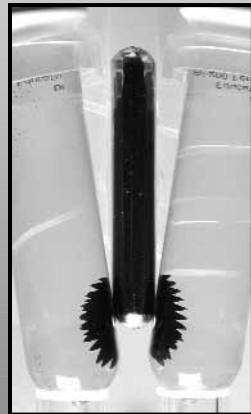
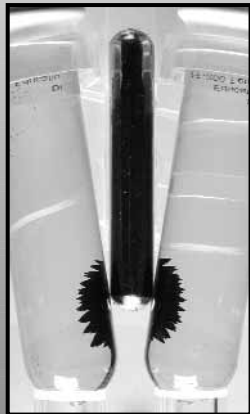
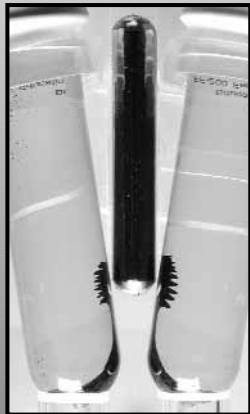
organized, each strand occupying a specific location within the channels.

"It's like you have a hundred thousand people showing up for a football game. It's no problem fitting the people into that space because you have seats, you have aisles, you can arrange the people, and it's logical, it's rational, it's systematic," Schwartz says. "We do the same thing with DNA molecules."

Once strands of DNA are "seated," their genetic information can be fed into powerful computers that can churn through millions of pieces of data. Eventually, the chip may allow researchers to pinpoint the abnormal genes in a tumor cell or determine what medical therapies best match a person's genetic makeup.



Containing billions of nanoscale particles, ferrofluid at first looks like nothing more than a black puddle. But apply a magnetic field, and those seemingly invisible particles react by clumping into spikes — a property researchers think can be used to help drugs find the right target in the body.



## LEAPING FERROFLUID

"It's not quite ready for a population-wide diagnostic yet," Schwartz says, "but it's well on the road."

### an emerging industry

With so many projects racing toward the marketplace, the excitement about nanotechnology's potential as an economic engine is also booming. "When you look at research communities, five years from now, nanotech is going to be the driving force," says Paul Peercy MS'63, PhD'66, dean of the College of Engineering. "Every important quality of a material is controlled at the nanolevel. It's going to cut across everything. The economic impact of nanotechnology is going to be huge."

A handful of nanotechnology-based companies already exist in Madison. One of these is Platypus Technologies, which was co-founded in 2000 by UW-Madison faculty Nicholas Abbott, Barbara Israel, and Chris Murphy. The company creates diagnostics, sensors, and monitors that combine liquid crystals with nanostructured materials, using technology developed by Abbott. One of its diagnostic devices can detect antibodies to the West Nile virus in animals. Another is designed to signal when chemical weapons are present in the atmosphere. They are also working on a monitor to measure a person's exposure to environmental toxins such as pesticides.

The key to Platypus's devices are liquid crystals, similar to those that light up a laptop computer screen or a digital watch. In computers, the orientation of the crystals — whether they're standing

straight up or lying down — creates light or dark areas on the screen. Electrical fields control how the crystals are aligned. Platypus does much the same thing, but instead of fields, the researchers fabricate nanoscale topography on the surface of materials such as glass or gold to control the crystals' orientation. Take, for example, a monitor Platypus has designed to detect the presence of pesticides. No larger than a credit card, it sandwiches liquid crystals between two layers of glass, the surface of one layer containing nanosized ridges and patterns. The monitor is then sealed on three of the four sides. When pesticides leak in at the open end, the diffusion of chemicals causes the liquid crystals to shift, making the tiny event visible to the human eye.

Such devices are ideally suited to nanotechnology because the viruses, proteins, and other molecules they are designed to detect are also small. "Because the nanoscale is on the same size range as antibodies and viruses and proteins, we can create a surface so that if one of those target molecules binds, it disrupts that regular structure along which the liquid crystals orient," says Israel, Platypus's CEO. The company is currently working with prototypes and testing, but Israel says she expects the pesticide monitor will be on the market within the next two years, and other products will follow soon after.

### tools to see the unseen

But the first obstacle to any nanotechnology work is basic: how can we, who are

big, study and manipulate nanosized objects, which are so small they cannot even be seen through the most powerful optical microscope? The solution to this problem lies in the tools.

"Tools are the most important part of this business at this stage," Lagally says. "Tools enabled the nanotech revolution. Being able now to see and manipulate the things at that scale allows us to do something. The first stage is always some discovery, and then some tool to make it happen for everybody. Once the tools are in place, then the research can progress into fabricating materials and devices, and products that use them."

The nanotechnology revolution began to take off with the development of scanning-tunneling microscopes and atomic-force microscopes, two powerful devices that create two-dimensional images of nanoscale objects by tracing their surfaces. Those tools allowed researchers to see down to the atomic level easily for the first time. Now some of the most influential nanotechnology companies don't actually make anything nanosized themselves, but instead create the equipment that makes the work possible. Former UW professor Tom Kelly, for example, started the Madison company Imago after developing a new type of microscope called the Local Electrode Atom Probe, or LEAP, which yields images of a level of detail similar to those provided by a CAT scan.

Another challenge is that the margin of error for measurements at the nanoscale is much smaller than it would be for work at larger scales. Lagally founded the Madison company nPoint,

which produces motion-control products called nanopositioners. These square, metallic, ashtray-sized tools can be built into a microscope to provide researchers with very precise control, reducing the typical margin of error from ten or twenty nanometers to only a few tenths of a nanometer.

## nano in society

It will, however, take more than just tools to transform nanotechnology from research labs and science fiction novels into real-life applications. The future of nanotechnology contains a world of open-ended possibilities. Will it lead us to a positive and productive future, as researchers predict? Or does it hold an unforeseen danger, as science fiction writers such as Crichton have envisioned? The only certainties, says public affairs professor Clark Miller, are that nanotechnology will greatly affect our future and that we can greatly affect the future of nanotechnology.

"The things that happen in science and engineering laboratories have an impact on all of us," Miller says. "I think part of being a democratic citizen is to recognize we all live in a high-tech society, and we need to be able to be part of decisions about the future of science and technology."

Miller leads a group studying the societal implications of the emerging science. Their focus encompasses not only how people perceive new technologies, but also the environmental, workforce, educational, social, and ethical issues related to nanotechnology. The research is also part of the new Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, but instead of working on how nanotechnology can help us better understand DNA, Miller is more concerned with how people can better understand nanotechnology.

"I have no question that thirty years from now, every industrial process will look different because of things we learned from nanotechnology," Miller says. "We will discover that there isn't anything that can't be made better,

faster, cheaper in some fashion by introducing some element of nanoscience into the materials."

But with new technologies often come controversy and new concerns. Heated political and ethical arguments continue over stem-cell research in the United States. And a public fear of genetically modified crops has effectively banned their import in parts of Europe. Still in its infancy, nanotechnology has neither extended into the public sphere nor progressed far enough to raise such widespread concerns. But there have been some. The environmental groups Greenpeace UK and the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, or ETC, have each written reports addressing the potential environmental risks of nanotechnology.

// We will discover that there isn't anything that can't be made better, faster, cheaper in some fashion by introducing some element of nanoscience into the materials. //

Miller says those are worthy concerns. "If you want a short-term scenario about where a risk issue might arise," he says, "the potential environmental risks are where that might happen." Little is yet known, for instance, about the effects of exposure to nanoparticles or about how they will interact with the environment. There are ongoing studies about the potential toxicology of nanoparticles, but since there are only a handful of products currently being mass-produced, not enough data have been collected to make these studies conclusive.

"At the moment, exposure is probably very limited. From that point of view, I don't think there's a lot of room for

concern right now," Miller says. "But exposure is going to explode over the next ten years. If it's going to happen — and there's no reason to believe that we can't do a good enough job to prevent that from happening — that's when we'd see it, when exposure goes up dramatically."

Right now, Miller says, there's very little public opinion about nanotechnology. Much of what is there has been driven by science fiction — the scary, futuristic scenarios of self-replicating robots engaging in mind control. There's nothing in the current research that would even hint at the possibility of such things, Miller says. But on the other hand, he adds, "Michael Crichton's novel has probably been read by more people than will ever read all government reports about nanotechnology put together. So I actually think that if you want to create a dialogue about nanotechnology, it might be better to try to do it via interacting with the science fiction community, which might then write about these issues in interesting ways."

The immediate challenge, however, is getting people to realize that nanotechnology is science fact, not fiction. At the unveiling of the new Nanoworld Discovery exhibit, that point seemed to settle in, as people perused the pastel bubbles and played with the experiments. Paul Krajniak, executive and creative director of the Discovery World Museum and one of the exhibit's chief architects, looked on as passersby fiddled with the magnets and ferrofluid, encouraged by their curiosity.

"I think the most important thing people could take from this exhibit is that nanotechnology is real, and that we're at the tip of the iceberg, and that here on this campus, people are really doing [it]," he said. "We used to have a phrase at Discovery World: 'Don't be afraid of tomorrow.' Here, we don't have to worry about that, because the people that are here are part of tomorrow, part of the future." ■

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Rena Archwamety Beyer MA'04 is a graduate of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication master's program. She lives in Madison and has written for publications such as *The Capital Times*, *Madison Magazine*, and *Muse*.

# The Ford Boys

**In the 1950s, the UW joined an experiment that  
But in spite of the program's apparent success,**

COURTESY OF CHARLES HOLBROW (2)



**I**n the summer of 1951, in the tiny town of Horace, North Dakota, Earl Dolven '55 stumbled over destiny. He had just turned sixteen and was flipping through a month-old issue of *Senior Scholastic* when he spotted a headline: "Hurry-Up Schooling." Underneath, an article announced, "A group of high school boys — juniors and seniors — will have a chance to step right into college next fall."

For Dolven, the story was magic. He was an intelligent boy, but his prospects were bleak. Horace contained just a few hundred souls, the care of which was the responsibility of his father, a clergyman whose salary didn't leave much for Earl and his four siblings. The Horace high school offered only a two-year program,

it employed just one teacher, and Dolven's graduating class consisted of four students. Advanced learning didn't seem to be in his future.

The *Senior Scholastic* article would change that. It described a new program funded by the Ford Foundation, the nation's largest private charitable endowment. The Ford people would pay to send some two hundred boys to study at Yale, Columbia, Chicago, or the University of Wisconsin. All Dolven would need was a high score on the entrance exam — and the willingness to leave his home and family.

"Really, there was no question," he says. "I asked my father to drive me to Minneapolis, and I took the college boards."

## enrolled dozens of precocious teenagers. It's never been repeated.

BY JOHN ALLEN

A thousand miles away, in Huntington Station, New York, John Israel '55 also had an appointment with fate. His father sold surgical and corset fabric to make women's undergarments. "It wasn't exactly Victoria's Secret," Israel says. The old man may not have had much formal schooling, but he was curious and read the *New York Times*, where he spotted a story, "Fund to Give Boys Pre-Draft Study," which described the Ford Foundation offer. "My father was very impressed with the University of Wisconsin," says Israel, "and socially, I wasn't very happy in high school. The decision was a no-brainer."

Around the country, the same notice appeared in newspapers and magazines and on the bulletin boards of high school principals. From New York City's elite Bronx High School of Science to one-room rural schools, hundreds of boys (and a few girls) applied for the Pre-Induction Scholarship Program, later known as the Early Admission Experiment. These were the Ford Boys, and their purpose was to challenge a basic assumption of the American education system, that a student had to be eighteen and a high school graduate to be emotionally and academically prepared for college life.

The Fund saw America's reliance on this regimented structure as the cause of a looming shortage of educated leaders. "In our own dynamic society," wrote Philip Coombs, the Fund's director of research, "it must be assumed that the demand for talent will continue to outstrip the supply. We will need more of every kind, not merely more nuclear physicists and engineers, but more first-rate biologists and doctors, teachers and politicians, economists and ministers, poets and philosophers."

Today, UW-Madison announces the

number of prodigies entering as freshmen each year. In the five fall terms from 2000 to 2004, the UW has averaged just four new students aged sixteen or younger. Between 1951 and 1955, some 165 fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds enrolled at the UW, at a time when the university's student population was only fourteen thousand, or a third of today's total. The Ford Boys (and, eventually, Girls) became highly accomplished alumni, such as Raymond Damadian '56, who pioneered magnetic resonance imaging, and Roger Perkins '55, former deputy associate director for research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, as well as dozens of doctors and lawyers, physicists and mathematicians.

And yet, half a century later, the Ford Boys and the experiment that produced them are almost forgotten. What happened?

### Once Upon a Time in Pyongyang ...

The Early Admission Experiment was the unlikely product of two largely unrelated events during the summer of 1950. On June 25, the army of North Korea crossed the thirty-eighth parallel and invaded South Korea; on September 23, Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1950.

The start of the Korean War put massive pressure on the U.S. military, which had been gradually demobilizing since the end of World War II. The army had only about half a million soldiers in 1950, and as American and South Korean forces reeled backward that summer, the Pentagon realized it needed more men — some 3.5 million of them to meet the global Communist threat.

Such numbers would require a massive overhaul of the draft, which allowed many young men to bypass service by



Opposite: At 16, John Israel left his home on New York's Long Island, where, he says, "socially, I wasn't very happy." Among the circle of friends he built in Madison was Ford scholar Charlie Holbrow (above, modeling his ROTC uniform).

Top: In 1952, Paul Thompson entered the UW at 15, although, he says, he lacked self-discipline. He flunked out once, dropped out once, and didn't graduate until 1961.

COURTESY OF PAUL THOMPSON

There was no room for the Ford scholars in the UW's residence halls, so their adviser, Herbert Howe, found them other accommodations. Louise Trubek (sitting on step, second from top) lived at Groves Co-Op during her junior year and found that the diverse mix of people there added another dimension to her education.



**The Conant Plan made college officials nervous. If all eighteen-year-old males entered the army, they reasoned, most would never return to school, depriving the country of a generation of talent.**

taking a student deferment and going to college. This not only deprived the armed forces of manpower, but many felt it was unfair. The editors of *The Nation* complained that exempting the college-bound students on the basis of aptitude tests and from the economically most fortunate groups. The dumb young men," they noted sarcastically, "can do the fighting."

To address the inequity, a group called the Committee on the Present Danger suggested doing away with student deferments altogether. As it was led by Harvard University president James Conant and prominent scientist Vannevar Bush, many people listened — including George Marshall, the secretary of defense, who requested that Congress adopt the idea.

The Conant Plan made college officials nervous. If all eighteen-year-old males entered the army, they reasoned, most would never return to school, depriving the country of a generation of talent. In January 1951, members of the

Association of American Colleges met in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to voice their concerns. While they wrung their hands, Mark Ingraham MA'22, the UW's dean of Letters and Science, met privately with his counterparts from Columbia, Yale, and Chicago to come up with a plan to deal with the looming problem. Aiming "to preserve the values of general, liberal education during the protracted period of emergency which the nation now faces," they proposed running an experiment: suppose that America's brightest young men were invited to college two years early — would they have the minds and maturity to handle the load?

The deans reasoned that boys who'd had a taste of college would be more likely to return after a hitch in the military. Moreover, they would provide the army with a nucleus of educated soldiers to fill emerging high-tech duties, especially in medicine. It seemed like a good plan for everyone — all the deans needed was someone to fund it.

Enter the Revenue Act of 1950. Like the Conant Plan for the draft, this law tried to create a more equitable society, using taxation as its tool. Many in Congress felt that big businesses and wealthy families were using charitable foundations to conceal their money from the IRS. The Act opened foundation tax returns to public scrutiny so that the people (who, Congress reasoned, were supposed to be the charities' ultimate beneficiaries) could know just how such funds were managed.

The Ford Foundation was one of the targets of this provision. In 1950, it had a declared value of half a billion dollars, though some estimates put its actual value at \$2.5 billion, significantly more than the assets of all other American foundations combined. But it had only paid out some \$27 million for charitable works over the previous fifteen years. An internal study concluded that the foundation could afford to spend that much every year without depleting its endowment, and to some outsiders, it appeared

**These institutions were less concerned with the draft than with the idea of changing education, and many of them dropped the gender requirement.**

to be nothing more than a vast holding company. The Revenue Act of 1950, with its threat of public scrutiny, gave the Ford Foundation incentive to spend its cash much more freely.

In January 1951, the Ford Foundation appointed a new associate director, Robert Hutchins, who created within the foundation a Fund for the Advancement of Education. The deans saw in Hutchins their deliverance. As the former chancellor of the University of Chicago, he was not only one of their own, he was an educational iconoclast. He was highly critical of American schools and had pushed Chicago to take on more underage students. The deans applied to Hutchins, and the Fund for the Advancement of Education pledged \$1.2 million to pay for the Pre-Induction Scholarship Experiment.

### **Weeding Out the Twerps**

The experiment the deans designed was relatively straightforward. The schools were to recruit some two hundred high school students a year, then match them with “comparison groups” of students — eighteen-year-old freshmen with similar test scores and economic backgrounds. The institutions would follow each group’s academic development and social adjustment, and then submit their observations to the Fund for the Advancement of Education.

The UW chose its prospective Ford Boys based on a variety of criteria. First of all, applicants had to be males of the proper age (no older than sixteen years and six months on September 15, 1951). They had to have the permission of their parents and principals and meet certain academic requirements, such as being in the top 10 percent of their high school class and scoring well on the College Entrance Examination Board, forerunner of the SAT. Then, because none of the schools wanted to end up with, as one of the deans put it, “a bunch of bright young twerps,” the students had

to show evidence of social development, including interest in non-scholastic activities and a letter demonstrating their maturity.

The program sparked immediate interest. Two thousand high-school students applied, and in the first year, the UW took in fifty-two, including Dolven and Israel. But it wasn’t just students who wanted in — other colleges did, too. By summer, the Fund had expanded its Early Admission Experiment to include eight more schools of varying size, location, and character. There would be Ford students at the public Universities of Utah and Louisville, the private liberal arts colleges of Shimer, Oberlin, and Lafayette, the all-women’s Goucher College, and the historically African-American Fisk and Morehouse Colleges. These institutions were less concerned with the draft than with the idea of changing education, and many of them dropped the gender requirement. In 1953, the UW followed suit, adding Ford Girls to its mix.

In 1951, only one of the UW’s Ford Boys came from Wisconsin. The bulk of them — twenty-nine — came from New York, eight from the Bronx High School of Science. “The main thing that has made the Ford program a success,” wrote David Rothman ’54, MA’55, a member of that first class, “is that all the geniuses have been put next to each other. This knocks the ego out of some of the guys and promotes a rather fierce competition.”

But if ferocity and a cosmopolitan flavor aided the program, they also created some of its biggest challenges. It would be up to one UW professor to make sure the Ford Boys received more benefit than pain.

### **The Invaluable Mr. Chips**

“If you want to understand the Ford program, there are two things you need to know,” says Charles Stephenson ’55. “Herbert Howe and ILS.”



**Youth carried less stigma for the Ford Girls than it did for the Boys. Here, Trubek chats with fellow Fordie Paul Friedman ’55.**

Howe MA’41, PhD’48, a professor of classics, was one of the most junior members of the UW faculty in 1951, and ILS, or Integrated Liberal Studies, is an interdisciplinary program that attempts to create a small, liberal-arts college atmosphere within the university. Both Howe and his wife, Evelyn PhD’46, taught within ILS.

As the UW was collecting its Ford Boys in the summer of 1951, Letters and Science dean Mark Ingraham tapped Howe to be the boys’ handler on campus. Howe had previously been a teacher at a preparatory school, and Ingraham thought his experience might help him relate to fifteen- and sixteen-year-old boys.

“It was sort of an odd idea, really,” says Louise Trubek ’57, one of the first Ford Girls. Most of the experiment’s students had gone to public schools on the East or West Coast, and most of the UW students they met had attended public schools in the Midwest. Howe, she says, who “had taught Latin and Greek to prep school boys, was sort of a Mr.

**For many of the Ford students, the goal was simply to blend in. Some, like Dolven, who was tall for his age, concealed their participation from all but their closest acquaintances.**

COURTESY EVELYN THOMPSON



**Evelyn Thut Thompson '57, MS'58 was thrilled to leave the "stultifying" environment of high school for the UW.**

Chips type. That wasn't what we grew up with, nor was it what Wisconsin was like. And yet his efforts did help us find a home here."

As far as most of the Ford Boys were concerned, Howe's chief purpose was to find them food and housing. Due to the program's late start — recruiting hadn't begun until May — the students couldn't get space in the residence halls. Consequently, Howe spent much of the summer of 1951 making arrangements for the Ford Boys to stay in rooming houses. "Howe went pounding the hot streets of Madison to find us homes," says Israel. "And to make sure that we ate, he and Eve would have us over to dinner on some Sundays. I can remember Howe having an ulcer and only being able to eat milk toast while the rest of us had roast lamb."

Howe heavily encouraged the Ford Boys to enroll in ILS, and some 60 percent of them did. "It was a wonderful program," says Wojciech Kolisinski '55. "Its professors were outstanding, and its small size helped us adapt socially. We all knew we were smart, especially the group of us who had been at Bronx Science. But we felt we weren't really with it in the social areas."

Nowhere was this more evident than in dating. "No self-respecting girl wanted to be seen with one of us," says Kolisinski. "Howe made valiant attempts. He

even brought around high-school students for us to date. But it wasn't really until the third year, when they let girls into the program, that things got any better."

Howe was not just the students' procurer — he was also their protector, keeping an eye on the students' progress, maintaining records for the Ford Foundation, and trying to smooth their various troubles. When one Ford Boy was caught in a panty raid, Howe helped keep him from being expelled. When another refused to join ROTC, a requirement for all male students, Howe worked with the boy and campus officials to resolve the situation.

"On the whole, they did very well," he says. "I always felt it was surprising how little trouble they had adjusting."

Still, the 1950s weren't necessarily an easy time to be on campus, especially for those who were young and liberal and from New York. Wisconsin's junior senator, Joseph McCarthy, was at the height of his influence, and the politics of some of the Ford Boys didn't endear them to conservative Wisconsinites. Henry Wortis '55 and Arnold Lieber '55, for instance, headed the Labor Youth League, which the House Un-American Activities Committee had labeled a Communist front organization.

"Really, what we think of as the politics of the 1960s were born in Madison in the 1950s," says Trubek, who served on the university's Human Relations Committee, which promoted a sometimes-unpopular campaign for racial integration in fraternities and sororities. "A lot of that had to do with the Ford program — with this influx of people from around the country, all very bright and motivated."

"Occasionally you'd hear politicians complain about the New York radical element on campus," says Israel. "And there was perhaps a bit of anti-Semitism in that. It was at Wisconsin that I heard

the word *Jew* used as a verb for the first time."

For many of the Ford students, the goal was simply to blend in. Some, like Dolven, who was tall for his age, concealed their participation from all but their closest acquaintances. Others weren't so lucky. In an essay he wrote just before graduation, Charlie Holbrow '55, MS'60, PhD'63 warned that "Ford students are generally not emotionally equipped for college." He recommended that "better psychological, emotional, and adaptive screening should be instituted, and size should be of quite a bit of importance. Mature individuals, both physically and mentally, should be obtained, or none at all."

Academically, however, the Ford Boys tended to excel. In grades and on standardized tests, they scored better than the comparison group and far better than the general student population. Fewer Ford students flunked out or withdrew than did the comparisons, and they were more likely to enter post-graduate education. Approximately 90 percent of Ford scholars reported that the program was profitable to them personally, that they would recommend taking part to a friend, and that they felt the program should become a regular part of the admission policies of American colleges.

After the first two Ford classes — one hundred boys — had finished their program, Howe wrote that "forty or fifty have benefited greatly [from early admission], about as many more have not been harmed, and perhaps three or four would have been better off if they had not taken the scholarship." About the program in general, he was very positive. "Perhaps I am over-optimistic, but I cannot see that [the boys] have suffered any permanent harm to offset the intellectual gains they have made."

The Fund for the Advancement of Education published two reviews of the experiment while it was still in progress:





Though they retired in the 1980s, Herb and Evelyn Howe still keep in touch with many former Ford scholars, such as Earl Dolven (right). In 2000, many Fordies returned to Madison to create a named professorship in the Howes' honor.

*Bridging the Gap between School and College* in 1953 and *They Went to College Early* in 1957. Both studies trumpeted the program's achievements, the second concluding, "It has become increasingly clear that ... we must not fail to provide for the fullest possible development for our ablest young people. The Fund for the Advancement of Education believes that the Early Admission Experiment has clearly demonstrated its promise as a means to that end."

But that was the last the Fund had to say about the Ford Boys. It never examined the study again.

"In the end the program was just an experiment," says Howe. "The classes ran their course, the grant ran out, and it came to an end."

### Meanwhile in the Cold War ...

But the program was the victim of more than an expiration date. Throughout the 1950s, the pillars of support for the Early Admission Experiment fell away one by one.

In 1953, the fighting in Korea stopped. There was no peace, only an armistice, but that was enough to alleviate the Pentagon's personnel crunch. Talk of a universal draft ceased.

In 1954, the Ford Boys' most powerful advocate departed. Increasingly worried about McCarthyism, Robert Hutchins left the Fund for the Advancement of Education, becoming instead the president of the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Republic, which was concerned with protecting civil liberties.

Worse, the program began to meet resistance within high schools, which were growing reluctant to surrender their best students to college ahead of schedule. Sensing a need to be diplomatic with education officials, the UW gave the Early Admission Experiment a cautious review. In 1957, when the Fund for the Advancement of Education gave its final evaluation of the Ford Boys, the university reversed Howe's appraisal: "Our experience shows that early admission demands what appears to be an unusual combination of intellectual and social precocity. It is probably not as rare as it seems on the surface; there may be as many as a fifth of most high school classes who could make the grade. But the vast majority of these would probably gain nothing by early admission, and the principals have undoubtedly been wise when they have hesitated in recommending many applicants." Of the twelve

schools involved in the study, only the UW declined to make a standard policy to accommodate early admissions.

Today, the university remains reluctant to welcome high-school age students into the student body. A high school diploma is a requirement for all incoming freshmen, and though Rob Seltzer, UW-Madison's director of admissions, can waive that requirement for particularly qualified students, he very seldom does. "It's a UW System policy," he says. "High schools really wouldn't be happy if colleges came along and raided all of their best kids. Their statistics would start to look awful, and then No Child Left Behind gets after them."

But for most of the Ford Boys and Girls, the program opened a path to a brighter future. "At the very least," says Howe, "most of them managed to avoid the draft."

Holbrow, who felt the program didn't pay enough attention to the students' maturity, picked up a bachelor's in history and graduate degrees in physics and served on the faculty at Colgate University. He remains friends with several other Ford alumni, including Israel, who did graduate study at Harvard and became a professor of Chinese history at the University of Virginia. Romantic entanglements continued to haunt Kolisinski, who earned a degree in physics, and then fell in love with a friend's fiancée and dropped out of graduate school to join the army. He eventually earned a PhD and now works in aerospace. And Dolven, who escaped Horace, North Dakota, earned a degree in mathematics. Along with David Rothman, he spent a year doing post-graduate math study at Harvard before leaving to work for Rocketdyne in Los Angeles. Today he's an attorney in Berkeley, California.

"Ford brought together a unique combination of the young and successful," says Louise Trubek, who studied law at Yale and is now on the faculty of UW-Madison's Law School. "That gave me a sense of courage the rest of my life. It really is a shame that this program isn't done anymore." 📖

John Allen, associate editor of *On Wisconsin*, was not a Ford Boy, though he has driven a

# Shelf Life



*In an increasingly high-tech era,  
Paul's Bookstore has shown amazing longevity.*

BY CANDICE GAUKEL ANDREWS '77

You won't find a computer here. On a warm day, the air is conditioned by a propped-open door. Handwritten signs jut out from the wooden bookshelves — "Poetry," "History," "Children's" — in no obvious order. The sides of the bookcases are decorated with cards full of warm messages from friends living in far-off places or on the other side of town. Taped up in every other spare spot between the greetings are tattered bits that have fallen out of the surrendered tomes. There is the smell of old leather, and aging rugs cover a once-white, tiled floor.

Among thousands of pages of print, you'll often find inscriptions — snippets from lives lived long ago or from just last

week. You have to step carefully around Bodhi and Lucy, a Tibetan terrier and Labrador retriever, sleeping somewhere amid the stacks. It's about as low-tech as you can get.

That's how Paul's Bookstore has been doing business on the campus end of State Street for fifty years. And owner Caryl Frederickson Askins '51 says she plans to keep it that way.

Her spouse, Paul Askins, opened Paul's Book Stall in 1954 on what is now Library Mall. After a brief relocation to 604 University Avenue, the business moved to its current spot at 670 State Street in 1962. It's one of the few businesses on the street that's been around long enough to be as familiar to grads of a half-century ago as those of today.

Paul met Caryl while they were both working at the University Co-Op (now University Book Store) in the early 1950s, and they married shortly after. She stayed home to raise their four children: Libby '76; Gregory '77, MD'81; David '79; and Martha '81, JD'85. When Paul died suddenly in 1975, Caryl found herself the owner of a business she'd never been much involved in. She was forced to learn how to run it on the fly.

Askins personally buys all the books, sets prices, and makes the final decision on shelf placement. "It's surprising what you can remember and learn just by handling the books every day," she says.

And every day, she's at the store, usually assisted by one employee. Staff can work anywhere from one to twenty hours a week, but once you work for Askins, you tend to always be on her call list.

"It really is a family bookstore," says Lori Merriam MA'85, a former employee who has taught art at Madison East High School for fourteen years. In the late 1980s, after serving in the Peace Corps, Merriam came to Madison to attend graduate school. "I had a hard time finding a job because everyone wanted local and recent references. Nobody would hire me — except Caryl," she says.

In the early 1990s, Merriam moved to Washington, D.C. When she returned to UW-Madison to get a teaching degree, Askins took her on again.

"When I was student-teaching, I didn't have a whole lot of time to work," remembers Merriam, "but Caryl made sure I got a few hours and was very generous with my pay so I could get

through my certification period. And every once in a while, she *still* hauls me in to work!"

That family feeling is echoed by the store's current employees. "For a lot of us, it's our first year away from home," says Kaitlin Davis x'07, from Omaha, Nebraska. "Caryl's my boss, but she was a mom when I needed one. She's that for a lot of people who work here. If we need advice on getting a credit card or opening a bank account, she's there to help us out."

The shop's remarkable reputation for employee longevity is something Davis can attest to. "People will walk through the door and say, 'I worked here in 1960-something.' That night, they'll go out to




Despite the competition, says owner Caryl Askins (left), "we're doing fine." She attributes this to the store's location "at the gate of the university," as well as the fact that she owns the building. Employee Adam Pergament '88, MA'01 says it's because Askins has "always invested in keeping the business about people and not just products."

dinner with you. As long as I'm in Madison, I'll work here," says Davis.

Paul's Bookstore's fiftieth anniversary came and went a few months ago with little hoopla, not because it wasn't a significant milestone, but because time has little meaning inside Paul's doors. "Time is erased in here," says Askins. "These books continue to lead lives. Paul had a great quote: 'Your best book is the one you just sold. The scarcest book is the one you don't have.'"

A look at the window display on a day like today, however, would suggest no scarcity of books on any topic. A recent sampling ranged from a copy of *Icebound Summer* by Sally Carrigher to *The 24th Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War: The Biography of a Regiment* by William J. K. Beaudot and *Caribbean Cooking* by Devinia Sookia. The eclectic covers promise a world of plenty just inside the door — from

recent books to titles you thought you'd never be able to get your hands on. Such diversity has even lured inside people like children's author Shel Silverstein and *A Prairie Home Companion's* Garrison Keillor.

Like a page from one of its once-loved books, Paul's is a reminder of an earlier State Street. And its record of hiring and helping students is something that still has a strong shelf life. "I plan to be here for a long time to come," says Askins. "I hurry to get here in the morning. I'm so lucky." 

Candice Gaukel Andrews '77 is an avid fan of old books and is proud to say that one of her business cards is now gracing a wall at Paul's.

# The State of the Onion



They took Madison.  
They took Manhattan.  
Now, they're going Hollywood.

Will the university's most famous "area people"  
get the last laugh in the cutthroat business of comedy?

"I have enough anxiety disorder in my life already," says Todd Hanson x'86. The senior writer of *The Onion* — "America's Finest News Source" — is sitting in a stairwell, wearing a "F\*\*\* 'Em Bucky" T-shirt and smoking a Marlboro 100. He's just been asked about the release of *The Onion Movie*, the newspaper's first venture into feature film. Smoke forms a hazy cloud around him as he mulls it over.

"Thinking about this movie coming out, it's kind of like — well, I imagine myself in a barrel," he tells me during an interview in October, as the picture was being hustled toward completion. "And the barrel is very slowly rolling toward the release date of this movie. It's at a very gentle slope, and it's just sort of slowly rolling ... and then the release date of the movie is like a cliff. What's on the other side of that cliff? Could be wonderful things. Could be terrible things. It's an unknown quantity."

Hanson, who has been with the newspaper since its early days in Madison, is one of two writers credited for the movie, which is still awaiting its theater release. But the entire *Onion* comedy staff worked on the script, and it's not just Hanson's reputation at stake. This is a big moment for the nation's premier satirical newspaper — another in a series of big risks for the collection of transplanted Badgers, almost all of which have paid off.

Since its founding in 1988 by UW-Madison students Chris Johnson '90 and Tim Keck '90, *The Onion* has spun off five satellite editions, launched a path-blazing Web site, radically changed its editorial voice and page design, and moved most of its editorial staff to offices in Manhattan and Chicago. It's produced a number-one best-selling book and seen its alumni infiltrate the highest echelons of Ameri-

can comedy, stacking up a titanic vault of laughs along the way.

This would be no small achievement for a hand-picked group of writers and editors bankrolled by serious money and launched in New York or Los Angeles. Dozens of sitcoms are canned each year. Pilots never see the light of day, and feature flicks die on the video shelves. The pantheon of successful comedy periodicals — which includes a scant few titles such as *Spy*, *Mad*, and *The National Lampoon* — is about as populous as Door County in February.

But *The Onion* has managed something even more remarkable. Even as the paper has grown more structured and professional, it has retained much of its original unfettered creative license.

"It was a place where you didn't have to deal with a lot of outside factors that were going to water down your instinctive approach to writing comedy," says former *Onion* staffer Ben Karlin '93, now the executive producer of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. "It was the crack [cocaine] of comedy. It was a luxury and a pleasure."

**L**ike the vegetable for which it's named, *The Onion* began underground, launched in Johnson's one-room efficiency off Langdon Street. "It was just such a seat-of-your-pants operation," recalls Scott Dikkers x'87, who bought the paper in 1989 and edited it for more than a decade. "There was one computer and no printer, so we had to run to Kinko's [to print it]."

Most of the writing was done by Matt Cook '89, a student whom Keck and Johnson knew. "Tim and Chris would pretty much put him in front of the computer and just move his fingers until the column inches were filled," Dikkers says. "And there was no editing at all. And that's sort of when I stepped in and said, 'You guys need an editor.'"

Dikkers, the cartoonist behind *The Daily Cardinal* strip "Jim's Journal," became *The Onion*'s guiding editorial light.

Current *Onion* editor Carol Kolb '95 calls him the paper's "godfather." Since selling his interest in the paper in 2000, he has gone on to write and direct independent films. His second, called *Bad Meat*, is in the process of being sold to a distributor.

Dikkers had seen enough promise in the venture to buy out Johnson and Keck, but the paper was still little more than a local curiosity available in only a few places around Madison. He and partner Rich Dahm '89, who has since written for *Da Ali G Show*, among others, began recruiting "people from the town who we thought were funny to help us," recalls Dikkers. One of the first was Hanson, whom Dikkers calls "the soul of *The Onion*."

In 1995, Dikkers kickstarted a major overhaul of the paper's look and feel that helped *The Onion* find its groove. "It was a total redesign, and a total conceptual redesign as well," says Mike Loew '96, a former *Daily Cardinal* staffer who is now *The Onion*'s graphics editor. "We had been more of a *Weekly World News* tabloid. It was a lot more silly, and it was in black and white. After the redesign, it became more of a *USA Today* parody. Now we were behaving like a real newspaper."

While the paper's humor moved forward, so did its means of distribution. It was among the first humor publications to jump on the Internet, forming its Web site ([www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com)) in 1996. Taking advantage of the low production costs, international reach, and little real competition of cyberspace, *The Onion* found a cult following that soon caught the notice of mainstream outlets such as *The New Yorker*. By 1997, readership in the three cities where the newspaper was distributed (Madison, Milwaukee, and Boulder, Colorado) surpassed ninety thousand.

Then, in 1999, came publication of *Our Dumb Century*, for which the writers created a bogus back-history of *Onion* front pages, satirically documenting such world events as the sinking of the Titanic ("World's Largest Metaphor Hits Ice-Berg") and World War II ("French Surrender After Valiant Ten-Minute Struggle"). The book won a Thurber

**Facing page:** *Onion* staffers (from left) Carol Kolb, Joe Garden, John Krewson, Todd Hanson, and Mike Loew moved the paper's operations to New York in 2001 — but they didn't stay underground for long.

Award for humor writing and cemented the newspaper's place as a weekly must-read for millions of people.

Many critics have said *The Onion* owes some of its success to its Madison roots. It's been said that, as Midwesterners, the writers are able to lampoon the bland enthusiasm of mainstream American media without East Coast pretension. Keith Phipps MA'96, editor of the review-filled AV Club section, says it's probably true, particularly when it comes to *The Onion's* nonsatirical arts reviews. "We're not insiders," he says. "I'm not hip. I've never been on top of the trends or anything — I just like what I like."

But Dikkers disagrees. "I think we could have done *The Onion* in any place," he says. "We could have done it in any small town. There's always the guy who works at the convenience store who's cracking jokes. There's the funny guy who sits there all day at the gas station, you know, reading, and possibly even writing. Every high school has a class clown. You know, those people are funny people. I don't think there's anything unusual about the comedy talent pool in Madison."

Still, the coasts have their advantages, namely a teeming pool of entertainment connections. It was those opportunities that led *The Onion* comedy staff to uproot from Madison in 2001 in favor of the Big Apple. (The AV Club section is mostly produced in Chicago.)

Ironically, Hanson says the staff got more attention arriving in the big city than they did around their old haunts. "By the time we were leaving Madison, everybody there was used to *The Onion*. It didn't mean anything to them," he says. "When we got to New York, people really welcomed us with open arms and wrote articles about the fact that we were arriving. Usually, if I go into a bar and different comedy heroes of mine are hanging out in there, they'll recognize me and say, 'Hey, come over and sit with us!' And it's a cool thing."

**T**he paper's comedy scribes now labor in a semi-industrial section of Chelsea on Manhattan's west side. The building itself is unassuming, tucked away on a quiet street lined with parked delivery trucks. A mechanical device in a

nearby lot stacks the cars of Manhattan commuters vertically. Like much of the city, it's an area in flux, where old buildings in decline sit shoulder-to-shoulder with bistros.

*The Onion* has been evolving, as well. The process of making each weekly edition is more refined and systematic than in the old days. It begins with the headlines. Each writer generates lists of ideas, which are vetted during staff meetings. From hundreds of candidates, editors choose a few that make the paper. Only then are the stories assigned.

"Every single week, it feels like we're racing against the clock to get the issue out on time," says Kolb. But it's a far cry from the disorganization of *The Onion's* youth. "It was just kind of crazier and more hectic," she says. "We used to only have one day off a week, and it was Monday. And it was kind of because we never got our [act] together enough to work it out to get the weekends. Things like that are better, because we've worked out some of the kinks."

There are still plenty of Wisconsin influences around the offices. Mike Loew — the easygoing yang to Hanson's intense yin — is typical of the staff's Midwestern vibe. Classically laid-back and good-natured, he reminisces about the Union Terrace — "It's a nice big spot. Here in New York, there's a lot of places to go, but you can feel a little cramped," he says — and misses the loose, casual feel of Madison.

"You can have a lot of fun in New York, but there's something about Madison," he says. "You're just surrounded by all these kids going nuts and acting like goofballs. I kind of miss that energy. Sometimes the New York kids can be a little too cool for school, you know?"

Kolb is another Badger transplant, hailing from a small town called Spencer. "What's it near?" I ask. "Nothing," she says, laughing. ("It's near Stevens Point," she admits, when pressed.)

"I have adapted to New York. I love it, but I love Madison so much," says Kolb. "I really do think of it as where I will want to be when I get sick of the dirt



Each edition of *The Onion* springs from the eclectic chaos of the paper's Manhattan offices, where writers surf the Internet and hundreds of "legitimate" publications to gather material for their satirical take on the news.

and the things that are bad about New York. I think it's great."

The Manhattan surroundings have rubbed off in small ways. "If you see a joke about 'buses' in the paper, it's usually code for 'subway,'" says Maria Schneider '90, one of the paper's senior writers. "But we don't want to alienate our readers who live outside of New York."

**T**he move had another, unintentional effect. It plunged the writers in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, leading them to produce a spectacularly successful edition, which rallied terror-numbed readers with a combination of warm, genuine empathy ("Hugging up 76,000 Percent") and genuinely punchy comedy ("Hijackers Surprised to Find Selves in Hell"). The issue was mentioned as a Pulitzer Prize contender, and it gave the comedy writers a visceral connection to their newly adopted home.

Some critics argue that the paper has been in a holding pattern in the years since, falling back on formulas for stories and, in the ramp-up to the 2004 election, getting politically involved at the expense of the paper's comic detachment.

"I think it's in danger of becoming too partisan, frankly," says former editor Dan Vebber '92, who has written for shows including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Futurama*, and the upcoming animated program *American Dad*. "I think we used to be a lot less concerned with politics at *The Onion*, and more with just being stupid and trying to get laughs with different types of humor."

Loew acknowledges that "we really have lost the silliness a little bit, especially lately. I don't know, it seems like it's been a little bit too long since I've put a Photoshop [illustration] together that was really surreal-looking ... like the one of Jesus Christ dunking a basketball. It seems like the photos are coming straight off the wire recently."

"When you look at the Clinton photos and stories we used to do, those were so silly. Clinton we just treated as a child,


basically — you know, someone throws Clinton's lunch on top of the school," he says. "While with George Bush, it's much more sort of trenchant political commentary, basically. I look back at Clinton as kind of a more innocent age."

While he agrees with some of the critiques, Ben Karlin is more sympathetic to the challenge of staying fresh. "They have to do it every week," he says. "When you have a rigid format that only allows for a certain amount of deviation, it's really, really, really hard to inject originality and spontaneity into it. Look at *Saturday Night Live* — they've been doing sketches for twenty-eight years! You try to come up with an original character after twenty-eight years ... it's really hard!"

Which is why there's so much riding on *The Onion Movie*. Making the film gave writers a lesson in some of the harder realities of the movie business — the struggle for creative control, the many different cooks packing into the kitchen — and they'll soon get a taste of its risks. What if the movie is bad? Bad drama can pass as unintentional comedy, but bad comedy is just horrible. As Hanson knows, a major flop could lend ammunition to those who say *The Onion's* run is petering out.

Still, it hasn't often paid to bet against this group. They've proved willing and able to negotiate the tradeoffs before — to walk the tightrope between daring experimentation and the workaday formulas of a professional laugh factory.

"Even though our format is standardized, and a lot of the surprises have been revealed, and we are getting repetitive ... we are still really capable of doing brilliant stuff every week," says Schneider. "Even if we can do just one or two great jokes every week, I think we've succeeded in that issue with flying colors. I think that's what keeps me going."

She pauses a few seconds, then adds, "Also, the health insurance. And I also have to pay my rent." 

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James Norton edited *The Daily Cardinal* in 1997 and 1998 and is one of the founding editors of *Flak Magazine* ([www.flakmag.com](http://www.flakmag.com)). He lives in Brooklyn and works for Air America Radio's *AI Franken Show*.



## Laughing Till We Cry

Memorable Onion headlines from its archives:

August 1988

The very first Onion headline:  
Mendota Monster Mauls Madison

1989

Pen Stolen From Dorm Study Area

1990

Everybody's Eatin' Bread

1991

The Joke's on You! *The Onion* Admits:  
"We Created *The Badger Herald* as a Hoax"

1992

Angry Lumberjack Demands Hearty Breakfast

1993

Man of the Year: The Guy From Police Academy  
Movies Who Can Make Funny Noises with His Mouth

1994

Thompson Changes Title from  
"Governor" to "Sexecutioner"

1995

Man, Ape Cause Roadhouse Ruckus

1996

Secondhand Smoke Linked to  
Secondhand Coolness

1997

Republicans, Dadaists Declare War on Art

1998

Everyone Involved in Pizza's Preparation,  
Delivery, Purchase Extremely High

1999

U.S. Bedwetters Decide against Nationwide  
Awareness-Raising Campaign

2000

Funyuns Still Outselling Responsibilityuns

2001

U.S. Vows to Defeat Whoever It Is We're at War With

2002

Bush Seeks U.N. Support for 'U.S. Does  
Whatever It Wants' Plan

2003

48-Hour Internet Outage Plunges  
Nation Into Productivity

2004

Documents Reveal Gaps in Bush's  
Service as President



# JOURNEY TO CHERNOBYL

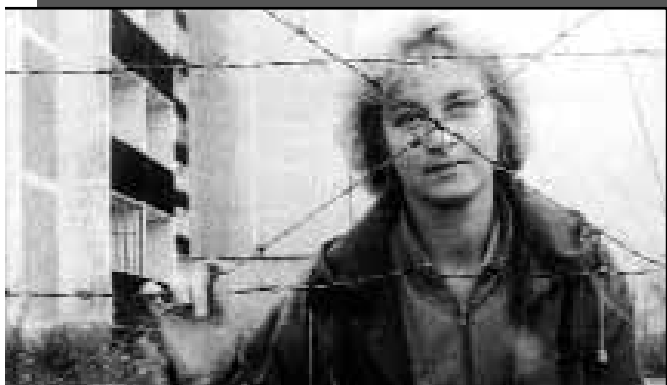
During a UW trip to witness the lingering effects of the world's biggest nuclear power plant disaster, the author finds the legacies of Chernobyl – like the invisible radiation that still poisons the land – are felt more than they are seen.

By Mary Makarushka MAx'05

The week I got back from Chernobyl, Jay Leno joked on *The Tonight Show* about a baby in Georgia, the former Soviet republic, who was born with two hearts. “Two hearts,” Leno smirked. “This is what happens when you get a good deal on a house near Chernobyl!”

By some strange coincidence, later that night Craig Kilborn did a bit about Russian sporting events, including “the Chernobyl three-legged race.”

A few months before, I wouldn't have noticed these jokes. Hearing them as I unpacked, I was heartsick. I thought immediately of Ivan, a teenager I'd met the week before, one of a group of teens who had agreed to talk to me about Chernobyl, a disaster that had happened before they were born.



COURTESY OF NATALYA MANZUROVA



TATIANA GUNDLACH

“I am like an apple that is beautiful on the outside, but you find inside is all rotten and full of worms.”



These were kids who had spent much of their lives in and out of hospitals, kids who lived in parts of Ukraine where radiation lingering in the soil could be absorbed by their growing bodies. Some had ailments that doctors blamed on the contamination. With others, the doctors weren't sure. Nonetheless, they face lonely hospitalizations, lost school days, painful procedures, and fears about their future health.

"I think the greatest Chernobyl problem is psychological, not physical," sixteen-year-old Ivan had told me sternly. "I'm really frightened by the way foreigners treat the subject. They think of us as Mutants from Chernobyl."

I was startled by his vehemence. This was a handsome group of kids — tall and straight, with clear, smooth skin and intense gazes. None of them looked sick, and I hated the idea that they could feel so stigmatized on top of everything else they were dealing with. Now that I was back home, this pair of late-night wisecracks seemed to prove his point.

This was exactly why Norma Berkowitz MS'68 had organized this trip, and why she was so committed to teaching people in the United States that what happened nearly two decades ago in the former Soviet Union was by no means over.

**When the Chernobyl Reactor Number Four exploded and burned on April 26, 1986, it spewed tons of nuclear material and aerosolized heavy metals a mile into the air, creating a toxic cloud that orbited the earth before showering a deadly rain on trees, fields, and cities. Chernobyl was a prize project for the Soviets, intended to be the most powerful nuclear complex in the world when completed. But international scientists had warned that its design was inherently dangerous: because it couldn't be safely slowed or shut off, they said, an accident was very likely.**

To this day, scientists disagree strongly about how many people died as a result of the accident, as well as about

the long-term medical consequences of the radiation release. But the psychological fallout is undeniable. Berkowitz, an instructor at the UW-Madison School of Social Work for twenty-five years, has been trying to educate Americans about it since 1996, when she founded Friends of Chernobyl Centers U.S. (FOCCUS) soon after her retirement. She had never given much thought to Chernobyl until learning at a conference about community outreach centers that had been established by UNESCO in 1994. They were intended to support people living in the sixty-three thousand square miles of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine that remain poisoned. That's an area the size of Wisconsin, much of it farmland, forests, and small cities and villages, home to 7 million people, 3 million of them in Ukraine.

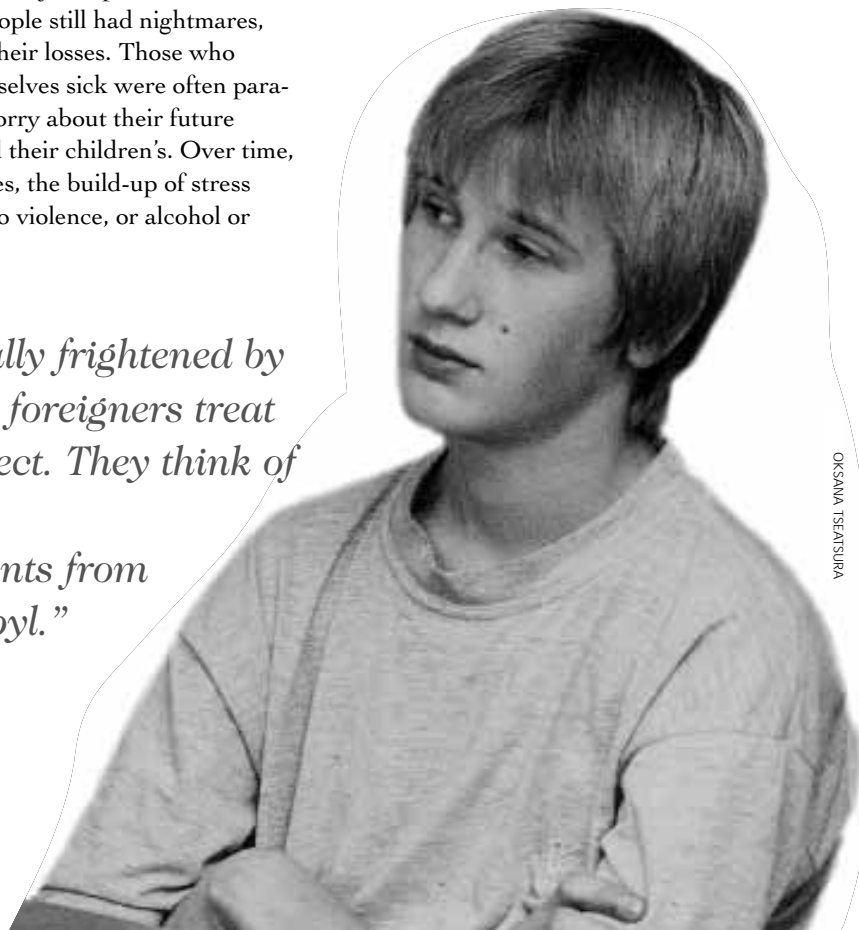
At the time of the accident, many people were forcibly evacuated, separated from neighbors and relatives, able to bring almost nothing with them. Others lost their jobs, as entire industries — agriculture, dairy, heavy equipment — became too contaminated to sell consumer goods. As years passed after the explosion, people still had nightmares, still grieved their losses. Those who weren't themselves sick were often paralyzed with worry about their future health — and their children's. Over time, in some homes, the build-up of stress contributed to violence, or alcohol or drug abuse.

*"I'm really frightened by the way foreigners treat the subject. They think of us as Mutants from Chernobyl."*

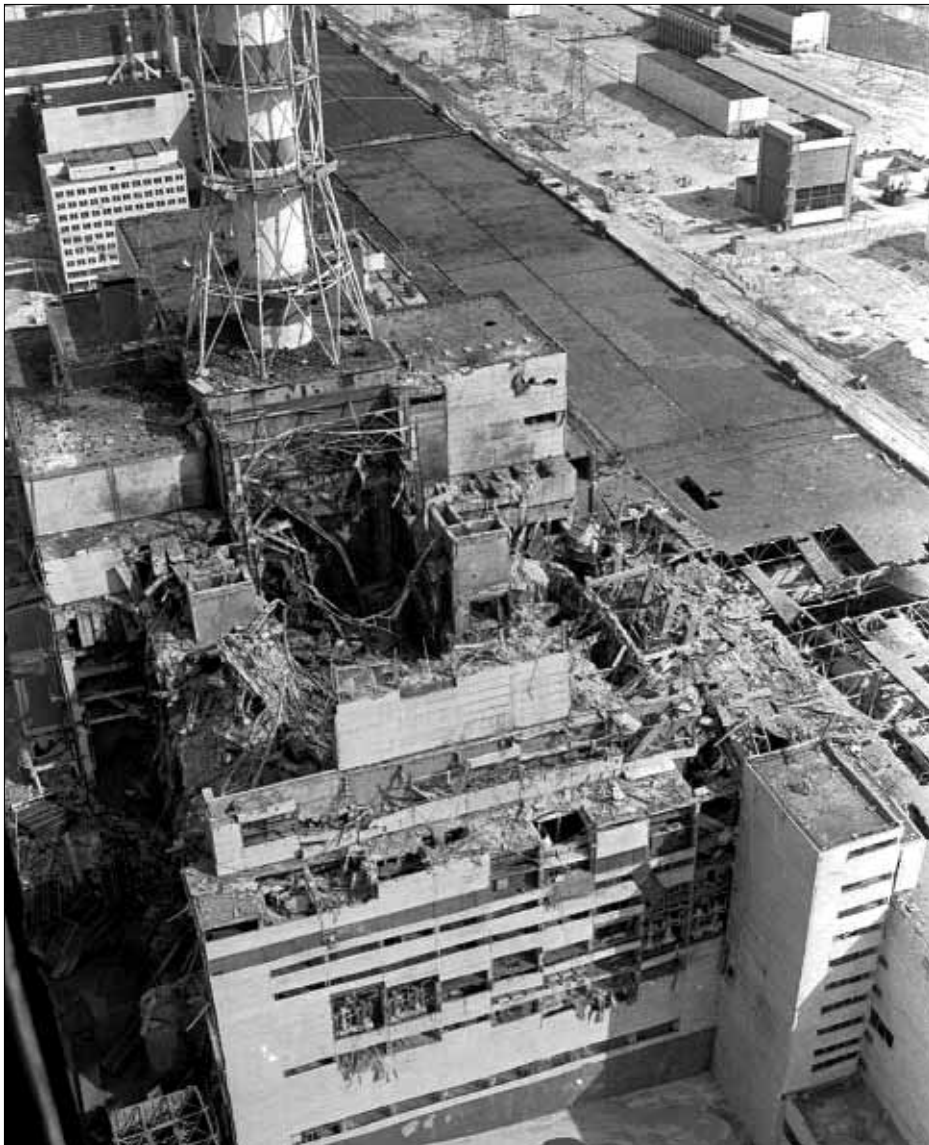
Overwhelmed by the needs of their damaged communities, the centers were desperately short of funds. FOCCUS has raised tens of thousands of dollars and done numerous professional training sessions for the staff. But Berkowitz wants to raise awareness and understanding of the disaster's ongoing toll as well. To that end, last June she led a UW-Madison study tour to Ukraine, a two-week trip organized by FOCCUS and sponsored by the university's Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA). The group of twenty visited all five of the Ukrainian community centers, heard lectures at the Radiation Research Center in Kiev, and toured the ghost town of Prip'yat, a mile and a half from the power plant, ending up at the infamous reactor itself.

I went along as a journalist, but also for my first experience of Ukraine, the

**At the Boyarka community center, teenagers such as Ivan, born two years after Chernobyl exploded, worry about their health and their future. For Natalya Manzurova (facing page, top photo, as a liquidator in the late 1980s; bottom, on the UW trip), cleaning up after the accident left her with radiation poisoning and posttraumatic stress.**



OKSANA TSEATSIURA



Reactor Number Four exploded and burned on April 26, 1986, spewing tons of nuclear material into the air, and showering a deadly rain on trees, fields, and cities. The shelter that liquidators built over the damage is still in place, though now leaking badly and in need of replacement.

country that gave me my long name and long nose. My grandparents had left in 1946, at the end of the war, making it to New York with their two small sons: my father and uncle. They came from the far west of the country, hundreds of miles from Chernobyl, but still I thought I might glimpse something of the world they'd left behind.

Not that they would have approved of this trip for a second. My grandparents were famously, comically pessimistic, despite our being of long-lived and uncommonly lucky stock. Any

orange they offered me was a hedge against scurvy; a potassium-rich banana would keep my heart beating. When I arrived, and my mother told them on the phone that she could see her newborn daughter waving her arms and legs in the bassinet, they exclaimed: "She is having a seizure!"

They were never completely comfortable with their new language, nor their new country. They never, ever talked about the war. To my frustration, they seemed forever focused on what they'd left behind, rather than the life right in

front of them. In Ukraine, every food was more delicious, every custom more gracious. It was a peculiar utopia, where they would be respected, where all their sons would have agreed to be doctors and all their grandchildren (unlike me) would be able to speak Ukrainian.

They lived to see the country declare independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, but neither they, nor my father or uncle, had ever been back.

### Coming in from the airport,

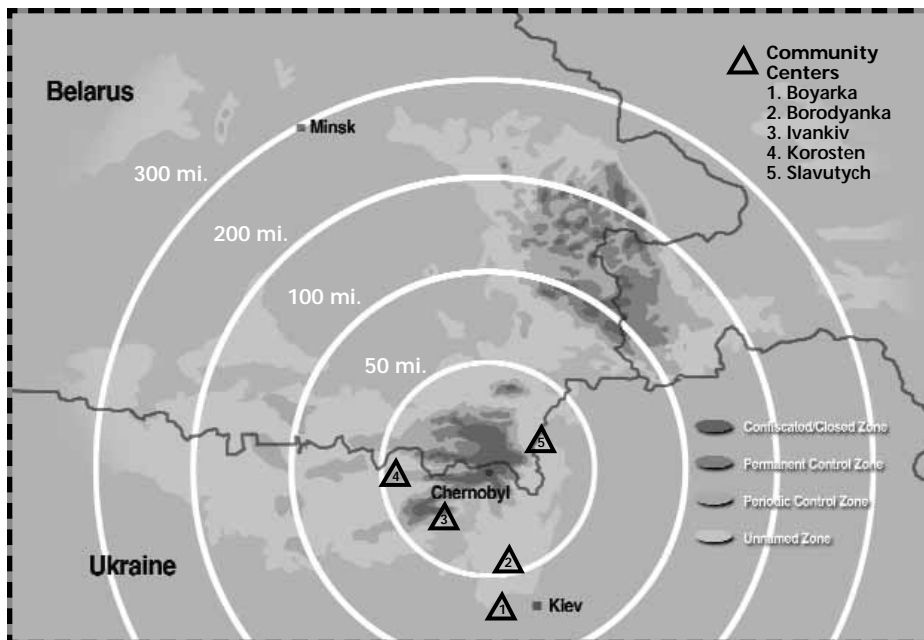
I got my first glimpse of Kiev, a startlingly green city of 3 million that spreads out for miles along either side of the sweeping Dnieper River. Pear-shaped gold domes glinted atop churches and monasteries dating to the eleventh century. On the broad boulevards and in the subway stations, catwalk-chic young women navigated the rush-hour hustle on stiletto heels, while old women in kerchiefs sold fruit, flowers, scissors, and kittens to eke out pensions that have grown harder to live on in the post-Communist economy.

During the poisonous spring of '86, Kiev, eighty miles from Chernobyl, was hit first with the radiation, then with thousands of evacuees, many of whom had no idea what they were fleeing. The Soviet government had tried to conceal the disaster, but succeeded in hiding it only from its own people. When soldiers came to their doors and ordered them to leave without explanation, those who had lived through the last world war believed that a new one had begun.

The tour's first stop was the remarkable Chernobyl Museum. Standing beside Natalya Manzurova, a Russian radiobiologist, I studied a black-and-white photograph of a thatch-roofed cottage being bulldozed into an enormous hole in the ground, one of the uninhabitable villages that was buried deep in the earth.

"I did that," she said. I thought I must have heard her wrong.

It turned out that for four and a half years, starting in 1987, Manzurova was a "liquidator," one of thousands of people



As outlined in the map at left, large areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia remain contaminated by radiation. The UW group traveled from Kiev to the reactor, visiting the five Ukrainian community centers in between.

numb that she didn't even flinch when she discovered the bodies of some infants in an empty village.

The experience left her bedridden for three years and suffering from posttraumatic stress for much longer. She is still plagued by headaches, fatigue, and other ailments. At the base of her throat is a thin white crescent scar — what the liquidators call a “Chernobyl necklace” — where part of her thyroid was removed. Many liquidators developed thyroid problems and thyroid cancer from exposure to radioactive iodine. A number of the people she worked with have since died. She wants to make a documentary about the liquidators she's known, but she feels she has to hurry, while some are still alive.

But like Ivan and the other teenagers, on the outside she looks healthy, an unforgettable lesson in how the effects of Chernobyl can hide in plain sight. She has a cuttingly sharp mind and a mischievous sense of humor, and she can dance the rest of us right off the floor.

“I am like an apple that is beautiful on the outside,” she says, “but you find inside is all rotten and full of worms.”

from all corners of the Soviet Union who volunteered or were conscripted to make it, as the government demanded, as if Chernobyl had never happened. They were firefighters and soldiers, doctors and scientists, truck drivers, farmers, and prisoners — an estimated six hundred thousand to 1 million in all.

Manzurova had come by train from her home in the Ural Mountains to travel with Berkowitz's group and revisit the sites where she'd worked. A radiation scientist and activist, she was interested in how the Chernobyl-affected lands and people were recovering. She was also a generous and eloquent teacher, clarifying, personalizing, and giving us perspective on what we would see.

Manzurova was completing her doctorate in radiation biology when the reactor exploded. Her adviser was one of the first scientists called to the site. He died within months, and she never defended her dissertation. She was in her mid-thirties, with a young daughter, and thus could have gotten an exemption from going to Chernobyl herself. But, she says, this was what her training was for. Someone with her expertise could help make decisions about how to contain and reclaim the poisoned area, decisions that might yet save lives. She could no more turn away from this catastrophe, she

says, than could the police and firefighters at the World Trade Center.

She worked from an office in Pripyat, which had been a thriving company town of fifty thousand people. Obsessed with hiding the accident from the world, the Soviet government didn't evacuate Pripyat until the reactor had been burning for a full day and a half. Even then, people were told there was just a small problem, and they should pack for only a three-day evacuation. They left home without realizing they would never return.

One of Manzurova's jobs was to catalogue and destroy or bury everything those people left behind. She confiscated contaminated furniture, clothing, books, appliances, cars, even whole cottages, as she says, to keep their owners, and looters, from taking the deadly property out into the world. It was backbreaking, soul-flaying work, to handle people's most private and treasured items and then trash them. For all involved, Manzurova says, there was a lot of crying on the bus to work every morning, and a lot of drinking to forget at night. After a while, she was so emotionally

**At the cemetery in the town of Slavutych, decals mark the gravestones of people who were liquidators. “Now the cemetery is growing faster than the town,” says a worker at the Slavutych community center.**



DONNA UTTEG

# NUCLEAR FUTURES

sparked in part by a post-Chernobyl generation, there's new energy around nuclear engineering.

Tracy Radel '07 was three years old when the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl blew up, too young to remember anything about it. And so when she toured UW-Madison's nuclear engineering facilities as a high school senior — including its own one-megawatt reactor — she didn't think about the past. She saw her future.

"Everything they told me about nuclear power just fascinated me," she says. "I became really excited about the possibilities."

Radel is part of a generation for whom the nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl were historical events from an era they never knew. Growing up without the sense of present nuclear danger that their parents have often felt, they're embracing nuclear power in record numbers. As recently as 2000, there were fewer than six hundred undergraduates studying nuclear engineering in the United States. Now, there are more than 1,500, and many programs are scrambling to accommodate the renewed interest.

"The career interest in nuclear energy is exploding," confirms Michael Corradini, chair of the UW nuclear engineering program. The question is whether the nuclear industry will grow to accommodate all those new graduates. Nuclear power provides about one-fifth of the energy generated in the United States, but no new plants have been built in more than two decades. Regulations and public opposition have something to do with that. In Wisconsin, for example, a state law forbids construction of any new plant unless new off-site waste containment facilities are built first.

But chiefly, in an era of cheap oil, nuclear power plants were bad investments. Despite initial hopes that nuclear power would be "too cheap to meter," the plants turned out to be pricey to build and operate. "It was a terrible business proposition for a while," says Vicki Bier, a professor of industrial engineering who studies the power industry.

Now, with oil and natural gas prices spiking and rising concerns over the environmental effects of burning coal, nukes are again looking appealing to some in the industry. At least a few power companies have taken the first regulatory steps toward constructing a new fission reactor.

But economics aren't the only factor. A proposed federal waste-containment facility, which was to be built by 1998, is stalled in a political dogfight, and many social and environmental groups oppose new reactors on the grounds that they're too dangerous.



JEFF MILLER

**Built in 1960, the one-megawatt nuclear reactor housed in the UW's Mechanical Engineering Building is a small-scale plant used for research and teaching demonstrations.**

"There are significant risks to operating these plants," says Alfred Meyer, a Madison activist with the national Physicians for Social Responsibility who joined the UW tour to Chernobyl. "They aren't flawless, and I think Chernobyl is a clear example of that."

The exact Chernobyl scenario may be unlikely now, as that reactor had design flaws that experts say exacerbated the disaster. No plant like it exists in the United States, and those of similar design elsewhere have been significantly modified since the accident. But that doesn't mean new reactors are mistake-proof. Although Bier has observed the industry to have a strong overall safety record, for instance, she allows that "the industry is not so uniformly safe as to guarantee that there won't be a single accident somewhere. And with nuclear power, any one incident is enough to cause a major problem."

As the nation ponders its energy future, the central issue will become whether we can live with those odds. "Nuclear energy has residual risks, and we need to be continually vigilant of them," says Corradini. "But we have to weigh the risks comparative to the alternatives." And that's a question that requires us neither to remember Chernobyl too well, nor forget it entirely.

— Michael Penn MA'97

I met Ivan in the community center at Boyarka, the newest center and the only one connected to a hospital. Although there are similarities among all the centers, their populations call for different resources: while one may serve

*Psychologists at the community centers encourage children to come up with their own representations of radiation, and then to empower themselves about how to defeat it.*

more far-flung villagers, another may be in a city struggling with waves of layoffs.

One thing they have in common is inadequate resources for all the people they could help. And several of them fear deeper budget cuts, losing their leases, or even being forced to close, as the government continues to cut back on Chernobyl-rehabilitation funding.

One center director told us government officials want things like buildings and hospitals to show for their funding. If you build a hospital, one official told her, then you have a structure to point to, but the center's psychosocial work seemed invisible to him.

All five centers use art, physical activity, and games to work through the lingering fear of Chernobyl's effects. Everywhere our group went, walls were covered with bright paintings and drawings. We were treated to a martial arts demonstration and introduced to people who counsel teenagers on reproductive health, computer literacy, and drug-free living. In all of these efforts, the goal was for teens to take charge of their own lives — to envision a hopeful future for themselves.

It may seem like a self-evident message. But according to surveys by sociologist Yuri Schwab, in the mid-1990s, a majority of Chernobyl-area adolescents aged thirteen to fifteen said they didn't expect to live to age thirty. As he explained to our group, these teenagers refused to study, declined to prepare for a profession or a family, and abused drugs and alcohol. "The whole system of values

was broken in them," he said. By 1996, a subtle shift had taken place. In that year's youth survey, the most prevalent fear was no longer their own health; it was that their parents would die early. In his most

recent study, being happy and healthy now rank among teens' top values.

Not all the teens I met agreed with Ivan's assessment that the world sees them as mutants. But Olesya, fourteen, said she has experienced it firsthand. She's traveled to Italy a few times, as part of a program that gives kids holidays from living in areas that are still contaminated with radiation. Even a month of eating safe food and drinking safe milk and water seems to decrease the burden of radiation on the body dramatically. On her last trip there, she recalled, people teased her about being from Chernobyl and acted afraid, as if she could pollute them. She struggled not to cry as she recounted this, but the tears spilled over with the memory.

After the young people left, our translator and a member of the staff marveled at the freedom with which they had talked to me. Both women came of age in the Soviet era, when, they agreed, teenagers would never have spoken so candidly — and to a foreign journalist, no less. They seemed to find it a bracing and hopeful indicator for Ukraine's future.

Months later, I recalled that conversation as college students flooded Kiev in the "Orange Revolution," commanding the world's attention with their calls for fair new elections. As the protestors camped out for democracy, catching cold in their snowy tents, I learned the centers sent them what medicine and supplies they could spare.

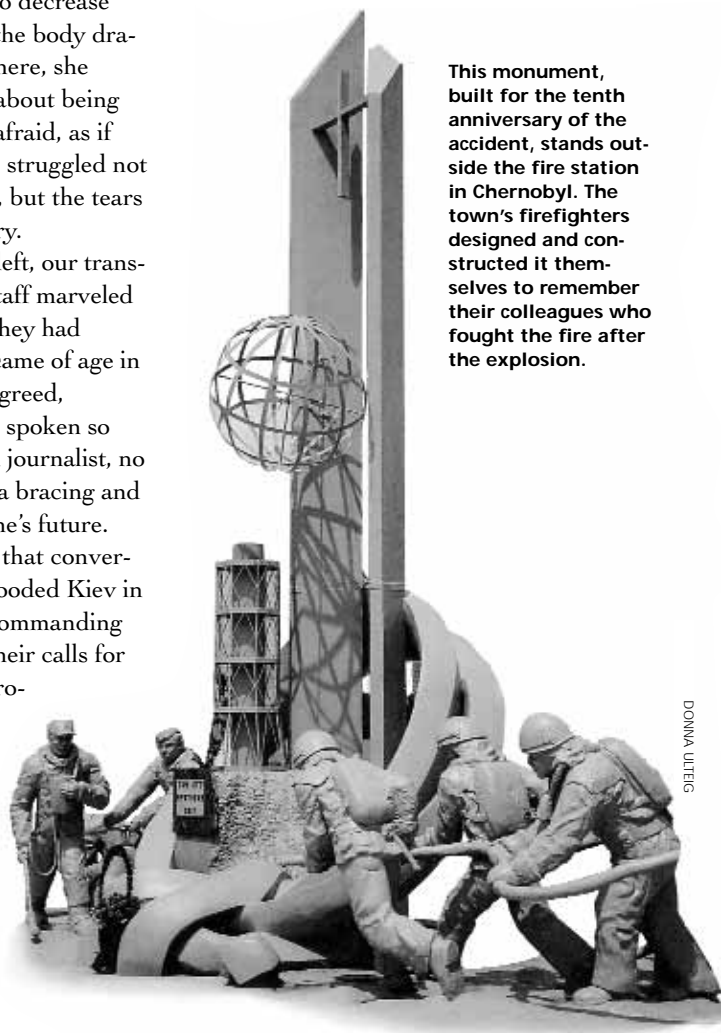
When Natalya Manzurova was a liquidator in Pripyat, a bronze statue stood outside her office. I'd seen it in photos — a towering, muscle-bound Prometheus, stealing a flame from the gods to bring the gift of fire to mortals. Erected when Pripyat was bustling with jobs and optimism, it symbolized the taming of the atom and the power of Soviet technology.

It wasn't there when our group walked through the deserted town, shards of glass crunching under our every step. This is what a neutron bomb would leave behind, we imagined: intact buildings, windows smashed, and fifty thousand people gone.

The vast power plant complex, by contrast, hummed like a town square. Though the last reactor was taken offline in 2000, thousands of workers are still needed every day for security, construction, and maintenance. When we got off the bus, I was startled to find that statue

Continued on page 63

**This monument, built for the tenth anniversary of the accident, stands outside the fire station in Chernobyl. The town's firefighters designed and constructed it themselves to remember their colleagues who fought the fire after the explosion.**



## Chernobyl

Continued from page 45

now standing outside the administration building — once iconic, now ironic.

As punishment for his theft, Prometheus was chained to a mountain-side, where each day an eagle came to tear out his liver, which regenerated every night, only to be torn out again. It is a well-worn metaphor for the consequences of scientific hubris, and, in that place, I couldn't help comparing Prometheus's fate to years of ingesting low-level radiation: eating away at him just a little every day, leaving him alive but dreading the days to come.

Throughout the weeks in Ukraine, I was surprised to meet very few people who said they were opposed to nuclear power, and plenty who disagreed with the closing of the remaining reactors, which cost many jobs in a region that was already struggling. With the modifications made to the plant and its procedures following the accident, they argued, they had operated safely for years and could continue to do so. With no oil or gas reserves in a country of 48 million, "Ukraine has no choice. Whether we like it or not, we'll have to live with nuclear technologies," Igor Pashinsky, a staffer at the community center in Korosten, told me. Although Chernobyl has closed, fifteen other reactors generate half the country's electricity.

Worldwide, more than 400 reactors supply commercial power, 104 of those in the United States — more than any other country, and more reactors per capita than Ukraine. Another 274 small reactors are used for research at universities and laboratories (see related story, page 44). Of the dozens of nuclear power plants built since the explosion at Chernobyl, most are in Asia; many are in developing countries. There are reactors in seismic zones, in countries with governments hostile to the environment and to their citizens, and in metropolitan areas with tens of millions of inhabitants. Reactors of the same type as Chernobyl's, though modified since the accident, still operate in Lithuania and Russia.

But if the Ukrainians were pragmatic about nuclear power, they were passionate about the need to avoid another disaster. "If we take our mission globally," Pashinsky said, "we see our goal as telling the whole world of the dangers inherent in using these nuclear plants. The people working in this center probably know more about the humanitarian aftereffects of this catastrophe than even doctors, because they only deal with the ones who get sick, while we're dealing with the consequences for the whole community."

We arrived at the plant on a calm and pale blue summer day. After two weeks of traveling, we had come finally to stand a few hundred feet from Reactor Number Four, a gray industrial hulk with a red-and-white-striped smokestack. Seen up close, it's streaked and scarred with rust. The same "sarcophagus" that liquidators bravely built to contain tons of lethal material nearly twenty years ago is still in place.

Now leaking from years of acid rain and creaking from age, it's supposed to be shored up and newly covered, and some of its deadly contents removed for safer disposal. International donors promised to chip in for that project as part of the agreement for closing the final reactor four years ago. A design has been selected, but no contractor yet, for work of a scale, a type, and a level of danger that's never been attempted.

This is the smoking gun, the Vesuvius, the mass murderer we've come to see. And yet I find it a mute and empty place, yielding no clue about the magnitude of what happened here.

**In a child's drawing, a gigantic octopus hovers in the sky above a line of buildings, its tentacles stretching to every corner of the little city. Its forehead is tattooed with a cluster of three triangles — the radiation symbol that was once familiar on signs for fallout shelters.**

Unlike with a flood, or a lava flow, with radiation there's no way of seeing where the danger is, or when it's passed. Since you can't fight an enemy you can't even picture, psychologists at the

community centers encourage children to come up with their own representations of radiation, and then to empower themselves about how to defeat it. Spreading information is one way the centers combat the mistrust that lingers over the government's attempt to cover up the explosion. All publish newsletters and lead sessions about such things as how to grow and prepare foods to decrease the risks of radiation in the soil.

As the staff told us about parents who constantly express worries about their children's health, or who mourn a world their children can't remember, I suddenly ended up closer to my family's experience than I ever intended. When they described counseling parents who are traumatized by the loss of a beloved home and village, by the panic of the evacuation and the alienation of starting over in a place where they feel they don't belong, I gained a flood of understanding.

My grandparents weren't always cartoonish worriers with Old World accents; they were young parents who rushed to bomb shelters with their babies in their arms. They didn't just float into New York Harbor, ready to make a fresh start, having had a brush with history. They were disaster survivors, running for their lives.

I'd been looking for their Ukraine in the landscape, in church icons that sported the family nose. I had thought of Chernobyl, happening far from my family's home and forty years after their flight, as a public-health catastrophe, but not as having anything in particular to do with me. No moment on the trip would bring me closer to them than this.

Well, except for when armed guards scrutinized my passport at the entrance to the power plant, where security has been extra tight since 9/11. My last name raised a red flag, and I was challenged about it.

"Why can't you speak Ukrainian?" I was asked, then advised: "Maybe you can get a Ukrainian husband on this trip, and then you'll finally learn." 🍷

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Mary Makarushka MA'05 has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Nepali Times*, among others, and has edited for the journal *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*.



## Leading the Chase

Simon Bairu takes the long road to becoming an NCAA champion.

### TEAM PLAYER

#### Pete Talafous

Five things to know about **Pete Talafous**, a center on the Badger hockey team:

- He's one of only three seniors skating for the Badgers, who enter the postseason with realistic hopes of competing for the national title.
- Pete's father, **Dean**, played for the UW from 1971 to 1974, winning a national championship in 1973. Pete spent his freshman year at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, where his dad coached, before transferring back to his home state.
- When he's not skating, he's probably strumming. He started playing acoustic guitar eight years ago and got good enough that he had to choose between playing hockey and pursuing a career in music.
- Although he ultimately chose hockey, he still plays guitar every day and has written eight songs, which he plays while hanging around with teammates.
- "I actually get more nervous playing hockey in front of people than I do playing guitar," Pete says. "Hockey is a big part of my life, but music has really helped me become the person I am. I can't imagine not doing either one."



As he neared the finish line at the NCAA cross-country championship race in November, **Simon Bairu x'06** stole a quick look over his shoulder to see his competition fading behind him. It was just a glance, and then he returned his eyes to where they are usually focused — straight ahead.

On that day, there was no one in Bairu's sights. He crossed the line with a pump of his fist to become the first Wisconsin runner to win the individual crown since **Kathy Butler** did it in 1995. But for the junior track and cross-country star, there is always something else to chase.

The son of African immigrants, Bairu didn't start running competitively until he was a high-school student in Regina, Saskatchewan. Recognizing his competitive spirit and knack for outrunning his peers, his father offered him five dollars to try out for the cross-country



Winning the NCAA cross-country championship race hasn't changed Simon Bairu's focus on his competition. "There is always someone else," he says.

team. Bairu accepted, and at the first race, he placed second.

"Well, you can't stop now," Bairu's father said to him.

"Someone just beat you."

"I was hooked," Bairu says. "I couldn't stop until I beat that kid." He won his next race, but by then, his goals had changed.

"There is always someone else," he says.

In the past few years, Bairu has outpaced most of those someones. With three All-American honors in track and two in

cross country, Bairu is often his own best competitor. At the starting line of every race, he tells himself there is no runner racing better than he is. "I am sure everyone says that," he laughs. But for Bairu, it is true.

Just two weeks after winning the NCAA individual crown, Bairu traveled to his native Canada to compete in the Canadian national cross-country championships. When he is asked how that race went, he quietly admits he did well. "I

## A Red-Letter Day for Women Athletes

While this year marks the thirtieth season of "official" women's athletics at UW-Madison, the real story begins much earlier. Back in 1895, **Andrew O'Dea** led the "ladies boating crew" — the first female athletes to compete for the university. Generations of basketball players, swimmers, and track

athletes followed, unofficial only because they competed before Title IX came along to level the playing field.

In January, the athletic department welcomed thirty-five of those pioneers back to campus to get two things due to them long ago: a varsity letter and a big hand. The latter

came as they were introduced at halftime of a UW women's basketball game in the Kohl Center — the kind of modern facility that may have never existed for today's women athletes, had Wisconsin's newest letter-winners not laid the first stone years before.

— Staff



won," he says, not mentioning he captured the title last year, too. "Did that sound bad? I don't know what to say when people ask me that."

Nor do people know quite what to make of Bairu, a humble, and perhaps unlikely, NCAA champion. His Ethiopian mother and Eritrean father escaped a war between their countries to marry and raise a family, moving first to Saudi Arabia, where Simon was born, and later to Greece, where he spent the first years of his life. Eventually, they settled in Regina, in the heart of the Canadian prairie.

By the time he was in high school, Bairu dreamed of playing baseball for the Toronto Blue Jays, but his baseball coach and teammates kept wondering why they had not yet lost him to the track team. Each day before practice, Bairu effortlessly sprinted past his teammates in their warm-up runs around the bases.

Once he took his father's bribe and turned to running, Bairu caught the attention of the UW cross-country coaches, who were building a program that competes consistently for national championships. Twenty-one times, the Badgers have finished in the top five at NCAA championship meets, including placing second the past two seasons.

And that history is why Bairu's individual victory was a bittersweet moment for him and his teammates. Although they were favored to win the team title this year, Wisconsin ended up second, losing by a slim margin to Colorado.

At a press conference for the individual champion, Bairu didn't want to talk about himself. He instead credited his teammates.

"Everyone knows he would give up his medal if it meant a team championship," says teammate **Bobby Lockhart '06**. "That's just how he is."

"I couldn't have accomplished what I have without my team," Bairu says. "I want to look back and say, 'Look what we did,' not, 'Look what I did.' I want to share this feeling."

Team unity comes naturally when you run one hundred miles a week together. After training on his own in frosty Canada, Bairu welcomes the company. Before he came to Wisconsin, he spent much of the year running alone on a treadmill, since the temperatures in Regina often prevented him from training outdoors.

"I think I am the only person who came to Wisconsin for better weather," he says with a laugh.

But the weather won't keep him here forever. After his senior season, Bairu will begin competing professionally, and he has his sights set on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. "He takes his accomplishments in perspective," says Lockhart. "He knows what he has done is admirable, but he knows he has a long way to go to reach what he wants."

And that's why people around Madison regularly see Bairu running past them. Often on cold, rainy days, he'll dash by wearing only shorts, a sweatshirt, and a backpack. They may not recognize him as the NCAA cross-country champion, but they can't help but watch him. His determination is compelling — the way he stares straight ahead, as if he's chasing something.

Which he is.

— Joanna Salmen '06

#### IN SEASON

### Men's Golf

After winning two tournaments during the fall season, UW's linksmen pick up on a high note. Their last tournament of the fall was their best, notching the third-lowest score in team history for fifty-four holes.

Now they're teeing up for a strong showing in the Big Ten conference tournament, which this year takes place at the UW's University Ridge course.

*Circle the dates:* March 4–6, St. Croix Classic, in the U.S. Virgin Islands; May 7–8, Big Ten championships, Madison; May 19, NCAA tournament play begins.

*Keep an eye on:* Sophomore **Garrett Jones**, who tied a school record with a round of sixty-five during the Xavier Invitational this fall, is the team's number one player.

*Think about this:* It might be worth watching the twelfth hole at U-Ridge in May. Jones hit a hole-in-one there in September.



Garrett Jones swings for a school record.

Women's hockey coach **Mark Johnson '94** received the NCAA's Silver Anniversary Award,



Mark Johnson

which recognizes student-athletes who graduated twenty-five years ago and have gone on to distinguished

careers. After competing for the Badgers and the "Miracle on Ice" U.S. Olympic hockey team, Johnson has been recognized for his contributions on and off the ice, most recently by the Vince Lombardi Charitable Funds, which honored him for his leadership and service to the community.

The **men's basketball** team completed a streak of thirty-eight consecutive victories at the Kohl Center in January. Only a ten-point loss to Illinois, undefeated and ranked number one in the nation at the time, ended the home-court winning streak, the longest in school history.

Football player **Jim Leonhard '05** became Wisconsin's first academic

All-American since Don Davey '90, MS'95 earned the distinction in 1990. Leonhard, a former walk-on who became a



Jim Leonhard

three-time All-Big Ten safety, is a kinesiology major. He completed his Badger football career January 1 at the Outback Bowl, which Wisconsin lost to Georgia, 24–21.



Compiled by Paula Wagner  
Apfelbach '83

## early years

"After 'testing the waters' in the 1950s with six graduate credits in education at the UW," began **Spencer Scott '35, MPh'39**, he acquired thirty-four graduate credits in education at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, then "departed the area short one course and a dissertation" for a doctorate. On September 9, 2004, Scott completed the requirements for a PhD in education through Hamilton University! The Scotts, of Pharr, Texas, planned to celebrate with a trip to Australia in February 2005.

## 40s-50s

"Eighty-two years old and still playing golf, tennis, and bicycling," writes **Norris Yonker '45**, who majored in metallurgical engineering at the UW and retired in 1987 as the president of Kawin Engineering Associates. He adds, "Would love to hear from classmates" at 21 South Sleight Street, Naperville, Illinois 60540.

There are *über* lawyers in our midst! Among those selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2005-06 are **Howard Pollack '68, JD'73** and **Arthur Harrington '72, JD'75** of Godfrey & Kahn's Milwaukee office, plus **Kevin O'Connor '72, MS'78, PhD'86** of the firm's Madison office, LaFollette Godfrey & Kahn. **Irwin Feldman '61, LLB'64**, of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff in Cleveland, was selected as a 2004 Ohio Super Lawyer, while **Robert Maxim Stoler '85** was named one of the top 1.6 percent of attorneys in Florida. He's with the Tampa

firm of Williams Schifino Mangione & Steady.

**Richard Taber MS'49** and **Neil Payne '61** are two gents who know a lot about nature, and they've teamed up to produce *Wildlife, Conservation, and Human Welfare: A United States and Canadian Perspective* (Krieger Publishing). Taber is an emeritus professor of wildlife at the University of Montana and was one of the few graduate students of **Aldo Leopold**. Payne is an emeritus professor of wildlife at UW-Stevens Point and was an advisee of UW limnology Professor **Arthur Hasler PhD'37**. Taber spends his retirement in Missoula, Montana, while Payne splits his among Plover, Wisconsin; Sanibel Island, Florida; and Campbellton, Newfoundland, with his spouse, **Janis Barberie Payne '64**.

"After a mere twelve years, *Bush Pilot in Diamond Country* (Main Street Rag) is finished and published," writes **Donald Haack '52**, referring to his autobiography. As the "Indiana Jones of the diamond industry" and "one of the few surviving bush pilots to fly the uncharted jungles of British Guiana," Haack operated an air-charter service to remote diamond-mining areas of South America, created and operated ocean-going excursion boats in the West Indies, and maintained an international gem brokerage in Europe. Now settled with his spouse, **Janet Mills Haack '54**, in Huntersville, North Carolina, Donald Haack has been a president of the World Trade Association and lectures on world trade and gems.

If you love the roar of the lions and the roar of the crowd, go behind the circus scenes with *Ringlingville USA: The Stupendous Story of Seven Siblings and Their Stunning Circus Success* (Wisconsin Historical Society Press). To chronicle the Ringling Brothers'

"journey from immigrant poverty to enduring glory as the kings of the circus world," author **Jerry Apps '55, MS'57, PhD'67** includes oral histories, circus ephemera, never-published-before photos, personal correspondence, and much more in this first account of the Ringlings in more than half a century. Apps, who has written extensively about Badger State and U.S. history, splits his time between Madison and Wild Rose, Wisconsin.

As both a memoir and a tribute, **Kenneth Lange '56** has written *A Naturalist's Journey* (New Past Press). In the book, which chronicles his work as a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources naturalist at Devil's Lake State Park for three decades, Lange's love for the Baraboo Hills and Sauk Prairie region is evident. He also applauds other naturalists, as well as the "bachelor farmers, farm hands, the singing bowler, and other free spirits" whom he's met along the way.

The Kehls, whose name is practically synonymous with dance instruction in Madison, have the oldest, continuously family-run studio in the nation — founded when F. W. (Frederick) "Daddy" Kehl began teaching in 1880. In 1922, he passed the school to his son **Leo Kehl**, who attended the UW and choreographed its Haresfoot Follies for nineteen years. Of Leo's three daughters — **Virginia Lee Kehl Mackesey '56** of Dunwoody, Georgia; **Jo Ann Kehl McDermott '58** of Cincinnati; and Jo Ann's twin, **Jo Jean Kehl Janus '58** of Middleton, Wisconsin — it was Jo Jean who eventually became the school's sole director. And now **Jenny Janus Hiltbrand '82** is the fourth-generation director, with her sister **Jeanne Janus Keeler '85, MBA'89** taking part on the staff. The Kehl School of Dance will celebrate its 125th anniversary

## What's New to You...

*...is news to us!*

*Please update us on your recent achievements, transitions, and other significant life happenings.*

*You may e-mail your*

*(brief, please!) news to*

*apfelbach@uwalumni.com;*

*fax it to (608) 265-8771; or*

*mail it to Alumni News,*

*Wisconsin Alumni Association,*

*650 North Lake Street,*

*Madison, WI 53706-1476.*

*Space limitations prevent us*

*from printing all of the good*

*news that we hear, but*

*please know that we do enjoy*

*bearing from you.*

*Please e-mail death notices and*

*all address, name, phone, and*

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*alumnichanges@uwalumni.com;*

*fax them to (608) 262-3332;*

*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 member*

*publication, now published*

*thrice annually and inserted into*

*On Wisconsin.*

on June 11 with a gala recital at the Wisconsin Union Theater.

"Woman seeking old friend" might sum up the request we received from **Shirley Prom Loebel '57**. She's searching for **Cataldo "Cal" Tanzella**, with whom she sang folk and other music as a UW student. Automaker Fiat sent Tanzella to the UW to study engineering, and he returned to Italy in 1957. If anyone knows his whereabouts, please alert us here at Alumni News HQ — Loebel made a CD of their music and would like to send it to him.

**Kenneth Goetz '58, PhD'63** reports that his book, *Bending the Twig: a Memoir* (AuthorHouse), "while not a best seller, continues to sell steadily, and reviews and reader feedback have been gratifying." Goetz came out of retirement for a few weeks this past summer to teach cardiovascular physiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He lives in Shawnee Mission.

President Bush has nominated **Jon Strauss '59** to the National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation. Following Senate approval, he will serve a six-year term. Strauss is the president of Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California.

## 60s

Among the new inductees of the Oklahoma State University College of Education Hall of Fame is **Audrey Oaks MS'62** of Stillwater, a retired associate professor of art education.

The National Art Education Association also named her its 2003 Art Educator of the Year.

Even though he's retired from teaching at Ohio State University, **Douglas Way '67** won't be spending many leisurely days on the golf course just yet. He's now chief

scientist at Earth Satellite Corporation in Rockville, Maryland, where he specializes in geospatial methodologies related to counter-terrorism and narcotics.

The University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business has chosen **Rick Steiner '68** — a theatrical producer in Cincinnati — as its distinguished entrepreneurial alumnus for 2004. Steiner's first Broadway play, *Big River*, garnered seven Tony Awards, and he's gone on to co-produce more Tony winners, including *The Producers*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Secret Garden*.

## 70s

Congratulations to our nation's new ambassador to Nigeria:

**John Campbell PhD'70**. He was sworn in in May and presented his credentials to Nigerian President Olesgun Obasanjo in June. A career foreign-service officer since 1975, Campbell has served in Lyon and Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland; Lagos, Nigeria; and Pretoria/Cape Town, South Africa.

Calling all fans of the *Whad'Ya Know?* public-radio program! Its host since 1985, **Michael Feldman '70**, has added another book title to his credits: *Something I Said? Innuendo and Out the Other* (University of Wisconsin Press). (Whad'ya know?!) Other works by this witty Madisonian include *Whad'Ya Knowledge?*, *Wisconsin Curiosities*, and *Thanks for the Memos*. You can learn even more at [www.notmuch.com](http://www.notmuch.com).

Are you worried about identity theft? Then we hope you didn't miss the December airing of the PBS special "Identity Theft: Protecting Yourself in the Information Age," hosted by **Mari (Marion) Bear Frank '70**. An attorney and privacy consultant in Laguna

Niguel, California, Frank presented a live seminar during the ninety-minute program and was interviewed about her new books, *Safeguard Your Identity: Protect Yourself with a Personal Privacy Audit* and *From Victim to Victor: A Guide to Ending the Nightmare of Identity Theft, Second Edition with CD* (both from Porpoise Press).

Blending a coming-of-age theme, a morality tale, and a probe of life's big issues into a legal-suspense story, first-time novelist **Jody Weiner '70** has written *Prisoners of Truth* (Council Oak Books). His experiences as an attorney in San Francisco allowed him to incorporate real-life courtroom drama — and plenty of laughs — into the book. A significant portion of it takes place on the UW campus during the 1967–68 academic year as well, capturing the turbulence and transformation of that era.

*Policing Needham: A Story of Suburban Cops* (Rivercross Publishing) is a historical portrait of the crimes that have been committed in Needham, Massachusetts, as well as a look at the myriad responsibilities of suburban police officers. The book is the work of **Lisa Brems (Brayton) MA'71**, a former police-beat reporter who lives in nearby Dedham.

Real-estate developer **Carolyn Kau '72** is a busy woman. She and her brother are the managing partners of Kau Investments, a company that their mother started from almost nothing when she found herself widowed, with young children to support. The firm holds several hundred units of housing stock, mostly in Kau's home community of Monona, Wisconsin.

Itchy Cat Press is rolling! The new Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, publishing house has produced its first book, *Eldorado Grill Cookbook — Southwestern Cuisine*, to showcase the (excellent, if we

may say) food created by chef Kevin Tubb at Madison's Eldorado Grill. Itchy Cat's owners, **Caroline Beckett '73, MA'77, MFA'78** and **Frank Sandner III '74**, plan to publish several "colorful, appealing, informative, and inviting" books a year. For the past twenty-five years, they've also been designers and partners in Flying Fish Graphics, a company that specializes in educational graphics, exhibits, print pieces, and books.

April 2004 was the month when **Peter Fox '73, MA'82** began his work as the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA)'s new executive director and retired from a thirty-four-year active-duty and reserve military career as a colonel in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Prior to his new WNA position, Fox spent twenty-three years in daily newspaper work, and served as the director of public information for the UW System and as secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employment Relations. He lives in New Glarus.

New Yorker **Warren Kozak '73** presented his new book, *The Rabbi of 84th Street: The Extraordinary Life of Haskel Besser* (HarperCollins), and spoke at the UW's Hillel in November about his friendship with the legendary Hassidic rabbi. Kozak previously worked in broadcast journalism for twenty-five years.

"I'll be brief," began **Joanne Goldberg Yatvin PhD'74** of Portland, Oregon, but she packed a lot of accomplishments into a small space. Yatvin was recently elected vice president of the National Council of Teachers of English; she will become president-elect in 2005 and president the next year. In August, she published *A Room with a Differentiated View: How to Serve All Children as Individual Learners* (Heinemann), targeted to K–8 language-arts teachers.

It's easy to see why the Council for the Spanish Speaking gave its Lifelong Accomplishment Award this fall to **Rafael Fernandez MS'75**, a bilingual school social worker for the Milwaukee Public Schools. As a college student, he co-established a Latin American Project to assist migrant workers in the Dane County area. Later, Fernandez founded the Guadalupe Arts Program; *El Universal*, a community newspaper; Education: A Family Affair, a program to recognize parental and community leadership; and Cantos de las Americas, a celebration of Milwaukee's many cultures. The state's Association of School Social Workers also honored him with its Excellence in Education Award in 1999.

The Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, office of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has a new deputy regional attorney: **Luis Padilla JD'75**. He's been serving as a supervisory attorney there since 2002, and has also worked in the NLRB's Chicago office and in private practice.

For two weeks in October, twenty Madison-area volunteers cared for children and completed construction projects in Lima, Peru, at Puericultorio Perez Aranibar — the largest orphanage in South America, housing six hundred vulnerable youths. Among the workers were **Nancy Schultz MS'76**, **Hannah Pinkerton MS'82**, and her spouse, retired UW Professor **Tad Pinkerton**. Global Volunteers ([www.globalvolunteers.org](http://www.globalvolunteers.org)), a non-profit organization that offers short-term volunteer programs around the world, coordinated the trip.

Of the myriad children's books that have been written, which would you choose as the top one hundred? **Anita Silvey MA'76** drew on her thirty-five years of publishing experience — during which she

evaluated about 125,000 children's books — to create her own book of selections this spring: *100 Best Books for Children* (Houghton Mifflin). But this work is more than just a list — organized by age group, it offers plot lines for all of the books and tells the fascinating, behind-the-scenes stories that went into their creation. Silvey's ten-month book tour took her to twelve states and the *Today* show. She lives in Westwood, Massachusetts.

In September, Fulbright scholar **Pamela Brouillard '79** headed to Zagreb, Croatia, to lecture at the University of Zagreb's medical school. When in the U.S., she's an associate professor of psychology at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

## 80s

"I've been caring for and working with bats for the past ten years," writes **Barbara Schmidt French '80**, "and believe that they may be using syntax in their communications with one another." A conservation information specialist with Bat Conservation International in Austin, Texas, French is deciphering the language of the Mexican free-tailed bat. She's also the co-author of *Captive Care and Medical Reference for the Rehabilitation of Insectivorous Bats*.

"I am sending you [news] that I have been looking forward to sending my dearest alma mater for years," began **(Maria) Angela López (de Castillo) Pedrana '81** in her October note to us. After graduating from the UW, she eventually moved to Houston, where she earned a BA from the University of St. Thomas in 1989 and a master's in education in 1994. "Ten years later," she says, "I finally completed my doctoral work and successfully defended today! I plan to do the whole thing and 'walk'

in December." Pedrana is an adjunct with the University of St. Thomas and a lecturer at her newest alma mater, the University of Houston.

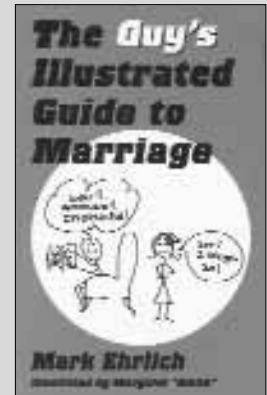
Fairfax, Virginia, resident **Mark Pahl '81** is the new associate director for operations for Voice of America (VOA) — the U.S. government's international, multimedia broadcasting service. Pahl will oversee six radio and television divisions and serve as a senior adviser to the VOA director. The service offers one thousand hours of programs each week, in forty-four languages, to an audience of some 96 million people worldwide.

The 2004 Pharmacist of the Year, as selected by the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, is **Lynnae Swentik Kiedinger Mahaney '82**. This fall, she was also elected to the board of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Mahaney serves as the chief of pharmacy for Madison's William S. Middleton Memorial V.A. Hospital.

*Real-Life Financial Planning* (Aspatore Books) is a new creation of **Todd Bramson '83**, a certified financial planner who's the president of Bramson & Associates in Verona, Wisconsin. He's been recognized as one of the 150 best financial advisers for doctors nationwide — twice — by *Medical Economics* magazine, and has frequently provided financial-expert segments for newscasts on Madison's WMTV.

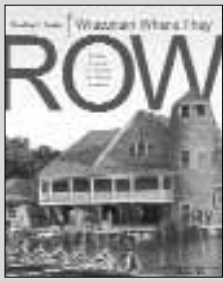
What if your dad started building a basic tree house in the back yard, but then had a flash of inspiration — or twelve? He adds sky-high tire swings, sixty-foot-high loops, real jungle creatures, and monstrous blimps until his creation goes from being every kid's dream to one kid's nightmare. Such is the stuff of *Jungle Gym Jitters* (Walker & Company), the first children's book by **Chuck Richards MFA'83**.

## Bookmark



**Mark Ehrlich PhD'92, PhD'00** has written *The Guy's Illustrated Guide to Marriage* (Goblin Fern Press) — a book that takes a humorous look at the wedded condition. In the chapter titled "The Man Traps," for instance, the author proffers rules for household and personal cleanliness, ways to show you care (hints: jewelry! chocolate! flowers!), and communication styles (women want to talk; guys don't). In "A Few Helpful Hints," stick figures remind readers about the Mars-Venus differences regarding the perception of dirt, the positioning of toilet seats in the dark of night, and the proper uses of clothes hampers. In the end, Ehrlich concludes that "women are really, truly different from men," and "marriage is work!" Goblin Fern Press's managing editor, **Robin Willard MA'91**, notes that more women are buying the book than men, and adds, "I've heard stories of women following their husbands around the house, reading the book to them, and saying, 'See? I told you so.'" Mark Ehrlich carries out his own marriage in Madison.

## Bookmark



Madisonian **Bradley Taylor '68** has chosen the perfect time to launch his new book, *Wisconsin Where They Row: A History of Varsity Rowing at the University of Wisconsin, 1892-2002* (UW Press).

It will debut the weekend of April 21-22, when the Badger rowers will unveil the new UW boathouse and host the Midwest Crew Classic. Taylor's book chronicles rowing's infancy as the UW's first intramural sport in 1874; its long and rich history as a men's sport; the introduction of women's crew in 1972; and the firm entrenchment of Wisconsin rowers on every U.S. men's and women's Olympic crew from 1968 through 2000.

**Arthur Hove '56, MA'67**, a former freshman Badger rower and the author of *The University of Wisconsin: A Pictorial History*, called the book "a compulsively readable historical account that is thoroughly and richly documented" — documentation that came about through four years of research, interviews with prominent rowing figures, visits to race venues, and collecting some two thousand images depicting crew history that Taylor will donate to the UW archives and the new boathouse. Taylor is a retired investment banker, a photographer, the author of *The Family Joke Book* (Sunstone Press), and the father of a Wisconsin rower.

He's also completed drawings for a second, *Author Day for Room 3T* (Clarion Books), due for release this year. Richards is an associate professor in the College of Design at Iowa State University in Ames.

If you're based in or bound for Frankfurt, Germany, consider getting in touch with **Jim Kunick '86** at [jkunick@mayerbrownrowe.com](mailto:jkunick@mayerbrownrowe.com) — especially if you've "found a way to watch Badger sports in Germany," he says. Kunick has transferred to Deutschland with the law firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw to assist clients with IT and outsourcing transactions, and he spoke on those topics at the Drug Information Association's European Clinical Data Management Conference this fall in Amsterdam.

It's nice to know that you can go back to school and still do so well — **Julie Thompson Liston '86, '92** has proven it. Not only has she earned her MS in nursing through the University of Phoenix, but she did so with a 4.0 GPA and membership in Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. Liston works in the Helena [Montana] Cardiology Clinic, was one of the first fifty non-physicians to be admitted as an associate of the American College of Cardiology, and lives in a geodesic dome that she and her spouse built.

Quick! Name one of the country's fastest-growing, single-species conservation groups. Did you list the National Wild Turkey Federation? **Tammy Sjoman Litzer Sapp '86** of Aiken, South Carolina, would. As the federation's VP of communications, she oversees its Web sites and five magazines — *Turkey Call*, *The Caller*, *Women in the Outdoors*, *JAKES Magazine*, and *Wheelin' Sportsmen* — and she helped to launch three national TV shows: *Turkey Call*, *Turkey Country*, and *Get in the Game*.

Why would you run 135 miles in temperatures averaging 120 degrees? If you're **Carolyn Smith '87**, the team physician at Marquette University and the medical director of its Student Health Service, your answer is, "Simply put, I run because I can, and I enjoy it." In July, Smith was the first and only Wisconsinite to run in the 2004 Badwater Ultramarathon — an invitational of eighty-eight runners from fourteen countries who compete in a 135-mile, 13,000-foot vertical ascent from Death Valley to Mount Whitney that's billed as "the most demanding and extreme running race offered anywhere on the planet." What's more, Smith raised funds for Special Olympics Wisconsin while finishing sixteenth overall. *Wow.* (For more on ultramarathoners, read "Going the Distance" in the Fall 2004 issue of *On Wisconsin*.)

Working with cartoons all day seems like the kind of job you could fantasize about, but could never actually do for a living. But take it from **James Sturm '87**: it's possible. He's the director of the Center for Cartoon Studies, which is slated to open in the fall of 2005 in White River Junction, Vermont. As the country's only full-time, two-year cartooning school, it will offer instruction by the nation's leading cartoonists, graphic novelists, and comic-book writers. Sturm himself is a leader in the field: he's a founder of the National Association of Comics Art Educators; his work has won every major industry award; and his book *The Golem's Mighty Swing* was named the Best Graphic Novel of 2001 by *TIME*.

"This book is for every seeker," say **Mari Tankenoff '87** and **Scott Bergér MS'99** about their new work, *Transcendental Illuminations: Autobiographies of a Seeker and a Saint* (Beaver's Pond Press). "As seekers ourselves,

our journey was blessed with unimaginable, inexplicable events that ... compelled us to write this book. [They] moved us from our previously conceived notions about existence and forced us to look beyond what we had formally come to know as 'truth.' " The authors live in Minneapolis, where Tankenoff is a licensed psychologist, and Bergér is a holistic healer.

**Laura Baxter '88, JD'91** took her oath of office in Arlington, Virginia, in October as an immigration judge, joining the ranks of more than two hundred others in fifty-three courts throughout the country. Baxter previously served as senior counsel to the deputy attorney general at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to **Edward Nawrocki '88**, who's the new president of St. Luke's Quakertown [Pennsylvania] Hospital.

Do you have too much to do and not enough time to do it? Of course you do, but that's where **Joan Tenhagen Craig '89** of Stoughton, Wisconsin, comes in. She's the president of Errand Ease, a new company that lightens her clients' loads by offering errand and shopping services, service bidding, house and pet sitting, and other customized services.

Portland, Maine, songwriter **Paul Mollomo II '89** (<http://pavsongs.com>) would like to spread the word that he's released a new CD called *Winter*. Says William Reisman of *Face* magazine, "[Paul Mollomo's] sincere lyrics and soft acoustic sound make him much more worthy than what mainstream music has to offer."

## 90s

**Todd Babbitz '91** will be able to "make frequent trips to see the Badger football team and his favorite Union Terrace chair" now that he's received

his MBA from the University of Chicago and has settled into a strategic consulting role at the Windy City office of McKinsey & Company. (That's the word, courtesy of his father, **Allen Babbitz '65, MD'68** of Fox Point, Wisconsin.) Todd Babbitz backpacked through Japan, China, and Thailand after graduating from the UW, and was previously a partner in the Chicago law firm of McDermott, Will and Emery.

Today's diesel engines feature "old technology made new," according to **Osama Ibrahim PhD'91**, the vice president of the Medway, Massachusetts-based Rypos, Incorporated. As part of the diesel avant-garde, he's developed a patented filter that allows onboard computers to control emissions, cutting soot by up to 90 percent.

**Rodney Kopish '91, '96** went from passively watching the 2002 Winter Olympics to earning a spot on the speed-skating team that's preparing for the December 2005 Olympic trials — during which the U.S. national team will be chosen for the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy. An El Cerrito, California, high school science teacher on weekdays, Kopish had been pursuing his dream by training in Salt Lake City on the weekends. Now he's taken a leave of absence from teaching to train there full time. You can keep up with Kopish at [www.olympicquest.com](http://www.olympicquest.com).

**John-Leonard Berg MA'92**, the coordinator of public services at UW-Platteville's Karrmann Library, has earned the institution's 2004 Academic Staff Award for Excellence. In his drive for "information literacy," Berg has developed resource orientation sessions for freshmen and area high school students, among many other accomplishments in optimizing the library's digital and online services.

How cool is *this?! Jason Hoch '93* recently rode on one of the nation's first commercially available zero-gravity flights — and he's "pleased to note that his breakfast stayed right where it belonged during his amazing experience." Hoch is the vice president of Internet operations for Imaginova in

Atlanta, a media company involved in space, science, and technological innovation.

The Association of Nature Center Administrators has honored **Charles "Corky" McReynolds PhD'93** with its 2004 Leadership Award. He's been the director of UW-Stevens Point's Treehaven

Environmental Learning Center near Tomahawk since 1985, and is a UW-SP associate professor of human dimensions of natural resources. McReynolds teaches the nation's only undergrad course on nature-center management, and his expertise has been tapped by groups throughout the world.

## A Translator with a Golden Touch

Once upon a time, there was a writer whose name was Hans Christian Andersen. He wrote children's stories that were loved by all. Yet in former decades, his work had been badly translated into English, and what people thought were the true stories were really ugly ducklings — not the graceful swans of his own writer's voice.

Then one day, along came **Tiina Nunnally '76**, who was commissioned to retranslate Andersen's works from the original Danish in honor of the bicentennial of his birth on April 2, 2005. The resulting *Fairy Tales*, a volume of thirty classic tales published by Viking Penguin, is due out this spring.

Readers may easily forget that authors from Tolstoy to Marquez to Andersen are accessible to a worldwide audience only by way of translators. They also may be unaware that translation theory and practice have changed over time.

According to Caroline White, senior editor for Viking Penguin, modern translators are much more conscientious about retaining the author's real style. "The best new translations can give readers a whole new experience of a book they thought they knew," she says, "and this is especially important when it comes to writers whose work has not been well translated," such as Andersen.

Nunnally, who is one of the world's foremost translators of Scandinavian literature, has claimed many awards. She notes that "no two translations of the same text will ever be alike. To be a good translator, you also have to be a good writer," she says, because translations are essentially a rewrite — they can never be word-for-word conversions.

A translator's goal, she continues, "should always be to get as close as possible to the tone and intent of the author," yet a translator "is like an alchemist who uses a mysterious distilling process to transform one substance into another."

Nunnally's alchemy previously extracted gold by rendering *Smilla's Sense of Snow* by Peter Høeg into English. She is also responsible for *The Royal Physician's Visit*, which became an international bestseller for Swedish writer Per Olov Enquist when his 1999 novel came out in English in 2002.

Another triumph for Nunnally was her translation of the *Kristin Lavransdatter* trilogy by Nobel Prize-winning Norwegian novelist Sigrid Undset (1882–1949). The new translation put a significant work from the 1920s back in the hands of contemporary readers and earned Nunnally a glowing mention in the *New York Times Book Review*. The previous *Lavransdatter* translation from the 1920s was "execrable," the *Times* proclaimed, filled with "hoary medievalisms ... that have no basis in the original." By contrast, Nunnally's version illuminates the original text in "lucid, scrupulous English."

Nunnally, a Wisconsin native now living in Albuquerque, has two additional translations due out this spring: a second novel by Per Olov Enquist and a six-hundred-page Andersen biography by Jens Andersen.

— Brenda Pittsley



Tiina Nunnally has retranslated the works of Hans Christian Andersen. She believes that translators can be compared to actors performing a script written by another, or musicians playing the notes of someone else's symphony.



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If you're looking for tickets to an athletic event at Washington State University in Pullman, talk to **Dan Meyer '94** — he's the new director of ticket sales there. He was previously an assistant athletic director for marketing at Portland State, as well as an athletic department intern here at Wisconsin.

Were you a fan of Fox TV's adventure series *The Rebel Billionaire*? This fall and winter, in the company of Sir Richard Branson, the founder and chair of the Virgin Group, sixteen contestants vied for a chance to become Virgin Global's new president and earn \$1 million — and **Timothy Hudson '96** was among them! The group performed daring feats at locations around the globe, including Hudson's rope-ladder climb to the top of a hot-air balloon at ten thousand feet to have a spot of tea. Sadly, our Badger contestant — a civil litigator for the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block — was the first to leave the show.

**William Lugo '96, MS'99, PhD'03**, a University of Sioux Falls [South Dakota] assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice, will soon teach a course called Sociology of Video Games. He notes that "the military genre of video games has exploded over the last five years — in particular, an [urban-warfare] game called Full Spectrum Warrior," which his students will be playing in class. Lugo chose it because "it is designed by the U.S. military. I think it is a controversial move, as we are currently in a state of war."

**Greg Takoudes '96**, a writer and freelancer in the film industry, and his spouse, **Emily Salkin Takoudes '98**, an editor at Simon & Schuster, have come a long way since they "met at the garbage cans outside their Gilman Street apartment in 1995." These New Yorkers are pleased to report

that they've been married for three years and now have a son, Max, born in October.

R&D magazine has bestowed one of its 2004 R&D 100 Awards — for a quality-control system — upon **Jodi Reeves MS'98, PhD'01**, who helped to develop a table-top x-ray diffraction system. She works for the Schenectady, New York-based SuperPower, which is the energy-technology subsidiary of Intermagnetics General Corporation.

**Hennssy Auriantal '99** is the force behind Wisconsin Force, an organization that helps young people to improve their athletic, academic, leadership, and community-service skills through basketball. It's based at the new MAC Sport Center in Verona, Wisconsin. Auriantal played for the Badgers from 1995 until 1999, was named to the Academic All-Big Ten team in 1997 and 1999, and played for the Canadian national Olympic team in 1999.

When she wrote to us in July, U.S. Army Captain **Ann Dunscombe '99** had arrived in Germany, where she's now the commander of a combat military police company. "I am loving my time here," she wrote, adding that she's been "having a blast enjoying Europe" with four other Badger alumni. Previously, Dunscombe had spent a year in Iraq, where she coordinated support for the Iraqi Police Service, renovated "blown-up/looted police stations," and helped to rebuild their police academy. "It was a great experience," she says, "and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat — and probably will this fall."

As part of an investigative team, **Rebecca Tait-Sleeter '99** recently received the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service — the highest commendation given by the Department of Justice — for her contributions as an



intelligence analyst in the FBI's counter-terrorism division. She's now an analyst for the U.S. Department of the Army in Europe.

## 2000s

A work titled "Flow and Habitat Dynamics Associated with Entrenched Channels" is what **Michelle Luebke '00** is producing with her STAR (Science to Achieve Results) research fellowship. She was one of 124 fellows chosen for 2004 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency out of a pool of nearly 1,700 applicants. Luebke is pursuing an MS at the University of Georgia in Athens.

According to MIT's *Technology Review* magazine, which UW grad made the 2004 list of the world's one hundred Top Young Innovators? It was Bell Labs researcher **Aref Chowdhury PhD'01**, who specializes in nonlinear optics and biochemical detection research, and was also recognized for his work on nonlinear photonic crystals. The techniques that Chowdhury is developing could one day be used to help protect against airborne pollutants and to monitor other environmental conditions.

One of the new stars in the Culver [Indiana] Academies' Athletic Hall of Fame is **Barry (Barron) Richter '01**, a Culver varsity-letter winner in both hockey and golf. He also played award-winning hockey for four years at the UW, where his father, **Pat Richter '64, JD'71**, was the longtime athletic director. Barry Richter competed with Team USA in the 1994 Olympics; has played in the NHL for the New York Rangers, Boston Bruins, and Montréal Canadiens; and is currently playing professional hockey in Switzerland.

Now *here's* an undertaking: Madisonian **Beth (Elizabeth) Halley '04** and four other adventurous women are planning a ninety-day canoe excursion called the Borealis Paddling Expedition ([www.borealispaddingexpedition.com](http://www.borealispaddingexpedition.com)). They'll begin in June in Saskatchewan, paddling and portaging over about 1,200 miles of remote Canadian waters to reach the Arctic Ocean by late August. Why? Because the five women learned to love paddling as girls at Camp Manito-Wish near Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, their goal is to raise \$50,000 to endow a scholarship to send underprivileged kids to the camp. Post expedition, Halley plans to join the Peace Corps and later go to medical school.

## obituary

In recognition of the many important contributions that **Erik Bye MA'53** made to Norwegian culture throughout his lifetime, Norway's best-known broadcaster, poet, and balladeer received a state funeral in November in Oslo. He died on October 13. King Harald and members of Parliament attended the service, during which Bye was lauded as a "cultural giant for a whole generation of Norwegians" and the most award-winning Norwegian radio and television personality ever. He worked for the Associated Press, the BBC in London, and public broadcaster NRK in Oslo, leaving behind a wealth of radio and TV programs, poems, and ballads. WAA presented Bye with one of its Distinguished International Alumni Awards in 1999.

Compiled by Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83, who does not drink things whose names end in *-te* or *-cino*.



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