

# OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS FALL 2015

## Deployment 2.0

When disasters hit, Team Rubicon responds. *Page 22*

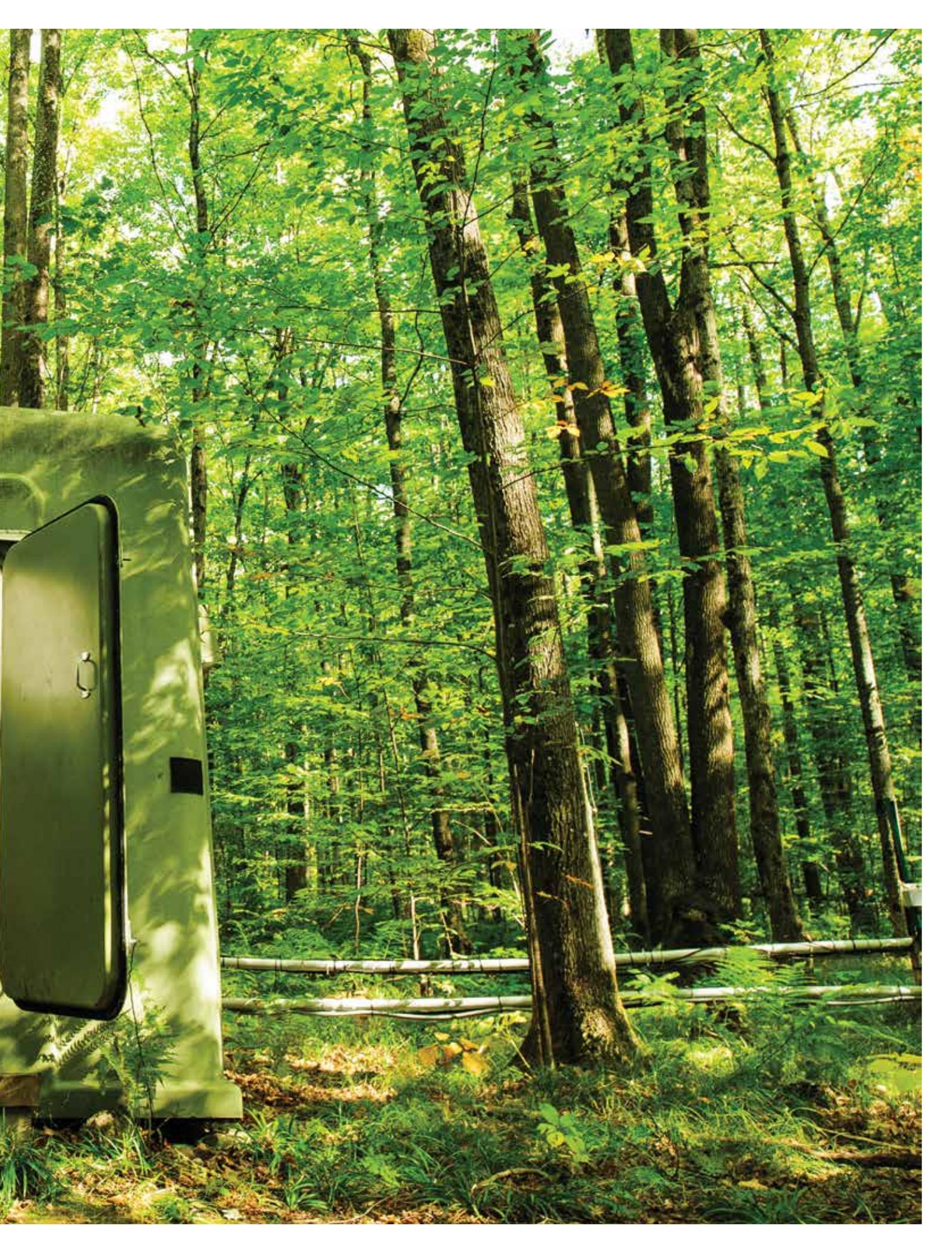


## Vision

At a tiny building in Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, scientist Claire Phillips studies carbon in soil samples. The UW has been conducting research at the site for a decade, exploring how forests change over time, under the direction of Ankur Desai, an associate professor in atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

*Photo by Bryce Richter.*







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# OnWisconsin

*Jake Wood '05,  
co-founder of  
Team Rubicon*

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*For more vintage  
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These football players came to the UW without scholarships, but left as stars.  
*By Tom Kertscher '84*



**Cover**  
*Kate Oliver, a former Army combat medic, and fellow volunteers arrive in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Photo courtesy Kirk Jackson, Team Rubicon.*

HOW CAN WE LIVE HEALTHIER  
AS WE LIVE LONGER?

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# Communications

## Readers Praise, Shred Summer Issue

Every state legislator should get a copy of the Summer 2015 issue. What a great reminder of the importance of our great university.

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

*Mequon, Wisconsin*

The Summer 2015 issue is full of enthusiastic and uplifting articles. "Counting the Ways" provides a powerful snapshot of the ways Madison influences the quality of life in Wisconsin and beyond. These are perilous times [for the university budget], and your efforts to produce such a fine argument for more funding, not less, are manifest in this issue!

**Jeff James '64**

*Palmyra, Virginia*

My wife, Rhoda Grahmann Culin '87, really enjoys *On Wisconsin* and reads it cover to cover. The Summer 2015 issue arrived yesterday and was promptly seized by our chocolate lab puppy and destroyed. I mean shredded — itty, bitty pieces shredded. Anyhow, Loki is sincerely sorry (think droopy, pouty Labrador face) for destroying the magazine. Is it possible to send her a new copy?

**Ted Culin**

*Portland, Oregon*

**Editor's Note:** We are always happy to replace mangled issues, whether puppy perpetrated or otherwise.

## Modest, Unassuming Hero

I was thrilled to come across your great article on Professor Ronald Daggett '38, MS'39 ["Plastics Pioneers," Summer 2015]. I became best friends with his son Lorin. I spent a lot of time at the Daggett home, and Mr. Daggett was the first professor I ever met. I never dreamed that I'd grow up to be a professor myself. He was

so modest and unassuming. I remember helping him put together some shelves, and in that famous basement, he drilled a hole in a bottle so I could build a lamp to take to college.

**Thomas Heberlein '69, MA'69, PhD'71**

*Madison*

I, too, was gifted by the generosity and friendship of Ron Daggett. For several years, I lived with a wonderful man disabled by cerebral palsy, Randall Bartels, who passed away last year. Randy harbored a dream of marketing a briefcase that would attach to the front of a wheelchair, but couldn't find anyone to help him with the design, until someone suggested Ron Daggett.

Ron invited us to his home. In his basement, over the course of several visits, he produced a prototype of the briefcase Randy envisioned. Although Randy's business never materialized, he used the briefcase for many years. Ron was a man with a beautiful mind and heart.

**Eric Plaut '87**

*Clinton, Iowa*

## Muskies for the Wisconsin Idea

In regard to "The Wisconsin Idea Is Having a Moment," [Summer 2015 Association News]: When I was a student, Professor Robert Gard established the Wisconsin Idea Theatre to promote the Idea, and I stage-managed several performances.

I remember little about the content except for one character, Marbert the Mad Muskellunge. Marbert, impersonated by fellow student Ed Morgan '50, sang a comic song about himself and his place in Wisconsin lore. Ed graciously suffered the indignity of wearing a full-sized fish costume, and he later went on to a career in Hollywood, acting, directing, and producing.

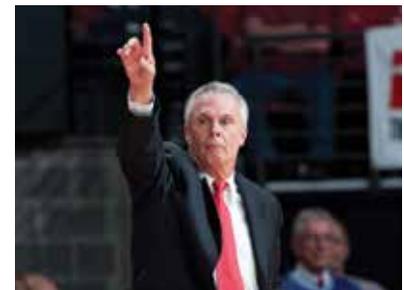
**David W. Weiss '50, MA'51**  
*Charlottesville, Virginia*

## RYAN'S RETIREMENT

Badger men's basketball coach Bo Ryan announced this summer that he will retire after one more season. News traveled fast with help from @UWMadison, recently ranked by Engagement Labs as the top Twitter account in higher education.

# 811

people have favorited this photo, which @UWMadison posted the day that Ryan revealed his plans.



# 38,242

people liked the tribute to Ryan that former Badger and NBA draft pick Frank Kaminsky '15 posted on Facebook.

*"He took an 18-year-old kid and helped him become a man both on and off the court. No words can accurately describe what Coach Ryan has meant to me and how he has changed my life."*



**Frank Kaminsky**  
June 29 at 6:40pm

# 357-125

Ryan's record as head coach at the UW, including the team's second straight trip to the Final Four and making the NCAA Championship game last season.



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“There are places I remember all my life, though some have changed ...,” the Beatles once sang. For most of us, those unforgettable places include the college campuses where we spent cherished years learning new things and beginning to evolve into fully formed human beings.

At *On Wisconsin*, we understand that UW-Madison evokes memories of the highest order. We know that you are very likely to put the brakes on your busy lives and take a moment to reflect whenever we show you a photograph of campus or write about a tradition that you first experienced as a Badger.

When we decided to redesign your alumni magazine — we all need a facelift of a sort now and then, right? — we knew that we needed to give you more of those moments. Over the years, as we’ve conducted readership surveys and asked about your favorite topics, campus history and traditions have steadily topped the list.

So as you spend time with this issue, admiring our new cover design and marveling over our font choices, you’ll also find *Bygone* and *Destination* — pages that share history about the university you love or bring into focus what may be a bit fuzzy in your memories.

If you pause for a bit and think, “Oh, I remember that! I always loved that,” then we’ve done our job.

**Cindy Foss and Niki Denison**  
*Co-Editors*

*Made you look!  
We’ve redesigned  
On Wisconsin,  
updating its  
pages and upping  
ways to nudge  
your memories.  
You just might  
remember these  
colorful chairs.*



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# OnCampus

News from UW-Madison

## Budget Fallout

The bottom line signifies a \$59 million cut in state funds.

For UW-Madison, the hits just keep coming.

The latest is a \$250 million cut to the UW System, matching the largest state budget cut in the university's history and the sixth major cut in the last seven budget cycles. The result: UW-Madison, the largest UW System campus, is getting \$58.9 million less in state funding this fiscal year, despite intense lobbying from university officials and alumni. State lawmakers also slashed \$5 million from specific UW programs, such as the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative.

"It is clear that continuing to diminish state support for higher education in Wisconsin does nothing but diminish the UW System," Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** said when the budget numbers became public this summer.

Blank prepared the campus for the cuts before the Wisconsin legislature completed its work on the budget bill in July, announcing that schools and colleges would address a \$23 million cut from last year by eliminating more than 400 positions, including 70 layoffs. Another \$9 million will come from administrative units, the athletic department will chip in \$7 million to help, and the university will tap its dwindling reserves for another \$10 million.

UW-Madison will close and merge some programs, decrease the number of classes by several hundred, and reduce advising services offered during the next two years. There will be fewer support services — such as information technology — for students, faculty, and staff, and the university will spend less to maintain buildings and facilities.

The UW System Board of Regents approved a plan to raise tuition by \$3,000 each of the next two years for nonresident undergrads at UW-Madison, which will generate an additional \$17 million. Tuition will also go up for graduate and professional schools.

The budget bill also removes tenure for professors from state statute and puts it under the control of the regents, giving them more power to lay off faculty and staff. Blank says there won't be any changes in the way the university operates. UW campuses have broad authority to establish tenure protections, according to UW System officials. At UW-Madison, a new committee is working this fall to establish policies mirroring tenure provisions that were previously included in state law.

"As with any university, our reputation depends on the quality of our faculty," Blank says. "Unfortunately, the inclusion of this language has created negative, often inaccurate, national publicity that will hinder the ability of UW-Madison to attract and retain the best faculty and staff. We are doing all we can to combat that, and I have said unambiguously to the deans that we are prepared to counter outside offers and aggressively fight raiding efforts."

Blank is focused on continuing to convey the UW's value to the state to prevent another budget cut two years down the road.

### UW RESEARCH GETS CORNY

"Who Gets Kissed?" isn't just a popular game played at corn-husking bees of old. It's also the cheeky name for the first variety in a series of organic, open-pollinated sweet corns being developed by researchers at UW-Madison and the Organic Seed Alliance. Sweet-corn breeder **Bill Tracy**, professor and chair of agronomy, partnered with organic farmers in the seven-year plant-breeding project that led to the creation of this variety, which has yellow and white kernels.



### Rethinking Atticus Finch

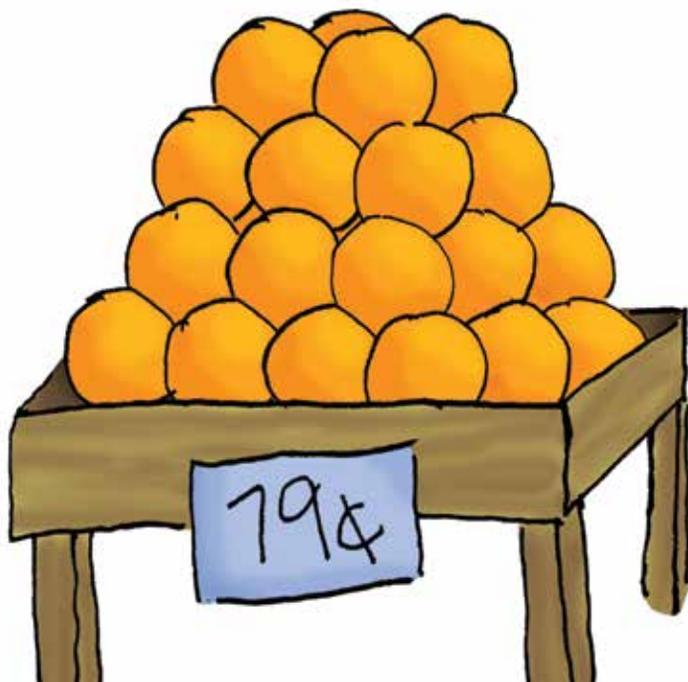
Fans of *To Kill a Mockingbird* — and parents of toddlers named Atticus — were crestfallen when the book's sequel depicted the virtuous lawyer as an aging racist who has attended a Ku Klux Klan meeting and denounces desegregation.

But this more complicated, perhaps realistic, depiction might not be all bad, says UW-Madison English Professor **Emily Auerbach**, who is teaching Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* this fall in a Madison Public Library discussion group. The group is also reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Mockingbird Next Door: Life with Harper Lee*, by Marja Mills.

"There's been an almost idealized, saintly portrayal of Atticus that may not have been accurate for its time. There are very few saints," Auerbach says. "To show Atticus as a product of his environment and show bias that we haven't wanted to talk about can be a catalyst for discussion."



Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** says that all parts of the campus will feel the pain of state budget cuts, and the reductions will likely affect how long it takes students to complete their degrees.



## Chemic Book

When **Veronica Berns PhD'14** was nearing the end of her path to a doctorate in chemistry, one thing kept bothering her. It wasn't her research — five years of work studying crystals and the structure of solids — or the defense of her dissertation. It was that many of the people closest to her had no idea what she was studying.

“My family, my friends — all of the people I knew who didn't do science for a living — they didn't really understand what I was doing or why it was cool,” she says. “So I came up with this idea of drawing a comic book to make the language of chemistry easier to understand.”

During the last few months at UW-Madison, Berns started noodling around with pictures and text for *Atomic Size Matters*, a simplified explanation of her research. She told her adviser, **Danny Fredrickson**, about it, and he encouraged her to include the comic in her dissertation. She did, much to the pleasure of her review committee.

“People really seemed to like it,” she says. “All of these chemists asked me when they could get a copy and how they could do something similar.”

After graduation, Berns used Kickstarter to raise money so that she could publish *Atomic Size Matters*. Online donors contributed \$14,400, and she took the book through a printing, selling copies through her website, [veronicaberns.com](http://veronicaberns.com).

Today, Berns works as a bench chemist for Honeywell, synthesizing new solids in a lab in Illinois. But she still thinks about creating another comic.

“I'd like to do something on Nobel Prizes,” she says. “Every year, these great discoveries get awards and coverage in the press, but the media often leave out the good parts. They don't explain what it is about science that makes this work so cool.”

JOHN ALLEN

## PATENTLY INFLUENTIAL

When **Carl Gulbrandsen PhD'78, JD'81** announced his intention to retire in 2016, we at *On Wisconsin* knew that an epochal moment had come. He has worked for WARF since 1997, and he's been its managing director since 2000.

WARF is the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, UW-Madison's patenting and licensing organization. When UW researchers invent new technologies, WARF helps acquire patents, sells licenses to companies to manufacture or use them, and then turns royalties from those sales into grants to fund more UW research. Last year's grant, along with in-kind support, totaled about \$100 million. WARF has also helped turn UW discoveries into more than 200 start-up businesses.

Here are some highlights from Gulbrandsen's decade and a half at the helm.

**1998** Human embryonic stem cells, discovered by Jamie Thomson

**1999** WiCell Research Institute established to develop stem cell technology

**2001** Medical imaging and radiation therapy developed by Rock Mackie, which helped launch the company TomoTherapy

**2002** Influenza vaccine developed by Yoshi Kawaoka

**2008** Induced pluripotent stem cells, discovered by Thomson's lab

**2009** Improved computer circuit that creates parallel and speedier computer processing, invented by Guri Sohi

**2010** Opening of Discovery Building, home of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery and the Morgridge Institute for Research

## Bygone *The Red Gym's Pool*



No, Badgers: absolutely none of the dips in the Red Gym's pool may be of the skinny variety. That, at least, has been the policy since the late 1970s, and it's unlikely to change today, as "the tank" was emptied for good and all in the 1990s.

You may think the university began enforcing anti-nudity rules due to an excess of fraternization between masculine and feminine student bodies. Rather it was the opposite: the sexes could not share a pool in peace.

Prior to February 1973, the Red Gym's pool was for men only, and nude swimming was

encouraged. That month, however, a group of female students forced their way into the tank — naked, of course — in order to liberate it from gender segregation. The *Daily Cardinal* covered the event (under the headline "Blue Water, White Thighs"), and within a year, the pool was coed, clothing required.

Why would feminudists feel the need to free the Red Gym's pool? There were then two other swimming facilities on campus, one in Lathrop Hall (formerly women only, but coed long before '73), and another (also coed) at the Natatorium,

*Don't look too closely, gentle readers, or you may get an eyeful. This photo from the 1940s-50s shows male students swimming nude (we're pretty sure) at the Red Gym.*

built in 1961. But those were both overcrowded, and the Red Gym was a sentimental favorite. And so they felt the need to make a splash, literally and figuratively.

Today the Red Gym has no more pool politics, as every whiff of chlorine is gone. The building provides office space for student groups — in particular, the Multicultural Student Center, the LGBT Campus Center, and International Student Services — as well as the Morgridge Center for Public Service. Clothing is still required.

**JOHN ALLEN**



## Seeing is Believing

Through East Campus Mall to Library Mall. Hang a left and climb Bascom Hill to the Lincoln statue.

It's a familiar route for any given Badger trudging from one class to another. But for prospective high school students and other campus visitors, it's a path that might have a big impact.

Last year alone, 31,676 high schoolers explored campus along this route, and that's just a fraction of the 72,010 total visitors UW-Madison saw in 2014, according to Campus and Visitor Relations (CAVR).

For those thinking of attending the UW, touring the

campus provides the chance to experience the campus rather than simply see pictures of it online, **Jessica McCarty '05**, assistant director of CAVR, says. For a prospective student, imagining what it's like to be a part of campus can make the difference. "Oftentimes you'll see students' eyes light up when they see how big a lecture hall is, or the smaller lectures and the classrooms," she says. "It's a nice way to just get a feel for the atmosphere for yourself."

For the more than 40,000 other visitors, coming to campus is a chance to be a part of the Wisconsin Idea, and sharing the

campus with the community is a top priority, says **Helena Manning**, campus relations manager. From summer camps and alumni trips, and from tours of museums to the UW Space Place, Manning says she's proud that the UW has so much to offer. "It's so much fun to see these fourth graders or seniors or juniors or these alumni groups come to campus and go through these venues," she says. "Eyes are wide and bright, and we should be so proud that we have so many venues to share with everyone."

In any weather, on any given day, it's likely that some group is walking that same, all-too-familiar Badger route.

**DANIEL MCKAY X'16**

**58**

The number of student tour guides on staff at Campus and Visitor Relations; 43 percent are from Wisconsin.

## HAPPY FACE

*There's an unexpected advantage to living in America's melting pot: we smile more. A recent study by Paula Niedenthal '81, a UW professor of psychology, has explored how citizens in dozens of countries describe how they display emotion. People who live in countries built on centuries of migration from other countries are more emotionally expressive than those in more insular cultures, suggesting that smiling became a necessity when there was a lack of shared language and culture. "Otherwise, you wouldn't know what the other person was feeling or thinking or liking or disliking," she says. "And you need to be able to communicate those things to facilitate commerce and government, to survive and prosper together."*



## LOVE ONLINE

Becoming "Facebook official" is a milestone in modern romance, but can it also help love last?

**Catalina Toma**, a UW assistant professor of communication arts (below), is the first researcher to examine the link between how couples present themselves on the site and the longevity of their relationships. In a study of heterosexual college-aged couples, Toma asked questions about their relationships and how committed they felt to their partners, and then followed up six months later. She found that certain Facebook cues were positively linked to relationship commitment and increased the likelihood of couples staying together: being listed as "in a relationship," posting photos with their partner, and writing on their partner's wall.

"The claims people make about themselves in public are likely to be very influential in how we think about ourselves," Toma says. "Now we're finding that these self presentations also affect how you feel about a relationship partner."



## NEWS FEED



**UW engineers, led by assistant professor Zongfu Yu**, have created a nanoscale

device that can emit light as powerfully as an object ten thousand times its size. The advance drastically surpasses previous technology and could have huge applications for photography, solar power, and more.

**Campus will have to suffer an autumn without the Union Terrace**, as the Memorial Union heads into the next stage of renovations. Beginning in September, much of the Terrace will be shut down so construction can address accessibility issues, fix cracked pavement, and improve the stage.

**The new Shelter Medicine Program at the School of Veterinary Medicine** works closely with shelters to support their work and improve the well-being of homeless animals. Millions of animals die in U.S. shelters each year, often due to lack of information.





**GO BIG READ**

**EQUAL JUSTICE**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu calls **Bryan Stevenson** "America's Mandela." Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Alabama, to represent death-row prisoners and children in adult prisons, and to advocate for sentencing reform and an end to racial bias in the legal system. His book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, is the latest selection for Go Big Read, UW-Madison's common-reading program. Organizers encouraged the campus community to suggest titles that fit into a theme of inequality in America. The book tells the story of an innocent black man sentenced to death for killing a white woman in Monroeville, Alabama, the hometown of Harper Lee. Stevenson will visit campus for a public talk in October.

**IN PROTEST OF ROTC** In April 1990, students began a nearly weeklong sit-in outside then-Chancellor Donna Shalala's office, after she refused to include a disclaimer on school documents calling attention to the ROTC's ban on gays and lesbians. Shalala and the board of regents supported ending the ban, but rather than kick ROTC off campus, chose to lobby Congress to change the policy. Many colleges reinstated ROTC programs after President Obama signed legislation that repealed the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy in 2011.

**The Hole Story**

There's a reason why UW-Madison is in the Big Ten: it's a big university. Its central campus covers 936 acres and has 388 buildings (since the opening of Signe Skott Cooper Hall, home of the School of Nursing, in 2014). Servicing all of these buildings across all this area isn't easy. The university uses 1,107 manholes to maintain twenty-five miles of sanitary sewers, and twenty-five miles more of storm sewers. That means the UW has one manhole for every 238 and a half feet of pipe.



Number of manholes on campus

**NEWS FEED**

What are the most distinctive physical characteristics of UW-Madison?

Badger alumni from around the world can weigh in on this question and others to help create a new campus master plan. Visit [www.masterplan.wisc.edu](http://www.masterplan.wisc.edu).



Women who wore Fitbits logged more activity than those who wore a pedometer in a UW study of postmenopausal women who wore one of the devices and had a weekly goal. Lead author Lisa Cadmus-Bertram, an assistant professor of kinesiology, notes Fitbits and similar devices offer more detailed feedback and encouragement than a basic step-counting pedometer.



Cheesemakers Tony and Julie Hook of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, donated \$40,000 from the sale of their twenty-year cheddar to help renovate Babcock Hall and build an addition to the Center for Dairy Research. The coveted aged cheddar from Hook's Cheese Company rang up at \$209 a pound.

## Conversation with Kathy Cramer

**Kathy Cramer '94** is the director of the Morgridge Center for Public Service, but she could just as easily go by the title given to the 1,500 students who take part in one of its largest programs each year: Badger Volunteer. Cramer grew up in Grafton, Wisconsin, and joined the UW faculty after earning her PhD in political science at the University of Michigan. For fourteen years, she's taught the course Citizenship, Democracy and Difference, which this fall is focusing on racial justice and has students working in city government and after-school programs and reflecting on how those efforts can make a difference.

*Let's start by going back in time: what was your first experience with volunteering?* With Neil Willenson '92, who started Camp Heartland [a summer camp for children with HIV/AIDS]. We got to be friends when we were in high school. There was this organization in Milwaukee called The Gathering, which was a meals program for homeless folks or people in poverty. Neil had volunteered there ... and a couple of times I went down with a carload of pals, and we volunteered. It sticks out in my mind because it felt really good to be helping other people do good work.

*What is the center's role? Is it unique among public universities?* The Morgridge Center is unique in that it is a home to so many different civic engagement activities, so not just volunteering, but supporting community-based learning courses and community-based learning research grants for undergraduates. But I don't want to overstate that all civic engagement activity on campus is housed

here — that's not the case at all. One of the great things about this place is just about every entity has some kind of civic-engagement component, and that's the nature of being home to the Wisconsin Idea. It's valued everywhere on this campus.

*Are you hopeful about a national trend toward citizens giving back to their communities?* It's hopeful and worrisome. Especially among young people, we see a trend toward more volunteering

and less trust in government. It's great that there is such a strong volunteering ethic among young people. And yet, for me, especially as a political scientist, if it's a turn away from government, I don't think that's a good thing. I still believe that we live in a democracy and that in order for that to be the case in the future, we've got to work through our government, and we have to believe in government.

*Do you see yourself as a caretaker of the Wisconsin Idea?* I do. As a kid who grew up here in this state and believed in the [concept of the] Wisconsin Idea from a very young age, I believe it's my responsibility, especially now as a faculty member and an administrator. If I'm not doing my job in a way that's consistent with the Wisconsin Idea, then we're kind of in trouble.

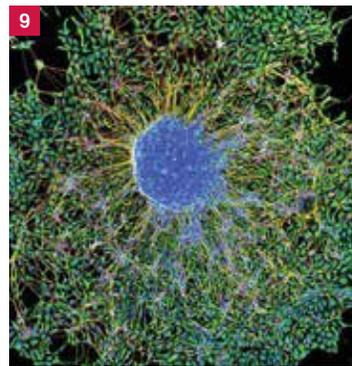
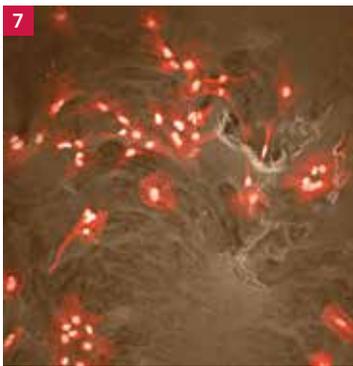
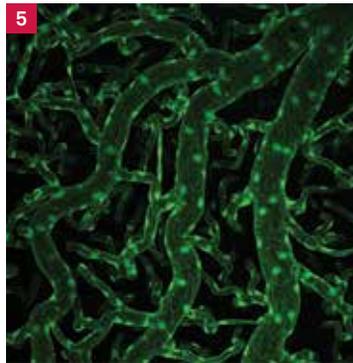
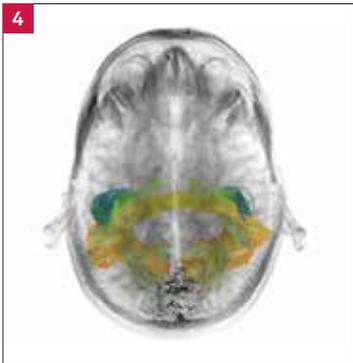
*Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Jenny Price '96*



# Exhibition *Cool Science Images*

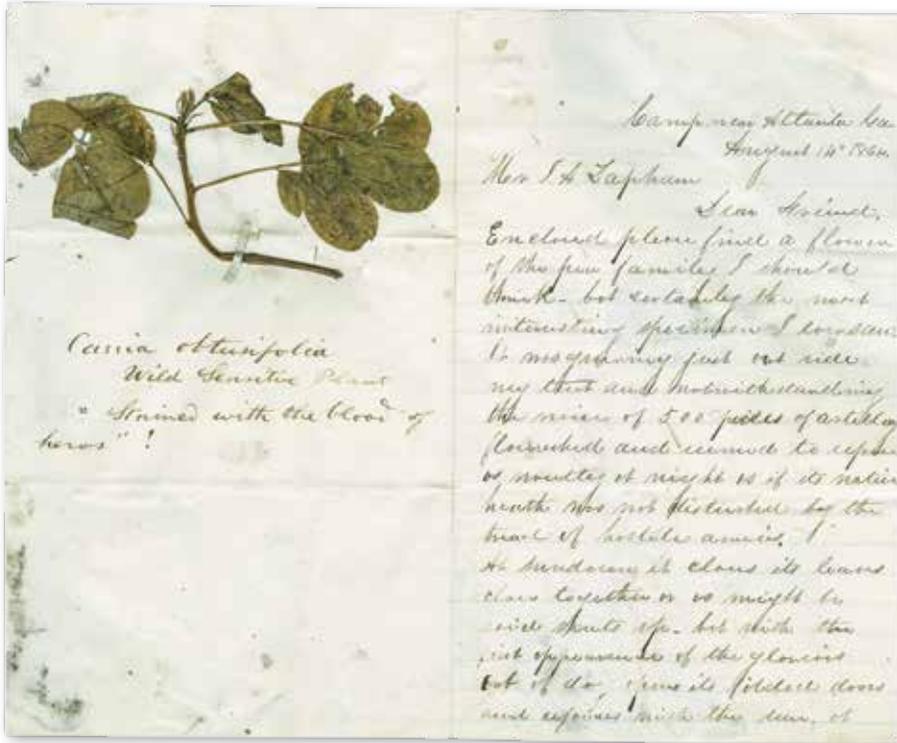


- #1 *Trichomes (thyme)* by Hilary Bultman, zoology
- #2 *Prince Rupert's Drops (glass)* by Tyler Gordon, art
- #3 *European Bee-wolves* by Sabrina Koehler, medical microbiology and immunology
- #4 *MRI (human brain)* by Alex Orellana, art, and Brian Allen, psychology
- #5 *Zebrafish brain* by Jessica Plavicki, pharmacy
- #6 *Gallbladder stone* by Jordan Manasse, veterinary medicine
- #7 *Mouse neurons* by Eshwar Udho, Waisman Center
- #8 *Ice crystals* by Marisa Otegui, botany
- #9 *Embryonic stem cell* by S.C. Vermilyea, S. Guthrie, T.G. Golos, and M.E. Emborg, medicine
- #10 *Leafcutter ant* by Don Parsons, bacteriology
- #11 *Fungi* by Caleb Weisnicht, art, and Andrew Klapper, engineering



Imagery can serve as essential data that help scientists understand how things work, but science images can also be fascinating and beautiful. Honoring those qualities, the *Why Files* has been coordinating an annual Cool Science Image contest for four years. The online publication, created at UW-Madison in 1996 to explain the science behind the headlines, named the latest contest winners this spring, and

some of them — from the microscopic to the fantastically faraway — are reproduced here. Contest judges, who offered expertise both scientific and artistic, made their selections from among 115 submissions from faculty, staff, and students, with images representing disciplines from art to zoology.



## Plucked from Obscurity

In 1864, a Union Army captain from Wisconsin picked a plant growing outside his tent in Georgia and pressed it onto a sheet of paper to send to a scientist friend. “This flower was moistened by the blood of heroes, for Wisconsin men have died where it was plucked,” the soldier wrote in his letter to Increase Lapham, considered the state’s founder of natural history. The specimen, *Cassia obtusifolia* (“wild sensitive plant”), recently emerged from 1.2 million dried plants in the collection of the Wisconsin State Herbarium during preparations for celebrating a new biography of Lapham. His personal plant collection founded the herbarium more than 160 years ago. “This specimen shows that our collection also has value for understanding history and bridging the sciences with the humanities,” says herbarium director **Ken Cameron**. “There are treasures in the collection that we don’t know we are sitting on.”

## Pulp Fixin’

**John Ralph PhD’82** of the UW’s Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center recently co-authored a paper that will make paper easier to produce. In the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Ralph and several colleagues announced that they had discovered a means for growing softwood trees that produce better pulp.

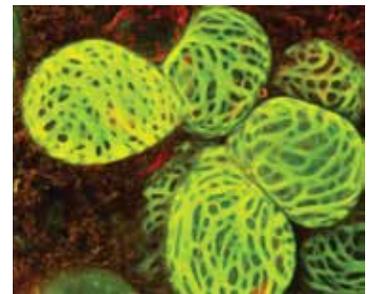
Pulp — the ground-up wood that is the basic material in paper — comes largely from trees. But it can be difficult to produce good pulp, due to the properties of wood. Softwood trees — pines, especially — make good pulp because their wood has long cellulose fibers. But they also produce a lot of lignin, a gluey substance that helps support cell walls but gets in the way of paper production. Much of the expense of paper manufacturing comes from removing lignin.

Hardwood trees have lignin, too, but its composition and structure are different, and it’s easier to remove. But hardwood cellulose fibers are much shorter, making for weaker paper.

Working with Armin Wagner of New Zealand’s Scion research institute, Ralph and his colleagues found a way to genetically modify softwood pines to produce lignin like hardwood trees. The trees seem to be just as strong as any other pines, but much easier to turn into pulp.

“There’s a great deal of interest in this in the industry,” Ralph says. “It will save a lot of energy, which will save a lot of cost.”

**JOHN ALLEN**



## NEWS FEED

**Mystery solved?** After years of research (articles only; not the pictures), alumni believe they’ve solved the question of whether *Playboy* ever ranked the UW as a party school. Legend holds that the magazine ranked party schools but left Wisconsin out, “because it would be unfair to rank professionals with amateurs.” *Playboy* has long said it published no such thing. But newspaper columnist **Doug Moe ’79** may have discovered the source of the reference in a Midwest edition of the September 1968 issue.



**25<sup>th</sup>**  
in the world

**18<sup>th</sup>**  
in the U.S.

The UW remains one of the planet’s best educational and research institutions, according to the Center for World University Rankings. The organization, which is based in Saudi Arabia, scored more than 2,000 schools, and **UW-Madison ranked 25th in the world and 18th in the United States.**

**Memorial Union** added a little luster in June, when the building was **added to the National Register of Historic Places.**

## Contender *Alyssa Daniels*

**Alyssa Daniels x'17** has been on a horse since she was a first-grader in Baltimore. In fourth grade, she began polo, and she started playing varsity-level polo in eighth grade. Yet of all the universities she applied to, only UW-Madison lacked what's often called the sport of kings.

Fortunately, polo came to her. "My dad went [to the UW], so that's how I ended up here," she says. "I obviously fell in love [with the campus] ... so it worked out perfectly that we started a team."

Polo is one of the oldest team sports around, with players on horseback using mallets to hit a ball into the opposing team's goal. The field is typically 300 yards by 160 — much larger than a football field — but teams can also play in a smaller arena.

The Polo Club at UW-Madison collaborates with the Madison Polo Club and its president, Ruth Dumesic MBA'81. Since 2013, the UW club has used Dumesic's horses and arena, located in Verona. The club has been successful so far, reaching the regional playoffs of intercollegiate competition in both of its first two years.

Daniels has been part of the club since its beginning. Now in her third year on the team, Daniels is the captain and plays the number-two position. Her team won the Women's Championship Tournament in the arena league in Los Angeles last fall, and she was an all-star selection in both regional tournaments.

Yet for all her experience and achievements, she says, "I'm not a follower, but I'm not a natural leader. I guess in polo, I've been doing it so long, it comes to me easier than other things. It's nice

*Alyssa Daniels started playing polo in fourth grade. She helped to launch the UW's team in 2013.*

having such a basis with the sport and being able to help other people learn."

As she continues to build the club, she's also working toward her degree in animal sciences and applying to veterinary schools, including the UW's.

With the Polo Club, school, vet school aspirations, and taking care of her own horse, Daniels has her hands full. "I don't sleep a lot," she says. "But it's just time management. It's a lot of fun — and 4 a.m. nights — but it's worth it. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

**DANIEL MCKAY X'16**





# Inside the NBA Draft

Sam Dekker's trip to New York generated much suspense — and a perfect ending.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver keeps walking to the podium at Brooklyn's Barclays Center, but he doesn't call **Sam Dekker x'16's** name. The star forward who helped Wisconsin reach the national title game sits with his family at a table on the arena's floor, waiting for a team to pick him. His agent, seated across from him, is not getting definitive information. "This could be us," he tells Dekker before the announcement of six or seven teams' selections, but so far it isn't.

Dekker had worked out for nine teams leading up to the NBA draft on June 25, so when the last of them, Atlanta, passes on him at fifteen, and Boston and Milwaukee do the same with the next two picks, he becomes anxious. "Am I going to get picked tonight?" he wonders.

Two hours earlier, the Minnesota Timberwolves made Kentucky's Karl-Anthony Towns the top pick of 2015. There are officially five minutes between selections, but it's often longer. Draftees and their families describe the wait as nerve-wracking and excruciating. The intensity at Dekker's table picks up when Detroit, a possible destination, goes on the clock at number eight, but the Pistons take a different small forward. Dekker is fairly stoic as most of the selections are announced, but when the Charlotte Hornets draft fellow Badger **Frank Kaminsky '15** with the next pick, he stands to give him a hug.

Oklahoma City has the fourteenth and final pick of the "lottery" — the selections

among the teams that did not make the playoffs the previous season. The Thunder take one of the other top prospects invited to the draft. Dreams are being realized all around Dekker, but he can only wait. Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers — whom Dekker first met at an awards banquet in high school — texts Dekker, reminding him to smile. "Be patient," he writes. "You're going to a playoff team."

Boston passes on him, as does Milwaukee, ensuring that the Sheboygan native will have to leave the state to continue his basketball career. Throughout the night, there was commotion around a particular prospect's table a minute or two before each pick was announced. ESPN's television cameras would creep closer. A woman carrying a stack of hats would hover nearby. That isn't the case as the clock ticks down for Houston's pick.

Sam's older brother, John, checks Twitter and sees a report that Houston is going to select someone else. He puts his phone down, but it immediately starts vibrating wildly. He checks again, reads a revised report, and tells his brother, "You're going to be a Rocket." There's not enough time to process the news before Silver makes it official. "With the eighteenth pick in the 2015 NBA draft, the Houston Rockets select Sam Dekker from the University of Wisconsin," he says.

The wait is over.

**ANDREW KAHN**

## TICKER

The UW Athletic Board voted this spring to retain men's hockey coach Mike Eaves '78 and women's basketball coach Bobbie Kelsey, but did not extend their contracts, which end in 2019. Athletic director Barry Alvarez is looking for improvement after the men's hockey team finished with a 4–26–5 record — the worst in program history — and Kelsey's team finished at 9–20.



**Badger volleyball player Lauryn Gillis x'16** made her first appearance with the U.S. Women's Junior National Team this summer. The six-foot-one sophomore from New

Castle, Indiana, transferred to the UW after one season at USC. She ranked third on the team with 2.14 kills per set, recording double-figure kills in five matches.

**UW wrestlers Connor Medbery x'16 and Jesse Thielke x'16** will redshirt the 2015–16 season to prepare for the U.S. Olympic Trials in April and the chance to compete at the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. UW coach Barry Davis won a silver medal at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.



**Michael Weiss '13** won three medals at this summer's Pan American Games in Toronto. The former Badger swimmer

took a silver medal in the 800-meter freestyle relay and bronze medals in the 200-meter freestyle and 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

**Running back Corey Clement x'16** is among the Badger football standouts sportswriters are watching this season. The UW has candidates for top player at a variety of positions, including Clement (pictured here), safety Michael Caputo, linebacker Vince Biegel, center Dan Voltz, and receiver Alex Erickson.





# A NEW MISSION

For veterans who feel adrift upon returning home, Jake Wood has a suggestion: come along with us.

**BY JENNY PRICE '96**



**Jake Wood '05** knew he would become a Marine the week that Pat Tillman died in Afghanistan. His decision was final. He discussed it with no one, not even his family.

Tillman was a former NFL player who left professional sports to enlist in the Army after 9/11. Wood was an offensive lineman for the Badgers who found himself filled with guilt for going to college and playing football while others were on the front lines.

In the four years following Wood's graduation, he served tours in Iraq, where his unit did combat and ran counterinsurgency missions out of Camp Fallujah, and in Afghanistan, where he deployed after graduating from sniper school at the top of his class. He left the Marines as a decorated veteran and returned home to face another big decision: what's next?

"I was a little apprehensive about taking off the uniform," Wood says. "It was really that feeling that I was going to never do anything again in my life that was going to be so purposeful."

When a massive earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, Wood made his choice: instead of sitting back and watching the devastation on television, he would go there to contribute the skills he learned in the military. Instead of going back to school to pursue an MBA as he had planned, he would serve. That moment was the origin of Team Rubicon, an organization that mobilizes volunteers to help in the hours, days, and weeks following earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and other natural disasters.

Wood cofounded the group with William McNulty, a fellow Marine who signed on for the Haiti effort just minutes after Wood wrote a Facebook post looking for volunteers. The group has since deployed teams across the United States and around the world — from Burma to Chile to Pakistan. Team Rubicon now has twenty-seven thousand volunteers, most of them veterans, who help bring order to chaos following disasters and bridge the gap until conventional aid organizations can respond.

But Team Rubicon is also restoring something that veterans often lose when they take off their uniforms: it's giving them a new mission.

McNulty didn't know Wood when the two connected ahead of their trip to Haiti, but he knew enough: Wood was a Ma-

rine. Once they met, he witnessed firsthand what he calls the six-foot-six Wood's "command presence" — the effect of his natural charisma and gift for public speaking off the cuff.

"I've seen it where people are like, 'You [want me to run] off a cliff? Okay, how fast do you want me to run?'" McNulty says.

Wood and McNulty are the frontmen for Team Rubicon, a sometimes uncomfortable position for people so strongly rooted in the concept of teamwork. As the organization's profile has grown, the two are frequently asked about issues facing men and women after they leave the military. It's not a role Wood says he feels qualified to take on as a "simple Marine sergeant," but he is willing to share his perspective when asked how his group can help veterans make the transition from military service to civilian life.

"Some veterans are struggling. Why are they struggling? We believe it's because they lack purpose and community in their life," Wood says. "Other people might say it's because of this chemical imbalance ... Okay, that might be. You try giving him a pill; we're going to try giving him a mission. At the end of the day, we'll see which one works better."

Wood makes it clear that Team Rubicon's primary mission is providing aid following disasters, but that veterans are its fuel. They come from different generations and different wars and from all walks of life. Little outreach is needed: veterans find the organization mostly through word of mouth and social media. David Dodds joined the team

*"I'm going to Haiti. Who's in?" former U.S. Marine Jake Wood (below) wrote on his Facebook page following the massive earthquake there in 2010. Previous spread: Team Rubicon volunteers gather after a tornado hit Faulkner County, Arkansas, in 2014.*



in 2012 after reading a friend's social media post. He knows veterans who have struggled with their return to civilian life. "They feel kind of useless," says Dodds, a defense contractor and Army veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He volunteered on a number of projects for Team Rubicon and now serves as the group's operations coordinator in Virginia.

For Dodds, the involvement is personal: one of his friends took his own life in summer 2014. He also knows a veteran who considered suicide, but found a new purpose through Team Rubicon. "Stopping that from happening is huge," he says.

During its inaugural mission in Haiti, the small team of volunteers sat in a circle and drank Dominican beer after a long day providing medical aid at a displaced persons camp. Brother Jim Boynton, a Jesuit schoolteacher working with the volunteers, encouraged them to talk about what they had seen and done during the hours before. Wood had cleaned dirt, gravel, and pus from an infected wound in the leg of a young boy as he screamed in pain. Other team members had performed amputations and one had delivered a baby.

One by one, team members — including Wood — shared their experiences. "There was this boy today ..." he began. These kinds of conversations take place around a fire or in the church basements or school gymnasiums where volunteers gather at the end of each grueling day. Images of devastation can bring back wartime memories, but the shared physical labor breaks down barriers. "They feel comfort and trust for the first time in a while," Wood says. "You'll see people who will start talking about their experiences either in the military or postmilitary, and they'll end their story with, 'That's the first time I've ever told anyone out loud.'"

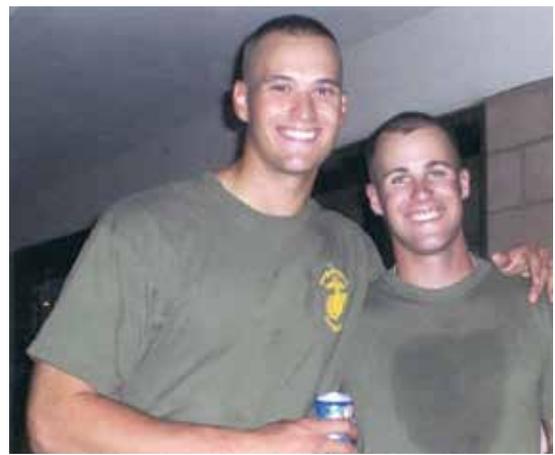
Civilians are often afraid to ask veterans about their experiences overseas, worried about offending them or bringing up bad memories, even though most veterans look back on their service as a great time in their lives, Wood says.

"Somewhere along the line, we lost this community focus, [this] community-centric approach to veteran reintegration," he says. "I don't know why that is."

But victims of natural disasters quickly learn the value of welcoming veterans back into their communities, Wood says. "These homeowners say, 'Wow, I'm so impressed, I feel like this is the best America has to offer, and I never would have known it,'" he says.

Donna Burdett was an EMT and nurse by age seventeen, joined the Navy as soon as she was old

*Wood (left) became friends with fellow Marine Clay Hunt (right) when the two men served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.*



enough, and hoped to become a doctor. An explosion during the first Gulf War left her with a brain injury, and her dream disappeared. After multiple surgeries and procedures, she retired from the Navy. "I felt thrown away by the world," she wrote in a blog post earlier this year.

After spotting an online ad for Team Rubicon, she signed up to deploy following an ice storm in Georgia in February 2014, but feared her injuries would ultimately lead to rejection. Then the phone rang. "We would like you to come help us," a volunteer coordinator said. She has since signed on for other team missions, and says that participating is like being in the Navy again.

"I'm no longer broken," she wrote.

Sharing stories is part of the team's culture. Wood urges volunteers to talk to the public and the media about themselves and how they came to be part of the group. "I started as just a pipsqueak freshman at the University of Wisconsin. Somehow I ended up in Iraq and Afghanistan. Somehow I ended up in Haiti," he says. "But that's the unique story that brought me to Team Rubicon, and everybody else has one of those."

Progress was often elusive on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, says McNulty, who worked in intelligence. Now as some veterans watch ISIS and other destabilizing forces surge in those re-

## HOW TEAM RUBICON GOT ITS NAME

The organization's name references the days of Julius Caesar, who famously crossed the Rubicon, a river in northeastern Italy, to march on Rome and never looked back. In January 2010, Jake Wood and a small group of volunteers traversed a river border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti to bring aid to thousands of earthquake victims in camps — a journey considered too dangerous by other aid organizations. They decided that moment was their Rubicon, and they, too, were irrevocably committed to their mission.

gions, they wonder whether the sacrifices were worth it. “[But] when you’re clearing the mud out of someone’s basement after a flood just struck, or you’re bandaging someone after they were injured because of the high winds of a typhoon, you can see the fruits of your labor,” he says.

Fewer than thirty-six hours after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal in April, killing thousands and leaving survivors in remote villages without aid or medical care, Team Rubicon launched Operation Tenzing. A small reconnaissance team traveled to Kathmandu and partnered with a startup U.S. drone company to obtain aerial images that would help assess damage and update maps of the disaster zone. That quick and thorough groundwork — core to the experience of veterans — allowed Team Rubicon to pinpoint areas with the greatest need for help and deploy teams to dispense medical aid, food, and water.

In a video taken during that first mission in Haiti, Clay Hunt rides through the streets of Port-au-Prince in the back of a beat-up pickup truck, surveying the devastation. “I’m here because I’m needed here,” he says.

Hunt and Wood were like brothers after serving together in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hunt was deeply affected by the loss of Marines in their unit on both deployments, and he struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder. A year after the Haiti mission, Hunt took his own life. He was twenty-eight years old. An estimated twenty-two veterans do the same thing each day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

A year after Hunt’s suicide, Wood told *60 Minutes* that he wonders almost every day why it happened. He sometimes blames himself. Last February, Wood stood in the East Room of the White House as President Barack Obama signed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, intended to reduce military and veteran suicides and improve access to quality mental health care.

“Clay has taken on this almost mythical status within Team Rubicon,” Wood says during our interview. “When Clay passed, we had three hundred, four hundred, maybe five hundred volunteers in the organization, and only thirty of them had ever met Clay. And so now we have twenty-seven thousand members — and still only thirty of them have ever met Clay. At the end of the day, what’s powerful about Clay is that he was just a guy.”

Hunt’s legacy serves as a reminder that although disaster relief is Team Rubicon’s business, veterans are its passion. In 2014, it launched the Clay Hunt Fellows Program, which provides leadership training for a small group of veteran volunteers. Each fellow receives a \$12,000 stipend

and must undertake a capstone project that improves the organization. The goal is to develop leaders within the team, as well as help its veteran volunteers compete and thrive in the civilian job market.

Wood says it is an opportunity Hunt would have liked.

Team Rubicon had already proved its worth to veterans. Now it needed to show the American public what it could do. When Hurricane Sandy hit the Northeast in fall 2012, the group took a chance to solidify its reputation among disaster-response experts. Money was tight, but team leaders made the decision to put “all our financial chips on the table,” Wood says.

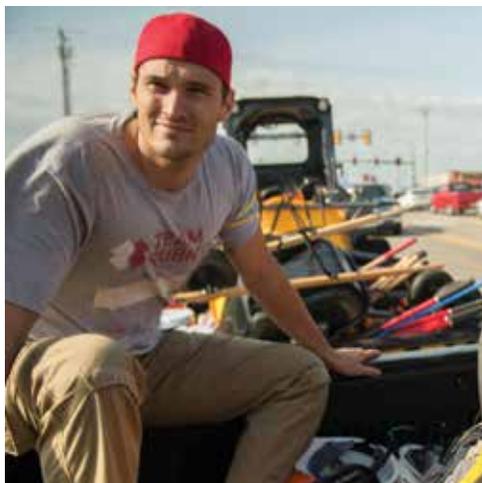
“Ultimately, the analogy I’ve begun using is that we see Team Rubicon over the next five years becoming, in essence, a national volunteer fire department.”

More than 350 Team Rubicon volunteers from across the country descended on New York and New Jersey and led ten-thousand-plus volunteers who helped in every possible way — pumping sand out of homes, clearing dangerous debris, and patching roofs.

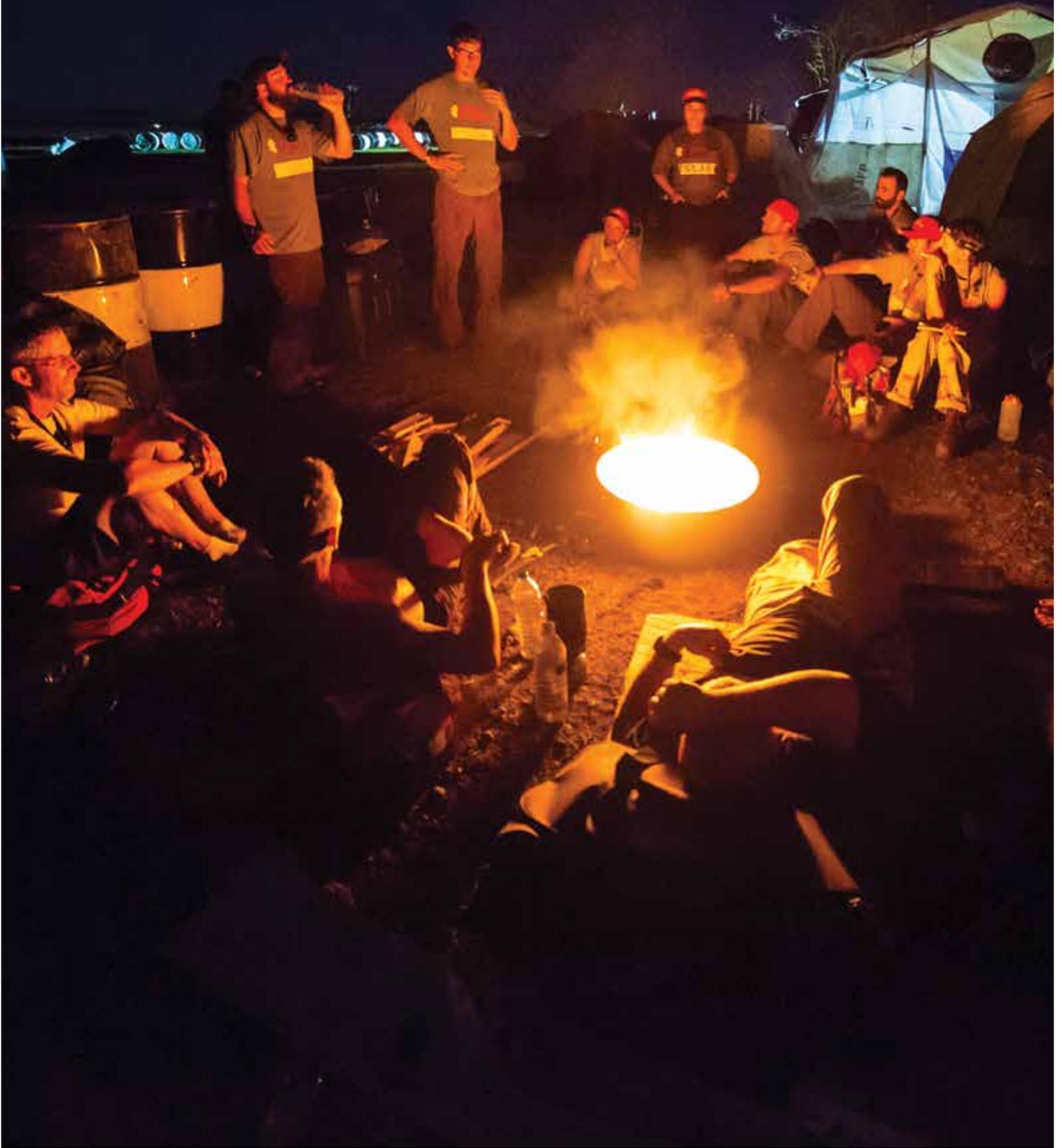
“It was a make-or-break moment for us,” Wood says. “Everybody in the U.S. — from every news agency to every federal agency — was looking at that fifty-square-mile area. And we had an opportunity to show these people who hadn’t paid attention to us for two and a half years what we were doing and what we were capable of.”

The gamble paid off. Goldman Sachs donated \$250,000 to Team Rubicon for Hurricane Sandy operations. Other corporate sponsors followed. Wood was approached about writing a book on leadership. (The result was *Take Command: Lessons in Leadership: How to Be a First Responder in Business*, published in 2014.) Most important, the effort, dubbed Operation Greased Lightning, solidified the group’s credibility in disaster response.

*The faces — and tattoos — of Team Rubicon volunteers feature prominently in the organization’s social media accounts. Wood is pictured at bottom center in Rockaway Peninsula, New York, following Hurricane Sandy in 2012.*



*A wet and wind-swept day in the Philippines ends around a campfire, as Team Rubicon volunteers who were deployed after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 gather to share stories.*



“[The Federal Emergency Management Agency] came out and was blown away by what we were doing in the far Rockaways,” Wood says.

This year, McNulty is leading the launch of Team Rubicon Global, building a presence in Australia, Canada, Norway, and the United Kingdom — all key U.S. allies in Iraq and Afghanistan. A five-year plan calls for twelve teams around the world, each offering veterans the same opportunity to serve as their American counterparts and the ability to respond more quickly to disasters.

But the work on the home front is far from finished. Team Rubicon is hiring ten regional administrators, intending to have staffing at the state level in ten to fifteen years. “Ultimately, the analogy I’ve begun using is that we see Team Rubicon over the next five years becoming, in essence, a national volunteer fire department,” Wood says. “Obviously we don’t fight fires.”

Wood doesn’t get out into the field as much as he did in the early days, but he makes sure to do so at least once a year to challenge his assumptions about how the organization is evolving and to reconnect with its core mission. “At the end of the day, I need to go out there and swing a sledgehammer and help people as much as anybody else,” he says. But now, as chief executive officer, he devotes significant time to giving speeches and

*Wood (left) and other Team Rubicon members brief President Barack Obama in 2013 on the group’s response to Hurricane Sandy and efforts to help veterans reintegrate into society. Below, the team helps Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, in 2014 after multiple tornadoes.*



fundraising — and numbers play a far more critical role in his life than he could have predicted during his student days.

“People who want to be entrepreneurs ask me that question all the time: ‘What’s the most important class?’ ” he says. His response? “Basic accounting principles.”

In his book, Wood describes the importance of being surrounded by people who buy into a shared vision. Team Rubicon wants “people who are foolish enough to think they can change the world — and smart enough to have a chance,” he says during our interview. “We’ve been saying that we can build an organization that’ll disrupt industries and be around for the next 150 years. We’re not just saying it to hear ourselves say it. We’re saying it because,

goddamn, that’s what we’re going to do.” ●

*Jenny Price is senior writer for On Wisconsin.*







# Collegiate Recovery 101

UW-Madison has resources to help students struggling with substance abuse — but advocates hope to do much more.

**BY MAGGIE GINSBERG '97**  
**ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS GASH**

BY THE TIME incoming freshman Vanessa dellaBitta '14 set foot on campus in 2006, she was already battling a drug and alcohol addiction. What's worse, the vibrant, scholarly Massachusetts native suffered in secret, privately juggling the normal growing pains of college with the all-consuming effort to get and stay sober.

"I really struggled through my freshman year, not knowing that there were other people like me. I felt very, very alone," says dellaBitta, who ended up dropping out at the start of her sophomore year so she could address her problem. For the next several years, she cycled in and out of both school and sobriety; for her, the two worlds seemed nearly impossible to reconcile.

"Over those five years, I'd take a couple classes and was out of school again," she says. "It felt like this wasn't a problem that other people had. It did sort of feel like — not immoral, but it felt like it centered in me. Like, I just can't get myself together, essentially. I just can't be responsible."

Today dellaBitta knows she's not inherently broken, and that she's far from alone. Almost a quarter of college students nationwide meet the medical criteria for substance abuse or dependence, yet 37 percent of them fear seeking help because of social stigma, according to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA). Students like dellaBitta aren't the only ones who lose out; the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention says 40 percent of student-attrition cases involve substance abuse, resulting in \$1.2

to 4.3 million in lost tuition each year.

"The money we lose is pretty staggering, not only as an institution when students leave because of addiction, but we also lose out on gaining students when we don't have something here to support them," says University Housing's Laura Strimpel, who today serves as co-adviser for a newly registered student organization called Live Free — Student Wellness and Recovery. Although not limited to those facing substance-use disorder, Live Free was founded by dellaBitta, Caroline Miller '04, and a handful of other students in long-term recovery who were seeking a safe, supportive environment on campus.

Since its formation in 2013, Live Free has become part of a larger effort to create locally what's known nationally as a collegiate-recovery community, a movement now pollinating 139 schools across the country. In such communities, campuses have designated residence halls, centralized meeting spaces, and paid staff support to model "visible" recovery from drugs and alcohol.

UW-Madison isn't there yet, but it could be.

"When we think about the challenges around substance use, we know that to be successful in recovery, people need social support, they need emotional support, and they need the ability to flourish vocationally and intellectually," says Sarah Van Orman, executive director of University Health Services. "University environments are very challenging places for people to be in recovery without support, and that's

really the niche that the collegiate-recovery community fills.”

Van Orman has adopted that perspective because recovery isn't the sort of thing where you can take a pill, or a class, or attend a few meetings and you're cured. It requires a complete lifestyle change within a supportive environment. College is hard enough; when your peers seem to be partying as hard as they're studying, sobriety can feel lonely at best and impossible at worst. Although the issue affects students nationwide, UW-Madison's reputation for binge drinking alone can serve as an insurmountable deterrent for those seeking recovery. But it doesn't have to be that way.

“Many students who want to come to UW-Madison, who are in recovery, that's terrifying for them,” says Krystle Gutting, assistant director of Connections Counseling, a privately owned certified drug-and-alcohol treatment provider. UW-Madison contracts with the company to provide its substance-use screening initiatives, such as BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students) and Choices About Alcohol.

DellaBitta, like most students, was referred to Connections when she initially sought help through University Health Services, which also provides substance-use treatment of its own. “I think having a collegiate-recovery presence here is going to change Madison's reputation,” Gutting says. “I think it is absolutely amazing and very exciting.”

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IN MANY WAYS, although nobody knew it at the time, Madison's collegiate-recovery movement began back in 2005. Just a few months before dellaBitta arrived on campus, another eighteen-year-old recovering addict, Aaron Meyer, was killed in a car accident. Before his tragic death, Meyer was rebuilding his life. He had completed treatment, was graduating from Horizon — Dane County's only recovery high school — and regularly attended Connections Counseling. He felt excited to move out of his parents' house and in with a group of guy friends who were also in recovery, but he never got that chance. After his death, with donations and community support, Aaron's dad, Tom Meyer, his mom, Cathy, and a volunteer board opened Aaron's House on East Gorham in 2007. The idea was to take your average-seeming, near-campus house and rent it to college-age men in recovery, four at a time, so they could live like everybody else.

“It's not about honoring him,” Tom Meyer said at the time. “It's to take an idea that he had and put it into practice so that other people can live their lives. Here, you live with peers who have all sat down individually, looked at themselves, and said, “This is

what I need my recovery program to look like.’”

More than just abstaining from drugs and alcohol, Aaron's House residents developed individualized lifestyle plans incorporating recovery meetings, work, and education. When the model both proved successful and seemed to fulfill a niche, three women — Live Free cofounder Caroline Miller, Heidi Hastings, and Elisabeth Lex JD'11 — created an affiliated women's version, Connect House Sober Living for Women, which opened in August 2013.

Impressed by both efforts, Ginger Morgan, director of residential community at Apartments on Library Mall, lobbied successfully to create Next Step Recovery apartments, which opened to renters in August 2014. Meanwhile, Meyer had learned about the nationwide collegiate-recovery movement and began collaborating with Van Orman and others at UW-Madison, along with members of Live Free, who are now in the process of trying to raise funds. In 2014, Live Free secured a \$10,000 grant from Transforming Youth Recovery, then known as the Stacie Mathewson Foundation, specifically to help create a collegiate-recovery community.

“There's a huge need for it,” says Miller, adding that although Live Free currently only has about thirty members, Connections Counseling sees more than three hundred college students a year. “And that number is just increasing. I mean, they're just seeing an incredible number of students,” she says. As more and more students in recovery are attempting to join mainstream college life, it makes sense that UW-Madison should expand its efforts to embrace them.

“Here at the university, we've been more focused on the upstream issue of prevention and intervention, and it was brought to our attention that this is really a big movement all across the country,” says Amy Margulies, a counselor at University Health Services who was involved with the Madison recovery movement's early meetings. Today, Margulies serves as Live Free co-adviser with Housing's Strimpel.

“Students who come back to school with adequate support tend to graduate with a higher GPA and with a sense of stability and clarity that really

“University environments are challenging places to be in recovery without support, and that's the niche that collegiate recovery fills.”

is remarkable, and [is] sometimes higher than [that of] the average student,” says Margulies. “But if they come back to school without that kind of support, it can be a devastating experience, a lonely experience, and should not be the kind of reward that we offer to people who we have asked to get their act together.”

The challenge organizers face is that, without a central building or even a consistent meeting space, many students who need a collegiate-recovery community probably can’t find it, if they even know about it. While it’s critically important that these efforts are student led, there’s only so much students can do—particularly students in recovery.

“That’s why trying to find a space on campus that we can call a home specifically for this group — it’s emblematic of a larger embrace from UW and from the campus community,” says dellaBitta. “To have something on campus would make me feel like, ‘Hey, I can be a well-rounded student. I can have a healthy college experience regardless of this other part of me.’ And I think being able to see that would just be amazing for students like me.”

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IT’S NOT THAT substance abuse is a new problem facing UW-Madison administrators, and it’s not like they haven’t answered the call across a wide variety of avenues. All incoming students are required to go through AlcoholEdu, which addresses alcohol use, consumption, and impact. Student organizations are not allowed to serve alcohol at their events, underage students are not allowed to have alcohol in residence halls, and there are some rooms in residence halls that are completely substance free. The “Sub-Free” Community also holds sober events on campus.

Memorial Union and Union South staff are mandated to recognize and stop serving students of legal drinking age when they appear inebriated, and campus police ramp up their visibility the first forty-five days of each semester.

When students do get into trouble with alcohol or drugs, they attend Choices, BASICS, or CASICS (Cannabis Screening and Brief Intervention for College Students) — all contracted through Connections. Still, the collegiate-recovery movement has gotten the attention of many at UW-Madison, including Dean of Students Lori Berquam.

“I believe this movement is going to get bigger,” says Berquam. “Many campuses are funding houses or spaces for the recovery movement to meet and to gather in safe space and in dedicated space so that they can actually be in community with each other. Live Free has a very solid, regular meeting schedule, and they’ve really worked hard to get connected in the Pres House and St. Paul’s and also are connected in the community with other adults

**21%**

of youth ages 18–21 meet the diagnosis for substance-use disorder.

Source: SAMSHA

**139**

U.S. colleges and universities have or are creating collegiate-recovery programs, including UW-La Crosse and Big 10 schools such as Michigan State and Ohio State.

**90%**

of alcohol and other drug-use problems start between the ages of 12 and 20.

Source: 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

**43%**

of students in recovery said they enrolled in their university because it had a collegiate-recovery community.

Maggie Ginsberg '97 is a Wisconsin-based freelance writer.

in recovery. So there’s both this student emphasis, but they’re also connected to the community.”

Historically, says Berquam, students in recovery likely lived at home so they could participate in recovery programs in their communities. In fact, that’s why organizers want to create that same sense of community on campus — because it’s so critical to successful recovery.

“The problem is that not many people are ‘out’ on the UW-Madison campus as being in recovery from addiction,” says Strimpel, who also served as program director of the Sub-Free Community in University Housing for five years. “There are many of us, but fear keeps us silent — fear about being ostracized from classmates, bullied by colleagues and supervisors, and even losing future opportunities. Live Free is about lifting a cloud of fear, ignorance, shame, and isolation. This is what we mean by *visible sobriety*.”

Strimpel points out that although the Sub-Free Community is a safe space for students who wish to abstain from alcohol and drugs for any number of different reasons, collegiate-recovery organizers want to build a program above and beyond simple abstinence. Strimpel says she “absolutely” fields calls from concerned parents and students about whether they can maintain sobriety while attending UW-Madison.

“I’ve given prospective students tours of the designated substance-free areas, and because we don’t have trained support staff funded and allocated, we don’t have built-in support groups embedded within that particular community for recovery specifically ... they felt like they could get better support on other college campuses that already have structured collegiate-recovery communities. I don’t disagree,” she says. Her comments are bolstered by a recent survey conducted by the Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery that found that 43 percent of students in recovery said they enrolled in their university specifically because it had a collegiate-recovery community.

Ultimately, a collegiate-recovery community provides a supportive environment, educational opportunities, accountability, and inclusion. It normalizes sobriety and serves as a beacon for those still struggling, and not simply out of a sense of charitable kindness or duty. If nearly a quarter of qualified students are unable to meet the potential that got them into a place like UW-Madison in the first place, Madison’s loss is unquantifiable.

“These are some of our best students,” says Strimpel. “These students are some of the most mature that I’ve met, because they’ve had to do their own self-work. A lot of them have more self-knowledge than most of the other students I know — even some of the students who are about to graduate. And for them it’s about more than just

survival — it’s about living fully and contributing.”●

*Dennis Chaptman '80 is a former sportswriter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel who also served as news and media relations director for UW-Madison.*

# Very Superstitious

These Badgers say that following a ritual can make all the difference on the field, court, or ice.

**BY DENNIS CHAPTMAN '80**

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE MCKENDRY**

AS SPORTS FANS, we're drawn to games partly because of their unpredictability. At kickoff, tipoff, or when the puck drops, there's no telling what will happen. Admit it, Badger fans: when Wisconsin played Kentucky in the Final Four, how many of you flat-out knew — not just hoped — that the Badgers would emerge victorious? That's why we trekked to Indianapolis, congregated in bars, paced in our family rooms, and watched on the Internet from all over the globe on that Saturday night last April.

Student-athletes face the same unpredictability. But many know, from practice and preparation, that there's comfort in repetition and predictability in routine. Some do it through food, others by the way they dress, the music they listen to, or how they prepare. Ritual and superstition offer a sense of control. And as long as the student-athletes are winning, those routines are hard to surrender.

Claudia Reardon '01, MD'06, a UW assistant professor of psychiatry, says that ritualized superstition is prevalent among athletes for just these reasons.

"There is so much in sports that is beyond

the athletes' control. You can't control what your opponent does, you can't control the weather, and you can't fully control the way you slept the night before," says Reardon, who has treated UW and pro athletes for a variety of psychiatric issues. "But the ritual — that you can control."

Reardon says the overwhelming majority of these superstitions are harmless and even helpful, but she warns that they have the potential to evolve into obsessive-compulsive behaviors.

"Athletes need to be aware of the trajectory of their rituals," she says. "Do you become more and more rigid about the rituals? Maybe it starts with a ritual before the game, but then it takes up a whole day before the game or the whole week before."

While some may find the rituals odd, they often say a lot about an athlete's drive, Reardon adds: "The kinds of temperament that make it likely that athletes would engage in superstitious ritual are the kinds of aspects of their personality that make them successful — being really attentive to detail, perfectionism, and being wedded to routine."



..... BRITTANY AMMERMAN

## Back to Basics

**Brittany Ammerman '15** has tasted the power of a gluten-free chocolate brownie.

Before each weekend series, the forward on the women's hockey team would whip up the same dinner — gluten-free pasta with pesto and chicken, topped off with a dessert of gluten-free brownies. And before every series, she would cut a brand new hockey stick to the perfect size. Dressing before a game, Ammerman made sure to put on her left skate first.

"I like to have a routine," she says. "It keeps you focused and I think it does help."

Where's the proof? Last January, the Badgers were mired in a three-game winless streak, and Ammerman hadn't scored in eight games when she decid-

ed to ditch her routine to shake things up before a home series against Bemidji State University. On Friday night, the UW lost 2-1 as Ammerman went scoreless again.



Before that Saturday's game, she reversed course and fired up all of her long-held rituals. The brownies and all the rest were back. Call it coincidence or call it karma, but when she hit the ice, there was a breakthrough. Ammerman drilled a short shot past the Bemidji State goalie forty-six seconds into overtime to win the game. Her jubilant teammates mobbed her on the ice.

"I was like, 'All right — back to pasta and brownies!'" she says.



..... NIGEL HAYES

## Predictably Spontaneous

Some student-athletes take pains to avoid developing a routine or slipping into a reliance on superstition. Badger basketball player **Nigel Hayes x'17** discovered that superstition can become a burden, so he goes out of his way to be unpredictable. "The thing with superstitions is, if you miss doing it, you're thinking, 'Oh, boy, this could be a bad day.' Then it can grow into something terrible," he says.

As a wide receiver at Whitmer High School in Toledo, Ohio, Hayes's superstitious rituals ballooned. Doing warm-up stretches, he would count to ten, but one day he counted to seven by mistake, and then felt like he had to continue that practice for the rest of the season. During Tuesday's practice, he had to catch a pass in the corner of the end zone. On Thursdays, he stayed after practice to run routes. "You don't want to do that to yourself," says

Hayes. "Now, I try not to get into a routine. I try to be as un-routine as possible."



JACKI GULCZYNSKI .....



## Keeping Memories Close

Women's basketball player **Jacki Gulczynski x'16's** pregame ritual is always tinged with the sadness of a stinging personal loss.

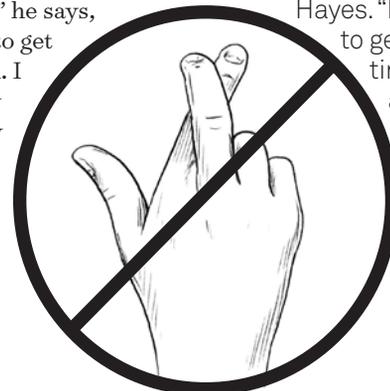
"I eat, shower, relax. I like to watch TV and get my mind off of everything," she says. "Then, I have to perfectly place my wristband on my left wrist. On the inside, I have my brother's initials written out, because my brother Lenny was killed in Iraq."



..... ZAK SHOWALTER

## Change It Up

Like his teammate Nigel Hayes, basketball guard **Zak Showalter x'17** also pooh-poohs superstition. "If I get into a ritual and miss it one time," he says, "I won't be able to get it out of my head. I try to change my routine for every game."



VINCE BIEGEL .....



## Cookie Monster

The R&B beats of Alicia Keys and reggae are often the backdrop for outside linebacker **Vince Biegel x'16** as he runs through his game-day preparation. The hard-hitting Biegel avoids the aggressive rhythms that you might expect to be part of his routine. "I've got a fiery personality to



begin with, and if you pour fire on fire, you'll have a big storm there," says Biegel, who also brings diet into the picture, eating pasta with shrimp or chicken the night before a game and topping it off with a bed-time snack of a cookie and ice cream.



CAYLA McMORRIS AND  
MICHALA JOHNSON

## Eating to Win

These Badger women's basketball teammates build rituals around food. **McMorris x'18** goes for chicken Alfredo before games, a habit that was born at a restaurant in her hometown of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. And **Johnson '14, x'16** stashes food

— such as apples, bananas, and protein bars — under her locker room chair, so she can power up during halftime.



CHASE DRAKE

## Plugged In



For **Chase Drake '15**, a defenseman and team captain on the 2014 Badger hockey team, a video game was at the heart of his pregame routine. "I would say that I'm pretty superstitious," Drake says. "I like to eat at Panera [Bread] before the game, then come back to the Kohl Center and play eighteen holes of Tiger Woods golf on the Xbox with [my teammate] **Grant Besse x'17**. Then I take an hour-long nap and get up at the same time. Then I put on my gear from left to right."

DUJE DUKAN .....



## The Road Taken

Men's basketball player **Duje Dukan '14, x'16** found comfort on his way to home games. Dukan, who finished out his Badger basketball career in 2015, says he made it a point to get to the Kohl Center two hours before each game to get taped and listen to music. Riding his scooter to the arena, he never varied his route. "It works, so I do it," Dukan says.



..... DREW MEYER

## Good Tunes

Repetition is reflected in **Drew Meyer x'16's** game-day playlist. On the bus ride to the stadium, the Badger football punter reads Bible passages while listening to hip-hop. When the team reaches the stadium, he switches to country music. In the locker room, Meyer shifts gears again, to classical music. "I just want to calm myself, because what I do is more like what a golfer does. I don't need to be breathing fire," Meyer says.



SOJOURN SHELTON .....

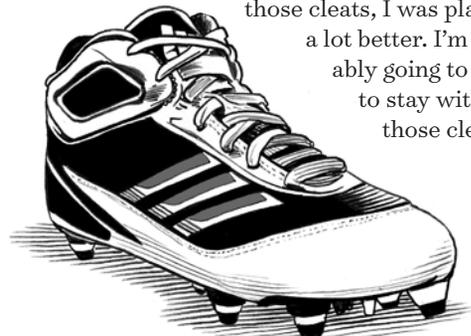


## Go with What You Know

If clothes make the man, then cleats make the defender, believes **Sojourn Shelton x'17**, a cornerback on the Badger football team. Halfway through the 2014 season, Shelton got a new jolt of confidence from an old pair of shoes.

"I was struggling a little early last year," Shelton says. "I had these cleats that I wore in my freshman year, and once I started playing in

those cleats, I was playing a lot better. I'm probably going to have to stay with those cleats."





TAYLOR MOREY.....



## That's a Wrap

For UW volleyball player **Taylor Morey x'16**, injuries are a bugaboo. When people mention injuries, Morey knocks on wood. During the Badgers' run in the 2013 NCAA volleyball tournament, which took them to the championship match, Morey scraped her knee early in the tournament and had it wrapped by the team trainer. But even after Morey's knee healed, she continued having it wrapped throughout the tournament.

"I just couldn't break the juju," she says.

HALEIGH .....  
NELSON



## Put a Bow On it

**Haleigh Nelson x'17** shares a ritual with volleyball teammate Taylor Morey. Without fail, they snap a cell-phone selfie together. Serious faces, funny faces, and goofy captions are all part of the mix. When Nelson had a chance to move her locker, Morey talked her out of it, figuring, why mess with the mojo?

Nelson has her own set of pregame rituals. She showers, blow-dries her hair, and has a teammate braid it. Then, she puts a bow in it.

"I don't live and die by superstition, but I would never change my number," Nelson adds. "It's the luckiest number, isn't it?"

Nelson, of course, wears number 13. ●

*The Emperors of Wyoming shown in an image from the inside of their CD cover. Appropriately enough for a band that recorded remotely, the illustration featured individual photos of each of the members that Frank Anderson used to create this composite.*



A photograph of three men in Western attire standing in a desert landscape. The man in the foreground is wearing a black suit jacket, a grey vest, a white shirt, and a black bow tie. He is also wearing a black cowboy hat. The man in the middle is wearing a black suit jacket, a black vest, a white shirt, and a black necktie. He is also wearing a black cowboy hat. The man on the left is wearing a black suit jacket and a black cowboy hat. They are standing in a desert landscape with mountains in the background.

# Long May They Run

Forsaking convention,  
The Emperors of Wyoming  
recorded their successful first  
album via email.

BY JOSHUA M. MILLER

**I**T STARTED MORE as a joke among four friends. “We should make a record together,” one of the members of The Emperors of Wyoming suggested offhandedly one day, never imagining they could become a fully functioning band. But it turns out the joke was on them.

Despite moving to different parts of the country, longtime friends Phil Davis ’76, MA’81, Butch Vig ’80, and brothers Pete ’76 and Frank Anderson hatched an unconventional plan to create music. They used more than forty years of friendship — including playing in several well-known Madison groups during the seventies and eighties — to craft a new band and eventually produce an album via email.

This is no amateur endeavor. Vig, who co-founded Madison’s Smart Studios, is a drummer for the band Garbage and produced records for them, Green Day, Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, and many others. He also had his own popular Madison band, Spooner. Davis and the Andersons, members of the local group Buzz Gunderson, are also experienced veterans of the Madison music scene, and Vig and Davis were in Fire Town, which recorded two albums for Atlantic Records in the late ’80s.

The four named their band The Emperors of Wyoming in homage to the similarly titled Neil Young song, although none of them live in Wyoming. Davis lives in Madison, Vig and Pete Anderson live in California, and Frank Anderson resides in Appleton, Wisconsin. They began work in 2009, first by recording their parts in their own studios, and then emailing each other the segments and slowly piecing together the songs. After a couple years of gradually putting together the record and then mixing it at Wonder Wonder Sound studio in Milwaukee, the album came out on European-based label Proper Records. In 2014, it was released in the United States by Liaison Music.

Davis says that sending audio files via email was a quicker, more efficient way of recording than mailing tapes back and forth.

“On tapes, the sound would shift and change, but with these digital files, they’re exactly how they were when I sent them to Butch or when he sent us rhythm tracks,” says Davis. “And I could send it out within a half hour so everyone could listen to it and react to it.” The group also enjoyed putting songs together at a leisurely pace when they had a spare moment. “It was like a slow-motion studio,”

says Pete Anderson. “Someone could come up with an idea for the song the next morning.”

“That was what Emperors was all about, was seeing if we could do it and how it would work,” Davis says. “We could experiment with sounds and see how it would all come together. ... It gave us more opportunity to try things than if we were in the same room together recording. We had no time constraints, no record-industry people offering their advice, and no real budgetary pressure.”

On the album, the band flexes its country-rock influences, many of which they heard in their younger days in Madison.

“I liked the idea of writing songs in an alt-country vein and bringing the influences that all four of us grew up with, like Johnny Cash and Neil Young and The Band and Tom Petty,” says Vig. “Americana is the best way to describe those artists.”

The album came out to critical acclaim and was hailed by David Gerard on *examiner.com* as one of

“There’s no way we had any idea when we were going to college that the world would change so fast that we would be making our records thirty years later on home computers.”

the ten albums in 2014 that mattered. The band received offers to perform on *David Letterman* and to play in Europe, but they didn’t want to rush into it until they felt their live show was ready. They rehearsed in a barn outside Arlington, Wisconsin, that overlooks a gigantic cornfield. “You know you’re in Wisconsin when you’re rehearsing in a barn,” Vig says.

When they did perform together at Madison’s High Noon Saloon and Appleton’s Mile of Music in summer 2014, things quickly fell into place.

“It was easy. It was just like another gig,” says Frank Anderson.

“The hardest thing is to create that excitement

*Joshua M. Miller is a nationally and locally published freelance writer based in Wisconsin.*

PREVIOUS SPREAD PHOTO BY JOHN CHRISTIAN ADAMS; PHOTO COMPOSITE/DESIGN BY FRANK L. ANDERSON



*Band members Frank Anderson, Phil Davis, Pete Anderson, and Butch Vig jam during a photo shoot in a Wisconsin barn decorated to look like a bar.*

when you're playing by yourself in your own studio, so it was a real joy to play with the guys again," Pete Anderson adds.

### **BORN BADGERS**

Davis and the Andersons first met in the mid-seventies as undergraduates and soon found common ground playing in bands. (Davis calls Frank Anderson an honorary alum, since he used to sneak into random classes that interested him. "I think I attended classes more than some students who were enrolled," Anderson says.)

"There's something about coming from Wisconsin and going to school here," says Davis. "We were born Badgers and remain Badgers, and when we got back together, it seemed very natural. And it

certainly wouldn't have happened if we hadn't all come to the university."

"Playing music was a great way to make money back then when you were a student," says Pete Anderson. "It sure beat a part-time job. It was a lot better than minimum wage."

The three friends eventually went on to create the popular Madison band Buzz Gunderson and then ended up moving to California. Davis later returned to attend graduate school in journalism at the UW, where he met Vig, who was finishing his undergraduate degree. They started playing in bands, including Fire Town, went on tour, and got airplay on MTV with three music videos.

But for a time, the four members of The Emperors of Wyoming went their separate ways. Vig pursued a career as a producer in Los Angeles. Pete Anderson started working in the wine industry in northern California. And Frank Anderson put down roots in Appleton, making films ranging from commercials to animation.

The four never envisioned how technology would make it possible for them to once again be a band. "There's no way we had any idea when we were going to college that the world would change so fast that we would be making our records thirty years later on home computers," Davis says.

These days the band is working on new material, trying to align schedules to allow for in-person recording sessions, and hoping to play more shows.

"What we realized was that we have a really good live band," Davis says. ●



*Frank Anderson also created this Wild-West-themed CD cover. The band released two versions of its recording — one in England with ten songs, and another in the United States with three new songs added.*



## **BRADIE EWING**

**AT THE UW**  
2008–2011

### **HONORS**

Played in four bowl games, including a win in 2009 Champs Sports Bowl; team captain, 2011

### **NFL CAREER**

Played three seasons; two with the Atlanta Falcons and one with the Jacksonville Jaguars

### **CURRENTLY**

Retired from NFL  
in April 2015

# Walk-Ons: Despite the Odds

It might be because they've had to try harder, but Wisconsin's football walk-ons have gone on to remarkable success — on the gridiron and beyond.

**BY TOM KERTSCHER '84**

NO MATTER OUR pursuits in life, we're all told at one time or another that we don't measure up. That's what walk-on football players face. Stand-out athletes from childhood through high school, these young men are suddenly confronted with no longer being good enough to earn a football scholarship to a major school — or perhaps to any school at all.

And yet many of them go on to beat the odds after getting an opportunity as a walk-on — a chance, initially without a scholarship, to play for the Badgers.

"These are the kids, for the most part, they stick with us — they're here for the right reasons," says UW Athletic Director Barry Alvarez, who made the walk-ons program a key part of his success as the Badgers' football coach. "They love football, they're loyal to the university, and they end up being leaders."

Here's a look at five Wisconsin walk-ons who persevered, achieving their goals with the Badgers and the National Football League — and beyond.

## **BRADIE EWING**

Bradie Ewing saw playing time during his freshman year at the UW, a relatively rare achievement for a

walk-on — but not necessarily a surprise.

"The things that got me noticed at Wisconsin are things that I've done my whole life. When they asked you to run past the line, I ran past the line. I studied more than anybody. Everything they asked for, I did," he says.

"I think some of the [scholarship players] just drift," he adds. "Maybe they thought they had made it. I guess in my mind, you've never made it. There's always the next goal."

By the time he was a senior, Ewing knew NFL teams were watching him. Even though he wasn't a star player — he started only eleven games in four years — he believed he could play at the highest level.

"A lot of walk-ons — just where they came from, the people they are, the work ethic, kind of that chip on their shoulder — it helps them have success at the college level, but it helps at the NFL level, too," he says. "[They have] a lot of those intangibles that a lot of people have, but some take for granted."

## **MARK TAUSCHER**

Mark Tauscher excelled in football in a quintessentially Wisconsin sort of way: quietly setting goals,

*Tom Kertscher '84 is a Political Fact Wisconsin reporter at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, a freelance sports correspondent for the Associated Press, and the author of two sports books.*



## MARK TAUSCHER

**AT THE UW**  
1995–1999

**HONORS**  
Two-time Academic All-Big Ten. Played in three consecutive bowl games, including Rose Bowl victories in 1999 and 2000.

**NFL CAREER**  
Green Bay Packers, 2000–2010; member of the team that won Super Bowl XLV

**CURRENTLY**  
Co-owner of a Madison-based business that runs Red Card Meal Plan and Isthmus Publishing. Radio analyst for Badgers and Green Bay Packers football

steadily making progress — and then seizing a big opportunity.

“For me, it always just comes down to: believe in what you’re doing and try to get an understanding of how can you take steps to get where you want to go. It doesn’t have to be in one bound,” says Tauscher, who was a reserve player for three years for the Badgers before becoming a starter.

“Try to figure out, is this something that you really want to do? And if it’s something you really want to do, are you willing to put in the effort and the work to do it?” he says.

Of the 141 walk-ons who have been letter winners at the UW since Alvarez started as head football coach, 16 have played in the NFL. Tauscher played there longer than any of them — eleven years — all with the Green Bay Packers. His was “one of the great football stories and careers of anyone to come out of the state of Wisconsin,” the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* said.

Yet Tauscher was decidedly unheralded when he arrived at the UW in 1995. After being noticed when his high school basketball team (yes, basketball) played in the state tournament in Madison, he was invited to walk on as an offensive lineman.

Tauscher knew he would need perseverance.

“I always tried to look at things as realistically as I could and understanding that, I know that there’s a long road ahead of me here,” he recalls thinking. “But let’s just set some basic goals.”

The first was to survive: to hold his own in one-on-one drills, and to try to earn some practice time with the second-stringers.

“In the beginning, I was completely intimidated,” Tauscher admits. “You’re going against very good defensive linemen on a daily basis, and you’re trying not to get your butt whipped.”

In his second year, Tauscher gradually earned some playing time. But it was still an uphill climb, on a steep grade, playing behind two tackles (Chris McIntosh and Aaron Gibson) who ended up in the NFL. After a year as a redshirt, then three years as a reserve, Tauscher decided that his fourth year would be his final season with the Badgers, even though he still had a year of eligibility remaining. He started considering a transfer.

But, while watching the annual spring game, he had an unexpected reaction. “I just went and watched the game — and it made me sick to watch,” he recalls. “I knew that I wanted to be back out there. I had put in a lot of time and effort, and I think that’s where the sick feeling came from. ... I just felt like [if I transferred, it] was going to be a missed opportunity for me.”

So Tauscher returned for a fifth year. Finally a starter, he helped lead the Badgers to a second consecutive Rose Bowl victory. He went on to win a Super Bowl ring with the Packers following the 2010 season.

Being overlooked, or even doubted, can have advantages.

“I think everybody has different motivations,” Tauscher says. “And for me, I think it’s always you’re trying to prove you belong — you always try to prove you can do it.”

## J.J. WATT

One of J.J. Watt’s summer jobs while at UW-Madison was painting a railing that circles the upper deck of Camp Randall Stadium. It offered moments to daydream about playing on the field.

Watt, of course, would become a star defensive lineman for the Badgers. But that came only after he had been told he wasn’t big-time college football material — and after giving up a football scholarship after one year at Central Michigan University without a guarantee of what might lie ahead.

At Central, playing tight end, Watt caught only eight passes during his freshman season in 2007. Deciding that he’d never be a featured player for the Chippewas, he took a risk by giving up the scholarship, transferring to Wisconsin, and trying to make the team as a walk-on.

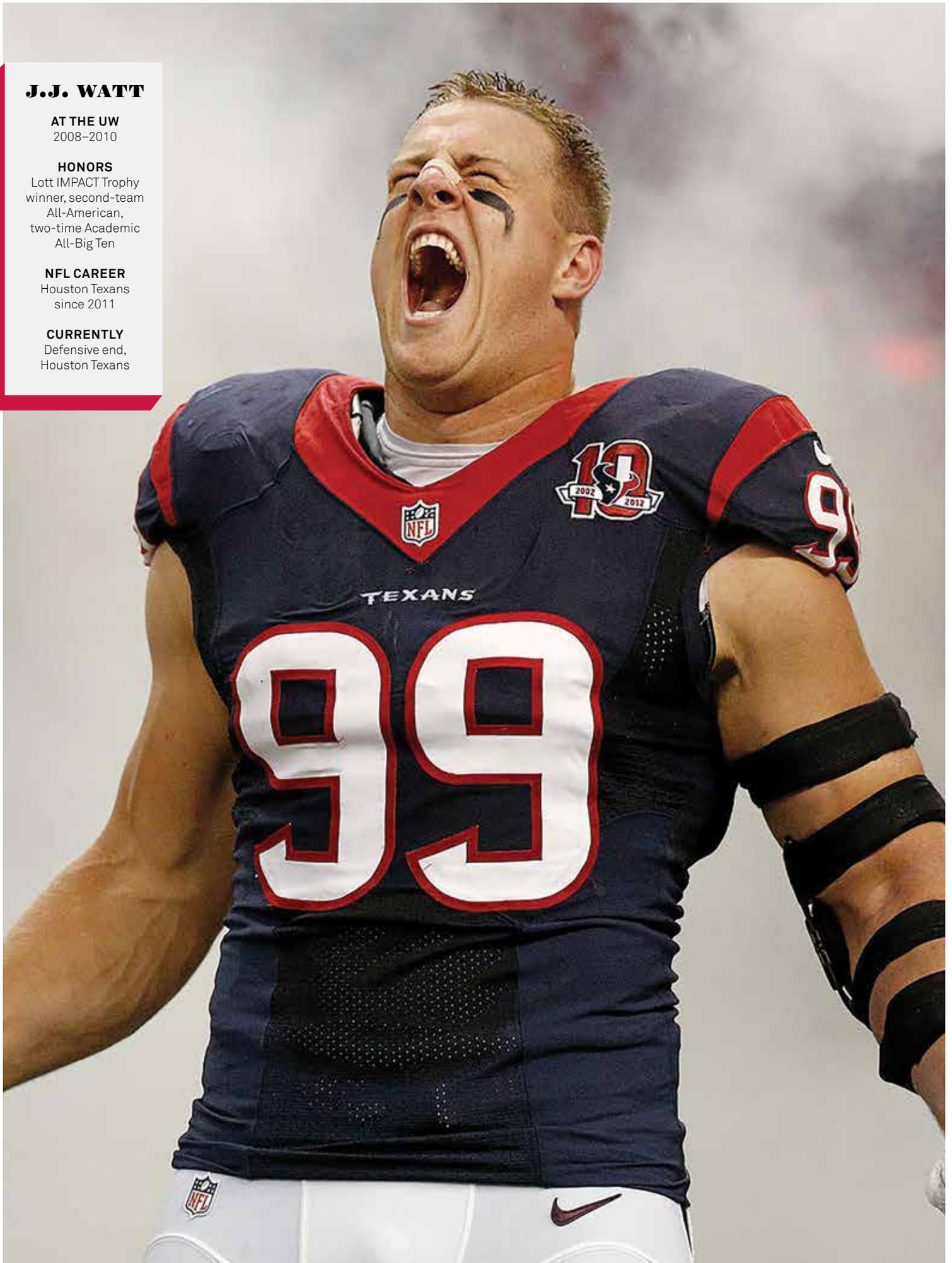
## J.J. WATT

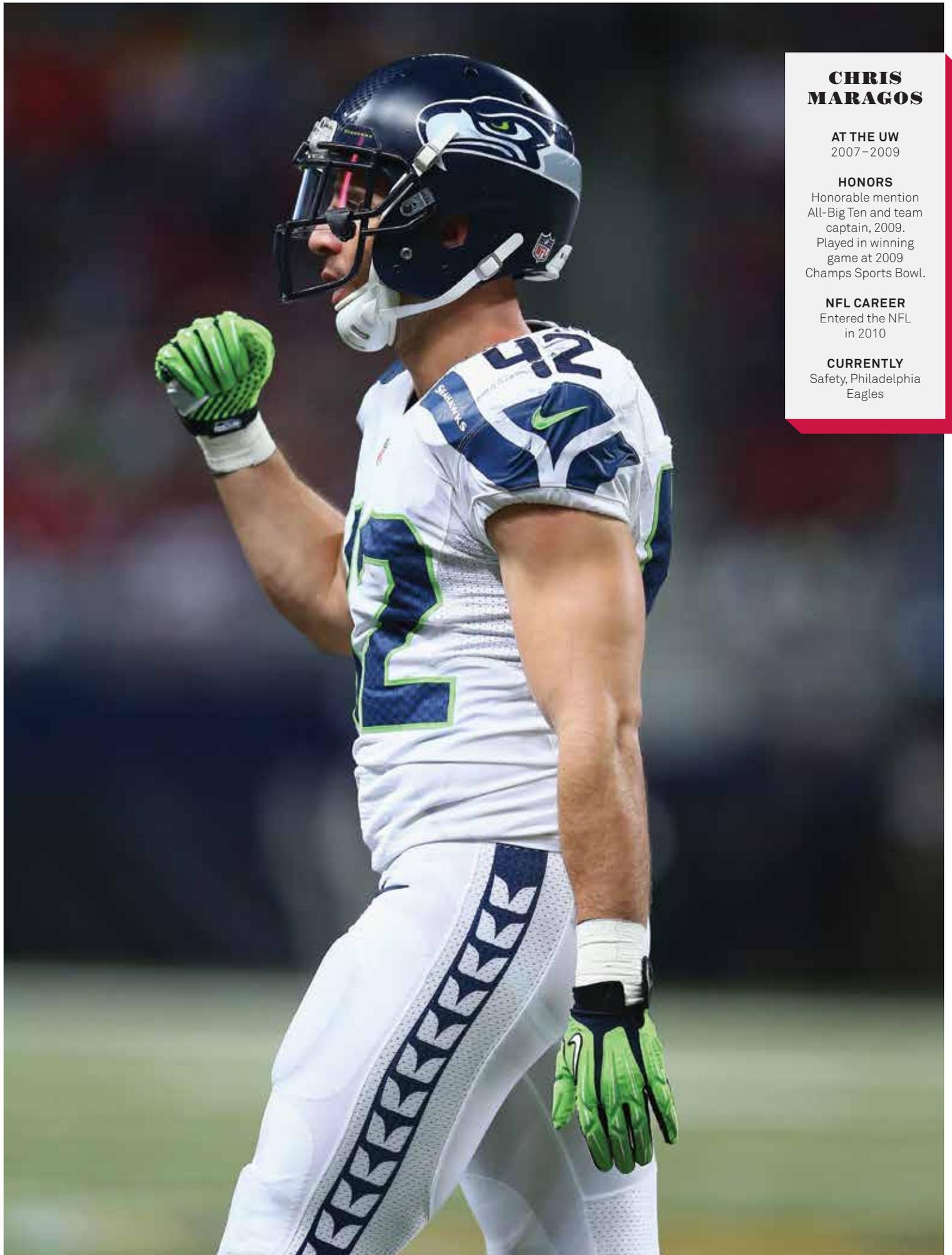
**AT THE UW**  
2008-2010

**HONORS**  
Lott IMPACT Trophy  
winner, second-team  
All-American,  
two-time Academic  
All-Big Ten

**NFL CAREER**  
Houston Texans  
since 2011

**CURRENTLY**  
Defensive end,  
Houston Texans





## **CHRIS MARAGOS**

**AT THE UW**  
2007–2009

### **HONORS**

Honorable mention  
All-Big Ten and team  
captain, 2009.  
Played in winning  
game at 2009  
Champs Sports Bowl.

### **NFL CAREER**

Entered the NFL  
in 2010

### **CURRENTLY**

Safety, Philadelphia  
Eagles

“I was told, ‘You’re not big enough, you’re not fast enough [to play at Wisconsin],’ ” he recalls. “When people who don’t believe in you say you can’t make it, that’s just more motivation.”

Watt also was spurred on by having promised his parents he would earn a scholarship at the UW. “At that time, failure was not an option. I was gambling on myself. There was just no option but to make it work,” he says. “There was a belief in myself to start with. And I put in the work. When you put in the work, you start to believe in yourself even more.”

By 2010, his third year as a Badger, Watt was a second-team All-American and was leaving school a year early. He was the eleventh overall pick in the 2011 NFL draft. He has already been named the league’s most valuable defensive player twice, in 2012 and 2014, and in July, he was named the top player by NFL Network, making him the first defensive player to earn that honor.

Wisconsin walk-ons who succeed use a chip on their shoulders to motivate them to greater heights, Watt says. “You’re happy to be on the team, but you have to do that much more to earn your place. It gives you an edge. You know you have to go above and beyond what the other scholarship players have to do,” he says.

“When you have to go through difficult times, it makes the victory that much sweeter.”

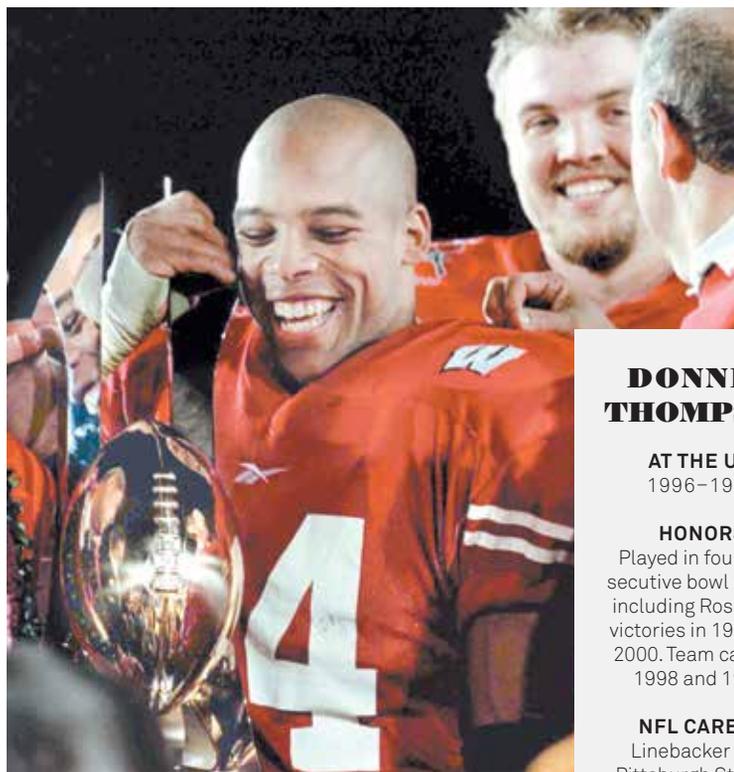
## CHRIS MARAGOS

After starting eight games as a redshirt freshman walk-on at Western Michigan University, Chris Maragos believed he had earned a scholarship for the next season, but it didn’t come through.

“I was pretty down. I was kind of looking for anything,” he says. “I felt like I was doing all the right things on the field and off the field to get the opportunities, and it just wasn’t happening.”

Encouraged by his brother Troy, who was then one of the Bucky Badger mascots, Maragos decided to walk on at Wisconsin, arriving in 2007. He made his mark before ever being eligible to play in a game. On the kickoff team during one of his first practices, Maragos sped downfield past his teammates and tackled the returner inside the ten-yard line. “I can remember the coaches saying, ‘Who is that guy?’ They knew I couldn’t play that year, but I was giving it my all.”

Maragos, who switched from wide receiver to defensive back after coming to Wisconsin, believes he made team captain because of how he carried himself when he first transferred. “I was listening to what [my teammates] had to say, and every day at practice I was just giving it my all, no matter what the drill was. Just trying to earn the guys’ respect for who I was as a person. I really believe that people will respect your character more than they



## DONNEL THOMPSON

**AT THE UW**  
1996–1999

**HONORS**  
Played in four consecutive bowl games, including Rose Bowl victories in 1999 and 2000. Team captain, 1998 and 1999.

**NFL CAREER**  
Linebacker with Pittsburgh Steelers and Indianapolis Colts, 2000–2003

**CURRENTLY**  
Vice president of national accounts at Direct Supply, Inc., Milwaukee

will respect your accomplishments,” he says.

“You know that you need to not cut corners in anything you do. You don’t get that many opportunities in life. You have to do the things in the right way, and you have to fight for them,” he adds. “When you get pushed, that’s when you really grow.”

## DONNEL THOMPSON

Donnel Thompson preaches the potential of teaming up unbridled enthusiasm with a solid work ethic.

“I think the one thing we all can control is attitude,” the former Badger linebacker says. “It gives you a great chance at being successful. And that’s contagious. When people see that you enjoy things and that you’re positive, they want to be around you, they want to involve you in things. And in a lot of cases, your results are going to reflect that attitude.”

Thompson says the doggedness he developed as a walk-on helped him years later, while working at Direct Supply, Inc. in Milwaukee. He lost his biggest customer — and feared his boss doubted that he could handle major accounts.

“I was so determined to prove him wrong and to prove that customer wrong — the next year, all of my customers were over 20 percent [growth in sales]. I had one of the best years in national accounts history,” Thompson recalls. “Because I was hell-bent on proving them wrong. I understand I probably didn’t do the right thing with this customer. I’m going to learn from that. But I’m going to find ways to add value to these other seventeen customers and to prove that I am the right fit.”

Thompson is now a vice president at the company. “Don’t give up. Don’t let people tell you no,” he says. “You’re going to face challenges; you’re going to face adversity. That’s all right.” ●

## WALK-ONS IN THE NFL

Jared Abbrederis  
Michael Bennett  
Erik Bickerstaff  
Chad Cascadden  
Jason Doering  
Bradie Ewing  
Paul Hubbard  
Matt Katula  
Jim Leonhard  
Chris Maragos  
Joe Panos  
Mike Schneck  
Mark Tauscher  
Donnel Thompson  
Rick Wagner  
J.J. Watt

Source: UW Athletic Department

The UW tracks walk-ons only since Barry Alvarez took over as coach in 1990.

# On Alumni

Alumni News at Home and Abroad



## Memories of '65

Class recalls life on campus  
a half century ago.

The Class of 1965 will celebrate its fiftieth reunion October 1-4, so we asked members to share some memories of their time at the UW. From the civil rights movement to the shooting of JFK, their recollections make it evident that they lived through some of the most significant historical events of their era.

If you'd like to attend the reunion, see [uwalumni.com/events/reunions](http://uwalumni.com/events/reunions) for more information. Highlights include a Day of Learning, with sessions such as "How Music Changed through the Sixties," a tailgate before the Wisconsin versus Iowa football game, campus tours, a class dinner, and more.

[I came from Florida] to finish my master's degree at the UW. In Florida at that time, as an African American, I could not attend the predominately white university. The UW supported me and made me feel welcome. Even after I left, UW professors followed my progress and backed me along the way.

**Essie Roberts Rutledge MA'65**

I remember people on top of Bascom Hill chanting "hands off of Cuba" in late 1963 [during

the Cuban Missile Crisis].

**Robert Riley '65**

My wife [Barbara Miller McLennan] and I were students, and one day, we got up and said, "Let's get married." We walked up to city hall and got married that day. She baked a chocolate cake. We had a judge and two witnesses, and that was it. We've been married since 1961.

**Kenneth McLennan PhD'65**

I remember Robert Frost walking along the Lakeshore Path when he was on campus to give a lecture.

**Charles Rang '65, MA'65**

Freshman year, I lived in the brand new Chadbourne Hall. Greyhound tour buses were in front of the building for the March on Selma. This has taken on greater meaning as my life has moved on, because I did not know that much about it at the time.

**Pamela Peckarsky Nonken '65**

I was a nun when I attended [the UW], and one day during class, some guys were playing tic-tac-toe on my veil.

**Patricia Langan '65**

I remember when [President] Kennedy was shot. The entire dorm was sitting in the living room watching the one TV for two days. We were all crying. I remember JFK speaking on the steps of Bascom Hall and telling us to change the world.

**Suzanne Cohan-Lange '65**

## 21

Highest number of WAA trips taken by a single traveler (**Jenene Brandt Garey '67**). In addition to trips to 49 domestic and international destinations, WAA also took travelers to the Outback Bowl and the Final Four this year.

## 123

Number of students who have received need-based **Great People Scholarships** through sales of The Red Shirt™, which has raised \$250,000 to date.

## 20

Number of minutes it took **Bucky Badger** to walk the 370 feet from the Below Alumni Center to the Terrace for a **Badger Insider** cover shoot, given stops for photos with fans. See [uwalumni.com/badgerinsider](http://uwalumni.com/badgerinsider) for more.

## 12,999

Number of participants who have earned **Grandparents' University "degrees"** since WAA initiated the program 15 years ago. See [uwalumni.com/gpu](http://uwalumni.com/gpu).

## BONNER HONORED

**Paula Bonner MS'78**, WAA's president and chief alumni officer, has been named a member of the UW Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2015. A UW associate athletic director from 1977 to 1989, she oversaw 11 women's sports and championed the rights of female students to compete in intercollegiate athletics. She also oversaw the transition for women's sports as they officially joined the Big Ten Conference and the NCAA in 1982.



## Raining Postcards

WAA asked alumni to send postcards to their legislators during the state budget process, during which the UW System faced the largest cut in its history. Some 12,000 alumni responded, and WAA staff and students hand-delivered the postcards to the capitol this past spring. It was just one of the ways that WAA raised awareness among alumni about the impact the cuts would have on faculty retention, national rankings, the educational experience, time to graduation, and more.

# Exhibition *Homecoming Buttons*



In 2001, **Pete Christianson '71, JD'77** embarked on a mission to collect all of the UW's Homecoming buttons since the event began in 1911. His collection was featured on the cover of the Spring 2010 *Badger Insider* in an article titled "Confessions of a Button Man." (See [uwalumni.com/go/buttons](http://uwalumni.com/go/buttons).)

Thanks to contributions from friends, garage sales, and eBay, Christianson had buttons from every year except eighteen of them. He's now closed the gap to just eight, although he's not positive that buttons were issued during all of those missing years. Want to help him out? He's missing 1943, 1944, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1996.

Christianson's favorite buttons are the first, 1911, which was the hardest to find and the most expensive on eBay; 1936, a gift from John Weaver, the first president of the UW System, for whom he used to work; 1935, which was the fiftieth anniversary of the marching band; and the 1967 button, which was from his freshman year in college.

He is looking forward to attending Homecoming 2015 on October 17 with his entire family, including his three children and their spouses or fiances (all UW alums) and his three grandchildren.

If you'd like to return to Madison to collect your own 2015 button, see [uwalumni.com/homecoming](http://uwalumni.com/homecoming) for more information. Highlights include a pep rally and parade, a **BADGER HUDDLE®**, and the Wisconsin-Purdue game.

On October 15, **Virgil Abloh '03**, who is the creative director for rap star Kanye West, will join **Gabriel Stulman '03**, a New York City restaurateur, for a RED Talk (modeled after TED Talks). The topic is how to be successful both in and out of school, and alumni are welcome.

For game-watch parties, locate your chapter website at [uwalumni.com/chapters](http://uwalumni.com/chapters).

# Tradition *Dane County Farmers' Market*



It's difficult to pinpoint the one thing that makes the Dane County Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square stand out from other outdoor farmers' markets across the country.

It could be the cheese curds and the spicy cheese bread that set it apart. After all, the market is tucked into the heart of America's Dairyland. Or perhaps it's the fact that — with one hundred and sixty vendors offering their goods each week — the market is the nation's largest producer-only farmers' market.

Shoppers flood the market from opening weekend in the spring through its last gasp in late fall, savoring the progression from early blooms and honey to heirloom tomatoes and strawberries to pumpkins and acorn squash. Started in 1972 by then-Mayor Bill Dyke, it unites Madison's urban and rural cultures. Students, families with kids in tow, alumni back for the weekend, and other

**What's your favorite UW tradition? Tell On Wisconsin at [onwisconsin@uwalumni.com](mailto: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.**

visitors browse the wide array of local products while admiring the towering State Capitol.

"It's a great background," says Mary Geissbuhler, co-owner of Brunkow Cheese in Darlington, Wisconsin. Her stand, known for its popular Brun-uusto Baked Cheese, has participated in the market for nearly two decades. "It's fun to come up here, and you meet people from all over the country," she says.

Although her stand has remained in the same spot on the Square for about ten years, Geissbuhler recalls a time when claiming territory was stressful: "Originally, you just had to drive around. They'd let you on the Square at 6:30 [a.m.], and it was first come, first served."

Slow Food UW, a student organization that is a certified nonprofit business and a licensed restaurant that promotes sustainability and eating

local, relies on the market's produce for some of its events. **Oona Mackesey-Green '15**, who served as the group's co-executive director last year, notes that the market provides the chance to connect directly with the food's sources.

"One of the reasons that I really love Madison [is that] it has so much going on here, but you're so close to agriculture and to other styles of living," the Madison native says. "When you get to talk with the farmers at somewhere like the Dane County Farmers' Market, you get to really ask them how they grow their food [and learn] the traditions behind it."

**Maggie Yoder '15**, a frequent market visitor, appreciates how the event draws locals and visitors alike each week. "I like the community feel of it," she says. "Having everyone together — that makes me feel like Madison is alive."

**STEPHANIE AWE '15**

## 1940s–50s

**John “JP” Endres ’51, MS’53** of Mequon, Wisconsin, writes proudly that Camp Chippewa — in the Chippewa National Forest on Cass Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota — is “celebrating its eightieth year of wilderness experiences, bringing boys from the city to the lakes and forests.” Founded in 1935 by the late **Otto Endres ’23** — a Big Ten and NCAA pole-vault champion who was selected for the 1920 Olympic team — and his wife, Helen, it hosts boys aged seven to seventeen in an environment that’s “removed from the electronic marvels of today.” Otto handed the directors’ reins to John and his wife, Cammy, in 1960. **Michael Endres ’80, ’84** and his wife, **Mary Stoll Endres ’85**, of Maple Grove, Minnesota, took them in 2012. John concludes quite rightly that “Camp Chippewa has a definite Badger flavor.”

**Richard Boniface ’53** of Cedar, Minnesota, recently earned the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative’s Art Pope Award — named for the late UW animal science professor **Art Pope MS’43, PhD’46** — but it’s far from Boniface’s first industry accolade. During his forty years at North Central Wool Marketing Corporation, he originated the grade-and-yield method of marketing wool, and he’s a popular wool show judge and a Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame inductee. Boniface says, “The friends I gained through my work are among my life’s prized possessions.”

UW-Madison sociology professor emeritus **Archibald Haller PhD ’54** of Tucson earned an award last year from the Brazilian Association of Administration, Economics, and Rural Sociology for his contributions to that nation’s understanding of its regional socioeconomic variations. This year, Brazilian Federal

### BOOK NEWS

Please complete and submit the form at [uwalumni.com/go/bookshelf](http://uwalumni.com/go/bookshelf). We then post submissions to a Wisconsin-alumni section of the book website Goodreads at [goodreads.com/wisalumni](http://goodreads.com/wisalumni). A handful of the books posted there will also appear in each issue of the print magazine.

### CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS

[classnotes@uwalumni.com](mailto:classnotes@uwalumni.com)

Class Notes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476

### DEATH NOTICES, NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, AND EMAIL UPDATES

[alumnichanges@uwalumni.com](mailto:alumnichanges@uwalumni.com)

Alumni Changes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476

608-262-9648 or toll free 888-947-2586 (WIS-ALUM)

University published, in Portuguese, an honorific book of his research articles on social stratification.

It’s probably safe to say that we’ve never written about the demolition industry, but **(Nels) Berger Jostad ’57** has given us the chance. He now holds the National Demolition Association’s (NDA) 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award for his leadership and commitment to the association, his community, the industry, and his company, the Glendale, California-based Viking Demolition. NDA’s board president calls Jostad “a thought leader in the industry.”

## 60s

We have a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance in our alumni midst: he’s **John Stavlo ’64** of Mammoth Lakes, California, who designed and implemented a first-of-its-kind precision pointing and tracking control system that proved to be a quantum leap in signals intelligence collection sensitivity. A plaque honoring Stavlo is now on display in Pioneer Hall at the headquarters of the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Virginia.

Former Wisconsin Alumni Association board chair **Elzie Higginbottom ’65** is new to another board: that of After School Matters, a Chicago nonprofit that provides high-schoolers with opportunities to explore their talents while developing critical skills for work, college, and beyond. He founded East Lake Management and Development Corporation in 1983, and now, as its president and CEO, oversees one of the largest minority-owned real estate firms in Illinois. “Having grown up in Chicago,” says Higginbottom, “I feel a great sense of responsibility to support the youth in our city’s underserved communities.”

The 2015 Verner Gover-

nor’s Award for the Arts for Lifetime Achievement, bestowed by the South Carolina Arts Commission, has gone to **Terry Peterson ’67**. A former counselor to the U.S. secretary of education and a cofounder of the national Arts Education Partnership, he’s been a strong force for including the arts in the federal definition of core subjects. Peterson is currently a senior fellow at the College of Charleston [South Carolina], chair of the National Afterschool Alliance, and director of the Afterschool and Community Learning Network.

**Lewis Smith PhD ’67** of Boise, Idaho, was an elementary school teacher, principal, University of Idaho teacher educator, and now professor emeritus. His “personal life mission,” he says, “is one that involves proposing an approach that yields a different result than our failed early-childhood reading education” — work to which he’s dedicated himself through many programs designed to produce lifetime readers.

## 70s

Kudos to four ’70s graduates who’ve earned academic accolades. **Jack (John) Dezek ’71** of Hallandale Beach, Florida, now has emeritus status at Barry University, retiring in 2014 after twenty years as an associate professor of educational leadership and associate dean of its education school. He’s looking forward to coming back to campus after the construction on Library Mall is finished — which may take awhile. **Loke Kok PhD’71** is a new professor emeritus of entomology at Virginia Tech (VT) in Blacksburg, where he’s made significant contributions to the field of biological control since he joined the faculty in 1972. With VT since 1978, **Donald Baird PhD’74** has earned an international reputation for his work

in polymer rheology, holds the Society of Plastics Engineers' International Award, and has been named the Giacco Professor of Chemical Engineering. And, the 2015 Distinguished Professor at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville is **Katie Waters '71**, whose posts as a professor of art and director of the campus's McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries are just the latest in her thirty-plus years of service there.

**Charles Prebish PhD'71** of State College, Pennsylvania, is recognized as one of the world's foremost scholars of Buddhist studies. He retired from a thirty-six-year teaching career at Penn State in 2006 to accept the Charles Redd Endowed Chair in Religious Studies at Utah State until his "final retirement" in 2010. Penn State recently honored Prebish with a display of his books, and he gave an address on campus about his groundbreaking research in North American Buddhism — which, through his efforts, has become a recognized subdiscipline in Buddhist studies.

**Barry Guitar PhD'74**, a professor of communication sciences and disorders at the University of Vermont (UVM) in Burlington, is among the globe's leading researchers and clinicians in the area of stuttering — and someone who conquered his own stutter. Dozens of admirers wrote in support of his latest award, the UVM Alumni Association's 2015 Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award, with his faculty colleagues noting, "Barry does not merely teach; he changes lives and communities." The fifth edition of Guitar's widely used college textbook, *Stuttering: An Integrated Approach to Its Nature and Treatment*, will soon be published.

With poems about his rural roots at the heart of his oeuvre, **Shelby Stephenson PhD'74** has become North Carolina's

poet laureate. Long part of the state's rich literary history, he's also earned the North Carolina Award for Literature, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, and induction into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame. Stephenson, an English professor at UNC-Pembroke and editor of *Pembroke Magazine* until his 2010 retirement, writes — and has sung with his wife on four CDs — in Benson, North Carolina.

**Gail Owens Baity MA'76** is new to the board of the Association for Talent Development, the world's largest organization for the industry. She also directs workforce development and learning for Corning in Corning, New York, but her experience spans multiple industries and human-resources specialties. Baity drove the development of Corning's global leadership competencies and led the creation of the framework for its leadership-development curriculum.

The Brevity Award for submissions to this issue goes to Madisonian **George Brown MA'78**. He's been executive director of the State Bar of Wisconsin since 1999 and is the 2014–15 president of the National Association of Bar Executives.

**Heidi Radtke Notbohm '79, MS'81** and **Tom Notbohm '79** have opened a three-suite bed-and-breakfast in Madison: the Buckingham Inn on Summit Avenue. The work of **Frank Lloyd Wright x1890** influenced its original 1911 design; a yearlong renovation has stayed true to its Prairie-style origins; technology upgrades have brought it into the present; and it's one block from Camp Randall. What's not to love?

## 80s

The thirteenth president — and the first woman president — of the College of Idaho in

Caldwell is **Charlotte Borst MA'80, PhD'89**. She took the helm of the private, liberal arts institution in June after wrapping up six years as the vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Whittier [California] College.

When Yamaha Corporation of America staff members and friends ran in and donated to an annual charity race in January, they completed their seventh year of fundraising to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes in association with Yamaha Cares, the philanthropic arm of the Buena Park, California-based company. Yamaha's marketing communications manager, **Dave Jewell '80**, says that this year's contributions brought their overall donation total to the Children's Hospital of Orange County Diabetes Center to more than seventy-seven thousand dollars.

When the UW School of Journalism and Mass Communication toasted its own at its annual awards banquet in April, **Stephen Reese MA'80, PhD'82**, a professor of journalism and associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Texas-Austin, earned the Nelson Award for his contributions to education research in the industry; Madisonian **Mike McCabe '82**, former executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, took home the Distinguished Service Award; and for achievement within ten years of graduation, *ESPN Magazine* senior editor **Cristina Daglas '06** of West Hartford, Connecticut, received the Nafziger Award.

Congratulations to four grads who have been recognized in *Barron's* 2015 America's Top Advisor Rankings by State: Merrill Lynch private wealth advisers **John Ver Bockel '80** in the Chicago office; **Michael Swenson '88** in the Wayzata, Minnesota, office; and **Benjamin Klein '95** in the

**The work of Frank Lloyd Wright x1890 influenced its original 1911 design; a yearlong renovation has stayed true to its Prairie-style origins; technology upgrades have brought it into the present; and it's one block from Camp Randall. What's not to love?**

**See Heidi Radtke Notbohm '79, MS'81 and Tom Notbohm '79**

## Recognition *Stacy Igel '99*

Northbrook, Illinois, office; as well as **Benjamin Leshem '86**, managing director of investments in the Deerfield, Illinois, branch of Wells Fargo Advisors.

After fourteen years with the half-million-member Laborers' International Union of North America, **Richard Greer '81** writes that he's "left his position as strategic communications director to found Today, a Washington, DC- based network of creative, media, and communications contacts specializing in good work done fast for progressive organizations."

Helping Badger State citizens to find the truth in politics is the mission of the five-year-old PolitiFact Wisconsin: a partnership of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and politifact.com, a Pulitzer Prize-winning website of the *Tampa Bay Times*. Every day, three intrepid PolitiFact Wisconsin reporters at the *Journal Sentinel* — **Jim Nelson '81**, **Dave Umhoefer '83**, and **Tom Kertscher '84** — research statements made by elected officials, candidates, and other public figures to rate their accuracy on PolitiFact's Truth-O-Meter.

The international financial-services firm Baird has installed **Terry Maxwell '82** as its chief financial officer. He was with the firm for twenty years, heading investment banking; spent several years in academia; then rejoined Baird in 2014 as its director of corporate development and strategic investment. The company has been on *Fortune's* list of 100 Best Companies to Work For for twelve consecutive years and attained the number five spot in 2015.

**John Stofflet '83** — a news anchor and reporter for Madison's NBC-15 — was one of five TV journalists nationwide to be invited to the White House to interview President Obama in April — in front of the fireplace where FDR delivered his Fireside Chats. Obama and Stofflet

### SMART STARTER

"She started it" is a common get-out-of-jail-free card for siblings and playground trouble-makers everywhere. But **Stacy Igel '99** would be proud to say that "she started it" — and not just when describing Boy Meets Girl (BMG), the clothing line she debuted in 2001.

The Boy Meets Girl brand offers "ath-leisure" designs geared toward young women. Igel describes the BMG girl as both "downtown" and "uptown," "not too classy" but with "a little class," and "not too edgy" but with "a little edge." So, essentially, anyone. In 2014, Igel began selling her line exclusively through nordstrom.com, and in May of 2015, the line moved into select Nordstrom stores. Before that, she started a program in

which she teaches young fashion students about the industry. And before that, Igel was starting off alongside designers such as Rebecca Taylor and Stacey Bendet.

Igel started starting things as a student in UW-Madison's School of Human Ecology (SoHE). She majored in retailing with concentrations in design and merchandising, and she received a certificate in business. In SoHE, Igel worked with the head of the design department to develop a senior thesis. "I was basically carving out my own design program at Wisconsin," she says. During her senior year, she was asked to speak to her fellow students about getting internships — she had scored hers with designers such as Zandra Rhodes, Donna Karan, and Elsa Klensch.

During the same year, Igel designed, marketed, and sold her first design, a women's top similar to what she calls a "hippie sack dress." She sewed one hundred of these garments and, like traveling salesmen of old, sold them to girls on spring break. "That cross-relates to what I had to do when I first started the brand," Igel says. She recalls driving to storefronts in Los Angeles with a roller bag filled with shirts to sell them.

As the marketing landscape changed from samples in suitcases to tags on Twitter, Igel adapted. Before Facebook offered Pages as a platform for businesses, she used her personal page as a grassroots effort to market BMG. Now, @BoyMeetsGirlUSA and @StacyIgel are on all major social platforms. Most recently, she's been live-streaming her blog, *Behind the Seams with Stacy Igel*, on Periscope. Social media helps Igel get to know her customers, but it also helps customers get to know her brand. She calls this "humanizing the brand in the social media space."

Igel has come a long way since her poolside peddling to spring-breakers. As for where she's headed next, who knows? She just might start something.

**CHELSEA SCHLECHT '13**



first chatted about the Badgers' play in the Final Four, but their main topic was middle-class economics. The journalists also met with economic advisers, toured the White House, and met the First Dogs. "I have traveled on assignment to all seven continents," says Stofflet, who's earned twenty-two Emmys, "but adding the White House to that list of interview locations is just about every journalist's dream."

Along with a group of leading experts in juvenile- and criminal-justice reform, **Alex Busansky '84** of Berkeley, California, has founded Impact Justice, a national, nonprofit innovation and research center that's committed to reducing the number of people involved in the justice system, bettering conditions for those who are incarcerated, providing meaningful opportunities for success upon re-entering society, and improving justice outcomes for crime victims. He'd love to hear from former classmates at [abusansky@impactjustice.org](mailto:abusansky@impactjustice.org).

**Molly Roslak Gribb '85** was excited to return to her native Wisconsin this summer to become the dean of UW-Platteville's College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science. Previously, she served as a civil and environmental engineering department head and professor at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, as a professor of civil engineering and director of the Center for Environmental Sensing at Boise [Idaho] State University, and as an associate professor at the University of South Carolina.

The State Bar of Wisconsin has bestowed its Tuchscherer Outstanding Public Interest Law Attorney Award on **Lisa Clay Foley JD'87**, the supervising attorney at Disability Rights Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

**Susan Notar '87** of Falls Church, Virginia, is the senior Iraq policy lead at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Near

Eastern Affairs. She traveled to Baghdad and Erbil in February to meet with senior Iraqi governmental and religious leaders to discuss human-rights issues.

Today **George Dreckmann '88** is a Madison institution as its recycling coordinator — the garbage and recycling guru — but he began in a temporary post with the streets department while awaiting his chance at a teaching job. Instead, he just stayed. During his tenure, Dreckmann has ushered in curbside recycling and prepared for a proposed composting program. "Climate change to me is the most pressing issue on the planet," he says. "Anything that can lighten our carbon footprint is okay." He plans to retire in January from his unanticipated but successful career.

"I have a fantastic new job," writes **Glen Cook MS'89, PhD'98** with gusto: he's the chief scientist at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, where he researches novel ideas in glass and new ways to work with it; serves as a resource to the museum, art, scientific, and technical communities; and acts as the technical adviser to Corning's new specialty-glass artist-in-residence program. Cook was previously a sixteen-year Corning senior research associate, one of its most acclaimed exploratory researchers, and its Stookey Award recipient in 2013. He adds, "Every day, I am asked a question or engage in a discussion that makes me grateful for my UW education ... and I speak proudly of that connection."

Which Madison java shop was named in March to *TIME* magazine's list of the top ten coffee shops in the U.S.? It's Indie Coffee on Regent Street, owned for the last decade by **Barrett Kilmer '89** and his wife, **Jennifer Enstrom Kilmer '89**. It's a forum for independent music and film and an especially happenin' place on football game

days, when red-and-white-clad baristas serve up red-and-white waffles with coffee. The shop also "got a nice mention in *GQ*," says Barrett, and it's been named a top coffee shop by *Travel + Leisure* and *complex.com*.

## 90s

In his TV persona as the Hungry Hound, **Steve Dolinsky '90** eats his way through Chicago as the food reporter for *ABC 7 News* and is a food correspondent for *The World* — a coproduction of Public Radio International, the BBC World News Service, and WGBH Boston. He also founded the media-training business Culinary Communications and has been a judge on the Food Network's *Iron Chef America*. No newcomer to the Chicago food-meets-media scene, he's garnered twelve James Beard Awards for his TV and radio work during the past decade.

In 1982, **Tony Hornik-Tran (Hung Tien Tran) '90** left his native Vietnam in a small boat to seek out a better life, landed in the Philippines, and eventually became part of an adoptive family in Madison. Hornik-Tran's first job was with the International Catholic Migration Commission/Joint Voluntary Agency — in the same refugee camp in the Philippines where he had lived. In 2002, he joined the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Most recently assigned to Bratislava, Slovakia, as the U.S. Embassy's regional security officer/security attaché, he's also served in New York, Angola, China, Yemen, Namibia, Mongolia, and Vietnam.

**Steve Lochowitz '90** of Tucson just may have accomplished a first in moviemaking: he filmed three flicks — *Mania*, *Desolation*, and *Kill the Production Assistant* (a documentary about making the first two) — in twenty-one days while

**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.

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## Recognition *Jan Ramer DVM'95*

driving from Los Angeles to Alabama and back. Lochowitz served as the aforementioned production assistant and transportation captain on all three, and he even stepped in to play the part of a murder victim when necessity called. Congratulations are in order for another reason, too: he's just earned his master's degree in secondary education.

Everyone loves a good story, right? **Linda Tate PhD'91** celebrates that belief through her new, weekly blog and podcast called StoryWeb: Storytime for Grownups (thestoryweb.com) — tales that are worth putting on your “listening ears.” A former English professor and master storyteller herself, she also heads Tate Communications in Boulder, Colorado, and is the author of the recent *Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative* (Ohio University Press) and the upcoming *Ferguson Girl: A Memoir of Family, Place, and Race*.

While serving in West Germany in the seventies as a Green Beret intelligence officer, **Jay (Joseph) Hatheway, Jr. PhD'92** was subjected to abuse, psychological testing, and a months-long court-martial trial that resulted in an “other than honorable” discharge for being gay. In 1976, he was the first to make a constitutional challenge to the military's ban on gay soldiers, and in 2011, then-U.S. Representative **Tammy Baldwin JD'89** presented Hatheway with a framed copy of the act that repealed the “don't ask, don't tell” policy. But the discharge remained — until February 2, 2015, when he was granted clemency and an honorable discharge dated May 28, 1976. Hatheway is a professor and chair of the history department at Madison's Edgewood College and the author of *The Gilded Age Roots of Modern American Homophobia* and *Guilty as Charged: The True Story of a Gay Beret*.



### WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

The sun rises over the nine-thousand-acre expanse. Herds of sable antelope, southern white rhinos, and giraffes roam freely. Somewhere, a newborn Sichuan takin learns to walk. It's another beautiful day in ... Cumberland, Ohio.

This is the Wilds, a fourteen-square-mile safari park and conservation center smack-dab between Columbus, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It's home to thirty-one rare and endangered species. It's also where **Jan Ramer DVM'95**, the Wilds' director of conservation medicine, goes to work every day.

“It's first and foremost a conservation and research center,” says Ramer. “It's also a drive-through safari park. You can go on safari drives right through the pastures and have camels, giraffes, and rhinos come right up to the truck, just like you would in Africa.”

And if anyone knows what it's like to interact with wildlife in Africa, it's Ramer. Before joining the Wilds, she regularly made six-hour hikes through rainforests in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda to care for sick and wounded mountain gorillas, a subspecies of eastern gorillas. For two two-year periods (broken up briefly by a stateside job at the Indianapolis Zoo), Ramer worked as the regional veterinary manager for Gorilla Doctors, an international nonprofit dedicated to the conservation of Africa's critically endangered mountain-gorilla population. That habituated species is the only great ape population that is currently increasing — thanks, in part, to Gorilla Doctors.

“Gorilla Doctors makes a difference and is really contributing to the conservation of eastern gorillas in the wild,” Ramer says. “It felt good to be on the cutting edge of conservation in that way, with such a wonderful team.”

Ramer has always wanted to focus on zoo and wildlife work, particularly nondomestic medicine. “The Wisconsin [School of Veterinary Medicine] was really great about offering extracurricular opportunities and allowing me to go off campus to seek experiences in nondomestic species,” she says.

Even though Ramer completed her undergraduate degree at Purdue, she is a Badger at heart. As a child, she went to summer camps near Eagle River. She and a group of Madison friends reconnect to go camping on Rock Island each year. And she's made it back to campus to speak at the veterinary school.

“There's something about the UW and about Madison that makes people want to stay — and stay in touch,” she says.

**CHELSEA SCHLECHT '13**

When the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine began to create a Cleveland campus in affiliation with the renowned Cleveland Clinic, **Isaac Kirstein '92** was tapped as dean. That campus opened for classes in July. Kirstein was previously the vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer at Franciscan St. James Health in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

At the new Lifespan Psychotherapy in Hartland, Wisconsin, **Chris Olson Drosdick '93** provides art psychotherapy services. She's also an adjunct professor in the art therapy department of Cuyahoga Community College.

**Gregory Goar '93**, a UW professor of aerospace studies who also commands the campus's Air Force ROTC (AFROTC), took us back to 1992, when ROTC was nearly removed from campus due to the "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) policy of that era. Today, he notes, many early-nineties AFROTC grads are still serving. Among them are Colonel **David Banholzer '91**, commander of *Air Force One* and, says Goar, the "face of the cadets" during the DADT discussions; and Colonel **Keith Balts '92**, 30th Space Wing commander at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, who's responsible for the West Coast space launch facility.

**Jane Barthell '94** has joined Minnesota Neonatal Physicians in Minneapolis as a full partner — and it's been quite a journey to get there! She juggled medical school (as a Minnesota Golden Gopher), a pediatric residency, a neonatal fellowship, and four children with the help of her husband, **Ned Gustafson '93**. He says that "both parents still enjoy quick trips to Madison and visiting with friends from our undergraduate years."

L.A. screenwriter **Phil**

**Johnston '94** says that his days in Madtown fueled his success in Hollywood. He started out as a TV news reporter but decided to act on a feeling that he'd had since taking a film class from UW professor **David Bordwell**: that writing and directing movies was his true calling. Johnston left the news business, studied filmmaking, worked on scripts, and got his big break with *Cedar Rapids*. He then developed the animated hit *Wreck-It Ralph* for Walt Disney Studios, which earned an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature in 2013; and he contributed to the Oscar-nominated *Nebraska*. Upcoming projects include the spy spoof *Grimshy*, cowritten with Sacha Baron Cohen; and an adaptation of *Confederacy of Dunces*.

**David Kaufman '94** is the new VP and director of the Safety and Security Division of CNA Corporation in Arlington, Virginia, a not-for-profit research organization that assists government leaders in setting policy and managing operations. Kaufman is returning to CNA from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he's been its associate administrator for policy, program analysis, and international affairs since 2009.

At the Boston-based DentaQuest, the nation's third-largest oral health company, **Steven Pollock JD'94** has stepped up from his post as chief operating officer to become the new president and CEO. He's been with DentaQuest since 1999.

By day, **Hanz Wasserburger '94** is an assistant attorney general in Austin, Texas, whose work involves litigation against pharmaceutical companies in relation to the Texas Medicaid program. By night, he's a screenwriter and film producer. Several of Wasserburger's scripts have aired as features and TV movies, including the recent comedy *A Novel Romance*.

An independent film that he wrote and coproduced, *Second Impression*, is slated to hit the film-festival circuit this year.

The polyphenol biotransformation platform and additional research and development duties at Milwaukee's Agro BioSciences — a firm that provides microbial products for agricultural and human health needs — are now in the hands of **Doug Willrett EMBA'95**. In amassing his three-plus decades of experience, he's worked at DuPont, leading a nutrition and health global business unit; and at Danisco as the executive VP of its Cultures Division.

Newly elected to the board of the National Science Teachers Association is **Eric Brunsell '96**, a UW-Oshkosh associate professor of curriculum and instruction and the COO of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers. He also published two books last year, one of which — *Introducing Teachers and Administrators to the Next Generation Science Standards: A Professional Development Facilitator's Guide* — was among the Best Books of 2014 as chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science journal *Science Books & Films*.

"I'm ... doing what most political science majors do after they graduate," quips **Daniel Gaus '96**: "[working] in flower exports in Quito, Ecuador." His new e-commerce endeavor, Esperanza Flowers, ships fresh blossoms — picked from the side of a volcano in the Andes — to any U.S. address and donates 10 percent of each sale to the Centro del Muchacho Trabajador, a foundation that assists the poor in Quito. And Gaus is planning ahead: "I will have plenty of red roses when the Badgers make it to next year's Rose Bowl."

As this year's Wisconsin journalist-in-residence at UW-Madison, **Toya Washington**

**"I'm doing what most political science majors do after they graduate: [working] in flower exports in Quito, Ecuador."**

**Daniel Gaus '96**

'97 has met with faculty, staff, and students — both to teach and to learn. She's an Emmy winner and four-time nominee for breaking news coverage who joined Milwaukee's WISN 12 News in 2002 and coanchors the 5 p.m. newscast. Washington has also been an active member of the National Association of Black Journalists and serves on the UW School of Journalism and Mass Communication's board of visitors.

The Advocates for Human Rights, a Minneapolis-based international nonprofit, has appointed **(Sorha) Rosalyn Park '98** as director of its Women's Human Rights Program. She's been one of its staff attorneys since 2003 and acting director since last year, working around the world, at the United Nations, and in Minnesota to reform laws and systems to more effectively respond to abuses of women, including domestic violence and sex trafficking.

Operating a hotel with fantasy-themed suites probably wasn't the first thing that **Marc Strobusch '98** of Hartland, Wisconsin, thought would mesh with his career as a Walgreens pharmacist, but it does. He and his wife, Shannon, own the Best Western Designer Inn & Suites in Galena, Illinois — to which Marc's father has added custom-designed and hand-crafted Crystal Cave, Roman Palace, and Heart's Delight fantasy suites.

Do you crave sugar? (Silly question ...) Americans consume great amounts of sugar, and its wide-ranging, detrimental effects on health are well documented. **Dustin Strong '99**, a certified holistic nutritionist in Mansfield, Texas, and a cofounder of Strong On Health, offers his solution: he's developed Sugar Stopper, an all-natural, herbal supplement spray made with the *gymnema sylvestre* herb to suppress the taste of sugar and reduce cravings. Strong used an Indiegogo

crowdfunding campaign to help launch the product.

## 2000s

**Jack Newman PhD'01** is the chief science officer at Amyris, an Emeryville, California-based renewable fuels and chemicals company that he cofounded in 2003. Amyris received a Green Chemistry Innovation Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2014 for developing farnesane, an advanced renewable fuel that's in use by airlines and the navy.

**Matt Binetti '02**, a New York City story producer, has written for HGTV's *House Hunters International* and now writes for the FYI Network's *Tiny House Hunting*. But he's interested in other writing as well: Binetti's started a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported publication on medium.com called *The Wisconsin* (medium.com/the-wisconsin) and seeks to expand its writer network and content by featuring "written work of integrity" — fiction, nonfiction, poetry, you name it — with Badger State ties through authorship or theme.

**Daniel Black '02** of Fort Worth, Texas, already had a long list of accolades as a conductor and composer, but he's been having an exceptional couple of years. In 2014, he became music director of the Oshkosh [Wisconsin] Symphony Orchestra and assistant conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. This year, he was appointed director of instrumental music at the Wildwood Academy of Music and the Arts in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has received a Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award to further develop his talent and career.

According to the legal newsletter *Law360*, who's a 2015 Rising Star? It's **Joseph Gratz '02**, one of nine top attorneys under the age of forty practicing

intellectual property law in the United States, and a partner at Durie Tangri in San Francisco.

Badger attorneys are ever the movers and shakers, as their news demonstrates. Husch Blackwell's Denver office has welcomed senior counsel **Julie Sullivan '02** to its health care, life sciences, and education industry team. Also in Denver, **Peter Nagle '04** and **Emma Lange-Novak '07, JD'10** are both new associates at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, with Nagle practicing in the intellectual property department and Lange-Novak working in the corporate department. A new associate at Brandt Criminal Defense in Anoka, Minnesota, is **Eric Bain '05**, who took a leave of absence from his JD studies at William Mitchell College of Law to intern in Tanzania with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. And, **Sarah Semrow '06** and **(Tyler) James Junger '11, JD'14** have joined the Milwaukee office of Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman — the nation's largest health care-focused law firm.

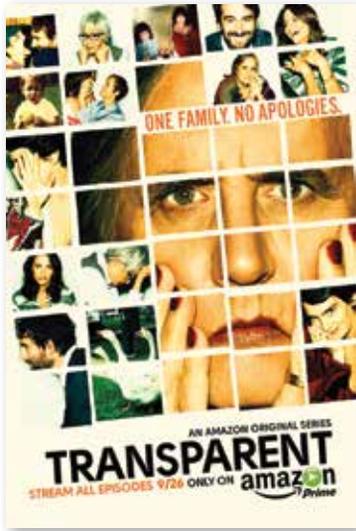
**Karen Heusinger Searles '03** teaches dance at Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock, Texas, and is the first educator in her school district to offer a new course in the state called Dance and Media Communications. She's also been chosen to participate in her school district's Next Generation Digital Classroom pilot initiative, in which one incubator classroom at each school will be outfitted as — and help to define — digital classrooms of the future. Searles is a founder of Texas Future Dance Educators and a leader in the Texas Dance Educators Association.

The intersection of fashion and sports is where New Yorker **Heather Zeller '05** hangs out as the 2009 originator and editor-in-chief of the website and blog *AGlamSlam.com*. "To

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## TRANSPARENT

Following the premiere of its pilot episode at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, *Transparent* became Amazon Prime's most anticipated show. The comedy-drama features three adult children responding to their father's



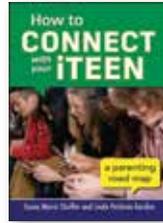
revelation that he's transitioning from male to female. *Transparent's* creator, writer, executive producer, and director is **Jill Soloway '87** of Los Angeles: a comedian and feminist who took home a Golden Globe in January for *Transparent* as the Best

TV Series/Musical or Comedy. The show also garnered eleven Emmy nominations in July.

In an April *New York Times Magazine* profile, Soloway discussed how the transgender community is reacting to the program and how her father shared the same news as her show's character. She dedicated her Golden Globe honor in part to her father, whom she called her "trans parent," saying in her acceptance speech, "I just want to thank you for coming out because in doing so, you made a break for freedom; you told your truth; you taught me how to tell my truth and make this show. And maybe we're going to be able to teach the world something about authenticity and truth and love."

Soloway's previous work — especially with HBO's *Six Feet Under* (as a writer and co-executive producer) and the film *Afternoon Delight* (for which she earned a Directing Award/U.S. Dramatic at Sundance in 2013 for her writing and directing) — has also been notable for exploring gender, especially through complex female characters who are on personal journeys.

**Hello, book lovers!** Check out the new Wisconsin-alumni section of Goodreads at [goodreads.com/wisalumni](http://goodreads.com/wisalumni) for more news about books by Badger alumni and faculty.



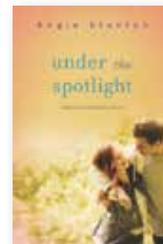
Coauthor **Linda Perlman Gordon '69's** fifth book, *How to Connect with Your iTeen: A Parenting Road Map* (McGraw Hill), provides skills to help parents cope with their kids' teenhood through "an all-encompassing resource." She's a psychotherapist in private practice in Chevy Chase, Maryland.



**Jeffrey Kurz '83** teaches at UW-Milwaukee and operates his own production company, Belle City Pictures. Last year, he and **Neil Willenson '92** of Grafton, Wisconsin, produced the documentary *Healing Hearts* about Camp Hometown Heroes, a summer camp for children of fallen military-service members.

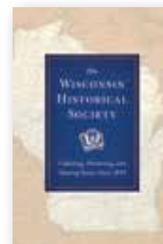


**Sean Hanish '90** of Pasadena, California, is a writer, director, and producer in film and other media. He and his wife, Kiley, have created the film *Return to Zero*, starring Minnie Driver, based on their experiences of the stillbirth loss of their son. **Kelly Kahl '89** served as the movie's executive producer. The Hanishes have also founded the Return to Zero Center for Healing, and Sean has coedited *Three Minus One: Parents' Stories of Love & Loss* (She Writes Press).



Madisonian **Angie Stanton Tyler '98's** seventh contemporary-romance/young-adult novel is *Under the Spotlight* (HarperTeen), set in the UW's very own Elizabeth Waters residence hall. She writes as Angie Stanton.

Two years before Wisconsin became a state, pioneers envisioned an institution to preserve the area's already vast history. Thus was born the Wisconsin Historical Society, which now serves three million people each year. **John Zimm '03** has chronicled its story in *The Wisconsin Historical Society: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846*. He's an editor at the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in Madison, which published the work.



Amid national discussions about marijuana legalization, **Chris Duvall PhD'06** has written *Cannabis* (Reaktion Books): "a world history of the plant genus, [which] began for me when I encountered an unexpected reference to [it] in my research on the environmental history of slavery" in the UW's African Studies Program. Duvall is an associate professor of geography at the University of New Mexico.



## On Alumni Class Notes

stand out in the digital world,” she says, “you need to ... find a unique way to talk about something” — and it’s working: she’s been lauded in mainstream media, the sports press, and women’s business circles. Zeller is also a marketing specialist for the sports clothing and shoe manufacturer Fila.

The United States Marine Corps Defense Counsel of the Year Award has gone to Captain **Thomas Friction ’06**, whose outstanding trial record of 8-0, leadership qualities, extra-mile work ethic, and upbeat attitude have set him apart. He’s currently stationed at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California.

**Eric Jensen ’06** of Minneapolis has stepped up to direct the energy program for the Izaak Walton League of America, which is dedicated to conservation and outdoor recreation. With the nonprofit for the last seven years, he’ll continue its work to further incorporate renewables and energy efficiency in Minnesota and position the program to advance clean-energy policy in other states.

Last winter, as Wisconsin governor Scott Walker moved toward a presidential bid, a group called Our American Revival formed to spread his message nationally before officially announcing his candidacy. **Kirsten Kukowski ’06** — press secretary for the Republican National Committee since 2011 — was hired to serve as Our American Revival’s communications director.

In true *Jeopardy!* style, we ask, “Who is **Michael Jones ’07**?” The correct answer is that he’s the Madison middle-school behavioral specialist who competed for a \$100,000 grand prize in *Jeopardy!*’s 2015 Teachers Tournament, which aired in February. He wasn’t the top winner — sorry, Michael — but he did achieve a longtime dream by appearing

on the show. And what’s Alex Trebek really like in person? “He couldn’t have been more gracious,” Jones says. “He’s a very sharp man.”

Only twenty-three certified physician assistants in Wisconsin have earned the specialty Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants — and **Karen Sager ’07** is one of them. She’s using her CAQ in hospital medicine as the first hospitalist physician assistant to join Select Specialty Hospital in Madison.

More than forty years ago, the Senate Press Secretaries Association began as a bipartisan forum where all of the U.S. Senate’s press secretaries could mingle and share ideas. Today it’s the largest Capitol Hill professional organization for communicators, and its 2015 president is none other than **Meghan Roh ’08**: a four-year Badger crew member and deputy communications director for Senator **Tammy Baldwin JD’89**. The group’s presidency alternates parties each year.

**Adam Schmidt ’08** and **Maurice Thomas ’08** have earned fellowships to continue their missions of social justice through education. Schmidt, a former managing director of development at Teach For America-Milwaukee, is engaging in classroom-based and hands-on learning while building innovative, new advocacy campaigns in Wisconsin through a 50CAN Education Advocacy Fellowship. Thomas, a former executive director of Teach For America-Milwaukee, was one of ten people accepted into the Boston-based Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, through which fellows visit high-performing urban schools across the nation to learn what makes them effective. Thomas hopes to launch his own secondary school in Milwaukee in fall 2016.

During March Madness (remember that?), BuzzFeed’s deputy social media editor, New Yorker **Bob Marshall ’09**, made us believe — even more than we already did — with his post, “23 Reasons the Wisconsin Badgers Still Won the NCAA Tournament.” In previous positions, he established the *Late Night with Seth Myers* social media presence as its social media manager, led social-media efforts for other NBC programs, and served as the *Onion*’s marketing manager.

**OBITUARIES**  
*Badger Insider*, the Wisconsin Alumni Association’s (WAA) thrice-annual magazine for its members, is home to the great majority of obituary listings of WAA members and friends.

## 2010s

Former *Daily Cardinal* campus editor and journalism/Arabic double major **Erin Banco ’11** is now based in New York as an *International Business Times* international-affairs writer and Middle East correspondent, but she’s also written for the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, the *New Republic*, CNN, and more as a former freelancer living in Cairo. Before that? Banco spent fourteen years whirling around the ice as a competitive figure skater. (This makes us wonder what we’ve been doing with our time ...)

It’s rare when we can announce that a Badger grad is a princess, but here’s that announcement: **Chelsea Gruenwald ’13** represented the National Conference of State Societies as Wisconsin’s Cherry Blossom Princess at the 2015 National Cherry Blossom Festival, held each spring in Washington, DC. The Chipewa Falls resident has worked extensively with children and adolescents who have behavior and mental-health challenges and plans to continue her education in clinical psychology.

*Now that their kids — Christopher ’12, MS’15 and Jennifer ’15 — have graduated, Class Notes/Diversions editor Paula Wagner Apfelbach ’83 and her husband, Eric Apfelbach ’84, are getting the band back together.*

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Yi-Fu is a Vilas professor emeritus at UW-Madison. He did his homework and chose the only continuing care retirement community in downtown Madison. Now he can walk to work, enjoy the vibrancy of city living, and bask in the knowledge that his future is secure.

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## Destination *Lincoln Statue*



**Abe's feet** are burnished from the countless students and visitors who have rubbed them for luck. Could these pennies — perhaps left with a passing wish — be the start of a new Badger tradition atop Bascom Hill?



**The bucket list** for new UW graduates includes climbing up for a photo op in Abe's lap. Some take the opportunity to whisper their hopes and dreams for the future into the big guy's ear.

UW-Madison wouldn't exist without Abraham Lincoln, who in 1862 signed the law that created land-grant universities. Since finding its permanent home in 1919 in front of Bascom Hall, the statue has been our center of gravity.



**Many hats** have adorned the statue over the years. Students have topped Abe's head with a construction cone, a Santa hat, a cheesehead, and even a pair of red earmuffs. During the McCarthy era, he was painted red.

In a world of punctuation options,  
the comma stands as the great continuer. The  
harbinger of amazing things to come. The comma is all  
about *the future*. More than just setting up what follows, the  
comma is usually a subtle—though, other times not so subtle—reminder  
of what's important. The comma keeps you on track, and lets you pause for a  
moment, as you move forward in pursuit of your goals. At its simplest level, the  
comma indicates that every bit of information located between here, where the initial  
comma has been placed, and right there, where the second and third commas have  
been placed, is crucial, elemental, and entirely required for smooth comprehension of this  
sentence. But it's so much bigger than that sentence. Without a doubt, the comma will  
surely be—and, indeed, has been—followed by another. And, another. And, as the commas  
roll on, the story builds, and so does the anticipation. The excitement. Because more  
commas means more content. More *adventure*. More solutions and more inspiring  
tales of academic success and international impact. It means more reputation-  
building, action-inspiring success stories to be told, and read, along the way. And, as  
the excitement of the comma guides your eyes and hearts along to the next big  
moment, you hope, you long, for the unexpected. Because the *truth* is, no story's  
end, no great reveal, has ever been told without being preceded by at least  
a dozen of the world's most underappreciated grammatical marks.

You never even noticed them,  
because you were too busy  
flipping through the pages  
to find the next one, and the  
next one, and then finally,  
the last *Comma*: the  
one that hides the final  
revelation, the end of the  
big mystery. What's behind  
the final comma? An even  
bigger story than this  
comma can hold. And  
come *October 15<sup>th</sup>* you  
will know exactly where  
these commas lead.



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