

On Wisconsin



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Flying Leckrone - 46*



Thank you, Wisconsin.

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health recently received a prestigious national award for its outreach and community service throughout Wisconsin.

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Robert N. Golden, MD
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Features

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Now a UW faculty member, renowned cartoonist and author Lynda Barry explores the genesis of creativity, teaching the powerful connection between our hands and our brains.

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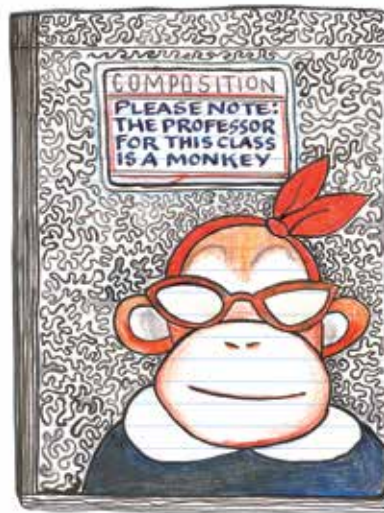
The predecessor to today's campus radio station may have been tiny, but it forged lifelong bonds among students from the 1950s to the early '90s and sponsored one heck of a trivia contest.

36 **Coming of Age** *By Jenny Price '96*

Children diagnosed with autism will grow up, and that presents entirely different challenges for them and their families. Now the UW's Waisman Center is offering guideposts for the journey.

42 **Frankenpianist** *By John Allen*

Music professor by day and eccentric genius by night, Christopher Taylor is creating a double-keyboard instrument that could revolutionize the world of piano-playing.



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Cover

We asked and crossed our fingers. Happily, she consented.
Illustration by Lynda Barry.



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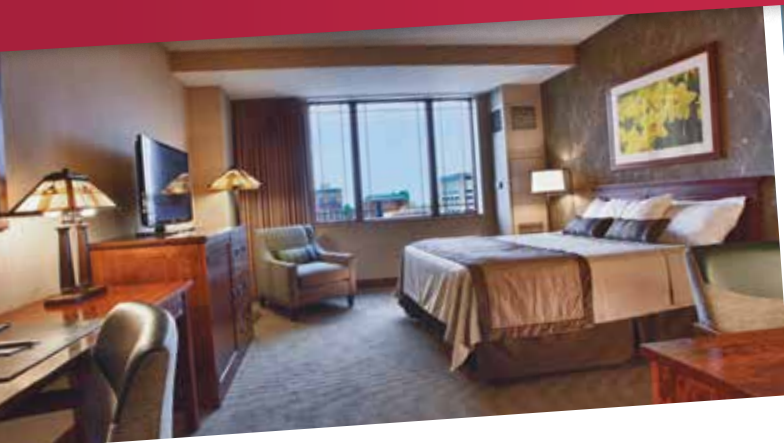
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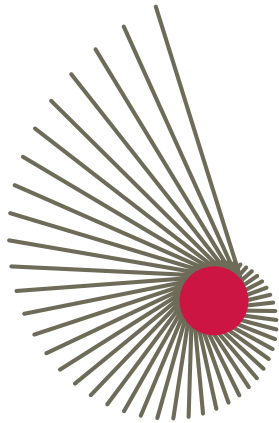
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On Wisconsin

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To many families, it is known simply as Waisman.

For forty years, the Waisman Center has served as home to scientists who study every stage of human development. And for families in Madison and beyond, the center's staff members are invaluable partners on the journey of raising children with disabilities.

But Waisman's legacy started a decade earlier — and with a different name: Kennedy.

In 1963, UW-Madison opened the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Laboratories with help from a grant from the Kennedy Foundation. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his brother-in-law R. Sargent Shriver, director of the Peace Corps, attended the facility's dedication. And two days before he was assassinated, President John F. Kennedy sent a telegram congratulating researcher Harry Waisman and his colleagues on their work.

During Kennedy's term, Congress established the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). One of its core missions is ensuring "that all children have the chance to fulfill their potential to live healthy and productive lives."

In 1965, with Waisman's urging, the new NIH institute chose the UW as one of two initial sites in the United States for a multidisciplinary center to study human development and what was then called mental retardation. The federal institute was later named for Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who pushed her brother to include the proposal for the NIH institute in his first health message to Congress. Their sister Rosemary had developmental disabilities, and Kennedy Shriver would later found the Special Olympics.

Waisman (pronounced "Wace-man," like "grace" or "face") died in 1971, before the UW center that bears his name opened two years later on the far west end of the UW-Madison campus. But in writing about the center's work on autism spectrum disorder for this issue of *On Wisconsin*, I found that the passion he and the Kennedy family had for improving the lives of people with developmental disorders lives on.

Today the Waisman Center is considered one of the world's leading centers of research, education, and outreach on developmental disabilities and neurodegenerative diseases. It has provided clinical services and other support to more than ten thousand people of all ages. And it has shared its knowledge with the world through research and discovery, and by training more than ten thousand undergraduate and graduate students.



Prestigious gathering: Harry Waisman (at left), with Wisconsin Governor John Reynolds, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and his brother-in-law R. Sargent Shriver at the opening of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Laboratories at the UW in 1963.

COURTESY OF WAISMAN CENTER

Jenny Price '96

Moo-ved by Dairy Story

That is a beautiful cover picture of UW Wonderment Taylor [Winter 2013]. Yes, most will laugh, but I am framing it — not just for her captivating beauty, but also for the great memories she evokes. I believe that the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences is one of the most undervalued assets of UW-Madison. What this college has done for the state, nation, and world is truly remarkable.

*Lee Swan '59
Fort Myers, Florida*

Thank you for the wonderful article on the dairy science department and cover photo of the beautiful brown cow ["Milk Matters," Winter 2013].

The author erroneously gives credit for synthesizing vitamin D to Dr. Stephen Babcock. It was Dr. Harry Steenbock whose irradiation process with ultraviolet light produced the rickets-preventing vitamin in 1923.

*David Laatsch '76, MS'85
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin*

Editor's Note: Several readers caught the error in "Dairy Dollars," a sidebar to John Allen's "Milk Matters" article. It was, of course, Steenbock and not Babcock who patented the process for increasing Vitamin D. For his sins,

Please email magazine-related comments to onwisconsin@uwalumni.com; mail a letter to *On Wisconsin*, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706; or fax us at (608) 265-2771. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and/or clarity. We also welcome your tweets and comments:

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Allen will be forced to re-take the Babcock Butterfat Test until he passes.

I was troubled that such a lengthy article on the dairy industry was silent on the issues associated with factory farming. The article did not analyze the public-health threat related to the abuse of antibiotics; the environmental issues with CAFOs [Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations]; the animal welfare and labor-rights violations; food safety; the devastating impact on family farmers and communities worldwide; the antitrust implications; the economic effects that an inefficient system has on the ability to feed the world; and the antidemocratic impact the industry has on our political system.

It was so clear the industry funds your program — did it fund the article as well?

*Jose de Arteaga JD'98
Washington, D.C.*

I admit that I rarely read *On Wisconsin* from cover to cover. However, those eyes on the cover of your Winter 2013 issue mesmerized me every morning at breakfast to read every entry.

Two stories in particular struck me: "A Leap of Faith" made me wonder, with most conflicts in the world today originating in religious dogmas, why don't we make this a required class for all UW students, as we do with ethnic studies?

"Spotlight on Innovation" shed light on the enigma of Electronic Theatre Controls, which I drive past weekly. Fred Foster's philosophy on producing his products here in Wisconsin was a breath of fresh air. With the business community's rush to outsource, it made me wonder what kind of world we would have if Walmart were to adopt Fred's

philosophy. Sigh ...

*Mykos Ress '02
Ogema, Wisconsin*

Albinism Coverage

I was interested to read "Pigment Prejudice" [Winter 2013]. In the early 1990s, while I was on the faculty of the UW-Madison Department of Medical Genetics, my laboratory studied the genetic cause of albinism in Tanzania.

Despite advances in medical knowledge, the tragedy of albinos in Tanzania and elsewhere in east Africa provides a stark reminder that the veneer of civilization is thin, and that ignorance and mysticism remain powerful forces in much of the world.

*Richard Spritz '72
Cherry Hills Village, Colorado*

Weighing in on Lubar Institute

I have just read "A Leap of Faith" [Winter 2013], and it's one of the most interesting things I've read in quite a while (and I read a lot).

I graduated from Moo U in 1949 and have many fond memories. Raised a Christian, I have long been fascinated by all formal religious faiths. Would that there had been such a group when I was there. ... Congratulations to all the students who have participated in the interfaith discussion groups. I wish I could be there to join in.

*William Lund '49
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

My time at the UW was devoted to the study of science, and I left an atheist. ... The Lubar aim ["A Leap of Faith"] is commendable — helping Jews, Christians, and Muslims to understand each other's religions and get along better. ... but I question the advisability of this connection. ... The only connection that a first-class university should have with religion is to include it in the study

of politics and world history, with emphasis on the horrible past and present effects of religious belief.
*Alan Johnsrud '53, MA'54, PhD'58
Arlington, Virginia*

Live Badger Sighting

Thank you for "Badger Tracking" [News & Notes, Winter 2013].

This summer I woke to the noise of an animal working its way around the garage, knocking items to the floor. A half hour of planning found me at the garage door with the remote ready, in position to run if necessary. The instant the door started up, I knew [the animal] was big — and mad! He was snarling and threatening me with his teeth as he rode up the garage door. He turned and shimmied down, jumped the last few feet, and ran off low to the ground to hide under the neighbor's porch.

Everyone assured me I'd seen a beaver. But I'll never forget that face, the gray of his fur, and his swift waddle when he left.

*Betsy (Elizabeth) Hyzer Piette '70
Parkersburg, Iowa*

Lake Mendota Memories

I have many wonderful memories from the UW. The Winter 2013 Traditions section, "Walking on the Lake," brought back to me the several occasions when I skated the six miles across Lake Mendota. On the way home with a following wind, I would open my jacket, pull the flaps out to the side, and sail home. I wonder whether any on campus today have shared that experience.

*Les Mayers '56
Pleasantville, New York*

Thank you for that article and picture [of Lake Mendota]. I swam in Lake Mendota; slid on its lovely ice; and sat beside it to simply look at it.

[Another tradition I remember relates to the dairy department.] In one of the buildings (perhaps it was Ag Hall), there was a faucet out of which one could get all the skim milk one wanted — fresh that day. I would pack my lunch, eagerly hold the paper cup under the faucet, and fill and refill until I'd had enough. It was delicious!

*Ellen Newton Duell '50
Yellow Springs, Ohio*

Online Comments

Unbelievable story — thank you for sharing [“Pigment Prejudice,” Winter 2013]. The Boos family is truly remarkable in their quest to support the children in Tanzania living with albinism. I cannot get the picture of the father with his young son out of my head. I am speechless.

May these children and their families receive the help and

love that they truly deserve. And may the Boos family be able to continue their efforts for many years to come.

Kimberly Gerdes

As a former student of Dr. Boos, and having met his family, they do exactly what this article suggests. They walk the walk. I applaud their efforts!

Amy Scherg

tweets

@bri_morganroth

For people who think @UWMadison is “too big”: I’m going with my class of 19 people to have dinner at my professor’s house #lovethisuniversity

@jweims

“Did I ever tell you about the time I walked across frozen Lake Mendota?” -Grams reliving her @UWMadison days

@ArtemBeer

Whenever now I hear Enter Sandman by @Metallica, the only thing I can think of is @UWMadison hockey... #ingrained

@jljacobson

It’s official: A second generation of Wisconsin Badgers in our family. My daughter couldn’t w8 2 accept her admission to @UWMadison last nite.

@Jacktipus

I heard the Kohl Center from my house.

@bturrene21

This is one of the most exciting if not the most exciting team under Bo. #badgers

@DustinDay22

I always rub Abe’s foot before an exam. Honest Abe’s luck hasn’t failed me yet. Just another reason why I love this school @UWMadison

@SusieKorzec32

When the guy in front of you buys your coffee because of your badger hat, you know it’s going to be a great day. @UWMadison alumni rule.

instagram

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econkspix



lithium42



elizabethblyssmolina



scene

Bascom Hill, January 8, 2014, 10 a.m.
– 11° Fahrenheit
Photo by Jeff Miller and Bryce Richter



Commencing a New Era

A look back at campus life since the last Camp Randall graduation in 1990

This May, UW graduates will go where no commencement robes have gone for almost a generation: Camp Randall.

After a twenty-four-year absence, spring commencement will once again be held in the stadium, thanks to the efforts of a small group of persistent undergraduates who worked closely with campus administrators to make the big move.

Commencement was shifted from the stadium to the Wisconsin Field House in 1991 and then to the Kohl Center when that facility opened in 1998. At the time, event planners hoped dividing the graduating class into five smaller, college-based ceremonies would create a more intimate experience for all. Yet something was lost in the process. **Lori Berquam**, vice provost for student life and dean of students, says that small ceremonies make it more difficult to comprehend the number of graduates coming out of the UW each year — and to imagine the impact those graduates will make on the world.

“All of our students are going to go forth and do great things, and it’s hard to get the enormity of it when you see it in little, bite-sized pieces,” Berquam says.

Discussions for a return to Camp Randall began four years ago, but the plans were put on hold when former Chancellor **Biddy Martin PhD’85** left campus. Shortly after Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** took over in fall 2013, she approached senior class officers to resurrect the idea.

Sarah Neibart x’14 was part of the early discussions, and she’s excited to see the idea come to fruition — and to walk in the new ceremony she helped design.

“This is going to be an incredible ceremony filled with Badger pride,” she says. “I really cannot wait to see the image of the six thousand students tossing their hats off in the middle of Camp Randall.”

In 1990, the last time spring commencement was held in Camp Randall, most undergraduate members of the Class of 2014 were not yet born. We figured it’s time to look back at how things have changed.

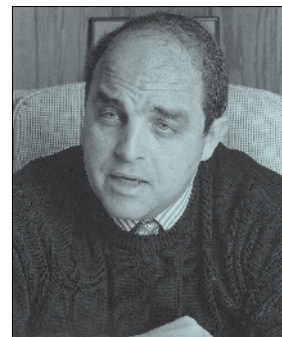
Sandra Knisely ’09, MA’13

COURTESY OF UW-MADISON ARCHIVES ©



Notables

Barry Alvarez started his first season as the head football coach, beginning what would become the longest football coaching tenure in UW history. When asked about his hopes for his inaugural season, Alvarez answered: “My number-one goal is to have a team out on the field that people in the state of Wisconsin can identify with and be proud of.”



quick takes

UW senior Drew Birrenkott was named a Rhodes Scholar for 2014. Only thirty-two American students win a Rhodes Scholarship each year, enabling them to pursue post-graduate study at Oxford University in England. Birrenkott is the UW’s seventh Rhodes Scholar. He’s pursuing a triple major in political science, biochemistry, and biomedical engineering.

Physics World named the UW’s **IceCube project** the 2013 Breakthrough of the Year. IceCube operates a research station in Antarctica as it hunts for neutrinos — subatomic particles that are almost impossible to detect.

Harold Scheub, longtime professor of African languages and literature and teacher of

the popular African Storytellers class, retired in December. Scheub (below) had been on the UW’s faculty for forty-three years.



JEFF MILLER



Graduates celebrate completing their UW degrees at Camp Randall in this 1978 photo. In May, commencement will return to the stadium for the first time since 1990.

Donna Shalala was two years into her tenure as the first female UW-Madison chancellor. She was also only the second woman ever to lead a major research university and the first to head a Big Ten university. Five chancellors later, Rebecca Blank is finishing her first school year as the UW's third female boss.



Student Life

College Library went smoke-free. One year later, UW-Madison implemented a smoke-free policy in all campus buildings. (A Wisconsin-wide ban on smoking in enclosed workplaces went into effect in 2010.)

Three residence halls were still all-women: Chadbourne, Barnard, and Elizabeth Waters. Elizabeth Waters Hall was the last to go co-ed, which it did in 2006. The smaller Cole Hall then shifted to all-women for one year before reverting to co-ed.

The first student computer lab — the Media and Microcomputer Center — opened in College Library. It housed 22 Macs and more than 70 PCs.

In November, the UW launched Discovery to Product (D2P), a \$3.2 million program to encourage entrepreneurship among students and faculty. D2P is designed to help UW researchers turn their ideas and inventions into marketable products.

The UW ranks sixth among U.S. universities in the number of study-abroad participants, according to the 2013 Open

Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. Some 2,149 Badgers studied abroad in 2011–12 (the academic year covered in the report). The UW also hosted 5,291 students from other nations, ranking twenty-second among peer institutions.

In October, the *Daily Beast* online magazine named UW-Madison the “sexiest college in America” for some reason. It also ranked the UW as America’s third-happiest college.

Athletics

Bucky Badger turned 50.

At the end of the 1989–90 season, the Badger men’s hockey team won its fifth NCAA title with a 7–3 victory over Colgate University. (The team has won one additional championship since, in 2006.)



The Badger women’s ice hockey team did not yet exist. Its first season was 1999, and since then, the team has won four NCAA championships, most recently during the 2010–11 season.

During Fifth Quarter, the UW Band debuted a couple of new songs: “Father Abraham” and “Sh-Boom (Life could be a dream).”

Academics

Automated student registration (represented by the “Touchtone Lady”) was still a very new process, having launched in fall 1989. This cutting-edge technology enabled students to register for classes by typing course numbers in via a telephone pad. Previously, students had to race around campus and wait in long lines to register in person. Online class registration wouldn’t begin until 2003.



The UW’s ethnic studies requirement was established. Since then, all UW-Madison students have had to earn at least three credits studying another ethnic group.

Student Activities

The Onion was still a fledgling student publication. Founded in 1988, the editorial team that would oversee the satirical newspaper’s rise to national fame was in place by 1990 and had begun expanding the paper’s distribution to a handful of cities beyond Madison. (*The Onion* continued to print in Madison until July 2013.)

Raymond Cross was named president of the UW System in January. Cross has been chancellor of the UW Colleges and UW-Extension since 2011, and he succeeds Kevin Reilly as the System’s seventh president. He’s the chief executive for the UW System, which oversees thirteen universities (including UW-Madison), thirteen two-year colleges, and UW-Extension.

A Bridge between Cultures

Chinese alumni create talk-show videos to educate, ease isolation.

While filing into a conference on campus last spring, **Cecilia Miao '13**, **Fangdi Pan '13**, and **Muge Niu '13** took a wide glance around the room. They couldn't help but feel disillusioned

unwelcomed and isolated, struggling to adjust to life in Wisconsin.

"At the beginning," Miao says, "we all go through a certain type of identity crisis, [asking], 'Why do I change myself because

The show's topics range from standards of beauty, to "the secret of making conversations with different people," to the initial culture shock of the campus's party and tailgating atmosphere.

from accumulated disinterest and stereotyping by both groups.

"I sat there [one time]," Niu says, "and thought to myself, 'This is terrible. I'm living a life that's no different than if I weren't in the U.S.'" That totally defeats the purpose of studying abroad."

Miao graduated last December with degrees in political science and journalism. After graduating with degrees in international studies, economics, and East Asian studies, Pan enrolled in a graduate program at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. And Niu, who graduated with degrees in journalism and economics, is currently working as an intern at a financial news organization in Beijing, China. She will begin the journalism graduate program at Columbia University later this year.

Even though the three alumni discovered that cross-cultural interactions don't always bloom into full friendships, they want students to be more empathetic and less eager to generalize. In time, Miao, Pan, and Niu want to revisit the UW — the same campus that used to feel so isolating — and find an atmosphere in which students don't think twice before reaching across cultural lines.

"I'm just hoping students in Madison can be more sensitive toward someone with an entirely different background," Miao says. "I think that's the goal of liberal arts education, anyway — to be able to talk to and connect with people. And that's our goal, too."

Preston Schmitt x'14



COURTESY OF CHANNEL C

Fangdi Pan, Cecilia Miao and Muge Niu (left to right) produced a series of videos with the goal of tearing down the social barrier between Chinese and American students at UW-Madison.

with whom they saw — or, rather, whom they didn't see.

The conference was sponsored by the Wisconsin China Initiative, an effort housed in the Division of International Studies and created to, among other goals, strengthen ties between the UW and higher-education institutions in China. Yet the three Chinese natives saw an absence of American-born students at the conference — a solemn reminder of their first days, weeks, and months on campus.

Back then, they had felt

they like it this way? They don't really care if that's the real me.' ”

The three recent graduates found their own remedies for fitting in, but they are now taking action to ease the transition for future Chinese students. Motivated by their experience at last spring's conference, they launched Channel C, a YouTube series of talk-show videos that discusses myriad cross-cultural concerns. (The C, they say, can stand for several words — China, communication, conversation, or cross-culture.)

One video — “Why Don't Chinese Students Speak English?” — has more than 100,000 views and 400 comments. Miao, Pan, and Niu say they never expected to reach such a large audience; they are receiving feedback from undergraduates across the nation, as well as younger Chinese students who aspire to study in the United States. Rather, their goal was to tear down the social barrier between Chinese and American students at the UW — a wall, they say, that has been erected

Eew or Yum?

A pioneering UW entomologist helped start the insects-as-food movement.

In 1974, the late **Gene DeFoliart** had a brainstorm — using insects as food — that he knew would be a tough sell. But the UW professor of entomology saw inescapable logic: people need protein, which insects produce with few of the costs and environmental drawbacks linked to conventional livestock.

As a child, DeFoliart had been fascinated by butterflies, and after arriving at the UW in 1958, he made his scientific reputation exploring how mosquitoes were spreading the La Crosse encephalitis epidemic through the Midwest.

By 1988, when he started *Food Insects Newsletter*, DeFoliart was obsessed with the idea of cooking and “plating” insects. “The more I thought about the possible implications of insects as a food resource, the more fascinated I became,” he wrote.

No matter how repulsive the

idea was to many in the developed world, it turned out to be quite common elsewhere. A 2013 United Nations report estimated that two billion people, mainly in less-developed nations, eat 1,900 species of insects, including locusts, caterpillars, mealworms, termites, and ants.

In recognition for his formative role in investigating and promoting “entomophagy,” the UN report was dedicated to DeFoliart.

The very idea of eating animals that most entomologists were trying to kill was heresy to some in the profession, but DeFoliart’s determined advocacy and investigation helped launch a small-scale scientific quest. “The area of food insects took off with him,” says **Florence Vaccarello Dunkel ’64, MS’66, PhD’99**, a fellow proponent who is associate professor of entomology at Montana State University. “He connected people, professors,



ISTOCK

and the public with chefs and people who were meeting the public at museums and zoos.”

DeFoliart held sampling sessions at Russell Laboratories, where favorite dishes included mealworms in sour cream dip and crickets roasted in butter and garlic. Looking for data, he and his wife, **Lou (Louise) Ball DeFoliart ’76**, drove some students to Colorado, retrieved bushels of Mormon crickets, and returned to Madison to measure the protein content. The crickets, they learned, were comparable to more familiar meats.

DeFoliart died in January 2013, just before the release of the UN report that added so much credibility to his belief that insects are a benign source of protein on a shrinking planet with a soaring population.

“He wanted to make sure that third-world countries did not discount what they were already doing, just because we told them they should eat beef,” says his daughter, **Linda DeFoliart ’81**. “He was not so concerned about Americans. He felt this was more important for others.”

David Tenenbaum MA’86

Flight of Honor

MIKE GARREN



John T. Garren, Jr. was an Army surgeon who did not live to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. He died from pancreatic cancer when his son, **Mike Garren MD’89**, was just nine years old. But last October 19, forty years to the day after he died, Garren carried his father’s photo with him as he visited the memorial as a volunteer for Badger Honor Flight. The organization makes it possible for veterans — many of whom use wheelchairs or oxygen tanks — to travel to their memorials in Washington, accompanied by medical staff such as Garren, a surgeon at UW Hospital and Clinics. When they arrived back in Madison, the veterans were each escorted down the escalator at Dane County Regional Airport by an active-duty military person. At the bottom stood a throng of cheering people, a band, and Bucky Badger — all waiting to welcome the heroes home.

Ditching Comments

Research provokes a broad conversation about narrowing conversation.

Pay no attention to the comments at the end of this story. They may change your views in unexpected ways.

That is the advice you could expect from **Dominique Brossard** and **Dietram Scheufele MA'97, PhD'99**, UW life sciences communication professors whose 2013 study of the free-for-all that is online commenting suggests a serious trade-off between fostering public conversation and conveying science accurately.

As anyone who surfs the web for news knows, the comments tacked on to news and blog posts can be less than polite missives. Often, what you get are sentiments like this: "I think you can take all these studies by pointy-headed scientists, 99 percent of whom are socialists and commu-

nists, and stick them where the sun don't shine."

That comment, in fact, was appended to a news story describing Brossard and Scheufele's study.

Online commenting, the professors aver, can add context and new perspectives to a public conversation. Their recent study, however, shows it can also detract from a reader's understanding of complex issues.

The study looked at a cross section of 2,338 Americans reacting to manipulated blog comments on the pros and cons of nanotechnology. It showed introducing uncivil discourse could either lower or raise perceptions of risk, depending on one's predispositions.

The findings of the Wisconsin researchers provoked a wide-



ranging debate among journalists and bloggers, and at least one estimable publication, *Popular Science*, used them to help justify a decision to ditch online comments.

Brossard and Scheufele note that most news organizations and bloggers haven't thought much about why comments are needed to begin with. "Do we want to have a democratic discourse?" asks Brossard. "Few have really thought through the purpose."

Lively back and forth, they explain, can add valuable information, but unmoderated forums

frequently devolve into name-calling and diatribes that add little for a serious reader. Introducing moderated posts could be an effective alternative, but the UW researchers note that the cost of moderating online content is not something many news organizations, let alone individual bloggers, are willing to assume.

"Commenting can be like a study group in a lecture," says Scheufele. "It can have a positive effect if it's moderated. You don't always call on the loudest, most obnoxious student."

Terry Devitt '78, MA'85

Putting Freshwater Species on the Map

UW ecologists look at the impact of land-use policies on aquatic biodiversity.

Cities are diverse environments for humans, but as urban areas grow, they're likely to come at the expense of diversity in other crucial forms of habitats.

An interdisciplinary team of UW researchers has put together a series of maps to show, for the first time, how different land-use scenarios could affect freshwater biodiversity across the United States.

The team predicts that watershed quality will decline in rapidly growing regions, such as California and the southeastern states, if current urbanization policies remain in place. This

could significantly reduce the number of fish and amphibian species in those areas. However, the team also projected that urban growth could be curtailed if cities implemented "smart growth" strategies, thereby protecting water quality and preserving biodiversity.

Sebastián Martinuzzi, a postdoc in forest ecology and management, is the lead author on the report, titled "Land Use Change and Freshwater Conservation," which was published this fall in the journal *Global Change Biology*. He acknowledges it isn't realistic

for cities to wholly restrict their growth, but the point is to illustrate that land-use patterns truly do have an impact on surrounding ecosystems.

"For freshwater, what happens on the land matters," Martinuzzi says. "If we control urban sprawl, it could have some positive impact."

In addition to urban expansion, Martinuzzi and his team also looked at crop-cover scenarios. If demand for crops increases, then southeastern states are projected to substantially increase crop acreage, which would negatively affect watersheds and, by exten-

sion, biodiversity. The Midwest is likely to experience a similar trend, but to a lesser degree.

Predicting the future is a tricky business, but Martinuzzi says the maps show general trends and variations, which could help policymakers — and the general public — better appreciate the environmental impact of land-related economic decisions.

"Maps are very powerful," he says. "They can show you areas that may be in trouble and where there may be room for conservation."

Sandra Knisely '09, MA'13

Standing Up to Socrates

A philosophy major invites more women to the debate.

When **Macy Salzberger x'14** joined the Socratic Society, an undergraduate club for UW students interested in philosophy, she was hoping to find like-minded friends eager to engage on complex topics: contemporary ethics, the nature of consciousness, and more.

What she found, instead, was a fierce style of argument — and hardly any women.

“People were yelling and banging on the table to make their points,” says the philosophy major.

What Salzberger was experiencing was the dialectic — a method of argument philosophers use to resolve a disagreement between two or more people holding different points of view. The Greek philosopher Socrates introduced the method in the fifth century BC; over the centuries, it has become much more combative.

As a first-year student, Salzberger (now a senior) often found herself drowned out at meetings. “The environment felt hostile, and often I was the only girl in the room,” she says.

Salzberger decided to do something about it. She sought advice from two philosophy professors she regarded as mentors: **Claudia Card '62** and **Harry Brighthouse**.

“They said to invite more women, and be intentional about it,” she says.

Women are underrepresented in philosophy, comprising less than 20 percent of full-time faculty in the field. Does the fierce dialectic play a role? In a recent *New York Times* essay series on women in philosophy, women say they can handle the diatribes — but that more insidious problems, such as implicit bias and stereotype threat, keep numbers low.

“It is easy for people to think this is a male discipline,” says Brighthouse. “But there are subtle things to ask. In my classroom: am I alert to women’s hands? Do I call on the men more? That requires you to look much harder at your practice.”

With targeted invitations from Salzberger and encouragement to speak loudly and often, more women began showing up



Since the days of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, philosophy has long been seen as male-dominated. But the field is rich with contributions from female thinkers, such as Aspasia, whose lectures drew the most powerful citizens of Athens in the fifth century BC.

for the Socratic Society’s weekly meetings.

“I told them that I understood the problem, but that it was possible to balance out the combative tone if more of us came,” says Salzberger.

Brighthouse points out that what Salzberger did to shift the dynamic in the Socratic Society is a great example of what can be done in the field. “We should not just accept what seems apparent on the surface, but learn what can be adjusted or changed,” he says.

Salzberger is now serving her second term as president of the Socratic Society, and through her leadership, the group has sharpened its focus and seen an uptick in attendance — including more women.

“Macy has been an outstanding leader,” says **Russ Shafer-Landau**, professor and chair of philosophy. “It’s absolutely vital that we enfranchise all who want to participate in philosophical discussion.”

Mary Ellen Gabriel

one quote



JEFF MILLER

“I understand that many of their pay levels are higher than average pay in Wisconsin. I get the fact that that looks a little strange. ... But if I don’t pay them that, they’ll leave. They’ll get paid that someplace else.”

Chancellor Rebecca Blank on the need for higher compensation for UW professors. Salaries for faculty rank 73rd among four-year public universities nationwide and 169th among all schools, public and private.

Lois Levenhagen

Meet the woman who keeps the UW's band in stitches.

Lois Levenhagen is the unsung hero of the UW Marching Band. Every Labor Day weekend, the Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, seamstress threads her way through an epic journey in alterations, hemming hundreds of sleeves and trouser legs and stitching up hundreds of tears to ensure that the Badgers present a uniform look. She's been the band's needlewoman since 1991, and though she's had partners in her work — initially her mother, Loretta Zander, and now her sister, Luann Zander — Levenhagen does much of the sewing herself. She also creates band director Mike Leckrone's signature sequined suits for the annual spring concert — a job that presents unusual challenges. (Learn more about the concert in *Traditions*, page 46.) *On Wisconsin* asked her to share what goes on behind the scenes.

How did you become the band's seamstress?

It started when my daughter [Kathy Kahl '93] was in the marching band twenty-two years ago. Mike [Leckrone] was looking for someone to alter the pants, and I thought okay, I'll try it. I had maybe fifty kids or so come over, and I stitched them up. And then springtime came, [Leckrone] says, well, "I need a new sequined vest." I'd never sewn on sequins before, but I said I'd give it a try, and that's how I got started making him his fancy outfits for the concert at the Kohl Center each year.

Do you do a lot of tailoring to the uniforms?

No, I cannot take in the waist or anything like that, because they've got hidden zippers underneath, and they wear suspenders. All I can do is regulate the length.

How do you manage to sew for the entire band?

I [work on] different segments. The returning students, if they know their uniform's going to fit, they're out of the formula. I measure the kids that are returning and know they need a new uniform — because it was way too big from the year before, or because the poor freshmen get stuck with the leftovers, or boys who are still growing. And some of them put a little weight on or something. I usually go home with about fifty pieces, and I have about a week to do those.

But the big push is the freshmen. On Labor Day weekend, on Sunday afternoon, probably from noon until five o'clock, six o'clock at night, I measure all those kids, and I usually come home with between one hundred and one hundred and ten pieces then: jacket sleeves that have to go up or down; pant legs that have to go up or down; fixing zippers and crotches and knees, because they bust them all out with Fifth Quarter shenanigans. We have to deliver them by Wednesday night, because they need them before the Saturday game.

What are the uniforms made of?

It's a polyester-wool. They're heavy, and they're warm. I get a kick out of the young gals — they want these nice-fitting outfits, you know? And I just say, "I think you better go back and get another size or two bigger."



BRUCE RICHTER

Because they're actually cooler when there's a little breathing room, when they're not so tight on the skin. And when they do that high step, that's when they bust out the crotch. The boys want to have the crotch hanging down to their knees, but I say no, you've got to jack it up.

That's a lot of repair.

Right. They say the life expectancy of a uniform is ten or twelve years. And these, what they've got right now are about fifteen years old. They're getting in pretty bad shape. But they're not cheap. I'm sure that they've got to cost close to a thousand dollars apiece.

Do you know what Leckrone will be wearing for this year's Varsity Band Concert?

No, I usually don't know until about six weeks before [the concert in April]. They're planning what they're trying to put together, and he has no idea, either, what he really wants until they get the whole show set up and know what they're doing. Then nobody sees his outfit till he comes on stage.

Is the concert outfit difficult?

Yeah, it is. Working with sequins is very difficult, because you cannot sew through it. They're little metal circles. If I sew too fast or go through them, I dull or break my needles. I literally don't sleep for between twenty-four and forty-eight hours to get those babies done.

Have you asked him not to go with sequins?

No, he wants the glitzy.

How long will you keep doing this for the band?

I'll retire when Mike retires.

That could be a long time.

Yeah. I've got a granddaughter that's seven, and she likes to sing and dance. Maybe I'll be around yet when she gets in the band.

Interview conducted and edited by John Allen

Nuclear Engineering 234 Principles and Practice of Nuclear Reactor Operations

The student sticks a key into the ignition. Her fuel heats up — way up, to somewhere around 570 degrees. She flips levers to shift the control blades. Then it happens.

In the next room, the water in the nuclear reactor she's "driving" begins to glow a vibrant blue. Radiation is becoming visible, but the water itself barely shimmers, as if nothing extraordinary — such as atoms splitting apart into energy — is happening at the bottom of the thirty-foot tank.

The student isn't especially impressed, either, as she watches the monitor. After all, it's just another day of class.

Once every two years, sixteen nuclear engineering students take Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics (NEEP) 234 at the Max W. Carbon Radiation Science Center. Half of the class is reserved for first- and second-year students, and at the end of the semester, a handful of them will be invited to sit for a licensing exam proctored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Any student who passes will then be offered a job as a part-time UW reactor operator — an invaluable opportunity that has launched the careers of generations of reactor operators around the country.

Blue-glow bonding

For some students, NEEP 234 is much more than a few credits and an internship. "Everyone knew each other and had a certain sense of camaraderie in getting

through this class," says **Dan Ludwig '08, MA'08**, an engineer at Xcel Energy.

"Maybe it's something about having to be to class by 7:30 a.m. that makes you realize that you want to be around people who have the desire to learn the same things that make your own brain smile," says **Sam Maslonkowski '12**, a reactor operator at an Alabama nuclear plant.

And the sense of community doesn't end with the semester. Most student reactor operators keep in touch with **Michelle Parker Blanchard '91**, one of the three senior staff reactor operators who rotate as lead instructor. A NEEP 234 alumna herself, Blanchard says the course often helps students find their place at the UW — and their professional path.

"This class is why I ended up in reactors," she says. "I just fell in love with it."

Feeling like a real engineer

In addition to classroom time, every student gets to sit at the reactor control panel for up to an hour each week. These "behind-the-wheel" sessions help set the class apart from most other engineering courses.

"I think a lot of college students desire to see real-life applications for their studies, and [I] feel that I was given that opportunity," says Maslonkowski. "It made all the difference."

Matt DeHart '13 worked as a student reactor operator for



COURTESY OF THE UW COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Radiation glows blue in the UW nuclear reactor. Students in NEEP 234 learn to operate the one-megawatt training reactor.

three years and oversaw training sessions for two NEEP 234 cohorts after him — an experience that has helped bring his knowledge of the reactor full circle.

"Training the new students each time the class is offered helps to further reinforce what I learned in the class and makes me a better engineer," he says.

Currently, the NEEP 234 instructors are exploring options

for increasing class enrollment capacity and creating new opportunities to get students in the lab.

"The course is resource intensive, but we are active in our efforts to increase the number of students who get to use the reactor," says Blanchard. "Ideally, it [will] be available for all nuclear engineering students at some point."

Sandra Knisely '09, MA'13

TEAM PLAYER

Leonard Manning

Growing up in the Long Island town of Point Lookout, New York, **Leonard Manning x'14** always felt comfortable being surrounded by water. So when his older brother convinced him to try out for his high school rowing team as a coxswain, Manning was hooked. In his junior year, he earned Most Valuable Player honors, and he coxswained the boat that won the New York State Rowing Championship in 2010.

Then following in the footsteps of two others from his high school, Manning chose to attend UW-Madison, where rowing is the oldest sport on campus — originating in 1874 — and boasts nine national championships.

Manning is part of the UW's varsity eight crew (regarded as the most prestigious and fastest boat), but as a coxswain, he never grabs an oar. Instead, it's his job to push his teammates' bodies to their limits and navigate the boat.

"The key to a good coxswain is realizing that you can't make the boat go faster," he says. "You just make it go as fast as it should."

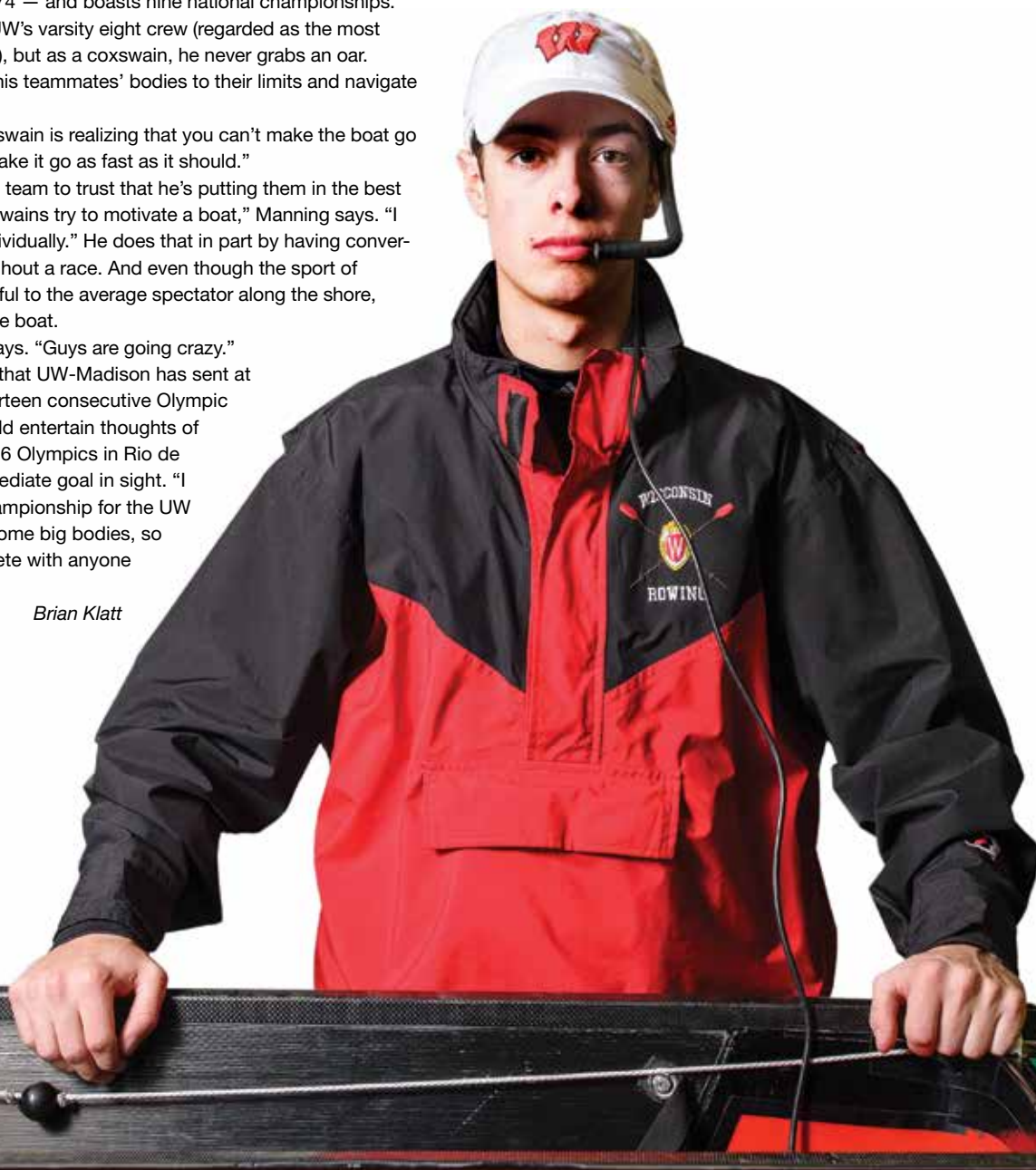
To do that, he needs his team to trust that he's putting them in the best position to win. "Some coxswains try to motivate a boat," Manning says. "I try to motivate each guy individually." He does that in part by having conversations with the crew throughout a race. And even though the sport of rowing should appear graceful to the average spectator along the shore, it's a different story inside the boat.

"It's pretty hectic," he says. "Guys are going crazy."

What may be crazier is that UW-Madison has sent at least one men's rower to thirteen consecutive Olympic games. While Manning would entertain thoughts of adding to that list in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, he has a more immediate goal in sight. "I want to win the national championship for the UW my senior year. We've got some big bodies, so we should be able to compete with anyone we hit the water with."

Brian Klatt

"The key to a good coxswain is realizing that you can't make the boat go faster. You just make it go as fast as it should."



BRYCE RICHTER

Head Injuries: Tiny Subjects Shed Light

UW scientists find that fruit flies can inform damage in humans.

As he heard reports of brain damage and early death in former athletes being linked to recurrent head trauma, UW professor **Barry Ganetzky** wondered if his fruit flies might be able to help.

A geneticist, Ganetzky is fervent about the power of fruit fly research — including his own work related to cardiac and neural diseases — to unlock basic secrets of human biology. Recalling an unexplored observation from nearly forty years ago, he showed colleague **David Wassarman** how a sharp strike to a vial of fruit flies left them temporarily stunned and disoriented. Wassarman, a UW professor of cell and regenerative biology, was immediately hooked.

Together they have turned Ganetzky's accidental discovery into the first glimpses of a genetic role in traumatic brain injury (TBI) susceptibility.

TBIs occur when a force on the body jostles the brain inside the head, causing it to strike the inside of the skull.

More than 1.7 million TBIs occur each year in the United States, about one-third due to falls and the rest mainly originating with car crashes, workplace accidents, and sports injuries. TBIs are also a growing issue among combat veterans who are exposed to explosions.

The immediate effects of TBI are usually temporary and mild — confusion, dizziness, headaches, and vision problems. But over time, these effects can escalate to neurodegeneration and related symptoms, such as memory loss, cognitive problems, severe depression, or Alzheimer's-like dementia.

TBIs cost tens of billions of dollars annually in medical expenses and lost productivity. But, Ganetzky says, "unlike many important medical problems — high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, heart disease — where we know something about the biology, we know almost nothing about TBI. Why does a blow to the head cause epilepsy? Or how does it lead down the road to



GRACE BOEKHOFF-FALK AND DAVID WASSARMAN

UW researchers are using fruit flies to study the immediate and long-term consequences of traumatic brain injury.

neurodegeneration? Nobody has answers to those questions — in part, because it's really hard to study in humans."

Enter the fruit fly, with a nervous system remarkably similar to that of humans, down to the hard, skull-like cuticle encasing the brain. Armed with a homemade High-Impact Trauma (or HIT) device, constructed from hardware store materials, Ganetzky and Wassarman now have a way to reproducibly inflict traumas that mimic the injuries and symptoms of concussions and other TBIs.

Like humans, the flies initially bounce back from their injuries, but they gradually develop many of the same physical consequences associated with TBIs, including poor coordination

and immune system activation, followed by neurodegeneration and — for some — early death.

With the flies, the researchers can now draw on a vast array of genetic tools and techniques to probe the underlying drivers of damage, with the goal of developing diagnostics and, ultimately, treatments. They have already identified the crucial role genetics plays in determining an injury's effects — a finding that may explain why all potential TBI drugs to date have failed in clinical trials, despite showing early promise: there may be no one-size-fits-all treatment.

"The heart of the problem of solving traumatic brain injury is that we're all different," says Wassarman.

Jill Sakai PhD'06

W BADGER SPORTS TICKER

Basketball player Frank Kaminsky x'15 scored 43 points against the University of North Dakota in November. That set a single-game record for the Badgers. The old record — 42 — had been set by Ken Barnes in 1965 and tied by Michael Finley in 1994. The Badgers beat North Dakota 103-85.

The 2013-14 men's basketball team also set a school record for most victories to begin a season. The Badgers won their first 16 games this year. The previous record had been fifteen, set in 1910-11 and tied in 1913-14. The Badgers' all-time longest winning streak was twenty-nine games, spanning the 1910-12 seasons.

The UW's volleyball team matched its best finish ever when it reached the national finals in December. The Badgers knocked off the top-ranked team in the country (the University of Texas) in the NCAA tournament semi-final before falling to Penn State in the final. The UW last had gone to the volleyball tournament finals in 2000.

Some 68 Badger athletes were named to the Academic All-Big Ten list in fall. To be eligible for Academic All-Big Ten honors, a student must be a letter-winner and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The list included 25 football players, 23 cross-country runners, 15 soccer players, and 5 volleyball players.

An award-winning cartoonist and author, Lynda Barry, at right (and as depicted by Barry herself at far right), is now an associate professor of interdisciplinary creativity — a position that allows her to share a long-held belief: that art and science need not exist apart, that disciplines can intersect and enrich each other.



Creative License

Renowned cartoonist and writer Lynda Barry, now on the UW's faculty, teaches her students that **using their hands engages their brains** — and leads to the creativity within.

BY MARIANNE ENGLISH SPOON MA'II
PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

I am sitting on a stool in front of a long wooden table in a '60s-style bunker-turned-art-studio on the sixth floor of the Mosse Humanities Building that might as

well be underground. There's an unused composition notebook in front of me, along with blank notecards, pens, and two baskets overflowing with candy. It's my first time sitting in on this writing class, and I haven't a clue what to expect.

Twelve graduate students surround the

table — some smoothing fingertips across their prized notebooks, others in light conversation. Some, like me, are unwrapping and inhaling Butterfinger bars and Laffy Taffy at a most impressive rate.

Glancing at our empty candy wrappers, a fifty-something woman dressed



Lynda Barry wants to convince us that we can write, draw, think, and create in a way we've never done before. She wants to give us a framework to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our work across disciplines.

in black, with thick-rimmed glasses and flowing ginger braids compressed with a red bandana, approaches the head of the table. "It's the candy that lures you in," she says in her best evil scientist voice, hands folded together in conniving delight. "Every time." A reassuring smile widens behind red lipstick. Her maniacal laugh transforms into a real one, an uncontrolled moment of hilarity, and we catch ourselves joining in.

Indeed, our professor, Lynda Barry, award-winning cartoonist and author, *does* have an agenda: she wants to convince us that we can write, draw, think, and create in a way that we've never done before; she wants to bring the mundane to life through storytelling; and she wants to give us a framework to

deepen our understanding of ourselves and our work across disciplines.

"Write what you see," Barry says. It's the name of the class I attended every Monday last fall. The course is one of two she offered during her first semester as associate professor of interdisciplinary creativity at the Art Department and the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (WID), the transdisciplinary research institute where I work.

Barry considers herself a "delivery woman," packaging her forty-plus years of visual arts experience for students in much the same way that instructors did for her. Some describe her unconventional classes as mashups of stand-up comedy and boot camp. She controls every second of the two hours we're

gathered around the table, with timed sessions to carve out memories and narratives from our personal and professional lives. It's a carefully planned act.

"It's unabashed, uninhibited. I think Lynda's asking us to reconnect with that side of ourselves," says Alon Andrews MSx'15, an education graduate student who was also enrolled in the class. "I imagine she's suggesting that, as we get a little older, we experience our environment in kind of a diluted way compared to what kids do."

After arriving at the university, Barry noticed a sentiment, especially among graduate students during their first year, of feeling lost as they entered the whirlwind of academia. The word *transformative* comes up when I talk to

students about Barry's classes — a word she also uses to describe her own experience teaching.

"I really hope that it does for the students what it's done for me — the feeling that life is worth living," she says. "This feeling of loneliness can illuminate the world or close it off. It's for any of us who've had a big event in our lives, like maybe somebody died or experienced trauma. You're pushed to see the aliveness in the world."

The first class was definitely alive. In two hours' time, I had relived and written about memories archived deeply in my mind. I smelled the burning leaves from the time I used a rope swing to cross a back yard fire when my dad wasn't looking. I felt the blood rushing to my cheeks when I talked about the time I accidentally flushed my babysitter's ring down the toilet. I left exhilarated, with a type of mindfulness that, for once, I was eager to fold into my daily existence.

One by one, we shared experiences — some of our stories intensely personal, some funny, others sad, but each gripping and rich beyond what we thought we were capable of telling. Scenes and images came to life, as Barry looped around the table, knelt beside each student, and listened with eyes closed as we read aloud. After hearing each story, she made the same comment: "Good! Good! Good!"

Some students described the writing as therapeutic.

"This isn't like therapy," Barry told us between writing exercises. "Therapy's like this."

Wisconsin Born

Lynda Barry is no stranger to Wisconsin. Born in Richland Center, she moved to the Seattle, Washington, area as a child with her parents and two brothers. She attended school there and launched her career as a cartoonist in the mid-1970s.

Barry has told me on multiple occasions how education saved her, but it was



Barry shows a self-portrait made by student Clay Van Mell, a.k.a. Bender (left). She encourages her students to draw self-portraits, use aliases for names — whatever it takes to unleash creativity.

attending The Evergreen State College in Washington State that cemented her success and dovetailed the beginnings of her nationally syndicated comic strip, *Ernie Pook's Comeek*, which ran in more than seventy alternative newspapers for nearly thirty years. She returned to Wisconsin in 2002 with her husband, Kevin Kawula, to live in Rock County, following decades of success as a visual artist, workshop teacher, and author.

The Lynda Barry canon ranges from accounts of growing up in a poor, racially diverse area in a troubled household, to expository writing and imaginative fiction that teach the process of writing and drawing for "people who want to, but don't know how," she says. Her work touches on shifting identities between sophomore naïveté and growing up with an emotionally abusive mother (her parents split early on), between being white and Filipina, between connecting with and doubting her own creativity and ability to make meaning of the world.

She's authored several books, many earning high praise and awards — one was adapted for an off-Broadway musical.

In recent years, as space for newspaper comics dwindled, Barry started spending more time conducting workshops, refocusing on a fundamental question posed by Evergreen State College instructor and artist Marilyn Frasca, whom Barry cites as a catalytic force in her life.

"When I was in school, I started out with this question: What is an image? And by images, I mean the thing that's contained by everything we call the arts," Barry tells me. "I got really interested in this idea that they probably have a biological function — we wouldn't have dragged them through all our evolutionary stages if they didn't."

She wonders what makes us long to be able to sing, draw, write, dance, or play music even after we've given up on ever being able to do these things well. To get closer to an answer, Barry



“I’m particularly interested in how formal ideas are fed by informal and exploratory activities. Lynda shines a light on these marginal territories and is discovering treasure islands.”



the popular TV show *The Simpsons*, to lead an informal, under-wraps talk for students.

But it wasn’t just arts circles that picked up on her presence. After meeting Barry, WID Director David Krakauer promptly asked her to be a fellow, which evolved into what is thought to be the only joint faculty position in interdisciplinary creativity in the country.

“I’m particularly interested in how formal ideas are fed by informal and exploratory activities,” Krakauer says. “Many very rigorous scientists, including Feynman, Dirac, Poincare, and Darwin all scribbled and doodled furiously, and found inspiration and freedom literally in the margins of their thoughts. Lynda shines a light on these marginal territories and is discovering treasure islands.”

While I tried to pinpoint Barry’s take on disciplines, it became clear to me that she’s disappointed that the arts and sciences are often being placed on opposite ends of the intellectual spectrum, with interactions between the two labeled as “bridges.” For her, the arts and sciences have encompassed each other all along.

As a student in Barry’s Making Comics class (top), Art Department lecturer Allison Welch creates a drawing of a vintage Sears Roebuck & Co. catalog. Responding to a group exercise in the class (above), 16 students created 256 character drawings in 16 minutes.

needed to engage with people for longer periods of time than a two-day workshop allowed.

Enter Tom Loeser, chair of the UW’s Art Department, who, with the support of co-sponsors on campus, nominated Barry

to be the Arts Institute Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence for spring 2012. Barry brought her wit and creative flavor to campus, teaching a class, sharing techniques, and even inviting longtime friend and classmate Matt Groening, creator of

“Anybody who wants to make a discovery of some sort has to push to the edge of the known — and then beyond. ... Lynda Barry understands that deeply. The juicy stuff is in the unknown.”

“There’s something to this idea of insight,” she tells me. “I want to wrest it away from the hippie-rainbow-love-aura-artsy-fartsy thing — in the same way I want to wrest science away from the strict, indoctrinated thing it’s perceived to be.”

“These Original Digital Devices”

I am sitting in an audience of about fifty researchers, students, and staff in a glass room on the second floor of the Discovery Building, which houses WID. It’s late fall, and Barry is scrolling through a set of images on a projector. I’ve heard her say that researchers’ sketches, whiteboard proofs, and diagrams resemble art drawings, but I have never seen them compared side-by-side.

She points behind her to a large hand-drawn image of a schoolhouse created by an elementary student. The next slide — an eerily similar drawing, with upward sweeping strokes resembling a roof — was not crafted by a child, she says, but rather by scientists explaining a mathematical model on a whiteboard at WID. She shows the crowd numerous comparisons: art versus algorithm, squiggly lines versus scripts of code. The pictures look as if they were created by — *inspired by* — each other.

“Something about the hand is going on in this building,” she says. Heads in the audience nod. “I’ll see scientists sitting down, much like how artists sit in front of paintings, and occasionally add to them.



Surrounded by writing utensils, Barry holds close the notebooks that her students fill with words and drawings while enrolled in her courses. Calling them “my babies,” Barry says she takes great pleasure in reading the notebooks multiple times during each semester.

You can’t take a step upstairs without seeing these whiteboards.”

Decades of visual arts work have allowed Barry to discover this impossible-to-ignore connection between hand and brain. She describes it as that moment you’re spooning food into your mouth and reading the back of a cereal box without even realizing it. Or those “aha” moments in the shower, where ideas flood in uninvited as you’re shampooing or washing off.

The hand-brain connection across disciplines, fields, and age groups has intrigued her for years. The hand knows what it’s doing before the person does, she says, noting that insight happens in

the gap between the hand doing its own thing and the mind catching on. It’s the same feeling I had when she challenged me to write articles by hand, even if they need to be typed eventually. There’s a different feeling when you put words on a page and leave them for a while, without the temptation of a backspace button to act on self-doubt.

Barry led the Counterfactual Campus Drawing Board Project for WID, where she asked people of all ages to envision what schools and the university would look like in a century.

“Across the board, people feel that computers and digital stuff — that’s our future. And that little things like desks

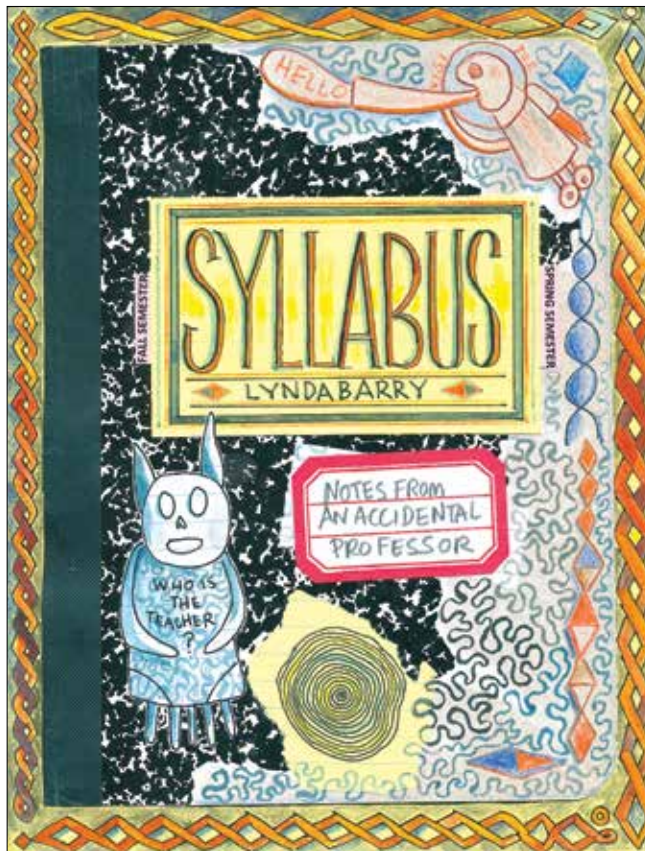
and handwriting and drawing — all the stuff I care the most about — won't really be around anymore," she tells me. "That's been a little bit hard for me, for someone who thinks thinking, intuition, and all kinds of stuff come from these original digital devices." She raises her hands in front of her face and wiggles her fingers.

Still, despite future technology, she says, we still overwhelmingly use our hands. This surfaces during a warm-up exercise in Barry's writing class, when she tells us to relax every fiber of our bodies — almost as if we're prepping for physical activity — by drawing tightly bound spirals on a page as she recites Rumi's poem "The Diver's Clothes Lying Empty" by memory. The hand becomes engaged before the mind.

And it's not just Barry who's noticing these connections. She lists study after study suggesting that the biological function of the arts is alive and well: one documented stress reduction after participants sang in a choir; another found that people who doodle while listening performed better with memory recall tests; and yet another revealed a correlation between daily drawing and fewer doctor visits for older people.

These are exactly the types of collaborations that Barry is starting to explore as a faculty member. She's forming connections with UW researchers — in particular, psychology excites her. And these connections lie at the heart of her Image Lab, a flexible workspace on the first floor of the Discovery Building.

"The metaphor for me is like a restaurant that serves food based on what's in season, what's fresh and around," she says. "If I find that there's an inter-



LYNDA BARRY

The cover of Barry's new book, *Syllabus*, suggests that she's an accidental teacher, yet she readily acknowledges that teachers changed her life.

esting rehearsal going on for a one-man or two-man show, or there's some creative project going on on campus that I can invite people to do here, I will. People won't always know what they're going to see when they come to the lab — like the chefs that just go to the market in the morning and write the menu based on what they've found."

Art graduate student and collaborator Angela Richardson '93, MFAx'15 tells me she crosses paths with all types of people in the lab, sometimes talking with them for hours about differences between the brain and mind. These interactions clearly reflect Barry's proclivity for spontaneous interaction.

"Anybody who wants to make a discovery of some sort has to push to the

edge of the known — and then beyond — in order to make the mistake to make the discovery. Lynda Barry understands that deeply," Richardson says. "The juicy stuff is in the unknown. There are a million other voices telling you, 'No — don't go over there,' but Lynda's on the other side with the megaphone saying, 'Hey, you guys! Don't forget — the good stuff's over here!'"

Richardson has also taken part in Barry's Stealth Sculpture Project, a rotating exhibit that places pieces of art from the master of fine arts program in the hallways of WID's workspace. (Okay, admittedly, artist Heather McCalla MA'12's life-sized wooden car wasn't exactly stealthy.) Barry's "Drawing Jam" sessions for kids share similar spunk. She reminds my colleagues and me: "All adults must be accompanied by a child!"

Dissertation Drawing

I am sitting in Barry's class, drawing a self-portrait on an index card that will be used to take attendance. We include our names, but in some of her other classes, students go the entire semester without knowing each other's real names.

Barry encourages aliases in the classroom, giving students fictional names from playing cards and parts of the brain, such as Four of Hearts and Cerebral Cortex. For her Making Comics class in 2013, undergraduate and graduate students took on alternate personas from their favorite cartoon characters. Though Barry plays along as Professor Sluggo and Professor Long-Title, the practice has a purpose: allowing students

from different backgrounds and walks of life to feel more at ease.

Ebony Flowers MS'12, PhD'15, known as Inspector Gadget and Frontal Lobe, has drawn inspiration from Barry's teaching philosophy while pursuing her doctorate in the School of Education. She hopes to share her research visually through a blend of writing and comics. While talking with me in the Image Lab, Flowers points to a binder outlining a technique she developed and

Barry lists study after study suggesting that the biological function of the arts is alive and well. These are exactly the types of collaborations that she is starting to explore as a faculty member.

is teaching in a workshop to encourage a new approach to academic writing for graduate students.

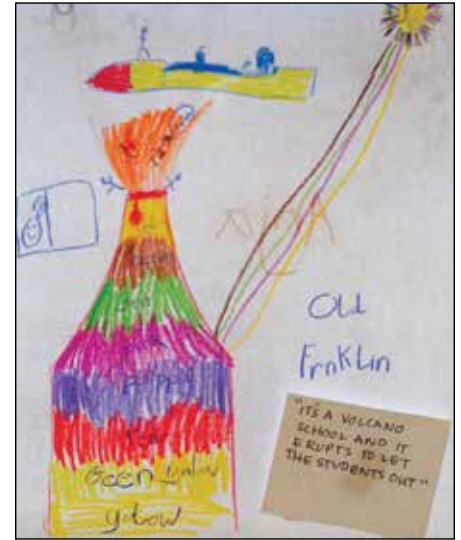
"It's an environment where anyone from any discipline can sit down and write together and share their writing — a similar atmosphere that Lynda has created in her classes," she says. "There isn't any criticism, but people can still express themselves and read out their work."

I examine the document in the binder to find a cartoon fish and chicken that serve as readers' cheeky guides through an unorthodox writing process.

"Why are you cutting up that journal article?" the fish asks the chicken in one panel. "Because I want to cut up the questions I find in it," the chicken replies.

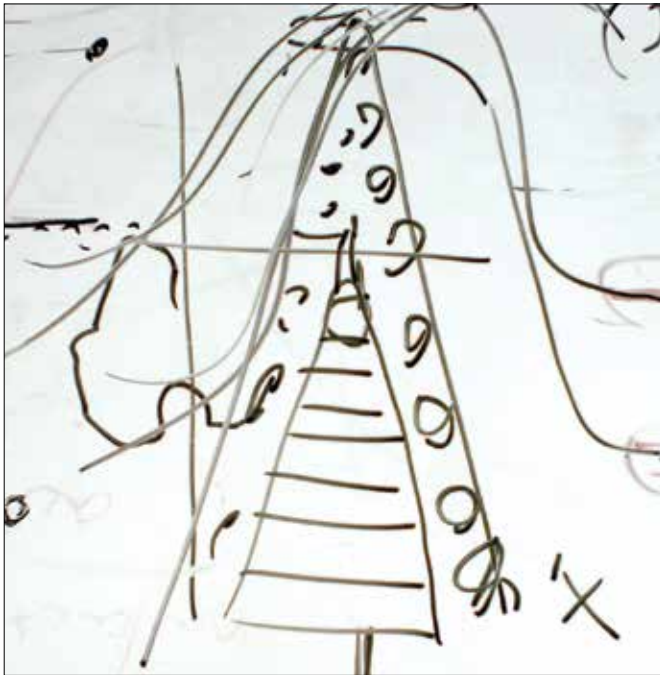
This breaking apart, rearranging, brainstorming, and discussing of research unveils patterns in students' work, much like Barry's accessible writing approach

developed in her Unthinkable Mind class. What's key, Flowers says, is helping people raise questions and juxtapose images in new ways.



"It's a volcano school, and it erupts to get the students out," was the ready answer to explain the drawing above, made when Barry visited a classroom of Madison second-graders and asked them to envision what school might be like one hundred years from now. And the artwork's other details? "Every student has this machine that can turn into a desk or a bed or a cafeteria in a pumpkin patch. ... And there is an automatic sun that has cables that connect to the school for the power."

Barry invites young and old to attend the "Drawing Jam" sessions held in her campus Image Lab. At left, she delights as one budding artist begins putting ideas to paper at a Saturday Science at Discovery outreach event at her lab.



COURTESY OF LYNDA BARRY

A UW researcher's sketch on a whiteboard (left) has striking similarities to a youngster's drawing of a futuristic school, which features a giant steel tent, and an elevator to the playground. Barry shows such examples in her presentations, noting that, no matter the age, people are compelled to use their hands when engaging their brains.

Since the workshops began, Flowers has led writing exercises for dissertators and graduate students in a variety of disciplines, including forestry, agricultural sciences, sociology, educational policy, and history of science. Barry and Flowers are beginning to study the effects of this writing style on people across fields.

Geography graduate student Heather Rosenfeld MSx'15, a.k.a. Optimus Prime, had no drawing experience before enrolling in Barry's Making Comics class and participating in Flowers's workshop. She tells me that Barry's method gives her a way of sharing multiple stories from multiple perspectives, encouraging them to exist in tension. The approach has provided a framework for a side project through which she's examining the history of gender relations in her department.

"You can analyze this and theorize about that," Rosenfeld says, "but telling a story in comic form is really different and an entirely different type of challenge. This is definitely something I'll take with me beyond my time at UW-Madison."

A Cheerleader for Education

I am sitting at a restaurant table with Barry as she tells me about her time in college — how teachers changed her life and led her to want to do the same. Her time at Evergreen State — where students were encouraged to completely immerse themselves into one class, one topic per term — laid the foundation for her own teaching style.

"If you were going to study something intensely enough, you'll end up studying all the disciplines," she says. "It's the idea that all these things are tied together. That's the way I teach."

Dan Chaon considers Barry an unorthodox cheerleader. Chaon, an award-winning author who teaches creative writing at Oberlin College in Ohio, met Barry in the early 2000s. The two have been exchanging regular emails and visits ever since, sharing approaches and musings.

"There's a shift from the critic, chooser, and giver of grades to being a coach, cheerleader, and observer that

opens up a whole possibility of teaching that's closed for people who are coming to something with a letter grade in mind," he says. "Lynda's work isn't hippy-dippy, but possesses real rigor. These students are producing an entire book's worth of material in a semester."

One student in Barry's The Unthinkable Mind class wrote some forty thousand words in his composition books during the semester. Barry takes her students' notebooks home for close examination multiple times throughout the duration of each course.

"I get so wrapped up in this work and wrapped up in my students. I have a hard time giving them back their work," she says. "They won't love it the way I love it," she jokes, but behind her glasses, her eyes well up with tears. ■

Marianne English Spoon MA'11, a writer and communications officer for the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, sketched and doodled her way through this story.





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Radio Daze

Before the advent of WSUM,
a tiny lakeshore station
became a big part of campus culture.

Trivia question:
What was its name?

BY ELIZA KRIGMAN '05

On a Friday night in the spring of 1978, Ruth Elmendorf x'81 and her teammates took up residence at Adams Hall, ready for action. Elmendorf had agreed to participate in the campus radio station trivia marathon at the behest of a friend.

"We had a bank of eight to ten rotary phones," Elmendorf recalls. "It was fast-paced, and it was nuts." Everyone handling the phones continually dialed the number of the radio station, save for the last digit, to ring in quickest with the answer: a primitive version of speed dialing, Elmendorf jokes. "We also had scouts hanging out at the public library with a pocketful of dimes," she says.

With no cell phones, they had to find an answer, then rush to the pay phone.

Nobody slept during that weekend. "By Sunday morning, I was punch drunk and hallucinating," Elmendorf says. "But when you're nineteen years old, who cares. ... It was so much fun."

The popular trivia competitions, hosted by the former campus radio station WLHA — Lakeshore 64 — were the signature contributions of their era. The festivities drew enough attention to merit coverage from the local NBC affiliate, WMTV. On one occasion, the competition became so fierce that students yanked phone lines from a utility room in an effort to thwart other teams. "The university had to tell us to stop the contest because it was getting out of hand," says Kevin Ruppert '77, who worked at the station.

In many ways, the WLHA era of the 1960s and '70s represents the golden age of campus radio. Before tuning in gave way to logging in, the ability to broadcast — to communicate with others who weren't nearby — had an element of magic.

"People could listen to events going on in other places. ... In our day, it was a big deal," says Kevin Peckham x'75, who



At left: The original student radio station was started in one of the men's residence halls in 1952 under the call letters WMHA, for Men's Halls Association. Engineering major and classical music fan Charles Bartelt '52 conceived of the idea because WHA radio went off the air every evening at sunset, and he wanted to continue listening to music after dark. Above, WMHA students celebrate the station's birthday circa 1956.

served as a DJ. "It was still considered a little exotic." There weren't as many ways then to listen to your new favorite song. If you wanted to listen to a particular album, "you'd have to go to the record store or have it mail-ordered," Ruppert says. "Having the radio station play it for you had a special feeling."

into the air, the signal traveled through the power lines of the residence halls.

"The equipment we worked with was very primitive," says Lee Harris x'79, a WLHA alumnus from the mid-'70s. "We might as well [say that] we were running around in the Flintstone-mobile."

"People could listen to events going on in other places. In our day, it was a big deal. It was still considered a little exotic." There weren't as many ways then to listen to your new favorite song. If you wanted to listen to a particular album, "you'd have to go to the record store or have it mail-ordered."

Landline Radio

The tiny station was started in 1952 by the Men's Halls Association. It adopted the call letters WMHA, which morphed into WLHA when women moved into Slichter Hall in 1960. WLHA had a limited reach — for the most part, it could only be heard in the Lakeshore dormitories. Reception reached a mere three hundred to four hundred feet outside the residence halls, and the signal operated by carrier current: that is, instead of broadcasting over an antenna

Not only was the equipment primitive, but the students involved in WLHA also had to configure it. For some, that was a defining part of the experience. Asked to recall the highlights of his time there, Tom Mueller '66 flashes back to a moment when he was "riding on the back of a motorcycle [while] carrying a large tape recorder, microphone, and cables." He doesn't remember whom he was going to interview, but the novelty of assembling and transporting all the relevant tools has stayed with him.

“Building the equipment and making it work — that was a big part of the fun,” says Evan Richards ’65, MS’70, who managed WLHA in the early ’60s.

There was only one problem: WLHA did not have a license to operate from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

“Sometimes we would succumb to the temptation to set those power levels a little higher than we should have so people got better reception,” Richards recalls. “If the FCC came around, we probably would have gotten in trouble.”

Live from the Lakeshore

While the trivia contests were the most popular events that WLHA hosted, the station experimented with a wide variety of programming. “The record library was impressive,” says Tim Brickner ’79. Ruppert recalls that the students used that vast music collection to experiment more than radio does today. “We played everything,” he says. “Bluegrass, pop, even some country music, jazz fusion. ... We were one of the first radio stations to play Bruce Springsteen.”

New music came by snail mail. “In those days, record companies would send new releases,” Richards says. He recalls receiving the very first Beatles album from EMI and telling others that they wouldn’t amount to much. “There were some people who knew who they were — at that point, I did not.”

The station also held all-night sock-hops, covered university athletics, and even branched into radio dramas. The 1970s bore witness to *The French Fry That Would Not Die*, a theatrical production Peckham described as “a gruesome terror-thriller about an animated, talking French fry that escaped from residence hall kitchens” and “grew to be monstrously large and murderous, ravaging the lakeshore-dorms area, devouring students.”

Along with the fun that had some staff laughing so hard they cried, WLHA also covered serious issues. In 1973, when current Madison Mayor Paul Soglin ’66, JD’72 was the scrappy new kid on the block challenging incumbent Bill Dyke LLB’60, he gave an interview to WLHA.

When a Michigan politician who served as President John F. Kennedy’s assistant secretary of state for African affairs, G. Mennen Williams, happened to visit campus, Richards made sure to interview him. Richards also recalls staffing WLHA the day that Kennedy was assassinated.

“I was in class when Kennedy was shot,” Richards says. He went down to WLHA, announced to the listeners that the station would be shutting off, and put on the funeral march movement from Beethoven’s third symphony before he closed up shop.

Fading Out

By the end of the 1970s, WLHA, which was still broadcasting carrier current on 640 AM, was losing a lot of listeners to FM. Up until the late ’70s, nearly everything played on AM. “FM was around, but only the snobs listened to it,” says Bill Zabel ’66, noting that the “teeny boppers” preferred AM. But on FM, the sound quality was better, and as big stereos came to the dorm rooms, loyalty shifted.

The station continued losing steam in the ’80s. By the time Stephen Thompson ’94 became music director in 1991, he says that the station was a ghost town with only a “couple of guys trying to keep it alive.” Nevertheless, WLHA carried on until June 1993. By that time, it was operating at a low power on the FM dial. Thompson was the one who picked up the phone when the FCC called to put an end to the station’s tenure on air. Prompted by a complaint about interference with someone else’s signal, the FCC shut it down for operating without a

license. It would take the better part of a decade for another radio station, WSUM 91.7 FM, to launch at the UW.

Thompson, who went on to become the editor of *The A.V. Club* for *The Onion* and is now an editor at NPR Music, stayed involved with the station after graduating. After years of struggling to get support from the school and jumping through the hurdles to obtain a license from the FCC, WSUM broadcast its first show in February 2002. Much of the credit, Thompson says, belongs to Dave Black MA’03, the station’s faculty adviser, who fought relentlessly to make it happen.

School of Radio

The WLHA of the ’60s and ’70s, however, yielded a number of successful radio personalities, including Tim Brickner, Lee Harris, and Jonathan Whirry Little x’64.

After graduating, Brickner stayed in town working part time for WIBA AM, eventually moving to a morning “infotainment” spot at WTDY AM. He spent the bulk of his career in radio, from 1987 to 2002, at Magic 98 FM. There he hosted the afternoon drive show, sometimes interviewing high-profile entertainers such as George Carlin and Aaron Neville.

For Harris, a morning anchor at the New York CBS affiliate, 1010 WINS, campus radio was fun, but it was also a steppingstone to a career in the industry. Before landing in New York in 1993, he was a co-owner and manager of a small station in Poynette, Wisconsin. In 2000, Harris was named best newscaster in the New York Achievement in Radio Awards.

“My radio career opened for me because I had experience at WLHA,” says Jonathan Little, who was so eager to break into the profession that he transferred from UW-Madison to UW-Stevens Point for a job opportunity at WSPT. Eventually, he returned

to Madison, where he worked for many years at WISM AM before leaving for a gig at Z104. His work has earned numerous awards, including his 2008 induction into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

Others, such as Peckham and Ruppert, went into the engineering side of radio. Ruppert is currently engineering supervisor at WISC-TV in Madison. Peckham is product manager at Full Compass Systems in Madison, where he oversees content for a professional audio-visual industry catalogue. Most WLHA alumni did not move on to careers in the industry, but they remain bound by the shared love of campus radio and the community it created.

That '70s Show

It's that spirit of community, and the ongoing friendships it fostered, that have led many WLHA alumni to stay in touch throughout the years. In fact, a number of former staffers gathered in Madison for a weekend in July 2013 to stage an on-air reunion on WSUM.

The old gang collaborated on a whopping fifty-six hours of programming airing all day and all night. Ruppert and Peckham — known as “the Kevins” — put in the yeoman's work, devoting hundreds of hours to pull it all together. They attempted to run the station as if they had never left, playing the old jingles, promotions, and contests. Alumni flew in from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in between.

“We started getting calls from people who had listened to WLHA in the '70s,” Ruppert says. “We were very pleased that people did call in.” By re-creating the station from their college days, everyone had a chance to relive the experience.

“I didn't hear anybody talk about what they did for a living,” Peckham says. “They were having the same conversation that they would have had forty years ago” — talking about their favorite music and what



WLHA alumni attended a reunion weekend broadcast in July 2013, when they re-created a show from the '70s using old jingles, promotions, and music. Among them were: (back row) Kevin Ruppert and Chris Kammer and (front row) Andy Arns, Tom Baer, Kevin Peckham, and Tim Brickner.

they planned to play on their shows. They played tunes from the '70s (and a few from the '80s), and it was as if, Ruppert says, they were still a team ready to do radio again, as if no time had elapsed.

The WLHA team impressed WSUM staffers with both their sense of camaraderie and the quality of their programming.

“The most interesting thing I witnessed that weekend was how much of a community WLHA was,” says Kelsey Brannan x'14, the program director of WSUM. Even during its heyday, WLHA was a fraction of the size of WSUM. “I don't think it would be as easy for all of us to get together,” says Brannan, who coordinates a lineup of approximately two hundred DJs. Ruppert and Peckham say they are still in touch with about seventy-five WLHA alumni.

“The guys from WLHA seemed to have a little bit more ownership over their creativity and broadcast,” Brannan says. In particular, she admired a show by “Spaceman Jack,” in which the DJ played ambient music and pretended to be broadcasting from space.

The Legacy Lives On

WLHA alumni and today's WSUM staffers have mutual admiration. WSUM

“does a killer sports show,” Peckham says. Harris calls the station “remarkable” for how vibrant it is in the changing landscape of radio.

Harris, who oversees a college radio station in New Jersey, says it can be an uphill battle recruiting students to get involved. And over the years, a number of colleges have sold their airwaves to commercial entities, he says, although they usually maintain an Internet presence.

Most people listening to WSUM do so over the Internet. But some tune in — the signal for “the Snake on the Lake” (a reference to a former commercial station known as “the Lake”) is 55,000 watts, nearly reaching the Wisconsin Dells.

Today, campus radio competes with a broad array of platforms and personal devices for listenership. It's a different environment, Black says, but he doesn't think the role of student radio has changed very much. That role, he says, is about creating a sense of community. That's what makes a college station “thrive or die.” The commercial radio stations in the area have to compete for the most listeners, he says, but “we're the anti-that.” ■

Eliza Krigman '05 is a journalist based in Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in publications including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Atlantic.

coming of age

We hear so much about children with autism: the diagnosis, the treatment, the programs to guide them and their families. But the UW's Waisman Center knows that these children grow up — and has stepped in to help.



Liam Canavan-Randall (top) says that having autism means “it’s hard for me to decipher what people are trying to say to me sometimes.”

For James Roll (middle), there was one clear highlight when he participated in the Waisman Center’s social group for teens with autism: playing laser tag.

Matt Ward (bottom) and his family have been part of Waisman’s long-term autism study since 1998.



BY JENNY PRICE '96
PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

Liam Canavan-Randall is sixteen. He likes working with his hands — making things out of metal or wood — and he knows what he wants for his future: a job, his own place to live, and a girlfriend.

“I’d like to travel the world and learn a few languages. That’s like way up there in my dreams,” he says. “You know, just be like the uncle who can tell great stories about how he got into a fistfight in a bar in Shanghai.

“Just kidding,” he adds for the benefit of his mother, Cathy Canavan, seated across from him at the kitchen table in their Madison home where I interviewed them.

She laughs as she says, “I can’t come and bail you out. You’re on your own, buddy.”

Although Canavan-Randall sounds like a typical teenage boy, he is different from his peers in a meaningful way: he has autism. It is not a childhood disease, though it’s all too easy to get that impression from news media coverage and conventional wisdom. Autism is a range of complex neurological disorders that affect communication and social interaction, and no one person with autism is the same as another.

Fifteen years ago, there was “almost nothing known about autism across the life course,” says Marsha Mailick. Then researchers from the Waisman Center began following four hundred people with autism, ages ten to fifty-two, and their families. Mailick leads the National Institutes of Health-funded study and serves as director of the center on the UW-Madison campus. There are only fifteen such centers in the country, and

in 2013, Waisman celebrated forty years of researching human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases, and providing a comprehensive range of specialty clinics and programs.

Every eighteen months, Mailick and her team check in to measure which factors contribute to quality of life for children and their parents, and how their skills, needs, and characteristics change. Their work shows that while being the parent of a child with autism can be stressful, it becomes even more intense during the teenage years, as families prepare for a moment many liken to falling off a cliff: when children complete high school and move into adulthood. This new phase of life means parents and their kids must continue to advocate — and sometimes fight — for support needed in college or the workplace, or to meet basic needs.

A year and a half ago, my son was diagnosed with autism. This month we will joyfully celebrate his fifth birthday, a reminder that he has one thing in common with all children, whether or not they have autism: he will grow up. The journey will require more of him, and of us, than it does of families with typical kids as he makes his way through a world that is not necessarily equipped to deal with the way his brain works.

“All of these young children we are diagnosing and giving early intervention to, they don’t stay three, or four, or five [years old],” says Leann Smith, a Waisman scientist who studies the role of the family in supporting healthy development for children with autism. “Blink — before you know it they’re fourteen or fifteen, or twenty-five or thirty, and those individuals on the spectrum and their families need support just as much as three-year-

olds and four-year-olds and five-year-olds and their families.”

MAPPING THE ROAD

Waisman researchers began their study thinking high school would be a time of high anxiety for children with autism and their families, and that life would get a bit easier for them after graduation. They were right that high school is tough — there is bullying, for starters, and teens with autism can struggle to negotiate the social landscape. Liam says the most challenging part of school is picking up on the undertones of what people are saying.

“I never know if a passing remark to me is supposed to be a friendly gesture or like a slight,” he says. “It’s hard for me to decipher what people are trying to say to me sometimes.”

But the Waisman study has also revealed where the hypothesis about high school was wrong: it turns out that the pros of being in an educational environment, and the cognitive and social stimulation that comes with it, far outweigh the cons.

Once students on the autism spectrum leave high school — and leave the specialists and teachers required by law to provide their education — the rate at which they gain communication, intellectual, and social skills slows down, even though the potential for development remains high until well into their thirties. Often, the dropoff is because they suddenly don’t have anything to do, Smith says. A significant portion of young adults with autism in the study had no regular vocational or educational activities after high school.

“If you’re not having something stimulating and engaging to do with your time, you’re not going to continue to gain

Cathy Canavan (right) says that participating in the Waisman Center's support group for parents of teenagers with autism was like getting a map to guide her son, Liam Canavan-Randall (left), through his teenage years.



skills, or at least not at the same rate,” Smith says.

So Smith designed a program aimed at helping teenagers with autism and their families prepare for what comes after high school, knowing that reducing stress for their parents would also benefit the teens. She mined the results of the Waisman study to create Transitioning Together, an eight-week program that teaches parents about autism in adulthood, transition planning, problem-solving strategies, and legal issues.

Smith's first connection to autism was as a college undergraduate, when she worked as a therapist for a preschooler named Stuart. He is now a teenager, like the kids she works with at the Waisman Center, and he recently graduated from high school. “I’m so proud of him,” she says as she shows his childhood photo, which she keeps on a shelf in her Waisman office.

The transition group offers what families say has made a difference in their lives over time: ideas for how to reduce stress for them and their children, a chance to seek support from other families in a similar situation, and advice on how to adapt and change when difficulties arise as their children move toward independence.

Beginning this summer, the curriculum for Transitioning Together will be tested in a study of sixty high schools across the country as part of a project funded by the U.S. Department of Educa-

tion’s Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The UW is one of seven U.S. universities collaborating with the center on a five-year project to develop a comprehensive school-based and community-based education program for high school students on the autism spectrum.

“At times, parents can be frustrated with the school system. ... The schools may not understand the educational needs of their children and how they really are unique,” Smith says. “So it’s exciting to know that when we think about what would be a comprehensive model for education for high school students, that part of that model is going to include the family.”

Canavan says participating in the group was the equivalent of getting a map to help guide Liam through his teenage years. It also was a preview of how difficult it could be to traverse the system once he leaves high school and the educational safety net disappears. When we met, she was worried about whether he would be able to find his first job. He has mowed lawns and volunteered at the library shelving books. More recently, he filled out an application and had an interview at a take-and-bake pizza shop, but didn’t hear back from the employer.

“There are a lot of kids on the autism spectrum who are either unemployed or underemployed, and they live at their

parents’ house for the rest of their lives playing video games,” Canavan says.

“That’s *not* going to be me,” Liam says before his mother can finish her sentence.

“That’s not going to be you — we’ve talked about it. He’s got so many different creative skills and energy,” she says. “You have so much potential, my dear, that it would be a total waste for everyone, mostly you, if you were not fully engaged in what you can do, versus what you can’t do.”

About a month after our interview, Canavan emailed me, bursting with pride: “My guy Liam has his first job.” Hubbard Avenue Diner, a local restaurant where the family eats regularly, hired Liam and had him start out by working behind the scenes, preparing boxes for pies and doing some cleanup.

Each Transitioning Together group is made up of seven families with children who spend at least half of their time in school in general education classes. The study involving the support group has included forty families so far, and beginning this spring, Smith plans to offer sessions through Waisman Center’s clinics for a broader range of teens with autism spectrum disorders.

When she was first developing the transition group in 2009, with funding from the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and a private gift, she had an idea of what *she* thought would work. But Smith wanted to ask families in Madison’s autism community



Chan Stroman (right) and John Roll (left) say the knowledge they gained from the Waisman group gave them the confidence they needed to fight the uphill battle to help their son, James Roll (center), land his first paid internship.

to find out what they wanted. “I think that was a really important first step,” she says. “Not to just come in as researchers saying, ‘This is what you need,’ but really listening to the voices of families and people with autism.”

Families told Smith they wanted two things: a forum to talk about real solutions, rather than vent negative energy, and something for their children to do. So while parents gather in one room, the teenagers meet in another for a social group. “When you have autism, it involves having a social disability, and so making friends takes practice,” Smith says.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Sixteen-year-old James Roll enjoyed meeting up with peers in the teen social group to play games and talk about their experiences in high school. They also worked on skills, including thinking up conversation topics and advocating for themselves. One clear highlight was a group outing the teens planned together. “It was laser tag. It was really fun,” James says.

His parents, Chan Stroman and John Roll, were elated to join a group specifically designed for adolescents. Many support groups, they had discovered, are filled with parents of young, recently diagnosed children who are seeking early intervention services or still simply reeling from the news that their parenting

journey is going to be different from what they expected.

“[Transitioning Together is] very specific and targeted to families just like them,” Smith says. “Everyone’s really focusing on the same worries and concerns, so everybody’s in the same place.”

Participating in the program convinced Stroman and Roll that their son needed to have work opportunities while still in high school, but they also knew he would need help finding and keeping a job. They learned during one of the group sessions that a state agency, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), could assess James and provide services to help him succeed in the workplace and start building a resume.

The first person Stroman reached at the state agency told her she needed to wait until James was eighteen. But she knew better: a DVR transition guide distributed at Transitioning Together advised contacting the agency at least two years prior to graduation. Stroman and Roll kept pushing for assistance from the agency while James was still in high school.

“It’s not just the knowledge, but the confidence, because these are uphill battles,” Stroman says as they sit on either side of James on the couch in the family room of their Madison home. “I mean *nobody* is helping you.”

“And you don’t know what you don’t know,” Roll adds.

After going up the food chain, James was assigned to a counselor who evaluated him and found him eligible for services. After one job-developer contractor failed to find a summer job for James, a second helped him land his first job in October: a three-month paid internship at a Dane County Humane Society adoption center. James earns \$8 an hour taking care of cats, and sweeping and mopping floors at the end of his two-hour shift. The job is a good fit for the teenager, who loves animals. He struggles with understanding directions at first, so a job coach secured by DVR shadowed him for the first few weeks to help him get started.

It took a year and endless phone calls to get James to this point, but — as Waisman’s long-term study shows — it’s an essential start to entering the world of work for teenagers on the autism spectrum.

“What we would like is for James to have the independence to do what he would like to do, whatever that is, and to have the room to figure that out,” Stroman says.

The work that went into landing their son his first job showed his parents the importance of continuing to look ahead. While James talks about someday getting an apartment and taking classes at Madison College, a technical and community college, Roll says they will continue to strategize and prepare for

what may happen two, three, or four years from now.

“Even though it’s two years before graduation, you’re starting to think, ‘Okay, let’s start contacting groups that transition after high school. What services are available?’” Roll says.

That mindset — tackling problems step-by-step — is exactly the approach Smith tries to teach parents. “We know when you can break a big problem down and take a small action step, you’re going to feel better than sitting and doing nothing,” she says. “And sometimes it’s just recognizing when there isn’t something you can do.”

As families become the experts through their own experiences, they can help each other, too, Smith says. “If you have a sixteen-year-old with autism, you’ve been doing this awhile. So families have really great ideas and can be great sources of support and information for each other,” she says.

In the group, parents discuss issues such as the struggle to get homework done. Although it’s a common adolescent problem, Smith explains, it’s even more complicated when a child is on the autism spectrum, because organizational skills can be especially hard to master.

“The beauty of Transitioning Together is we’re not only presenting [families] with information based on research we’ve learned from our past work, but we’re also training them on how to, as a group, solve problems together,” she says.

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

When Nancy Alar was helping her son Matt Ward ’05 move from high school to adulthood, support groups for parents simply didn’t exist. When he turned eighteen, the family worked with a lawyer to create a new legal document, the Educational Power of Attorney, that allowed

Alar to participate in decisions about his education.

Ward, who is now thirty-five, completed eighteen credits of college math as a UW-Madison special student while still in high school, and then moved on to Madison College for two years before transferring to the UW. He earned mostly As, Bs, and a few Cs; his only D came in a class at the technical school called College Success.

At UW-Madison, calculus was Ward’s favorite subject as he worked toward his math degree. He and his family worked with the university’s McBurney Disability Resource Center, which helped arrange extra time and a separate room for taking tests. “He did all of his own homework, without help from us,” Alar says, noting she could not assist him because she did not understand calculus, physics, or Spanish. “I do not really know how he did it all. People sometimes say that we did a great job raising Matt, but it was a true team effort, and he did the hardest work. Matt did a great job with himself.”

Ward struggles with spontaneous conversation. When asked a question, he sometimes responds, “I don’t know how to say it.” He communicates better via email, which is how we did our interview, but he also gives public talks about autism by reading a speech he has prepared. “Being able to do this is a chance for me to raise awareness for people with autism and/or other disabilities,” he wrote to me.

At the start of each of his UW classes, he gave a mini-version of his talk, so that his fellow students and the teaching assistants would be aware of his autism and related behaviors. McBurney officials believe that Ward is the first person diagnosed with autism to graduate from the UW. As of last year, fourteen students with autism enrolled at the UW are working with the center.

Ward was enrolled in the Waisman Center’s second preschool class at age two. He had been in a day care center from the time he was six months old,

but after he was diagnosed with autism at eighteen months, his mother was told she had to remove him.

“We had no place to take him,” Alar recalls. “I had to work. And most other day care facilities — this was back in 1980 — were not equipped to handle a child with autism. Matthew was basically non-communicative. He didn’t speak. He didn’t seem to understand spoken language, and we didn’t know what to do.”

Waisman’s director Mailick says that back then, putting children with and without disabilities in the same classroom was an experiment. Today, the center’s preschool (the Waisman Early Childhood Program) has eighty-five children in six classrooms, and up to one-third of the students have disabilities.

“They were literally lifesavers for us,” Alar says.

Ward’s family has been part of the Waisman Center’s long-term autism study since it began in 1998, and because of the family’s long history with the center, Smith also consulted with Alar as she was planning Transitioning Together. “I’m so happy that there are places people can go, like this transition team, because when we were doing it, there wasn’t any place,” Alar says. “We were making it up as we went along.”

Today, Ward lives on his own in a downtown Madison apartment, not far from the public library, where for five years he has worked two days a week shelving books, CDs, and DVDs. Attending the UW, he says, “helped me learn to focus on getting work done and taught me to travel around town on my own.” It was also where he began building his resume by working at Memorial Library and Kleene Mathematics Library.

These experiences helped him land his current job, but the path to employment was anything but easy.

“He always had a very successful library history — he’d never been fired; he never had any significant problems,” Alar says. “He took the library test, got

“They were literally lifesavers for us,” says Nancy Alar (left) of the Waisman Center, where her son Matt Ward (right) enrolled in its second preschool class at age 2. Today, Ward has a UW-Madison degree, works at the public library, and creates artwork, including origami sculptures.

100 percent, and he still had to volunteer at the library for a year and a half before they gave him a paying job.”

Although Alar says hard work and creative problem-solving had always helped them clear educational barriers, employment was a different story. “We were not able to get past the job barriers with hard work,” she says. “It seemed like no matter what we did, we couldn’t get past that, because Matt’s communication challenges are so severe.”

Ward has found an outlet to use his gift for mathematics and visual thinking: when he was nine years old, he taught himself how to do origami. He started with simple cranes, and then moved on to making complex and difficult geometric designs using up to one hundred and twenty pieces of paper. Ward enjoys origami’s beauty, and he’s calmed by the repetitive motion of paper folding.

Three days a week he goes to ARTworking, a studio in Madison sponsored by Work Opportunity in Rural Communities, a nonprofit organization that provides job support to adults with developmental disabilities. He has space there to work on origami sculptures and create computer-generated fractal graphics based on mathematical chaos theory. He sells his artwork at autism conferences and other events through his small business, Matt Ward Enterprises, and recently donated a set of origami sculptures of rainbow orca whales to the Waisman Center for display.



“I feel like, if something happened to me and my husband, that he would be okay, which of course is what every parent wants,” Alar says.

FAMILY IN FOCUS

In the years before the Waisman Center began studying the role of the family in the life of children with autism, researchers interested in the disorder steered clear of the topic — because, at first, the experts got it dead wrong when it came to the parents’ role.

The first cases of autism were diagnosed in the 1940s. During the two decades that followed, doctors believed that some of the repetitive behaviors of children with autism were due to their mothers being emotionally distant. The concept of “refrigerator mothers” has long since been discarded and discredited, but it affected the direction of the research that followed, Mailick says.

“There was a reluctance to return to the question of what is the impact on the family, just because of this terrible history where the physicians just got cause and effect completely reversed,” she says.

Warmth, unconditional love, and support surrounded the teenagers in the homes of the families I visited who had

participated in Transitioning Together. Their parents have worked determinedly for years to make sure they receive the services that they are legally entitled to and that give them the chance to grow up to become the best possible versions of themselves. Yes, there have been struggles and challenges, but the parents spent more time telling me about their children’s strengths than their weaknesses.

I observed that this comes naturally to them. And it’s an approach supported by the Waisman study, which shows that a strong relationship between a parent and child yields powerful and positive benefits for children with autism — and it’s an unbreakable bond throughout the child’s adult life.

The parents I met with were also kind enough to share advice with someone just starting out on the path they have been traveling. “Do not stop advocating, because you will hit brick walls,” Roll told me more than once when we spoke.

As we wrapped up our interview, I couldn’t resist asking his son one last question: “So, James, you know you have awesome parents, right?”

He answered firmly, and with a smile: “Yes.” ■

Jenny Price is senior writer for On Wisconsin.



JEFF MILLER

the Frankenspianist

Christopher Taylor lives a **double life**. His public identity is that of a concert pianist and keyboard guru. But in private, he uses his creative energies for **invention**.

By John Allen

Christopher Taylor works on a model for his invention, the double-manual keyboard instrument. The rows of hammers create a geometric problem, but they don't actually make music. Their sole purpose is to give the instrument the feel of a traditional piano.

Christopher Taylor's office doesn't look like the lair of a mad genius.

It lacks the medieval gloom of Victor Frankenstein's castle or the pharmaceutical range of Henry Jekyll's London atelier or the isolation of Dr. Moreau's island. But a lair it is, nevertheless.

Taylor's cramped space on the fourth floor of the Mosse Humanities Building is a laboratory for the relentless pursuit

of the unique. Within it, he creates and curates a collection of things that can be found nowhere else in the world.

This is not his day job. Taylor is a professor in the School of Music, and one of the reasons his office is cramped is that he keeps two grand pianos in it — the second a little more grand than the first, but we'll get to that later.

His status as a genius is not in doubt. As a pianist, he thrills crowds on the classical music circuit with a playing style so intense that the *New York Times* compared it to demonic possession. On the UW's music faculty, he jokes that he's become something of the "guru on the mountain," though it's not far from the truth.

"He has different insights than you would get from anyone else," says Jonathan Thornton DMAx'14, one of Taylor's graduate students. "He helps me get to the root of the music — figuring out how to make the piano make the sounds I want, and interpreting the score to put moods together."

But Taylor leads a double life: on the one side a devotion to music, and on the other a fascination with math, computer science, and technology.

"It's always been important to me to maintain a diversity of mental activities," he says. "I don't want to just be chained to the piano all day long."

The two lives unite in his current obsession — the creation of a new musical instrument. On its patent application, it goes by the prosaic name of *double-manual keyboard instrument*; some of Taylor's students use the more poetic title *Frankenspiano*. To Taylor himself, it's just *my invention*.

"It's a monster of a project," he says. "I've been at it off and on for three or four years now, but the last couple of years, things have moved into a higher gear."

"It's always been important to me to maintain a diversity of mental activities. I don't want to just be chained to the piano all day long."

If he can get it to work, the invention could offer new possibilities for piano players. It could spark a musical revolution in the way that the invention of the piano did three hundred years ago.

Jekyll and Hyde

Taylor grew up in Boulder, Colorado, in what was a musical home, though not a home full of musicians. His father was on the physics faculty at Colorado University, and his mother taught high school English. But the family owned a piano, and Taylor began taking lessons as a grade-schooler.

"It was initially just with a neighbor down the street," he says, "but it soon became pretty clear that I needed to get a really serious teacher."

Before age ten, he was playing Beethoven. By high school, he was writing his own music. "I used to do a little composing," he says. "But somehow life got busy."

And it was the business of life that made him reluctant to pursue music as a career.

"I was a pretty determined fence-sitter," he says. "I knew that music was my number-one allegiance, but I also knew it was a highly impractical field to get involved with. And I didn't want to restrict myself — I wanted to keep my

“It’s an acquired taste, I suppose, but mathematics was always a good field for me. It’s extremely abstract, and I like things that are a little removed from the real world.”

options open, both for pragmatic reasons and for more intellectual reasons.”

Taylor’s other great skill was mathematics, and when he went to college, he majored in math at Harvard, but also studied piano under Russell Sherman at the New England Conservatory of Music. There he began to catch the attention of the classical music community. In 1990, between his sophomore and junior years, he won the University of Maryland’s William Kapell International Piano Competition. Later that year, he made his debut in a recital at Alice Tully Hall in New York’s Lincoln Center. And in 1993, he took the bronze medal at the quadrennial Van Cliburn International Competition.

“The very concept of a number-one winner works better in a footrace than in music,” he says. “But in retrospect, I think [third place] was a very nice result for me. The gold medal can be kind of a curse, in that you get thrown into the deep end. All of a sudden you’ve got eighty concerts a year, which is a recipe for burning out.”

Among the pieces Taylor played at the Cliburn was the *Goldberg Variations*, which composer Johann Sebastian Bach had written for a double-keyboard harpsichord. Taylor mastered it on a single-keyboard piano, and it’s since become something of a signature piece for him.

“No sane pianist could possibly resist the allure of that piece,” he says. “It’s the Mount Everest of the literature. It’s intense and difficult. Like so much of Bach, it combines the best of everything.”

After the Cliburn, Taylor spent several years as a concert pianist, playing “not eighty gigs a year, but probably thirty,” he says. He married and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where his wife was working on her doctorate in music. But he spent weeks on the road, doing shows across the United States and in Europe. He developed a reputation for physically intense performances that would leave him, his piano, and even the floor covered in sweat. On occasion, a mop was needed between numbers.

“It’s a highly physical activity,” Taylor says of playing a concert. “And I’m an active person. It wasn’t an explicit part of my instruction; it’s part of my personality.”

The itinerant life of a concert musician is grueling, but he enjoyed it. Still, he felt that he had more to offer. Eventually he decided that he wanted to teach. When the University of Wisconsin invited him to apply for a spot on the faculty, Taylor made the move to Madison.

“I like an existence that gives me a little more time to breathe and to contemplate,” he says.

Frankenapps

Taylor also likes a life that gives him the opportunity to explore his other side, his mathematical side.

“It’s an acquired taste, I suppose,” he says, “but mathematics was always a good field for me. It’s extremely abstract, and I like things that are a little removed from the real world.”

Taylor’s interest in math extends beyond pure abstraction, however, and he’s experienced an increasing curiosity about computer programming. Discovering that he didn’t care for the calendar program on his Android phone, he designed his own. Wanting a metronome — the inverted pendulum that musicians use to keep time while they practice — that would adjust to changes in tempo, he wrote another app for his phone, a metronome into which he can enter all the variations that a piece of

music goes through, transitioning at all the right points.

“It keeps me mathematically honest about [the music] on the page,” he says.

Indulging a childhood fascination with geography, he raided the U.S. Geological Survey website and downloaded all 65,000 of its topographic maps for the country.

“I put them all on a half a terabyte drive,” he says. “They’re TIF files, so you can view them with Microsoft Picture, or whatever. But I wanted something specifically geared toward maps — something speedy and efficient. I wanted to be able to move from one map to its neighbors, and I wanted to use some 3-D graphics programming to create three-dimensional versions. It sort of grew into a topographical database — one giant, virtual topo. And I added the ability to fly over from some particular angle and elevation. I guess it’s my answer to Google Maps.”

The programs exist only on his phone and his computer, their uniqueness marking both his idiosyncrasy and the mercurial nature of his interests.

“I don’t have that much entrepreneurial spirit,” he says, “so I haven’t made a fortune posting them online. They’re pretty much for my own entertainment.”

But when it comes to the invention — the Frankenpiano, the double-manual keyboard instrument — Taylor has an eye toward the wider world. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation has helped him patent it, and with aid from the Morgridge Institute for Research, he’s building a physical model. Completing it will represent not only a new development in music; it will also continue the story of a unique artifact in the UW’s possession and one of the curiosities of twentieth-century music.

Frankenpiano 1

Here’s where that second piano comes in, the one that clutters the back of Taylor’s office. Its posterior stretches longer than



Taylor manages two keyboards at once during a California concert. Known for his energetic playing style, Taylor may leave his instruments covered in perspiration. “It’s a highly physical activity,” he says. “And I’m an active person.”

a standard grand’s, but that’s not what makes it unique. The uniqueness is on the front side. It’s the only Steinway grand in the world with two keyboards, one above the other.

Built in Hamburg, Germany, in 1929, the instrument was designed for Hungarian composer Emánuel Moór. (If anyone suggested *Frankenpiano* to him, he ignored the suggestion. He called it an *Emánuel Moór Pianoforte*.) Moór was an inveterate tinker and a fan of complicated music, so he conceived of a piano that would let players reach greater spans than the human hand is capable of. His instrument has two keyboards and 164 keys. The lower board has the standard piano’s 88, and the upper board has 76, offset one octave. Thus players can create a chord

that is eight notes broader than they could on a normal piano. To keep the size of the piano from growing ridiculously large, the keys on each board connect to the same hammer and strike the same string. Depress middle C on the lower board, and on the upper board, a key eight to the left sinks with it.

Moór had his detractors — many pianists found the instrument impossible to play. But he also had his fans, including members of Germany’s wealthy von Siemens family, who commissioned the double-keyboard Steinway for his concert hall in Berlin, where it resided until 1945.

The double-keyboard piano suffered damage during World War II, and afterward it was shipped to the Steinway factory in New York for repairs. (The

company’s Hamburg factory had been bombed, too, evidently destroying the instrument’s original designs.) Once in the United States, the instrument was discovered by Danish pianist Gunnar Johansen, whom the UW had made an artist-in-residence in 1939: the first such post for a musician at any American university. Johansen had been a fan of Moór, and he coveted the piano. He convinced university donors to buy it for him, which they did — on the condition that ownership would revert to the UW when Johansen died. He passed away in 1991, but by that time, no one was interested in the Moór piano, and it went into storage for fourteen years until Taylor rediscovered it.

Continued on page 63

The Varsity Band Concert

Look! Up in the air: it's a bird. It's a plane. It's a drone?

No: not bird nor plane nor even drone.

It's just your UW band director, Mike Leckrone.

For four decades, Leckrone and his student-musicians have been wowing fans with over-the-top showmanship at the Varsity Band Concert.

It didn't start that way. Back in March 1975, Leckrone conceived of the event chiefly as a reward for the band itself. "I thought it would bring a sense of closure to the year," he says. "After nine months of playing — the marching band, the pep band — I wanted to give the kids one last chance to play together. People told me nobody would come."

The first year, the Varsity Band — encompassing the Marching Band, which plays for football games, and the Pep Band, which plays for basketball and hockey — played Mills Hall in the Humanities Building. About four hundred people showed up. The second year saw overflow crowds, and in the third, the concert moved to the Field House. Since 1998, the event has been held at the Kohl Center.

Each year, the crowds have grown, and each year, Leckrone has added more splashy moves: flying on wires, fire-works, video. He also appears in a new, sequin-encrusted suit each year — all of which end up in his closet at home. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do with them all," he says. "Maybe donate them to the [School of Music] archives." (For more about Leckrone's suits, see Q&A, page 18.)

Creating the concert is a ten-month process, and it involves a group of about ten people meeting regularly to plan the entire show. Leckrone himself scouts concerts in New York and Las Vegas to look for new tricks to incorporate. And though the details of the show are kept under wraps until the curtain opens in April, he's willing to give at least this much by way of a hint: this year's concert will be the Varsity Band's fortieth, and the anniversary won't go unnoticed. Attendees should be prepared for a high-volume night.

John Allen

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.

For four decades, Mike Leckrone and the UW Varsity Band have scoured the country from Broadway to Las Vegas, seeking new elements to keep their annual concert innovative, flashy — and never, ever understated.

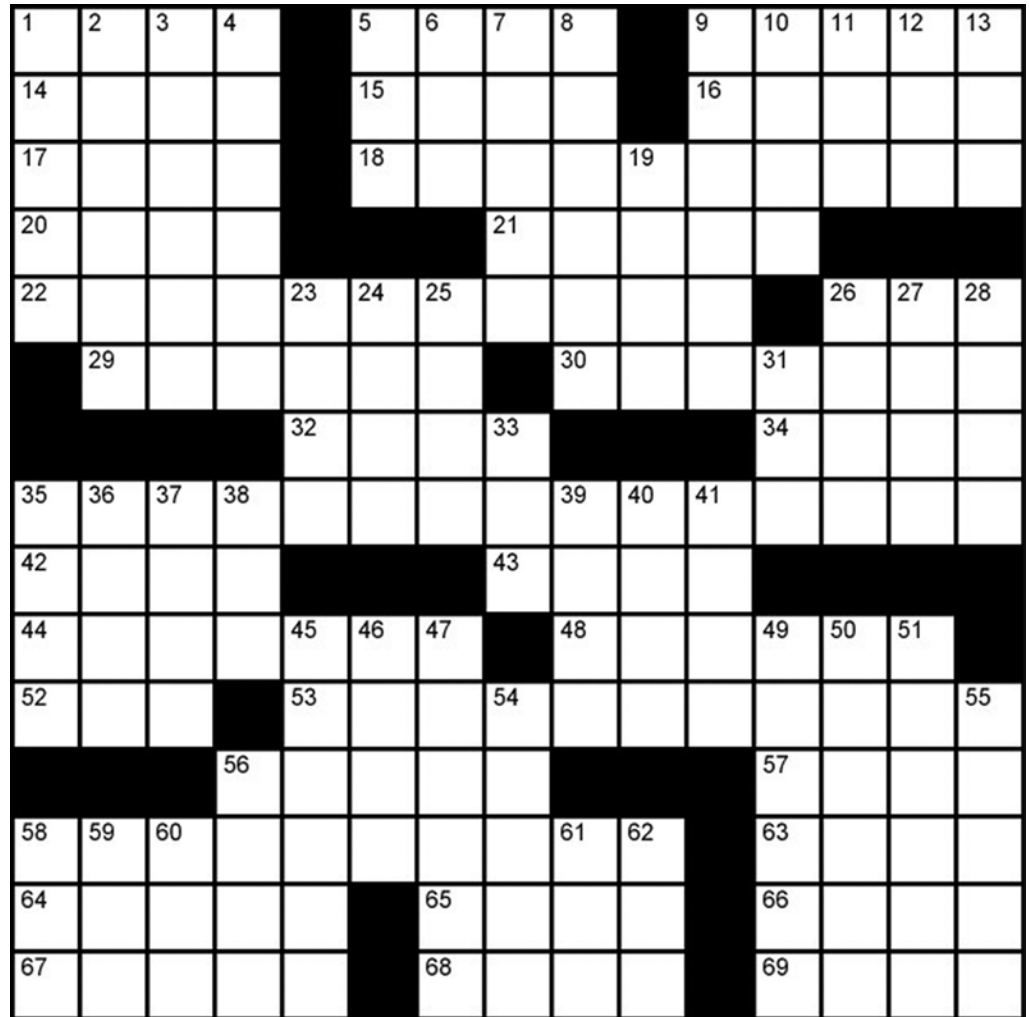


JEFF MILLER

It's a Tradition!

Across

1. British fellow
5. Overflow (with)
9. Offer dollar for dollar, in fundraising
14. Happy ___
15. Armory holdings
16. KitchenAid competitor
17. ___-bitty
18. Song that rocks the bleachers at Camp Randall football games
20. Biblical land west of Nod
21. "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" poet
22. Commemoration of the first UW class in 1849
26. Hush-hush govt. org.
29. Actor Lorne of *Bonanza*
30. Biting commentary
32. Brat ___ (UW family cookout)
34. Often-dunked cookie
35. UW Marching Band post-game tradition
42. In days of ___
43. Mongolian tent
44. Astronomical bodies
48. Long potatoes
52. Cereal grain
53. They traditionally throw canes over the goalposts at Homecoming
56. News summary
57. Appropriate name for a herding collie
58. Traditional return of UW alumni
63. Painting on metal
64. Road map feature
65. Kind of school
66. Paella pot
67. Errands
68. Write clues like this, he would
69. Grand Forks state (abbr.)



Down

1. Sue Riseling's title on the UW campus
2. Brat alternative
3. Hands-on filmmaker
4. Hester of *The Scarlet Letter*
5. ___ Mahal
6. Tall bird
7. UW alum Daniel J. Travanti won two for *Hill Street Blues*
8. Vehicles for getting around campus
9. Joan of Arc, notably
10. "Famous" cookie name
11. Theta ___ (engineering fraternity)
12. Wolf Blitzer's employer
13. "Mary ___ a little lamb ..."
19. Very narrow shoe width
23. Olympic skater Thomas
24. *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Not ___*
25. Post-Crazylegs recommendation
26. Word after food or golf
27. Words of enlightenment
28. Pablo's passion
31. One of two Bible bks.
33. Your, in the Bible
35. Printing error
36. Adios's counterpart
37. Part of QED
38. Marshy area
39. Give up, as in a game
40. Official language of Pakistan
41. Slightly
45. Votes into office
46. Meal in a shell
47. Like a wetlands
49. Planet of the Apes star
50. Waiting with phone in hand
51. Stanley Kowalski's cry
54. Former Vice President Agnew
55. Give a commencement address
56. Smell like a blooming corpse flower
58. Strike
59. ___ diet (counting calories)
60. Hopeful authors' offerings (abbr.)
61. Homer's neighbor on *The Simpsons*
62. 4.0 is a perfect one (abbr.)

A senior librarian at UW-Madison, Raymond Hamel MA'85 is also a puzzle and trivia master. He's had more than 2,300 crosswords published. To find the answers, visit onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

Badger connections

JEFF MILLER



50 Alumni Association News

52 Class Notes

59 Bookshelf

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Dog Days

Students prepare for finals with handfuls of fur. Dogs On Call is a stress-relieving program that brings canines to campus so that students can take a study break and get a little pet therapy. The Newfoundland lapping up attention here is Sacagawea, who visited Helen C. White Hall in May 2013.

Young Alumni Demonstrate Global Reach

The 2014 Forward under 40 Award-winners are bettering lives around the world.

Seven Badgers have received 2014 Forward under Forty Awards from the Wisconsin Alumni Association. The awards program, now in its seventh year, recognizes UW alumni under the age of forty who are already making a significant impact on the world by upholding the Wisconsin Idea, which emphasizes applying the expertise of the university to the world around it.

- **Peter Drobac '96** is executive director of Partners In Health-Rwanda, part of a renowned nonprofit focused on providing health care and social services in economically disadvantaged countries. He also chairs the Rwanda Biomedical Center board of directors and teaches global health and social medicine at Harvard Medical School. Drobac, who majored in psychology, divides his time between Rwanda and Boston.
- **Ayse Gurses PhD'05** recently became the first industrial engineer with a specialization in human factors engineering to be promoted to associate professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. There she has developed an innovative research program focused on health care quality, nursing, patient safety, and health information technology. Gurses earned her doctorate in industrial and systems engineering.
- **Jarius King '09**, a Chicago resident, is a performance artist who established the annual International Festival of Urban Movement: Breakin' the Law. The event draws artists from around the world to Madison to study and showcase hip-hop and other urban movement styles, while creating a dialogue about inclusiveness and art as mechanisms for community engagement. King majored in Chinese.



DANIEL CHEN/CHENENERGY.COM

Forward under 40 Award-winner Jarius King '09 demonstrates a dramatic dance move. King has led workshops in dance and art with youth groups at home and abroad. He also helped start the International Festival of Urban Movement: Breakin' the Law, a weeklong annual festival in Madison that draws artists from around the globe.

- **Tom Koch PhD'05**, who is based in Westfield, Indiana, is the vice president of research at AgReliant Genetics, one of the leading independent seed companies in the United States. Koch manages genetics that are tested annually in thirty-five countries, and he has developed three corn lines that will soon be in use in the United States, Canada, and Ukraine. Koch earned his degree in plant breeding and plant genetics.
- **Anil Rathi '97** is the founder and CEO of Skild, which offers software to manage online competitions. He also created the Innovation Challenge, the world's largest online competition, which matches teams of MBA students from around the world with global companies to solve brand and business challenges. Rathi, a Los Angeles resident, earned his degree in marketing.
- **Jessica Sack '96** is the Jan and Frederick Mayer Associate Curator of Public Education at the Yale University Art Gallery where she develops programs to enhance K-12 curricula and provides cultural enrichment opportunities for children and adults. Sack, who majored in English, history, and history of culture, has made it her life's mission to provide access to the arts for all. She is currently based in New Haven, Connecticut.
- **Luxme Hariharan '04, MD'09** is a pediatric ophthalmology fellow at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida. After helping to establish a blindness prevention program for children in Mysore, India, she made it her goal to become a leader in the field of pediatric ophthalmology and international childhood blindness prevention. Hariharan majored in biology and Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies.

Learn more about the Forward under Forty Awards program and this year's recipients at uwalumni.com/forwardunderforty.

Sandra Knisely '09, MA'13

Founders' Days Celebrate the UW's Past, Present, and Future

Alumni commemorate 165 years of Badger excellence.

February 5, 1849: twenty young men gather in a small brick building near the capitol for the University of Wisconsin's inaugural class. For twenty dollars per year, they learned arithmetic, grammar, geography, and Latin. While only one-quarter of these students ever graduated, they laid the groundwork for the institution we know today.

Decades later, alumni chapters began to host Founders' Day celebrations to commemorate that first day of class. In 1919, UW students organized the first campus Founders' Day, and students, faculty, and alumni still gather today to hail the university's beginnings and look to the future. Though current events and conversational topics have evolved as dramatically as the fashions of the day, the celebration's mission remains the same: to provide UW graduates with the chance to connect with each other in honor of the UW's past, present, and future.

This spring, UW-Madison alumni in nearly seventy cities across the nation will come together to commemorate their alma mater's founding.

"Taking faculty speakers off campus and into communities to share their expertise with alumni is an important part of the Founders' Day tradition," says **Mike Fahey '89**, WAA's managing director of Alumni Advocacy and Leadership.

This year, for example, Badgers in Arizona will learn about dairy science from **Dean Sommer MS'81** of the UW Center for Dairy Research. Morgridge Institute for Research CEO **Brad Schwartz** will visit alumni in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to speak about the institute's role in research, technology, and economic development in the state. And Badger favorite Professor **Bassam Shkhashiri** will wow crowds with the wonders of chemistry in St. Louis.

Chancellor **Rebecca Blank**, Dean of Students **Lori Berquam**, and College of Letters & Science Dean **John Karl Scholz** will also hit the road to share what's new on campus and discuss their vision for the university's future.



UW-MADISON ARCHIVES, #S12672

A St. Paul, Minnesota, Founders' Day in 1955 featured then-head football coach Milt Bruhn (center) as guest speaker. Apparently, Wisconsin cheddar was already a favorite featured refreshment more than half a century ago.

Throughout the Founders' Day season, all alumni are encouraged to share their pride in the UW and reconnect with each other and UW-Madison, whether by volunteering locally, supporting current students, or making a gift to support the university's mission.

Visit uwalumni.com/foundersday and follow the Twitter hashtag #UW1849 to discover the many ways you can share your Badger pride with the world.

Wendy Krause Hathaway '04

BADGER TRACKS

After a year's hiatus, the Global Hot Spots program is back.

The popular lectures feature UW faculty experts who shed light on world events related to politics, global health, economics, human rights, the environment, and more. See uwalumni.com/ghs for more information and to view past lectures online. Global Hot Spots is a partnership among WAA, the Division of International Studies, and PLATO (Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization).

WAA continues to coordinate Meet the Chancellor events to introduce Rebecca Blank to Badgers around the world. The chancellor will visit with alumni in London and Paris in April and then head to northern Wisconsin to get to know UW graduates in Ashland in May.

Each year, WAA recognizes alumni chapters that excel in providing a variety of programs and activities. The most active are designated as "Bascom Chapters." Out of 65 domestic chapters, WAA named 20 to this highest tier of alumni organizations in 2013. Each Bascom Chapter is awarded \$1,000 in scholarship funds to distribute to UW students in their respective communities.

Want to update your fellow alumni on your latest activities?

Whether your news is large or small, we'd like to hear about it. Drop us a line or send an email to classnotes@uwalumni.com. We'll consider your news for a future Class Notes column (see next page).

40s–50s

Seriously:

We'd Like to Hear Your News

Please send the (brief, please) details of your recent triumphs, transitions, and other major life happenings by email to classnotes@uwalumni.com; by mail to Class Notes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; or by fax to 608-265-8771. It would be great to publish all of the submissions that we receive, but in our case, space is not infinite. We do enjoy hearing from you, though, so keep sharing.

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 (WIS-ALUM).

The vast majority of obituary listings of Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) members and friends appear in our triannual member magazine, the Badger Insider. If you're not already a WAA member, we'd love to welcome you aboard at uwalumni.com/membership.

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 UW-Madison in its activities.

"I was ninety-one years old in May 2013," begins a letter from **Marial Pliss Poll MS'44** of Hazel Crest, Illinois, who taught high school until she retired in 1982. "My greatest happiness and fulfillment have been my wonderful family," she says — one that has traveled the roads and waters of the world together. The Polls also owned a 240-acre ranch in Colorado, which they operated as a boys' camp, dude ranch, and more. Their six children have produced fifteen grandchildren,

"What a wonderful life I have had, and a wealth of memories!" — Marial Pliss Poll MS'44

and Poll anticipated great-grandchild number ten this past June. Highlighting the importance of education to her extended family, she counts twenty-eight bachelor's degrees and twelve master's among the lot. "What a wonderful life I have had," Poll concludes, "and a wealth of memories!"

Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, bestowed an honorary doctor of humane letters degree on **Donald Leidel '49, LLB'51** at its May 2013 commencement. He spent forty-one years with the CIA, U.S. Air Force, and Department of State, serving in Austria, Germany, Argentina, Mexico, and Bahrain, where he was U.S. ambassador during the 1980s. After retiring, Leidel was a consultant in Slovakia and Oman. He now lives in Sarasota, Florida, where he's vice president of the Wisconsin Alumni Association: Sarasota-Manatee Chapter.

In September, Long Island University (LIU) gave its Pharmacy Lifetime Achievement Award to **Leon Lachman PhD'56** of Manhasset, New York. He's played a critical role in the advances of the pharmaceutical industry; he's chancellor of LIU's pharmacy college and an LIU trustee; and he chairs the

board of Lachman Consultants. The gala at which he received the honor raised funds to augment his gift of \$1 million to establish the Lachman Institute for Pharmaceutical Analysis at LIU. None other than 1962 Nobel Prize winner James Watson — a co-discoverer of the structure of DNA — was the event's keynote speaker.

Shirley Metz Powers '58

is a raging granny — or, more precisely, she *sings* with the Raging Grannies in Palo Alto, California, and was profiled in *Grandmother Power: A Global*

Phenomenon (powerHouse Books) for her social-justice work with the singing group. What's more, her writings have appeared in many literary journals, and some of her poems recently appeared in *Women's Review of Books* (Wellesley College). Powers is a retired music teacher who says she "enjoys *On Wisconsin* immensely." Aw, shucks.

60s

Larry Krug MS'61 and Wayne Schroeder '61

have been inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Krug, of Derwood, Maryland, spent twenty-eight years with the National 4-H Council, working in many communications capacities and finishing as its director of strategic partnerships. Schroeder, of Plover, Wisconsin, helped to establish the UW-Extension Academic Department of Youth Development and spent thirty-two years there as an educator, retiring as an associate professor emeritus. He also served as president of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Schroeder's proud son-in-law **Randy Lawrie '93** of St. Paul, Minnesota, shared this good news.

With little experience and no business background, **Judith Laitman '62** took a big risk to found Knowledge Unlimited — a producer of multicultural educational materials — in 1983 in Middleton, Wisconsin. It paid off. Now, thirty years later, as its owner and president, Laitman can be very proud that the company's flagship product — the award-winning, current-events discussion series *NewsCurrents* — reaches a half-million users nationwide each week in schools, nursing homes, and correctional institutions.

Today, drug overdoses kill more Americans than car crashes: a tragic statistic that is all too familiar to **Judy Bridgman Rummler '63** and **Bill Rummler '62**. They lost their son, Steve, in 2011 to an accidental overdose of the prescription medications that he took for chronic pain and to which he had become addicted. The Rummlers are now advocates in a national, grassroots movement against prescription-painkiller addictions after founding the Steve Rummler Hope Foundation in Minneapolis. In October, Judy chaired the first national Fed Up! Rally, held on Capitol Hill, to demand a federal response to the opioid epidemic. Tighter FDA controls came later in the month. The Rummlers spend time in Edina, Minnesota, and Bonita Springs, Florida.

The Science Fiction Poetry Association created the Elgin Award to honor poetry collections in the sci-fi, fantasy, horror, and related genres. **Mary Turzillo MA'64** took first prize last year in the full-length book category for her collection *Lovers & Killers* (Dark Regions Press) — just the latest among her many awards. She's a Kent State University professor emerita of English who lives in Berea, Ohio.

When the American Association for Clinical Chemistry awarded **Charles Hawker MS'65** its Outstanding Contributions to Management

David Bither MA'78: Record-Holding Record Label

In 1994, **David Bither MA'78** had a high-level position at Elektra Records, a major label at Warner Music Group that was home to massively popular acts such as Metallica and En Vogue. But Warner was in the midst of a radical management shakeup, with most of its top executives leaving.

Bither had the opportunity to stay at Elektra, and even to advance. Instead, he chose to make a seemingly downward move to Nonesuch Records, a much smaller Warner label that was best known for classical and world music.

"I could have stayed at Elektra," Bither says. "But I went with my heart instead, which you should always do. What mattered to me was the kind of music Nonesuch was doing. If I wanted to be in the business another thirty or forty years, following my heart was the only way to do it."

That proved to be the right call. Nonesuch has been a quirky success story during the past two decades, earning numerous Grammy Awards (six this year alone) and producing some of the least likely platinum albums in recent memory. At 10 million sold worldwide, 1997's Cuban music collection *Buena Vista Social Club* is the top-selling world-music album of all time. And the blues-rock duo the Black Keys has earned two platinum albums and seven Grammys since 2010. The Black Keys chose the Nonesuch label because guitarist Dan Auerbach was a fan of another of its acts, African guitarist Ali Farka Touré.

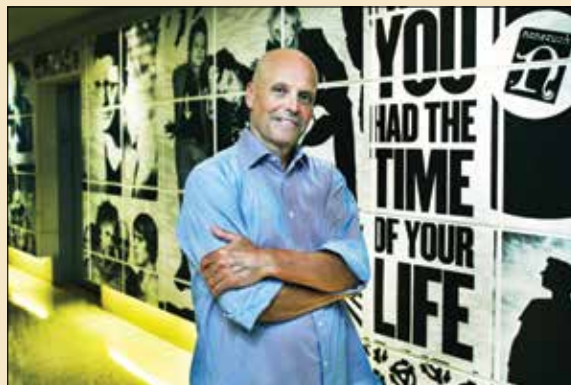
Similarly, the presence of minimalist classical composer Steve Reich on the roster helped to close the deal when numerous labels were courting the alternative-country band Wilco in 2001. "It turned out that [Wilco front man] Jeff Tweedy was a huge fan of Steve Reich," says Bither. "Nonesuch's philosophy is to try to work with the greatest artists we can find. ... Whether or not they'll be commercially successful, you never know — and our projects that have sold weren't anything anyone would have predicted. But working with great acts opens doors, which can work out later in ways you didn't expect."

Bither's path into the record business began in Madison, where he studied arts administration. That led to internships and early jobs in New York at the Lincoln Center, public TV station WNET, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Eventually, a corporate-communications job with Warner Communications got Bither into the same building as Warner's record labels, which led to his entrée into the record business.

Nonesuch has not been immune to the challenges that face the recording industry. Online competition has cut overall album sales dramatically in recent years. But the label's small size (still only twelve employees) and curatorial approach gives it better odds of survival than most.

"The record business is in trouble," Bither says. "But we've stayed committed to the idea of working with great acts, and counting on an audience and a workable model emerging. Something has always kind of risen up commercially for us, though not because we were aiming that way. We figure if it makes sense to us, there's got to be more of us out there."

David Menconi



David Bither recommends following your heart — advice that's worked well in his career at Nonesuch Records.

MICHAEL PARAS

from ASTM's Committee on Roofing and Waterproofing for his outstanding contributions to international standards in that field. He's been a principal at Structure Research in Middleton, Wisconsin, since 1978. **Christopher White PhD'94** has received the Topcorcer Hall of Fame Award for his distinguished service to ASTM's Committee on Building Seals and Sealants and his contributions to developing building-industry standards. White is acting group leader of the Polymeric Materials Group within the Engineering Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The Stevie Awards have been hailed as the world's premier business awards, so it's no surprise that a UW grad has been named a finalist in the Women Helping Women/Government or Nonprofit category of the latest Stevie Awards for Women in Business competition. She's **Susan Davis '68**, chair of Susan Davis International, a PR agency headquartered in Washington, D.C. She also chairs Vital Voices Global Partnership, established by Hillary Clinton when she was First Lady; it invests in and brings visibility to emerging women leaders around the world.

70s

Mike Williams '72, a retired colonel with thirty years of service in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, is the new chair of the Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve — an official Department of Defense volunteer position. In addition, he's the Wisconsin National Guard's state insurance administrator and a member of the National Guard Payroll Deduction Coordinating Board. For thirty-six years, Williams was the director of leisure services for the city of Janesville, Wisconsin, and now lives in nearby Fort Atkinson.

Sciences and Patient Safety Award, his colleagues were hardly surprised. That's because Hawker — the scientific director of automation and special projects for ARUP Laboratories in Salt Lake City — is the highly lauded past president of the Association of Clinical Scientists, the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, and the Clinical Ligand Assay Society. He's also an adjunct

professor of pathology at the University of Utah.

The Madison Symphony Orchestra is a labor of love, talent, and hard work, and the same can be said of its board of directors. Recently elected to 2013–16 board terms are former UW-Madison Chancellor **John Wiley MS'65, PhD'68** as president; **Lynn Stathas '85, JD'88** as vice president; and as direc-

tors, **Fred Mohs, Jr. '59, LLB'64**; **Mary Alice Cullen Wimmer MA'61, MFA'64**; and **Darrell Behnke '84, JD'88**. The orchestra is currently marking its eighty-eighth concert season.

Two Badgers have earned awards from ASTM International, one of the world's largest standards-development organizations. **Rene Dupuis '67, '68, MS'68, PhD'73** holds the Cullen Award

We're so pleased that the Wisconsin Library Association's (WLA) 2013 Wisconsin Librarian of the Year is Hartford library director **Michael Gelhausen '75, MA'76**, whose forty-five-year career has made him a prominent figure in the library community and has included roles as WLA's president, state conference coordinator, and a board member. A proud **Jeffrey Gelhausen '07** of McFarland, Wisconsin, let us know.

The coordinator of the U.S. Pig Genome Coordination Program has recently concluded twenty years of service to the project. **Max Rothschild MS'75**, the Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture at Iowa State University in Ames, was instrumental in facilitating the international effort that sequenced the swine genome. Rothschild also co-chairs Iowa State's Global Food Security Consortium, which brings an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to world hunger and poverty.

Telling the stories of immigrants who've come to America to make a new life: this is the goal of *Feel Like You Belong* (feellikeyoubelong.com), a new television show created by **Alan Headbloom MA'76** of Allendale, Michigan. Beyond the new program, his offerings include a blog, interactive web pages, an interactive glossary for English-language learners, apps, and the potential for 3-D meetups.

Brother **Gerard Molyneaux PhD'76** is a professor of communication at Philadelphia's La Salle University who's long focused his writing endeavors on film. Lately, however, he's been researching the Peace Corps and discovered that while its reputation flourished early on, its initial volunteer ranks did not. So, in 1963, the corps devised the Wisconsin Plan, a bold recruitment initiative that was named for the place where it was launched. (The UW has always been among the top producers of volunteers as well.)

Melinda Myers MS'86: Turning Black Thumbs Green

For **Melinda Myers MS'86**, there's something special about helping people grow their first tomato. Or pepper. Or, really, any kind of plant.

Myers (melindamyers.com) is a horticulture expert who has written more than twenty books and hosted nationally syndicated radio and television shows. Though she writes for all levels, Myers is especially interested in helping first-timers get their gardens up and growing. Her latest *Getting Started Garden Guide* series provides advice and recommendations tailored by state.

However, Myers didn't set out to become a prolific writer. The Ohio native moved to Wisconsin more than thirty years ago to work with garden programs at the UW-Extension office in Milwaukee County. She earned a master's degree in horticulture along the way and still maintains close ties to her former UW colleagues and instructors.

Myers next became a city forester in Milwaukee and then an associate professor at the Milwaukee Area Technical College. Media outlets began tapping her expertise, and eventually she was approached to write a book. Her first led to several more and to an eponymous company that she's run for almost ten years. "My job is not only to share my knowledge, but to pass along what people have shared with me," she says.

One element that sets Myers apart from other gardening experts is her willingness to talk about failure. "I meet a lot of people who say they have a 'black thumb,'" she says. "But people with green thumbs have killed plenty of plants along the way — they just don't mention it. You're dealing with nature, and you're not going to have 100 percent success."

Myers is excited by the national interest in sustainability. She's seeing people in their twenties and thirties learning to garden for food and entertainment, and doing so in urban contexts. Her advice to new gardeners is to start small and match plants to growing conditions, including soil type, sun exposure, and seasonal temperatures.

She also warns that it's important to keep in mind how plants will grow over time. "Those tiny shrubs in the pot can eventually get five or six feet wide," she says. "One of the things I try to do is inter-planting with perennials so you can thin them out as the shrubs get bigger."

Myers became the first woman to be inducted into the Green Industry Federation Hall of Fame in 2012, and she's committed to helping other women expand their skills beyond their own back yards. She founded the annual Women in Horticulture Conference to provide support and training for women who are interested in transitioning from hobby gardening to professional positions in horticulture, which remains a male-dominated field.

"When I turned fifty, I wanted to make a difference," she says of starting the conference. "Gardening is one way I can inspire people to make something positive a part of their lives."

Sandra Knisely '09, MA'13



MARK AVERY

Melinda Myers has become a guru for the growing number of people who are embracing gardening.

Molyneaux adds that there is now an endowed professorship at La Salle named after him.

In August, President Obama appointed **Beth Heifetz '78** to serve on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the governing body of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She's a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of the Jones Day law firm, as well as a

member of the Harry A. Blackmun Scholarship Foundation and the Washington Lawyers Committee for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

80s

Controlling chronic pain without relying on narcotics is the goal of **Thomas Stauss '80, MD'85**.

As a physician with Advanced Pain Management — one of the nation's largest pain-management groups — he shares his knowledge with other physicians worldwide on how to accomplish this using neurostimulation devices. Stauss is also an assistant clinical professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He lettered for the football Badgers from 1977 to

1979, and in his senior year, he was the second leading receiver in the Big Ten, as well as the Badgers' co-captain and MVP.

If you've been to the UW's Memorial Union lately, you surely noticed the renovations in progress: masterminded by the Boldt Company, incorporating the latest green-building standards, and highlighting five Badgers as lead engineers. **Jeff Niesen '81** serves as VP of human resources and VP of construction management. **Mark Rounds '83** is project principal and says, "The pride all Badgers have for this building is what impresses me most." Project manager **Melanie Stodola Taylor '04** adds, "Here I am, building this iconic building for the university that built me! It's an incredible feeling." And **Scot Lauwasser '11** and **Brad Wigh '12** round out the Badger quintet. The Boldt Company's management runs through four generations, including chairman **Oscar C. Boldt '48**, who earned a WAA Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999.

Farmers, ranchers, and rural-business owners have a friend in **Samuel Miller '84**. He's dedicated himself to providing credit and financial guidance to this group for thirty years, and now it's earned him the annual Bruning Award from the American Bankers Association's Center for Agricultural and Rural Banking. Miller is currently the managing director and head of agriculture for BMO Harris Bank, overseeing its U.S. agriculture portfolio from Appleton, Wisconsin. Among his many leadership posts, he's a board of visitors member for the UW's College of Agricultural & Life Sciences.

Food Patriots is a funny, friendly, and uplifting documentary film about one family's "journey into a food revolution." On the front line is **Jennifer Amdur Spitz '84** of Northbrook, Illinois, who challenged her husband — Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Jeff Spitz

— and their two football-playing sons to care about the origins of their food and to start growing some of it themselves. *Food Patriots'* outreach project helps to support an internship in the UW's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and **John Dettman**, UW Athletics' director of strength and conditioning, features prominently in the film.

If you're a theater patron, you may have held **Steve Marcus '86's** work in your hands. That's because the signature publication of Marcus Promotions, of which he's the CEO, is the theater program *Footlights* (as well as its performing-arts-resource website, *Footlights.com*). What began as ad sales to support the playbills of three theater companies has become representation of more than one hundred and fifty performing-arts producers and presenters in Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago. We send happy twenty-fifth anniversary wishes to Marcus and his New Berlin, Wisconsin, company.

"I recently retired from a wonderful career as an air-traffic controller at Chicago O'Hare," writes **Steve Sorensen '86** of Harvard, Illinois, who put his meteorology degree to use in that way. "Best to all my old [fellow] UW alumni," he continues, and adds, "My niece started at UW-Madison this fall. Does not seem possible."

At the law firm of Quarles & Brady, **Rebecca Speckhard '86, JD'90** is the new national practice director of its public finance group. She's based in Milwaukee, as are **David Groose '10, JD'13**, a new associate in her practice group; and **Brandon Krajewski '07**, a new associate in the commercial litigation practice group. Their office colleague **Mitchell Moser '87**, a partner, was honored in August for his service as the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's campaign chair. Under Moser's leadership, it raised more than \$12 million.

Due to geographic constraints and a national shortage of

speech-language pathologists (SLPs), school districts are sometimes unable to provide in-person speech and language services to their students. This is where **Tracy Duffek Sippl '87, MS'89** of Seymour, Wisconsin, comes in. An SLP and tele-therapist with Cumberland Therapy Services, she works remotely through a confidential, Internet-based video-conferencing platform. Sippl has also given a presentation about her work to students in the UW's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

When the American Chemical Society welcomed **Peter Dorhout PhD'89** as a new fellow at its fall national meeting, he was welcomed — in person — by the meeting's host and the society's immediate past president, UW professor of chemistry **Bassam Shkhashiri**. Dorhout is dean of Kansas State University's College of Arts and Sciences, as well as a professor of chemistry there.

90s

The career flights of some of our 1990s legal eagles look like this: **Anthony Marino '90** has joined Michael Best & Friedrich's transactional practice group as a partner in Milwaukee, and **Angela James '95, MS'00, JD'00** is new to the firm's Madison office as senior counsel in the environmental practice group and the energy and sustainability industry team. Quarles & Brady has elected the following to partnership: **Bridgette Keating DeToro '92** (practicing in public finance, Milwaukee); **Norah Jones '98** (tax-exempt organizations, Chicago); **Christopher Fahy '99, JD'05** (intellectual property litigation, Chicago); and **Allison Sell Buchanan JD'06** (public finance, Milwaukee). Calfee, Halter & Griswold has added **Harry Guttman PhD'94** to the intellectual property group in its Cincinnati office, while **David Ross '94** is a new partner

in the land use and natural resources practice in Sedgwick's Washington, D.C., law office.

Marty Arnold '91 began his career at SECURA Insurance in 2000 as its chief actuary, and now he's risen to the newly created post of senior vice president of underwriting. **Amy DeHart '95** also joined the Appleton, Wisconsin, company in 2000 and has been promoted to VP of actuarial services. She's a fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society.

The chair-elect of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section is **Michael Drumke JD'91**, a partner at the law firm of Swanson, Martin & Bell in Chicago. He's been named an Illinois Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters for the past eight years and has also been recognized frequently as a member of the Leading Lawyer Network.

Diane Prince Johnston '91 saw a void in the direct-sales/home-party arena for contemporary women's clothing, so she filled it with her own collection of easy-to-wear knitwear called Winnie & Kat. Johnston founded her company in Malibu, California, in 2012, and the line has now reached twenty-three states.

Twenty-two years of active duty encompassing eight international assignments and multiple deployments to Iraq and Bosnia: these are some of the highlights of **Kurt Kayser '91's** career with the U.S. Air Force thus far. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in July and currently serves as a commander at Joint Base Bolling-Anacostia in Washington, D.C. When Kayser brought his family to campus in August, they did it up right with visits to the Memorial Union Terrace, Babcock Hall, Camp Randall, Mifflin Street, the SERF, State Street, and Witte Hall.

The president's office of Outdoor News Publications is where **Rob Drieslein '92** now sits, having stepped up to the post after serving as the

managing editor of all of its titles since 2003. Headquartered in Plymouth, Minnesota, the firm publishes weekly and biweekly *Outdoor News* newspapers in seven states.

In July, veteran *Wall Street Journal* sports columnist **Jason Gay '92** was named to the cast of the hour-long TV program *Crowd Goes Wild* — an “unpredictable, unconventional, and irreverent” sports-discussion and analysis show that premiered in August on FOX Sports 1. Gay exchanges banter with Regis Philbin and four other hosts during the live, weekday broadcasts in New York. The show’s executive producer says that when they tested Gay on camera, they “were frankly blown away.” Gay also continues his work for the *Wall Street Journal*. Here’s a high-five for FOX Sports Communications publicist **Valerie Todryk Krebs '06** for letting us know.

Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois, is benefiting from the expertise of its new director of workforce development and corporate training. She’s **Colette Hands '92**, who works with local businesses to develop programs and services that enhance their employees’ knowledge and skills. She also teaches courses in counseling psychology at several institutions.

Among the honors given this fall at the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation conference was one for the most distinguished professor, which belongs to **O. (Oscar) Marcelo Suárez MS'93, PhD'00**. He teaches in the College of Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez and serves as director of its Nanotechnology Center. “I owe this award,” says Suárez, “to my training as a professional and as an educator at my alma mater.” He was a UW engineering TA for several years.

Like numerous UW-Madison graduates before him, **Paul Jablonski PhD'94** has had

this day in the spotlight of the *Washington Post*’s Federal Players series, which profiles little-known federal employees who are making big impacts. A metallurgist at the Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory in Albany, Oregon, Jablonski has created a metal scaffolding that has revolutionized coronary stent technology.

Tom Holub PhD'95 is a professor of education and the program director for special education at Madison’s Edgewood College. He recently completed a visiting-scholar appointment at the U.S.

“I believe it is our duty to give back and be positive role models for the young students in our community.” — Ryan Malone '99

Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where he studied atrocities committed against individuals with disabilities in Nazi Germany from 1939 to 1945. Holub is completing a manuscript and will offer regional educational sessions on the topic.

Among those earning the 2013 Shannon Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Science at Virginia Tech (VT) in Blacksburg was associate professor of geosciences **Madeline Schreiber MS'95, PhD'99**. Part of her strength in enhancing the VT undergrad experience has been her ability to “bring her research enthusiasm for groundwater hydrology into the classroom and to share real-world examples.” Schreiber has been on the faculty since 1999.

In April 2013, the United Nations adopted the landmark Arms Trade Treaty — an international agreement regulating global trade in conventional arms. **Rachel Stohl '95** was one of three Badgers who were integral to the process. She served as the consultant to the UN during the five-year negotiations to draft the treaty, while **Charles Gross '75, JD'78** and **Jeff Gelman '06**

were members of the U.S. negotiating team. Stohl is a senior associate at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C. — a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that seeks practical solutions to peace and security challenges around the globe.

We were delighted to hear from a Badger Down Under! **Tom Celebrezze MS'96** went to Australia on a scholarship after graduation, fell in love with an Aussie, and earned a PhD at the University of Wollongong. He writes that he’s still with his partner of eighteen years and was recently promoted to senior

manager of community engagement, regulatory compliance, and land-use planning services at the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage — a job that seeks to enrich and protect “threatened species, native vegetation, historic heritage, and Aboriginal cultural heritage for a state the size of Texas.” Celebrezze lives in the Sydney suburb of Randwick.

The headline “Yak Ranch Benefits University” caught our eye, and the story behind it is this: **Tom Koehler MS'96** held executive and board positions with Aurora Health in Green Bay, Wisconsin, but he also wanted a farm — an idea that blossomed into the Green Bay Yakkers yak ranch. Eventually he decided to move to Walla Walla, Washington, where he’s now a hospitalist physician ... but what to do with the ranch? Koehler gave it to the UW Foundation, with the hope that proceeds from its sale will benefit UW agriculture students.

Chicagoan **Catherine De Orio '97** debuted this fall as the host of *Check, Please!*, a popular restaurant-review program of Chicago public-television station WTTW. The attorney-turned-

culinary-school-grad-turned-experienced-culinary-consultant is highly driven and has a flair for dressing well, cooking well, making people feel at ease, and throwing elaborate, themed dinner parties — in short, she’s perfect for the job that drew more than nine hundred applicants.

Laurie Iudin-Nelson PhD'97, a Luther College professor of Russian Studies, was lauded during a July ceremony for her twenty-five years of service to the Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota. The event included dedicating a permanent Russian Village site, welcoming the second secretary of the Russian embassy, and establishing a scholarship in Iudin-Nelson’s name. She’s been at Luther in Decorah, Iowa, since 1992, when she founded its bala-laika ensemble — a group that performs nationally and raises money for charitable causes in Russia.

“This past summer,” writes **Luke Timmerman '97**, “I climbed Mount McKinley (Denali) in Alaska, the highest peak in North America. This was the culmination of ten years of mountain-climbing adventures with a couple of friends from the UW, **Bryant Mangless '98, '02** and **Matt Reiter '98**. We posed for our summit photos with a Wisconsin flag and ironed-on Bucky Badger patches on our backpacks. (Not kidding.)” Denali’s summit sits at 20,320 feet, and, says Timmerman, “Everything about it is extreme.” When he’s not climbing, he’s the national biotech editor of Xconomy in its Seattle office.

Veteran sports and entertainment attorneys **Adisa Bakari JD'98** and **Jeffery Whitney JD'97** have joined Kelley Drye & Warren as chair and vice chair respectively of its new sports entertainment practice group. Based in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office, the group represents NFL players, professional boxers, coaches, front-office executives,

and media personalities. Bakari and Whitney were previously with Dow Lohnes, where Bakari founded its sports and entertainment division fifteen years ago.

Rabbi **Daniel Cotzin Burg '98** of Baltimore serves Beth Am Synagogue, is the founder of the New Jewish Neighborhood Project, and writes a regular column for the *Baltimore Jewish Times*. He's also a new board member of the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies, a Towson, Maryland-based educational nonprofit that explores religious pluralism and advances interreligious understanding.

Ben Beere '99 was working at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange after graduation, but in 2002, he and his friend-since-childhood Reid Luedtke decided to found Wrench Auto Service in Middleton, Wisconsin. Its growth since then has included expansion into a new, custom-designed service center this summer, which the duo celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and pig roast, complete with live music and a visit by Bucky Badger.

David Jenkins '99 has been promoted to director of supply chain for Harrison Medical Center in Bremerton, Washington. That puts him in charge of warehouse operations, the mail center, clinical specialty supply, and purchasing for a three-hundred-bed regional medical center with two hospital campuses and thirty outpatient clinics.

FORE — the magazine of the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) — shone a spotlight on **Ryan Malone '99** as its SCGA Hero for August/September. He chairs the Los Angeles advisory board of SPARK, an educational nonprofit that provides apprenticeship experiences to seventh-graders. "I believe it is our duty to give back and be positive role models for the young students in our community," Malone says. He's also president of the Culver City, California-based Youngstown

Glove Company, which manufactures technical work gloves.

Attorney **Kevin Schulz JD'99** has already earned the *Wall Street Journal* Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Corporate Law and the American Bankruptcy Institute's Medal of Excellence, and now he's garnered an *M&A Advisor* 40 Under 40 Recognition Award. Schulz is a member of Foley & Lardner's sports-industry team who represents parties in mergers, acquisitions (M&A), and other alliances and has played critical roles in transactions involving the Dodgers, Rangers,

designs products and content for children, including the nabi, an Android tablet for kids.

Which Badger is one of the ninety-nine most influential foreign-policy leaders under the age of thirty-three? According to the *Diplomatic Courier* and the nonprofit Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, she's **Melinda Brouwer Wuellner '01**, and she's in the prestigious company of Millennials from thirty-seven nations and a wide array of fields. As the deputy director of global communications for the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., Wuellner

member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Zunker has her own law practice in Los Angeles.

In August, **Christine Culver '04** earned one of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee's 2013 Philanthropic 5 Awards — recognition of outstanding community leaders in their twenties, thirties, and forties. Culver is the director of strategic partnerships for the United Performing Arts Fund, as well as an advocate for substance-abuse prevention. She openly shares her personal story of alcohol addiction and recovery and volunteers with Meta House and the Dewey Center, both recovery facilities.

Hiking to Get Kids Outside is both the name and the goal of **Kate Niederehe '05**'s big project, for which she hiked 2,300 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail between May and September. By example, she hoped to encourage youth to connect with nature, and she collected donations for the Canyonlands Field Institute and the City Kids Wilderness Project, both nonprofits that help children to experience nature. Niederehe is an outdoor-education specialist who says, "My hope is for everyone to find a connection somewhere on earth and then work to take care of it."

Felicitations to **Jennifer Mikulay PhD'07**: she's been promoted from assistant professor to associate dean of the Communication and Technology Division within the School of Arts and Sciences at Alverno College in Milwaukee.

The International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) 2013 Early Career Scientist Award has gone to **Bryant Scharenbroch PhD'07**. An ISA-certified arborist, author, and urban soil scientist at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, he teaches students, mentors citizen scientists, and coordinates the Midwest Urban Tree Care Forum. "Soil is one of our most underappreciated resources," he says.

"My hope is for everyone to find a connection somewhere on earth and then work to take care of it." — Kate Niederehe '05

Cubs, Bengals, Brewers, and Wrigley Field. He lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

2000s

The Awareness Award — part of the 2013 Burbank International Film Festival — has gone to **Dave O'Brien '00** of L.A. for using "the art of filmmaking to not only educate, but transform the public's awareness concerning socially conscious issues." He's produced many award-winning social-media campaigns and documentary films that tell stories of inequities and injustice. O'Brien also teaches documentary production at Cal State-Long Beach and producing at the University of Southern California, where he's the associate director of its Change Making Media Lab.

Picture this: your company is sitting at the top — the tip top! — of the 2013 *Inc.* 5000 list. This is **Joe Moschella '01, JD'04**'s reality as the general counsel of Fuhu, which *Inc.* recently dubbed the number one fastest-growing company in the U.S., with 42,148 percent growth over three years. (You read that correctly.) The El Segundo, California, firm

says, "The better we can listen to and learn from governments and publics around the world, the more informed and appropriate our foreign policy will be."

Credit Union Times has recognized twelve young credit-union executives who have practically donned capes and tights to better the future of the industry. Among the winners of its 2013 Trailblazers, 40 Below award is **Holly Fearing '02**. As senior communication specialist at CUNA Mutual Group in Madison, she works zealously to create greater collaboration among cooperatives and a more cooperative economy on the whole. We thank **Michael Chronister '04** for sending this news.

Triple-majoring in French, international relations, and political science with a certificate in European studies made **Tricia Zunker '02** stand out. And that was before she earned a law degree at UCLA; studied in Paris; served as a professor, lawyer, and dean of faculty; and, after "an exhaustive summer of campaigning," was elected as an associate justice of the Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court and sworn in this past fall. An enrolled

When the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction chose the winners of its 2013 Carl J. Couch Internet Research Award, **Elisabeth Montemurro '08** received an honorable mention for her paper, which she describes as an “ethnographic account of the Twitter hashtag #BindersFullOfWomen, exemplifying how we create culture through the process of interaction and how our use of a Twitter hashtag reflects our changing political discourse.” Montemurro is a grad student in Loyola University’s School of Communication.

Through financial support and professional development of exceptional, early-career high school STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teachers, the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation’s Teaching Fellows program cultivates master teachers and leaders in education. **Christopher Anderson MS'09** is one of thirty-five new awardees of the highly selective, five-year fellowship. He teaches integrated science and environmental science at Washtenaw Technical Middle College in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

2010s

Kudos to **Ryan Barnes '10, MAcc'13!** He passed all four parts of the CPA exam prior to graduating and is now an accountant with Lumsden McCormick in Buffalo, New York. At the UW, he worked as an office assistant and accountant for the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

What if you took a really great — we’re talking fabulous — photo, and you wanted to turn it into something that you could admire all the time. Well, **Nate Larkin '10** has an idea. He’s the co-founder of InstaThis, a web-to-print company in Chicago that prints photos onto wood, aluminum, or coasters.

Says Larkin, it’s “clashing the digital world with handmade craftsmanship.”

Many recent grads — including **Lynsey Spaeth '10** — spend a year or more in community service before starting their careers. This year Spaeth is tutoring Native Alaskan students at Kuskokwim Learning Academy in Bethel, Alaska, through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest.

Mary Walton '12 has been named a National Science Foundation graduate research fellow for 2013–16. She’s a second-year grad student in organic chemistry at the University of California-Irvine.

Some second-graders at Denver’s Godsmen Elementary School are lucky ducks indeed because **Evan Wettengal '10** is their teacher. His well-above-and-beyond efforts have made him the winner of the Colorado Legacy Foundation’s 2013 Ignite Innovation Challenge, an online competition to find the state’s most inventive approaches to personalized learning. “It’s teachers building relationships with students,” says Wettengal. “That’s what’s going to change the world, and we’re doing it every day.”

Two newly minted pharmacy doctorates have headed out into the world: **Peter Hofsteen PhD'13** has a postdoc position at the University of Washington in Seattle, while **Renhe Liu PhD'13** has begun work as a postdoc researcher at Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. As well, Liu’s podium presentation at the annual Pharmaceutics Graduate Student Research Meeting in June took first place.

In a July *New York Times* article titled “Women as a Force for Change,” journalist Nicholas Kristof posited that the global women’s-empowerment movement remains extremely relevant. **Erin Luhmann MA'13** entered the story as Kristof’s companion on his annual “win-a-trip journey,” in which he takes a student on a

reporting trip. Together, they traveled with World Vision in rural Chad to investigate why malnutrition contributes to 45 percent of all child deaths worldwide — and concluded that the solution lies in part in increasing women’s influence in household decisions.

The brothers McManus want to sell you “your new favorite sandals.” **Matt McManus '13** and big brother **James McManus '10** launched the Bokos sandal company in Plymouth, Minnesota, in April 2013, and since then, their simple, colorful, versatile shoes have received lots of love from their customers and the press. And, if you hate sandals that have that thingy between your toes, these don’t have that thingy.

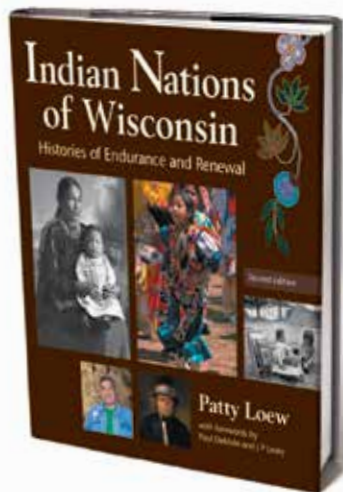
obituaries

A remarkable, fifty-three-year career at the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) ended when **Howard Bremer '44, LLB'49** died in October. Until just a few weeks before, the ninety-year-old patent counsel emeritus had worked in the WARF office daily, proving that his passion for innovation and improving lives fueled his work and life. Starting with the first patent for a vitamin D derivative — developed by biochemistry professor **Hector DeLuca MS'53, PhD'55** — Bremer traveled the world to connect UW-Madison inventors with commercial partners who could turn campus discoveries into beneficial products. “The success of that first invention put the world on notice about the important work coming out of UW-Madison labs,” says WARF managing director **Carl Gulbrandsen PhD'78, JD'81**. Bremer also collaborated with like minds to reform the nation’s ailing technology-transfer system, which culminated in the landmark Bayh-Dole Act of 1980. He contributed greatly

to founding the Association of University Technology Managers, which established a scholarship program in his name in 2002. One of Bremer’s Bayh-Dole collaborators asserts, “It’s not an exaggeration to say that Howard was a founding father of the profession of university technology management.”

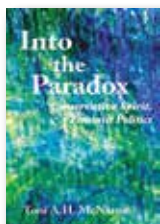
The culinary world has lost the most famous chef and restaurateur ever to emerge from the UW: **Charlie Trotter '82** died in November. Largely self taught, but with experience gleaned from many restaurant posts (including an early one at the Monastery in Madison), Trotter burst on the scene in 1987 with his eponymous Chicago restaurant and quickly became known for his intensity, inventiveness, fanaticism about cooking fresh from the market, never-repeat-a-dish dictum, excruciating attention to every dining detail, and multi-course tasting menus. His establishment championed a new vision of American cuisine, trained some of the nation’s (other) best chefs, and became one of the world’s finest restaurants. The James Beard Foundation named Trotter the country’s Outstanding Chef in 1999, and *Wine Spectator* called his restaurant the best in the nation in 2000. His many cookbooks, PBS television series *The Kitchen Sessions with Charlie Trotter*, and mounting accolades — including a 2002 Beard Award for Outstanding Service — furthered his reputation. He also created the Charlie Trotter Education Foundation to provide culinary scholarships and received the Beard Humanitarian of the Year award in 2012 — the year he closed his legendary restaurant on its twenty-fifth anniversary. Trotter planned to travel the world with his wife and pursue graduate study in philosophy and political theory.

Class Notes editor Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83 was created using smoke and mirrors.

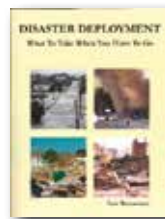


■ A new edition of **Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal** (Wisconsin Historical Society Press) celebrates the traditions, stories, songs, and words of the state's Native peoples and engages the voices of Native elders and tribal historians to provide personal experiences and authenticity. Author **Patty (Braga) Loew MA'92, PhD'98** chronicles the history of each tribe, from origin stories to current struggles. This second edition includes maps, photos, and new material covering the economic, social, and environmental advances of Native communities. Loew is a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, a professor in the UW's Department of Life Sciences Communication, and an affiliated faculty member with the UW's American Indian Studies Program. For twenty years, she hosted news and public-affairs programs on Wisconsin Public Television and has produced numerous award-winning TV documentaries.

■ As both a practicing Catholic and a feminist scholar, **Toni McNaron PhD'64** notes that she "embraces the seemingly unresolvable and accepts the inherent paradox arising from her preference for conservative spiritual practices while remaining committed to radical politics." This is what she ponders in her aptly named **Into the Paradox: Conservative Spirit, Feminist Politics** (Hurley Publishing). McNaron, of Minneapolis, is a distinguished teaching professor emerita at the University of Minnesota who taught literature and women's studies. She also founded and chaired its women's studies program, the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, and the GLBT studies program.



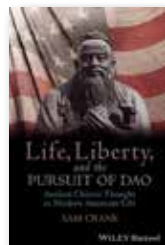
■ Catastrophes happen. Sometimes they happen to you, or you may volunteer for a disaster-response deployment. In either scenario, the discussions of gear and equipment, lists of important follow-ups, and blank forms included in **Lew Bornmann MS'69's Disaster Deployment: What To Take When You Have To Go** (CreateSpace) will enable more rapid recovery. "Deployment into a disaster area is not for everyone," says Bornmann, "but the personal rewards are immeasurable. ... May we always continue to place others before ourselves." The Redding, California, author is donating all proceeds of this book to the Red Cross.



■ How far would you go for your family, friends ... or a plate of good lake perch? **Margo Wilson '71** considers this question in **The Main Ingredient** (Ramsfield Press): the story of three women who open a restaurant in their Wisconsin hometown of Weewampum. When it burns down, they must find the arson culprit or risk going to prison for the crime themselves — opening old wounds and unearthing secrets in the process. Wilson is a former newspaper journalist who now teaches journalism and English, and chairs the English department, at California University of Pennsylvania in — yes — California, Pennsylvania.



■ Are the ancient philosophies of Confucianism and Daoism relevant to modern-day thinking about abortion, gay marriage, stem-cell research, assisted suicide, education, crime, and more? Author **Sam (George) Crane MA'81, PhD'86** thinks so. The touching, intimate, and profound insights in **Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Dao: Ancient Chinese Thought in Modern American Life** (Wiley-Blackwell) outline how the wisdom of China's great traditions of humaneness, duty, integrity, and non-action can provide fresh perspectives on familiar debates. Crane is the Greene Third Century Professor of Political Science at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.



■ Arriving in mid-1970s Manhattan from laid-back Mexico, the rite of passage for a gifted, twenty-something artist includes "a love affair with art, men, alcohol, drugs, and music in the swirl that was the downtown scene in a radically evolving era in New York, but also a resurrection from addiction and self-delusion." This story of a young woman's journey from self-destruction to self-knowledge to self-respect is told in **Linda Dahl '72's** latest novel, **Cleans Up Nicely** (She Writes Press). The author — whose books reflect her interest in the arts — lives in Brewster, New York.



■ Do you believe that public discourse and civility have been in decline? Then **Let's Talk Politics: Restoring Civility Through Exploratory Discussion** (CreateSpace) challenges you to be part of the solution and offers approaches for reversing the trend, one person or one group at a time. Co-author **Adolf Gundersen '81, PhD'91** has devoted his career to promoting public discussion as a teacher, policy analyst, and social scientist. Now his work with the Parkersburg, West Virginia-based Interactivity Foundation (IF) — as a fellow, trustee, and research director — has added another career dimension. Gundersen lives in Madison, as does fellow IF fellow **Peter Shively MA'92, JD'92**.



■ What would you say to a honeymoon of paddling seventeen hundred miles in a handmade canoe — from Lake Superior to the Canadian North — and then spending the winter on a remote island in a cabin with no electricity or running water? If you were **Julie Buckles '87**, you'd not only do it, but you'd also write your first book about it: **Paddling to Winter** (Raven Productions). Buckles works in communications; teaches journalism at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin; and contributes regularly to Wisconsin Public Radio and *Lake Superior Magazine*.



Calling all lovers of books! Please browse the rest of our new-book news online at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

An Independent Woman

By Donna Van Straten Remmert '60

It was 1959, and I was in the first semester of my senior year at the UW, where I had a part-time job working at WHA radio station.

She was over sixty, absolutely stunning — six feet tall, lanky, poised, and as beautiful as any model I'd ever seen in magazines. And she was the first professional woman I'd ever known who wasn't a teacher or nurse. I was curious about this stately woman named Miss Arlene McKellar, who was an associate professor of radio-television education at what is now the UW Extension, as well as associate director of *School of the Air* at WHA. How did she get chosen for her job? How did the men working for her feel about having a woman as their boss? Why hadn't she married? Did she regret not ever having a baby? Was she lonely?

My main job was to type the words to the songs that would go into the 1959 *School of the Air* songbook and then paste these words underneath the musical notes in the book. It was tedious work that I enjoyed because I'd sung songs from this very same songbook when I was in grade school. I'd always wondered about Professor Edgar Gordon, the music teacher on *School of the Air*. He'd say, "Oh, that sounded wonderful, just wonderful," whenever my class sang the songs he'd asked us to sing. I always thought he'd heard us sing just like we'd heard him sing over the radio. Some of the songs in the 1959 songbook, such as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," had been in the publication since the 1940s, when I was in grade school.

While fitting words underneath notes, Miss McKellar and I sometimes got to talk. I knew not to pry, but I was curious. She was a confident, self-assured woman who'd never married, and she had an important job. This was unusual.

One day it seemed to fit into our conversation, so I asked for her secret to success. "Oh, no secret, really," she said. "I guess I've achieved in the workplace for the same reasons I failed at finding a man to marry."

"What would that have been?"

"To begin with, I intimidated most men because I towered over them. And I refused to settle for someone who didn't meet my standards, nor would I comply to his ways when mine made more sense. That's exactly what men *don't* want in a wife."

"A really smart man wouldn't mind, would he?"

"I gave up trying to find him when I turned thirty. And now, well, I just can't imagine myself as anything but an independent woman. I think I'd have been unhappy as someone's wife."

I had never heard another woman say that, and I liked how she called herself an independent woman rather than an old maid. Besides being beautiful, she was graceful, poised, refined, cultured, and highly intelligent. She was everything I aspired to be, but I also wanted a husband and children.

"Have you ever wanted to have children?" I asked, knowing this was a sensitive question.

"I have my nieces and nephews. That's enough for me."



BARRY ROAL CARLSEN

"I've heard a few coeds say that they wanted a career while also being a wife and mother," I said. "Did you ever think about doing both? You know, having it all?"

"Women who try usually end up divorced."

"There's no way to have it all without risking divorce?"

"Teaching is a possibility," Miss McKellar said. "You can teach until your first pregnancy starts showing, and then go back when your kids are all in school. You'll have summers off, just like your children, so it can work. My advice, however, is don't earn more than your husband. A man needs to know that he wears the pants in his family."

My dreams about other types of careers besides teaching school started to sound impractical. Very few women got accepted into journalism at the UW, for instance. Also, who would take care of my kids when I had to go to work and they weren't at school?

Miss McKellar was full of sensible advice that she claimed to have ignored when she was young and making her choices. While pasting words under the correct notes, I watched how she dressed, walked, greeted business associates, talked on the phone, drank coffee, listened, praised, and critiqued. I was fascinated, even by how she straightened her desk before leaving her office for the day.

Imagining myself as an independent woman helped me feel free to flap my wings a bit more, without always thinking that I had to be looking for the perfect man to marry. I was a better person for having known her. Miss McKellar and I wrote letters to each other for years after I graduated and she retired. Then one day, I received a handwritten greeting card from her sister saying that Arlene had died and had always spoken kind words about me. It helped me to see the possibility that I might have been an important person in her life, just as she was in mine.

This essay was adapted from Head Over Heels — Stories about the 1950s (RemArt Publishing), Donna Van Straten Remmert's memoir about attending the UW. She lives in Boulder, Colorado.



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Frankenpianist

Continued from page 45

In 2005, Taylor began working with the Moór piano, learning the possibilities that it offered. It has resided with him ever since, an object of inspiration, and a perfect medium for playing the *Goldberg Variations*. Impressed with the ingenious fit of its keys and hammers, he began poking around its insides to explore the instrument's strengths and weaknesses.

"It's a little hard to control," Taylor says. "The upper keyboard, in particular, is very heavy, very difficult to play reliably at the soft dynamic level. So I started thinking about inventing. Could I make another of these instruments, one that could overcome these problems and take advantage of modern technology?"

Frankenpiano 2

And so Taylor began to build his monster — which, admittedly, doesn't appear monstrous. The invention's central console looks a bit like a wide roll-top desk. It stands on twenty-three-inch legs, which support a box twelve inches tall, fifty-four wide, and thirty-two deep.

Taylor's initial drawings were functional, but prosaic, and so he collaborated with his very own Igor, Madison cabinet-maker Kevin Earley, to refine the plan. Earley added flair to the legs and corners and constructed the console's case out of walnut.

"It has a natural depth to the grain," Earley says. "You don't get that with just a colored finish."

But that's just the container for the instrument. The real complexity is on the inside, where Taylor had to use more math than music.

The internal structure of even a normal piano is something of a geometry problem. The player may interact with eighty-eight keys, spread out neatly in a row. But each of those keys is just one end of a lever: push down, and it depresses a hammer that must

strike one — and only one — string, and not any of the other eighty-seven strings.

Taylor's invention won't have strings, but it will face geometry that's twice as complex. To make the instrument play like a piano, each of the 176 keys — two full keyboards, one above the other — is a lever connected to a hammer, all of which must fit in the console's fifteen cubic feet.

"Shapes are the critical thing," Taylor says. "Once you get beyond the visible end of the keys, all this hidden stuff, whether it's on a weird piano like mine or on a perfectly normal piano, there are complicated angles that take place when you get back into the tail sections. They have to follow a particular course, because they have to angle their way around and avoid interfering with each other."

The process of invention has forced Taylor to learn new skills, both in design and in mechanics.

"I've had a lot of assistance from the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, down in their fabrication lab," he says. "People there have been very friendly and showed me the ropes about how I might actually design [the internal workings]. I've learned to use 3-D software and [computer-assisted design] software. And then I've also learned to operate some of their computer-controlled equipment — the mills and the routers and the lathes and so forth."

Once past the hammers, the similarities between Taylor's invention and a normal piano end. Instead of striking strings, Taylor's keys will trigger electronic transmitters.

"The console's not going to make any sound at all," he says. "The hammers aren't there to make actual music. They're just there to make it feel normal to the pianist."

The transmitters will relay instructions to player pianos — one linked to the lower keyboard at one end of the stage, and one to the upper keyboard at the other end of the stage.

"The goal is for it to feel totally like a normal piano," he says, "and for it to

produce a piano sound. But it will enable the pianist to produce really big chords."

The size of those chords could end up being as big as the player's ambition, because the relationship between the two keyboards can be set anywhere he or she likes. Because the keys are not physically linked to anything that makes sound, the lower and upper keyboards can be calibrated to suit the composition. Want a standard piano arrangement? Set the lower keyboard to the traditional arrangement. Want an extra octave of reach? Set middle C on the upper keyboard eight keys left or right. Want two extra octaves? Set it sixteen keys farther away. Or thirty-two.

"The chords," Taylor says, "will be superhuman."

It's Alive? Not Yet.

In December, Taylor and Earley met to put Taylor's hammers and keys into Earley's box. But a completed console is hardly a finished instrument. Taylor must continue with the work of programming and designing to marry the keys to the sound-making elements.

"I'm probably another year away from completion," he says.

And while he works on his invention, he continues to teach and to play, with concerts in Madison (a recent favorite venue is the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery) and Los Angeles and Sarajevo. The diversity of mental activities continues to grow — and the invention may turn his interests back to the composing he gave up after high school.

"That's something the invention will sort of force me back to," he says. "If not composing, at least arranging."

If so, he may note that no one has yet written the definitive symphonic version of Mary Shelley's novel. ■

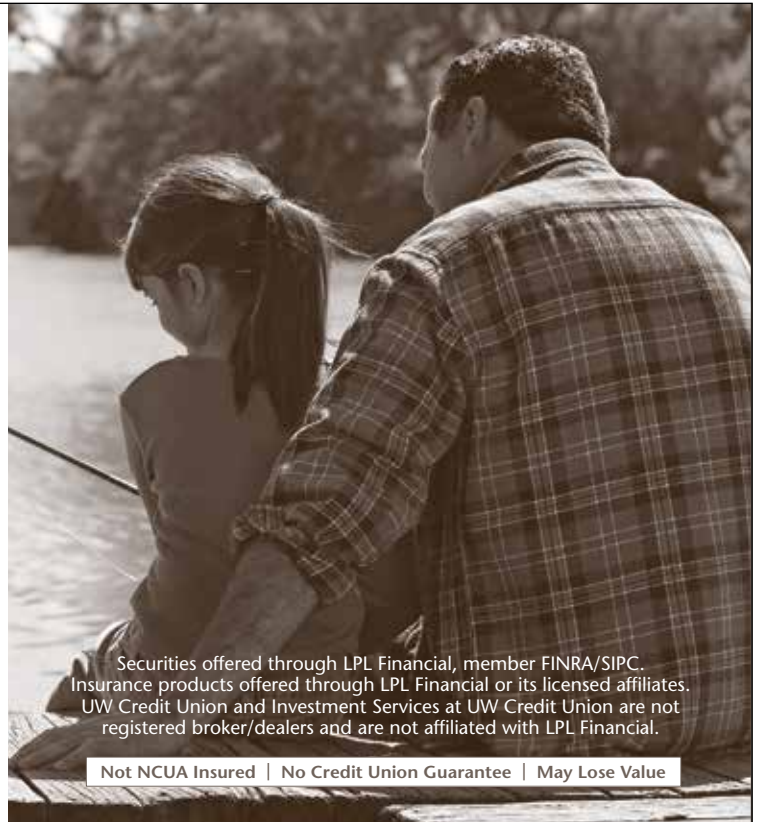
Now senior editor of *On Wisconsin*, John Allen took piano lessons long enough to learn how to play "*Chopsticks*" with chopsticks.

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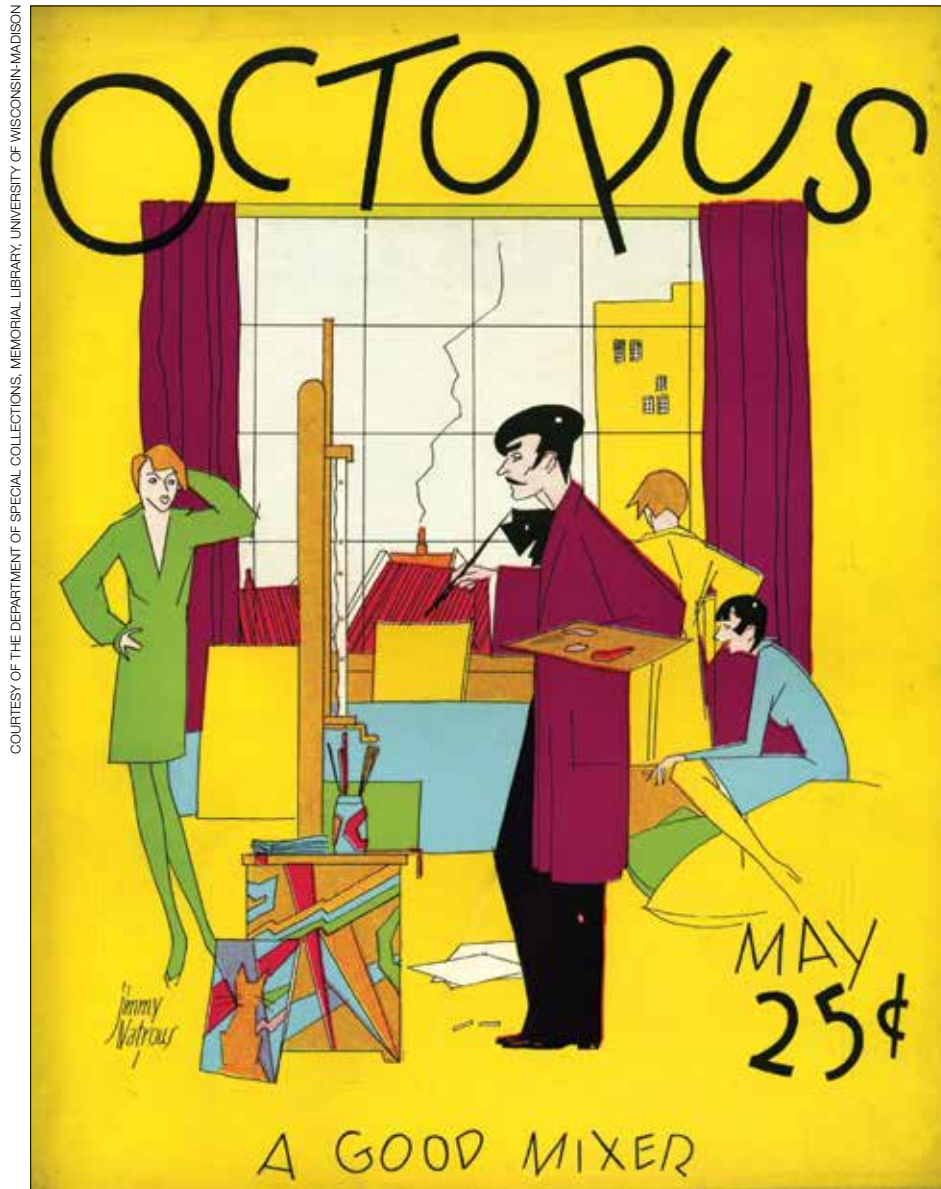
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Creativity Is a Joke

What do you get when you combine a ragtag gang of irreverent students, a little cash, and a stack of sea green paper? The answer is the *Octopus*, the longest-running UW humor magazine, published from 1919 to 1959.

“The Octy” offered a space for student writers and artists to experiment with satire, and the result was a politically incorrect jumble of jabs at faculty, administrators, and fellow students. Initially, the *Octopus* was published erratically — only when the editor had enough content to fill an issue and enough advertising dollars to cover the cost of printing. The magazine grew in sophistication over time from its humble debut with, yes, green paper and an “office” in an apartment on North Butler Street.

The publication’s heyday came in the late ’20s and ’30s, thanks in part to three staff cartoonists who would go on to become directors of

major university art departments. The one who stayed closest to home was the late art and art history professor **James Watrous ’31, MA’33, PhD’39**, whose mark can literally still be seen on campus: he created the large mosaic pieces that adorn several UW buildings and the Paul Bunyan murals in the Memorial Union. Watrous was also one of the major forces behind planning and fundraising for the original Elvehjem Museum of Art, which has expanded into the current Chazen Museum of Art.

In the *Octopus*, Watrous stretched one of his first tentacles into the campus art community. He drew twelve covers, including the one featured here.

Sometimes, funny things make a big difference.

Sandra Knisely ’09, MA’13

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