

On Wisconsin



For University of Wisconsin-Madison Alumni and Friends

Fight or Flight

*Fred Gardaphé '76 faced
two choices: drift into a
life of crime or flee
to Madison.*

FALL 2011

The Improv Prof

He approaches music and life with an open mind.

Bacon. Yum!

Behind the scenes with people in white coats.

Making Lemonade

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Features

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His UW education led Fred Gardaphé '76 away from the rough neighborhood that took the lives of his father, grandfather, and godfather — but his old hometown still exerts a pull on his psyche.

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Louise Bengé and her siblings suffered a pain that her doctors couldn't explain — until she met William Gahl MD'76, PhD'81 of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

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Those who knew this UW grad a decade ago wouldn't have predicted who (or where) he is today.

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Richard Davis encourages his music students to improvise — both in performance and in life. An accomplished bass player, he encourages free-flowing discourse about jazz, history, and racial injustice.

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Whether making bratwurst for the backyard grill or bacon for the breakfast table, participants in this UW training program become master meat crafters.



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Cover

Planes from nearby O'Hare Airport provide a fitting metaphor for Fred Gardaphé's flight from a tough upbringing in blue-collar Melrose Park, Illinois — as well as his regular trips home.
Photo by Jeff Miller

Where others saw the night, we chose the stars.

The first real measurement of starlight took place at Wisconsin in the 1930s. This discovery is still helping us understand the Earth's place in the universe – and beyond.

Since 1848, people at the University of Wisconsin have fearlessly dreamed the ideas that transform the world. It's not a question of if – only when and how – we will next move the world forward.

Keep on, Wisconsin. Keep on.



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

On Wisconsin FALL 2011

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Quarterly production of *On Wisconsin Magazine*
is supported by a UW Foundation grant.
© 2011 Wisconsin Alumni Association

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Richard Davis likes

to reminisce about his life and career in music.

That's lucky for his students and for Gwen Evans, a University Communications writer who researched the legendary bassist and UW-Madison music professor for the story on page 36.

Sitting at Davis's kitchen table, Evans learned that he is a great storyteller, but not your typical academic. He played alongside another famous Davis — Miles — and likes to say that he earned his doctorate from the University of Sarah Vaughan. Before accepting a teaching position at the UW in the 1970s, his response to a friend who advised him to ask for tenure was, "What's that?"

When it comes to telling stories, Davis draws from a wealth of history. During one conversation with Evans, he veered from making jokes about percussionists, to talking about the boxer Jack Johnson, to sharing thoughts about the *Titanic*, and back again.

Evans also discovered that Davis is an artist whose generous spirit equals his talent, and he's eager to share experiences and knowledge with his students. After three decades in the classroom, Davis is still making an impact. He takes joy in watching the light bulb go on, and he notices when students need help.

And as Evans observed during his Black Music Ensemble course, he teaches what might be one of the most important (and often the hardest) skills to learn, both as musicians and as people: how to improvise. Some of his students struggle with improvisation because they began playing instruments by reading sheet music and following it precisely to the note. Davis shows them how to free themselves up, reminding them that just because something is scary doesn't mean it's impossible.

In the end, Davis's philosophy made a lasting impression on Evans. "He approaches every person with an open mind and open heart," she says. "We can all take a page from that."

Jenny Price '96



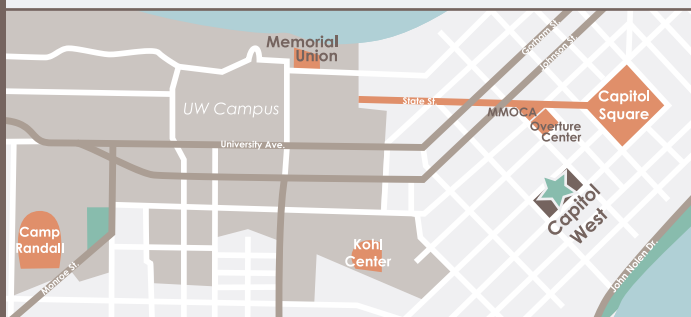
BRUCE RICHTER

Improvisation is an invaluable skill in music and in life, Professor Richard Davis believes.

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A Hemingway Heroine

I turned the pages, slowly, of David McKay Wilson's reportage of photojournalist Lynsey Addario '95 ["The Eye of the Storm," Summer 2011 *On Wisconsin*]. With words and images seeping, searing into me, I felt transported. No longer was I reading a modern-day accounting of an exceptional alumna, but a manuscript, long lost and never imagined and strikingly illustrated — a chronicle of the valorous life and life's work of a Hemingway heroine.

Ms. Addario's extraordinarily emotive photography, in combination with her personal story, make this issue, in my view, indelible. Thank you for bringing attention to these troubled regions and their tormented people with such timeless, sensitive artistry and respect.

*Robert Andropolis '84
Montgomery, Illinois*

Moved to Tears

What an achievement. ... I had tears in my eyes as I read the article about Tim Cordes ["Seeing Potential," Summer 2011]. What a personal achievement, and what an achievement for the university and its medical school.

*Robert Goldberger '53, MD'56
Mequon, Wisconsin*

Rooting for the Stars

John Allen's article "Oh, My Stars!" [Summer 2011] naming a few of the many "greats" of the University of Wisconsin made me homesick. Those mentioned were not only stars in the university, but were also leaders in American society. Their contributions were of the highest order, and are enduring. I'm eighty-five years old and getting along quite well because of their work.

[Karl] Link's Warfarin is keeping me safe from blood clotting, and [Conrad] Elvehjem's niacin helps control my cholesterol. These are two of the foremost medications that have kept me alive and well for many years. I tout these health-control efforts to all my friends, and never fail to cite them as the university's contributions.

*Russell Shank MBA'52
Los Angeles, California*

[The list in "Oh, My Stars!"] of nine Wisconsin alumni who changed the world should have been increased to ten. You forgot Harry Steenbock. Steenbock not only discovered the process for irradiating milk and increasing its Vitamin D content, which eliminated rickets, he donated his royalties to the university, which formed the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. If that wasn't world changing, I can't imagine what would be. On, Wisconsin!

*Walker Johnson '58
Chicago, Illinois*

As I read the Summer issue of *On Wisconsin*, I was very happy to see the article including Arthur Altmeyer in the list of most influential alums. Although he received many honors in his life, I am sure he would have been very proud (quietly so) to have been included in this list of outstanding alumni, because of his lifelong love and association with Wisconsin and the UW.

You ended the piece on Arthur by

I always thought that Donna Moss [from the TV show West Wing] was the quintessential Badger: she is very smart, can talk about anything under the sun, and [can] research anything, too.

describing the irony of the elimination of his position by the Eisenhower administration twenty-seven days before he would have been eligible for full retirement benefits. Here's a short follow-up: after a public outcry at his undignified "retirement," Arthur was offered a ceremonial position for a month that would have allowed him full retirement benefits. Of course, he refused to take a job where he would take the taxpayers' money for doing nothing. If only there were more like Arthur Altmeyer.

*Richard Aylward '60
Glendale, Arizona*

Flashback Seems Like Yesterday

The Flashback ("Tears and Gas") in the Summer 2011 *On Wisconsin* really caught my eye. Even though most of the heads are turned or obscured, I immediately recognized two former roommates and a former girlfriend and her sister in the picture. I haven't seen any of them for almost forty years, but it seems like yesterday, and the photo brought back lots of fond memories and scenes from my years in Madison (1968–1972) for this alumnus of "a certain age," as John Allen refers to us. Some sad times, but all good memories!

*Fred Marshall '72
Houston, Texas*

Best Issue Ever?

Just wanted to say — what a great magazine. This issue [Summer 2011] was among the best ever — maybe the best.

*Frank Rojas '74
Seattle, Washington*

From the Web

What a great person to feature in this article ["Seeing Potential, Summer 2011"]. I'm so glad that Tim Cordes became a physician — he's got all the makings of an outstanding one.

I just shared this article with a friend who is blind, is a student at MATC, and hopes to attend UW-Madison, majoring in social work. He was very interested in hearing about Tim

Cordes, [who] is a model for all of us. Thanks for highlighting his remarkable life!

Bill Breisch MS'69

I recall seeing Tim in the hallways of UW Hospital and thinking, "Wow, what an incredible opportunity we have at our institution: opportunity to view a dynamic, dedicated individual; opportunity to think beyond conventional ways of teaching; and opportunity to reach patients in ways we never imagined." This is not only a story of the power of the human spirit, but of how we can match human talents and perseverance to the

many complex needs of society. Thank you, Tim, and all who have supported you in your quest to make a difference.

Sarah Kruger '75, '78, MS'00, Clinical Professor, School of Nursing, UW-Madison

[Regarding "Badgers on the Big (and Small) Screen," News & Notes, Summer 2011]: There was a recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* article about fictional characters' alma maters, and the implications about those characters based on assumptions about their colleges.

I always thought that Donna Moss [from the TV show *West Wing*] was the quintessential Badger: she is very smart, can talk about anything under the sun, and [can] research anything, too. She is well rounded and not afraid to take risks. It made perfect sense that she had attended the UW.

Abigail

[Your list of fictional Badgers could also have included premed student Paige Morgan], Julia Stiles's character from the movie *The Prince and Me*. The movie is set at the UW, along

with Manitowoc, Wisconsin (which was laughable, since it was badly misrepresented), and the country of Denmark. The character did graduate from the UW at the end of the movie.

Sarah

[Another fictional Badger was] Rachel Bilson's character [Kim] in *The Last Kiss*, which also takes place in Madison and at the UW.

Emma

I've had the good fortune of practicing yoga for the last eight years with Pat Porter [mentioned in "A Table for Five," Sifting & Winnowing, Summer 2011] and a group of men and women her equal in laughter, wit, and kindness.

I particularly love [the author's] line, "We brought our whole selves to the table during those years, and we still do." Something about being a woman in grad school impels you to create a support group to keep all the balls in the air. My [grad school] friendships have lasted twenty-five years and continue to sustain me through life's challenges.

Barbara Johns '64

Please Update Your Address

UW-Madison wants to stay in touch with you. To update your contact information, which is maintained by the UW Foundation, please visit www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu/survey. To log in, use the ID number above your name on the magazine label. This information is shared selectively with other campus units and the Wisconsin Alumni Association to ensure that alumni information is consistent and accurate. Thank you!

On Wisconsin Magazine welcomes letters related to magazine content, but reserves the right to edit them for length or clarity. You may send your comments via e-mail to onwisconsin@uwalumni.com; mail them to *On Wisconsin*, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706; or fax them to (608) 265-8771. We regret that we don't have space to publish all the letters we receive, but we always appreciate hearing from you.

The New York Times and Chicago Tribune agree...

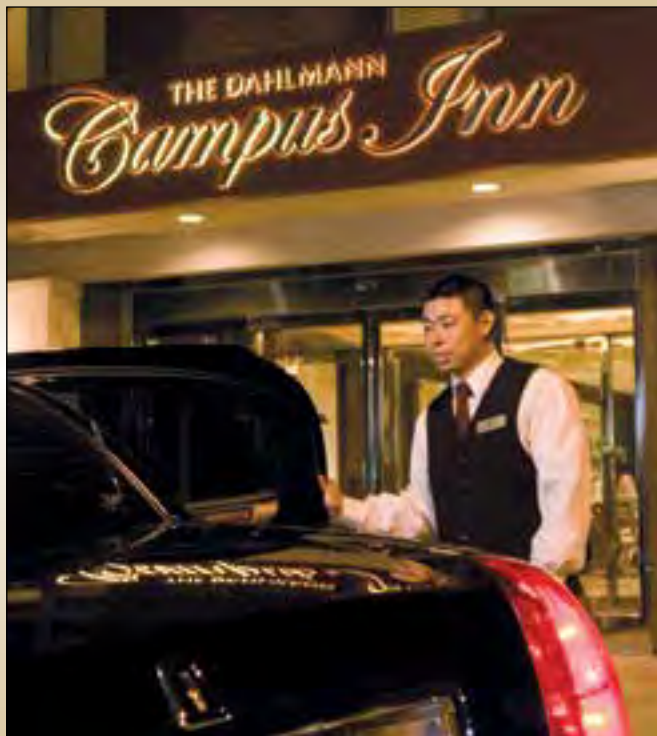
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scene

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

Evening falls on two of the newest additions to campus: the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery (WID), just left of center, and the new Union South, lower right corner. WID houses 106,000 square feet of research space — and three restaurants. Learn more about one of them, Rennie's Dairy Bar, in Traditions (page 44). Photo by Jeff Miller



Tuition on the Rise

With state funding falling, regents raise tuition 5.5 percent.

In an effort to deal with cuts to the UW System's 2011–13 budget, the board of regents decided to raise tuition at UW-Madison and other System universities. At a July meeting, the regents voted eleven to four to hike tuition at the various campuses by an average of 5.5 percent.

For full-time, undergraduate, in-state students, UW-Madison's tuition will increase from \$7,933 to \$8,592 per year. This \$659 rise includes the 5.5 percent increase in base tuition, plus an increase of \$250 in UW-Madison's tuition differential — from \$500 to \$750 — due to the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates.

Out-of-state undergrads will see a year's tuition increase from \$23,183 to \$24,342.

These figures do not include mandatory fees, which raise

UW-Madison's price by more than \$500 per semester.

Since 2001, the cost of tuition and fees has more than doubled for in-state undergrads and risen by nearly \$9,000 for out-of-state.

In June, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a biennial budget that reduced taxpayer support for the UW System by \$250 million over two years. UW-Madison will absorb about \$94 million of that cut, or \$47 million a year. The tuition hike will cover less than a third of the cut.

"This is ... about balancing the quality of education with the price students have to pay for that education," said System President Kevin Reilly in a press release. "In the end, it's a question about the value proposition we offer to our students and their families."

John Allen



Students are facing increased tuition following a July vote of the UW System board of regents. System campuses are also working through a cut in state funding; UW-Madison will receive \$94 million less than expected in the state's 2011–13 budget.

quick takes

Who has clout? Badgers do — at least according to *Newsweek*. The magazine's website ranked the top twenty-five American schools for future power brokers, and UW-Madison made the list at number 25.

It may seem harder than ever to get into the UW, as the university's acceptance rate for incoming freshmen dropped to 50.5 percent, the lowest since the UW began tracking that statistic in 1989. The fall in acceptance rates appears to be the result of higher numbers of applicants. Although the target freshman class size

remains the same as in recent years, the number of applicants has ballooned. Some 28,949 students applied for admission, and more than 14,600 were accepted, with the expectation that about 5,900 will enroll.

François Ortalo-Magné, chair of the UW's Real Estate and Urban Land Economics Department, has been named dean of the Wisconsin School of Business, succeeding Michael Knetter, who now serves as president and chief executive officer of the UW Foundation. Robin Douthitt, dean of the School of Human Ecology since 2001,

announced she will step down in 2012.

The new Human Ecology building will have a new name. It will be called Nancy Nicholas Hall after Nancy Johnson Nicholas '55, and it will open in 2012.

The astronauts of the future may have Badgers to thank for their cozy space quarters. A team of undergrads created the winning entry in the NASA eXploration Habitat Innovation Challenge, a yearlong contest to design and create a prototype of a living space for space explorers. The UW team created the Badger X-Loft, beating

out finalists from Oklahoma State and the University of Maryland to take a \$10,000 prize.

After a startling recovery helped by the UW Veterinary Care Small Animal Hospital, a dog named Braveheart has found a new home with a Madison family. Discovered in a Dumpster in Kentucky and suffering from mange, Braveheart was near death when sent to the care of UW veterinarians in March. He became an online celebrity, attracting attention and donations from as far away as Australia. In August he even appeared at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Leadership Transition

David Ward named UW-Madison's interim chancellor after Biddy Martin moves on.

It has been fifty years since **David Ward MS'62, PhD'63** first set foot on the UW-Madison campus. As a teaching assistant on a Fulbright scholarship from England, he planned to stay for a year, but, he says, "a whole variety of accidents" led to a UW career that spanned four decades.

"I felt that every year was a refreshing, new encounter, which says a great deal about UW-Madison," Ward recently told *On Wisconsin*. "I was never bored. I was always challenged."

That was never more the case than when Ward was appointed interim chancellor in July, following the departure of **Biddy Martin PhD'85** to become president of Amherst College in Massachusetts. UW System President Kevin Reilly says he chose Ward because he "knows UW-Madison from the ground up," and can serve as a strong advocate for the campus, bring people together, and reach out to his fellow UW System chancellors.

Being at the helm is familiar territory to Ward, who served as chancellor for seven years before leaving Madison in 2000 to become president of the American Council on Education (ACE), a Washington, D.C.-based national group focused on encouraging all sectors of higher education to "speak with one voice" on key issues. Ward, who retired from ACE in 2007, believes that his experience in that role will help him lead the university as it absorbs \$47 million in state budget cuts this year.

"There is a national challenge, not just a Wisconsin challenge, of how to balance



BRUCE RICHTER

During a July news conference, David Ward (right) was announced as interim chancellor by UW System President Kevin Reilly (left). Ward "knows UW-Madison from the ground up," Reilly said.

the great expectations of these research universities with the resources that are available," he says. "I think that my experience in Washington will help me phrase this more broadly than just a Wisconsin dilemma."

For more than a year, Martin made the case for the New Badger Partnership, a plan for administrative flexibilities that would allow the university to better manage its limited resources. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker proposed creating a public authority to achieve those goals, effectively splitting UW-Madison from the rest of the UW System, but that proposal garnered little legislative support.

Martin told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that controversy surrounding other budget issues, including Walker's proposal to limit collective-bargaining rights

for public employee unions, contributed to opposition to his UW plan. "If I had my way," she said in an interview with the newspaper, "some of the political issues that emerged once Governor Walker became governor — and that really took up people's attention and time — would not have happened right in the midst of our discussions of what would be good for the university."

During her tenure as chancellor, Martin was arguably the UW's greatest ambassador for the humanities. She launched the Go Big Read common-reading project, which sparked campus and community discussions. A visit by Michael Pollan, author of the book selected for the project's first year, drew more than six thousand people from campus and the community.

The final state budget did include some provisions that Martin says are an important step toward granting all UW System institutions critical flexibility to manage their finances, and Ward agrees the changes that emerged from the bruising budget battle present an opportunity.

"I would like to take advantage of the new flexibilities that have been made available to us in the recent state budget bill and try to be positive in facing a challenging future, rather than looking backwards at what might have been," he says. Ward also acknowledges that part of his role as interim chancellor is to bring about some balance after the political tumult of the last several months.

UW System officials expect to have a new chancellor in place by next summer. A search-and-

screen committee including UW-Madison faculty, staff, and students, and community representatives will conduct a national search and recommend finalists to Reilly and a special committee of the board of regents.

In the meantime, Ward wants to identify key campus initiatives that are under way and ensure they do not lose momentum. They include the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates, a proposal Martin championed to increase need-based financial aid using a combination of private money and a tuition increase. The initiative also allowed the university to hire more faculty in areas hit in recent years by budget cuts and to clear bottlenecks in certain high-demand courses.

Ward says he also intends to continue efforts to elevate the UW's profile internationally, particularly in China, where UW-Madison has forged relationships with universities, corporations, and prospective students.

A native of Manchester, England, Ward earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Leeds. Prior to being appointed chancellor at the UW, he served as the campus's chair of the geography department, associate dean of the Graduate School, and vice chancellor for academic affairs, a position that in 1991 was paired with being provost, chief deputy to the chancellor.

"I'm actually quite excited [about being interim chancellor]," he says, "because I'm rediscovering and reengaging with that forty-year experience, and I feel very privileged that people thought I might be able to help out for a year."

But Ward emphasizes that the coming months and years won't be easy. "These are diffi-



JEFF MILLER ©

cult times for all public research universities — we can't gloss over it," he says. "But I do think there is a very positive debate going on that can reconfigure our relationships with state government and higher education systems in such a way that we will come out of this turmoil okay."

Jenny Price '96

Top: Biddy Martin chats with students in 2008. In a farewell message, Martin said her interactions with students were "a deep pleasure that I will remember for the rest of my life."



Center: Calling upon the interactivity of social media, Martin (left) participates in a live web chat about the state budget with other top university administrators in February 2011.



Bottom: The Go Big Read book selection is handed out to students at the Chancellor's Convocation at the Kohl Center in September 2010.

Astro-Dermatology

Technique used by astronomers could help assess skin cancer.

As a young graduate student with a passion for surfing, **Andy Sheinis** soaked up a lot of California sun. But because of his youthful pursuit, Sheinis, now a UW professor of astronomy, is at high risk for melanoma, skin cancer that can turn deadly if not detected and treated in its earliest stages.

"I'm one of those people who has to be checked every six months," he says. "About half the time I go in, they have to cut something off."

A decade ago, during a visit to the dermatologist, it struck Sheinis that the same techniques astronomers use to parse starlight could be used to assess

skin blots that may become cancerous. The system now most commonly used to evaluate worrisome moles is the human eye and the brain, Sheinis explains. Clinicians use the "ABCDE rule" — asymmetry, border irregularity, color, diameter, and evolving — to assess the cancerous potential of moles.

"They don't take pictures of [moles] most of the time, which I found kind of surprising," he says. "The success of this technique depends strongly on the training and experience of the dermatologist."

At about the time Sheinis began regular screening for melanoma, he was building a

hyperspectral imager, a device that samples the spectrum of light to tease information about the size and composition of celestial objects millions or billions of light years from Earth.

Working with **Kevin Eliceiri '96, MS'98** of molecular biology and biomedical engineering, **Jack Longley '75, MD'79** in dermatology, and **Sharon Weber MD'93**, professor of surgery, he's conducting a study to determine whether hyperspectral

imaging technology can also help assess moles for their potential to become cancerous. If so, it could present a quick, noninvasive, inexpensive means to identify worrisome moles and to accurately map their extent.

"The idea is to take this device from astronomy and apply it to melanoma," says Eliceiri. "This is very new stuff. We don't know if it's going to work, but that's why we want to try it."

Terry Devitt '78, MA'85

STUDENT WATCH

The college years can be a stressful time of life. Then add the weak economy and the uncertain job market, and you get a recipe for student mental-health issues.

According to "The American Freshman" report for Fall 2010, published by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, just over half (51.9 percent) of college freshmen reported that their emotional health was "above average," dropping from 63.6 percent in 1985, the first year the question was asked in the annual survey.

Danielle Oakley, director of counseling and consultation services for the UW's University Health Services (UHS), believes that much of the blame for this trend can be placed on the economy.

"There are a lot of students who are worried because parents are losing their jobs and they're looking for jobs themselves on campus," she says. "Now, those positions that used to be [filled] by college students are being taken by the person who has years of experience."

But Oakley and UHS are making a concerted effort to help stressed-out college students.

"One of the really important things we've done is change the way that students get access [to counseling]," she says. "Before, you had to call and make an appointment. Now, when you're feeling bad and you want to access our services, you just drop in."

Sam Oleson '11

Buried Treasure

This sculpture could prove the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words. In 2009, UW archaeologist **John Hodgson** was working in Chiapas, located in southern Mexico along the Pacific Coast, when the piece was discovered nearby. He narrowed the object's age to within one hundred and fifty years by using distinctive pottery from the same undisturbed soil layers, eventually putting it at approximately three thousand years old. Hodgson, who is pursuing his PhD in anthropology, continues to work in the region, which contains the earliest known site in ancient North America with formal pyramids built around plazas. We may never know the identity of the figure (shown in the photo), but a face on the headdress appears to be a corn god, and the zigzag designs carved into the three-foot-tall tablet could represent lightning, mountain ranges, or other features of the natural world. The sculpture was made in a time that preceded written language, but, Hodgson says, "symbols are very efficient at communicating complicated ideas." *J.P.*



JOHN HODGSON

UW BAND AT 125

Uniformly the Best

The first known photo of the University of Wisconsin Band depicts a pretty stern-looking bunch. That's not surprising, considering that it was 1886, and up to that point, the group had been performing solely as a military band for drills with members of the university's battalion. They looked ready to go into battle themselves.



UW MARCHING BAND

The band didn't start playing for football games until 1894, when its twenty-six members would ride around the city in an open streetcar, trying to persuade fans to come to the games.

Over the years, the band continued to grow in size. And its look evolved into the uniforms it wears today, with a logo that looks like a mashup of a pitchfork and a smiley face. As the band marks its 125th anniversary this year, *On Wisconsin* takes a look back at what band members wore while bringing joy to Badger fans and audiences everywhere.

Jenny Price '96

Left: The band's earliest look mirrored the military.

Above: On its 50th birthday in 1935, the band received the Paul Bunyan drum from an Elks Lodge in Appleton, and it served as a trademark into the 1950s.



UW-MADISON ARCHIVES, IMAGE #S05934



UW MARCHING BAND

Above: Later, the band adopted the plain, dark blue uniform of the Musicians Union with a high, stiff collar.

Right: In 1953, the band traded in used ROTC uniforms (worn at left in the photo) for its first-ever brand-new ones (worn at right), purchased with surplus Rose Bowl funds.



UW MARCHING BAND

JEFF MILLER



UW MARCHING BAND



UW MARCHING BAND



JEFF MILLER

Above right: In 1972, the band purchased new uniforms that had a contemporary look with some military touches.

Top: A new emphasis on showmanship, intense physical conditioning, and a demanding marching stride began under the leadership of Mike Leckrone, who arrived at the university in 1969 and became director of bands in 1975.

Center: The band logo on the front of the uniform changed from black to white in 1984. The band has kept this look since then.

Left: Celebrating a victory, band members turn their hats around when the Badgers have won, a Big Ten custom that dates back to early in the twentieth century.

Jon Levine

Work flows from “the best of reasons,” says new director of primate research center.

Administering a big research center at the forefront of biomedical science is challenge enough. Running one with 1,500 monkeys is the test of a lifetime. But that is exactly the matchup for Jon Levine, the Northwestern University neuroscientist recruited to UW-Madison in late 2010 to run the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center (WNPRC). For Levine, leading one of the nation’s eight national primate centers is an opportunity to promote the kind of science that led to human embryonic stem cells and remains our best hope for beating diseases such as Parkinson’s and AIDS. At the same time, the center is a magnet for controversy, as the use of monkeys in biomedical research is contentious.

Q: Many people hear about the Primate Center only when there is an issue — or a perceived issue. If there is one thing people should know about the center, what would that be?

A: That researchers and staff are passionate about their work, and that they are wonderful, caring people committed to advancing the cause of human and animal health. The average person knows very well the suffering a family member or friend may endure in disease or injury; unfortunately, few are aware of the importance of biomedical research with non-human primates in developing therapies and strategies for preventing these conditions. I want everyone to know why we do what we do — because we are deeply committed to bringing about a future in which HIV can be prevented, the ravages of Parkinson’s disease can be stalled or reversed, and infertility, complications of pregnancy, and metabolic diseases such as diabetes can be successfully treated.

Q: What do you tell someone — a child, for example — who asks you about the use of monkeys for biomedical research?

A: That we are the good guys. We play by the strictest of rules, intended to ensure the humane and careful utilization of a precious resource. And we have the best of reasons for the work we do. I do not hesitate to give children an explanation in terms they can appreciate. For example, many kids know someone who has been diagnosed with some form of leukemia. We are developing methods to take blood cells from cancer patients and reprogram them into “induced pluripotent stem cells” — make them younger versions of themselves, before they became cancerous. Those induced cells can lead us to an understanding of how blood cells become cancer cells and how we might better treat leukemia.

Q: What do you think we can look forward to in the way of scientific advances from the center in the next few years?

A: I could fill pages with advances I hope will be realized. I’ll mention one that I think could enable progress in many others: transgenesis. The ability to induce, block, or alter the expression of specific genes in the mouse is now routine and has made it the standard for most studies



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of the genetic mechanisms underlying human disease. However, there are many aspects of human physiology and disease that can only be faithfully reproduced in non-human primates. We are undertaking new approaches to manipulate gene expression in non-human primates. We hope to target genes involved in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s, metabolic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, and developmental disorders such as autism.

Q: What will be the greatest challenge for the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center over the next decade?

A: The major challenge for federally funded research institutions is to sustain funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other sources, especially through times of austerity, flat budgets, and increasing costs. I’m confident, however, that the talented researchers and staff at the WNPRC will keep us positioned to renew our base grant funding from the NIH. I am also certain that researchers who use non-human primates on campus will continue to successfully compete for individual research funding. Nevertheless, given the special costs of research with monkeys, and the preciousness of the resource, we will be looking at new sources of support. Over the longer term, the center’s biggest challenge will be to replace and/or renovate portions of our infrastructure. My vision for a new WNPRC building complex may have to wait until the economy recovers over the next few years — but it is a goal that I hope we can realize.

Interview conducted, condensed, and edited by Terry Devitt ’78, MA’85

Books and Beyond

A newly formed course explores how libraries and museums can preserve tribal culture.

For the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the idea for a tribal library is driven by a vision of creating strong cultural ties from generation to generation.

Such a facility could serve as a cultural center, provide archival storage, and house space where elderly tribe members could interact with school-aged children in an Ojibwe language immersion program, says Dee Gokee-Rindal, administrator for the tribe's education division.

"That's the way that our ancestors have shared indigenous knowledge throughout the centuries — the interaction of younger folks and the elders together," she says.

Work on the facility is progressing with the help of students from UW-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies who are enrolled in LIS 640: Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums, a course suggested by graduate students three years ago. Classes are aimed at supporting Wisconsin's Native American nations while also giving hands-on experience to future librarians. Public libraries often don't reach into native communities, nor do the tribes have the same revenue streams to support their own facilities.

"The assumption is that things can be funded by casinos, but the libraries are very aware that you can't count on something like that," says **Hannah Gray '07, MA'11**. "There are a lot of different things that need to be funded when there's not a tax base."

Libraries, archives, and museums for Wisconsin's tribes vary widely, says **Janice Rice, MA'75**, a member of the



During a class session held at the Ho-Chunk's Wisconsin Dells Youth & Learning Center in Baraboo, Janice Rice (left, in blue) and her students show the center's teachers an online cataloging system.

Ho-Chunk Nation and an associate lecturer in the library school who co-teaches the course. While some, such as the Oneida Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Forest County Potawatomi, have state-of-the-art, multiple-use facilities, others don't have libraries of any kind or no longer support them.

"Indigenous knowledge takes many forms," says **Omar Poler '07, MA'10**, who helped to organize the first class while a graduate student. Poler is a member of the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa community and was Rice's co-teacher in spring 2011. "Tribal libraries are interpreting their story themselves and sometimes incorporating language and culture in ways that make them very different from a regular public library."

Although the course is housed in the library school, it also serves as a class in Native American history, language, art, culture, anthropology, law, and education. It touches on libraries, archives, and museums because

they are intertwined in native communities, says **Jessica Miesner MA'12**.

"It's impossible to talk about one without the other two," she says. "Often there's funding for one but not others, and everything is housed in one place."

A key component of the course is the opportunity for service learning. The students who enroll in the course are universally drawn by the chance to get real-world library experience.

Some of the students also assist with Culture Keeper, a series of conferences that provide a way for tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators to come together and share ideas.

"As library school students, we are in a unique position to provide help, skills, and resources that can be hard to come by for many tribal libraries," says **Kelly Kramer MA'12**, a member of the Oneida Nation. "Native Americans are one of the most underserved popula-

tions out there when it comes to library services, and I think we have a responsibility to include Wisconsin tribes in what we do."

Involving UW students in such activities inspires tribes to find ways to organize and create space for history, language, and culture in their communities, Rice says. Last spring, Gray and fellow students developed fundraising materials to help the Red Cliff tribe with the library project that members hope to complete in the next few years. Kramer and her group worked with staff at the Ho-Chunk's Wisconsin Dells Youth & Learning Center to build an online catalog of a fifteen hundred-volume collection to promote reading. In time, the library will feature subject headings on shelves in both Ho-Chunk and English.

"The students' youthful energy and their untapped potential helps Native American communities to see that there are people who are excited about tribal libraries," Rice says.

Stacy Forster

BRYCE RICHTER

TEAM PLAYER

Alex Rigsby

It's never easy replacing a legend, but that's exactly what UW sophomore **Alex Rigsby '14** is trying to do. After the graduation of **Jessie Vetter '09**, who won ninety-one games and posted thirty-nine shutouts during her four-year career — both NCAA records — goaltender was a serious question mark for the UW women's hockey team.

Last year, Rigsby showed there was absolutely nothing to worry about when she stepped in goal for the Badgers and helped Wisconsin win its fourth national title in six years, posting a 27-1-1 record in her freshman season.

Growing up just a short drive from Madison in Delafield, Wisconsin, Rigsby watched Vetter shut down opponents for four years and knew that she had some big skates to fill when she decided to come to the UW. Like most great players, though, Rigsby viewed that as an opportunity, not a hindrance, for her career.

"It was definitely a big shadow that I stepped into," Rigsby says. "But, coming in, I wasn't afraid of that shadow, and I've been thinking about it as more of a challenge than anything."

Rigsby may have had a competitive advantage coming into college in that she played with the boys in high school, leading to an easier adjustment once she joined the Badgers. In fact, she was so good in high school that the Chicago Steel of the United States Hockey League drafted her in 2009, making Rigsby the first female player ever drafted by the league. Despite all she accomplished in high school, her ultimate goal as a team-first collegiate player was to win an NCAA tournament.

"Winning a national championship is one of the biggest goals of the team and dreams of the girls on the team," Rigsby says.

With that national title already under her belt, Rigsby appears on the path to not only step out of Vetter's shadow, but to create a sizable one herself by the time she graduates.

Sam Oleson '11

"Coming in, I wasn't afraid of Jessie Vetter's shadow, and I've been thinking about it as more of a challenge than anything."



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Bat Man

David Kretschmann is working to make baseball bats break safely.

David Kretschmann '84, MS'87 likes to see wood crack.

"I break things for a living," he says. Kretschmann is an engineer with the Forest Products Lab, a U.S. Department of Agriculture facility located on the UW campus. As such, he's interested in seeing how much stress lumber can take and remain in one piece.

It was this work that brought him to the attention of Major League Baseball. In 2008, the sport was suffering an epidemic of shattered bats — that is, bats that break into multiple pieces, often sending sharp splinters flying toward players and fans. That year saw an average of one shattered bat per game, and baseball executives grew concerned enough to ask for help from Kretschmann and several other scientists. The group examined all the bats that had shattered in the last three months of the season, and found that the problem lay largely in the wood itself: more and more bats were made of maple.

"Traditionally, bats were made out of white ash," says Kretschmann. "But then Barry Bonds started using a maple bat, and he hit [a record] seventy-three home runs in one season. Then the use of maple bats took off. Today, about 60 percent of bats are made of maple, where in 1990, that figure was only about 3 percent, if that much."

The problem lies in what woodworkers call "slope of grain." A baseball bat (or any piece of lumber) is strongest when cut with its length parallel to the grain of the wood. If the slope of grain differs from the center line of the bat by as little as 3 degrees, that bat will be 20 percent more likely to shatter.

Maple isn't necessarily a weaker wood than ash, Kretschmann explains. Rather, it has a less well-defined grain. Because ash has a clearly defined face grain, it's easy for manufacturers to make strong bats. But maple's poorly defined face grain makes it harder to judge how to cut the wood properly.



The crack of the bat: a hitter shatters his bat in a minor league game. The flying shard of wood can be dangerous to other players and fans. David Kretschmann and his colleagues have helped Major League Baseball reduce the number of shattered bats by half.

Kretschmann and his colleagues came up with a simple solution for that problem. Before a piece of wood is carved into a bat, inspectors now paint a spot of ink onto it. The wood draws up the ink, showing the direction of its face grain. "It took a while [for manufacturers] to get used to doing this efficiently," Kretschmann says, "but we saw an immediate drop [in the number of shattered bats]."

From an average of one per

game in 2008, the number fell to .65 shattered bats per game by the end of the 2009 season, and to .55 by the end of 2010. In the first half of 2011, it reached .45.

"This is not to say we've solved the problem," Kretschmann says. "It's tricky to get everyone to accept our recommendations. But the numbers are down well over half. From my point of view, that's something."

John Allen

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BADGER SPORTS TICKER

The Badger football team pulled off a major coup when it landed quarterback Russell Wilson away from North Carolina State. A three-time all-ACC honoree, Wilson also played minor league baseball for the Asheville Tourists, a Class A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

The Badger men's and women's swim teams have a new head coach. Whitney Hite will lead the squads starting this season. He was previously an assistant coach at the University of Arizona and

a head coach for the men's and women's teams at the University of Washington.

UW rowers have been making a splash in global races. Tim Aghai x'12 and Anthony Altamari '11 won gold while representing the United States at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships in Amsterdam in July. Then the U.S. National Rowing Team featured three Badgers at the world championships in Slovenia: Grant James '09, Ross James '10, and Ryan Fox '10. That event occurred after press time.

The men's basketball team will head to the Windy City in November. The Badgers will play in the Chicago Invitational Challenge, an eight-team tournament.

UW-Madison athletic director Barry Alvarez received a raise in July. The former football coach signed a new five-year contract in which he will earn \$1 million a year, with half coming from UW Athletics and half coming from the UW Foundation.

Tracking The Ties That Bind

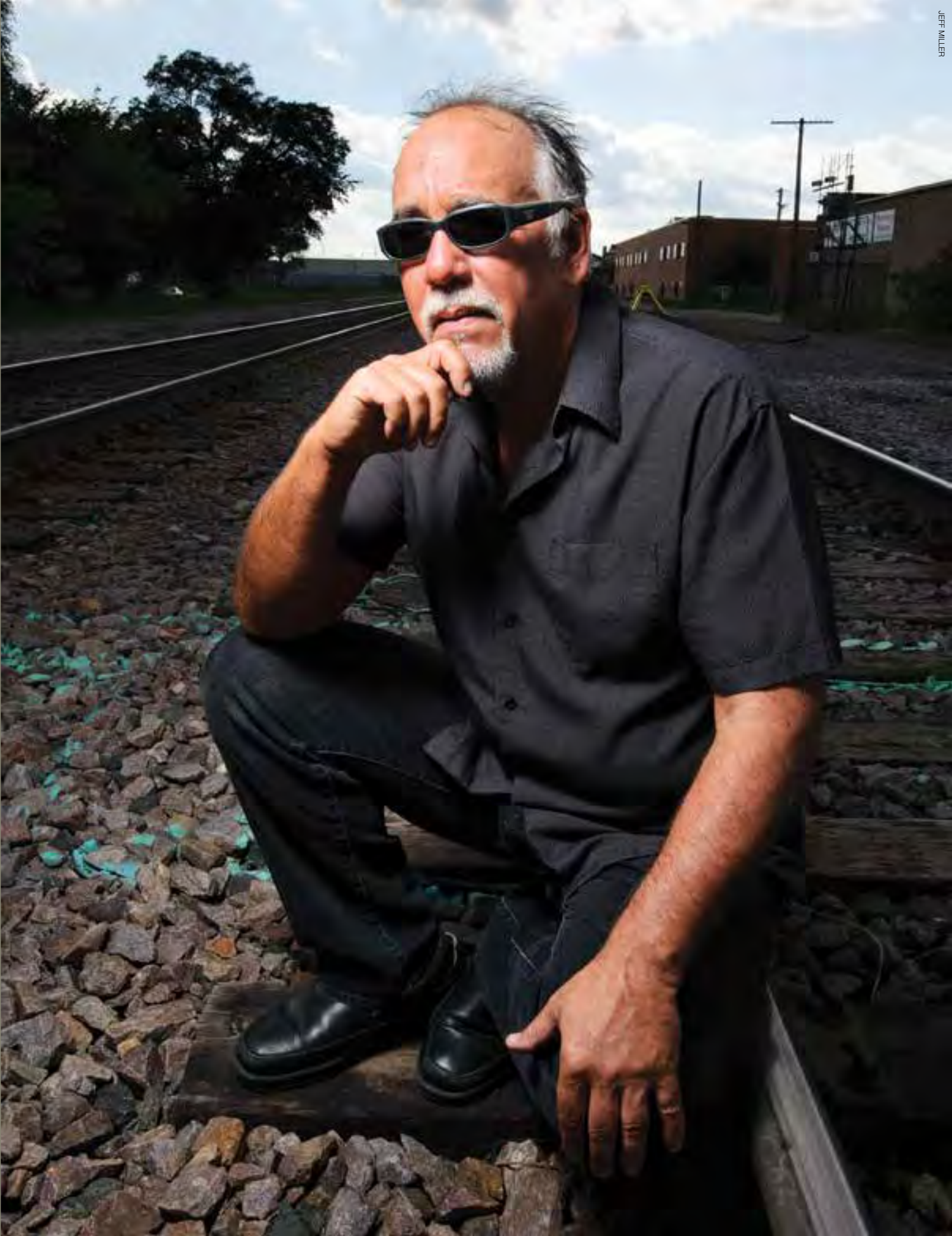
Fred Gardaphé '76 knew that if he didn't get out of the Mafia-dominated neighborhood where he grew up, he could wind up dead. **UW-Madison provided a way out.**

By Alfred Lubrano

The topic of social class doesn't come up often in social conversation or in the halls of academia. That's why journalist and first-generation college graduate Alfred Lubrano decided to address the issue in his book *Limbo: Blue-Collar Roots, White-Collar Dreams*, which looks at upward mobility through vignettes of individuals who have grown up in working-class families and moved on to white-collar jobs. The author focuses on how many of these "straddlers," as he calls them, confront social mores of a middle-class world that is dramatically different from the one in which they grew up — and how, even after making the transition, they can't seem to shake a lingering sense of isolation and of not fitting into either world. The following excerpt tells the story of one such straddler, Fred Gardaphé '76.

Melrose Park, Illinois, is near enough to O'Hare Airport that a person can read the logos of planes roaring not far overhead. It can get to you after a while, knowing that those people above you are going places, and you're stuck in this.

The landscape on the main thoroughfares is eye-unfriendly, with barely a tree to offer a break from the character-free, suburban/industrial tangles: a Ford plant, a Sherwin-Williams plant, a Denny's, a strip mall — it's as though someone forgot to write a zoning code, allowing fast-food restaurants, factories, and big-box retailers to nest one next to the other in disjointed disarray. Acres of stained, gray parking lots thwart rain from penetrating soil, and rivers of oil-ruined water flow toward Lake Michigan in toxic torrents. Surviving on jet exhaust and industrial stink, Armageddon-ready weeds grow unchallenged and unmowed in the cracks of buckled concrete islands that separate endless flows of truck traffic. Pedestrians are scarce. Nothing is of human scale; it's a place for machines and buildings, hard and impenetrable. How tough it must be to live here.



Fred Gardaphé did, and it almost killed him. His godfather, his grandfather, and his father were slain here in Melrose, the place some people call “Mafia-town.” They were connected in ways to the Outfit, which is how they refer to the Mob in Chicago. It was a gypsy who saved him: “The third Fred in the family will die,” she foretold, if he didn’t get out. Actually, it was a gypsy, a Dominican priest, and the University of Wisconsin that saved Fred. But that’s getting ahead of the story.

These days, Fred is a Distinguished Professor of Italian American

Studies at Queens College at the City University of New York. That shouldn’t have happened. Guys like him finish high school, maybe, then scratch out a working-class life never more than a few miles from the hospitals in which they were born. But Fred had things chasing him: fear is a great rocket fuel. “It was like being in Plato’s cave,” Fred says, “then walking out.”

He returns every summer to see his mom and his friends, buddies who didn’t go to college but remain close. Lately, the reunions have become even more important. Fred’s actually been contemplating moving back to the area. “It’s to be near what is known, and it’s also being known,” he says. “To not have to introduce myself to new people all the time.”

Can a white-collar person do that — return to his blue-collar beginnings and live a new kind of life? For some straddlers, the middle class gets to be a burden, its rituals and requirements forever foreign. There’s an ease to slipping back to old ways. Another reason Fred comes is to find out more about

Sable. They’ve become plumbers and restaurant suppliers, and they all make more money than Fred, without education. Fred’s son once asked him why, with his PhD, he has the crummiest car among friends who never went beyond high school.

Right now, he drives the gas-

slurper through Melrose Park, once all Italian, now largely, if not mostly, Mexican.

“When I come back, I expect things not to have changed. At least there are the same [jerk] drivers. But you see the changes and have to ask yourself,

‘Who [messed] this up?’ I expect people to still care about the things I’ve stopped caring about.” As we drive, sweet songs like “You Didn’t Have to Be So Nice” pour out of the oldies station Fred programmed onto the car radio after his daughter left to hang out with friends. The audio syrup is the wrong flavor for what Fred’s telling me. “I come from a long line of violent things. My godfather was killed robbing a golf course.” The statement hits you sideways, with its odd juxtaposition of disparate words that rarely work the same sentence. It’s awful and absurd. Do things like that happen? Somebody shot the man as he ran off with duffer money, then his buddies scooped him off the lovely grass, drove him to the hospital, and threw him out



Fred Gardaphé, right, poses in a 1963 photo with his mother and father at a family celebration.

his father’s unsolved murder more than thirty years ago. People must know what happened, Fred believes. But no one ever says. “I need for things to make sense. Because they don’t.” He’s come this time with his daughter, to help her see who he was once.

One thing is for sure: professor or not, he still looks like a neighborhood guy. Stocky and thick, Fred has a goatee and receding gray hair he keeps close-cropped. He wears black shorts and a blue, sleeveless T-shirt to show off arms he used to throw around in boyhood fights. He sort of reminds you of Billy Joel in a distant way. Tonight, he’ll meet his boys for drinks at a sports bar, then maybe go to dinner. They’ll bust his chops about his ride, a 1993 Mercury

on the lawn, where he died before ER doctors could stop the bleeding.

Life was so awful that Fred could easily have become a gangster — so many of the adults in his life were. This was, Fred says, “mythic Mafia land,” with nefarious traditions tracing back to Al Capone, whose turf this once was. “There are people who still consider Melrose Park the place where the Mafia in America comes from.” The Gardaphé family was into laundering stolen money and fencing stolen goods, he said. Their pawnshop was the perfect front. “They were distributors of the stuff that fell off the backs of trucks, essentially.”

Fred passes Dora’s Pizza and has to stop. He used to deliver for Chucky, the owner, and now the two catch up, as Fred eats a sausage sandwich and drinks an RC standing at the counter. Today the news is not good. Turns out everybody Fred used to know is either dead or on dialysis. “Whaddya gonna do?” Chucky asks, and the two men contemplate the question, so very blue collar in its dual implications that everything is out of your control, but you’ve got to learn to live with it. “Whaddya gonna do?” practically qualifies as a working-class philosophy of life.

There’s a break in the conversation, then Chucky looks at Fred and says, “God, Fred, I remember the day Shadow didn’t come in for lunch.” That shuts Fred down, and a pall hangs over the men. Shadow was Fred’s father. They say their good-byes and in the car,

Fred tells me that Chucky has his facts wrong. Shadow wasn’t supposed to go to Dora’s for lunch. Fred was supposed to bring his father some food at the pawnshop that Monday afternoon. But he didn’t want to because he knew Shadow would make him work. So Fred sent his younger brother with the lunch; Shadow took the food and sent the boy home.

“I always felt guilty about that.

“It’s one reason I keep coming back home, to keep replaying it in my mind. It was the most primal scene in my life and the reason I left this place. When I come back, I look at the people and wonder if they remember. It’s not for new leads, really. But to see if his murder has an impact on others’ lives as well.”

Maybe the killer would have seen me working there and not gone in.” Somebody stabbed Shadow to death. Fred believes it would have been someone his father knew; nobody else could have gotten close enough for a knife assault. And it wasn’t robbery because nothing was taken. “It’s one reason I keep coming back home, to keep replaying it in my mind. It was the most primal scene in my life and the reason I left this place. When I come back, I look at the people and wonder if they remember. It’s not for new leads, really. But to see if his murder has an impact on others’ lives as well.”

After the slaying, people started telling their kids not to hang around with Fred. He became adept at spotting the FBI surveillance cars on the block, and once put a potato in a fed’s tailpipe. Bad times seemed to follow him. When he was fifteen, Fred was on the phone with his grandfather, who was at the

pawnshop. By then, Fred was working there more regularly, but he had stayed home that day. Suddenly, he heard gunshots pop over the phone. He and his mother jumped in their car and sped to the shop, only to see his grandfather lying on the floor, bleeding to death.

Fred grabbed his grandfather’s gun, saw a guy limping away, and raised it to fire. But before he did, a cop came

up from behind and yelled, “Drop it.” The shooter was caught and sentenced to twenty-five years for the murder. It was robbery, pure and simple. But Fred’s grandfather wouldn’t have died if he hadn’t resisted. The only

reason he had, Fred claims, is that he was a racist and couldn’t bear the idea of being robbed by a black man.

Mired in hatred and ignorance, steeped in death, Fred was growing up hard. Desperate for Fred to have a man around, his mother asked a neighbor to take an interest. As it happened, he was related to the Genovese crime family in New York. He, in turn, was murdered. Things were not going well for the males in Fred’s life.

One day, Fred’s grandmother saw a fortune-teller, who foretold his demise unless he sold the pawnshop, which had fallen to him. The family believed, and Fred liquidated the place when he was sixteen, selling, he said, to the Jewish Mafia in town. By then, he was attending an expensive Dominican prep school, for which his grandfather had paid. On the streets, he was brawling, getting into fights with black kids, and proving he was a man.



JEFF MILLER

to organized crime. But no one at home owns up to it. Whaddya gonna do?

One of his college teachers, a white guy, called all the neighborhood guys in the class “racists.” He explained how he’d fallen in love with a black woman. He had his students read Richard Wright and other black authors. He showed his ignorant white charges how they’d been getting it wrong their whole lives. “The bad thing about realizing you’re a racist is that it means everyone who ever taught you anything or told you anything you believed was a racist, too. It’s such an unraveling of all the things that you protected yourself with.”

Enlightened and now totally out of step with the neighborhood, Fred transferred to the University of Wisconsin — “where all the good radicals go.”

Language was the big difference. Suddenly, he was in rooms with people whose English was superior to his. Making things tougher, women were befuddling, too. “I went up to girls and said, ‘What are you chicks doing tonight?’ and they’d say, ‘Why do you cocks wanna know?’ My working-class notions about women were they were to be protected. I opened a car door for a girl in Madison and she was insulted. I kind of got dragged into feminism kicking and screaming. You don’t know how deeply working-class you are until you’re in these situations.”

Scholarship lit a fire in his head and Fred straightened out. Now he’s a full professor, but he still worries about the clock at work. Is he keeping enough office hours? he wonders. He has a sense the boss is looking over his shoulder somehow. “But,” he keeps having to remind himself, “I have tenure. I can’t be fired.”

Saturday night and time to meet the fellas. Fred drives to a sports bar in nearby Elmhurst, where he hooks up

On a recent visit home to Melrose Park, Gardaphé pauses by an honorary street sign that says Fred Gardaphé Way, named after his late father.

In the classroom, he was studying philosophy and Latin, being shown another way to grow up. Fred would do his homework on the sly, sneaking books to the park or rec centers. “Around that time, I started realizing that I was trapped in Melrose. But you didn’t want people to know that you were escaping.” The process was going slowly. Fred got into drugs — speed and acid, mostly. “It was my way of getting out of where I was mentally, because I couldn’t do it physically.”

Still, the Dominicans were having their effect. He was reading Cicero and Plato. In an irony not uncommon in quality Catholic educations, Fred was being taught to question authority — how, in essence, not to be a good Catholic boy who hangs around and does only the family’s bidding without

question. “That was the bomb that blew everything up,” he says. “They taught me I had to get out of this place. It was getting hard to remain in the world in which I was born while being nurtured out of it by school. The question became, when do you leave?”

Motivated to go, but without direction, Fred went to a junior college to escape the draft. When the government did finally send a notice, it was a 4-F deferment, in essence a judgment that Fred had failed his physical exam and could not become a soldier. Good news, right? Well, like a lot of things in Fred’s life, there was a mystery to that as well. Fred had never taken an army physical. To this day, Fred believes his family had any potential draft notice quashed through their long-standing connections

Reflections of a UW Straddler

Coming to the University of Wisconsin back in 1973 was an escape from a Little Italy that I felt was choking my creativity and pushing me toward mindless conformity with traditions I didn't understand. I had graduated from a well-respected prep school and completed two years of junior college, yet I wasn't prepared for a big university in my home state of Illinois. I felt so disconnected to what was happening in the lecture classes that I dropped out.

If it were not for the Vietnam War, I don't think I would have returned to school so quickly. I had graduated from high school in 1970, eligible for the second year of the national draft. I needed a 2-S [student] deferment and so found my way quickly to a local junior college, one we used to call a high school with ashtrays. Its unofficial motto was "Better than fightin.' "

My prep school training made it easy for me to work full- and part-time jobs without interruption in my social life — rock concerts, festivals, and the other recreational activities of my generation. I breezed through the classes, doing little to further my knowledge, save for an English class run by a radical teacher who helped us form an underground newspaper as part of our assigned work. He said that the school for me could be no other than UW-Madison.

My best friend had an uncle who worked at the Department of Public Instruction in Madison, and we went up there for a weekend to check the place out. One look at the Terrace that early spring day was enough for me. People as serious about fun and learning were hard to come by back home. We made the move the following year. I wasn't sure what I wanted to study, but settled on majoring in English and minoring in communication arts. Each class was an adventure, as was life in the city.

I studied film with David Bordwell and television with Donald LeDuc PhD'70, and my English classes took me deep into literary

studies, where I soon found a home in the Mark Twain course of Al Feltskog, the linguistic courses of Charles Read, Jerome Taylor's pre-Chaucer class, and the writing-for-teachers course of Nancy Gimmestad — where I was first able to establish the validity of my personal story and find my voice as a writer.

The key to all my classes was that I was able to take the streets into the classroom, and apply what I was learning back to those very streets. I did a study of railroad dialect for a linguistics class, and wrote about my neighborhood in my English classes. I learned to integrate the lessons of the ivory-tower Madison campus and blue-collar Melrose Park. That has become the theme of my life and my life's work over the years.

I took courses in education such as Radical School Reform, and through my volunteer work at radio station WORT, I was able to host alternative music shows and to review books that came out of my classroom studies. Those great experiences prepared me for my early jobs in education, first at traditional and later at alternative high schools in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; Mason City, Iowa; and Chicago.

My days in Madison seem short in comparison to the life I've lived since, but that sense of community — in cooperatives, film societies, campus bars, the Italian neighborhood around Park Street, and in my education classes — gave a working-class kid a sense of belonging. It gave me the chance to work my way into the middle class and to never be afraid to bring my life to my learning, or to use that learning to improve my life and the lives of those around me.

I eventually returned to Chicago for a teaching job and am now a Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies at Queens College-CUNY. I've published eight books on Italian-American culture and have spent a lifetime studying those very traditions that I thought I had escaped when I left for Madison.

Fred Gardaphé

with the old crowd — Anthony, Patsy, and George. They hug like working-class guys do — a quick embrace, hard backslaps, then release. Gotta do it fast, before anyone thinks you're gay. Insults soon follow — jabs about weight, baldness, and creeping old age. That done, the boys are ready to settle in for chicken wings and beers. Balding and in great shape, blue-eyed Anthony works construction. Patsy, who's a little over-

weight and struggling with the Atkins diet, is national sales manager for a restaurant-equipment company. George the Greek, unique among the group because he still has his hair, is an insurance investigator. All three are fifty years old. Fred is the only one of the four to have graduated from college.

They start with the old stories. Like a vocal group from the 1950s, the guys know all the words.

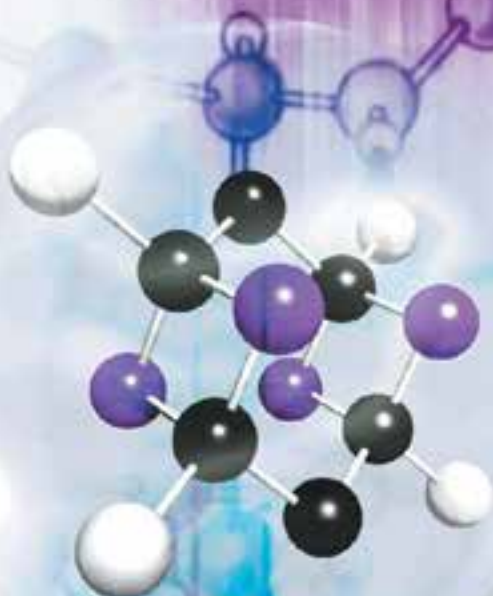
Back in the day, there were girls, furtive tries at oral sex, and fights. These guys were in a lot of fights.

"The blacks pulled Fred out of the car one night, then they beat the [crap] out of all of us," Anthony says.

"I had no business being there in that neighborhood," says Fred, the reformed racist.

Continued on page 60

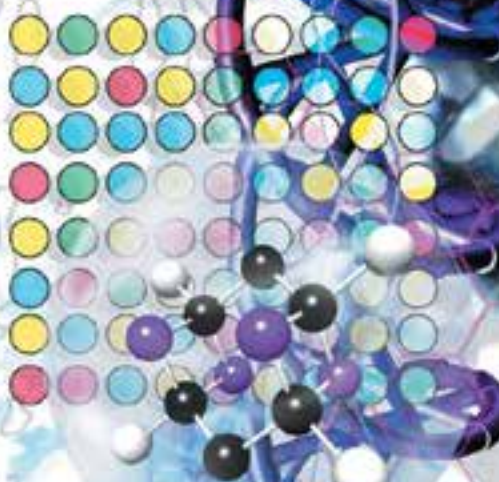
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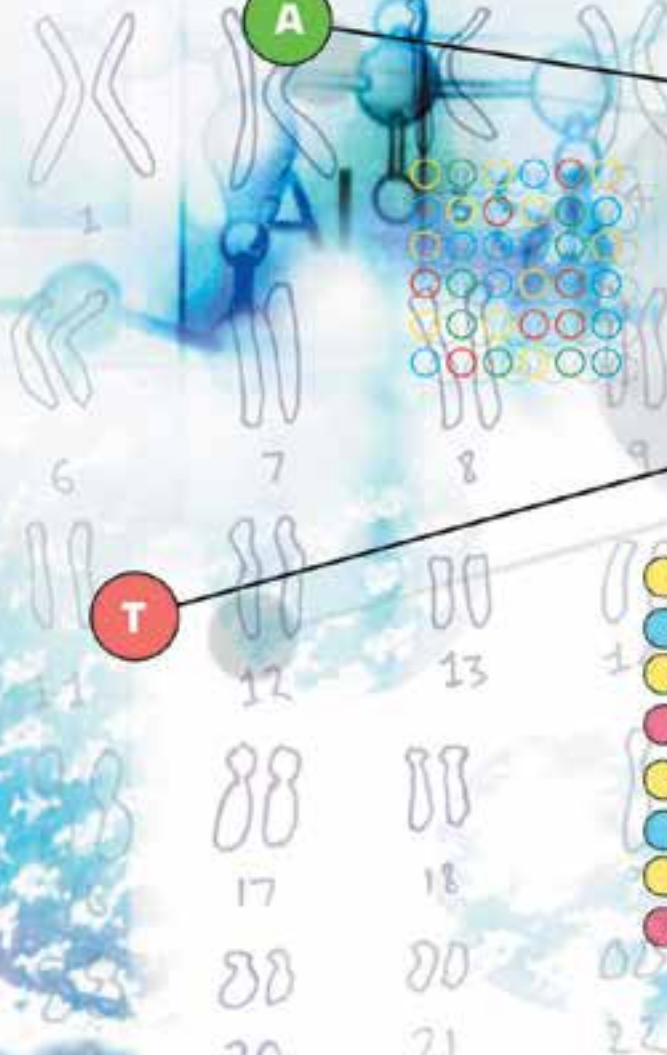
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Genotopia

Does genomics hold the secrets for the **future of medicine?**

Eric Green believes it does — and that Bill Gahl is showing the way.

BY JOHN ALLEN

Eric Green '81 has a vision of the future of medicine, and it looks a lot like William Gahl MD'76, PhD'81 and Louise Bengé.

Green is the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), an arm of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This is more than alphabet soup — it's the governmental organization that spent years sequencing the human genome. His vision is ambitious, but he doesn't think it's some utopia, and it's not science fiction. "I want to be careful not to overpromise," he says. "But I think in ten years, fifteen years, we'll look back on some of our current medical treatments as being barbaric." Green took charge of NHGRI in December 2009.

Gahl is the *clinical* director for NHGRI, making him responsible for the institute's patient-based genomic research that goes on in NIH's 234-bed hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. Gahl has also led — since its founding in 2008 — NIH's Undiagnosed Diseases Program, a team of health professionals and researchers devoted to finding the causes of some of the most mysterious cases in modern medicine. It's in this role that he met Bengé.

Bengé is not a doctor, nor a scientist of any kind. She's a patient — best known

in medical literature as "Family 1, Patient VI.1," which is how she's described in the February 3, 2011 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Bengé does not know Green, but if his vision for the future of medical science is accurate, she will be among the first beneficiaries.

For thirty years, Bengé has suffered excruciating pain, and were it not for Gahl, she still wouldn't know why.

A native of Brodhead, Kentucky,

Bengé was in her early twenties when she first started feeling the effects of an ailment no one was able to define. When she walks for any distance at all — as little as a city block, perhaps, or a single flight of stairs — her legs become as hard as stone, and nearly as unresponsive. But they aren't deadened and numb. They radiate searing pain.

For the first decade after this began, Bengé tried to ignore the hurt until it went away. Eventually, she asked doctors — her primary-care physician and a host of specialists — for relief. They studied her, x-rayed her, and injected her with dye to trace the flow of her blood. And though they could see the visual evidence of her pain, they couldn't determine what was causing it, let alone how to cure it.

Bengé, they discerned, is the victim of her own circulatory system. A buildup

of minerals causes her arteries to calcify and harden. This restricts blood flow, and though her body has tried to adapt by growing networks of tiny, collateral vessels, the blood that pumps to the cells in her legs and feet is still insufficient.

"My arteries are all calcified from the aorta on down," Bengé says. "It starts in the aorta and goes all down the lower extremities. [Doctors] can't do surgery [to relieve the problem], because of the severity of it."

Without knowing why Bengé's body was attacking her, her physicians could only rely on trial and error to search for relief. They put her on painkillers. They prescribed exercise to try to encourage increased blood flow. They even tried putting her on sodium thiosulfate, a medication used by patients in kidney failure. It can relieve the calcifying effects of dialysis, though it can also cause violent nausea. It did not help Bengé. Nothing did.

"I was kind of at the end of my rope," she says.

Eventually, her doctor, Karen Saylor, heard about Gahl and the Undiagnosed Diseases Program. Gahl was looking for patients at the end of their rope.

"The typical patient isn't a good candidate for us," Gahl says. "If we're not your last resort, then coming here may be premature."

Normally, it's not rare for patients to get involved in an NIH-supported study. The institutes' online list of clinical research projects, clinicaltrials.gov, names 916 current studies; of those, 138 are supported by NHGRI. But most of that research is what NIH calls *extramural* — essentially, NIH's role is to help fund the studies through grants to labs at other institutions, such as the UW's Genome Center of Wisconsin.

Gahl explains that only about 10 percent of NIH research is *intramural*, carried out in NIH government labs. And even among those studies, the Undiagnosed Diseases Program is special. Of the roughly 5,200 inquiries Gahl received in the program's first three years, he accepted only 400. The program has to be exclusive because of the amount of effort expended on each case. Patients spend a week or more at the NIH hospital, meeting with specialists from virtually every field.

"It's almost like, you name it," Gahl says. "We have ... neurologists and pediatric geneticists, but we consult with internists, pediatricians, dermatologists, rheumatologists, cardiologists, pulmonologists, and psychiatrists, physiometrists, rehabilitation medicine folks, pain and palliative care, people who are experts in bone disease, endocrinologists, gynecologists — any specialty, just about."

Gahl was intrigued by the Bengé case. Not only had she been through many different doctors, but the various elements of her disease were what he was looking for: "a new, unique, or remarkable physical finding or constellation of such findings, and maybe a clue that we can go after, an abnormal laboratory result."

The clue in Bengé's case was that it wasn't entirely unique. She could readily produce four other people with the same symptoms, and, importantly, two without.

MAGGIE BARTLETT



Eric Green has been part of the human genome project "from day one" and now hopes to turn knowledge into treatments.

Bengé is the oldest of five children born to Clara and Bobby Proctor. Her siblings, in order of birth, are Derrell Proctor, Doug Proctor, Paula Allen, and Elizabeth Dodd, and all of them have the same calcified arteries — but their parents do not. Bengé was the first to develop the symptoms of the mysterious disease, which was as strange to the Proctors as it was to their physicians.

"We used to kind of tease Louise for [occasionally] using a wheelchair," says Allen. "Then, when I started feeling the same pain, I thought, well, I better have it checked into."

One by one, the Proctor siblings all began showing signs of arterial calcification — sometimes first in the hands, manifesting like a form of severe arthritis, but always, eventually, in the legs and feet.

Allen says she can only walk for "ten to fifteen minutes at a slow speed, right now. My ankles and feet all hurt now. It's not just my calves and legs. My feet hurt all the time. And they stay red. My feet, my legs, everything. I just ache."

The presence of the symptoms in all five Proctor siblings but not in their parents indicated that the cause of the illness might be rooted in their genes — and that gave Gahl an idea for how to find the genetic culprit.

In May 2009, his team asked Bengé and Allen to come to Bethesda.

To Green, Gahl isn't just a doctor, and Bengé isn't just a patient. Together, they're also elements in the effort to foster genomic medicine.

"What Bill is doing with the Undiagnosed Diseases Program is exactly what one has in mind as an incubator, taking the latest genomic technologies and applying them to figure out how best to diagnose diseases," Green says. "[It shows] how to use genomics to do biomedical research and clinical research, and increasingly to change clinical practice."

Genetics is the study of DNA and its role in heredity; *genomics*, however, is the study of a complete set of chromosomes — of all of a person's genes — considering how those genes interact with each other and with the environment. Between 1990 and 2003, the human genome project was one of the highest profile efforts in biology, with the goal of mapping the entire human genetic code: the roughly 20,000 genes spelled out in some 3 billion nucleotides that constitute the reference set of human chromosomes. The effort cost some \$3 billion, and laboratories in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, China, Japan, and elsewhere took part.

Working with strands of DNA from a variety of people (but most of it from an anonymous donor from Buffalo, New York), teams of scientists began scanning, chromosome by chromosome, nucleotide by nucleotide — guanine, adenine,

thymine, and cytosine — over and over, elucidating the chemical map of what it means to be human.

Green has been involved in the human genome project “literally from day one,” he says, working in labs, first at Washington University in St. Louis and then at NIH, sequencing and mapping, with a focus on chromosome 7. It was a massive effort, “biology’s equivalent to the moon shot,” Green says. But its aim was pure science, not directly connected to curing disease or helping patients.

“During the genome project,” he says, “we had a laser sharp, single goal: sequence the human genome. None of it was clinically oriented. It was just completely focused on a basic science endeavor.”

And that, Green believes, now has to change.

If sequencing the genome was biology’s moon shot, the discipline had its Neil Armstrong moment in 2003, when the complete sequence was published. In the eight years since, genomics has seen a surge in technology that enables scientists to sequence DNA with increasing speed and decreasing cost. But Green notes that NHGRI’s work can’t end with the publication of the reference human genome sequence. In his first year as director of NHGRI — and thus, at least administratively, America’s top genomicist — he led the organization to develop a new strategic plan. The institute must, he believes, find ways to apply genomics to solving the practical, clinical problems that real patients face. That plan, published in *Nature* in February 2011, proposes turning knowledge of the human genome into actionable medicine, diagnoses of diseases, and ultimately treatments.

“The bottom line,” he says, “is that ... the future of genomics [is in] clinical applications.”

JEANNINE MAJOSETH



Louise Bengé (on table) undergoes an arterial exam to evaluate circulation while NIH staffers Annette Stine, Kevin Smith, and Catherine Groden observe. Bengé and her siblings went through a wide variety of tests while at the NIH facility in Bethesda, Maryland.

Gahl’s Undiagnosed Diseases

Program is one attempt to create those clinical applications and inject a spirit of practical discovery into genomics.

“A lot of people at NIH wanted to go back to the era of the 1950s and ’60s when new diseases were being diagnosed,” Gahl says. “So we thought it was an opportune time to start the program. So I hired a couple of people, and it was announced, and it was so popular with the press that NIH gave more money to it, and it just kind of grew from there.”

When Bengé and Allen — and later Dodd and Derrell and Doug Proctor — went to Bethesda to meet with Gahl and his team, they found themselves subjects of a broad battery of examinations.

“We did every test imaginable,” says Bengé. “Needles and testing and x-rays and CAT scans and blood work and more blood work and more blood work.

PET scans and CT scans, ultrasounds. Just all kinds.”

Those tests revealed the extent of the damage that the illness had wrought. This was most visible in the large arteries in the Proctor siblings’ legs. In a healthy person, the femoral and popliteal arteries

If sequencing the genome was biology’s moon shot, the discipline had its Neil Armstrong moment in 2003, when the complete sequence was published.

run like a highway down past the knee, carrying large amounts of blood to the lower leg and foot. Radiographs for Bengé showed hers to be constricted and blocked — instead of the smooth flow of a highway, she had the crowded and crawling traffic of rush hour in a

metropolis. Studies in cells indicated that the Proctors had low levels of an enzyme called CD73, and so Gahl's team referred to the condition as *ACDC*, or Arterial Calcification due to a Deficiency of CD73.

But the scans, blood work, and x-rays only showed the effect of the disease. At the same time that Gahl's team was running laboratory analyses on Bengé and Allen, they were also looking for its origin in their genealogy.

The Proctors' parents were third cousins. Though neither they nor any of the siblings' ancestors showed any signs of the disease, the team theorized that they might have been passing it along nonetheless. What if several of them

The Proctor siblings' particular form of arterial calcification affects only nine people on earth that we know of — or one in every 752,803,967 people.

had been carriers of an ACDC mutation, a recessive gene that didn't appear until Carla and Bobby Proctor married and brought two copies of that recessive mutation together?

"It was actually a pretty easy case, in a way," Gahl says. Since the siblings' parents were third cousins, "they share one-one hundred twenty-eighth of their genome sequence. Which means that slightly less than 1 percent of the entire genome is going to be homozygous. So we looked for a region in which all five individuals were homozygous and the parents were heterozygous. And there was only one region, and that region contained ninety-two genes. We were able to pick out which were the most



The femoropopliteal artery in Louise Bengé's leg (left) is heavily calcified (compare with a healthy artery at right).

likely candidates of those ninety-two and study them."

The culprit, they found, was a gene called *NT5E*, which lives on chromosome 6 and governs production of CD73 enzyme. It had what Gahl calls a "nonsense mutation," or defect. The discovery of that mutation — and of a similar mutation in four other patients (three sisters in northern Italy and a woman in California) who showed the same symptoms — led to publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and to the first announcement that the Undiagnosed Diseases Program had discovered a new disease.

"You ask the question, 'Can you use new genomic technologies to better figure out the cause of rare diseases?'" Bill Gahl is answering that in spades," Green says. "He's launched this incredibly well-received program, which takes in patients from around the world, and for which the medical system has failed to deliver a diagnosis. ... It's a very clear demonstration that you can use these genomic techniques to figure out what is broken in patients with very rare genetic diseases."

The Proctor siblings' disease is, by any definition of the term, *very* rare. The

federal government's definition is found in the Orphan Drug Act of 1983, which classifies a disease as *rare* if it affects fewer than 200,000 Americans, or roughly one in every 1,500. The Proctor siblings' particular form of arterial calcification affects only nine people on earth that we know of — or one in every 752,803,967 people.

But Green believes that while the Proctors' disease may be very rare, the method of diagnosis might soon be nothing out of the ordinary — that the way Gahl worked to the root of the Proctor siblings' problem also points medicine toward new ways to handle common medical situations. As an example, he says, consider warfarin, the blood thinner developed at UW-Madison by Karl Paul Link '22, MS'23, PhD'25 in the 1940s and used to prevent strokes.

"Warfarin is a great drug," Green says, "but people respond to it in wonky kinds of ways. It's hard to get the dosage just right, because if you give people too much, they bleed out, and if you don't give them enough, they clot. Getting that therapeutic window — you do it by trial and error. Very blunt and prone to problems."

Recent genetic studies, he explains, have revealed the genetic variants that influence how a person metabolizes warfarin. Researchers are now conducting clinical trials to determine if using this genetic information about a patient improves a physician's ability to find that therapeutic window and avoid the errors.

"We'll see what the trials say," Green notes, "but it is possible that they'll demonstrate the effectiveness [of genetic testing]. If that happens, then it will become the standard of care — that before you give somebody warfarin, you quickly give them a DNA test and figure out what kind of dosing you should use."

In Green's vision, genome sequencing would become as standard to medicine

as physicals and blood tests. Children might have their genomes sequenced at birth, the resulting information then helping physicians to understand what kinds of illnesses they might be subject to, and which kinds of medicines might be most effective, and which potentially dangerous. Doctors might learn which individuals were at risk for what kinds of cancers, and how those cancers are best treated.

“Maybe ten years, maybe fifteen years from now, we wouldn’t do genetic tests on patients in real time,” he says. “Rather, maybe the patient would already have had his or her genome sequenced, and that information would be part of the electronic medical record.”

But ten or fifteen years is a long time to wait for Louise Bengé and her siblings. For them, the promise of the future is less important than the pain of the present.

Though Green has high hopes for genomics to change the practice of medicine, he also knows that there’s much work to be done to translate genomic knowledge into cures.

“What Bill Gahl’s doing is as much a research endeavor as anything else,” he says. “Just because you can diagnose a disease doesn’t mean you can treat it.”

And Gahl is acutely aware of this distinction — and that treatment is not in his charter. It is, rather, a personal desire.

“We don’t have a goal of treating patients,” he says. “We just want to do it when we see the patients, and they have no alternative.”

And so after the Undiagnosed Diseases Program found the cause of the Proctor siblings’ disease, its members also began working on a regimen to bring the Proctors relief. Having determined the base of their problem — that their



JEANNINE MOSETH

Bill Gahl (right) heads the NHGRI’s Undiagnosed Diseases Program, which seeks out the causes of mysterious ailments. Here, he’s shown with (from right) Louise Bengé, Paula Allen, and Manfred Boehm, a researcher at the Center for Molecular Medicine.

genes won’t produce the enzyme that would keep their arteries from calcifying — Gahl and his team have worked up an experimental treatment that would obviate the need for the missing enzyme.

But the path to relief isn’t simple, and the standards of science, and of medical regulation, don’t make Gahl’s job any easier.

“In general, the Food and Drug Administration applies the same standards for rare diseases as for common diseases,” Gahl says. “If you have a one-off disease ... you still have to do pre-clinical animal toxicity studies. And nobody’s going to do that,” he says — no one’s going to spend the time and energy to develop a drug with a market of only nine people in the world.

So since their journey to NIH, the Proctors have been on essentially the same treatment plan they had before: exercise to increase blood flow. Each day, Bengé and her siblings hit their treadmills

to walk for as long as they can stand, then rest, then start walking again.

“It was wonderful to finally find out what was causing our problems,” Bengé says. “And they think they found some medication that can help us, but they have to get it approved. If they can get that done, get us started on the rounds of medicine and stuff, it would be even more wonderful, if it helps us.” ■

John Allen is senior editor of On Wisconsin Magazine.

UW Bragging Rights

ViaSpan, also known as the UW Solution, is a fluid used to store organs awaiting transplant. Developed in 1987 by Folkert Belzer and James Southard at the UW’s School of Medicine and Public Health, it remains the gold standard for organ preservation today.

Wisconsin Alumni Association: celebrating alumni for 150 years.



After hitting rock bottom, JD Stier crawled back up and became a voice of experience.

Prison Breaks

His life was a downward spiral until JD Stier '04 and a persistent teacher *saw a way out*.

BY JENNY PRICE '96

When Luke Matthews looked out on the students in his anthropology class, JD Stier stood out. He radiated intelligence and asked interesting questions. **He was also obviously high.**

"And then one day, he just disappeared," says Matthews '95.

It was 1998, and Stier '04 was taking classes at Madison Area Technical College as he awaited sentencing for possessing and dealing marijuana. Stier was, he explains, "thinking foolishly that if I was back in school, doing all the right stuff, that somehow they wouldn't send me to prison."

It didn't work.

Soon after Stier's disappearance, Matthews's wife came home and asked, "Do you know a guy named JD?" As a psychiatrist who conducted intake interviews with state prison inmates, she had talked with Stier that day. Armed with an address and prisoner number, Matthews wrote Stier a letter. It was the start of correspondence that continued throughout Stier's two years behind bars and nurtured the longest of long-shot dreams: getting a UW-Madison degree.

Prison capped off Stier's roller-coaster adolescence, which saw him twice sentenced to juvenile detention. He was president of his freshman class at Madison's Memorial High School when he was arrested the first time; he and two friends took joy rides in stolen cars and committed a string of burglaries. They were filled with anger, his fueled by discord at home resulting from his mother's failing health and the breakdown of his parents' marriage.

“No one in prison thinks they’re going to work at the White House someday.”

Still, Stier managed to graduate from high school in 1996 with good grades before failing his first semester at UW-Oshkosh. He was selling marijuana rather than showing up for class and exams. “I turned eighteen, and the court let go, and my parents let go, and I was back into some stuff even bigger and deeper,” he says.

By summer, he had returned to Madison and was dealing out of a downtown penthouse apartment and spending his nights partying. That lifestyle ended when a drug task force executed a search warrant and found a duffle bag stuffed with marijuana and \$10,000 in cash.

Being sentenced to prison had an upside, though, putting an end to a life of running, hiding, and lying. Stier was sober and stable.

Meanwhile, Matthews bought a stack of postcards and sent one to Stier each week, with a simple message such as, “Get better, not bitter.” He suggested books to read, reminded Stier that he would not be locked up forever, and urged him to focus on getting a degree. Although Matthews considered it a small act, it loomed large in Stier’s life. He began taking courses through UW Extension and got hooked on philosophy, sometimes reading every assignment three or four times until it started to make sense.

“I’d been living like a rock star for a couple years, doing everything to beat my brain,” he says. “I didn’t know how to pronounce the philosophers’ names, I’m sitting in a prison cell with no one to talk to, but I got what they were saying.”

Michael Behrman ’04, a friend who first met Stier in an MATC class, says Matthews empowered Stier to take his life in a different direction. After serving twenty-five months of his forty-two-

month sentence, Stier was released. He returned to MATC for two semesters and, after earning straight As, transferred to UW-Madison in 2002.

“There was no question that he was driven. He thought he had a chance to transform himself, and he took that very seriously,” says Russ Shafer-Landau, a UW philosophy professor who taught Stier’s introductory ethics class. “It seemed clear to me he didn’t want to waste any time. ... He was constantly reflecting on his past experience and, I think, used that as a baseline from which he would measure his progress.”

While on campus, Stier marveled at the social activism demonstrated by those around him. “They raise money; they travel; they march in the streets; they work on campaigns — that was my life at the UW and has been my life since,” he says.

He solidified his friendship with Behrman and with Kou Solomon ’06, a “lost boy” from Sudan (see *On Wisconsin*, Summer 2008), who had also transferred from MATC. “My own prison experience, which seemed so dramatic to me, paled in comparison to what Kou’s life had been like,” Stier says.

The three best friends traveled to Kenya when Solomon reunited with his family for the first time.

Stier also worked with teens at Connections Counseling, an outpatient alcohol-and-drug treatment center, using his “street cred” to “speak some no-nonsense,” as he wished someone had done with him.

In summer 2008, he seized an opportunity he had never imagined: working as a field organizer for Barack Obama’s presidential campaign. Four months after the election, Stier got a phone call. While his history would keep

many people from getting a job interview — much less a job — it was that very life story that led Obama drug czar Gil Kerlikowske to name him national outreach coordinator for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Just a few years earlier, the office had funded the task force that had arrested Stier.

As he helped plan Kerlikowske’s visits to events and organizations around the country, Stier says he also relished the chance to be “that one voice in the room [that can] articulate how these policies actually trickle down and affect direct services.”

Most recently, he accepted a job offer to be campaign manager for Raise Hope for the Congo, a project of the Center for American Progress, which is building a grassroots movement to advocate for Congolese women and girls.

Ten years ago, Stier recalls, his highest ambition was getting out of prison, going to college, and finding a job that was an honest living. Yet, last year, he escorted his mother through the West Wing, showed her the Oval Office, and stopped by the Rose Garden.

“No one in prison,” he says, “thinks they’re going to work at the White House someday.” ■

Jenny Price ’96 is senior writer for On Wisconsin Magazine.

UW Bragging Rights

JD Stier is one of nearly two dozen alumni who have been called upon to serve in the Obama administration. Others include Gregory Jaczko PhD’99, chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Alyssa Mastromonaco ’98 (see Summer 2010 *On Wisconsin*), who is now deputy chief of staff for operations.

**Wisconsin Alumni Association:
celebrating alumni for 150 years.**

Life Lessons

When Richard Davis teaches, his words are like the notes he plays, flowing effortlessly from topic to topic, as he explains music and so much more.

BY GWEN EVANS '79 PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER

It's exam day in Professor Richard Davis's class, Music 311: Black Music (1920–Present): The Saxophone. His students are cramming last-minute looks at their notes, giggling over an inside joke from the previous night's study group. The room hushes as Davis removes the binder clip from the stack of exams and passes them around. A cassette tape is popped into the player, and they are off.

Sudden smiles brighten the dreary, windowless room in the Mosse Humanities Building — the students nod and grin because they recognize the first selection they are to identify: Coleman Hawkins, tenor saxophone, “Body and Soul.”



Professor Richard Davis, now in his fourth decade on the UW faculty, teaches his students that the *why* of a piece of music — its historical context — is every bit as important as its individual notes.



Davis chats as they write, giving hints to answers when they are stumped. He hams it up to some lovey-dovey lyrics being played, swaying and chair dancing without inhibition. He plays air bass. Did someone say tension? Not here.

Even on exam days, Davis's classes have a laid-back, improvisational feel. Rather than lecture from a script, he opens his lesson binder and then ignores it. He starts talking and then veers off into unexpected directions, with new ideas, tempos, and moods, ultimately returning to his beginning idea. Stops

and starts, questions, and observations are part of the flow. His classes are musical conversations, not lectures.

That his teaching style might feel improvised is no surprise. He is, after all, a world-famous jazz bassist who has played with many of the greats. When he lectures on jazz history, he seldom needs notes; he speaks with the voice of experience.

But for Davis, it's not just about the music and being able to identify the artists and their styles. He wants his students to learn the *why* behind the

music. He puts the music into historical and human perspective, describing the reality and consequences of racism. About this, too, he speaks with firsthand knowledge. He shares his life lessons about growing up in a racially divided Chicago to teach about racial injustice, boundaries, black pride, and culture, and how these elements were responsible for the birth of a new style of American music.

Davis' students learn that Charlie Parker's "Now's the Time" is more than a seminal composition in jazz history. It

is an emblem of black empowerment and pride, and it has a call to action hidden within the title.

“Charlie Parker was our Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart. It was our music. Parker didn’t just change the saxophone. He changed how we look at music,” says Davis. “Jazz has a classical period, too, and it began before white people starting playing it.”

ANSWERING THE CALL

In 1977, Davis was at the top of his musical game, with spots on the stages of New York’s best-known clubs and orchestra halls. The Downbeat International Critics Poll named him best bassist eight years in a row (1967–1974). His reputation was such that he was usually the first to be called when a producer, conductor, or composer needed a bass player.

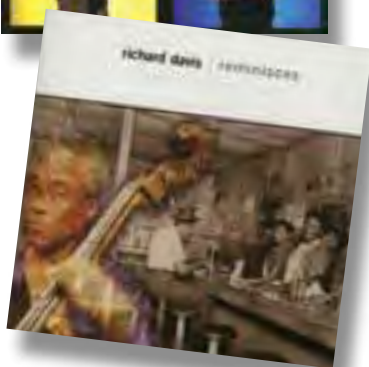
He recorded with a who’s who from pop, jazz, and classical realms: Sarah Vaughan, Eric Dolphy, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Miles Davis, George Szell, Leopold Stokowski, Igor Stravinsky, Pierre Boulez, Gunther Schuller, Leonard Bernstein, Quincy Jones, Van Morrison, Laura Nyro, and Bruce Springsteen. (And that’s just for starters.)

Why, then, would Davis give up his life as a successful performing musician for the unglamorous (and often frustrating) world of academia? His answer reveals volumes about the man and his motivations.

“I got a call offering me a job at the university in Madison because they didn’t have a bass teacher on campus. I said, ‘Where’s Madison?’ I asked around if anyone had heard of the place because this school kept calling me,” Davis laughs. “Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about the importance of teaching others, and I had

always wanted to teach young people. I thought maybe it was time.”

His talent, reputation, and versatility got him the offer. Letters of recommendation from Stravinsky and Bernstein closed the deal.



And for the past thirty-four years, Davis has been teaching young people music and much more. He has helped student bass players become better, thinking musicians (and many are now also music educators). He has taught many more students about the interconnectedness of jazz and black music, and

the damage that racial conditioning has done to us all. He approaches his students with knowledge, as well as compassion and an open heart.

“I love teaching,” Davis says. “One minute they don’t know anything — and then they do. I believe you should share what you have.”

That is not to say he is a pushover. Far from it. He doesn’t tolerate nonsense from students who are not prepared. Those who have made him really unhappy are invited to attend his “Five a.m. Social Club.” An early riser, Davis has students call him at home at that time to talk about what they are doing.

“No one has ever *not* called me. I haven’t used it lately. I guess the word is out that I am strict. You have to be, or they’ll run all over you,” he says.

Davis’s tough love is freely given, like it or not. He is wholeheartedly committed to his students, considers them part of the family, and willingly does whatever he can to help them, especially when they need it most. He notices an outgoing student who has gone unusually quiet. He prods her until she spills. Abusive boyfriend. Davis takes her to people who can help. Another student is working too many hours, and his grades show it. Money problems. Davis makes some calls. “I put myself out there for them. I try to be available and approachable. I tell them, ‘Anyone messes with you, come see me. I have your back. No one messes with you but me,’” he says, breaking into a chortle.

Davis does that a lot.

ATYPICAL ACADEMIC

“There are no typical classes [with Davis]. You never know what is going to happen,” says Ben Ferris x’13, a music education major who plays in the



INSET: JEFF MILLER

Above, Davis spends one-on-one time in 2011 coaching Ben Ferris, a music education major, just as he did with a student in 1993 (inset). Davis has recorded numerous albums (opposite page) and played with musical greats including Barbra Streisand and Bruce Springsteen.

symphony, chamber, and jazz orchestras. He is part of Davis's black music class, a member of the Davis-led Black Music Ensemble, and a bass student with Davis.

Ferris is well acquainted with Davis's teaching rhythms and, as someone learning how to teach music, he's getting a good background in what works. "Professor Davis has the ideal performance-based music classes," he says. "We work with each other and share ideas together."

During Ferris's private lesson, Davis gives feedback, instructions, and encouragement. "A little more nourishment

"I love teaching. One minute they don't know anything — and then they do. I believe you should share what you have."

on that passage and you've got it. Don't bounce the bow. Take long strokes from the middle of the bow. Show me how you are fingering that," he says.

He sings a passage he wants Ferris to try playing a different way. The slurs

and emphasized notes aren't quite right to Davis's ear. "Try it again," Davis urges. "Get it down, and you'll fall in love with yourself all over again. You are pulling something down out of the universe."

Ferris is aware of the depth of the instruction Davis offers and is taking full advantage of their time together. "If you just do what you need to do to get by, you won't get the full benefit of his knowledge and experience. If he sees you've put in the work, he adds to it," says Ferris. "All his students are his priority, and he's never not had time for me."



Nurturing budding musicians has been a steady theme throughout Davis's career, whether doing so in his 1977 UW classroom (inset) or working with young bassists in 2011 (above) during a weekend of workshops and recitals made possible by a foundation he established in 1993.

Some of his best students, Davis recalls, couldn't play much of anything at first. "Attitude and desire are the important things. They pick it up in no time. I'm never wrong," he says.

Davis says he models his teaching style and commitment to students on Walter Dyett, his high school music teacher. Dyett saw something in Davis, and he nurtured and encouraged the shy teenager who loved music to attend Chicago's VanderCook College of Music. He invited his students to his house on Saturdays. Dinah Washington, Nat King Cole, and others also benefited from the Dyett approach.

YOUNG BASSISTS

Davis also honors Dyett's values by nurturing players ages three to eighteen through the Richard Davis Foundation for Young Bassists, Inc. Each year since 1993, students from the Midwest and beyond have come to Madison to work with bass clinicians, performers, and teachers, many of whom are Davis's colleagues or former students.

The weekend of workshops, classes, and recitals provides intensive training and the chance to perform for and network with other bass players.

Under Davis's watch and nurturing, these young musicians will become the leaders others will one day follow. Some former conference attendees — now faculty members at other universities — return each year to help.

Ferris has already begun his Dyett legacy: at the 2011 conference, he helped lead a boot camp for high school students considering a career in music. He knows exactly how those young musicians feel, having played for Davis at the conference as an eighth grader. "It scared me to death," Ferris says. "I had to play solos, and I wasn't used to it — but it was good for me."

RACIAL HEALING

The impact of racial injustice is a common topic in Davis's music history and performance classes. He considers racism a disease that is internalized, institutionalized, and infectious — but not invincible. Ever the teacher, Davis confronts it wherever he finds it, having seen too often what it can do. He challenges narrow-mindedness by calling it out and asking uncomfortable questions that make people squirm. His goal is to heal humanity of the disease and build “the oneness of humankind,” he says. That's a tall order, but Davis won't accept anything less.

On campus, he has worked with the Retention Action Project, a program that looks at the campus' slow progress in enrolling, keeping, and graduating students of color; and Students for the Oneness of Humankind, an organization that evolved from a First-Year Interest Group led by Davis and colleagues Sabine Moedersheim and Lydia Zepeda. He's been a diversity liaison, a house fellow, and a board member for Pathways to Excellence; he served on the Campus Climate Committee; and he was co-adviser for a campus group named PREA (Promoting Racial and Ethnic Awareness.)

Davis also started an awareness and education program for teachers called ELAT (Everybody Listens and Talks) and the Madison chapter of the Institute for the Healing of Racism. Both organizations work to combat racial conditioning through readings, talking, videos, guest speakers, and self-reflection.

Dale Burke, a now-retired UW police captain, says his eyes were opened when he participated in the institute's program. “I only hope that I can somehow change who I am in my remaining lifetime, and

pass on to my children what little I now know, so they do not have to wait forty-six years to finally learn the meaning of racism,” he says.



“I teach character. That's the most important thing for me — follow-through and hard work. The world is not waiting on you, and there's tons of talent out there.”

“If you don't change attitudes, what are you going to tell your children? You have to make people feel accountable,” says Davis.

Changing attitudes can be discouraging work, but Davis prefers to focus on what can be done, rather than dwell on what hasn't been accomplished.

“That's wasted energy,” he says. “I'm an action guy, and I have faith that things

can change because I am working on it. I have a lot of strength and I speak my mind. I'll talk about it as long as there's an audience.”

Perhaps that perseverance comes from being a musician. You don't rise to the top of your musical field without years of practice. And sometimes unlearning a bad behavior or technique picked up along the way can take years to correct — something that Davis has observed over and over in his music students, and in life.

A list of awards, honors, and recognition that Davis keeps for his work as an educator, musician, and advocate includes an unexpected entry: the day in 2000 when he received his first race-motivated hate mail from a student. It's on the list of accolades, he says, because to him it meant that he was in good company — he was among others who have been attacked for speaking out and trying to make the world more just and humane for all.

“I teach character,” he says. “That's the most important thing for me — follow-through and hard work. The world is not waiting on you, and there's tons of talent out there.”

“Good teachers teach you how to do what you do, and then better. If you haven't become better than me, I haven't taught you too well.” ■

Gwen Evans '79 is a senior university relations specialist for University Communications.

UW Bragging Rights

Among Badgers who have made music history is Jerry Bock '49, Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway composer. His works include *Fiorello!*, *Mr. Wonderful*, and, most famously, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**Wisconsin Alumni Association:
celebrating alumni for 150 years.**



A pork belly is tied in a roll during a demonstration of how smoke flavoring can replicate the dry-curing process to make bacon.

Six Degrees of [Curing] Bacon

This new program teaches
the **art and science** of
working with meat.

BY JENNY PRICE '96

Craig Huth grew up working in the family meat-processing business, Richland Locker. But as he made plans to take over when his parents retire, he knew he still had a few skills to learn — including the art of making sausage.

This is Wisconsin, after all.

“If the sausage man goes on vacation for a week, I’m the one who’s going to do it,” says Huth, who worked for General Motors for ten years before returning home to Richland Center, Wisconsin, where his great uncle started the meat-processing company in 1939.

Huth was just the type of student UW-Madison meat scientists had in mind last year when they launched a meat-science-and-safety training program designed to help a new generation of leaders earn the title “master meat crafter.”

The concept comes from Germany, where they know a thing or two about sausage. A German *wurstmacher* is required to undergo intense training and an apprenticeship before being permitted to own a shop. In Wisconsin, the inaugural class of nineteen students travels to the UW about six times in two years for two- to three-day training sessions that combine classroom instruction with hands-on activities in the laboratory and demonstrations of new technology.

That brings us to meat-curing school. More important: bacon.

Students in long white coats and hairnets gather around as Jeff Sindelar, a UW meat scientist in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the program’s director, demonstrates how to turn the fresh pork bellies stacked nearby in white plastic bins into bacon with different flavor profiles. The laboratory feel is fitting, as it turns out there’s some science involved.

Sindelar gets an assist from Doug Ney ’95, a self-described “meat-head” who works for Red Arrow USA, a company that makes several varieties of smoke flavoring, also called “liquid smoke,” such as apple, hickory, maple, and mesquite. The class observes how to add flavor using an injector machine, a method that replicates the results of older and much slower practices of dry curing. The pork belly moves

along a conveyor belt beneath a row of pumping needles connected to hoses that deliver water and a foamy mixture containing the liquid smoke. While the smoky smell is almost overpowering, there's no smoke anywhere.

Sindelar admits that there is a bit of trial and error involved in determining how much liquid to inject. "You're always working on averages," he says. The students will get to taste for themselves how it turns out at a meal capping off the two-day meat-curing lessons.

The meat-processing industry is big business in Wisconsin, contributing more than \$12 billion a year to the economy. That's one reason the state Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection provided grant money to support the program, which aims to help business owners such as Huth to understand the art and science of meat processing, develop new products, find new markets, and master food safety.

"These folks are taxed with a workload — not only from just making good products and finding a customer base to sell those products to — but they also have a lot of regulation they have to comply [with], and that's a big challenge," Sindelar says. "It's extremely complex."

The students, who pay \$3,000 for tuition, are a mix of industry veterans — including the president of the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors — and those newer to the business. Some, including Huth, have bachelor's degrees, but many don't.

"Everyone is overwhelmed at some point in time," Sindelar says. "That's okay. We want that to happen, because if they're overwhelmed, that means that they're challenged."

In addition to homework assignments and quizzes, the students must conduct a research project based in their own



Bacon before long: Doug Ney (right), with help from Amanda King, a research assistant, shows how his company dredges pork bellies to create different flavor profiles.

meat plants and take on an apprentice to share what they have learned, helping the students retain their own skills in the process of teaching.

"If they teach other people what they know, there's a much higher likelihood that those people are going to stay in the meat industry ... maybe open their own businesses — and hopefully, increase the Wisconsin meat industry in the future," Sindelar says.

Wisconsin's meat-processing industry boasts some big names: Oscar Mayer, for one. But a large majority of the state's 450 meat plants are small, family operations such as Richland Locker, which does everything from slaughtering and butchering cows, deer, pigs, and sheep, to making sausage and bacon.

"You name it, we make it," Huth says. On one visit, about ten employees work steadily at massive, stainless steel tables to break down a side of beef, then cut and package it, something they do two dozen times a week. In the next room, the sausage man uses a small machine to fill casings with meat.

Huth hopes putting a "master meat crafter" sticker on his products will be a good marketing tool, especially to reach customers who visit the area for

deer-hunting season. "Hopefully, it's a good draw to bring them here, because Richland Center's not a big destination on the map," he says.

So far, Huth has valued the chance to network with others who are taking over a family business. And he's learned key lessons about food safety and complex federal regulations, at times helping him stay as current as the inspectors who visit his plant.

"I see [these students] as the next generation," Sindelar says. "They have the hands-on training from just working every day in the business, but they're getting the scientific training to make them successful to keep that business going." ■

Jenny Price '96 is senior writer for On Wisconsin Magazine.

UW Bragging Rights

E.J. (Ernest Joseph) Briskey '52, PhD'58, a former UW meat science professor, is known as "The Father of Pork Quality" because he figured out how to transform what was often a watery, unappetizing product into the pale, soft version of "the other white meat" that we know today. He was also a pioneer in bringing a biochemical emphasis to meat science.

Wisconsin Alumni Association: celebrating alumni for 150 years.

Rennie’s: Then and Now

Back then, there was a cigar counter and a steady stream of professors and students grabbing a hot breakfast or lunch at the grill between classes.

But by the time Rennie’s — vintage Madison shorthand for Rennebohm Drug Store — on University Avenue (see inset photo) was demolished in 2008, it had been closed for more than twenty-five years. For many, the store and its name evoke memories both strong and sweet. (The famous grilled Danish is legendary.)

Now, in its place, stands the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, a modern structure built to house some of UW-Madison’s biggest thinkers. On the ground floor of this monument to innovation, an airy and modern Rennie’s Dairy Bar opened this summer. There are stools at a long, white, marble counter, just as it was in the old days. And there are once again floats, malts, and sundaes on the menu, this time made with organic ice cream from the Babcock Hall Dairy Plant.

These days many customers don’t know that Rennie’s is a borrowed name, or where it came from.

Oscar Rennebohm, who served one term as Wisconsin’s governor, opened his first drug store on the spot in 1925. He owned more than two dozen in Madison before selling the business to Walgreens in 1980. In the years that followed, many natives still referred to Walgreens as Rennie’s. Some local preservationists tried, but failed, to save the original Rennebohm building by getting it declared a historic city landmark.

The university moved ahead with the new research facility, razing Rennie’s and six other buildings. Most of the materials that made up the 1300 block of University Avenue were recycled or reused, including an ornate stone *R*, which is on display just outside the new soda fountain, a physical reminder of fond memories.

Inside, Rennie’s stands ready, just as many newly minted gathering spaces on this evolving campus do: a blank slate poised to become a tradition for generations to come.

Root beer float, anyone?

Jenny Price '96

What’s your favorite UW tradition?
Tell *On Wisconsin* about it at onwisconsin@uwalumni.com, and we’ll find out if it’s just a fond memory — or if it’s still part of campus life today.

The store and its name evoke memories both strong and sweet. A once-upon-a-time tradition is coming back to life on University Avenue.



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY/IMAGE ID 34400
BRUCE RUGHTER

Pulling Together for Great People

A couple's family endowment helps to grow scholarships for students in need.

Like most young couples, **Will Hsu '00** and his spouse, Jenny, were thinking ahead when they planned their August 2010 wedding. But unlike most young couples, they used wedding gifts to help fund a need-based scholarship endowment — despite facing their own student loans.

"Will had proposed that we use some of the money for our Great People Scholarship," says Jenny Hsu, a nurse practitioner in the Twin Cities. "In Asian culture, a lot of people just give cash in lieu of a [wedding] gift. We thought it would be a good idea to put some of that forth for a scholarship."

Will, who earned degrees in finance, Chinese language and literature, and East Asian Studies at UW-Madison, is a senior finance manager at General Mills in Minneapolis. He heard about the Great People Scholarship while helping the Wisconsin School of Business with fund-raising programs and alumni events.

"With our gifts, a General Mills Foundation match, and the UW Foundation match, we were able to get the right size gift to do a family endowment," he says. "It made sense for us."

The Great People Scholarship Campaign, which has generated more than \$25 million so far for student aid, is the highest priority on campus. The scholarships are part of aid packages put together by the Office of Student Financial Aid, and they often include student and family contributions, loans, and work-study employment.

About five hundred students received these scholarships this fall, and that number will rise

significantly in future years as endowment funds are made available.

Both Will and Jenny Hsu have graduate-school debt: Will for earning an MBA from the Harvard Business School; Jenny for a master's degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota.

"I have a job; Will has a good job," says Jenny. "Even though we have loans of our own, we are doing well enough that we are able to pay for those loans. We wanted to give people who don't have the same opportunities we had going into college and grad school the chance to get an education."

Will says the connections he formed on campus were strong and lasting. "I learned a lot, and not just from a business standpoint," he says. "Because I did a couple of majors in the College of Letters & Science as well, it gave me a broader perspective, a wider view of the world, a better understanding."

A highly motivated undergraduate, he was a house fellow in Cole Hall; a peer learning partner at the Bradley Learning Community; and a coordinator with the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration program. He also worked for Visitor & Information Programs.



Strong Wisconsin ties: Will Hsu, who grew up in Wausau, and Jenny Hsu, a native of Onalaska, are making sure they stay connected to the UW in tangible ways.

"Without [the university], I wouldn't be where I am today," he says. "I believe so strongly in the

UW and how it gives people the tools to lead successful lives."

Chris DuPré

Just a Click Away

Here's a challenge that's easy to undertake: follow UW-Madison on Twitter and like its Facebook page.

For those who do either or both by October 3, **Will Hsu '00**, his spouse, Jenny, and his parents, Paul and Sharon Hsu, will give to the Great People Scholarship.

"We're trying to make sure people stay connected," says Will, a frequent blogger who makes good use of Twitter. "In the last few years, Jenny and I have watched Facebook and Twitter and some of these other types of social media take off. ... Our challenge could motivate people to get more involved with the university."

Visit buckychallenge.wisc.edu to learn more and to take part in the challenge.

C.D.

Badger connections

JEFF MILLER



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Running Low

Former Badger track star Suzy Favor Hamilton '91 runs beneath the arms of children in UW-Madison's Precollege OPTIONS program, Movin' Minds, held on campus in July. Hamilton helped lead the program, which was open to students from sixth through ninth grades. The aim was to promote healthy bodies and healthy minds through a combination of exercise and academic coursework.

Bright Lights in the Badger City

Red Tie Gala to celebrate alumni, increase scholarships.

Before the face paint and Badger gear come out for the Homecoming football game, the Wisconsin Alumni Association invites alumni to sport altogether different — but just as spirited — attire at a once-in-a-lifetime campus event: the Red Tie Gala.

The capstone event of WAA's 150th anniversary, the Red Tie Gala is an evening for all UW alumni and friends to dress their best and feel their finest. This historic moment celebrates 150 years of UW alumni and traditions while driving toward a goal of raising \$150,000 for the Great People Scholarship fund, helping ensure the UW experience continues for future generations.

"This will be an amazingly spirited and meaningful moment for alumni to get decked out in



their Badger best while helping a great cause," says **Martha Vukelich-Austin '81**, co-chair of WAA's Red Tie Gala alumni advisory committee. "This is a moment not to be missed and

an event truly unique to this campus that I know will leave all in attendance with a lifelong UW memory."

Held at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery Town

Center on Friday, October 14, from 7 to 11 p.m., the gala is Madison's premier Homecoming eve event. It will include hundreds of alumni and friends of all UW eras, along with honorary hosts UW athletic director **Barry Alvarez** and his spouse, **Cindy**, and UW interim chancellor **David Ward MS'62, PhD'63** and his spouse, **Judith '64**.

Attendees will arrive to a luminous red-carpet scene and dance to a live Big Band ensemble; dine on gourmet appetizers, local beers, and wines; and mingle with classmates and alumni, special guests, and Badger celebrities.

Space is limited at this event. See uwalumni.com/gala to register.

Ben Wischnewski '05

Helping the UW Gain More Flexibility

Since WAA's founding in 1861, advocacy has been core to its mission and its dedication to engaging alumni in support of the University of Wisconsin. In 2011, this mission drove WAA's efforts to engage alumni in support of a proposal to create a new business model for their alma mater.

Then-Chancellor **Biddy Martin PhD'85** proposed the New Badger Partnership in fall 2010. The initiative sought management flexibilities in areas regulated by state government, including personnel management, capital projects and bonding, tuition revenue, and purchasing.

In January 2011, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker introduced budget language that would have addressed some of the challenges identified in

the campus proposal by establishing UW-Madison as a public authority. The WAA board of directors endorsed the model, and WAA, in its advocacy role, sent out communications to educate alumni and generate legislative support.

"We know that our postcards, advertisements, emails, and website brought information about the proposal to many alumni," explains **Tim Higgins '77**, chair of the Alumni for Wisconsin volunteer advocacy network. "But we were also able to explore new approaches to engaging in conversation, including a tele-town hall, where almost 20,000 alumni participated in a live discussion with Chancellor Martin. The response and involvement of our alumni in this advocacy effort

was truly impressive."

But alumni did not universally support WAA's position in favor of the New Badger Partnership.

"We have a diverse and highly engaged alumni population, and some alumni strongly disagreed with WAA's role in this debate," says **Paula Bonner**, WAA's president and CEO. "But we take our role as advocates for the university very seriously. And we understand that taking positions at times can be controversial. We made every effort to be respectful and allow every graduate to have a voice."

Ultimately, the 2011–13 state budget did not include the new structure for UW-Madison, but all UW System institutions were granted new flexibilities, particularly in the area of

personnel management.

The legislative accomplishments, particularly gaining the ability for UW-Madison to develop and implement its own personnel policy, will have a significant impact. But the most meaningful outcome of the advocacy campaign may be the focus on the future of public higher education in Wisconsin. The conversation will continue, as a study of the funding and structure of the UW System will begin this fall.

"We will be fully engaged in contributing to this conversation," Bonner says. "Alumni have been actively involved in the process all along, and we very much appreciate all of our graduates and their dedication and commitment to the university."

Mike Fahey '99

Celebrating Mad Grads Everywhere

WAA unveils two gifts at campus birthday party.

Hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff, and students gathered in June on the lakefront near the Memorial Union Terrace for WAA's 150th birthday bash and the first taste of Mad Grad Medley, its commemorative ice cream made specially by the Babcock Hall Dairy.

WAA put out a call to Badgers everywhere to create the special treat. Alumni submitted more than 500 flavor ideas, which were narrowed down to five and voted on by nearly 3,000 alumni. A blend of vanilla ice cream, Door County cherries, and chocolate was the winning recipe.

"It was fantastic to celebrate our birthday with a new flavor, created by and for Badgers," says **Paula Bonner MS'78**, WAA's president and CEO. "Mad Grad Medley is one of many ways alumni can celebrate WAA's century and a half of service, no matter where they are."

Partygoers also enjoyed a Civil War era-themed band to mark WAA's founding year before the association presented the university with new street signs, a lasting legacy for future generations. The signs are white with black lettering and borders and feature the university crest, replacing the traditional green street signs.

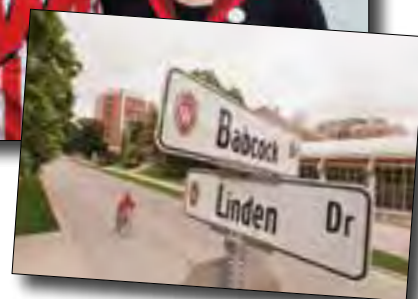


Right: WAA donated new street signs for campus to mark the association's 150th anniversary. Above: Robert Bell '64, JD'67, who submitted the winning flavor combination for Mad Grad Medley ice cream, enjoys the birthday party with Paula Bonner, Bucky Badger, and former Chancellor Biddy Martin.

"These distinctive signs showcase the campus as a place to learn and discover, and as the place that alumni and students will

forever call home," says Bonner. Find more on WAA's anniversary at uwalumni.com/150.

Staff



Florin Steps into Top Spot

Although **Dave Florin '92** is entering his eighth year of service with WAA's national board of directors, his involvement began long before that. His father was president of the Northeast Ohio



Alumni Club (now the WAA: Cleveland Chapter), and Florin served on the Wisconsin Alumni Student Board as an undergraduate. Now president of the Madison-based marketing communications firm Hiebing, Florin has been named 2011-12 chair of the WAA board and will serve a one-year term.

"What I love about this role is the closer you get to the University of Wisconsin, the more amazing things you see are happening on campus every day," says Florin. "But you also begin to see how complex some of the issues are, and that's a fascinating dynamic within which

to serve."

Much of Florin's work with the board has involved helping to develop and refine the WAA brand. As chair, he will help drive the organization's strategic initiatives and focus on ensuring that the university maintains its level of prestige statewide and globally, which he notes will be challenging — but vital — in today's tough economic environment.

"There simply aren't any entities in the state that have the type of potential or impact on our future that UW-Madison has," he says. "We are at a critical point in time as a university and a state. We need to continue to make

forward-thinking decisions about UW-Madison, because the direction this university goes is likely to be the direction our state goes. It is simply that important."

WAA also welcomes four new board members: **Neena Buck '79**, Cambridge, Massachusetts; **Norman Doll '77**, president emeritus, Pieper Electric, Inc., Mequon, Wisconsin; **Steve Lescohier '71, MA'75**, senior vice president, J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC, Arlington Heights, Illinois; and **Karen Monfre '86**, partner, business valuation/merger and acquisition services for Wipfli LLP, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

B.W.

News? Do Tell ...

We'd appreciate receiving the (brief, if you please) details of your latest accomplishments, transitions, acts of bravery, and other major life happenings by email to papfelbach@waastaff.com; by mail to Class Notes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; or by fax to (608) 265-8771. We receive many more submissions than we can print, but we love to hear from you anyway.

Please email death notices and all address, name, telephone, and email updates to 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 triannual publication for its members.

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

The Wisconsin Alumni Association® (WAA) encourages diversity, inclusivity, nondiscrimination, and participation by all alumni, students, and friends of the UW in its activities.

early years

We need not imagine what childhood was like for someone who's one hundred and one years old — we can read about it in *When Horses Pulled the Plow: Life of a Wisconsin Farm Boy, 1910–1929* (University of Wisconsin Press). Author **Olaf Larson '32, MS'33, PhD'41** came of age in a time of agricultural revolution that would change rural life forever. This is his recollection of that life, and his collection of wry tales about the people he knew and the values they held. Larson, of Mount Dora, Florida, is a professor emeritus of rural sociology at Cornell University.

40s–50s

In March, the Florida Political Science Association honored University of Miami Professor Emeritus **Bernard Schechterman '48** of Boynton Beach, Florida, for his roles as the founder, longtime editor, and editor emeritus of its journal, the *Political Chronicle*.

Israel's top science award, the 2010 Israel Prize in Agriculture, has gone to an expert in plant biotechnology: **Jonathan Gressel MS'59, PhD'63**. He's a professor emeritus of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, where he's worked to understand mechanisms to control weeds and to overcome herbicide resistance. Gressel is also a co-founder and the chief scientific officer at TransAlgae, Limited, a company that develops genetically engineered algae for use as biofuel and animal feed.

The third annual SAE Franz F. Pischinger Powertrain Innovation Award has gone to **John Johnson '59, MS'60,**

PhD'64, professor emeritus at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. A pioneer in the area of diesel emissions, he's devoted his career to furthering powertrain technology, reducing fuel consumption and emissions, and educating young engineers.

60s

One of NASA's highest honors for non-governmental employees is in the hands of **Gerald Kulcinski '61, MS'62, PhD'66**, Grainger professor of nuclear engineering and associate dean for research in the UW's College of Engineering. The award — the Exceptional Public Service Medal — recognizes Kulcinski's leadership on the NASA Advisory Council from 2005

When the State Bar of Wisconsin's senior lawyer division bestowed its lifetime achievement honor, the 2011 Loeb Award, on **Allan Koritzinsky '63, JD'66** this summer, he was asked about his secrets to success. "Collegiality is a big one," he said. "Recognize that the lawyer on the other side of the transaction or litigation is your friend in terms of getting the case resolved." Now retired from Foley & Lardner's Madison office, Koritzinsky maintains a family-law mediation and consultation practice.

The next time you see a Fox Head logo on a vehicle or clothing, you'll know this added tidbit: the founders are the spouse team of Josie and **Geoff Fox MS'64, PhD'67**. Today a company that produces apparel

"Public service is a part of our job at the university."

— **Gerald Kulcinski '61, MS'62, PhD'66**

until 2009, but his contributions date back to 1986, when he helped NASA to found the Wisconsin Center for Space Automation and Robotics at UW-Madison. "Public service is a part of our job at the university," says Kulcinski.

We've always known that **Aldo Leopold** was a star, but now he has his own movie to prove it. **Susan Flader '63**, a professor emerita at the University of Missouri in Columbia (and the author of several books on Leopold), has helped to create the first feature-length documentary chronicling the life and legacy of the eminent environmentalist to whom she was introduced through his *Sand County Almanac* fifty years ago as a UW undergrad. Flader spoke at an April screening of the film, called *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*.

and accessories for motocross racing, Fox Head began in the couple's San Jose, California, kitchen in 1974 as a manufacturer of high-performance parts for the motorcycles themselves.

Working Ranch magazine's April/May issue chronicled twelve days in the life of the Sigel Sunset Ranch in Cadott, Wisconsin; its owner, **Rusty (Robert) Gilles '64 (ag short course)**; and its American Lowline Angus cattle operation.

Media researcher and historian **Bonnie Rowan '64, MA'68** was a 2009 Emmy nominee in the News and Documentary/Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft: Research category for her work on *The Rape of Europa*, a documentary about the thefts and destruction of cultural treasures in Europe during World War II.

Bruce Kania '75: Floating a Sustainable Idea

No man is an island. However, one man's name is becoming synonymous with them. **Bruce Kania '75** came up with the idea for Floating Island International after seeing firsthand how our wetlands and waterways are being destroyed.

In 2000, his dog, Rufus, jumped into a pond and came out coated in a reddish goop. The water was teeming with nitrogen and phosphorus, runoff from nearby farms and ranches — the same kind of runoff that pollutes waterways around the world.

Concerned for the future of the environment, Kania remembered the floating peat bogs that surrounded him as a fishing guide growing up in northern Wisconsin.

These floating wetlands are among nature's most productive ecosystems. So Kania brought together a team of engineers, scientists, and plant specialists, and set out to "biomimic" the wetlands — duplicating nature's processes in a sustainable and efficient way.

What they came up with was a matrix made of post-consumer materials (recycled plastic bottles) that they used to create islands capable of supporting the weight of plants and soil. In fact, the recycled fibers within the matrix proved to be excellent material for growing biofilm, while still allowing water to pass through it — the key features of a wetland. This allowed unwanted nutrients to be "eaten" by bacteria forming on the island and in the plant roots. These man-made islands also offer another positive outcome by keeping millions of plastic bottles out of landfills.

"We opened our doors in 2005, and today we've got four thousand islands in the water," says Kania. These islands — designed to clean polluted water, spur the growth of fish, provide species habitats, and sequester carbon — have been launched in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Korea, and Europe. And their largest island to date spans 39,800 square feet.

According to Kania, four or five other companies produce floating wetlands, but his is the only one that biomimics naturally occurring floating islands. "[Ours] have other unique characteristics that differentiate them from anybody else's, in that they can actually grow terrestrial plants and can support many tens of thousands of tons of negative buoyancy," he says. (Negative buoyancy is everything above the water line.)

Floating Island International doesn't manufacture the islands; they develop prototypes and license them to businesses that are better positioned to take the islands into the marketplace. "I run a think tank oriented around the concept of floating wetlands and their impact on water-quality enhancement," says Kania.

That sharing of ideas is what initially drew him to UW-Madison. "It's almost like an urban think tank," he says. "Madison is in a very environmentally rich, verdant location ... where the woodlands meet the prairie, and folks [such as] Aldo Leopold and others have such a legacy of working around environmental issues. It can't help but permeate you when you're there."



Bruce Kania '75 installs an aerator under a floating island at the Shepherd [Montana] Research Center.

Brian Klatt

She runs Bonnie G. Rowan Film Research in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to **Joel Oppenheim '65**: his leadership and efforts to increase the numbers of underrepresented individuals in the PhD biomedical workforce have earned him the 2010 Lifetime Mentor Award

from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Oppenheim is the senior associate dean for biomedical science and a professor of microbiology at NYU's School of Medicine.

Robert Quentin Bick '66, MS'73, an associate of the Order of Julian of Norwich, writes

that he's a volunteer staffer at the Omaha [Nebraska] Catholic Worker, where he's laying the legal and financial foundations for a Catholic Worker House in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Pearson Longman has published the second edition of *Top Notch: English for Today's*

World, a multimedia, foreign-language teaching series that's co-authored by **Joan Rosen Saslow '66, MA'68**. The Chappaqua, New York-based educator, editor, and public speaker notes that her products are unusual because they integrate cultural fluency with language curricula.

Here's an honor you don't hear about every day: **Carl Rheins '67** received the Republic of Lithuania's medal of honor — its Millennium Star — at the start of the UN General Assembly in New York this fall for "fostering ... friendly relations between Lithuanians and Jews." Rheins, of White Plains, New York, is executive director emeritus of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The UW boasts strong representation on a new, forty-person commission that the American Academy of Arts & Sciences created in response to a bipartisan request from Congress to encourage research in the humanities and social sciences.

John Rowe '67, JD'70, the chair and CEO of the Chicago-based electric utility Exelon and president of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation board of trustees, will serve as co-chair. Other members include former UW-Madison Chancellors **Carolyn "Biddy" Martin PhD'85** and **Donna Shalala**, as well as UW sociology Professor Emeritus **Robert Hauser**.

Paul Rux '67, MA'77, PhD'94 had a long moment in the spotlight when the January/February issue of *MyBusiness*, the journal of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), featured a full-page photo of him at the start of its lead story on advice for home-based businesses. An active leader in the NFIB, he's also an "imagineer" who consults on business and

educational planning and projects through Paul Rux Associates in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin.

This spring, **(Albert) Lorris Betz '69, PhD'75, MD'75** delayed his previously announced retirement to answer the University of Utah's call to act — for the second time — as its interim president. His most recent U of U posts were senior VP for health sciences, executive dean of the School of Medicine, CEO of the University of Utah Health System, and faculty appointments in several departments. He lives in Salt Lake City.

"Sittin' on the dock of the bay ..." kind of comes to mind when you read about photographer **Wendy Krueger Lueder '69** and the pictures of nearly five hundred megayachts that she's taken without ever leaving her sixteenth-floor condo in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. There, her 180-degree view of the entrance to Port Everglades — a byway for those big boats — has allowed her to build a photography business called Captured Glimpse.

The state of Mississippi has honored **K.C. (Kenneth Chauncey) Morrison MA'69, PhD'77** with its 2011 Black History Month Educator of the Year Award. He's a professor and head of the department of political science and public administration, as well as a senior associate in the African-American studies program at Mississippi State University.

70s

Brady Deaton MS'70, PhD'72 was President Obama's choice in April to serve as chair of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, which advises the U.S. Agency for International Development. Until the appointment is final-

Ronald Silverman '69: Dentist to a Dictator

Ron Silverman '69 stared into the jaws of death five years ago when he found himself fitting a crown molding for the mouth of Saddam Hussein. Serving in Iraq as a two-star general with a professional background in dentistry, Silverman got the call to fix a broken tooth belonging to Hussein after the Iraqi dictator was arrested by U.S. troops. "We did it at night: one chair, me, my assistant, a translator, and Saddam," Silverman recalls. "He didn't know my rank because I wasn't wearing my uniform — just a dentist's smock."

Hussein proved to be a talkative patient, fluent in English; Silverman knows a little Arabic. The main topic of conversation during Hussein's three visits? History — Silverman's major at UW-Madison. "My big thing was Roman history, so Saddam and I talked about the Roman invasion of the Middle East. We also discussed the Crusades and why he thought Christians were so bad or whatever," he says.

Hussein scheduled one more visit, Silverman says, but "he didn't make his last appointment. They hanged Saddam Hussein before he had the chance to get his tooth cleaning."

The dentist-chair chats with Iraq's infamous ruler capped a journey that began four decades earlier, when Silverman joined the UW's ROTC program. He steered clear of antiwar protests, but remembers the prevalence of tear gas on campus during those turbulent times. After graduating, he earned a DDS at Temple University, served three years of active stateside duty in the army, and then enrolled in the army reserves.

While rising through the military ranks, Silverman also ran a dental practice. A few years ago, shortly before he planned to retire from the service, he received an unexpected promotion. "Two-star general," he says. "You don't turn that down."

In 2006, he took charge of medical care for Iraq's civilian and military populations. During his tour of duty, he relays calmly, "I had my house rocketed, and I was targeted for assassination. They caught the guy who was going after me. He had a picture of me in his pocket."

Supervising three thousand soldiers at more than thirty hospitals, Silverman achieved a 90 percent patient-survival rate. Some didn't make it. "Our helicopter got rocketed, and one of my pilots was killed," he says. "He was eviscerated. He was a kid. My son served in Iraq at the same time. This pilot probably didn't look like my kid, but at the time, if you closed your eyes, you'd think it was him. That was the most traumatic thing I experienced."

Completing his tour of Iraq, Silverman retired from the army and now splits his time between Annandale, Virginia, and Palm Beach, Florida. Describing re-entry into civilian life, he says, "It was tough. After carrying a gun with me for eighteen months, I had certain reflexes. We went to see the Broadway musical *Wicked* in New York. As we were walking home, I saw something unexpected and suddenly grabbed like I had the gun in my pocket. My wife looks at me and says, 'You're not carrying a gun anymore.'"



Ron Silverman '69, right, and his son Matthew Silverman '04, JD'10 served in Iraq at the same time.

Hugh Hart

ized, Deaton continues to serve as chancellor of the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Kandis (Candace) Edwards Jaeger Elliot '70,

MS'79 knows how to pack a lot of information into a small-but-appealing space, and the journal *Science* has lauded her for doing so. Elliot, a senior artist in the

UW's Department of Botany, and UW botany greenhouse director **Mo Fayyaz MS'73, PhD'77** together took first place for informational graphics in *Science's*

2010 International Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge with their *Introduction to Fungi* poster. "It's twenty-five pounds of mushrooms on a five-pound poster," says Elliot.

Newsmax.com's March headline perhaps made **David Keene JD'71**'s recent transition sound a little aggressive when it proclaimed, "David Keene Takes over the NRA." Nonetheless, the Alexandria, Virginia-based former chair of the American Conservative Union (ACU) is now president of the National Rifle Association, a columnist for the *Hill*, and of counsel to the lobbying and advisory firm the Carmen Group. He'll also continue to advise the ACU, and will serve as vice chair of its Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) next year.

Steven Koch '72, MS'74 is the new director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma, where its location at the heart of "Tornado Alley" makes tornado research its forte. Koch was most recently the director of the Global Systems Division at NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado.

Marla Brenner '73, a painter and instructor at Madison Area Technical College, is showing her work in the juried, international *Birds in Art* exhibit at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, starting in September. Her *Pause* exhibit also graced the University of Wisconsin Hospital this spring.

Candace Stone '73 and **Charles '77 McDowell** are the inaugural recipients of a UW Multicultural Student Center accolade named in their honor: the McDowell Alumni Achievement Award. Candace

was the founding director of the center and led it for twenty-two years, retiring in 2010. Charles is the executive director of human resources for Madison Area Technical College and served as president of the Wisconsin Alumni Association's national board in 2003-04.

Professional Dimensions, an organization that promotes women's professional and personal growth, has given one of its 2011 Sacagawea Awards to **Nancy Santelle Sennett '73**. An attorney for thirty-two years in Foley & Lardner's Milwaukee office, she was lauded for her exceptional community service and esteemed career as a litigator. The *Milwaukee Business Journal* has also named Sennett a 2011 Woman of Influence, while the *Wisconsin Law Journal* has dubbed her a 2011 Woman in the Law. Sennett was president of the Wisconsin Alumni Association's national board in 2000-01 and received one of its Distinguished Alumni Awards in 2003.

Rona Fried '76 of Huntington, New York, is a combination of environmentalist and entrepreneur. She's the founder and president of the green-business website SustainableBusiness.com, a respected voice in the field of green investing as the publisher of the online *Progressive Investor* newsletter, a regular columnist for *Solar Today*, and a stock selector for the NASDAQ OMX Green Economy Index.

With every growing season, **Sharon Pendzick Clay '77** breaks ground to begin new studies of how weeds interfere with crop growth. Now she's "broken ground" to become the first woman president-elect of the American Society of Agronomy. Clay is a fellow of the society and a professor at South Dakota State

University in Brookings.

After thirty-one years with Miller Brewing Company, **Richard (Kaldunski) Kallan '77** of Muskego, Wisconsin, has retired from his post as a quality-service engineer. Daughter **Jamie Kallan '09**, also of Muskego, writes that "he always looks back on his time at the UW fondly; is one of the most supportive and enthusiastic alumni I know; and now ... will have more time for Badger football games and summer evenings on the Terrace."

Alison Circle MS'78 has been named one of *Library Journal's* fifty Movers and Shakers nationwide for 2011, yet she's not a librarian. Rather, she's the visionary marketing director of the Columbus [Ohio] Metropolitan Library, and she's brought her experience in global branding fully to bear on it. Perhaps not coincidentally, the organization was named *Library Journal's* library of the year in 2010.

"Celebrating the spirit of adventure in ordinary people" has a nice ring to it, and it's the vision that **Terri (Terese) Evert Dennison Karsten MA'78** of Winona, Minnesota, has for her new company, Wagonbridge Publishing. She's also written its first product, *From Brick to Bread: Building a Backyard Oven*.

The **Sprecher** sisters — **Jill '79** and **Karen '87** — have made another movie: *The Convincer* is a Wisconsin-set, who's-scamming-whom comedy that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and stars Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin, and Lea Thompson. The siblings' screenwriting partnership produced their first Sundance movie in 1997 — the office comedy *Clockwatchers* — and then their 2001 melodrama *Thirteen Conversations About One Thing*. Jill, who directed their latest film, was a regular contrib-

utor to HBO's *Big Love* and the creator of many pilots. With childhood years spent in Madison and Milwaukee, the Sprechers now live in Studio City, California.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has selected **David Zach '79** to serve as its public director for a two-year term. In this capacity, he'll offer insights on the broader role of design, how architects' work affects the economy, and the impact of future trends on AIA members. Zach is a Milwaukee-based futurist and public speaker.

80s

Robert Dammon MBA'80, PhD'84 is stepping into the dean's office at Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business in Pittsburgh. On the Tepper faculty since 1984, he was previously its associate dean of education and a professor of financial economics.

Bruce Giebink '80, MS'83, PhD'88 of Lino Lakes, Minnesota, is also known as Dr. Bruce, the Bug Guy. But why? His love of nature and insects led him to become an entomologist, and after giving a presentation on bugs to his son's first-grade class, Giebink realized that he had a winning idea. He's developed his presentations into the Bug Zone, a full-time business in which he shows off his collection of unusual insects to all kinds of community groups — and even serves up some edible specimens.

John LaMotte, Jr. MS'80 has been a busy guy. He's a co-founder and principal of the Chicago urban-design and community-development firm the Lakota Group with business partner **Scott Freres '86** ... but he was also married recently (with many Badgers in attendance) and

published a book of poetry, *Night Water Reflections* (AuthorHouse), in time for the nuptials.

The National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association has named **Tom Mulhern '80** Wisconsin's 2010 Sportswriter of the Year for his work as the *Wisconsin State Journal's* beat reporter for the Badger football program. He also won the award in 2005.

Taking the reins as the new president of ESSRX this spring was **Howard Drazner '83**, most recently a senior VP at PDI and president of its Pharmakon Division. Based in Parsippany, New Jersey, ESSRX is an audio-visual and satellite production company that offers broadcasts and webcasts to the financial services and pharmaceutical industries.

Adventuresome eaters, step right up: **Andrea Hughes '83** is showing Madtown visitors its tasty side with the launch of Madison Food Explorers: a walking-food-tour company that blends the city's history and architecture with ample samplings of traditional Wisconsin fare along the way.

As the new board chair for Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, **Vincent Lyles '84, JD'87** of Milwaukee oversees the largest Goodwill organization in North America (who knew?), and has just the financial acumen to do it: in his capacity as president of M&I Community Development Corporation, Lyles has grown its investment portfolio from \$53 million to roughly \$130 million in the past five years.

Class of 1984: Who among you wields enormous power at Wal-Mart? You're right if you said **Duncan MacNaughton '84** of Rogers, Arkansas — the new chief merchandising officer

for all product categories at the chain's 3,700-plus retail locations in the U.S. MacNaughton has also worked for Kraft Foods, H.E. Butt Grocery, Albertson's, and Supervalu.

The new president-elect of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) is **Gregg Mitman MA'84, PhD'88**, the interim director of the UW's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, as well as a professor of history of science, medical history, and science and technology studies. Mitman was

"It's refreshing to share good news in an economy that has been riddled with more than its share of not-so-good news."

— **Ryan Erickson '93**

also the founding director of the Nelson Institute's Center for Culture, History, and Environment. UW Professors **William Cronon '76** and **Nancy Langston** are also past ASEH presidents.

Congratulations to **Matt Bernstein PhD'85** of Rochester, Minnesota. The Mayo Clinic professor of radiologic physics has been named editor-in-chief of the journal *Magnetic Resonance in Medicine*.

Here's news from the world of academia: **Gregory Clemons '85, MA'87** is a professor and chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages at Mars Hill [North Carolina] College, as well as the faculty adviser for the school's GLBTQ students.

Erin Passehl '03 is a new assistant professor and digital collections and metadata librarian at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, and **Ted Gries PhD'10** has joined the Beloit [Wisconsin] College chemistry department full time after serving as a visiting assistant professor

over the past year.

The international education-services provider Apollo Global has a new president in **Timothy Daniels '85** of Owings Mills, Maryland. He was most recently the chair and CEO of the Wall Street Institute.

The American Society of Highway Engineers thinks so highly of **John Derr '87** that he's become its 2011 Member of the Year. Derr is a vice president, west-region transportation director, and national highway practice manager in the Phoenix

third consecutive year that he's been included. Swenson is a Wayzata, Minnesota-based senior VP of investments and private wealth adviser at Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management.

Peter Dorhout PhD'89 is a man on the move. With Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins since 1991, he was most recently its vice provost for graduate studies and assistant vice president for research. This past spring, he took a temporary position as provost of CSU-Pueblo, and beginning in January, Dorhout will be the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Recently named the number three CEO in technology by *Fortune* and the Best Biotech CEO for 2010 by TheStreet.com, urologist **Mitchell Gold '89** has set his sight on curing cancer after losing his mother to breast cancer when he was five years old. Right now, he's working toward that goal as the president and CEO of Dendreon Corporation. His Seattle-based biotech company received FDA approval last year for the world's first autologous cellular immunotherapy: called Provenge, the prostate-cancer "therapeutic vaccine" stimulates the body's own immune system to attack tumors.

Sister **Marlene Weisenbeck PhD'89** of La Crosse, Wisconsin, is a new appointee to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, a panel that President Obama established in 2009. Weisenbeck is a member — and president from 2002 until 2010 — of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, as well as an officer and past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

90s

Five '90s grads have earned awards from their respective higher-ed institutions for their superb teaching and scholarship. Associate professor of French **Sharon Johnson MA'90, PhD'96** has received one of Virginia Tech's 2011 William E. Wine Awards. The UW's School of Education has honored **James Middleton MS'90, PhD'92** with its 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. He's an Arizona State University professor of engineering education and the director of the school's Center for Research on Education in Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology. **Paul Pickhardt '91**, an assistant professor of biology, is the choice of Lakeland College in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, for this year's Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. At the University of Minnesota-Morris, associate professor of education **Michelle Page MS'96, PhD'01** has earned a 2011 Horace T. Morse Award. And finally, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Alumni Association has bestowed a UNO Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award on **Brian McKevitt MS'99, PhD'01**. He's an assistant professor of psychology.

Kudos to **Ariel Kalil '91**, who's using a \$200,000 MacArthur Foundation grant to study the impact of childhood-housing instability on long-term health and education outcomes. She's a professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies and the director of its Center for Human Potential and Public Policy.

If you like klezmer music, you can't help but love Madison's Yid Vicious Klezmer Ensemble. Band member **David Spies**

'91 writes that "six of our seven members are alumni ... who work in diverse areas that exemplify the Wisconsin Idea." Along with Spies — a freelance musician, university instructor, and Madison Public Library staffer — the group includes **Greg Smith '76**, a retired administrator for the state's Department of Workforce Development; **Kia Karlen '92**, education director of the Madison Children's Museum; **Geoffrey Brady '95**, a freelance musician and composer; **Matt Appleby MA'00**, a staff member of the UW's Mills Music Library; **Melissa Reiser MA'07** (and PhD in progress), a freelance musician and university instructor who was recently a Fulbright scholar in Senegal; and founding member Daithi Wolfe. The group has released four CDs since 1995, won numerous awards, and shared its blend of traditional and contemporary klezmer internationally.

Samantha Langbaum Beinhacker MA'92 is the new managing director of the New York City office of Arabella Advisors, a national philanthropy-services firm that helps philanthropists to maximize their impact. With extensive experience in the field, Beinhacker has also helped to lead the Skoll World Forum at Oxford University, one of the largest-ever global gatherings of social entrepreneurs and philanthropists.

The staff at Holt-Smith Advisors, a Madison-based investment-management boutique, couldn't have been more pleased this spring when its mid-cap growth strategy was named one of the Top Guns of the Decade by Informa Investment Solutions, an independent, national money-manager database. Chief investment officer **Ryan Erickson '93** reflected, "It's refreshing to share good

news in an economy that has been riddled with more than its share of not-so-good news."

When **Laura Richman (Steele) DVM'93** was a veterinary pathology resident at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in 1995, she worked with an elephant that died of a mysterious virus — an event that compelled her to understand the virus, publish on the subject, and develop tests that are now widely used to confirm the presence of elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus. From there she made a leap to industry, and today she's the VP for research and development for translational sciences at MedImmune in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Ronny Bell '94 is a web entrepreneur in Seattle — a city that knows a thing or two about such ventures. He's the CEO of Ideal Network, a firm that's trying to find its foothold in the group-buying industry dominated by Groupon and Living Social. Ideal Network offers a twist, though: it gives 25 percent of the proceeds generated by its online deals to a local nonprofit of the member's choosing. Bell plans to expand into cities nationwide.

What parents may not have taught their daughters about financial realities was the focus of an April campus lecture by **Stephanie Laskow Berenbaum '95** of Los Angeles and **Brandi Savitt '95** of Brooklyn, New York. As co-founders and co-editors-in-chief of the online magazine *Fabulous & Frugal*, they regularly appear on TV with their philosophy of "living well and spending wisely." Their goal is to inspire women to examine their lifestyles and learn how to make good financial choices.

Three other Badger alumnae returned to campus in April to deliver the keynote at the 2011

Engineering Expo, a student-run event that showcases engineering to the public. The trio's topic was their careers at NASA's facility near Houston, where **Karina Shook Eversley '96** is a flight controller and space-walk instructor; **Nikki (Nichole) Mattson Williams '00** coordinates NASA groups to ensure that hardware is certified and flight ready; and **Angie Franzke Lenius '06** is a project manager for various flight-hardware projects for the International Space Station and shuttle missions.

Best wishes to **Shannon Mangiameli '96, MA'00** as she becomes the new senior design/construction manager for Lincoln Property Company's Chicago office. Prior to this life chapter, she writes that she's also "lived and worked in Italy, rock-climbed in Panama, hiked the Inca Trail, built a school in Uganda, bungee-jumped in New Zealand, surfed in Nicaragua, ridden camels in Egypt, and danced in Brazil — among other adventures!"

It sounds as though Chicagoan **Robyn Miller Brecker '97** lives a most fulfilling life. She's director of content for Oprah Winfrey's Oprah.com, as well as a co-founder of SMRT, a company that offers parenting resources and children's clothing. Its mission is to "help parents and caregivers live consciously, simply, and be fully present each moment with their child."

Linda Chaudron MS'99 is the new senior associate dean for diversity at the University of Rochester [New York] School of Medicine and Dentistry. She's been an associate professor of psychiatry and the psychiatry department's associate chair for clinical services, plus she's held secondary appointments in pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology.

A 2011 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation has gone to **Timothy Essington PhD'99**, an associate professor at the University of Washington's School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences in Seattle. He'll use the three-year, \$150,000 award to compare the economic value of fisheries that target small, schooling ocean fish and squid to the ecological and economic tradeoffs of removing these prey species from the food web.

Brian Hoffer '99 is the marketing specialist for Milwaukee's recreation depart-

ments, they're providing access to education and health care to thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children.

2000s

Bronze Age China: Style and Material (Cambridge Scholars Publishing) contains a chapter by **Mara Duckens '00** of Milwaukee. Her contribution, "The Fu of the Shang Dynasty: Women, Wives, and Warriors," examines the lives of the Shang Dynasty's female soldiers. Duckens is also a frequent

international organizations, he's a professor in, and deputy director of, the department of business statistics and econometrics at Peking [China] University.

One of the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Awards (called CAREER) has gone to **Jeff (Xuegang) Ban MS'03, PhD'05**. He's an assistant professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering, as well as a member of the Center for Infrastructure, Transportation, and the Environment, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New

also authored three books about Badger football.

Former Badger volleyball standout **Lizzy (Elizabeth) Fitzgerald Stemke '04** is now a Bulldog — or rather, she *leads* them as the new head volleyball coach for the University of Georgia Bulldogs. Even so, her loyalty — and that of her spouse, former Badger football punter and NFL player **Kevin Stemke '01** — may drift occasionally from Athens, Georgia, to Madison.

This summer, 650 new teachers arrived in Chicago for a five-week training institute before embarking on their two-year Teach for America commitments in urban and rural schools. The training includes work with summer-school students in twelve area sites, each of which is led by a director — and half of those dozen directors were Badgers and former corps members: **Kristine MacDonald '05, Renee Racette '05, Stephanie Taylor '05, Andrew Schmitz '06, Anita Boor '07, and Amanda Skrzypchak '07**. Seven other Badgers served as staff members. The new 2011 corps will be 5,500 strong in thirty-three states and the District of Columbia.

Washington, D.C.'s Inter-American Development Bank is the largest source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean — and **Alyson Williams '05, MA'10** is the reference librarian of its Felipe Herrera Library. Her service-learning experiences and dual master's degrees in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies, as well as library and information studies, make her ideally suited to her work.

Suchita Shah '08 is one of only twenty-four medical students nationwide to earn a 2011 American Medical Association Foundation Leadership Award, which helps recipients to develop

"I've lived and worked in Italy, rock-climbed in Panama, hiked the Inca Trail, built a school in Uganda, bungee-jumped in New Zealand, surfed in Nicaragua, ridden camels in Egypt, and danced in Brazil — among other adventures!" — Shannon Mangiameli '96, MA'00

ment, but he's also been writing songs since he was seven — and he seems like one of those genuinely nice guys. Therefore, in March, when Hoffer achieved his longtime dream of releasing a genuinely nice CD of his own pop/rock music, it was cause for fanfare. He sifted through his 2,500-plus (!) songs, chose his favorites, and brought in Milwaukeean **David Vartanian '80** to engineer and produce *Into the Boulevard*, on which Hoffer sings and plays guitar and piano.

"I'm writing to tell you about two of the most incredible Wisconsin alumni I have ever met," began a letter from Jacob Lief, president and founder of the Ubuntu Education Fund. He was lauding **Jordan Levy '99** and **Jana Zindell '99**, spouses based in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, who've been instrumental to the fund's work for the last nine years. As the managing directors of Ubuntu's programs and external relations depart-

ment, but he's also been writing

lecturer at academic symposia. The new press secretary for U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) is **Christine Mangi '00**, fresh from her role as communications director in the Senate Republican Conference Vice Chair's Office. Mangi has also served as press secretary for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Kate O'Phelan Pletcher '01 has bought into what seems like a gem of an idea: she's the new co-owner of Mom Corps Los Angeles, a franchise office of a staffing and search firm that matches professionals — often working mothers who are not easily found through traditional employment channels — with companies that value flexible talent pools. Pletcher is also the founder of Madison's St. Patrick's Day parade.

The *Journal of the American Statistical Association* has a new associate editor in **Hansheng Wang PhD'01**. In addition to serving as a researcher in several

York. Ban's plans for the five-year, \$400,000 award include studying how devices such as GPS and cell phones can help to optimize traffic systems and reduce roadway congestion.

Felicitations to former Badger and NFL quarterback **Brooks Bollinger '03** as he becomes the new head football coach at Hill-Murray School in Maplewood, Minnesota, a private institution for grades seven through twelve. Bollinger was named Big Ten Rookie of the Year in 1999 and rang in 2000 with a Rose Bowl win for the Badgers over Stanford.

The 2011 Arch Ward Award, given by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), has gone to **Justin Doherty MA'03**, the assistant director of athletics for external relations at UW-Madison. As a member of CoSIDA's board for eight years and the organization's president in 2009–10, he's been instrumental in helping it to evolve and grow. Doherty has

skills as future leaders in organized medicine and community affairs. Shah is earning her degree at Columbia University while serving as an active leader on that campus and with WAA's alumni chapter in New York City. She plans a career at the intersection of medical practice and policy.

Jinelle Zaugg-Siergiej '08, a member of the silver-medal-winning 2010 U.S. Olympic women's ice-hockey team, has announced her retirement from USA Hockey, the U.S. women's national program. The all-time leading Badger women's scorer upon graduation, she's had much success with Team USA over the past five years, and is now the head coach of the Arrowhead Union High School girls' hockey team in Hartland, Wisconsin.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago has appointed **Keith Green MSW'09** to the newly created post of director of federal affairs. He was a founding member of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and the former project director of Project PrEPare. He's also a spoken-word artist, magazine columnist, and adjunct instructor in Northeastern Illinois University's social-work program who's won many awards for his activism.

Amanda Hoffstrom '09 has flown up — so to speak — to a new position as associate online editor for *Sky*, the on-board magazine of Delta Air Lines. Headquartered at the office of its publisher, MSP Communications in Minneapolis, she maintains the web and social-media presence of *Sky* and its digital counterpart, *Embark*.

10s

Freelance journalist **Anna Therese Day '10** is one of those people who's making a name

for herself early on. She's been covering the revolutions in Egypt, Bahrain, and Libya, and her work has appeared in outlets including NPR, Al Jazeera English, and the *Huffington Post*. And somehow she finds the time to mentor UW journalism students as well. Thanks to Day's friend **Jesus Ayala, Jr. '10** of New Orleans for telling us about Day.

Lawrence Eagleburger '52, MS'57 — a skilled diplomatic troubleshooter, senior foreign-policy adviser, top aide to Henry Kissinger, ambassador in Belgrade, and U.S. secretary of state whose wit was legendary — died in June in Charlottesville, Virginia. In recent years, he led the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims and served on the Iraq Study Group. President Obama said of him, "Lawrence Eagleburger devoted his life to the security of our nation and to strengthening our ties with allies and partners."

Monkeys typing into infinity have replaced Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83 as Class Notes compilers.

UW Bragging Rights

Just as UW alumni hold myriad patents, a recent report from the Intellectual Property Owners Association lauded their alma mater as well: of the fourteen universities it listed among the top three hundred entities to receive patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2010, UW-Madison ranked fourth — behind the University of California system, MIT, and Stanford — with 136. Innovation, innovation, innovation ...

Wisconsin Alumni Association: celebrating alumni for 150 years.

Calendar

Light the night red at WAA's 150th anniversary!

Red Tie Gala

**Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery Town Center
Friday, October 14, 2011, 7–11 p.m.**

Step into the limelight in spirited elegance at Madison's premier Homecoming eve event. All WAA members, UW alumni, and friends are invited to dress their best and feel their finest celebrating alumni and benefiting UW-Madison's Great People Scholarship in campus's most dynamic new event space.

Register today at uwalumni.com/gala

September

22–25 Wisconsin Science Festival

UW-Madison welcomes people of all ages to this inaugural festival to discover the wonders of science and art through interactive exhibits, lectures, and demonstrations with leading researchers and creative thinkers at sites on campus and in Madison.

• wisconsinsciencefest.org

October

14–15 UW Homecoming: Bucky Badger's 100 Greatest Hits

Celebrate 100 years of Homecoming on campus at Friday's golf outing, parade, and Red Tie Gala. Then plan to attend WAA's Saturday pregame event before watching Wisconsin battle Indiana.

• uwalumni.com/homecoming

22–23 Chazen Museum of Art Grand Opening

From the soaring, 4,200-square-foot lobby, to the inviting conversation and contemplation spaces, to the intimate movie theater, the Chazen Museum of Art expansion truly offers something for everyone. Enjoy community group performances, guided tours, a scavenger hunt, and more at its fall grand opening.

• chazen.wisc.edu

27 An Evening with Sonia Nazario

Students, faculty, alumni, and community members are invited to this public lecture in Union South's Varsity Hall with Sonia Nazario, author of the 2011–12 Go Big Read selection, *Enrique's Journey*.

• gobigread.wisc.edu

November

4–5 Parents' Weekend

Parents and their UW students can attend special Friday classes, meet campus officials, and cheer for the Badgers at Camp Randall during this popular fall event.

• uwalumni.com/parentsweekend

19 Concert Series: Pro Arte Quartet

Celebrate the Pro Arte Quartet's centennial. UW-Madison's faculty string quartet welcomes the Paul Schoenfield Piano Quintet to the Humanities Building's Mills Hall for its November performance, one of several free events scheduled throughout the year.

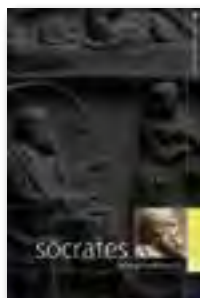
• uniontheater.wisc.edu

For more information on these events, call (888) WIS-ALUM or visit uwalumni.com.



■ **On the Other Guy's Dime: A Professional's Guide to Traveling without Paying** (Tasora Books) is **G. (Gary) Michael Schneider MS'68, PhD'74's** how-to guide for living and working overseas without giving up your life back home. Now retired from teaching computer science at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, Schneider is a visiting professor at Columbia University in New York.

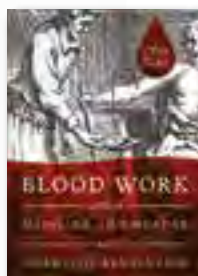
■ He who is (very) old is new again — at least in the hands of **George Rudebusch MA'80, PhD'82**. His second book, written in an eloquent, yet accessible style, is **Socrates** (Wiley-Blackwell), about “a thinker who has much to tell us about the good human life.” The author is a philosophy professor and department chair at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.



■ In **Charles Burnett: Interviews** (University Press of Mississippi), editor **Robert Kapsis '65** contends that the groundbreaking African-American filmmaker Charles Burnett is one of our nation's greatest directors, yet his well-told tales of the black experience in America are a tough sell in the mass marketplace. Kapsis, a professor of sociology and film studies at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, collaborated with New York's Museum of Modern Art this spring to produce a Burnett retrospective.

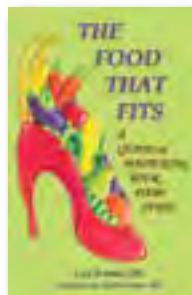
■ **Holly Tucker MA'91, PhD'96** tells of the first blood-transfusion experiments conducted in Europe between 1665 and 1668 (when they were banned) and the debates, rivalries,

possibilities, and perils that they sparked in **Blood Work: A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution** (W.W. Norton & Company). She's an associate professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

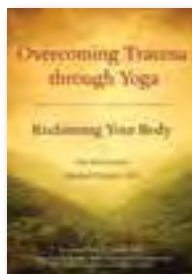


■ Corporate internal communicator **Mike Klein '87** checked in from Copenhagen, Denmark, where he's working with Maersk Oil, to share that he's written **From Lincoln to LinkedIn: The 55-Minute Guide to Social Communication** (Verb Publishing). The book channels Abraham Lincoln to meld political theory with an understanding of social media and organizational communication.

■ **Lori Huggett Reamer '88** uses fashion theory to help readers find their “food practice” in **The Food That Fits: A Guide to Mastering Your Food Style** (Book-Locker.com). Reamer is the director of nutrition, as well as a lecturer and nutrition counselor, at the famed Canyon Ranch Resort in Lenox, Massachusetts.



■ An estimated 5 million people in the U.S. suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, and **David Emerson '91** wants to help. The director of yoga services at the Trauma Center in Brookline, Massachusetts, he's co-authored **Overcoming Trauma through Yoga: Reclaiming Your Body** (North Atlantic Books).

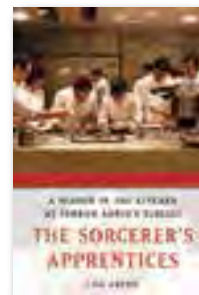


■ **John Francis III PhD'91** of Cape May, New Jersey, chose to remain silent for seventeen years, gave up all motorized transportation for twenty-two years, and wordlessly walked across America to raise environmental consciousness and promote world peace. He's the founder and director of the nonprofit

environmental organization Planetwalk, as well as a National Geographic education fellow who's written **The Ragged Edge of Silence: Finding Peace in a Noisy World** (National Geographic Books). Francis was an *On Wisconsin* feature subject in the Fall 2008 issue.



■ Reading **Lisa Abend MA'92's The Sorcerer's Apprentices: A Season in the Kitchen at Ferran Adrià's elBulli** (Free Press) might cause you to add *chef* to your list of intense professions. She takes readers inside the heretofore mysterious elBulli near Roses, Spain — regarded by many as the world's finest restaurant — to meet its genius chef, Ferran Adrià, and stand alongside his thirty-five stagiaires (apprentices). Abend is *TIME* magazine's Madrid-based Spain correspondent.



■ **Other People We Married** (FiveChapters Books) is the new collection of short stories by Brooklyn, New York, author **Emma Straub MFA'08**, who's earning comparisons to writer and UW Professor **Lorrie Moore**. Straub, who also co-heads a design and print company called M+E, is the daughter of esteemed author **Peter Straub '65**.

■ The two-volume **Encyclopedia of American Indian Removal** (Greenwood Press) comprises essays on individuals, events, tribes, treaties, and more. Its co-editor is **James Parins MA'70, PhD'72**, a professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the associate director of the Sequoyah National Research Center.

■ The first collection of poetry from **Daniel Ames '89** of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, is **Feasting at the Table of the Damned** (Aquarius Press). His works of modern free verse incorporate “dark humor, spare language, and a keen eye” to explore how we choose to live with the choices we make.

Of Polyester Pants and Friendship

By Anne Lamoreaux McGill '82

When I first came to the university in 1978, I had never lived away from home or in a big city. Everything was new to me.

My friend Cheryl and I were going to be roommates. We'd known each other since kindergarten and had grown up together — through Brownies, band practices, high school, and more.

I'll never forget the day we left for college. Our parents saw us off at the Greyhound bus depot in Ashland, Wisconsin, at around ten o'clock on a Sunday morning, but we didn't pull into Madison until eight hours later. When we boarded the bus, Cheryl and I had three or four suitcases each, my electric typewriter, my nine-inch black-and-white TV, four carry-on bags, and the big purses that we all carried in those days.

It was late August, and to us, having grown up on the shores of Lake Superior, it was fall. Cheryl and I both wanted to look nice for our first day of college, and I will never forget our outfits. I was wearing off-white polyester pants, an argyle sweater, and my suede baseball jacket. Cheryl was in dark blue pants (that I would later borrow from her) and a sweater.

We endured the bus trip by talking nonstop. We had been to Madison only once to see the campus, and frankly, I was terrified.

When we stepped off the bus, I knew we were in trouble. We were scared and exhausted, and it was 80 degrees. Here we were: two eighteen-year-old girls with multiple pieces of luggage and other possessions, and we were sweating right through our polyester pants. It was like being dressed in giant, fitted Hefty bags. Did I mention I was also wearing my Frye boots? Oh, yes. And nothing says uncomfortable like knee-high boots with socks in hot weather. Our faces were a sweaty mess. Our clothes were holding in every bit of heat and moisture. Thank goodness Final Net never stops holding your hair. It was the only thing that was working for us.

We managed to commandeer a taxi outside the bus depot. After we loaded up, the driver informed us that we had to wait for more passengers to fill up the taxi. So we sat there — sweaty, anxious, and clinging to our stuff. Finally, two more students got in, and we were off to campus, experiencing what we came to call "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride."

Miraculously, we arrived at Ogg East, dragged our stuff to the front desk, and retrieved our keys from a not-so-nice woman who admonished us for being late. The Witch of the Desk, we eventually learned, would also control the meal tickets that let us eat and the laundry tickets that let us wash our clothes. We found our room and sat down on our beds. We were pretty sure that we had made a huge mistake. What were we doing here? We didn't know anyone, much less where to



Barry Roal Carlensen

eat, where to buy books, or even where to shower. So far, our college experience was more like an episode of *Survivor*.

We noticed a note on our door telling us to see the "house fellow." Cheryl and I were in no mood to see a house fellow, a house gal, a house princess, a house king, or even the pope. But we didn't want to get into any trouble, so we found Scott, who told us what had been covered at the house meeting — which we had missed. He seemed really nice, but we simply couldn't listen to any new information. Scott was wearing shorts, no shirt, and was barefoot, while we were melting into two big, smelly, synthetic-wearing puddles.

We remembered that we had to call home. I went first. I told my mom that she needed to pack up all of my shorts, T-shirts, and sandals, and put them in the mail — express mail, if it wasn't too expensive. Mom kept saying she was proud of me, but I just kept saying, "Please mail all my summer clothes."

That night, Cheryl and I made a list of what we needed to do the next day. We knew we were going to be okay — after all, we were from a place where the T-shirts said, "Ashland isn't the end of the earth, but you can see it from here."

During the next few months, Cheryl and I helped each other get over homesickness, live through exams, and survive at a Big Ten university. Being in college was hard and scary, but it was also full of laughter and dances and football games, the Statue of Liberty in the lake, and ice cream from Babcock Hall.

They were the best years of my life.

Anne Lamoreaux McGill '82 lives in Lodi, Wisconsin.

The Ties That Bind

Continued from page 27

"We had state troopers called out," George says. "There were race riots. I tell my kids it made me a person."

"We all looked out for each other," Anthony explains.

"And we'll do it till we die," George declares.

George has to go, and the others decide to hit an Italian restaurant in a neighboring town. As O'Hare planes roar overhead, Fred reflects. "Back in those days, we would have died for one another. Once reason I come back each summer is I want my kids to spend time with my friends. They'll say things about me that give my kids insight into me." The reminiscing reminds him of the crazy years of violent deaths. "Therapy made me realize how strange my life was back here," Fred says. "My life after education, from age thirty on, was boring. Good thing, because it's going to take me the rest of my life to mitigate everything that happened before thirty."

The men find a spot they promise has good tomato sauce. On the sound system, Frank Sinatra, with his mellow voice, tells the world he did things his way. The waitress brings three Crown Royals for the guys. Fred, the white-collar one, orders veal, and his two working-class friends protest. That's a switch.

"Fred, they leave 'em in little pens," Anthony says.

"It's bad, Fred," Patsy adds.

"Hey, I like veal."

The men talk about their wives, past and present. "We didn't marry Italians," Fred observes, "because they're too much like our mothers."

"Marrying, we all broke the bloodline," Anthony allows.

I ask Patsy what it was like to hold

down the Melrose Park fort while Fred went off to college.

"You know, it's funny, because Fred never talked about going to college," Patsy says. "He felt maybe the rest of us didn't understand his need to go. I really don't remember any conversation about it. Me, I wanted to go to college, but my father said he needed me in the [restaurant-supply] business. It was depressing.

"Fred, even with your education, you remained Fred," Patsy says. "I never felt you thought you were above and beyond us."

I not only wanted to go to college, I wanted to travel, which I can do now. But it took me thirty years."

"You were always a good son to your father," Fred tells Patsy. "If my father had lived, I would have stayed. But there was nothing for me here. Where was I gonna go? But why did I go to Madison? It was totally non-Melrose up there."

"But it gave you an education of how it was in the world," Patsy says.

Anthony chimes in that he actually moved to Madison to be with Fred. For eight months, he painted Wisconsin houses by day, then partied with Fred and his new college friends at night. He never had the desire to actually matriculate, although he once made money by showing up at an ACT test and taking it for a less-smart pal. "I got him a scholarship," Anthony says proudly. "I actually got a better grade for him than I did for myself, when I took the test."

Maybe it's the Crown Royals, but the boys turn sentimental.

"Fred, even with your education, you remained Fred," Patsy says.

"I never felt you thought you were above and beyond us. You always remained yourself."

"And you got rid of that stupid earring," Anthony adds.

"I meet Harvard and Yale people who couldn't hold a candle to you guys," Fred gushes.

"Really, there's been no change in you," Patsy says.

"And you don't insist we call you 'doctor,'" Anthony adds.

"That's the thing I'd never call you," Patsy concludes.

The evening ends that way. In the parking lot, the guys share more hugs and spine-splintering backslaps. Fred is pleased with this trip home. He's happy that he didn't learn anything new about his friends. That means he still understands them, still knows who they are.

"You know, I live in two worlds. I have to come back from the one at the university to make sure this one's still here. I'm so glad to know that it is." ■

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UW Bragging Rights

In 2007, Chynna Haas '10 founded the Working Class Student Union at UW-Madison to advocate for students from blue-collar backgrounds. As far as current members are aware, it was the first such university student group in the country.

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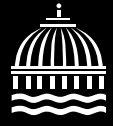
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When you enroll at the UW, you'd better be prepared to learn a lot — and to develop your upper body strength. Those were the apparent messages from this 1961 photo, showing a freshman surrounded by four years' worth of textbooks and supplies.

Much has changed at UW-Madison in the half-century since this picture was taken — few record albums are assigned today, for instance, and contemporary undergrads can generally cut back on the purchase of typewriter ribbon.

But students should still expect to spend lots of money and need lots of space for textbooks. According to the UW's Office of

the Registrar, a freshman who enrolled in 2009 (the most recent year posted) will shell out an average of \$1,040 annually on books and supplies, or \$4,160 between matriculation and graduation.

Since 2008, the UW has asked instructors to list textbook information for their courses online. At registrar.wisc.edu/textbook_information_students.htm, you can discover just how many volumes various classes require. Some of the longest textbook lists posted belong to courses in literature in a foreign language, such as Nineteenth-Century German Literature (fourteen titles) and German Literature and Culture (fifteen).

John Allen

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Black tie optional (*red tie encouraged!*)

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