



## She's Got Game

Theater students breathe life into software.



JEFF MILLER

students are paid for their work and gain a novel addition to their acting portfolios.

"The actors are vital," says Robert Gee, project lead for Raven. "The technology is there and we keep upgrading it, but we've got to have the right actors showing the right qualities of behavior. When you're animating by hand something that really requires the subtleties of human body language, it just looks wrong."

Coon's stiletto-heeled assassin will be a prominent character in one of Raven's new games, and the motion-capture crew — or *mocap* in industry shorthand — really likes what Coon brought to the part.

Coon, in turn, enjoyed getting into character. "It's a lot of fun to imagine yourself in a completely different way, as someone with superhuman qualities," she says.

**Tony Simotes**, director of University Theatre, says the Raven partnership is highly valuable, showcasing "how a theater student and a theater department can interact with high technology and actually make an impact on the entertainment. This is a new kind of acting. No longer can an actor just rely upon a life on stage."

As a finishing touch for Coon's elite-force character, Raven did a "face scanning," using a scanning light projector to capture her face at different angles, then animated her facial features in 3-D. The result is a character who will not only move like Coon, but look like her, too — providing good entertainment for family and friends back in her hometown of Akron, Ohio.

"Maybe my grandmother will start getting into video games," she quips.

— Brian Mattmiller '86

Having a ball, Carrie Coon, center, prepares for a motion-capture session at Raven Software. She may not look much like an elite-force assassin, but the suit that Tim Uttech (left) and David Peng (right) have put her in will help give lifelike movement to the assassin character in a Raven video game.

Clad head-to-toe in a skintight yellow-and-black body suit, with reflective markers the size of Ping-Pong balls attached to every moving part, actress **Carrie Coon MFA'06**'s new on-screen character isn't immediately obvious.

But the black high heels are a nice hint. Coon is preparing to become a video game action hero. She and several UW theater students are helping give life to computer-generated characters.

In the Middleton studios of Raven Software, Inc., one of the most critically acclaimed video gaming companies in the business, Coon is working through a wildly athletic motion-capture regimen. Her bullet-dodges, head-kicks, dive rolls, and back flips will become the raw material for depicting an elite-force assassin.

Coon, who recently earned her master's degree from UW-Madison's theater program, begins each fight move in a T

formation, with arms straight out. On black scaffolding around the performance space, an elaborate array of twenty-four infrared cameras captures her every movement. Afterward, she glides back into the T shape, giving the cameras a standard point of reference.

On a nearby computer screen, Coon's movements are collected from the markers and translated into a precise, three-dimensional stick figure that replicates her motion. It becomes the digital skeletal system for Raven's dark new character, who ideally will move in convincingly human ways.

The success of this high-tech scenario hinges on talented actors — a need that led to a unique partnership now in its second year between the company and the UW-Madison theater program. Raven auditions students, looking for the right blend of acting finesse and physical skills that will translate well to their characters. The

# The Skinny on Trans Fat

Nutritionist helps diners find health in a sea of cooking oils.

New York City is doing it. Starbucks is, too. And the Memorial Union's Rathskeller already did.

Each of these entities is going trans fat-free, switching out hydrogenated vegetable oil for various alternatives. Other cities and other restaurants — from Chicago and Los Angeles, to Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and McDonald's — are considering the same transition.

The impetus for this major shift in cooking oils stems from a rising awareness of the link between artificial trans fats and heart disease. And **Sherry Tanumihardjo**, a nutritionist at UW-Madison and UW Extension, is helping diners discover the truth about trans fats.

Tanumihardjo developed educational materials about fats for the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program. The program's fact sheet recommends keeping consumption of trans fats to a minimum. "I haven't bought a regular microwave popcorn since I realized there was so much trans fat in there," she says.

Trans fats are found in partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, a food industry staple that

has long been the preferred oil for making processed foods because it has a long shelf life and a buttery consistency at room temperature, and it's cholesterol free. Trans fats commonly show up in cookies, cakes, doughnuts, crackers, pancakes, and stick margarine, and in the deep fryer vats that crank out the French fries and other greasy goodies. But despite being cholesterol free, hydrogenated vegetable oil negatively affects cholesterol levels in the body.

"When you talk about heart risk, you want to have a good ratio of HDL to LDL," says Tanumihardjo.

HDL, commonly known as "good cholesterol," transports cholesterol to the liver, where it is destroyed and excreted from the body. LDL, or "bad cholesterol," transports cholesterol to the tissues in the body, and it can wreak havoc on its way — leaving deposits of cholesterol in the arteries that can lead to plaque and atherosclerosis.

Scientists now know that trans fats increase bad cholesterol and lower good cholesterol. The encouraging news

for the health-conscious is that many foods that contain trans fats are being reformulated.

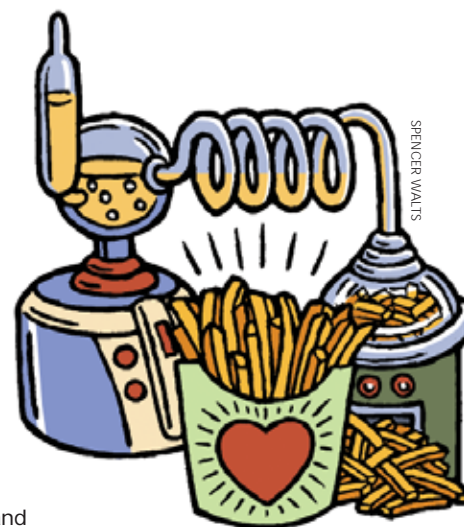
"The bad news is that some in the industry are replacing trans fats with saturated fats, such as palm oil and coconut oil," says Tanumihardjo. "So, you still need to look at the nutrition label when a product says that it's trans fat-free."

Saturated fats also raise levels of bad cholesterol, so trans fat-free fries cooked in saturated fats are not appreciably better than the regular kind.

As restaurants and the food industry work to employ healthier oils and to develop new options, Tanumihardjo recommends keeping an eye on nutrition labels, and eating a diet low in trans fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol.

The big picture matters, too, she says, repeating what must be every nutritionist's mantra: "You've got to consider total diet and exercise."

— Nicole Miller MA'06



## COLLECTION

### The Buzz on Bees

Most people wouldn't know it, but among apiculturists, the name Charles Miller used to be the bees' knees. But then most people don't know what apiculture is.

*Apiculture* is the raising of bees for the purposes of harvesting honey and wax, a \$6 million industry in Wisconsin today. And at the beginning of the twentieth century, Charles Miller owned the country's leading apicultural library. That collection — nearly five thousand volumes worth — now resides in Special Collections at Memorial Library. However, the UW doesn't have a beekeeping program, so it's fair to ask why.

When Miller died in 1920, his will dictated donating his library to a university. Several different schools vied for the books, including Cornell, which then, as now, had the nation's

leading apiculture program. But Miller was a Midwesterner, and so his widow gave the books to the UW, where they formed the nucleus of the school's beekeeping studies collection.

"Today the books have more value from a history of science perspective. So they've moved over to Special Collections," says librarian **Jill Rosenshield '65, MS'68, MA'78**.

In the near future, however, the Miller Collection is looking at a technological upgrade. It's on the list of volumes that the UW Libraries hope to digitize as part of their Google Project. (See "Catching Up," Winter 2006.) Eventually, the entire collection will be available online to everyone — even students at Cornell.

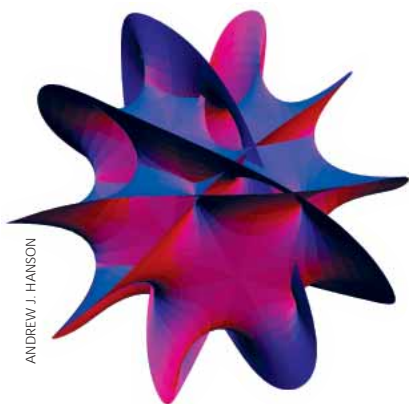
— J.A.



PIERRE HUBER

## Strung Out

Scientists find a way to see extra dimensions.



ANDREW J. HANSON

Seeing in 6-D: A computer-generated rendering suggests what a six-dimensional geometry might look like.

Peering backward in time to an instant after the big bang, UW-Madison physicists have devised an attempt to unlock the hidden shapes of alternate dimensions of the universe.

Along with our four familiar dimensions — three-dimensional space and time — a powerful physics theory predicts the existence of six extra spatial dimensions that are curled in tiny geometric shapes at every single point in our universe. Called string theory, it is widely considered the most promising “theory of everything” to explain the framework of the cosmos, although the nature of these elusive extra dimensions has not been experimentally tested.

Why not? Physics professor **Gary Shiu** says that the many-dimensional shapes are far too small to see or measure through any usual means. Instead, he and graduate student **Bret Underwood** turned to the sky. In a recent study, they demonstrated that the shapes of the hidden dimensions may be “seen” by

deciphering their influence on cosmic energy released by the violent birth of the universe 13 billion years ago.

Don’t worry if you can’t picture ten dimensions. Our minds are accustomed to four and lack a frame of reference for the others, Shiu says, though computers allow scientists to predict what six-dimensional geometries could look like.

According to string theory mathematics, the extra dimensions could adopt any of tens of thousands of possible geometric shapes, each shape theoretically corresponding to its own universe with its own set of physical laws. To get at which shape corresponds to our universe, Shiu and Underwood devised an approach based on the idea that the six tiny dimensions had their strongest influence on the universe when the universe itself was a tiny speck of highly compressed matter and energy — that is, in the instant just after the big bang.

“Our idea was to go back in time and see what happened

back then,” says Shiu.

Lacking the requisite time machine, they use the next-best thing: a map of cosmic energy released from the big bang. The energy has persisted virtually unchanged for the past 13 billion years, making the energy map basically “a snapshot of the baby universe,” Shiu says.

Just as a shadow can give an idea of the shape of an object, the pattern of cosmic energy in the sky can give an indication of the shape of the other six dimensions present, Shiu explains. Initial results show that specific patterns of cosmic energy hold clues to the shapes of hidden dimensions. Researchers hope that by using more sensitive instruments to capture even more detailed cosmic maps, they can narrow down the possibilities — and inch closer to identifying the geometry that fits our universe.

“This provides a rare opportunity in which string theory can be tested,” says Shiu.

— Jill Sakai PhD’06

### STUDENT WATCH: Hot Spots

These days about 80 percent of campus buildings have wireless computer access, providing both a wealth of resources and an omnipresent distraction in lecture halls and classrooms.

The most common concern among instructors using wireless technology is that “you’re up there talking, and students are checking their fantasy baseball league,” says **Jake Blanchard**, a professor of nuclear engineering and engineering physics whose students use computers during class.

The university’s Division of Information Technology offers tips on etiquette for students who want to access wireless during class — including turning the volume down on laptops — and recommends that professors lay down ground rules, such as prohibiting use during exams.

“You don’t know what people are sharing with each other through instant messaging and that kind of stuff,” says **Michael Pitterle ’78, MS’83**, associate professor of information technology at the School of Pharmacy.

Yet, says Norwegian instructor **Peggy Hager MA’84**, wireless technology has “enhanced my teaching incredibly,” allowing her to show news reports or video clips from Norway via YouTube.com.

Some professors wish they could turn off wireless access, but others say that’s not practical, pointing out that students could still use cell phones to surf the Web.

“My feeling is if they’re inclined to do that, then I’m just not keeping them busy enough during class,” Blanchard says.

— Jenny Price ’96



## At the Crossroads

Researchers-to-be gain new problem-solving skills.

**David Beebe '87, MS'90, PhD'94** has come a long way. Today, he is a pioneer in micro-technology research, but like all scientists, the professor of biomedical engineering began at the bottom of the heap. And while Beebe's road to the top was paved with hard work and years of schooling, laboratory training grants played a profound role in shaping his future career.

These grants have a rich legacy at UW-Madison, helping to educate new generations of scientists to be fluent in the technical wizardry and interdisciplinary problem-solving skills needed in modern laboratories. Some thirty training grants, most funded by the National Institutes of Health, are available to UW-Madison graduate and postgraduate students, says **Petra Schroeder '87, MA'91**, assistant dean of the Graduate School. Currently about three hundred students are participating in training programs.

The grants focus on a number of areas, such as social work programs that examine how families cope with mental disorders, or bioinformatics, which tackles data-heavy biological and medical programs with approaches rooted in computer science. A third, the Biotechnology Training Program (BTP), teaches students to do research at the juncture of the biological and physical sciences.

Beebe is living proof of the BTP's value. As a graduate student eleven years ago, he participated in a poster session at the annual BTP banquet. A scientist from ABS, a De Forest-based company specializing in bovine science and technology, approached Beebe's display. After reading about his unique work on microtechnology, the representative asked if Beebe could help ABS create



AARON MAYES

**David Beebe, right, received his degrees in electrical engineering, but his work requires extensive knowledge of biology, as well. Grants from the university's Biotechnology Training Program helped him learn to do research that crosses the borders between the physical and biological sciences. Here, he talks with Michael Toepke, another training grant recipient.**

new techniques for labeling cow embryos — "to make sure Farmer Jones gets back to the right egg," says Beebe.

Although the offer captured his interest, Beebe explained that first he had to focus on his PhD. But after completing BTP and graduating from the UW, Beebe remembered the conversation and called the company's rep. "Do you still want to label embryos?" Beebe asked her.

She did. Beebe got his first training grant from the USDA to research the cow embryo labeling. The work kick-started projects that culminated in the formation of Beebe's start-up company, which creates tech-

nology to manipulate livestock embryos and aid in human in-vitro fertilization. Today, Beebe is a leader in the understanding and development of miniaturized systems for use in medicine and biology.

"The exciting areas of sciences are at the interface of different fields," says Beebe, noting that BTP gives budding scientists the wherewithal to develop interdisciplinary solutions for the biggest scientific questions. "BTP is exposing students to the depths and variety of problems in opposing disciplines, so in the next step of their careers they can draw upon that."

— Adam Dylewski '07

In an effort to increase security, the university has converted **campus ID numbers** so that they're no longer based on Social Security numbers. Alumni will need this new number to view their student records or order transcripts online. To find your new campus ID number, contact the Office of the Registrar at (608) 262-0920. You may order transcripts at [myinfo.wisc.edu](http://myinfo.wisc.edu).

Journalism professor Jim Baughman chronicles the early history of network television in his new book, **Same Time, Same Station**, published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Following the medium from 1948 to 1961, Baughman shows how television pioneers laid the groundwork for the way TV shows are produced and watched today.

In a coalition with other Midwestern universities, the UW has launched a new research network that doubles Internet access. Created along with the Universities of Iowa and Minnesota as well as Iowa State University, the **Broadband Optical Research, Education and Sciences Network (BOREAS-Net)** gives the university a download speed that's 20,000 times faster than consumer broadband, and a million times the capacity of typical American homes.

The Law School and the Division of International Studies have launched a new joint initiative, the **Center for Global Legal Studies**. The center will promote socio-legal research on issues of international and comparative law.

Campus has a new landmark, in the form of a very old building. The **Dairy Barn**, built in 1898, has been named a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

## Barn to Lose?

UW hopes to arrest the decline in the number of food-animal vets.

It's becoming easier to spend your life without ever stepping on a farm, and that, says **Nigel Cook**, could be a problem. Cook heads the food-animal production section at the School of Veterinary Medicine. In direct proportion to that lack of experience, Cook and his colleagues are finding it harder to get — and keep — students interested in studying food animals. In the last decade, the percentage of Wisconsin veterinarians who treat farm animals on a daily basis has dropped by a third.



Veterinarian Jay Peters DVM'97 examines a Holstein during a large-animal medical clinic visit. The number of food-animal veterinarians is dropping, a trend that may put a strain on food safety.

Because food-supply veterinarians are responsible for the well-being of farm animals, they play an important role in the nation's health. They monitor the use of pharmaceuticals to keep antibiotic residues out of meat and milk, and they respond when disease outbreak threatens, enabling the country to deal with potential epidemics.

"The recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom is an example of a profession stretched to its absolute limits in a very small country," says Cook, "and the United States is much larger."

Though food-animal medicine is necessary, it's becoming less attractive as a career. Veterinary training is expensive, and other careers offer a speedier return. For example, the managers of dairy herds can earn similar wages to veterinarians, enabling them to work with farm animals while avoiding the debt load of veterinary school.

Furthermore, those students who are interested in veterinary practice are often pulled in other directions. "Even if students come into the school with a food-animal focus," says Cook, "we may lose them during the course of the four-year program, or after a short time in practice." The first two years

of veterinary school are heavily oriented to small animals. "We've got wonderful food-animal courses in the final year of the program," explains Cook, "but we lose students to other areas of interest before they get to that point. They get distracted and see plenty of other opportunities."

The lifestyle of a food-animal veterinarian may be even more of a problem than cost. Most farm veterinarians work in small practices and often must be on duty nights and weekends. Getting predictable time off from work is difficult.

To alleviate the problem, Cook and his faculty are trying to get food-animal courses added to the first and second years of the curriculum and to improve mentoring for interested students. And the university's student-run production-medicine club is holding weekend events for high school students and agriculture teachers.

"It's the path I chose, and I think it's a pretty important job," says Cook. "We make sure that the general public has a safe and affordable food source. We're advocates for the cow every day we're out there, and we make sure they're treated and cared for adequately."

— Candice Gaukel Andrews '77

## Problem Solved

Two mathematicians at the UW recently solved a legendary number puzzle that has baffled researchers for eighty-seven years.

Professor **Ken Ono** worked with visiting assistant professor **Kathrin Bringman** to prove the final theory of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Together, they shed light on the long-standing mystery of mock theta functions, a formerly inscrutable series of infinite numbers.

Three months before his death in 1920, Ramanujan wrote a letter to his friend and mentor, G.H. Hardy, describing a series of "very interesting functions which I call 'Mock' theta functions." He gave several examples, but his explanation of the functions was obscure, even to the best mathematicians of the day. Mathematicians have struggled to unlock the code of mock theta functions ever since.

When Ono and Bringman found a connection between mock theta functions and another mathematical theory that was only recently developed, the power of Ramanujan's puzzle was revealed. The UW team has developed a definition of mock theta functions and a method for deriving them, which may help solve other problems in mathematics, chemistry, and physics.

— Erin Hueffner '00



## Shticks and Shtetls

Seminar asks the question: what is “Jewish art”?

In a darkened classroom on the sixth floor of the Mosse Humanities Building, sixteen students lounge in armchairs and watch a series of slides put together by Enrico Fink, an Italian musician from the group Lucidarium. Most of the pictures are of Fink’s native

development in Western Civilization. Created by associate professor **Douglas Rosenberg**, the seminar offers a means of examining questions about Jewish cultural identity as well as art history.

From the title, one might conclude that this is a simple

have been Jewish,” Rosenberg says. “Does their being Jewish affect the way they look at art? Is there a ‘Jewish art’? These are the kinds of things we want to look at.”

The course itself is wide-ranging, as the lecture by Fink indicates. It covers music, architecture, graphic art, film, literature, installation, performance, and drama. Rosenberg draws on texts by such critics as the German philosopher Walter Benjamin and American writer Susan Sontag, looking for ways in which their Jewish heritage may have affected their theories. Rosenberg suspects that much modern critical theory — and particularly post-modernist thinking — is like the façade of Santa Croce. Though it may not be inherently Jewish, it bears indelible traces of Jewish culture.

“In Jewish [Biblical studies], there’s a tradition called *midrash*, of interrogating a text,” he says. “What it means is that a reader should wrestle with the writing to find meaning. That sounds a lot like post-modernism to me.”

Taught for the first time in spring 2006, Rosenberg’s course has its roots in a grant from **Marvin ’50 and Mildred ’50, MS’51 Conney**. The Conneys, Rosenberg says, wanted to give a grant to the UW’s Center for Jewish Studies, but they also wanted to support the arts on campus. To bridge those two desires, Rosenberg created his seminar, as well as a companion conference, *Practicing Jews: Art, Identity, and Culture*, held in April 2007.

The course material also fit in with Rosenberg’s growing interest in determining the role of his own identity in his art. A Jew and native of California, he came to the UW to teach in the university’s Interarts and



JEFF MILLER

Enrico Fink of the musical group Lucidarium discusses the architecture of Florence’s Santa Croce basilica, highlighting the six-pointed star near its roof line as evidence of the Jewish architect who designed the façade. In Italy, according to Fink, Jewish artists struggle to search for their roots in a Catholic world. “In a very explicit way,” he says, “Jewish art [in Italy] is about interrupted memory.”

Florence. When he gets to a photo of that city’s Santa Croce basilica, he asks, “What do you notice above the door?”

“Is that,” a student asks hesitantly, “a Star of David?”

“Yes!” responds Fink, noting that the appearance of a Jewish symbol on the front of a Catholic church devoted to the Holy Cross is no accident. The architect who designed the neo-Gothic façade, Nicolò Matas, was Jewish.

It’s the sort of surprise these students are learning to look for. The course, Jewish Studies 450: Judaism and the Arts, is all about finding out how Jewish people, philosophy, and religion have affected — and been affected by — artistic

cultural art course — that students will either look for ways that art is employed in the practice of Judaism or break down popular cultural works to find representations and misrepresentations of Jews: Shakespeare’s Shylock, for instance, or the stereotypical Eastern European shtetl in *Fiddler on the Roof*, or even the caustic kvetching of Borscht Belt comedians. But Rosenberg says he’s designed the class to ask a more philosophical question: because of their cultural inheritance, do Jews create or appreciate art in a distinctive way?

“Looking at the influential people who write about art and critical thinking, many of them



Technology program. But once in Madison, he began to notice how his cultural identity has shaped his view of what art is and should be. The concept for the course developed as much out of his quest for self-discovery as out of a spirit of academic inquiry.

"It's a product of my own effort to define my identity and my personal evolution," he says. "I've been here for fourteen years, and I'm still figuring out what it means to be a Midwesterner. I want to look at how identity is constructed, and part of that is seeing what role ritual plays."

Over the semester, the class meets with ten visiting artists, who talk about the intersection

of religious heritage and artistic impulse. These include painter Tobi Kahn, dancer Claudia Kapenberg, and Fink, who specializes in Renaissance-era music. As an Italian, Fink spoke of the ways that his country's small Jewish population maintained its cultural identity in spite of being so close to the heart of Roman Catholicism. When Rosenberg asks him what makes a particular piece of Italian art Jewish, he answers that it's all about preserving memory.

"In a very explicit way, Jewish art is about interrupted memory," Fink says. "Because of Italy's deep Christianity, and because of the fascist racial laws under [Benito] Mussolini, the Jewish community's tradi-

tions had to be hidden or suppressed. So today, memory in art is one of the main points of inspiration."

Still, it can be risky to make generalizations about the artistic views and impact of any religious group, and merely raising the point conjures the specter of stereotypes. "It can be a tricky thing," Rosenberg says. "One of the first things we try to do is debunk the myths — such as the idea that Jews control Hollywood and so on. But we also have to be true to the heritage. Is there such a thing as Jewish art? Is there a uniquely Jewish way to look at art? I don't know. But it's a fascinating subject to consider."

— John Allen

#### Class Note

### The Three Little Pigs Go Green

Biological Systems Engineering/Landscape Architecture/Environment, Textiles, and Design 356: Sustainable Residential Construction

We all know the moral of the tale of the Three Little Pigs: bricks, not straw or sticks, offer the best protection against huffing and puffing. But which offers the best protection for a strained environment? To find out, don't ask a wolf — ask David Bohnhoff, a structural engineering professor.

Bohnhoff has created a course to teach students about environmentally friendly home construction. Though much has been published about the subject in the popular press, he says, very few homeowners actually understand the science of making a house environmentally sustainable.

"The vast majority of students on campus will one day purchase a home," Bohnhoff says. "And a fair percentage will elect to build new homes or remodel others. We want them to be responsible about it. Unfortunately, they can get confused by the tremendous amounts of non-scientific literature out there. Here we teach them the real science — the applied physics and applied chemistry — behind building design."

Although Bohnhoff's course is only in its second year, he's been studying the topic for decades. Beginning in the 1980s, he taught a course in residential construction, and though the UW phased it out in 1995, he revived it with an environmental focus in 2006.

Currently, there's only one section of the course, with about thirty students, but Bohnhoff expects interest will be much higher once he moves out of the development stage and begins advertising the course across campus. Development has been slowed by the time he spends researching material, and he's currently working on a textbook to complement the class, as there isn't a single text that covers sustainable construction at the level and from the angle he teaches it.

Which begs the question: scientifically, which little pig — straw, sticks, or bricks — did best by the environment? Bohnhoff won't indict any of the porkers.

"By definition," he says, "just about every building material argues that it's 'green' in one way or another, whether wood, steel, concrete, or straw bale. To some extent, it doesn't much matter what we build with. More important, we need to build quality homes that will last a long time and not be larger than we need. The bottom line is, we do right by the world when we use fewer natural resources."

— J.A.





AARON MAYES

## If a Tree Falls ...

A late spring snowstorm nearly destroyed a hundred-year-old tree in the campus's Allen Centennial Gardens. The tree, known as the Goff Larch, had been transported there from Door County, Wisconsin, by horticulture professor Emmett Goff in 1899. A heavy April snow snapped limbs off the tree, and university officials at first assumed it was a total loss. But Dennis Stimart, the current chair of the horticulture department and director of the gardens, says the damage isn't fatal. The broken branches have been turned over to research associate Bjorn Karlsson, who salvages historic trees to turn them into custom furniture.

## Stiff Stuff

Everyone knows diamond is the hardest material around. But it's also the stiffest, meaning that its rigid structure resists bending and stretching. Although such structures as airplanes, buildings, and even golf clubs benefit from stiff material, diamond is simply too expensive to use in these applications.

Now UW researchers may have found a way to trump the gemstone. Using a unique combination of barium titanate and tin, they have made the first known material that's stiffer than a diamond.

Diamonds get their stiffness and stability from their dense, extremely tight atomic bonds. The researchers' new composite, however, is created with ordinary materials held together in an extraordinary way, according to **Roderic Lakes**, a professor of engineering physics. "We're using a material now that's chosen for having the ability to change volume during phase transformation,"

he says. "The material we chose — barium titanate — goes from one solid to another solid."

Barium titanate is an oxide of barium and titanium that forms in four different crystalline structures at different temperatures. But embed bits of it in a tin matrix, and the shift from one crystal formation to another is held back, creating stored energy. As a result, the composite is stiffer than either of the constituent materials — ten times as stiff as diamond.

Potential commercial uses are still far down the road, however, chiefly because the new composite exhibits its stiffness only at certain temperatures. "The temperature at which this material works is like a hot day in Libya," Lakes says. "So it's like 65 degrees Celsius, and a hot day in New York is 40 Celsius. It's a higher temperature than is convenient. We think we can tune that, but that's in the future."

— Staff

A Wisconsin **autism study** has found that five out of every 1,000 children born in the state since 1994 display symptoms of autism. The Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System is part of a national study overseen by the Centers for Disease Control, which has found that the incidence of autism has increased dramatically during the last fifteen years. UW-Madison's Waisman Center for the Study of Human Development surveyed 35,126 children for the study.

In February, a team of UW accounting students won the national **xTax Campus Competition** in Washington, D.C. The team's winning effort was a presentation that offered a fictional island country ideas on how to change its tax policies. The victory earned the students \$15,000 and the Alexander Hamilton Award.

History professor **Ned Blackhawk**'s new book, *Violence of the Land: Indians and Empires of the Early American West*, has won him the prestigious Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians. The book chronicles the role of violence in shaping the development of the United States. The award, which was named for a famed UW historian, carries a \$1,000 prize.

The UW's Center for Real Estate has been renamed in honor of the late Professor **James A. Graaskamp**, a legendary figure in the field of real estate education. The center was founded in 1971, but it didn't come into its own until Graaskamp joined the faculty in 1974. He redesigned the curriculum, turning the program into a model for business schools around the country.







# COUNTRY As Africa's AIDS epidemic rages, Ernest Darkoh uses his skills in medicine, public health, and business to improve treatment protocols for entire nations. DOCTOR

BY MARY MAKARUSHKA MA'06

## In South Africa,

late January is the height of summer. Here, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, the Indian Ocean rolls along the coast in waves as warm as bathwater. From the airport outside the powerful port city of Durban, a highway, sleek and smooth, runs from one resort town to the next. Behind high walls and security gates, oceanfront bed-and-breakfasts nestle in lush tropical landscaping.

On the hills beside the highway, fields of frondy sugar cane wave like silvery cornstalks. The homes of the cane farmers and sugar factory workers dot the slopes as well: clusters of small, single-story buildings on plots of red soil. Some of the buildings are round, with conical roofs, in a traditional Zulu style.

Some of the buildings are outhouses, as many homes lack indoor plumbing. In

this largely rural state, there is very little public transportation to the towns and factories. The bed of a passing pickup truck carries a dozen men. I see others walking on the shoulder of the highway, just feet from the speeding cars. In the hospital emergency rooms, a local doctor says, the two biggest categories of motor vehicle injuries he sees are people who have been hit alongside the highway, and the people in the cars that hit them.

This province, the size of Florida, is home to 9 million of South Africa's 47 million people. Running westward from the ocean to the country's highest mountain range, it's a playground for beachgoers, rock climbers, mountain bikers, and kayakers. But despite the tourism, most people struggle to get by day to day, unemployment rates range from 33 percent to as much as 74 percent, and malnutrition is so widespread

While doing a hospital assessment in Ethiopia in 2005, Ernest Darkoh listens to a patient's story of her illness and discusses possible options with the medical team.

that more than a quarter of the children are undersized. KwaZulu-Natal has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS among South Africa's nine provinces, and the lowest life expectancy — fifty-two years — according to the most recent National Burden of Disease Study.

I've come here to meet Ernest Darkoh '93, who in 2003 co-founded BroadReach Healthcare, a company that's working in South Africa to help the government get as many AIDS patients as possible onto antiretroviral (ARV) drugs as quickly as possible. After earning an MD and an MPH from Harvard and an MBA from Oxford, Darkoh traded his stethoscope for a spreadsheet and set out to become a doctor of health care rather than of individual patients.

In medical school, he says, "I realized that I'm a big-picture person. I felt like if I have one loop around the block in this life, I wanted to change *systems*. I wanted to go in and fix things on a national level." And he knew he especially wanted to do it in Africa, where he grew up. Working in these environments, "where there is so little," he says, "allows you to do so much."

South Africa has an estimated 5.5 million HIV-positive citizens, more than any other country in Africa, and second only to India worldwide. As many as 1,500 new infections occur per day, and nearly 1,000 people die from AIDS every twenty-four hours. While the government has, over the years, faced international criticism for remarks that seemed to deny the severity of the crisis, in August 2003, the cabinet authorized a national antiretroviral treatment plan, projected to cost billions of dollars. Since 2004, 200,000 people have been enrolled in ARV therapy, a figure activists and critics denounce as too few and too slow. Nevertheless, Darkoh points out, South Africa's is "the largest, fastest rollout to date" of any country in the history of the epidemic.

And Darkoh should know. He played a key role when neighboring Botswana attempted a similar feat just a few years

earlier. When Botswana's president, Festus Mogae, announced in 2001 that his nation would become the first African country to attempt a national ARV treatment plan, many dismissed the effort

**"I realized that I'm a big-picture person. I felt like if I have one loop around the block in this life, I wanted to change systems. I wanted to go in and fix things on a national level." Working in these environments, "where there is so little, allows you to do so much."**

as doomed from the start: ARVs were considered too complicated for African countries to handle and too expensive to waste. African countries would do better to concentrate their scarce resources on education and prevention, the critics said.

With revenues from three of the largest diamond mines in the world, Botswana could afford to buy the medicines, but it didn't have nearly enough doctors, nurses, clinics, laboratories, or anything else to begin treating tens of thousands of sick people with a complex, lifelong drug regimen that could have dangerous side effects.

So in 2000, Botswana joined with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Merck Company Foundation to form the Africa Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnership (ACHAP). Botswana committed \$100 million, paying 70 percent of the cost of treatment; meanwhile, each foundation pledged \$50 million to help scale up the health care infrastructure.

As operations manager, ACHAP selected Darkoh, then only thirty-one and a freshly minted MBA. He worked from within the Ministry of Health on a multitude of tasks, large and small. Since Botswana had no medical school, he recruited and trained foreign doctors.

He ordered drugs, then scrounged up refrigerators to keep them in, and he designed a data management system for patient records and secured computers to track them on. He met with village chiefs and traditional healers to seek their participation in the national program. At all kinds of social events, from soccer matches to funerals, he found himself persuading people to learn their HIV status, sometimes walking them over to the testing and counseling center himself.

For the first year, 2002, the government set a target of reaching 19,000 patients; the program managed to enroll 3,200. But by 2005, when Darkoh left Botswana, 64,000, or more than 50 percent of qualified people, were receiving treatment; 1,000 more were being enrolled every month. Maternal transmission was way down, and the numbers suggested the rate of new infections was slowing as well.

Botswana had not only proved that African countries were up to the challenge of delivering ARVs on a large scale; in facing down a deadly disease, the country had expanded and strengthened its physical, political, and social health care infrastructure in ways that would promote wellness beyond the threat of HIV. In 2004, Darkoh recalls, when Botswana experienced its first case of polio in thirteen years, the country mobilized and tested every child in the country within a two-week period.

In a way, having no available therapies for HIV-positive patients would be less complicated for doctors. Putting them on antiretroviral treatment "is actually more responsibility," says Sibu Lubelwana, a general practitioner in a rural area of KwaZulu-Natal. "You have to look out for side effects. You have to look out for opportunistic infections. You have to make sure that the patient is actually taking the treatment and taking it correctly."

Lubelwana is in private practice, but as part of a BroadReach initiative, she has put ninety-two new, uninsured patients on ARVs. Only 7 million South Africans have private health insurance,



leaving thousands of private physicians with fewer patients than they could handle. In partnership with Aid for AIDS, a Cape Town-based non-governmental organization (NGO), BroadReach has tapped this “excess capacity” in the private system by matching interested doctors with patients who might not survive the long wait for treatment in the overburdened public hospitals.

BroadReach is currently maintaining nine hundred people on treatment under this plan, which it refers to as its

“comprehensive” approach. A grant from PEPFAR, the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, pays for the drugs, the patient’s adherence training, the doctor’s fees, the labwork, and the detailed data capture and monitoring. The idea is that once the public system expands sufficiently to accommodate them, these patients will move back onto the government’s system. BroadReach oversees another five hundred “down-referred” patients, meaning those who began ARVs in public hospitals and who

are now receiving continuing care from private health care providers, acting like mini satellite clinics.

But BroadReach’s main focus these days is consulting on “capacity building,” as Darkoh’s team is doing here in KwaZulu-Natal. At the request of local officials, they’re doing assessments of the area’s public hospitals and clinics to propose ways they can enroll more patients on ARVs. Over a period of days, the team fans out through one hospital, doing interviews and collecting data—not

## STANDING UP TO THE STIGMA

After Gugu Tsotetsi first tested positive for HIV in 2005, she started drinking muti, or traditional medicine, in hopes of a cure. Today, she is on 3TC, Zerit, and Stocrin instead, she says, listing her antiretroviral medications. She takes four pills every morning and three every night, without fail. Living with her watchful mother and three younger sisters, she says cheerfully, it’s impossible to forget her regimen; even her four-year-old son likes to remind his mom to take her pills.

Tsotetsi, twenty-six, is a patient of Sibu Lubelwana’s, a private physician who has agreed to take on uninsured AIDS patients. When Tsotetsi started on treatment through BroadReach’s “comprehensive” plan in January 2006, she weighed only ninety-two pounds and her CD4 count (a measure of her immune system’s strength) was 153. A normal count ranges from 500 to 1,500. It took all the young mother’s strength to hike the long, hilly road in the summer heat for three days in a row to attend the pre-treatment training, but it was worth the effort, she says: “I was happy, because I knew that I would find some help and go on with life.” Today, her CD4 is 345, and her health is generally good, although she has uncomfortable side effects, including itching in her fingers and toes, and swelling and tenderness in her breasts and belly.

Tsotetsi had tested negative when her son was born, but two years later, when she had thrush and her glands were swollen, her sister Thandy, a woman as outspoken as Gugu is shy, urged her to get tested again. Tsotetsi wasn’t surprised at the results. She was young, she was a woman, and she had been sexually active. By the time she discovered her status, she had seen enough neighbors die to know that



**Antiretroviral treatment has given Gugu Tsotetsi a second chance at life.**

where she lived, those risk factors often spelled a death sentence.

Living in an area where the stigma of AIDS is almost as feared as the effects of the disease itself, Tsotetsi says she could sense the neighbors whispering about her: “She’s got AIDS. She’s going to die soon. She’s already so small.” Many people in this area still think AIDS is the result of being bewitched, says Thandy, twenty-four, in frustration. Both sisters know of neighbors who died before they could be treated, or who are currently on ARV therapy but who are hiding their HIV status—and their pills—from their families.

Now that ARV therapy is becoming available, Lubelwana says, the stigma associated with AIDS is gradually eroding. Many more people are volunteering to be tested than in the past, when it was very hard to

persuade anyone to learn their status.

Lubelwana enrolled in the BroadReach program in part, she says, because it was working in areas like hers that were underserved in terms of public facilities that could dispense ARVs. “Having BroadReach helps us access treatment for patients quicker than they would have,” she says. “Now it’s becoming better, actually, at the public hospital. But back when we started, things were just not working out at all. So it helped in terms of getting people back to life.”

Now when the neighbors look at her, Tsotetsi imagines they’re whispering about how plump she’s getting, and perhaps noticing that her willingness to face her disease has saved her life. Without treatment, she says, “maybe I would be buried a long time ago. So I’m like a role model to all.”

— M.M.

only in the ARV clinic itself but also in the interrelated departments: pharmacy, outpatient, maternity, pediatrics, the laboratory, the TB clinic, and the clinics in outlying rural areas.

Back in their rooms, they compare observations and crunch numbers long into the night. Where are the bottlenecks and obstacles? What's working particularly well in one place that others might want to emulate if they knew about it? In addition to making recommendations, BroadReach can provide staff who can implement their changes. When setting up a computerized patient database, for instance, they brought their own clerks to key in a backlog of data.

This work, too, is funded by the PEPFAR grant — \$5.7 million this year and a projected \$13 million for programs next year. The South African government pays for its own ARVs, and its budget supports the hospitals. But the epidemic is so large, such a strain on the health care system, and growing so fast, that the country needs the additional funds and expertise if it's to have a fighting chance to catch up.

Though the temperature long since topped 90 and the air is wet and sticky, Darkoh remains as crisp as if he'd dressed just minutes ago. His style is more *GQ* than *ER* — dark grey trousers, an incandescent white shirt, subtle cufflinks, no tie — every detail carefully chosen and of high quality, but nothing that calls attention to his personal flair rather than to the work at hand. His voice is similarly understated, with a timbre reminiscent of Sidney Poitier's. But his laugh is still the big, rich, unmistakable sound that always tipped off Darkoh's undergraduate adviser, biochemistry professor David L. Nelson, that Ernest was working in the lab.

The name Ernest suits him well — everyone I talk to emphasizes his sincerity, his focus, what a good listener he is. "One of Ernest's gifts is that he's such an intuitive person," says John Sargent, Darkoh's best friend since medical school and a cofounder of BroadReach. "He can

really read people, and he can address their concerns. He's phenomenal at that." In college, Darkoh says, people he'd just met would often confide their troubles to him on the bus, even literally crying on his shoulder on the short trip from Sellery Hall to class. As a leader, Darkoh believes in staying as low-profile as pos-

**"We need our best minds working on the world's biggest problems," Darkoh says. "I can't get away from the numbers. If we're going to treat 40 million people [with AIDS worldwide], what's it going to take?"**

sible: "If I've really done my job well, ideally people should feel [that an innovation] was their idea," he says, "and within a year or two, no one should remember that I actually was there."

Nonetheless, his work is gaining recognition. In 2005, Darkoh was featured in the series *Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge* on PBS, and he was selected as one of eighteen Global Health Heroes by *TIME* magazine. The following year the World Economic Forum named him a Young Global Leader. At thirty-seven, Darkoh has spent roughly half his years in the U.S. and half in Africa. He was born in Madison in 1970, the second son of two graduate students, Michael B.K. Darkoh PhD'71 and Cecilia Darkoh. His parents are both Ghanaian; his passport and diplomas all bear his full surname, Darkoh-Ampem, denoting the traditional role his father's family played in helping to select village leaders.

Following the peripatetic life of a university professor, the family moved from Madison to Nebraska to California. It was on to Tanzania when Ernest was four, then to Kenya when he was eleven. At home, he remembers, his mom and dad talked to each other in Twi, a Ghanaian language, but conversed with their four children in English. Meanwhile, Ernest

and his brothers and sister spoke to each other in Swahili, the national language of both Kenya and Tanzania. It was an upbringing that gave him an ear for different ways of communicating and an eye for different customs and priorities. "I never really had a 'home' country, so I was always sort of like a foreigner," he says, citing it as a source of strength in his current work. His accent, speaking cadence, and vocabulary will still shift today, he says, depending on where he's living and traveling.

It also gave him a deep attachment to Africa, as well as a profound desire to use his talents there. He came to this work well aware of the continent's pros and cons — of the daily electric shock of poverty juxtaposed with dazzling plenty, of the privations and frustrations, of the boundless potential and the personal warmth and goodwill.

Throughout my stay in South Africa, I keep encountering gracious sentiments like a sign at a clinic with an overflowing waiting room. "Please be aware that you may have to wait for two to three hours for attention because we are short-staffed," it warned pragmatically, before adding a note of cheerful civility: "But be assured we will attend to you as fast as we can, with caring and dignity."

In the outpatient clinic, the BroadReach team finds that the waiting rooms are crowded with patients who have high blood pressure or diabetes, and often HIV as well. In the men's ward, there are thirty-eight beds and forty-two patients with a mixture of tuberculosis and HIV. At least 80 percent of the children in the pediatrics ward are infected; they may come in with kwashiorkor or meningitis, but they die of AIDS.

The days are long, the numbers grim, but the work is leavened by meetings with the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health care professionals whose dedication and ingenuity have made it possible for this district to enroll 5,500





Right now, we're living in a world where it's easier to get soft drinks and junk food to people than lifesaving medicines, says Darkoh (shown in Makele, Ethiopia).

people in treatment in the last year, 34 percent above its target of 4,000.

But that success means that now the clinic's resources are stretched so thin that one doctor is seeing fifty patients a day and has no time to train additional doctors or nurses; the pharmacy is dispensing to so many patients that it can accept only two new ones per day; and the lab is so backed up that results that should take days now take weeks. What, then, should the target be for this year's enrollments? And what if the estimates for the district, based on population and prevalence rates, are that 30,000 additional people already have CD4 counts (a measure of immune system strength) below 200, low enough to qualify them for therapy? How can the clinic possibly expand to absorb so many more people?

Ultimately, the challenge of capacity building, Darkoh says, is not for these hospitals to try to conjure all the

resources necessary to fit a treatment model that was developed in the United States and Europe — countries with far more specialized health care personnel per capita and a much smaller HIV/AIDS caseload. It's to develop high-quality, scalable models that are appropriate to their own resources and populations.

"We'd see a different health care model in the U.S. as well," he notes, "if it had a communicable disease with a 40 percent prevalence." You can't just hire dozens of pharmacists. You can't make doctors and nurses appear out of thin air. Even if you had no staffing problem, there isn't enough public transportation to bring so many people from the outlying areas back and forth to the hospitals, much less additional buildings for consultation rooms or even storage space for so many drugs.

But maybe stable patients with no side effects don't need to follow up at

a hospital every month, as the current model prescribes. Maybe they can go longer between visits, or maybe nurses can do follow-up care.

Perhaps, rather than trying to transport all the patients to the pharmacies, the medications could get to far-flung patients via a delivery service. In fact, maybe patients could one day collect their ongoing prescriptions from automated kiosks, like getting cash from an ATM.

"We need our best minds working on the world's biggest problems," Darkoh says. "I can't get away from the numbers. If we're going to treat 40 million people [with AIDS worldwide], what's it going to take?"

**Under the Kenyan educational** system, Darkoh could have applied to medical school right after high school. Instead, he returned to Madison, though



he'd left Wisconsin when he was too young to remember it and didn't feel particularly connected to it. There, in his first semester, the track team sent him for a physical at the University Avenue clinic. When asked whether he'd been a patient there before, he replied no, never, he'd just moved to town. After keeping him waiting for a long time, he says, a staff member appeared with a file and asked, "Is this you?" There, in a folder almost twenty years old, was the imprint of his newborn feet, along with his earliest medical records. "That just boggled my mind!" he exclaims delightedly. "That's such good record keeping!"

Unable to limit his curiosity to a single subject, Darkoh says, he ended up triple-majoring, in chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology. "He was just an amazingly solid guy," says Nelson of his former advisee — a superlative student, "but not a drudge." Darkoh sang briefly in a band and was a deejay at the student radio station, exercising a love of music that's expressed these days largely through his collection of five thousand CDs. The one thing he wouldn't let himself do was study business, feeling it was too much of a detour from the science track he was on. But he was fascinated by his friends' courses and would pester them to talk about things like how the stock market worked until they told him to shut up and take the classes himself, if he was so interested.

"The quality of people who come out of Wisconsin is amazing," Darkoh says, though he complains that the school's excellence is not well enough understood outside the state. "It's one of the hardest degrees I've ever done," he adds. "I mean, it was really tough." In chemistry, for instance, "What we were doing in undergrad other people weren't doing until grad school — I found out later, to my horror," he laughs.

But besides the winters, which he found "worse and worse each year," there was another chill over his years at the UW. It wasn't an easy place to be a student of color. "It was very isolating and alienating," he says. "I had people cross the street when I was walking toward

them, or grab their child's arm harder or not get on an elevator with me."

Perhaps most disheartening were the anti-affirmative action sentiments he encountered repeatedly in the student

Since BroadReach began,  
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customs stamps that he's on  
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set of luggage.

newspapers. "It's unsettling to your overall psyche and peace of mind every day to be consistently bombarded with these messages of how black students don't deserve to be there, [that] they're only getting in because of affirmative action," he recalls. "To me, it's a form of mental cruelty. And it made it very tough for people from ethnic minority groups to actually just have a good experience through what should be some of the best years of your life."

By his third year at Harvard Medical School, Darkoh recalls, "a lot of things didn't feel right" about the direction he was heading. He was on the cutting edge of medical training, with access to the very latest treatments and technologies. But he felt at odds with a health care system that could lavish resources on a single patient to delay the end of a long life, while in Roxbury, the very neighborhood surrounding the medical school, children were going without immunizations.

After his first year at Harvard, he had spent the summer in Kenya, using his Swahili to do interviews for an independent research project on HIV transmission in Kenyan youth. He was certain that he wanted to work in a developing country after graduation. But with a

now titanic student-loan debt, he feared he wouldn't be able to afford to live and work in Africa again until he'd spent decades paying off the loan as a physician in the United States.

His solution was to gain even broader credentials. With only a year of medical school left to go, Darkoh took two years off. First, he went across the street, to the Harvard School of Public Health. "It was such an amazing year, doing the MPH," he says happily. In the discussions of global health and the public health philosophy of searching for the "upstream causes" of disease in populations, Darkoh found the program to be "exactly where my heart was." He noticed, however, that most class discussions of interventions and solutions seemed to end mournfully with the words: "If only there were enough money ..." What if that weren't the obstacle to large-scale public health interventions, Darkoh wondered. What if someone gave me \$10 billion to start a clinic or help a country? he asked himself. Would I even know where to begin?

For year two of his hiatus, he went to Oxford on a Fulbright scholarship and earned an MBA at the Saïd Business School. He indulged in all the concepts he'd denied himself as an undergrad while earning a credential that could help him pay off those weighty student loans.

In 2000, after finishing his third advanced degree, he was hired by the management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. He got an apartment in New York City and gladly began to practice his B-school lessons on the company's many corporate clients. Then in mid-2001, ACHAP asked McKinsey to do an assessment and strategy for a national ARV rollout in Botswana. Six months later, when the project began, Darkoh was hired as operations manager.

As Botswana's program grew stronger and more widely publicized, Darkoh started getting inquiries from other countries and agencies about programs they wanted to initiate. He called his friend John Sargent and said that this was their chance to try all the things they

used to talk about in medical school, to get into public health and try to do it differently.

At the time, Sargent was working at the Advisory Group, a Washington, D.C., health care consulting firm. Along with Jeff Butler, Sargent's Advisory Group colleague, they formed BroadReach, taking the name from their ambitious vision for remaking health care, as well as from a term for the sail angle that catches the wind most efficiently.

Today South Africa is only one of the places BroadReach is working. The company has also been hired by other devel-

oping countries to strategize and execute upgrades to their health care systems, as well as to consult for various foundations and agencies. It helped develop the treatment section of China's proposal to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. It's done project management training in Ethiopia, telemedicine consulting in the Caribbean, and quality assurance design in Vietnam; and its capacity-building projects target malaria and avian influenza as well as HIV/AIDS. BroadReach's diverse list of partners and clients includes the World Health

Organization, DaimlerChrysler, and Willow Creek Church.

The fast-growing firm is on track to double its revenues in the coming year, from \$5 million to \$10 million. It should also double its employees, currently at thirty worldwide. And it's opening a third office this year, in Johannesburg, in addition to the ones already in Cape Town and Washington, D.C.

Since BroadReach began, Darkoh's collected so many customs stamps that he's on his third passport, and he's had his

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## MAKING A FOR-PROFIT STATEMENT

BroadReach Healthcare is a private, for-profit company, not a charitable foundation or an NGO — a circumstance that Darkoh says has gotten him the cold shoulder at conferences more than once.

"Many people hear the word profit and automatically feel it's a bad thing," Darkoh says. "I was at a big meeting full of philanthropy and NGO leaders, and halfway through introducing myself, people would ask, 'Are you for-profit or not-for-profit?'" "When he answered for-profit, some people visibly lost interest in speaking with him and moved to the next person.

There's a common misperception that being profitable is the same as being greedy. Studies show that Americans are more distrustful of business in this post-Enron era than at any time in history, says Tom Eggert '81, MA '95, who teaches about corporate responsibility at the UW School of Business. But for-profits can be just as values-oriented as not-for-profits, he says.

In fact, knowing whether an organization is for-profit or not-for-profit won't actually tell you whether it's good or evil, effective or ineffective, says Rodney Stevenson, a professor in the School of Business; it will only tell you what tax laws apply.

"It is too much of a broad brush to say that NGOs are only for doing good and for-profits are only for making money," says Stevenson, who specializes in business ethics. "The two most important things I look at," he says, "are what is the intent — what is in the heart of those who are leading it? And secondly, are they getting the job done?"

Darkoh says that he and co-founders John Sargent and Jeff Butler deliberately set up BroadReach the way they did because "we are rabidly results oriented." They believe the same principles and practices, the same leadership and tactical problem-solving and accountability that make Fortune 500 companies profitable are exactly what's needed to make

public health interventions successful in developing countries. As a partner in a for-profit company, Darkoh says, "If you don't deliver the thing you said you'd deliver, you may not make a salary that year."

In this, BroadReach is part of a larger trend in international development, says Stevenson, a trend in which socially responsible companies and public-private partnerships join aid agencies in delivering programs in developing countries, and donor money functions more like venture capital than as a handout.

The Acumen Fund, for instance, is a not-for-profit global venture fund based on Wall Street that raises money from philanthropic donations and invests it in for-profit and not-for-profit organizations that serve the poor.

Acumen has invested \$1.2 million in BroadReach. If it earns its money back or receives a profit, all those funds will be reinvested into other Acumen projects for the poor, says the fund's chief investment officer, Brian Trelstad.

"Ernest and John and Jeff are as strong a team as we've backed," he adds. Trelstad cites the team's innovative approach in South Africa, in recognizing the untapped potential of private physicians, as the type of sustainable project Acumen likes to support. Moreover, he says, the BroadReach partners have a mix of persistence, empathy, pragmatism, and vision that he believes makes them especially well suited to their work. He adds that these are "three very optimistic guys in a situation where it's very easy to be pessimistic."

Darkoh would like to see the world's best business minds working on the world's most critical human development issues, even if that means paying them salaries that can lure them away from investment banking. "The person who is being called in right now to solve problems at the most successful corporation in the world is who we need solving these problems," he says. — M.M.



## Doctor

Continued from page 25

checked bags forced open by would-be thieves so often that he's on his eighth set of luggage. He describes seeing a local news story that showed organized theft rings at the Johannesburg airport rifling through the contents of half a dozen bags at once. "That explains that time I ended up with someone else's underwear," he says wryly.

Between November and early February, Darkoh traveled to Rwanda, Kenya, the United States, Mozambique, and Ghana, as well as back and forth several times between Johannesburg and the project in KwaZulu-Natal, five hundred miles away. And this is a light schedule, he tells me. For a few years, he was on the road so much that he didn't even keep an apartment in any city. But he's cut back his travel and made Johannesburg his home since last spring, when he became a father.

When he does assessments, Darkoh often concludes his interviews by asking, "If I had a magic wand, what

are the three things you would most want me to change in order to make your job manageable?"

On our last day together, I turn Darkoh's signature question back on him. "If you had a magic wand," I ask, "what three things would you most want to change in the fight against HIV, the global fight?"

I'm guessing he'll say widespread testing, maybe universal safe-sex education and condoms, and probably ARV therapy for all who need it, including the next generation of newborns.

But Ernest Darkoh, "the big-picture guy," is apparently not about to squander even a hypothetical on goals that could be achieved with lesser, non-magical tools. If public health is focused on "upstream" causes of health problems, Darkoh's headed for the very source of the Nile.

First, he says, "People must have jobs. People must be able to generate livelihoods for themselves, beyond just a sort of scratch-by subsistence." Second, women have to become equal with men on safety, education, nutrition, and every

other aspect of society. "We have to eliminate — aggressively and maniacally — eliminate gender inequality," he says. "Because it is so much at the root of a lot of — forget about even HIV — a lot of what's wrong with the world."

And finally, "I would build a health care model around wellness as opposed to a model that addresses disease purely reactively." Put the focus on keeping the population healthy rather than chasing after sickness and injury. But after a few minutes, he asks to change his third wish.

"People must be held solidly accountable for results for the funding that they receive," he says, whether a program is run by a government agency, an NGO, or a for-profit company. "If you told me [you're helping] two orphans, I want to see two orphans. If you told me it was a hundred, I want to see a hundred. And let's be able to *enforce* that. I think we'd see the world change." 🌿

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Mary Makarushka MA'06 has written for *On Wisconsin* about aftereffects of Chernobyl and about post-Katrina New Orleans.



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# KAPPA Komeback

*By John Allen*

*Photography by Jeff Miller*

**Kaned and Able:** New members of Kappa Alpha Psi perform a step routine as part of a probate show in April. The ceremony is the culmination of their intake process, known as "crossing the burning sands" in fraternity jargon. These three members (from left, Harper Donahue IV '03, Yalon Venters JDx'08, and Gontorwon Borh '05, JDx'08) are all joining the alumni chapter. The Kappas won't take any new undergrads until fall.





**Alpha Male:** At right, Leonard Taylor, Jr. x'08, of Alpha Phi Alpha, celebrates the renewal of his fraternity on campus. The Alphas are the largest African-American Greek-letter group at UW-Madison, and in March, they inducted several new undergrad members. Afterward, the fraternity hosted a dance at the Memorial Union. Like most black Greek events, it was alcohol free and open to the entire campus community.





*Far from the rushing crowds of Langdon Street, there's another Greek community — one devoted to supporting the UW's students of color. These groups are undergoing a revival, capped by the return of Kappa Alpha Psi — but will they be able to make a permanent home on campus?*

If you stand on the corner of Lake and Langdon Streets and walk eastward, you can take the Madison Tour of Architectural Incongruity. Scattered among the apartment buildings is a series of mansions created in a mishmash of styles: Neo-Federal, Art Deco, Neo-Gothic, Mock Tudor — virtually every building scheme that's been resuscitated in the last hundred years is represented there. In middle-class, Midwestern Madison, these affectations are as out of place as the Greek letters that hang from each of the houses: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Delta Delta Delta, Sigma Chi, Alpha Chi Omega. Virtually none of the residents has a single allele of Greek ethnicity. And besides, the letters don't spell anything.



**Law of the Letter:** When a Kappa wears his letters, it's not just a statement of organizational pride, but also of approval. Fraternity members won't wear them to any event that does not meet the group's standard of conduct.

But such is Langdon Street — some twenty fraternities and sororities have houses there, and eight more are located within a couple of blocks north or south. And it's exactly where Rodney Lynk x'08 hopes to be.

"That's one of our goals," says the president of the UW-Madison undergraduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. "Can you just see us there, with a house on Langdon?"

It would be an impressive move. For one thing, Kappa Alpha Psi currently has only three undergraduate members: Lynk, Aaron Day x'08, and Jeremiah Jackson '07, all of whom joined (or "crossed the burning sands," in the fraternity's parlance) in November 2006. That hardly rates a two-bedroom apartment, let alone pricey Isthmus real estate. For another, the Kappas are one of UW-Madison's historically African-American Greek-letter organizations. None of them has — or has ever had — a house.

It isn't the architectural frippery of Langdon Street's mansions that Lynk is after, nor even the housing arrangement that is central to the popular notion of fraternity and sorority living. What he wants, rather, is what those buildings represent: permanence. Each Greek house is a physical statement that its organization is part of UW-Madison's past, its present, and its future.

Of the UW's thirty-three mainline fraternities and sororities, thirty-one have houses, and together they have nearly three thousand members, about a tenth of the undergraduate population. This year marked a century and a

half of Greek presence on campus. Their activities — from rush and Homecoming floats in the fall to Greek Week in the spring — are well known.

The historically African-American Greek-letter organizations, on the other hand, often seem invisible to the campus at large. The eight groups have a grand total of thirty-five members. That's about three times as many as they had five years ago, but still, it's few enough that many of the organizations could be wiped out in just a couple of graduations. The university's African-American Greeks maintain that they have an important role in nurturing black culture on campus, but permanence has always been just outside their grasp.

**K**appa Alpha Psi may not have a house, but it does have an official home on campus, and it's even got a Langdon Street address: 716 Langdon, the Red Gym, in Room 239. But this isn't in the same neighborhood — physically or metaphorically — as the mainline fraternities and sororities.

In modern architectural parlance, Room 239 is a cube farm. It's a vast, open area divided into sections by low, fabric walls. It's the location of the university's Student Organization Office, meaning that it's home to all those registered student organizations that have no home of their own.

The Kappas share space there with the university's seven other historically African-American fraternities and sororities, as well as the four sororities and one fraternity of the Multicultural Greek Council — organizations dedicated to serving Latinos, Latinas, and Native Americans. Room 239 doesn't offer much privacy, and you won't often find any Kappas there.

If Kappa Alpha Psi has a true home on campus, it's not a place but an assemblage: its members are home when they're with each other. Though they have no house and live in different neighborhoods, they still manage to see each other almost daily, between classes, for a meal, or in the evening, to plan or celebrate success or offer support.



**Showdown:** Does popular culture portray African-American Greek life accurately? During Black Greek Week in March, fraternity and sorority members — including former NPHC adviser Beverly Hutcherson MSx'08 — discussed the myths surrounding their organizations after a viewing of the film *Stomp the Yard*. As the groups don't recruit, events such as this present vital opportunities to reach out to potential members.

"I really do feel that they're my brothers," says Aaron Day. "I don't know where I'd be without them."

This support system may be the greatest value that the black Greek organizations bring to UW-Madison. Almost every week, one or another of the groups hosts a social activity — parties, or a speed-dating night, or a soul-food dinner. These socials are generally open to everyone, and almost all of them are alcohol free.

"The social outlets cut to the fabric of what it means to be a student of color," says Turika Pulliam x'08 of Delta Sigma Theta, a historically African-American sorority. "Without them, you could go whole weeks and have a hard time finding faces that look like yours."

Elton Crim, the UW's interim associate dean of students, knows this well. He became a Kappa when he was an undergrad at Chicago's DePaul University and drew on his fraternity for support while at predominantly white Penn State, where he was a grad student. Now, though he's an administrator at UW-Madison, he still feels how much these

social events add to the overall campus environment.

"Quantifiably, Madison is a hard place for a person of color to act at home in," he says. "Especially in the undergraduate environment, it's hard to feel whole. It takes a significant level of assimilation to be comfortable. I've lived here for ten years, and it's still difficult for me to feel entirely at home."

Crim sees the ways that traditionally African-American fraternities' and sororities' activities can ease the sense of cultural alienation for black students at UW-Madison. For members, the organizations open up connections with alumni brothers and sisters on the faculty and staff, who may offer mentorship and advice. And for members and non-members alike, the groups' social activities create pockets on campus in which, for a short while, at least, African-American culture is the norm.

"You can't understand the void that fills in a student's life," Crim says. "All majority students can make themselves feel whole with enthusiasm, at sports events or parties or just about anywhere.





**Sign Language:** Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (top) flash their hand sign during a party in March. Although this party was hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Deltas announced their presence with their hand sign and a party line, a bit of quick choreography designed to show sorority solidarity.

**Kount Off:** The three newest members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (below, in white) are welcomed into the organization after their probate show. Those who cross at the same time are called a line, and they wear line unity on their sleeves — literally. Their new jackets list the date of crossing, the line's motto, and each new member's numbered place within the line. "Kandid" is Gontorwon Borh.







**Helping Hand:** Fraternity and sorority members maintain that a commitment to service lies at the heart of their organizations. In April, the Kappas (from left, Jeremiah Jackson, Aaron Day, and Rodney Lynk) worked to promote awareness on issues such as sickle cell anemia and men's health, and through much of the semester, they mentored children at Leopold Elementary School on Madison's south side.

Through their social and cultural activities, the Divine Nine — the black fraternities and sororities — help create a cultural milieu in which students of color can be themselves without feeling foreign.”

**T**he term *Divine Nine* is the colloquial name for the nation's premier Greek organizations for African-American college students. They include sororities Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, and Sigma Gamma Rho, and fraternities Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, and Iota Phi Theta, the last of which doesn't have a chapter at the UW. Both on campus and nationally, they're under an umbrella group called the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

To simply call the Divine Nine “black Greek” organizations is misleading — as

much so as calling the mainline Greek-letter organizations “white fraternities and sororities.” No student organization at the UW is allowed to set racial restrictions on membership. Indeed, the Kappas happily proclaim their long-standing opposition to discrimination. “It is a fact of which Kappa Alpha Psi is justly proud,” the organization's history states, “that the Constitution has never contained any clause which either excluded or suggested the exclusion of a man from membership merely because of his color, creed, or national origin.”

Still, the NPHC notes that its member organizations have “a distinctive African-American style in both their social and philanthropic activities.”

The social activities are the easiest to spot. At parties, the groups may do “strolls” or “party lines,” bits of disciplined choreography meant to show each

organization's unity and pride. And there are the step shows — the elaborate and competitive rhythm, chant, and dance routines that were highlighted in the recent film *Stomp the Yard*.

Each organization has its individual displays — letters, of course, on T-shirts, hats, jackets, and other paraphernalia; colors; calls; and hand signs. Kappas wear crimson and cream, their call is “yo, yo!” and their hand sign has the thumb and forefinger together with the other three fingers out straight, kind of like an *okays* signal.

They also make widespread use of the letter *K*. Rodney Lynk's jacket, for instance, sports his nickname: “Kase in Point.” Day's is “Kasual,” and Jackson's is “Konfidential.” The catchword they adopted when they crossed together and re-established the fraternity was “K.O.M.E.B.A.C.K.”



**Age by Age:** Elton Crim brought his children John and Danielle to a Kappa meeting in March. Like all African-American Greek-letter organizations, the Kappas put a strong emphasis on intergenerational commitment, and the meetings give undergraduate members a chance to interact with alumni. The weight of history and the debt to the future can be found in the reverence that members have for their predecessors. Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, for instance, honors its “seven jewels,” the original members who founded the group at Cornell University in 1906.



Probably the most recognizable symbol for Kappa Alpha Psi, however, is the Kappa Kane, a candy-striped walking stick that they twirl in their step routines.

It would be a mistake, however, to dismiss the group as a mere social club, a mix of parties and puns.

“The people you hang around with are an expression of who you are,” says Day. “And so I want to surround myself with people I see myself in. Kappa Alpha Psi’s motto is ‘achievement in every field of human endeavor,’ and that’s what I want — success and achievement, for myself, for my fraternity, and for my community.”

The key element in achievement, he argues, is service. This devotion is reflected in the roles the fraternity’s members play. Lynk is the group’s president, Day the vice president, and Jackson the keeper of records. Those titles aren’t

just grandiloquence — they reflect the principle that every member is expected to participate fully in all the fraternity’s activities, to give time and treasure to serve the organization and the wider community.

“Most of us [in black fraternities and sororities] see ourselves as servants of the community,” says Pulliam, who fills the roles of president and chaplain for her sorority, as well as president of NPHC at UW-Madison. “We want to serve the campus community and the black community off campus. We’re passionate about service, about academics, and about politics.”

Each of the Divine Nine organizations drums into its new members the contributions that their elders have made, morally (such as Martin Luther King, Jr., a member of Alpha Phi Alpha), politically (such as Jesse

Jackson of Omega Psi Phi), or artistically (such as Toni Morrison, an Alpha Kappa Alpha). For Kappa Alpha Psi, this includes the organization’s founders, who created the fraternity to unite students of color at Indiana University in Bloomington in 1911.

“Indiana was a center of [Ku Klux] Klan activity at that time,” says Day. “That they could go through college and graduate, when not many black Americans did, and in a place that was so hostile — that’s a real inspiration to me.”

The Kappas have looked for ways to aid the black community on campus and around the city. Day and Lynk, for instance, both grew up in Milwaukee and came to UW-Madison with the aid of PEOPLE, the Pre-college Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence. A pipeline initiative aimed at preparing low-income students and students of color for college, PEOPLE takes middle-schoolers from Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha and gives them six years of tutoring and an opportunity to earn a tuition scholarship to UW-Madison. As beneficiaries of this program, Day and Lynk have made one of their service objectives tutoring the next generation of PEOPLE students.

They’re inspired — and pushed along — by Kappa alumni on campus, including Crim; School of Education professor Jerlando Jackson, the head (or “polemarch”) of the fraternity’s Madison alumni chapter; and LaVar Charleston MS’07, PhDx’09, who first met Lynk and Day when he was a site coordinator for PEOPLE and who now works in the student advocacy and judicial affairs division of the Dean of Students Office.

“I just want to instill in them that they can’t settle for mediocrity,” says Charleston. “I want them to realize the ideals and objectives of the fraternity, and when they tutor, to pass those along.”

And so they do more than aid the program that aided them. The three undergrads, as well as alumni members of the fraternity, have set up a mentorship program at Madison’s Leopold Elementary School called the Kappa Kids Club, aimed at helping third-graders with



reading and math, and with making the sort of decisions early that will make college possible later. They've aided campus blood drives and men's health initiatives.

"We're very grateful for the chance we've got," says Lynk. "And so it's important for us to step up and give back."

**R**odney Lynk is a chess player, and a good one. He practices with Alex Betaneli '99, a three-time Wisconsin state champion, and he helps tutor at Madison West High School, a perennial chess powerhouse. Lynk's favorite opening move is the King's Gambit, in which he openly risks losing a pawn in an effort to create an ultimate position of strength.

"It's aggressive," he says, "but it gets the game moving quickly."

He brings that same style to Kappa Alpha Psi — acquiring real estate is, in essence, the fraternity's King's Gambit. "We were the first African-American fraternity on this campus," he says. "We should be the first to get a house."

But nothing about black Greek organizations has come easily at the UW. After Kappa Alpha Psi's founding in 1911 in Klan-ridden Indiana, it took thirty-five years before a chapter was created in Madison. Sixty other schools — including all those in the Big Ten at the time — had chapters first. The Kappas made their first appearance as an undergraduate organization here on April 22, 1946, with eleven members under the leadership of Isaac Coggs '48, who would later be elected to the Wisconsin Assembly and become the first African-American to chair a legislative committee.

Since then, life hasn't been smooth for UW-Madison's Kappa chapter. It was deactivated in 1954 due to dwindling membership, then was revived in 1963, only to disappear at the end of that academic year. It sprang up once more in 1967.

To help boost membership, the fraternity turned to "the unique system of swing chapters," according to Jerlando Jackson. Swing chapters work like this: students at one school — say UW-White-



water — want to join the fraternity, but their institution doesn't have an undergraduate chapter. So they form a swing off of an established chapter at a nearby school — in this case, UW-Madison. The Whitewater swing was administratively part of the Madison chapter, even though it was at a different location and the members of each group didn't see each other very often.

"It was a very useful system for getting that critical level of membership to keep a chapter viable," says Jackson. "But it made oversight difficult."

That oversight problem sank the UW's Kappa Alpha Psi chapter in 2002. That year, the fraternity's national office discovered that members at the Whitewater swing chapter had hazed prospective members. The national leadership has made eliminating hazing one of its main priorities — it's issued three executive orders since 1988 forbidding any act that would "inflict physical or emotional abuse [or] personal humiliation." So when Whitewater was caught, national came down hard. In February 2003, the Whitewater swing was abolished, the





**Value Time:** Kappas Aaron Day (left) and Rodney Lynk play board games with elementary students at a meeting of the Kappa Kids Club. Every other Friday, the Kappas went to Madison's Leopold Elementary, where they gave children more than Monopoly money — they tried to impart their fraternity's value system, which as the group's motto says, emphasizes "achievement in every field of human endeavor." Programs like this, says interim associate dean of students Elton Crim, are important to the fraternity not only because they give members a chance to do good and to build goodwill. They also help inspire a younger generation of students to live Kappa Alpha Psi's ideals. "We want to show kids that they can be bright and also be cool," Crim says.

crossed the burning sands. Still, Lynk feels how much damage was done to the organization.

"It's like we came into a house that's empty," he says. "Even though we've had a lot of help from the alumni members, there's no one here to teach us the ropes — to show us how to raise funds or get established."

Kappa Alpha Psi's undergraduate chapter remains close to winking out of existence, and with a practical focus, Jerlando Jackson's mind turns chiefly to membership. "For more than fifty years," he says, "we've gotten by without a house. But I really think we can get between seven and ten members in the next year." That number would be vital, as the national organization requires that an undergraduate chapter have at least seven members to retain its charter. If they can keep their charter, he has no doubt of what Lynk and his brothers can accomplish. "Within three to five years," Jackson says, "our undergraduate chapter will be recognized as the best in the region."

But Lynk, with his King's Gambit mentality, is far more aggressive. He wants not just the numerical presence, but also the physical presence as well — he wants the house. "Within a year or two, we want to have a house. *We will*," he emphasizes, "be the first." *✍*

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John Allen is senior editor of *On Wisconsin Magazine*.

UW-Madison remainder was fined \$500, and it was put under a cease-and-desist order — it wouldn't be able to induct any new members or host any events for five years, until all current members had graduated and an entire generation of students had come and gone. Essentially, it was a death sentence.

But Lynk, who arrived on campus in 2004, wouldn't accept that. Arguing that no one from UW-Madison was involved in the hazing incident, he, Aaron Day, and Jeremiah Jackson began working to convince national to

lift the cease-and-desist order so that they could join.

"Kappa Alpha Psi is the only fraternity that I wanted to be a part of," Lynk says. "As the first black Greek organization on campus, it gives its members big shoes to fill. The first should be the best, and I want to be part of the best."

With aid from the local alumni members, they lobbied the national office. They worked to raise money to pay off the fine and to pay their own dues. And, in November 2006, three and a half years after the chapter's death sentence, they

# PITCHMAN

JEFF MILLER (2)



## **Musician, tour guide, historian, promoter –**

Lyle Anderson does it all for the rare instrument he loves.

### **By Jenny Price '96**

On a campus full of professors and instructors charged with educating thousands of students, Lyle Anderson '68, MMusic'77 is quick to say he's not a teacher.

But that's not exactly true.

"Are you going to ring that bell?" urges a third-grader, whose voice emerges from a buzzing mass of fidgety limbs as Anderson explains the historical significance of the Wisconsin Sesqui-centennial Bell housed on the ground floor of the Memorial Carillon Tower on Observatory Drive.

"Do we really have to go up more stairs?" sighs another as Anderson guides students from Madison's Marquette Elementary School along a metal staircase to the top, where eye-popping views of Lake Mendota and Picnic Point await.

"It's part of the adventure," Anderson says as he continues leading the children up to see the carillon's fifty-six bells. He plays them on what resembles a church organ, with a keyboard and pedals connected by wires to individual clappers inside each of the bells, which range in size from fifteen to nearly seven thousand pounds. Most people aren't sure how the instrument works and assume that he is either swinging wildly from a rope or running from place to place to ring the bells, says Anderson, who marks his twenty-first year as university carillonneur this summer.

"I have any number of friends right now that I've known for years, but have never been to the tower, who I'm sure have a very peculiar conception of what it is [like] when you play," he says.

Anderson, who grew up on a farm near Abbotsford, Wisconsin, began learning to play the carillon while working toward an undergrad-

Gesturing to the bells above him, Lyle Anderson, university carillonneur, explains how the instrument works. A summer carillon concert series is scheduled for Sundays at 3 p.m., June 24-August 5, and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., July 5-August 9.



uate degree in linguistics. He also studied the organ, and his teacher, Professor John W. Harvey, then the university's carillonneur, encouraged Anderson to pursue further instruction at the Netherlands Carillon School in Amersfoort.

"I didn't have any sort of intention of, 'Say — I'm going to be the carillonneur of this place one day.' It wasn't anything like that," Anderson says.

Eventually, he followed Harvey's advice after completing his master's in music history, spending a year in the Netherlands, and earning a diploma from the Carillon School in 1980 following a year abroad that cleaned out his savings account.

"Three-quarters of the way, Dad had to send me money, and I thought, 'Boy, how embarrassing is this for being in your mid-thirties,' " he says.

Anderson returned home and began working at a mix of jobs he still holds today, including his post as carillonneur, to which he was appointed in August 1986.

"Nobody makes a living at this — not much of a living — and he's got all of this stuff pieced together and it works really well," says David Johnson, who has known Anderson for fifteen years and plays carillon at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, in St. Paul, Minnesota. "He stays very busy and he moves around a lot."

For more than two decades, Anderson has worked for the State Climatology Office, which he currently manages, answering questions from the public about Wisconsin's climate. He also plays organ for two local churches and works on the production crew for the public radio quiz show *Whad'Ya Know?*

When it comes to the carillon, Anderson says he never saw the instrument as a life's goal or calling, or "any of those sort of high, idealistic, spiritualized things."

"All of these things for me just happily coexist," he says.

Anderson was an original cast member of *Whad'Ya Know?* when it went on the air in 1985, but first met host Michael Feldman '70 when he was in the audience of his Saturday morning show from the Club de Wash in Madison. "His hair and beard have turned white in the interim," Feldman says.

With patient guidance from Lyle Anderson, eager third-graders take turns at the carillon's keyboard, which, along with pedals, is connected by wires to clappers inside each of the bells.

Among other *Whad'Ya Know?* duties, Feldman says, Anderson writes the copy for "all of the prizes and stuff we give away ... which is pretty funny." He also occasionally appears on air to answer questions about weather and the French Renaissance, and he serves as the program's phone screener, "which means that he lets anybody on the air," Feldman says.

"He's never said that anyone cannot be on the air for any reason, which is just characteristic of Lyle," Feldman says. "He's very open — maybe not ideal for a screener."

Being open fits with Anderson's mission to show students how the carillon works. As the third-graders experience the rush of being next to the bells, some of them crouch down to peer through a small screen in the floor to watch him playing below. In the song's quiet moments, Anderson taps the keys firmly, but gently with closed fists, his feet tucked underneath the wooden bench. As the music on the page before him swells, his arms move more quickly and his feet join in to create more notes.

"That. Was. Awesome," one boy says as he descends the ladder stairway after Anderson finishes his mini-performance. Anderson rewards their enthusiasm with a chance to play. The half-dozen students clamber up the short staircase to the console to take their turns, resulting in a mash-up of bell sounds from their eager hands and feet.

"Everybody's listening to your lovely, random sounds," Anderson says before the group heads down the stairway in search of ice cream.



"It's fairly indestructible, fortunately," he says of the instrument after they've gone.

While Anderson has no official carillon students, he's opened the tower to those interested in learning, including Brooke Becker x'08, a computer engineering major.

"I used to have classes up by the tower ... I heard it and I thought, 'Whoa, what is that?'" Becker says. After she sought out Anderson to learn more about playing the carillon, he gave her both a key to the building so she could work on her technique and the chance to perform on Wednesdays or Fridays when he is out of town.

With only 167 carillons in the United States, being part historian and part promoter is central to the job for the small group of people who play the instrument. That's a role Anderson assumes with ease, says Johnson, who has performed on UW-Madison's carillon.

"He takes people up into the tower after every recital, whether it's his own or someone else's, and he does extensive tours of the instrument," Johnson says. "When it's been my turn, I'm sitting downstairs just kind of relaxing, waiting to go have a beer. But I listen to what's going on, and he is teaching up there." 🍀

Writer Jenny Price '96 joined the *On Wisconsin* staff this spring. Her background includes seven years as a reporter and editor for The Associated Press. She once skipped a political science discussion to tour the carillon tower.



# the rain man in all of us

World expert Darold Treffert '55, MD'58 believes that savant syndrome may point toward untapped abilities in everyone.

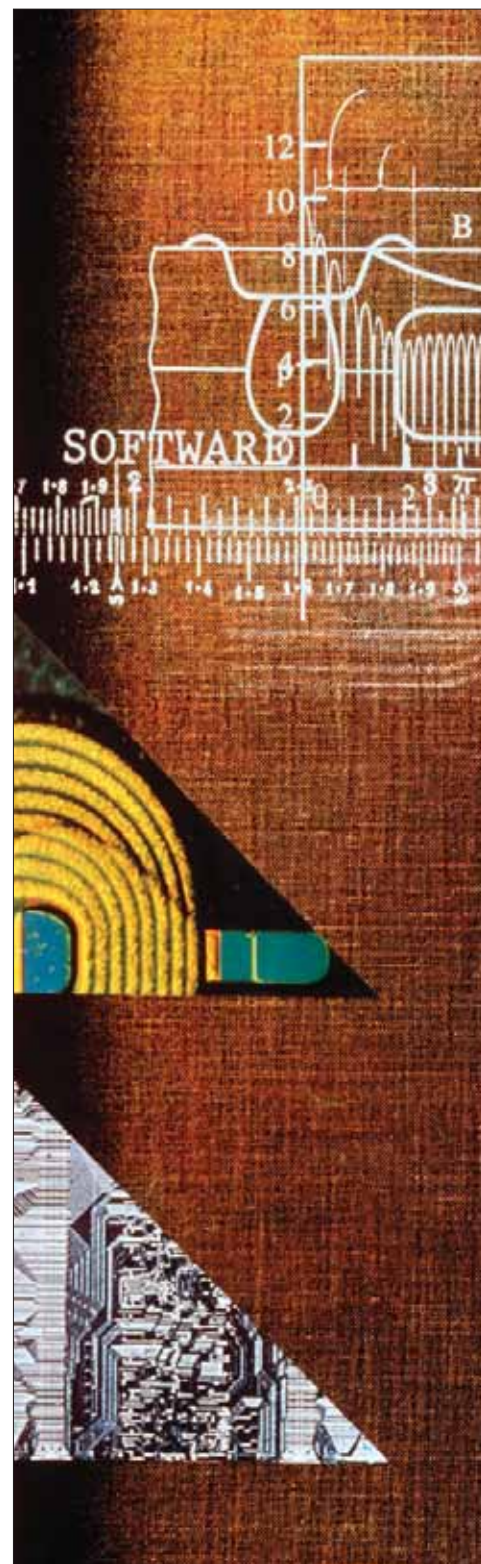
**BY NIKI DENISON**

KIM PEEK has read some 7,600 books in his lifetime, and he has 98 percent recall of each one — not to mention a storehouse of facts on subjects ranging from music to history to sports. He's also developmentally disabled.

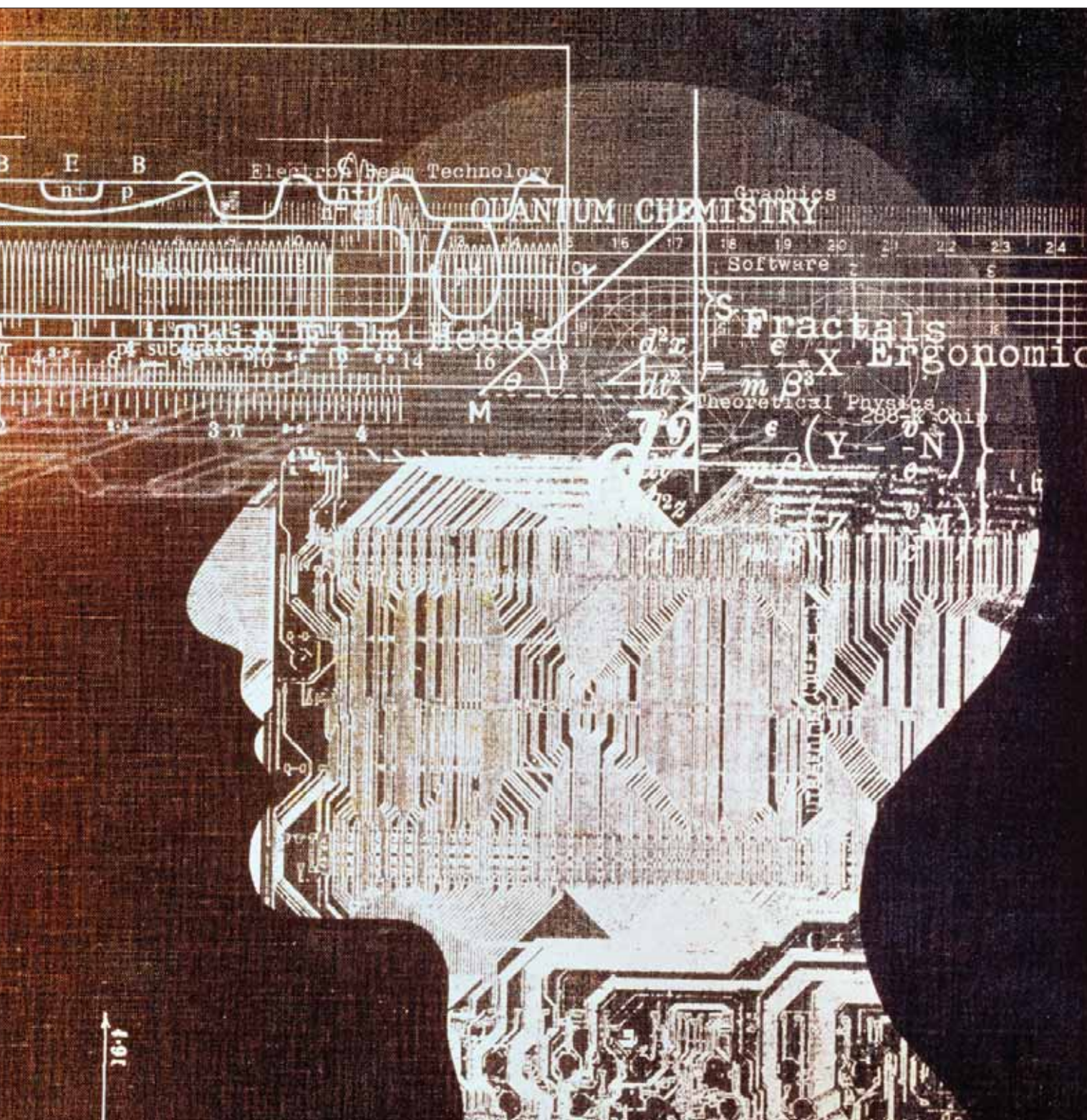
LESLIE LEMKE, who is blind and severely cognitively impaired, had never had a music lesson in his life. Yet at the age of fourteen, he amazed his mother by playing a complex Tchaikovsky piano concerto that he had heard on TV the night before.

DANIEL TAMMET learned Icelandic in seven days, speaks nine other languages, and can recite the number pi from memory to 22,514 decimal places. He developed his special abilities after suffering a series of epileptic seizures.

Peek, Lemke, and Tammet are savants — individuals who display exceptional abilities in areas such as music, art, math, or memory, despite being challenged by disorders such as autism or mental retardation. But the three are unusual even within this specialized group. They are known as prodigious savants — those whose gifts would be considered spectacular even in a person without disabilities.









There are fewer than one hundred prodigious savants in the world, and psychiatrist Darold Treffert '55, MD'58 makes it his business to know about all of them. Treffert, who is considered a world expert on savant syndrome, served as the consultant for the 1998 movie *Rain Man*, which starred Dustin Hoffman as a prodigious savant (see sidebar on page 32).

"Savant syndrome provides a unique window into the brain and its inner workings, but it also provides a look at the hidden potential within us all," he says. "No model of brain function is going to be complete until it can fully incorporate this jarring juxtaposition of ability and inability in the same person. We tend to leave it out there [and think] 'Oh, isn't that interesting' — sort of like a UFO. [But] until we can explain the savant, we can't explain ourselves."

In trying to determine what causes savant syndrome, scientists turn to an increasing body of evidence that shows that when a particular part of the brain is thrown out of commission, another part attempts to compensate. Many have come to believe that in savant syndrome, the left hemisphere of the brain is damaged, so the brain adapts by drawing more heavily on the right hemisphere, which is responsible for creativity and skills in things like art and music. The left hemisphere, which is the home of language, comprehension, and logical, sequential thinking, is more vulnerable to harmful prenatal influences because it develops later and more slowly than the right hemisphere.

One theory holds that an excess of circulating testosterone can impair left-hemisphere development, causing nerve cells to migrate to the right hemisphere and overdevelop that part of the brain. Because testosterone reaches very high levels in male fetuses, this could explain why savant syndrome is six times more common in boys than in girls.

The study of savant syndrome "has promoted the idea of the brain's plasticity, and the brain's ability to recruit other areas to be put to use when there's injury," Treffert says. Savant skills sometimes appear suddenly in individuals who have had a brain injury, or in elderly people suffering from

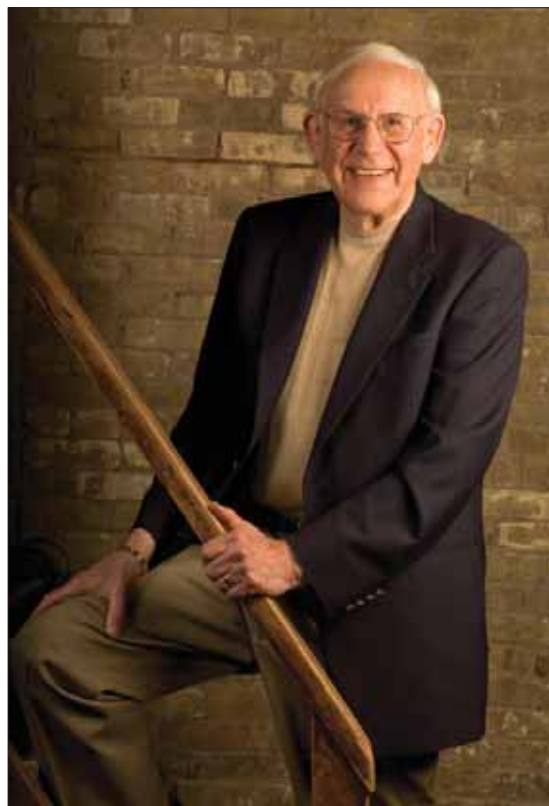
dementia. Thus, Alzheimer's patients may abruptly develop artistic skills when they couldn't draw a straight line before.

"We're not all little Mozarts or Picassos," Treffert says, "but the acquired savant raises questions about the dormant capacity in us all, and are there ways to access that without having a stroke or a head injury or dementia?"

Researchers like Allan Snyder are trying to find out. Here's a news flash for anyone who has ever suffered from math anxiety: Snyder hypothesizes that we're all born with the ability to do lightning-fast multiplication, division, and prime number identification. We just don't know how to access it, he says. The Australian scientist uses a device called a transcranial magnetic stimulator (TCM) to temporarily dial down the left-hemisphere functions of research subjects and allow them to tap into their right brains, where more savant-like abilities reside. In a *New York Times* article called "Savant for a Day," writer Lawrence Osbourne describes how Snyder used TCM to send electromagnetic pulses to Osbourne's frontal lobes, thus temporarily improving his ability to draw pictures of cats.

Snyder is now using the technique to enhance counting skills, since artistic ability is subjective and more difficult to judge. In one study, he tested twelve university students on their capacity to instantly count a large number of objects on a computer screen while undergoing cranial stimulation. He found that accuracy improved for ten of the subjects and receded an hour after TCM exposure for eight of them.

While Treffert believes that the technique is probably not specifically targeted enough to cause inner savant abilities to surface in a dramatic way, he acknowledges that it can show modest gains at tapping into dormant capacity. However,



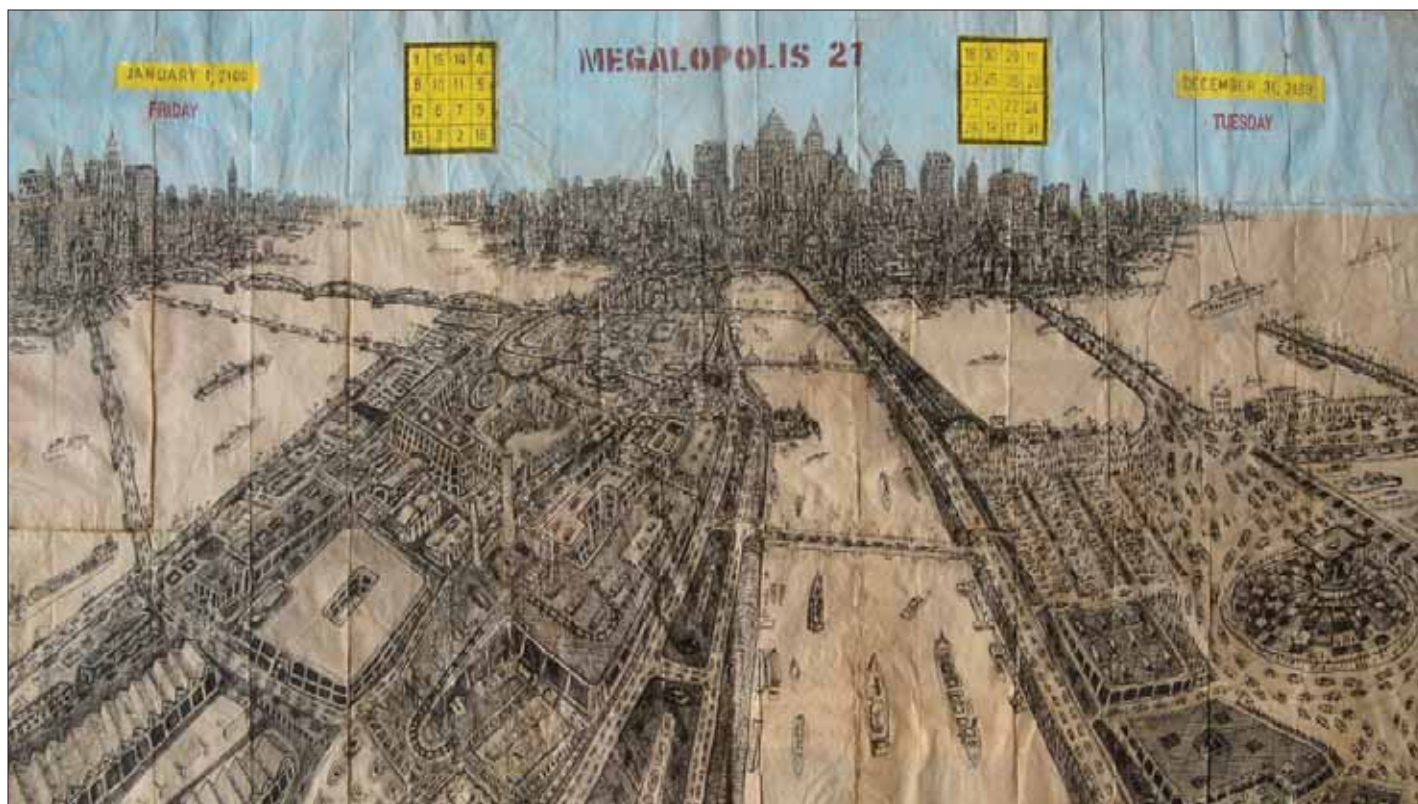
Darold Treffert has appeared on *Oprah* three times, as well as programs such as *60 Minutes*, *Larry King Live*, and more than a dozen documentaries, including some made in South Africa, Germany, Iceland, and Japan.

it's not automatic that prodigious savant gifts are present in everyone who puts on an experimental electrode cap. He reminds us that such high-level skills are present in only a fraction of the disabled population, just as genius occurs in only a fraction of the general population.

Treffert initially became interested in savants in medical school when Leo Kanner, the psychiatrist who first described autism in 1943, spent a semester as a visiting professor. (Some 10 percent of autistic individuals possess savant abilities.)

Kanner, Treffert recalls, was "a very gentle soul with a pleasant bedside manner. He wasn't just describing these people, but he cared about them as well." Treffert, who has an appointment as a UW-Madison clinical psychiatry professor, could easily be describing himself. He is universally respected and liked in the campus medical community, no doubt due to a kindly and unassuming civility that seems more typical of a bygone era.

"There's a tendency to look at the savant with sort of a gee-whiz type of mentality," says Treffert, "but there's



Artistic ability is a typical “island of genius” for savants. This ink drawing, *Megalopolis 21*, was created by savant artist George Widener.

really much more to it than that. Scientific advances are important, but the other side of it is the incredible input and love and support and belief of the families of these youngsters and what that can do for them.” Treffert is fond of saying that on his quest to understand savants, “I’ve learned as much about matters of the heart as I have about circuits in the brain.”

Lewis Leavitt, a pediatrician who works at the UW’s Waisman Center, concurs. Treffert, he says, “should be recognized for not forgetting the humanness

charged with helping to start a children’s unit, and most of the patients were autistic. “One little lad had memorized the bus system in Milwaukee, and another had put jigsaw puzzles together without looking at the picture, and then a third little guy was sort of a walking almanac of history,” he says. The children solidified Treffert’s interest in savant syndrome.

He then went on to combine private practice with serving as executive director of the Fond du Lac County Health Care Center. It was in 1980, when Leslie

syndrome. But he was unable to explain how it works. “One of the most pressing questions for me,” he says, “is how do people know things they’ve never learned?” He believes these individuals may be accessing knowledge that was already there but lying dormant. “I think we all come with much more software installed than we formerly believed,” he says. “Many times, people think of us being born with this marvelous piece of equipment called the brain with a blank disk, and we become what we put on the

**“No model of brain function is going to be complete until it can fully incorporate this jarring juxtaposition of ability and inability in the same person. We tend to leave it out there [and think], ‘Oh, isn’t that interesting’ — sort of like a UFO. [But] until we can explain the savant, we can’t explain ourselves.”**

and personhood of the people he studies. He has been writing about them in a very empathetic way ... and has provided insight into the larger life of people who have these extraordinary skills.”

After completing his residency, Treffert began working at Winnebago Mental Health Institute near Oshkosh, Wisconsin, quickly rising to superintendent. He was

Lemke played a concert in Fond du Lac, that Treffert began attracting a stream of media inquiries that continues to this day. A local TV station asked Treffert to explain how an untaught, mentally disabled musician acquired the knowledge to play like a master.

Treffert could tell them that this was due to a condition called savant

disk.” But the prodigious savant, he says, “tells us that there’s much more on that disk when we’re born. That gets at this whole idea of the potential within us all.”

Treffert uses the term *genetic memory* to refer to things that we may be born knowing, but later lose as more complex mental development supersedes this knowledge. “We hear that we only use



ten percent of our brain or less,” he says, and he posits that genetic memory could account for some of that underutilized 90 percent. In the animal kingdom, he continues, we see genetic memory all the time — for instance, when birds migrate. Consequently, genetic memory in humans “shouldn’t come as any surprise.”

In his book *Extraordinary People: Understanding Savant Syndrome*, Treffert writes about the calendar-calculating twins, George and Charles. George, for example, has difficulty with simple arithmetic, but if you ask him which year in the next two hundred Easter will fall on March 23, he “will name those years with lightning rapidity, faster than a computer and just as accurately,” writes Treffert. George also remembers the weather for every day of his adult life. Neurologist Oliver Sacks observed the twins swapping twenty-digit prime numbers for amusement, and other reports mentioned that they had such a highly developed sense of smell that they could pick out their own clothes simply by sniffing them.

Treffert writes of other savants who seem to have extrasensory abilities, such as a boy who knew that his parents had suddenly decided to pick him up from school, although they did not tell him, and who astounded his teachers by going to the door to wait for them. Another savant named Ellen, who is blind, can tell the time to the minute without referring to any timepiece.

In his quest to understand savant syndrome and share what he learns with others, Treffert maintains an exhaustive Web site at [www.savantsyndrome.com](http://www.savantsyndrome.com). The site includes video clips of perhaps the most astounding savant living today — Kim Peek, who was the original inspiration for *Rain Man*. Known as “Kim-puter” to his friends, Peek was born without a corpus collosum, which connects the two hemispheres of the brain. This may explain how he can read two pages at a time — one with each eye.

NASA has done studies of Peek’s brain, and he has been the subject of a *Scientific American* article and several documentaries. Peek is unusual because he has “islands of genius” in more than a

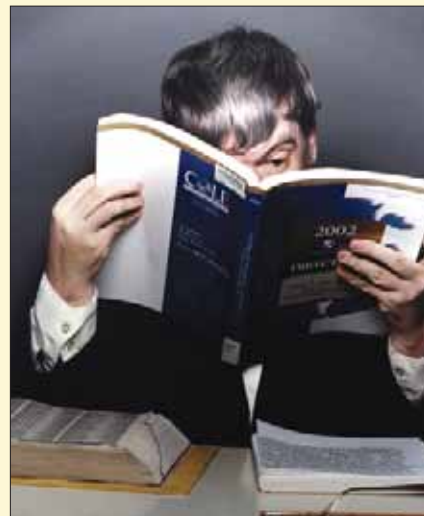
## behind the scenes of *rain man*

Darold Treffert was asked to serve as a consultant for the movie *Rain Man* in order to ensure that savant syndrome was portrayed accurately. In the film, Dustin Hoffman plays the autistic savant Raymond Babbitt, who counted 246 toothpicks at a glance, memorized the phone book, and computed square roots in his head, much to the amazement of his brother, Charlie, played by Tom Cruise.

Although Treffert thought that the movie was “very accurately and sensitively done,” his expertise did result in a few changes. For instance, Raymond returned to the hospital at the end of the film rather than being “cured” in a six-day cross-country tour. The original script also included more typical Hollywood scenes — mobsters, narrow escapes, and a chase scene in which Charlie and Raymond roar out of a bunker on a motorcycle and sidecar, thanks to Raymond’s mechanical skills. “But savant syndrome is spectacular in its own right,” says Treffert. “There is no need to embellish it.”

Dustin Hoffman would agree. The actor was originally asked to play the role of Charlie in the movie, but he was so inspired by a *60 Minutes* program featuring pianist Leslie Lemke, a savant from Arpin, Wisconsin, that he was moved to tears and decided to play the savant part instead. Hoffman spent time with several savants, including memory master Kim Peek, to prepare for his role.

Hoffman ultimately won an Oscar for his portrayal and dedicated it to Peek, who provided the original inspiration for the film. — N.D.



ETHAN HILL

Kim Peek has read some 7,600 books and has 98 percent recall of all of them.

dozen areas, whereas savant expertise is usually deep, but confined to one or two very narrow areas. A savant of Peek’s abilities typically comes along only about once a century, Treffert says.

But of all of the prodigious savants, Daniel Tammet is the most unusual in that he can articulate what is going on in his mind. Tammet also has a condition known as synesthesia, causing him to see numbers as mental images that have various colors and shapes. (The number 333 is lovely, he says, while 289 is ugly.) When solving math problems in his head, he simply recites the numbers as he sees

them. As Treffert explains on his Web site, “When computing, the images merge together and out comes the new, correct combination for his instant inner viewing,” enabling Tammet to do math calculations more quickly than a calculator.

Tammet makes a stunning observation in the documentary *Brainman*. “The line between profound talent and profound disability,” he says, “is really a surprisingly thin one.”

Treffert explains: “They’re finding that the way a math genius does his work is a preconscious process, and you can measure that on PET scans or MRIs now and



Treffert had become good friends with the late Richard Wawro, who painted *Wash Day in Pakistan*. He also keeps in close touch with Kim Peek and several other savants and their families.

see that the person is using more primitive circuitry.” Those of us who are not math geniuses, he says, use higher-level, more sophisticated circuitry —generally in the left hemisphere — to do our equations, whereas with the genius, the answer just automatically comes to him or her. “If you compare the circuitry of the savant who is doing that same kind of math problem

with physicist and artificial-intelligence expert Ken Hennacy to come up with such a model. They term the processing that the brain does when we’re aware of it “classical.” This process is linear, relatively slow, depends on neurochemical connections, and uses abstract concepts.

But they posit that there is another method of processing information that

**“If you compare the circuitry of the savant who is doing that same kind of math problem to that of the genius, they both are using the same preconscious, more primitive circuitry. The difference is that the savant has no idea how he does it.”**

to that of the genius, they both are using that same preconscious, more primitive circuitry. The difference is that the savant has no idea how he does it.”

It’s almost as if the savant comes programmed with the math module or the language module or the music module, Treffert says, “and it appears as if the genius probably does, too. So when they encounter music or math, they’re able to grasp it instantly, whereas the rest of us have to work at it.”

The inability of current models of the brain to explain savant syndrome has led some researchers to suggest that we need a new model for how the brain works. Psychiatrist Diane Powell has collaborated

with physicist and artificial-intelligence expert Ken Hennacy to come up with such a model. They term the processing that the brain does when we’re aware of it “classical.” This process is linear, relatively slow, depends on neurochemical connections, and uses abstract concepts. But they posit that there is another method of processing information that they call “quantum.” This process is one that the individual is usually not aware of. Like quantum computers, it features many parallel computations going on at the same time, is lightning fast, and is “capable of handling exponentially more information than classical processing,” Powell writes in an article titled “We Are All Savants” in the magazine *Shift: At the Frontiers of Consciousness*. “Quantum processing in the brain could explain how savants perform calculations so rapidly and without their conscious awareness.” This type of quantum processing, she says, is more evident when classical processing is turned down or off — just as it is in the savant.

Treffert says that he would not choose those terms, instead preferring to use “conscious” and “preconscious” thinking. But “the idea of two levels of circuitry within us all makes sense and is compatible with research findings,” he says, adding that the word quantum might apply in the sense of using the brain more efficiently.

The effort to understand the baffling abilities of savants has caused many to think outside the brain case, so to speak. People have told Treffert that encountering savants can be almost a spiritual experience, and he does not disagree. The struggle to understand the savant brain has even led a few researchers to venture into the paranormal. Powell maintains that the quantum model could also explain the extrasensory abilities of some savants.

In the *Shift* article, she writes about a quantum phenomenon known as “entanglement,” which holds that an atomic particle may become “entangled” with another at a great distance and may have an instantaneous effect on it. “Entanglement,” she writes, “provides a means for consciousness to be coupled to other locations in space-time or for consciousness between others to be coupled — in short, a mechanism for telepathic communication.

This notion, which was also proposed by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Brian Josephson, remains controversial. Treffert says that he parts ways with Powell and Hennacy in applying their quantum theory to telepathic communication, “but then, who knows for sure?”

It does seem fitting that the weirdly wonderful field of quantum mechanics, which hints at things we can barely wrap our minds around, could one day explain the equally weird and wonderful, awe-inspiring abilities of the savant. 🦋

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Niki Denison, who is co-editor of *On Wisconsin Magazine*, has a savant-like ability to always pick the slowest line at the grocery store.





## Forward. Living.

WAA honors UW-Madison's distinguished alumni.

Six alumni who exemplify the Wisconsin Idea and who are working to move all of our lives forward were honored at the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Awards program in May.

The 2007 awards marked the seventy-first anniversary of the annual event, which kicked off Alumni Weekend festivities. The recipients, who came back to campus and the Wisconsin Union Theater to accept their awards, included Jerome Chazen, the chair of Chazen Capital Partners in New York, and psychotherapist Simona Chivian Chazen; Ernest Darkoh, the chair of BroadReach Healthcare in Washington, D.C.; Harry Spiegelberg, retired vice president of Kimberly-Clark Corporation; and Frances Shuter Taylor, a former executive vice president of Bank of America. The Distinguished Young Alumni Award, which honors exemplary UW-Madison graduates under age forty, was given to Susan Chapman, the global head of operations for Citigroup Realty Services in New York.

### Nominate Young Alums Who Make a Difference

WAA has created a new awards program honoring young alumni who live out the Wisconsin Idea.

These awards will be given to twenty UW graduates under the age of forty who contribute to the state, the nation, and beyond. The nominations deadline is July 16, 2007, and winners will be featured in a special publication this February. For more details or to nominate someone, see [uwalumni.com/20under40](http://uwalumni.com/20under40).



BRENT NICAstro (5)

Jerome and Simona Chazen gave \$20 million to expand the campus art museum because, says Simona, "the arts and culture are the lifeblood of a university."

Well-known philanthropists **Jerome Chazen '48** and **Simona Chivian Chazen x'49** grew up surrounded by the arts. While Jerome's passion for jazz began when he was a boy in New York City, it was taking an art history course at

the University of Wisconsin that first interested him in the visual arts. Simona's love of the arts sprang from her childhood Victorian home, which her parents decorated with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century antiques.

After earning a bachelor's degree at UW-Madison in economics and an MBA at Columbia University, Jerome spent many years in the fashion industry. He was one of four founders of Liz Claiborne, Incorporated. He is also the founder and chair of Chazen Capital Partners, a private equity firm in New York.

Simona studied journalism and philosophy at UW-Madison and is a practicing psychotherapist specializing in divorce and abuse issues. She is a board member of the Museum of Arts & Design in New York City, and she serves on several other arts and charitable boards.

The Chazens were initially attracted to UW-Madison because of the campus's beauty



Celebrating with Fran Taylor are Al Fish MS'01 (left) and Brad Taylor '68. Fran studied education but ended up in banking. "You never know where your education — and life — will take you," she says.

and reputation for academic excellence, and they met there through a mutual friend. Today, their passion for the UW continues to grow, and their \$20 million gift for the expansion of the Chazen Museum of Art will allow the arts to have a larger presence on campus and in the community.

**Harry Spiegelberg '59** grew up on a dairy farm west of Appleton, received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the UW in 1959, and went to work for Kimberly-Clark, long one of Wisconsin's premier corporations, where he spent his entire career.

Spiegelberg's initial assignment at Kimberly-Clark was in the pulp-engineering department. In 1961, he was granted leave from the company to attend the Paper Chemistry Institute in Appleton, where he earned his master's and doctorate degrees. Four years later, he returned to Kimberly-Clark as a research scientist. In 1967, he was named to lead the New Concepts Laboratory, a small group at the forefront of consumer product research.

By 1985, Spiegelberg had become vice president for Consumer Tissue Research. Seven years later, he was named vice president for technology and patent strategy, and in 1993 he became vice president for technology transfer. He retired in 1996.

In his various roles at Kimberly-Clark, Spiegelberg considered recruitment of quality employees key to the growth and survival of the company. To this day, Kimberly-Clark is a major employer of UW graduates.

After graduating from UW-Madison with a degree in elementary education, **Frances Shuter Taylor '68** spent two years teaching sixth



**TIME** magazine named Ernest Darkoh one of eighteen Global Health Heroes for his work in the fight against AIDS.

grade in the Indiana public school system before embarking on a successful career in domestic and international investment banking. Her appointments include three

years in Caracas, Venezuela, where she syndicated international jumbo loan transactions for entities throughout Latin America, and four years in Hong Kong as the execu-



Harry Spiegelberg, shown here with his wife, Bonnie '60, traces his enthusiasm for research to his youth on a dairy farm. "When you're working on a farm," he says, "you have to be kind of inventive."

## Summer Sessions

School doesn't have to be out this summer! UW-Madison offers innovative summer programs, including free public forums and noncredit enrichment classes for people of all ages. Contact the Division of Continuing Studies at (608) 263-6960 or visit [www.dcs.wisc.edu/summer](http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/summer) for the Summer Timetable.





### Nominate a Badger for a 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award

Do you know a UW-Madison graduate who exemplifies the best of the university? To nominate him or her for a Distinguished Alumni Award or Distinguished Young Alumni Award, which recognizes those under age forty, see [uwalumni.com/awards](http://uwalumni.com/awards). The Wisconsin Alumni Association will accept nominations until October 12, 2007.

tive vice president and CEO of BA Asia, Limited. By the time she retired in 1998, Taylor had gone from a small town in Wisconsin to the top ranks of the corporate world.

Taylor is a founding member and was the first chair of the UW's International Studies Advisory Board, established in 2003. A member of the UW Foundation's Bascom Hill Society, she is involved in a broad range of campus initiatives, including those related to business, education, international studies, and men's rowing.

She is a former Wisconsin Alumni Association board member and a board member of the UW Foundation, where she serves on the governance committee. Taylor is also on the board of TomoTherapy, a Madison-based company that has created a revolutionary method of delivering image-guided, intensity-modulated radiation therapy for cancer treatment.

After earning a bachelor of science degree in engineering at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a master's of regional planning from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, **Susan Chapman MBA '98** added a UW-Madison master's degree in real estate and urban land economics.

Shortly after graduating from the UW, Chapman joined



**Susan Chapman (center, with parents Semue, left, and Issie, right) was listed as one of the fifty best and brightest under age forty by *Black Enterprise* magazine due to her swift rise as an executive with Citigroup Realty. But, she says, "at the end of the day, I want to be known for my service to the community."**

Level 3 Communications, an international communications and information services company headquartered in Colorado. There, she grew the firm's real estate acquisitions to more than 13 million square feet. Now at Citigroup Realty Services in New York, she manages the day-to-day operations for 91 million square feet of space in ninety-six countries.

In 2003, *Black Enterprise* magazine named Chapman one of the "fifty best and brightest" on its list of America's Most

Powerful Players Under 40. In addition to her professional work, Chapman volunteers with nonprofit organizations across the United States and is an active mentor to young people.

To read more about **Ernest Darkoh '93**, see the cover story, "Country Doctor," on page 18.

To view biographical videos of the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award honorees, visit [uwalumni.com/daa](http://uwalumni.com/daa).

— *Candice Gaukel Andrews '77*

## Clicked. Bid. WON!

The first-ever Big Badger Auction wrapped up in March with more than seven hundred participants bidding on — and winning — various items. A year's supply of Babcock Hall ice cream and a chance to conduct Fifth Quarter at a Badger football game were just a few of the items that had Badger alumni and friends around the country eagerly "attending" the new e-auction.

Other prizes included a

Steve Miller-signed guitar and a featured extra role in a Hollywood movie. One of the most sought-after items — a custom-made pair of red-and-white Allen Edmonds shoes — went to **Edward McGrath '97** of Wisconsin Rapids. Commenting on his stylish new kicks, McGrath said, "It's nice that I finally have a pair that is equal in price to a pair that my wife has!"

All proceeds from the WAA

auction benefit Badgers around the globe through student scholarships, lifelong learning programs, and other alumni services.

Another Big Badger Auction is slated for fall 2007 with many of the same — and many new — Badger items. For a review of the March auction, visit [uwalumni.com/auction](http://uwalumni.com/auction), and check back for updates on the fall Big Badger Auction.

— *Ben Wischnewski '05*



## We're All Ears

*Please share with us your recent accomplishments, transitions, and other significant life goings-on. You may e-mail the (brief, please) details to [apfelbach@uwalumni.com](mailto:apfelbach@uwalumni.com); mail them to Alumni News, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; or fax them to (608) 265-8771. Space limitations prevent us from publishing every item we receive, but we do appreciate hearing from you.*

*Please e-mail death notices and all address, name, telephone, and e-mail updates to [alumnichanges@uwalumni.com](mailto:alumnichanges@uwalumni.com); mail them to Alumni Changes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; fax them to (608) 262-3332; 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 Badger Insider, WAA's publication for its members, which is published thrice annually and inserted into On Wisconsin Magazine.*

*An x preceding a degree year indicates that the individual did not complete, or has not yet completed, the degree at UW-Madison.*

Compiled by Paula Wagner  
Apfelbach '83

## early years

A February piece in the *Oconomowoc* [Wisconsin] *Focus* applauded the very lively **Milton Bliss '35**, who's going strong at age ninety-seven. These days, he works 119 acres of his farm in Alderly and stays active in his church and as a volunteer, but his career has also included positions with the Farm Radio Service, the U.S. government, NBC, and the U.N. in Italy, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and India. Lifelong learning is crucial to Bliss, who drives 120 miles round trip to Madison three times a week to audit classes at the UW — something he started doing about twenty-five years ago.

## 40s-50s

Retired Marine Corps colonel and physician **John Buesseler '41, MD'44** of Lubbock, Texas, sent word of several accolades he's earned since 2000: the Designation of Distinction as emeritus founding dean of the Texas Tech medical school and emeritus founding VP of its Health Sciences University; the Statesmanship Award from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology; and an honorary doctorate from the Texas Tech University System.

Badgers have infiltrated Gator Country — through the University of Florida's continuing-care retirement community called Oak Hammock, that is. Located in Gainesville, it caters to Florida and other Southeast grads, but it's also home to **Jane Claflin Baxter '43; Warren Young '44, MS'48, PhD'56; Bill Gabriel '45, MS'48, PhD'50; Brenda Whiltshire Thomas '45; Margaret Little**

**'48 and William '46, MD'49 Enneking; Alvin Warnick MS'47, PhD'49; James and Dolores Simms '51 Greene; Gene Cranston Anderson '54, MS'72, PhD'73; Norma Diamond '54; Charles Sidman PhD'60; Merle Kuns PhD'63; Richard Sowls '64, PhD'73; and Lois Small Langelier '65.**

For **Eugene Bussian '50, LLB'51**, this year marked his sixtieth with Mutual Trust Financial Group, where he started as a part-time agent while in college and moved up through the ranks. Bussian is a Porsche fancier, too, and raced them in the 1950s and '60s. He's now retired in Henderson, Nevada.

**Sally Peterson Semmes '53** of Middleton, Wisconsin, has been teaching the "art of oral interpretation of literature" since 1967 through her statewide touring program. She's now added a book to her credits, called *How to Hatrack: Techniques of a Successful Readers Theatre for Children*.

The latest honor in a string of many for **E. (Ewald) Richard Stiehm '54, MD'57** is the American Society for Microbiology/Abbott Laboratories Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology. As a professor of pediatrics at the UCLA School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, Stiehm was recognized for more than three decades of leadership in the field of pediatric immunology, especially regarding HIV/AIDS. He's also a past recipient of UW-Madison's Medical Alumni Citation.

When she retired in 1992, **(Marion Bette) Betts Van Liew Rivét MS'53** went to China to teach English at Hwa Nan Women's College — and stayed, earning numerous awards for her work. In 2006, she was one of forty-two international workers to receive a National Friendship Award from the Chinese government.

An article in the January

issue of *50 Plus* magazine says that **Mary Lou Daniel '58, MA'59, PhD'65** "changes the world, one word at a time." That's because her fascination with languages led her to earn degrees in Spanish and Portuguese, to launch the University of Iowa's Portuguese program, and then to return to the UW to teach in the Spanish and Portuguese department. Now a professor emerita, she translates for Wycliffe Bible Translators, travels to Brazil, volunteers, and plays her cello.

Imagine being able to reference all of the material by and about John Dewey that has been published over a 120-year period. Now you can, thanks to **Barbara Goldstein Levine '59**, who's compiled and edited the "ultimate bibliography of Dewey scholarship" on a CD-ROM: *Works about John Dewey, 1886-2006* (Southern Illinois University [SIU] Press). Levine has been a textual editor at the Center for Dewey Studies at SIU in Carbondale since 1974.

## 60s

**Brian Abbott '61** writes that he's been named an adjunct associate professor at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus. He's been teaching marketing and management courses at two of the university's campuses for fifteen years and has also had a long career as a senior marketing executive in New York City.

**(Earl) Richard Quinney PhD'62** has taught sociology at universities around the country; written extensively, especially on criminology; and combined autobiographical narrative and photography to produce *Borderland: A Midwest Journal, Once Again the Wonder, Where Yet the Sweet Birds Sing*, and *Of Time and Place: A Farm in Wisconsin*. Quinney, of Madison, is also working to



## Queen Mother

There's no denying it: **Holly Henderson Ernst '94** gets to do things that the rest of us just don't get to do. That's because she holds the title of Mrs. Minnesota-America 2006 — a job that comes with a lot of perks.

First there's the fun: she's thrown out the Minnesota Twins' first pitch and proclaimed "Let's play *hockey!*" at a Minnesota Wild game. Then there's the sparkle: "I love getting all glammed up for pageant events," Ernst says, "but in my day-to-day life, I'm pretty normal.... I can be 'famous' for a bit, but then I get to go back to being just another suburban mom." And then there's the payoff: her current title came with a prize package valued at about \$25,000, and she notes that the Miss America organization is the world's largest source of scholarships for women.

But the perk of most consequence for Ernst — especially as the mother of a young daughter — has been the opportunity to promote her platform of child-safety education and abduction prevention ([www.mrsminnesota2003.com](http://www.mrsminnesota2003.com), [www.mrsminnesota-america.com](http://www.mrsminnesota-america.com)). She's on the board of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation for Missing Children, and is the senior-ranking member of its speakers bureau. "I've used my crown as a microphone to educate and empower children and adults on ways to stay safe in an unsafe world," Ernst notes. "I've had many parents and children come up to me after a presentation and tell me that I really made a difference in how they think and act."

Achieving all of this took some time, however. Ernst began competing at age sixteen — first as a teen contestant, and eventually as a "Miss" — and was thirty-five when she was crowned Mrs. Minnesota-America 2006. Earning that title qualified her for the Mrs. America competition — the only televised pageant for married women, in which she placed in the top twelve.



For the Ernst family, wearing the crown of Mrs. Minnesota-America 2006 is a family affair.

She's also the lone Minnesotan to hold the "triple crown," having also reigned as Mrs. Minnesota International 2003 and Mrs. Minnesota United States 2002 in the other two of the "Big Three" pageant systems. "In a nutshell," Ernst explains, "Mrs. America is a beauty pageant; Mrs. International is a platform pageant; and Mrs. United States is somewhere in between."

So with three state titles under her sash, what's next? Ernst would like to start a pageant coaching and consulting firm, and has already worked with one shy teen novice who earned the second-runner-up spot out of eighty-seven contestants — "one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," she says. "I want to help young women achieve their goals in pageantry, but more importantly, in *life*."

"While we hear the negative about pageants," Ernst concludes, "there is *so* much more positive to be found. My successes (and failures) in pageantry have made me into a much stronger person overall, and I truly feel like there is nothing I can't accomplish."

— P.A.

preserve his family's 160-acre farm, woodlands, and wetlands in nearby Walworth County.

When the UW's **Harvey Littleton** pioneered the American studio glass art movement in the early 1960s, **Marvin Lipofsky MA'64, MFA'64** was among his first students and went on to found the studio glass program at California College of the Arts (CCA) in 1967. Forty years later, a spring exhibit titled *CCA: A Legacy in Studio Glass* at the San Francisco Museum of Craft

+ Design included the work of Lipofsky, who lives in Berkeley and chaired CCA's glass department until 1987.

**Sue Matthews Owen '64** has published her fourth poetry book, *The Devil's Cookbook* (Louisiana State University Press), and gave readings last fall in Stockholm and Helsinki, where her work has been published in Swedish. Now retired, the former Louisiana State poet-in-residence lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her spouse, **Tom Owen '64**.

Who's the 2006–07 chair of the International Downtown Association, a worldwide professional organization of town-center development specialists? It's **Jeff Sanford '64**, who, in his ninth year as president of the Memphis [Tennessee] Center City Commission, is coordinating a \$3.2 billion downtown-Memphis revitalization.

It's baseball book number four for New Yorker **Lee Lowenfish MA'65, PhD'68**, who's written a new biography called *Branch Rickey: Baseball's*

*Ferocious Gentleman* (University of Nebraska Press).

Retiring from any position that comes in contact with chocolate chips might seem like a tough thing to do, but **Allan Stefl '65** did it recently when he stepped down from his post as senior VP of communications at Nestlé USA. He's now an adjunct professor in the MBA program at Pepperdine University's Malibu, California, campus.

We're in the debt of **John Treffert '65**, whose suggestion to write about the work of his brother, **Darold Treffert '55, MD'58**, was the catalyst for our feature story on page 28, "The Rain Man in All of Us." John has spent most of his career in the information-systems field and was recently elected to his fifth term as a trustee for the Village of Thiensville, Wisconsin. He has belonged to numerous citizen-advisory committees, and last spring helped with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in Mississippi.

Following ten years of teaching and administration at Vanderbilt, Wittenberg, and Ohio State, **Stuart Grover '66, MA'67, PhD'71** of Tacoma, Washington, "wandered into fundraising consulting" and owned a company — which he sold in 2004 — that worked with nonprofits engaged in capital campaigns. He's also recently published *Capital Campaigns: A Guide for Board Members and Others Who Aren't Professional Fundraisers but Who Will Be the Heroes Who Create a Better Community* (iUniverse) and is writing a novel called *Girl with Peaches*.

**Susumu Sam Nagara PhD'69** wrote from Chiba City, Japan, that he's taught Japanese at the University of Michigan, elsewhere around the U.S., and in Australia and Japan. He's the chief author of *Japanese for Everyone* (Gakken) and supervised the publication of a nineteen-volume series for teachers of the language.

HBO, CNN, *60 Minutes*, and the December issue of *National Geographic* have all covered the work that Major General **Ron Silverman '69** oversees in Iraq as the commander of Task Force 3 MEDCOM, which provides the full spectrum of health care services to U.S. troops. Silverman is the highest-

ranking medical officer in Iraq and the first dentist to command all medical operations in a combat zone. He also holds the highest military rank of any Badger. His spouse is **Miriam Witlin Silverman JD'71**, and their son, **Matthew Silverman '04**, is stationed in Iraq as well. When not in uniform, Ron has

a private dentistry practice in Alexandria, Virginia.

In February, the Wisconsin State Reading Association honored **Boyd Simonson MS'69, MS'70** with a Celebrate Literacy Award and **Sherri Cyra MS'96** with an Outstanding Administrator Award. Simonson began teaching in 1956 in

a one-room schoolhouse and has now retired as principal of the Waupaca Learning Center. Cyra is a bibliophile who's nurtured a passion for reading and literacy instruction at Middleton's Sauk Trail Elementary, where she's the principal.

## 70s

"Greatly appreciate receiving news from the UW family," began a note from **Gary "Chris" Christopherson '70, MS'74**. "It helps those of us living in places like Washington, D.C., to stay connected to a very rich moment in our lives." He's adding many more rich moments to his life by creating mobiles and stabile sculptures; opening his new GChris "Progressive Art" Sculpture Studio/Gallery in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood; and writing the first component of a science-fiction novel series, *conversion*, which is available as a free download at [www.GChris.com](http://www.GChris.com). Throughout his "other career," Christopherson has worked on national policy issues and on health and human-service systems and reform.

When the Society of Manufacturing Engineers recognized its 2007 International Honor Award recipients in March, among them was **Warren DeVries '71, MS'72, PhD'75**, dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Maryland. He won the Albert M. Sargent Progress Award for his accomplishments in the realm of manufacturing processes, methods, and systems.

"Manager of wealth management services" is a luxurious-sounding job title, and at Madison's Holt-Smith & Yates Advisors, **Mark Sprenger '71, JD'75, MBA'77** is its new holder. He arrives with more than a quarter-century of legal, estate planning, and financial

## Jump Rope King

When infomercial guru **Bobby Hinds '56** was in the homestretch of earning his UW degree, he got a student-teaching gig at Madison East High School. He had a knack for reaching the tough kids through visual aids and hands-on learning, and the high school staff took notice, awarding Hinds a teaching certificate even before he was eligible to teach.

A former national Golden Gloves and NCAA champion, Hinds was still boxing on the side. He was offered a semi-windup fight for Sugar Ray Robinson and a check for \$1,500 — more than six months' teaching salary. The offer was too good to refuse: Hinds took the fight and called in sick at the high school. When Robinson knocked out Gene Fullmer, winning back his title as middleweight champion of the world, Hinds's fight was televised as well. Hinds won in a third-round knockout, but lost his teaching job. "I was a good teacher," laments Hinds today. But ultimately, he parlayed his motivational abilities to reach an even bigger audience.



Still fit at seventy-five, Bobby Hinds demonstrates the Power Walk, a fitness product produced by his Madison-based company, Lifeline USA.

To stay in shape, Hinds was jumping rope — a fundamental training exercise for boxers, but not yet a mainstream fitness tool. He designed a plastic-segmented jump rope and gave it away with an instruction booklet, demonstrating his product with unorthodox enthusiasm wherever he could. The public responded and started buying his jump ropes. Hinds talked his way on to the *CBS Evening News* with Walter Cronkite, *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, and *On the Road* with Charles Kuralt. He was featured in *TIME* and on the back of Wheaties boxes.

Hinds's company, Lifeline USA, is based in Madison, and in addition to jump ropes, it sells innovative fitness equipment that provides a full-body workout while being small and light enough to be completely portable. The key ingredient is rubber tubing that provides resistance.

"It doesn't make any difference how good fitness equipment is or how much good it will do for you if it's not fun and not accessible," Hinds says. "You're not going to do it."

Today, Hinds is preaching his "pumping rubber" philosophy to schools around the country as a low-cost and safe alternative to iron weights, and it's reaching people: physical-education teachers are testing new products, and parents are clamoring for the equipment.

Lifeline's other testing laboratory is the Monkey Bar Gym in Madison, owned by his son, Jon Hinds. "When you make something, there's always going to be a problem or something you have to change. And you don't know that until you really get out there and use it," says Bobby.

That same can-do attitude has been with him always. "I was the worst student in the world," reminisces Hinds, "but I had a lot of good people encouraging me, and I got a free ride [through a boxing scholarship to the UW]. I was in the right state, at the right time. Now, I'm doing what I love to do, and I'm doing something beneficial.

"It's just a lot of luck to be doing something you love."

—Karen Graf Roach '82



expertise obtained in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Indiana.

**Louis Uccellini '71, MS'72, PhD'77**, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Prediction, has earned a 2006 Presidential Rank Award — the most prestigious federal award given to senior professionals. He's also the co-author of *Northeast Snowstorms* (American Meteorological Society), which was listed in the *Wall Street Journal* in November as one of the five best books about weather. Uccellini lives in Columbia, Maryland.

*Acts of the Saints* (Samin Publishing) is a "work of literary speculative fiction that explores life in a theocratic America" — as well as the latest novel by **K.A. (Karen) Tittelfitz Schuster (Jones) '72, MA'73**. She resides, as she says, just north of "the birthplace of surrealism" — a.k.a. Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

A new psychological legal thriller called *The White Paper's Progeny* (BookSurge Publishing) has come our way from debut novelist **James Lorimer JD'72** of Placida, Florida. It interweaves the lives of four lawyers who are trying to find out whether the deadly action plan set forth in a white paper — authored by Kremlin insiders during World War II — has already been set in motion.

The new vice president of human resources and organizational management at PeaceHealth Oregon Region, based in Eugene, is **Craig Mills '72, MS'76**. He's spent thirty years in health care human resources, primarily in California and Alaska, and most recently in St. Louis, Missouri.

The April issue of *American Artist* magazine featured the plein-air oil paintings of Madisonian **Marla Brenner '73**, who teaches at Madison Area Technical College. She has sketched, painted, and

photographed around the world, and her works appear in collections nationwide. You can see some for yourself at [www.marlabrenner.com](http://www.marlabrenner.com).

From Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, came a message from **Bekele Sissay PhD'73**, who studied pasture and forage management at the UW. "I served my country in teaching, research, and development," he writes, and upon retiring in 1994, worked with Winrock International and CARE International. Sissay visited the campus in 1994 and reminisces, "All in all, I had a very sound education and enjoyed living in Madison. The people were welcoming and lovable. I miss Madison and the University of Wisconsin."

The American Folklore Society has awarded its 2006 Chicago Folklore Prize to **Jo (Joanne) Farb Hernández '74** for her book *Forms of Tradition in Contemporary Spain* (University Press of Mississippi). Hernández, of Watsonville, California, is the director and curator of the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery at San José State University, as well as the principal of curatorial and museum management services.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has welcomed **(Henry) Mark Johnston '74** as a new fellow. He's a professor of genetics at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Wanda Bryant Wills '74** of Indianapolis is new to the board of trustees of Faith & Values Media, the "nation's largest coalition of Abrahamic faith groups dedicated to media production, distribution, and promotion." She also oversees communication efforts to the 750,000 members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination as its executive director of communications ministries.

The new assistant vice president for student affairs

at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg is **Richard Ferraro MA'75, PhD'94**. He was most recently the dean of students at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and has held deanships at Columbia University, the College of William and Mary, and Emory College.

*A Writer's Coach: An Editor's Guide to Words That Work* (Pantheon and Vintage Press) is the second book by **Jack Hart PhD'75**, who knows his subject matter extremely well — he's a managing editor at *The Oregonian* in Portland, Oregon.

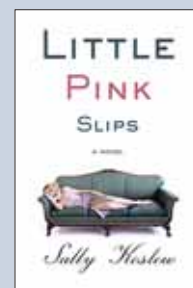
UW-Superior has a new assistant vice chancellor: **Jane Birkholz '76**. She was previously vice provost of student affairs at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

When the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities met in New Zealand in November, it elected **Dale Austin '77, MA'86** as its new chair. He's the senior VP and chief operating officer of the Federation of State Medical Boards, a national nonprofit based in Dallas. In 2004, the federation established the Dale L. Austin Award for Excellence to honor employees who exemplify its core values.

Now here's an unusual position: chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management — and **Robert Blohm MS'77, PhD'79** of Bowie, Maryland, holds it. A migratory-bird expert, he's been with the division since 1979.

**Bob Kovar '77** holds a 2006 Giraffe Award — which the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families gives to those who have "stuck their necks out" on behalf of the state's youth. In Kovar's case, he felt a need to help ease tensions between tribal and non-tribal communities in northern Wisconsin, so he gave up his steady employment to found and serve as the project director of the Intercultural

## Bookmark



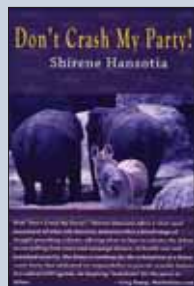
Sometimes art does, in fact, imitate life, as happens in *Little Pink Slips* (Putnam) — what one review has dubbed the "biting, mordantly funny debut novel" by New Yorker **Sally Platkin Koslow '70**. "Inspired by real-life events," it says, "*Little Pink Slips* is about the fall, rise, and sweet revenge of a woman who witnesses corporate shenanigans at their most flagrant."

In Koslow's real-life case, the venue was the late *McCall's* magazine, where she was editor-in-chief from 1994 until its final issue in 2001. That's when actress and television personality Rosie O'Donnell arrived on the scene, reinvented *McCall's* as *Rosie*, and assumed Koslow's duties at her new namesake publication. Koslow moved on to become editor-in-chief of *Lifetime* magazine.

Readers can't help but notice some similarities between O'Donnell and Bebe Blake, her fictional counterpart in *Little Pink Slips*, which begs the question, is this "revenge lit"? Answers Koslow, "People can categorize it any way they want, as long as they predict it will be a best seller."

The author has appeared frequently on television, consults, lectures widely, and has written for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Glamour*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Redbook*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Self*, *Town & Country*, *Made-moiselle*, *More* — and more.

## Bookmark



*Don't Crash My Party!* (Helm Publishing), by **Shirene Hansotia '94**, received a rare maximum rating from Heartland Reviews for her "superb political commentary," which, it says, "will affect different people in different ways: Democrats will scream, 'You go, girl!' Fair-minded Republicans will say, 'I didn't know that!' Independents will say, 'She's pretty even-handed.'"

And honestly, that's a very tall order for any book that takes on as many issues as Hansotia's does. Putting her background as a newspaper journalist, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development staffer, and CIA intelligence analyst to work, she dissects the current state of America, gives a detailed analysis of what's gone wrong and why, places responsibility on both parties, and outlines solutions for reforming virtually every domain of the federal government.

Continues Heartland Reviews, "She gives the straight story in easy-to-understand language. She's fair, lets her audience see where she's coming from, and provides enough information and analysis from which to make educated decisions."

The author lives in Hollywood, South Carolina, and continues to work as an intelligence consultant.

Leadership Initiative in Lac du Flambeau. There, he facilitates cultural awareness, respect, dialogue, and conflict resolution with the area's young people.

The president-elect of the American Chemical Society — the world's largest scientific organization — is **Bruce Bursten PhD'78**. "This is both thrilling and humbling to me," he says. "Chemistry is central to nearly all of our global challenges and solutions." Bursten is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a distinguished professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

*Weak Scale Supersymmetry: from Superfields to Scattering Events* (Cambridge University Press) is the new work co-authored by **Howard Baer '79, MS'81, PhD'84**, a professor of theoretical elementary particle physics at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

**Gary Chester '79** has written *See You in Court: A Trial Attorney's Look at Crazy Cases, Ludicrous Lawyering, and Dubious Decisions* (Author House), which provides, as the name implies, a "scathing and humorous look at frivolous legal cases and the legal system itself." Chester is a civil trial attorney, as well as a print and broadcast journalist, who lives in Kinnelon, New Jersey.

*American Educational History: School, Society, and the Common Good* (Sage Publications) is the latest offering from **William Jeynes '79**, a professor of education at California State University in Long Beach. "In terms of the breadth of coverage, extent of references, and depth of analysis," he notes, "it's the most complete book on this topic that's currently on the market."

The next time you're near the Marine Corps League's Post 246 on Staten Island, New York, look for the life-sized, bronze sculpture of a Marine that was recently unveiled. It's a piece

by **Stephen Tirone MA'79, MFA'79**, a former Marine who's been teaching sculpture and ceramics at Morehead [Kentucky] State University for twenty-four years.

## 80s

Attention, Alumni News readers who know and love physics: **Kevin Fruechte '80** of Fairmont, Minnesota, writes to say that he has a Web site "that, if correct, shows how to solve a longstanding physics problem" — specifically, that "the gravitational force is the result of gamma ray energy exchange." See what you think at [www.fruechtetheory.com](http://www.fruechtetheory.com).

A three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has gone to **James Hall PhD'80**, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. As the lead investigator, Hall and his research team will study how increased primary-care services and an online "video doctor" might help to curb underage drinking in rural Iowa, where rates of binge drinking and driving under the influence are higher than the national norm.

**Gwendolyn Holbrow '80** ([www.gwendolynholbrow.com](http://www.gwendolynholbrow.com)) sent an eye-catching postcard to announce her winter art installation, called *reflection*, at the Danforth Museum of Art in her home community of Framingham, Massachusetts. The front of the card was silver, like a mirror, and the text invited the reader to "enter and reflect." (Get it?)

The Madison-based Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) has added three Badgers to its board: **Celia McCraney Jackson JD'80**, the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing; **Shannon Lored (Carpenter) '04**, a public-affairs associate at Martin

Schreiber and Associates; and Clean Wisconsin's water program director, **Melissa Malott JD'04**. They join newly elected officers **Angela James '95, MS'00, JD'00**, WWIG board secretary and a policy adviser to Governor **Jim Doyle '67**; and **Katie Rezin Walby '00**, WWIG board VP and a public-affairs adviser at the Foley and Lardner law firm.

Here's good news for the "tool challenged": **Peter Janssen '80, MS'88, DVM'88** has invented the Thumbs Up tool-free picture hanger ([www.Thumbsuphanger.com](http://www.Thumbsuphanger.com)), a device that inserts into drywall with thumb pressure only. Janssen says he's "gratified that it's more than just a pet project," but he's not giving up his day job quite yet — he's a veterinarian and the owner of Janssen Clinic for Animals in Middleton, Wisconsin.

**Paul Higginbotham '81, JD'85** has received a 2007 Excellence in Leadership award from the Strong Men and Women program, which is run by energy company Dominion. The program seeks to provide African-American youth with positive role models, and Higginbotham certainly is one: he's the first African-American to serve as a judge both in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and on the Dane County Circuit Court bench, and along with his twin brother, **Steve Braunginn '79, MA'90**, he's very active in Madison-area civic and civil-rights activities.

Former U.S. secretary of labor Robert Reich had high praise for the tenth edition of *The State of Working America 2006/2007* (Cornell University Press), co-authored by **Lawrence Mishel PhD'82**. Reich writes that the book series "remains unrivaled as the most trusted source for a comprehensive understanding of how working Americans and their families are faring in today's economy." Mishel



is president of the Economic Policy Institute and lives in Takoma Park, Maryland.

The Milwaukee-based marketing communications firm Blue Horse has welcomed **Laura Rohloff Rodriguez '83** as its new advertising account team supervisor. She's held various supervisory positions previously at agencies in Madison and Los Angeles.

Polymer-coating company FLEXcon has promoted **David Rosen '84** to executive VP/ international, putting him in charge of all of the company's operations outside of North America. Rosen lives in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

"While in college, I pursued my interest in sports photography with the *Daily Cardinal*," began a note from **Neil Ament '85** of Deerfield, Illinois. Law school, a legal career, and other life happenings turned him into a "point-and-shoot, snapshot guy," he says, but in 2004, Ament "rekindled his passion" and has now concluded his first season shooting for the UW Athletic Department. His Badger galleries are at [www.pbbase.com/mylesl/seats](http://www.pbbase.com/mylesl/seats).

**Daniel Noonan '85** has left his post as the supervisor of electronic records management for the state of New Jersey to go to Columbus, Ohio, where he's now Ohio State University's first electronic records manager and archivist.

In his new book, *Sound Design and Science Fiction* (University of Texas Press), **William Whittington '86** chronicles the rise of sound design through its cultural, technological, and attitudinal evolution since the 1960s. The author is the assistant chair of critical studies at the University of Southern California.

**Bill Zucker '86** is stepping up at the Chicago office of public relations and communications firm Burson-Marsteller. He'll continue in his role as managing director of the media

practice, but will also become Midwest market leader. Zucker was named the 2005 Crisis Communicator of the Year by *PR News* for his work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association as the first case of mad cow disease surfaced in this country. Zucker was an Emmy- and AP-award-winning TV and radio journalist before joining Burson-Marsteller.

From the Small World Department came news about **Francie Cate-Arries PhD '87**, who is fondly remembered by this Alumni News compiler as her UW Spanish TA in 1980-something. In February, Cate-Arries received a 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award, the state of Virginia's highest honor for professors. She teaches Hispanic studies at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, and is a resident director of the school's summer program in Cádiz, Spain.

**Patrick Christie '87** is using the \$150,000 he received as a 2007 Pew [Institute for Ocean Science] Fellow in Marine Conservation to carry out a three-year project: facilitating the formation and management of marine-protected-area networks in the Philippines to address the "unprecedented loss of biodiversity, habitats, and ecological function." Christie is an assistant professor at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Pat Covey '87** is "branching out" at the Davey Tree Expert Company in Kent, Ohio. As a new executive VP of operations, he's added oversight of tree and lawn care services, commercial landscape services, and employee recruitment and development to his existing responsibility for the firm's consulting division. Founded in 1880, Davey has more than six thousand employees.

**Adeeb Khalid MA '88, PhD '93** teaches history at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and has authored

*Islam after Communism: Religion and Politics in Central Asia* (University of California Press).

By garnering 48,999 votes in a November election, **Tom Madden '89** earned a seat on the Minneapolis School Board in his first run for elected office. He plans to focus on reversing the city's declining student enrollment.

## 90s

**Joel Davis '90** has been recognized as an outstanding course leader by the American Institute for CPCU and the Insurance Institute of America, both educational nonprofits in the field of risk management and property-casualty insurance. Davis is an account executive at Mesirow Financial in Chicago.

From his 1999 entry point at Weidmüller as a field sales engineer for the Wisconsin territory, **Jon Keepman '90** of Milwaukee has risen to his new position as the equipment-manufacture industry manager for NAFTA markets. Weidmüller manufactures components for electrical connection technology to transmit energy, signals, and data.

**Leda Strand '90** has been promoted to director of technology applications and industrial ingredients at the St. Francis, Wisconsin-based Wixon, a producer of food ingredients. Strand is also secretary of the Wisconsin Institute of Food Technologists.

Hey, nineties grads — the next time you access your MySpace profile, you may be seeing the work of **Jon Harrison '92** of Chicago. He's been promoted to a new position at Fox Interactive Media's MySpace.com as a senior territory sales manager covering the Midwest and selling online media and corporate custom community profiles.

**Dennis Schrag '92** is the new executive director of the

Children's Course — a Gladstone, Oregon-based nonprofit that's devoted to strengthening character and guiding disadvantaged youth to become responsible adults through the game of golf. Schrag joins the organization after golf-related positions at Nike and ten years as a broadcast journalist.

The word *tome* seems fitting for a new book by **Alfred Boll MA '93, JD '93** — it's a reference work that's 626 pages long! Called *Multiple Nationality and International Law* (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers), it includes a foreword by International Court of Justice judge Kenneth Keith. Boll is a foreign-service officer with the U.S. Department of State.

**Andrew Cohen '93** is a new project director at Forum One Communications, an Alexandria, Virginia-based Web strategy and development firm. He was previously a founding member and project manager at Beaconfire Consulting.

New Yorker **Ben Karlin '93**, the Badger who made it big as the executive producer of television's *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*, left those positions at the end of 2006 to pursue other projects, including a forthcoming collection of essays called *Things I've Learned from Women Who've Dumped Me* (Warner Books). He'll remain a consultant for both TV shows.

The National Association for Multicultural Education has given its 2006 multicultural book award to a work co-edited by **Robert Pena PhD '93** of Bainbridge Island, Washington. It's called *Community and Difference: Teaching, Pluralism, and Social Justice* (Peter Lang Publishing).

**Raymond Kotwicki '94, MD '98** is the new medical director and VP for clinical affairs at Skyland Trail, an Atlanta-based adult psychiatric treatment center. He most recently served at Atlanta's

Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory Healthcare.

## Stacy Nichols-Frank

**Ozanne '94** writes that the namesakes of both the Chris Farley Foundation ([www.ChrisFarleyFoundation.com](http://www.ChrisFarleyFoundation.com)) and the Aaron Meyer Foundation ([www.AaronMeyerFoundation.org](http://www.AaronMeyerFoundation.org)) were Madison-area natives who battled substance abuse — and now the two organizations have formed a partnership. In addition, the Meyer Foundation plans to open its first Aaron's House — a “healthy and safe place for young men” — in Madison in August. Ozanne, who works with both groups outside of her real estate career, adds that Badgers on the Meyer Foundation board include **Jim Leonhart MS'72**, **Linda Bauer Kent Leonhart MS'75**, **Steve Larson '82**, **Judy Schultzenberg Walsh '82**, **Tim Kritter '85**, and **Dane Fjelstad '99**.

From a field of some 1,300 nominations, **Dana Bjerke MA'96** was one of only 25 individuals to receive a 2006 *New York Times* Librarian Award in December. Bjerke is a youth-services librarian at Ridgedale Library in Minnetonka, Minnesota, where she's known for her creativity and enthusiasm, and so beloved that longtime teen volunteers nominated her.

**Cory Nettles JD'96**, a partner in the Milwaukee office of the Quarles & Brady law firm, has joined the board of trustees of the Medical College of Wisconsin. In appointing him, Wisconsin Governor **Jim Doyle '67** said that Nettles will serve the board “the same way he does everything else — with enthusiasm and excellence.” Nettles previously served as secretary of the state's Department of Commerce and was a principal architect of Doyle's “Grow Wisconsin” plan.

An October article in the *Ithaca* [New York] *Times* profiled **Kevin Ernste '97**, an assistant professor of com-

position and electronic music at Cornell University, and the director of its new Electro-acoustic Music Center. There, Ernste's interests in humanism and community are nurturing a place where students in diverse fields can come together to create, because, he explains, “You're only a human being through your connection to other people.” Thanks to **Johnny Russo MMusicx'77** for sharing the article.

When a book arrives sporting a plum and lime-green cover, and it's called *Wallowing in Sex: The New Sexual Culture of 1970s American Television* (Duke University Press) ... well, it's an attention getter. It's also a new work by **Elana Levine MA'97, PhD'02**, an assistant professor of journalism and mass communication at UW-Milwaukee. Her next book will be a history of soap operas.

Tenor **Daniel Lockwood '97** ([www.daniellockwood.com](http://www.daniellockwood.com)) is alive and well and living in New York City as an actor and singer who's been performing professionally with the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players for the last five years. He recently appeared in its City Center production of *The Mikado*, and received “a nice review” from the *New York Times* on January 8.

From Montpelier, Vermont, came the news that **Carolyn Malcoun '97** — a 2003 culinary school grad — has been promoted to associate editor of the Charlotte-based *Eating Well* magazine.

**Matthew Younkle '97** has been making headlines with the TurboTap ([www.turbotap.com](http://www.turbotap.com)): “draft beers' only rapid-dispense retrofit.” The invention began as an award-winning prototype that Younkle created while he was a UW engineering student. Now he's the president and chief technology officer of the Chicago-based company that manufactures the device and

solves the problem of too much foam on tap beers.

## Alice Rosenthal '98,

a student at Rutgers School of Law-Newark [New Jersey], has earned an Equal Justice Works Fellowship for proposing sustainable, community-based projects to help adolescents make successful transitions out of foster care. Starting in September, she'll implement her ideas as a fellow at Advocates for Children of New York.

## Writes Mark Riccobono

'99 of Baltimore, “My wife, **Melissa [Lehman Riccobono '01, MS'03]**, and I are both blind and, along with our [baby] son, Austin, we'll be marching in the first-ever March for Independence ([www.marchforindependence.org](http://www.marchforindependence.org)) in Atlanta on July 3. We've set a goal to raise \$5,000 [to support] innovative programs of the National Federation of the Blind ([www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)), and we're seeking lots of Big Red support for this event, including encouraging other Badgers to come march with us.” Very best wishes to the Riccobonos' “Team Empowerment”!

## 2000s

### Congratulations to Kim

**Hendricks JD'00**, who's big news at ABC Supply Company in Beloit, Wisconsin. Not only is she president of its Mule-Hide Products Company subsidiary (a position she's held since 1996), but now she's also been promoted to vice president of the parent company. ABC Supply is a wholesale distributor of roofing, siding, windows, and other exterior building products.

## (Harold) David Ikard

**PhD'02** has authored *Breaking the Silence: Toward a Black Male Feminist Criticism* (Louisiana State University Press), which hopes to lay the foundation for “more expansive feminist approaches to resolving intraracial gender conflicts.”

Ikard is an assistant professor of English at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Our thoughts are with **Kyle Roberts MS'03**, who recently received a Purple Heart following an injury in an IED (improvised explosive device) explosion in Bayji, Iraq. He has since returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with the Infantry's 101st Airborne.

**Diana Baumann Haugen '05** is doing well — and doing good — in Los Angeles as an assistant account executive at the Rogers Group, a PR firm. She represents the First 5 California Children and Families Commission and its fifty-eight county commissions, which implement education, health care, child care, and other programs for expectant parents and kids up to age five. Haugen was a member of WAA's Wisconsin Alumni Student Board while on campus.

In-home fitness training and corporate wellness programs are just two of the offerings from Pilates Your Way ([www.pilatesyourway.com](http://www.pilatesyourway.com)), the new Madison firm that **Valerie Minning '05** owns and is operating with **Mike Head '05**. Minning is also the originator of Piladio, a blend of Pilates and cardio workouts that you can try yourself through her new Piladio DVD.

Creating the new Web site ([www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu)) for the UW's Lakeshore Nature Preserve allowed PhD student **Melanie McCalmont MS'06** to combine her love of geography, photography, and the environment with input from many other alumni and professors. She hopes that the finished product will inspire the Madison community to learn about and protect this and other urban ecosystems.

Compiled by WAA's alumni news editor, Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83, who slices, dices, and makes julienne fries — in a snap!



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# One War, Two Paths

By Dirk Van Susteren '70

Twice a year, I reach into the rafters of our small barn to either get or put away my family's cross-country skis. And when I do, I usually take note of a snapped-off piece of fiberglass pole that is stored there. Its inscription reads, "Gary Bander, Freshman Track, University of Wisconsin, Feb. 16, 1965."

It was Bander's pole-vaulting souvenir, one he had forgotten when he left our Tripp Hall room and the university in June 1966. I took it, figuring I would return it when I saw him next.

We had been sophomore roommates, drawn together by shared interests and backgrounds. We were from small towns in Wisconsin; we were passionate about sports; both of us were experts at trading away hours of study time to watch *The Untouchables* reruns or play dorm-room basketball with wads of paper and a wastebasket. Bander had another distraction, though, and this one was legitimate: he was a flanker on the Badger football team — one skilled enough to be named the team's "most improved" player in 1965.

Our semester together was a troubling one at the UW, as those enrolled during the 1960s can attest. The Vietnam War had begun raging, and many of our classmates were struggling with its moral implications and worrying about the draft. Bander and I were not immune to such concerns, but we didn't exactly dwell on them. North Vietnam was being bombed, a U.S. Senate committee had begun hearings, and fellow students were protesting. Yet Bander and I preferred denial to dissent.

Things changed quickly. With lackluster grades, Bander lost his student deferment that next summer and was soon in Vietnam. I managed to stay in school, thanks to a medical deferment, but soon found reason to march against the war.

Bander sent me a few letters, providing snippets of life — and sometimes death — in Vietnam. I responded with campus news. No whiner, he nonetheless wrote, "I hate the army with a mad passion. ... So does everyone else. ... Glad to hear you may get out of the service. ... Lucky dog!"

Bander survived his year of combat, and then during a short leave in his two-year hitch, he visited Madison. Over beers, he said, "I can't tell you how surreal it is to be back here." He expressed confidence that he would return to the UW and play football. He confessed that he "shook like a baby" during a rocket attack during his first day in a combat zone. I was struck by his honesty. I described how vigils and teach-ins had morphed into street protests. He said he might become a teacher. I said I had switched majors from English to history, hoping to understand how we'd gotten into Vietnam, and that perhaps after graduation I would get a job with a newspaper.

It was our first serious conversation. It was also our last. Several months later, Bander was critically injured when he was a passenger in a jeep rollover at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Bander's mother, in her first plane trip, flew to be at his side. He died four days after the accident.

Not long ago, around the

fortieth anniversary of Bander's deployment, I tracked down one of his old army buddies, Larry Albrightson, of Woodville, Wisconsin. Albrightson remembered Bander's generous spirit, recalling how he had once used his athletic stature and diplomacy to defuse racial tension in their unit. He said Bander, on leave in Wisconsin, once drove seventy miles to the family farm, just to tell Albrightson's parents that all was well with their son in Vietnam.

After we talked, Albrightson mailed me a video of their unit in action in Vietnam. The images, jerky from the handheld camera, are augmented by the *Good Morning, Vietnam* soundtrack. One segment shows the aftermath of a Viet Cong attack; another shows Bander and army friends clowning with Vietnamese kids and sharing candy.

Bander and I had spent only a few months together. He certainly had closer friends. Still, memories of our sophomore antics, the laughs, the war's intensity, and the horrible irony of his death in Oklahoma after surviving Vietnam have kept me from ever tossing away that UW track souvenir.

Warm weather is back now, and the cross-country skis are still on the porch. I will return them to the barn's rafters soon and once again face that unanswerable question: "Why was I the lucky dog?"

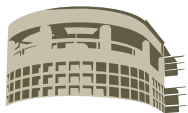
*Dirk Van Susteren is an editor at the Rutland Herald and Barre-Montpelier Times Argus in Vermont. If you are a UW-Madison alumnus or alumna and you'd like the editors to consider an essay for publication in On Wisconsin, please send it to WAA@uwalumni.com.*



JIB WALLACE BRODEUR

*"North Vietnam was being bombed, a U.S. Senate committee had begun hearings, and fellow students were protesting. Yet Bander and I preferred denial to dissent."*





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## Taking Care of Friends

A horse lover gives back to an invaluable resource.

When five-year-old **Morrie Waud** looked out the window at the hospital where he was being treated for polio, he saw horses at a stable across the street. The animals were a delightful distraction, and they sparked a lifelong love of all things equine.

Waud went on to play polo and ride hunters and jumpers, and he now works with hitches of Belgian and Suffolk draft horses. Although the polio took the strength of his upper left arm, Waud confidently controls several horses weighing up to 2,500 pounds apiece as he drives hitches that pull wagons in parades, move trees downed by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, and plow fields on his ninety-acre farm in Long Grove, Illinois.

Waud was born Morrison Waud, Jr. to a Chicago family with a history of generosity, but he didn't find his philanthropic passion until he and his horses began a relationship with the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Waud had a handful of contacts with the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital over the years, and when his primary veterinarian retired in the late 1990s, he became a frequent client of **Ryland Edwards**, then a UW veterinary surgeon. Waud was grateful for the exceptional care shown to his horses by staff in medicine, surgery, and reproductive services.

"I decided that when I turned sixty, I'd make a gift to the university of whatever Dr. Edwards needed," says Waud.



MORRISON WAUD III

**Equine equation:** Take a man with a lifelong love of horses, add a skilled veterinary staff with special needs, and multiply with generosity. The product? The Fund for Excellence in Equine Health at the School of Veterinary Medicine, started by Morrie Waud, here shown with two good friends.

Edwards and members of the UW Foundation staff helped Waud establish the Fund for Excellence in Equine Health, which has since provided support for ultrasound equipment that will benefit large animals. Waud and his spouse, Tracey, encourage other horse owners and lovers to support the fund because of the outstanding care they can depend on at the hospital.

"When I have a problem, I don't just have one vet in the field," says Waud. "I come to the teaching hospital and have up to four people, from students to clinical faculty, thinking about it, which is everything to me."

Waud also serves on the

school's board of visitors, has contributed support and insight on large-animal hospital marketing materials, and is assisting with plans for an affiliated equine clinic in southern Wisconsin.

"We have over twenty thousand patient visits to our hospital each year," says **Daryl Buss MS'74, PhD'75**, the school's dean. "Each of those visits involves a connection with a concerned client. Waud illustrates the qualities of concern, respect, and love that people have for animals, and he has translated those qualities into action. He is an example of how one person's commitment and philanthropy can make a tremendous difference."

## Living in a Bigger World

Fund will ease life-changing travel for engineering students.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that a mind stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.

That's just what **Fernando and Carla Alvarado MS'89, PhD'03** hope their recently established study-abroad scholarship will do for the UW-Madison engineering students who receive it.

Fernando Alvarado, an emeritus professor of electrical and computer engineering, was born in Lima, Peru, and attended school in the United States, as did his grandfather, mother, aunt, and uncle. "My family has lived in two worlds," he says. "It's always given us a much broader perspective on what's happening outside country borders. I find that a lot of the current global problems related to the U.S. may exist because there's a lack of awareness that we live in a bigger world."

"The United States is so big, we almost don't need to see what is going on elsewhere. The first time you go outside, even to Canada or to Mexico, it's an eye-opener for anybody who has never done that."

Carla Alvarado, a research scientist emerita in the College of Engineering's Center for Quality and Productivity Improvement, says the opportunities provided through the scholarship will be life changing.

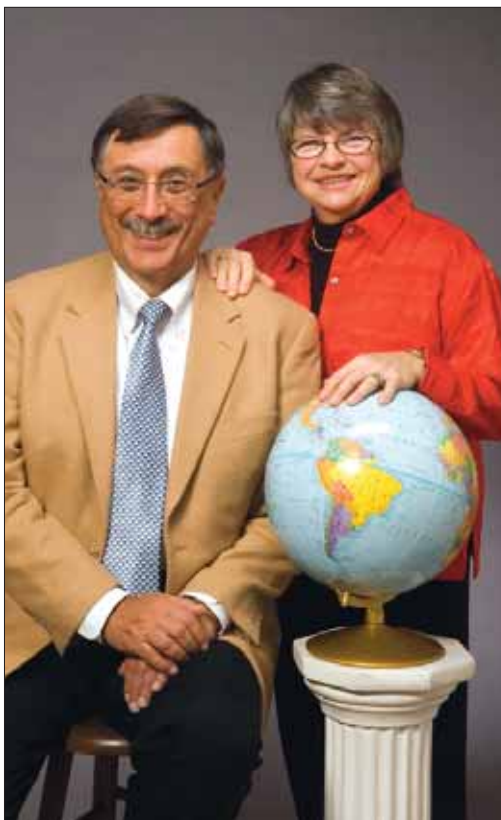
"Sometimes, you can become parochial in your own setting and not realize what you are good at and what the rest of the world is good at and how it feels to be an outsider in

a different culture," she says. "This study-abroad experience will give that to people. It will make them really appreciate the skills and talents they have at home and also see what's out there, the opportunity to appreciate that, to see a little bit more and bring those things back home."

The Alvarados have made many gifts to support campus activities, especially in the College of Engineering. Their main focus has been unrestricted student support, provided through their Fernando and Carla Alvarado ECE Fund to support graduate students in electrical and computer engineering — and now provided by this Global Experience Fund.

The Alvarados hope this new scholarship can fund a student's flight to and from a foreign destination, or perhaps a trip home during the holidays.

"The key sometimes for these students to get to [study abroad] is having the cash on hand to finance the physical part of the trip," Carla Alvarado explains. "They can get student



BOB RASHID

**See the world: Fernando and Carla Alvarado believe that being an outsider in another culture can help students to appreciate their own talents and those of others. The Alvarados have established the Global Experience Fund to support international travel.**

loans to pay for tuition, but to actually have the money to buy that plane ticket, to have some start-up cash in your pocket, to maybe do a little side travel, maybe a few extra meals — that's something else."

Fernando Alvarado concurs. "We know that a lot of the other money students might get has strings attached to it," he says. "We are not putting restrictions on [these scholarships], as long as the main use is for the benefit of the student. If it turns out the best thing is to give them some spending money so they can go to restaurants with new friends, to make the experience better, then so be it."

— Chris DuPré

## Fostering Peace

**Marguerite Jacqmin Soffa '46** had a grand goal in mind when she established a fund to bring renowned women from across the globe to lecture at the UW.

"My primary interest is fostering peace around the world," says Soffa, describing the J. Jobe Soffa and Marguerite Jacqmin Soffa Distinguished International Visitor Fund. Her late husband, J. Jobe, was a 1947 graduate of the School of Business.

"One of the ways we can bring about peace is for people of different cultures and countries to come together," she says. "If we know each other, we can perhaps come to understand and appreciate one another."

Soffa also is concerned with women's and children's rights. "Women and children are oppressed all over the world," she says. "If we can shine a light on issues that matter to them, we can take steps to make their lives better."

Among the speakers during the lecture series' first five years have been Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, founder of Save Somali Women and Children; Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, director of Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange, Uganda; and Mary Burton, commissioner of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"They've all given very inspiring lectures, and they've all been wonderful to meet and speak with," Soffa says. "It has been a rewarding experience for me and I would hope for the campus."

— Chris DuPré