

OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WINTER 2015



Extended Family
UW scientists explore
an astonishing find.

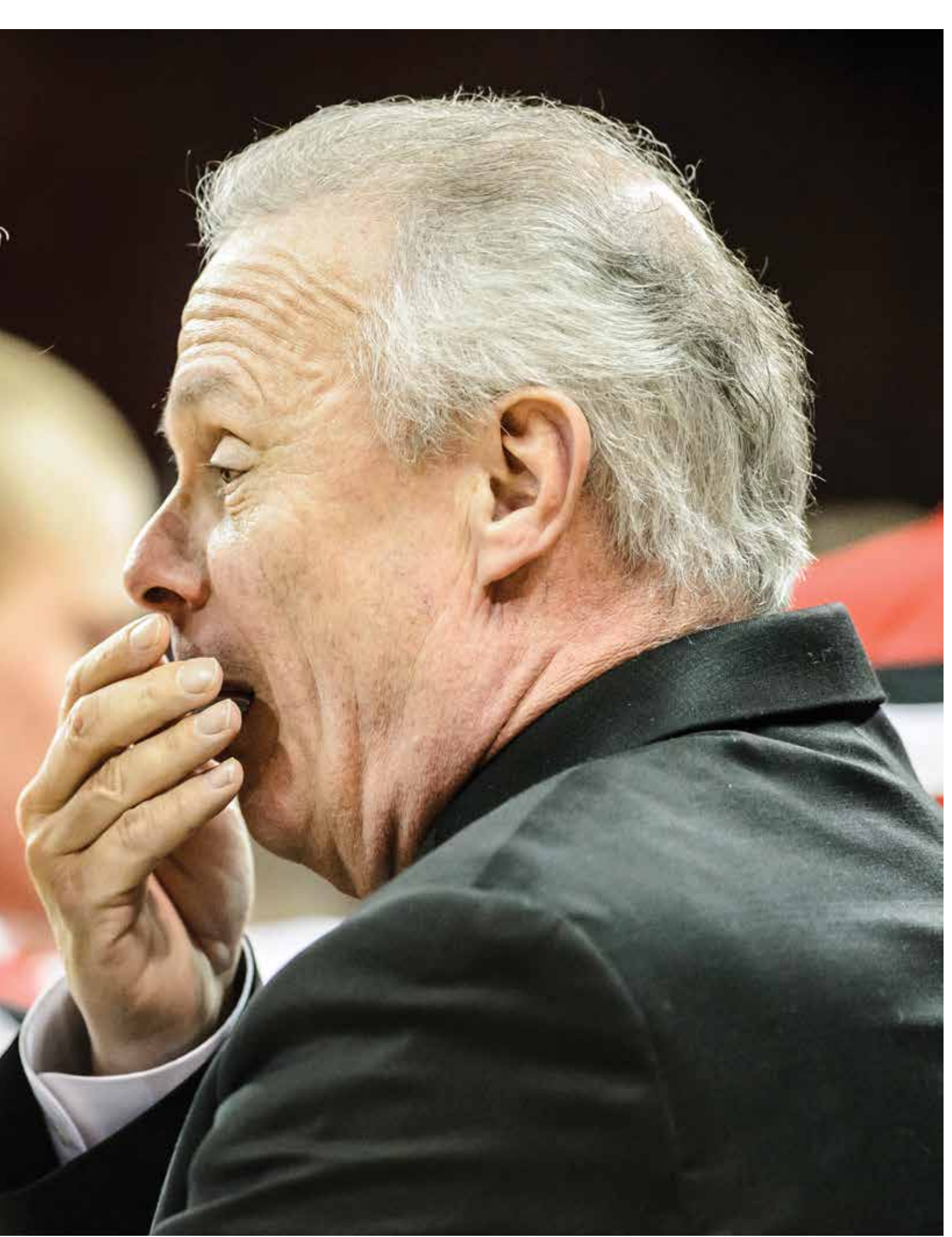
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Vision

UW men's basketball coach Bo Ryan shares a secret with referee Gene Steratore during a game against the University of Iowa in January 2015. The winningest coach in UW history (357-125 at the end of last season), Ryan announced that he plans to retire at the end of 2015-16.

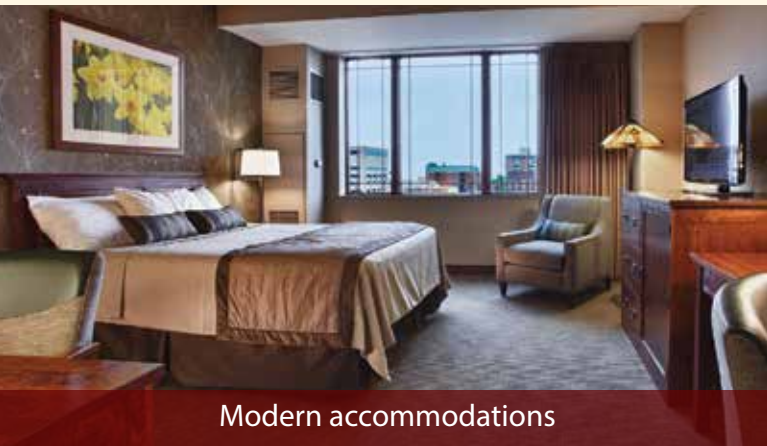
Photo by Bryce Richter







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OnWisconsin

UW professor John Hawks, who is studying the find of a lifetime. See page 22.

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If the shoe fits: UW students call upon their research skills to analyze a ledger recording 1750s wares, offering a glimpse into early American life. See page 19.



JEFF MILLER

FEATURES

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It captured the world's attention when researchers — including UW scientists — revealed that they had found the remains of very early humans who had deliberately been laid to rest. *By Terry Devitt '78, MA'85*

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Troy Vincent x'92 made his name in Badger football and the pros, but now with the NFL front office, he's tackling something altogether different. *By Jenny Price '96*

34 Hunters No More

Two UW alumni are working closely with African tribal warriors, teaching them how to protect — rather than kill — the majestic lions that roam their lands. *By Meghan Lepisto '03, MS'04*

42 Chasing Abloh

You'd be hard to pin down, too, if, like Virgil Abloh '03, you were Kanye West's creative director, had your own clothing line, had a career as a DJ, and were launching a restaurant. *By Chelsea Schlecht '13*

44 Born to Swim

Four decades and two hip replacements after his UW swimming career, the author joins fellow alumni for a challenging channel race in Hawaii. *By Andy Moore '86*

50 All In on All Ways Forward

In October, UW-Madison publicly kicked off a comprehensive campaign aimed at meeting Chancellor Rebecca Blank's challenge to remain a top-ranked, world-class university. *By John Allen*



PHILIP BRIGGS

Cover

The skeletal foot of an ancient human ancestor is part of a remarkable find deep below the ground in South Africa. Photo by John Hawks.



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CURRENTS
BEFORE
THEY
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Nice Work on Redesign

Just wanted to say that the redesign of *On Wisconsin* looks fantastic. Nice work on photography, story selection, fonts, new pages, the use of *on* in headings, and more. Congrats.

Carla Blakeman '05

Sammamish, Washington

Let Bygones Be Gone

Great article about the Red Gym pool [Bygone, Fall 2015]. On the memorable day [in 1973, mentioned in the article], I was in the pool sans suit doing the backstroke when I noticed a person with a very large suit swimming in the next lane. When I finished that length, I was greeted by another woman (in a suit) with a friendly smile and wave. I stopped and exited the pool shortly thereafter. As you noted, the pool was soon opened officially to (suited) women and men.

Martin Dooley MS'74, PhD'77

Dundas, Ontario, Canada

Bygone implies that the Natatorium was coed when it was built in 1961. I don't know when the Natatorium actually became coed, but it was not until some time after 1969. I was a graduate student in physical chemistry from 1965 to 1969. During that entire time, the Natatorium was open to women *only* on Friday evenings. Things have changed a great deal since then, but it would be good to let readers know just how much access to athletic facilities was restricted for women during the 1960s.

Mary Ruskai MA'69, PhD'69

Arlington, Massachusetts

Enthralling Badgers Everywhere

[In response to the tweets about Bo Ryan's retirement, Communications, Fall 2015]: The impressive postseason performance of Badger basketball the last two years, under the disciplined, fundamentals-driven style of coach Bo Ryan, really jolted NCAA

tournament games dominated by teams with flashy talents. It not only reaffirms the validity of Ryan's approach, once considered nonviable in the prevailing era of one and done. It enthralls and unspeakably delights Wisconsin alums everywhere watching Badgers competing in such high-profile collegiate playoffs.

Henry Tse '76, MA'77, MS'79

Rosemead, California

Before MadHatters Came Mixed Nuts

I enjoyed reading the article on a cappella groups [Traditions, Summer 2015]. I must, however, take issue with the statement that a cappella singing "has been a campus staple since the 1990s." Law professor John Kidwell founded the a cappella group Mixed Nuts, which soon changed its name to Sui Generis ["of its own kind," or, as we preferred, "peculiar"] in the early 1980s. I sang with them during my law school days from 1983 to 1986.

Benbow Cheesman JD'86

West Allis, Wisconsin

Defending Atticus Finch

In regard to "Rethinking Atticus Finch" (On Campus, Fall 2015), I'd like to suggest that there's no need to rethink this finely drawn character at all.

Yes, Harper Lee's novel *Go Set a Watchman* takes place twenty years after *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in the newly published novel, Finch is presented as an aging racist. But Lee wrote *Watchman* first. It was what Anne Lamott would call her "crappy first draft." She didn't yet have the skills to move beyond stereotypes.

In the coming years, her insights and vision matured. In the end, she gave us an Atticus Finch who is one of the most remarkable, and most admirable, characters in modern fiction.

Margaret Savides Benbow '73

Madison

TERRACE HIATUS

Most of the Memorial Union Terrace closed on September 1, allowing the UW's lakefront living room to have its first significant upgrade in more than two decades. The beloved hangout is scheduled to reopen next summer.

143

people favored this Instagram @madi-sondotcom post of a Wisconsin State Journal editorial cartoon by Phil Hands '07.



\$5

What the real Top Gun school fines staff members if they quote the movie, which was the final film that Lakeside Cinema showed the night before renovation work began.

2017

When work — inside and out — on the lengthy Memorial Union Reinvestment project is expected to be done.



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OnWisconsin

Winter 2015

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JEFF MILLER

I was editor of my sixth-grade class newsletter. If memory serves, we produced copies for our parents using a mimeograph machine and pink paper. We were very proud.

So my love of words printed on paper goes way back. That infatuation has continued, because words allow the creation of stories that educate us, enlighten us, humor us, touch us, and, ultimately, remind us that as much as we are different, we are the same.

When I came to the UW twenty-four years ago, I was swept into an unimaginable bounty of stories. We could write about students or their professors. We could write about literature or sports. We could write about politics or science. We could choose. And we could weave those words with my second love: photographs that enhanced what we wrote.

I confess that I've edited so many stories for *On Wisconsin* over time that I don't remember them all. But I do have favorites ranging from admissions policies to psychopaths, from beet research to the power of forgiveness, and from the democratic process to fudge-bottom pie. In truth, though, as fascinated as I've been by the subject matter and the craft of writing, these stories were special because of the people who brought them to life through interviews and photographs and elegant design. It's been an honor to create this magazine together.

I wasn't a Badger when I first arrived on campus, but you folks have convinced me to apply for dual citizenship. I'm retiring from my role at *On Wisconsin* with this issue, but the melody of the song of that name? It will keep playing softly in my mind for a long time to come.

Cindy Foss
Co-Editor

Words and pictures make powerful partners, and publishing photographs — such as this one captured by my colleague Jeff Miller — has given me great joy.



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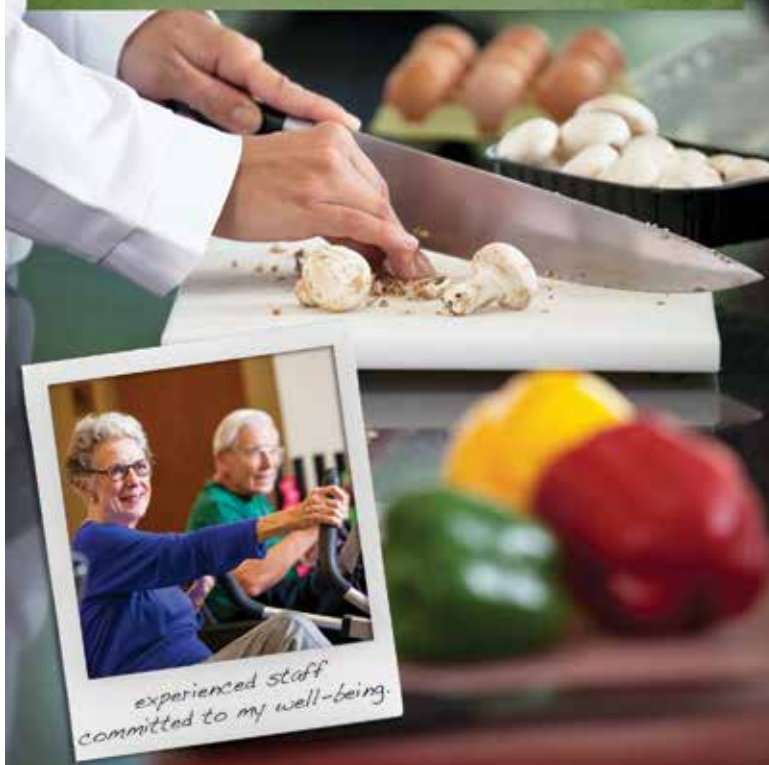
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Somber Survey

More than one-fourth of female undergrads report being sexually assaulted.

A new survey confirms what officials already knew: sexual assault is a serious and pervasive problem at UW-Madison and other college campuses around the country.

More than one in four female undergraduates at the UW — 27.6 percent — reported being sexually assaulted, usually by a friend or acquaintance, according to the survey the Association of American Universities conducted earlier this year. The national average was 23 percent.

“Sexual assault concerns me deeply, not just as the leader of this university, but as the mother of a college sophomore,” Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** said when the survey results were released this fall. “The question on the mind of every parent dropping their son or daughter off at college is always, ‘Will they be safe here?’ ”

Last year, the White House called on colleges and universities to address the alarming rates of sexual assault on campuses. One of the first steps was conducting the survey, which included more than 150,000 students. The UW was one of twenty-seven universities to voluntarily participate.

The survey confirms that sexual violence affects students of all genders and sexual orientations, says **Sarah Van Orman**, executive director of University Health Services and chair of a task force managing the survey. “Sexual assault affects the health and well-being of our entire community,” she says.

The survey also shows that very few victims report assaults to the police. “I understand and appreciate very much the courage that it takes and what a difficult step it is for a survivor to come forward and report to the police,” UW-Madison Police Chief **Sue Riseling** says. “It’s very important for us that more victims come forward and tell us what happened to them.”

The prevalence of sexual violence on campus also threatens the university’s academic mission, Blank says. More than half of the women who reported experiencing a sexual assault said they suffered academically as well as personally.

UW officials will use the survey results to enhance ongoing efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault and misconduct.

UW-Madison has added a number of programs and resources for preventing sexual violence, supporting survivors, and ensuring fair investigations. Since fall 2014, all new undergraduate students have been required to participate in Tonight, a prevention program about sexual assault, consent, dating violence, and stalking.

A campus task force has issued a number of recommendations to further enhance these efforts, including adding a “second dose” of Tonight later in the fall semester, incorporating bystander intervention training into prevention programs, and increasing the availability of confidential victim-advocacy services.

KÄRI KNUTSON

Female undergraduates sexually assaulted:

27.6 percent
at UW-Madison

23 percent
nationally



Sarah Van Orman, executive director of University Health Services, says sexual assault affects the well-being of the entire UW community.

BYRCE RICHTER

DON'T GO SURFIN' NOW!

There's a new term in the managerial lexicon: *cyberloafing*. Bosses worry that workers spend too much time checking Facebook or watching videos.

Maria Triana, an associate professor in the Wisconsin School of Business, worked with faculty from Korea, Canada, and Missouri to study cyberloafers, and they estimate that some employees spend nearly a third of their day goofing off online.

How do employers prevent cyberloafing? Triana suggests that they treat employees fairly. “Perceived organizational justice” is a predictor of loafing, she says. “When justice is high, people cyberloaf the least.”

But she also notes that some online goof-off time is inevitable. “When there’s an opportunity to cyberloaf,” she says, “the temptation is impossible to resist.”

Foul Play

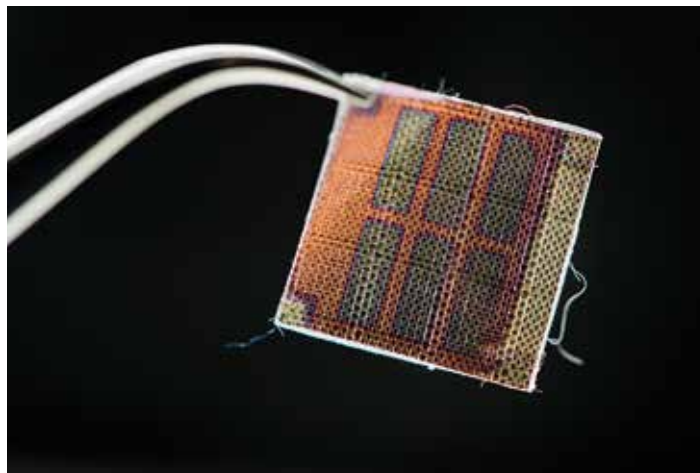
Video games are one way to unwind after a stressful day, but players looking for an emotional release are better off playing FIFA than Grand Theft Auto. That’s the upshot of new research from communication science graduate students **James Alex Bonus MA’14, PhDx’16** and **Alanna Peebles PhDx’16**, who wanted to discover if playing video games can improve mood. Working with **Karyn Riddle**, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the students found playing games can help manage negative emotions. But there’s a cost to that short-term relief: players who highly enjoyed a violent game called *Fist of the North Star: Ken’s Rage* tended to perceive the world in a more hostile way than those who played a nonviolent game.

Bummer, Dudes

*It's a generally assumed truth that women live longer than men. According to a demographic study by UW researcher **Hiram Beltran-Sanchez**, that phenomenon developed in the last one hundred years.*

Beltran-Sanchez — who left the UW for UCLA this fall — examined roughly two centuries' worth of mortality data from thirteen nations across North America and Europe. He looked at death rates for those who had reached at least forty years of age — thus excluding fatalities due to childhood disease or the complications of childbirth, common causes of death that have been greatly reduced by modern medicine. He found that both men and women born in the early 1800s had about the same life expectancy. But in the twentieth century, males were two to three times as likely to die in their fifties and sixties than females.

“About 40 percent of that difference is due to cardiovascular disease and stroke,” says Beltran-Sanchez. “This seems to be due largely to higher rates of smoking among men and diet. Men seem to eat more saturated fats.”



JEFF MILLER

HERE COMES THE SUN

A shared passion for renewable energy technology has brought together two professors with two very different areas of expertise.

Marianne Fairbanks, an assistant professor of design studies in the UW's School of Human Ecology, is an expert in fibers, fabrics, design, and dyes. **Trisha Andrew**, an assistant professor of chemistry, uses chemistry, materials science, and electrical engineering to develop low-cost, lightweight solar cells.

Together, they're developing fabric capable of harnessing energy from the sun.

“The idea of building solar cells on fabric is potentially transformative,” Andrew says. “If we take this technology and grow devices on material, then we could talk wearable technology, solar curtains, solar umbrellas, solar tents, or applications for the military.”

“Science and art aren't too different,” Fairbanks says of their project. “We're all experimenting. To get to do it together is a dream come true.”

Their collaboration is also unusual in attempting to overcome the manufacturing challenge currently slowing the rollout of cheap, consumer-friendly solar cells — namely, that so many emerging technologies are not integrated with actual manufacturing processes at any early stage of development.

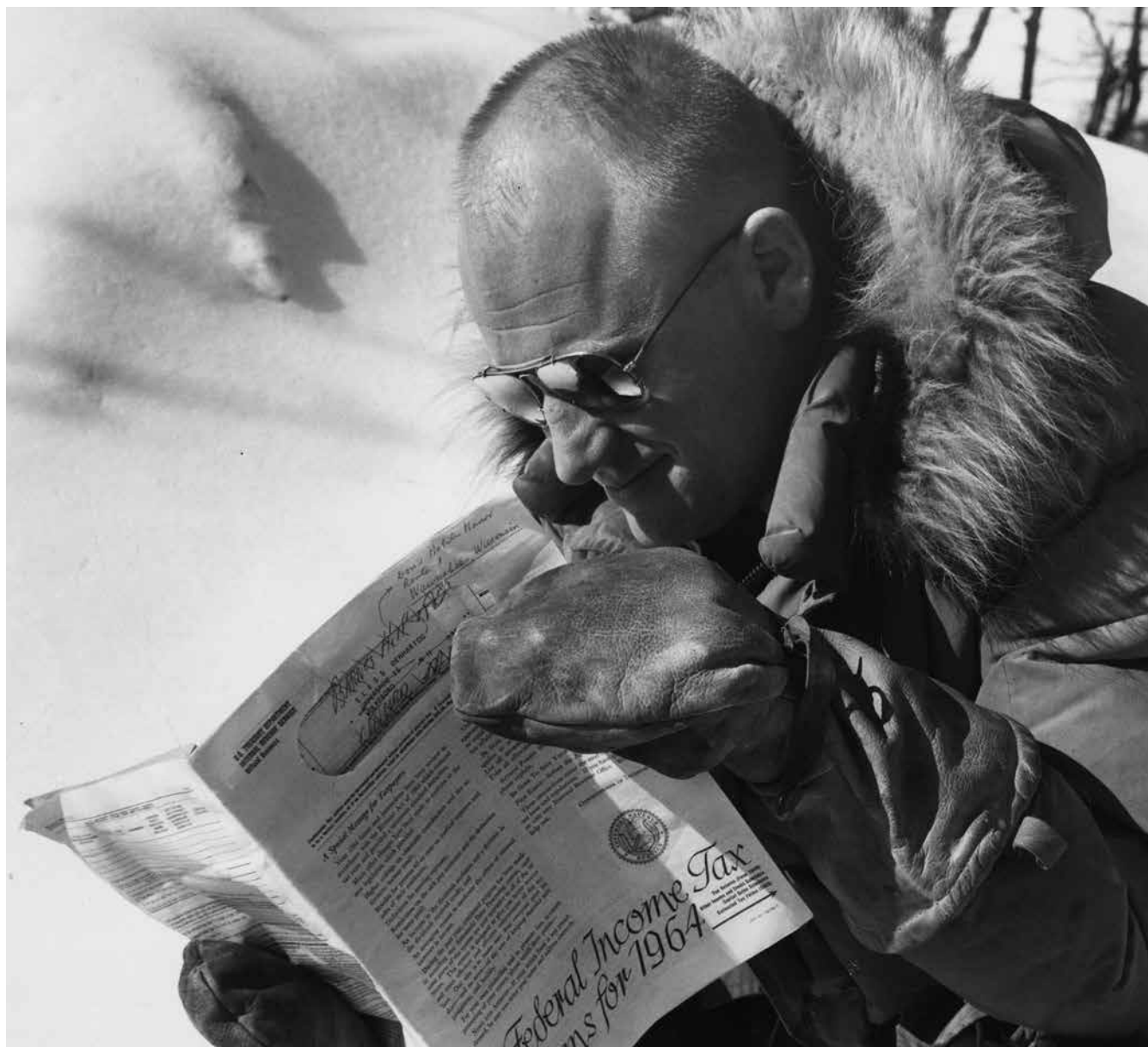
Working side by side has already yielded compelling results. While Andrew's previous solar-cell innovations consisted primarily of layering the necessary components of a solar cell onto lightweight substrates such as paper, Fairbanks' special expertise led her to ask a totally different question: why not weave the solar textile from scratch?

That new concept would involve creating a spool of thread for all four of the necessary components of a solar cell. Once woven together, all of the textile's woven junctions would be a functional solar cell, yielding a seamless and powerful new technology.

“I never would have thought of that,” says Andrew. “If we could literally weave together a solar cell? Mind-blowing.”

KRISTA EASTMAN '03

Bygone Many Happy (and Chilly) Returns



UW-MADISON ARCHIVES S09929

Benjamin Franklin was right. Taxation is an absolute certainty in life — even life near the South Pole.

Fifty years ago, UW geology professor **Charles Bentley** found himself on the bottom of the world when the time came to fill out his Form 1040 for the IRS. This couldn't have been a great surprise, because Bentley had spent several seasons on the southern continent. Mount Bentley (in the Sentinel Range) is named in his honor, as is the Bentley Subglacial Trench, which is the lowest point on Earth not

covered by ocean. (Though they shared a family name, it's unlikely that he claimed either the mountain or the trench as dependents.)

Bentley knows ice sheets. He has been to the Antarctic more than a dozen times during a six-decade span. He was part of the team that made the first overland traverse of Western Antarctica in 1957, and in the 2000s, he served as principal investigator on an ice-core project that set the record for the deepest core ever drilled out of a glacier.

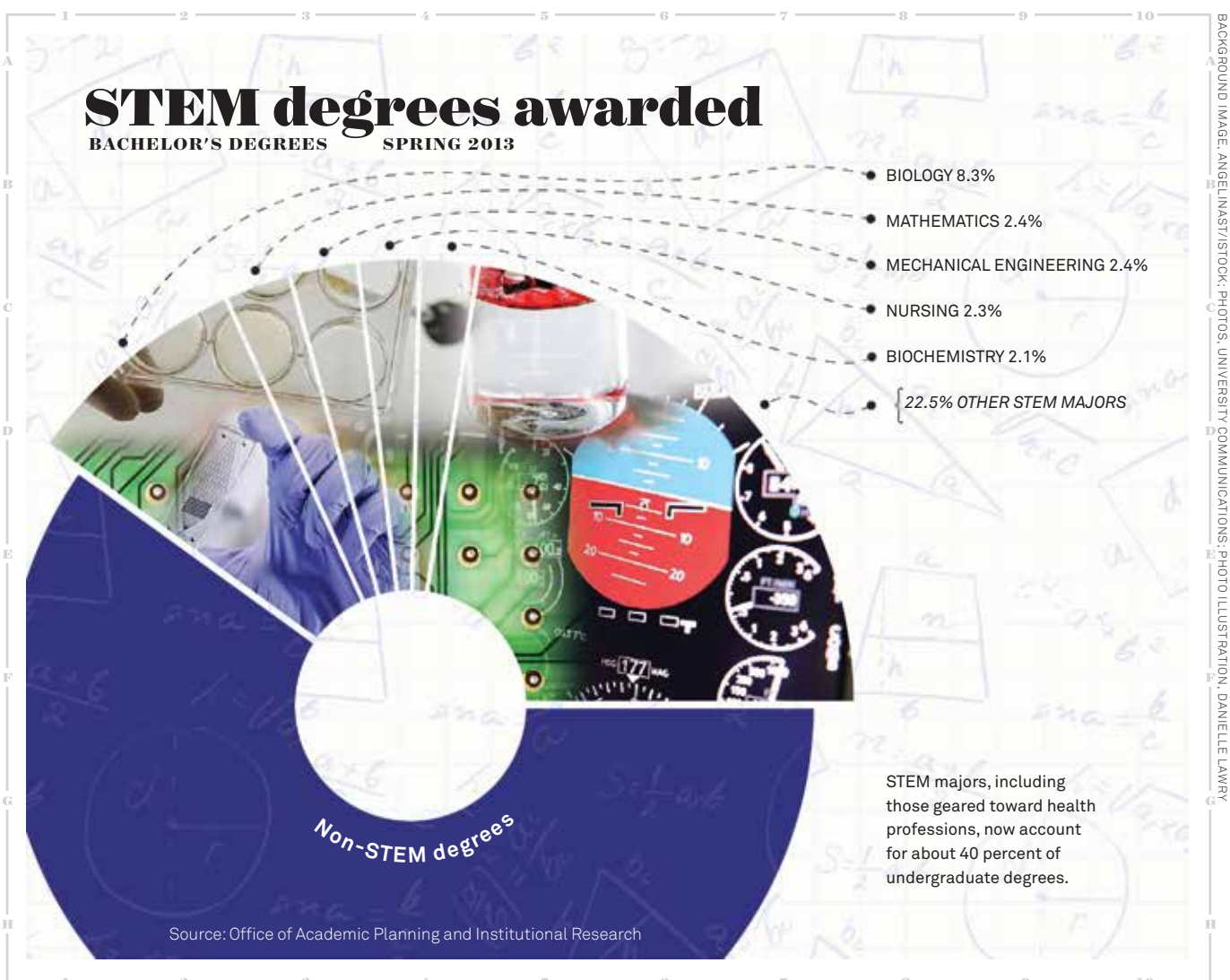
The UW continues to have an important presence in Antarc-

Now a professor emeritus of geology and geophysics, Charles Bentley was already an Antarctic veteran when he perused his 1964 federal income tax forms on the southern continent.

ca, and it continues to dig deep holes in the southern ice. The university leads the IceCube Collaboration, which runs a vast observatory set up at the South Pole to detect neutrinos. That detector is made up of 5,160 modules embedded in a cubic kilometer of ice.

In September, IceCube's principal investigator, UW physics professor **Francis Halzen**, won a 2015 Balzan Prize for his work in astroparticle physics. (It's worth 1 million Swiss francs, which will almost certainly have an effect on his taxes.)

JOHN ALLEN



The Job Equation

The most popular major among UW-Madison freshmen may be *undecided*, but as they move toward graduation, growing numbers of students are pursuing degrees in academic disciplines known as STEM — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

STEM majors, including those geared toward health professions, now account for about 40 percent of undergraduate degrees and make up half of the top-ten list of the most popular majors on campus. (Biology ranks number one.) And the UW is graduating about one thousand more students with such degrees each year than its

peer universities, on average.

Jobs in these fields were projected to grow at nearly twice the rate of other fields between 2008 and 2018, and workers with STEM degrees earn 26 percent more than their counterparts, according to a 2011 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

At the UW's School of Nursing, undergraduate applications have increased 74 percent since 2000, says **Karen Mittelstadt**, the school's assistant dean for academic programs. The rate at which nursing graduates land jobs plays a role, she says, as students and their families weigh the cost of higher education when

they look at possible career paths.

"Nursing is a major where it's easy to see, 'If I come in as a nursing major, I leave as a nurse,'" she says. "The STEM fields lend themselves to that equation — major equals career — more so than the humanities and some of the social sciences."

The school now offers direct admission into the major for a select group of freshmen. This year, 255 students applied for 25 slots.

The STEM boom doesn't mean that some other majors aren't also on the rise at the UW. The last decade saw big increases in students declaring majors in economics, international studies, and Spanish.

JENNY PRICE '96

Workers with
STEM degrees earn

26
percent
more than their
counterparts.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM; BRUCE RICHTER

Aquatic Artist

Scientific illustrator **Kandis Elliot '70, MS'79** spent decades drawing plants and their anatomy for the UW's botany department. Now retired, Elliot is on a mission to accurately document the inhabitants of the state's more than 15,000 lakes, rivers, and streams. Her efforts include an epic 13-foot-by-44-inch poster that depicts all 183 species of Wisconsin fish in life-size scale. The smallest is the one-inch least darter and the largest is the six-foot-long lake sturgeon. "I insist on making them life-size. It's visual information, a sense of wonder, that you can't get from just numbers," says Elliot, who's been working on the project for the past two years. Elliot uses a special wide-format printer purchased with her own money to create the posters. "The idea behind the posters is to create a splash," she says. "There is a wow factor. We want people, especially kids, to have an awareness of all our fishes, not just hook-and-line species." Elliot's series of ten posters is being sold to support the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum. Chicago's Shedd Aquarium was among the first buyers.



CHRISTIE'S IMAGES LTD 2015

ART FOR FRUIT'S SAKE

Look closely at the watermelon in this painting by seventeenth-century Italian artist Giovanni Stanchi. Yes, *that* watermelon, in the lower right corner: with its light pink flesh and swirling seed pockets, it doesn't look much like the melons you'll find at the supermarket. But that's what the fruit looked like 350 years ago.

Horticulture professor **James Nienhuis PhD'82** uses paintings such as this to show his students how fruits and vegetables have changed over the centuries. He takes his World Vegetable Crops class to the Chazen Museum of Art to look at Renaissance still life paintings so that his students can see in detail how people have bred characteristics into and out of plants.

"With grains, archaeologists can look at actual samples to learn what people ate," says Nienhuis, "but then, grains are dry. Vegetables, by their nature, have a lot of moisture, so they're delicate. They don't last. But still life paintings show us what they looked like."

Nienhuis says that, in spite of the course's official title, he calls it Vegetables: Works of Art You Can Eat. "That's what vegetables are like," he says. "They're like rolling up a Monet like a taco and eating it."

JOHN ALLEN

NEWS FEED

UW-Madison virologist Yoshihiro Kawaoka's lab developed a new method to produce flu vaccines more quickly and efficiently. The finding occurred before the federal government put his research on hold in October 2014 to formulate regulations for how some viruses can be manipulated.



William C. Campbell MA '54, PhD '57 won a share of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his key role in the development of drugs that dramatically lower the incidence of the tropical diseases river blindness and lymphatic filariasis.



The MacArthur Foundation selected **Matthew Desmond MS'04, PhD'10 (left)** to receive a no-strings-attached \$625,000 "genius grant" this year. Desmond studies the causes and consequences of eviction and the role of the housing market in inner-city neighborhoods.



JEFF MILLER

LA DOLCE VITA

Nothing tells a story like food. That's the heart of Literature in Translation 410, a course that has students digest novels that have recipes within their pages and cookbooks full of great yarns.

Grazia Menechella, an associate professor of Italian, has students shop for and cook Italian food, learn the history of pizza, explore the politics of gender and food, and study the impact of globalization on local food cultures and products. Menechella also cooks a garden-to-table dinner for the students at her home.

The course is part of a First-Year Interest Group, a campus learning community that links classes together for about twenty students. Along with this course, students take first-semester Italian and an introductory horticulture class connecting plant cultivation to culinary uses.

BRIDGE OUT There's a new view on campus — or something missing from it — looking west down University Avenue. The deteriorating pedestrian bridge that for more than four decades connected the George L. Mosse Humanities Building and Vilas Hall took its last bow in August. It was demolished — closing the street to traffic overnight — due to disrepair and what UW officials say was a decline in use after installation of a traffic signal one block away at East Campus Mall. Many students, faculty, and staff who used the bridge to access Vilas Hall disagreed on the latter point.

ISTOCK



Unequal Time

States may not be getting the financial benefits that the \$5 billion private prison industry advertises.

Anita Mukherjee, an assistant professor of actuarial science, risk management, and insurance at the Wisconsin School of Business, conducted what is believed to be the first study comparing public and private prisons. Mukherjee reviewed data from private prisons in Mississippi and found that those inmates spend up to two to three more months behind bars than inmates in public prisons, leading to an average additional cost per prisoner of about \$3,000. They are also equally likely to commit more crimes after release.

NEWS FEED

\$3.8 million

UW-Madison's royalties from the sale of licensed merchandise rose 10 percent in 2014–15. The royalties are split between Bucky Grants, a program that provides need-based financial aid to undergraduates, and the athletic department.

Chemistry professor Song Jin has identified a cheaper way to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, a key step in creating hydrogen for fuel. His catalyst is a compound of phosphorus, sulfur, and cobalt, a metal that costs one thousand times less than platinum.



Juan de Marcos González, a Grammy Award winner and Afro-Cuban All Stars founder, spent the fall semester as the UW Arts Institute's interdisciplinary artist-in-residence.

BRYCE RICHTER; TAKAHASHI SHINSHI

Conversation with Shawn Peters

During nearly two decades on campus, **Shawn Peters PhD'07** has been a PhD student, an undergraduate adviser, and a lecturer in English, history, and religious studies. Now an instructor with the UW's Center for Educational Opportunity, Peters teaches Integrated Liberal Studies courses, including Narratives of Justice and Equality in Multicultural America — better known as “*The Wire* course.” Peters wants the HBO show, which highlights the struggles of a West Baltimore neighborhood, to help his students explore reality in a new and engaging way.

How did *The Wire* become the main driver of your course? The idea was to teach less a theoretical social science course than a course about how those kinds of stories are told, and *The Wire* struck me as a text that tells a really profound story about justice and equality in Baltimore in a way that's also engaging, that draws you in as a narrative.

Did growing up in Baltimore influence how you put the class together? For as long as I've been around Baltimore, it's been a city with really serious problems, and it's been struggling to make the best of the opportunities available to the citizens. Folks are disenfranchised, especially African American men, and they don't really have the ability to go somewhere like UW-Madison. There are parts of the city that have become increasingly desperate over the last thirty years. And we saw that over the past six months, when the city exploded in protest over the death of Freddie Gray. You see it coming; it's not like people just woke up one morning and decided, “We're angry today.”

Is it hard explaining these issues to those who haven't experienced them? We have students who have grown up in places like inner-city Baltimore who can speak directly of their experiences. Then we have students from various places where life in *The Wire* isn't the case at all. As a teacher, the best moments are when students are engaging with one another. Rather than having your boring, middle-aged, white professor wagging his finger, saying, “Read the book, and then you'll understand,” I want a student saying, “This is the way I grew up. This is what it's like.”

How are you using Twitter in your classes? We've had actors from *The Wire* tweet at us, and we'd tweet

back questions, and go back and forth. It allows free-flowing conversation in a way that more traditional modes of communication don't.

Do students take the class expecting it to be easy? The typical response is, “That was a lot of fun, but we did a lot of work.” To me, that's when class is really cool — when you're really thinking hard, but actually enjoying yourself, your classmates, and the sense of community that you all have together. That's when it works.

*Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Daniel McKay x'16.
Photo by Bryce Richter.*



Exhibition *Chazen Mural-in-Progress*



Japanese artist **Manabu Ikeda** sketches out another small section of the mural he's creating at UW-Madison's Chazen Museum of Art. At ten feet by thirteen feet, it's a massive work, but the overall size is only a small part of the story. Every inch of the artwork is packed with tiny details, all painstakingly rendered in pen and ink. Ikeda's piece presents a theme of hope springing from despair, and it combines elements that will be familiar to Madisonians with images that resonate with a global audience. Ikeda has been working on the mural since spring, drawing in the Chazen's studio lab and trying to complete a section of about three square inches each day. As an artist-in-residence, he opened his studio four days a week through the fall so that visitors could watch him work and ask questions. Take a look at some of the detail pictures and see if you can spot anything that looks familiar.

JOHN ALLEN

PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER

A major element is a vast, crashing wave, recalling the tsunami that devastated Japan's Pacific coast. In the wreckage of this wave, look for a billboard from the Wisconsin Dells.



On one slag heap of smashed cars and buildings, a bright red Motion W peeks from the debris.



History Book

Professor **Ann Smart Martin**'s students have more than a final grade to show for their semester in her class: they contributed to a permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

Smithsonian curator Nancy Davis asked Martin, a professor of art history and director of the material culture program, to use her research methods to analyze a

1750s ledger from the museum's archives.

"I always make the joke that account books are the Rodney Dangerfield of objects: they get no respect," Martin says. "It's all about how you make them speak."

William Ramsay's nine-hundred-page ledger account book had never been analyzed. The record from the Scottish tobacco merchant, who helped found Alexandria, Virginia, included goods bought and sold to George Washington, then in his early twenties. The ledger

couldn't be moved, so students in Martin's spring 2013 course accessed a microfilm version from 850 miles away. The sixteen students, all interested in museum careers, deciphered Ramsay's spidery handwriting to build a database and develop a list of items that could provide a glimpse of life in Alexandria.

Translation was required for some phrases, such as "yards of thunder and lightning," which turned out to be tightly woven wool that repels water. Martin and graduate students **Monica Welke MA'14** and **Shagun Raina MA'11, PhDx'13** traveled to Washington to examine objects Davis assembled from the Smithsonian's collection to find materials representative of the kinds of wares Ramsay sold in his shop. The final exhibit includes a ceramic mug, a pair of shoes, a book, a ribbon, and a handkerchief from India, alongside Ramsay's desk, bookcase, and ledger.

Since the class ended in May 2013, Martin and two graduate students spent additional time working on the interactive digital version. The Smithsonian's American Enterprise exhibit opened this summer, and Ramsay's ledger took its place among George Washington's tea chest, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, Thomas Edison's talking doll, and more than six hundred other objects.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION (2)

ANXIOUS GENES

Half of children who show extreme anxiety develop stress-related psychiatric disorders later in life. Researchers from the UW psychiatry department and the HealthEmotions Research Institute are making gains in pinpointing how anxiety is inherited, work that holds the promise of developing better treatments.

The group identified an overactive brain circuit associated with anxious temperament — passed on from one generation to another — that helps to explain how genes might affect brain function and lead to extreme childhood anxiety.

The study's senior author is **Ned Kalin**, chair of psychiatry at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. His team studied nearly six hundred young rhesus monkeys from a large, multi-generational family. They subjected the monkeys to a mildly threatening situation — exposure to a stranger who did not make eye contact — and used brain-imaging methods commonly used in humans to identify systems responsible for the parent-to-child transmission of anxiety-related behavior.

Kalin is launching a new study of nine- to eleven-year-old girls, who are at greater risk for developing anxiety and depression as they approach adolescence. He will use brain imaging to try to understand why some children with anxious temperaments develop more serious anxiety and depression, while others get better as they grow up.

NEWS FEED



The nation's largest brain bank, which focuses on the study of traumatic head injury, headed by Boston University neuropathologist Ann McKee '75 (featured in *On Wisconsin*, Winter 2010), reports that **87 out of 91 former NFL players have tested positive for CTE, a degenerative brain disease widely believed to stem from repetitive trauma to the head.**



Roy Lichtenstein's *Two Figures* (left) is among the pieces of art that **Jerome '48 and Simona Chazen included in a \$28 million gift to the UW.** Their pledge includes \$5 million for the Chazen Museum of Art building and \$3 million to establish faculty chairs in art and art education.

TRACY POWELL; COURTESY OF CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

Contender *Olive Sagapolu*

Not every college football player can do a standing backflip or hold someone above his head with one hand, but freshman defensive lineman **Olive Sagapolu x'19** is the exception.

At 6'2" and 330 pounds, the Californian is well known in recruiting circles for viral videos showing these athletic feats. He learned the enviable skills by turning to a new challenge while in high school: cheerleading.

He and his best friend at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana decided to pursue the sport with open minds. "We didn't really care what people thought of us, because it's just something different, something we wanted to do for our senior year. And it turned out great," he says.

Sagapolu's experiment helped Mater Dei snag third place in the National High School Cheerleading Championships and continue a streak of fifteen straight titles at the USA High School Spirit Nationals.

Olive Sagapolu (pronounced oh-LEE-vay SONG-uh-POE-loo) has two uncles who have played in the National Football League.

Although he won't be doing backflips at Camp Randall anytime soon, Sagapolu says he's taking cheerleading lessons about trust and teamwork with him to the gridiron.

"You're holding someone in the air with one arm [and asking yourself], are you going to catch them or not? I apply that to football. I look left and right

and see the other players, and I see that they're struggling and they're tired. But as long as we push together and finish it, we'll all achieve," he says.

Many players have their sights set beyond college, but Sagapolu says he is heeding advice from Domata Peko, one of two uncles who played in the NFL. "He's been telling me just playing ball, representing and playing for your family, representing the Samoan culture — it's something big," he says.

Sagapolu says he's focusing on the season at hand, recognizing that the future is as far away as California can seem from Wisconsin. His real worry? Braving the cold. "I really don't know how I'm going to deal with winter," he says. "People say to layer up, so that's what I'm going to try to do."

DANIEL MCKAY X'16
PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER





BRYCE RICHTER

We're #1 — But Not in a Good Way

*Think the polls don't show your team enough love?
You're right.*

Daniel Hawkins '00 was a diehard “Bleacher Creature” at the UW Field House when the men’s basketball team began winning more than losing. Like many fans, he thought the Badgers were consistently underrated as they steadily improved their record in the years following his graduation.

“I thought I was seeing a pattern, and I didn’t have any notion that it extended beyond Wisconsin,” says Hawkins, who is now an associate professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska–Omaha (UNO), where he specializes in family relationships and the sociology of sport. His work includes researching the nature of pro-wrestling fandom and the relationship between attitudes toward globalization and feelings about soccer.

Hawkins recently collaborated with colleagues at UNO, the University of Minnesota, and Skidmore College to investigate how preseason rankings underrate or overrate teams relative to their actual performance on the court. The results help explain why some college basketball teams are perennial favorites among sports journalists who vote in the annual poll while other talented teams get overlooked.

The study used the results of the Associated Press Top 25 Poll to examine 115 NCAA men’s teams. If a team started the season

ranked twentieth and moved up to tenth by the end, it would get a score of 10, indicating it was underrated. If the opposite occurred, the team would get a score of –10, indicating it was overrated. Hawkins used the teams’ average scores across 25 seasons to develop his own list of rankings.

The results: Wisconsin was the most underrated team, with Purdue, Cincinnati, Ohio State, and Iowa State rounding out the top five in that group. UCLA emerged as the most overrated team, followed by North Carolina, Michigan State, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Performance in the most recent NCAA tournament is one factor linked to teams being overrated — behavior that the researchers call “recency bias.” The Badgers have not had many deep runs into the tournament, and Hawkins notes the team’s appearance in the championship game this year wouldn’t dramatically change the team’s underrated ranking.

And then there’s “star bias,” the tendency to give favor to teams with highly rated recruiting classes, something the Badgers don’t usually have. “The national media doesn’t quite catch on that [players] don’t all need to be five-star recruits to make a really good basketball team,” Hawkins says.

JENNY PRICE '96

TICKER



The Sporting News named Nigel Hayes x'17 to its preseason All-America team. The junior forward started all forty games for the men’s basketball team

during the 2014–15 season, averaging 12.4 points and 6.2 rebounds per game. He also led the Badgers in steals, with 34 during last season.



JEFF MILLER

Golfweek magazine named University Ridge Golf Course the No. 3 campus course in the country for the second straight year. Designed by Robert Trent Jones and opened in 1991, it’s the top Big Ten collegiate course on the list.

Wisconsin had thirty-one former players on training camp rosters during the 2015–16 NHL preseason, the most alumni of any NCAA team. Twenty-two former Badgers played in the league last season, tying the program record for the most active NHL players. The list includes New York Rangers forward Derek Stepan, Minnesota Wild defenseman Ryan Suter, San Jose Sharks forward Joe Pavelski, and St. Louis Blues goalie Brian Elliott.



UW decathlete Zach Ziemek x'16 placed 15th at the World Track and Field Championships in Beijing, China. The junior qualified for the national

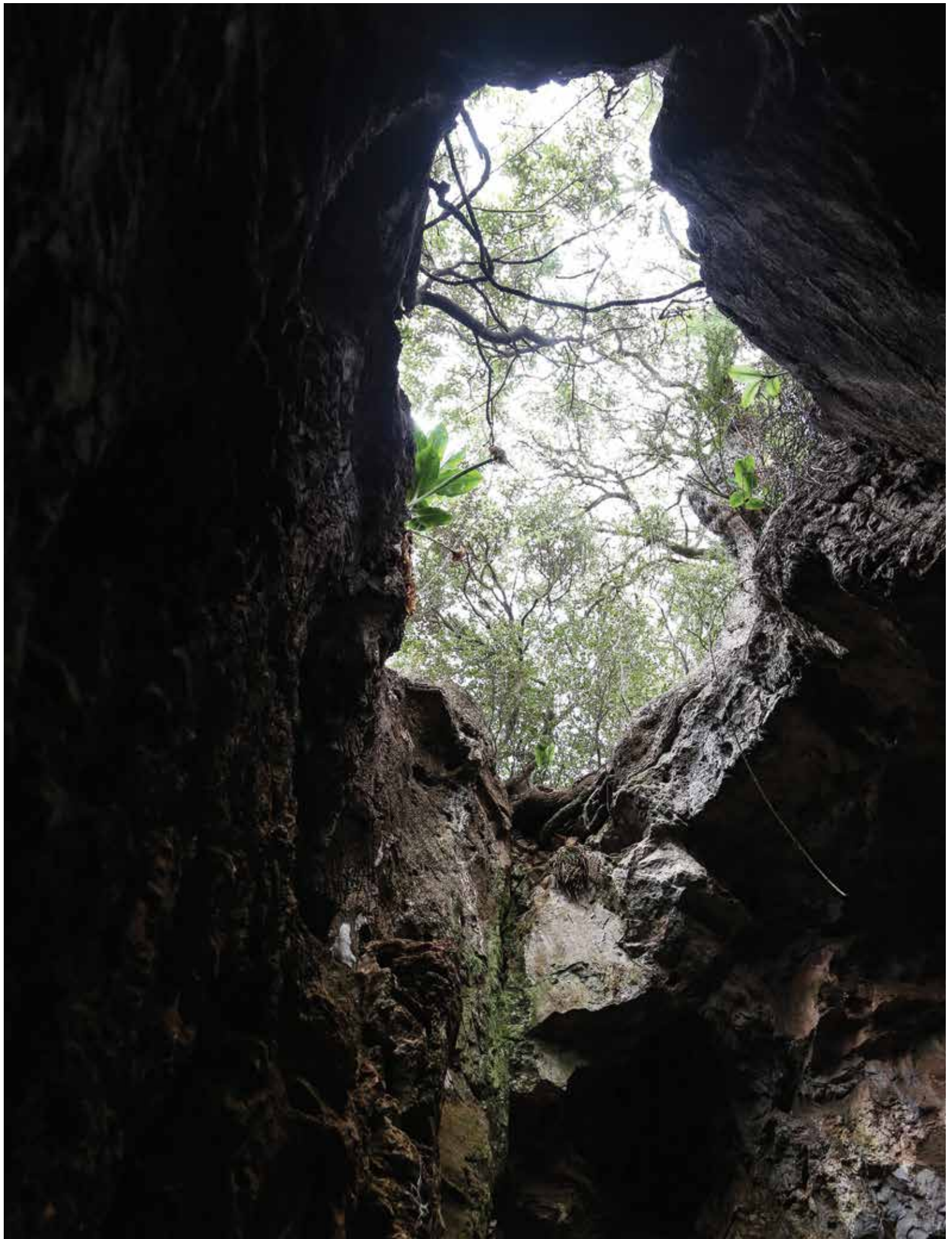
team by placing third at the USA Outdoor Championships with a score of 8,107, making him the second athlete in Big Ten Conference history to top 8,000 points in the event.



Vicky Opitz '11 won her third consecutive gold medal in the women’s eight World Rowing Championships this fall in France. The boat qualified

for the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, and Opitz is among the U.S. team members working for a spot on crew.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UW ATHLETICS (2); U.S. ROWING



CHAMBER OF DISCOVERY

*An astounding find in South Africa
adds a new branch to the human family tree.*

BY TERRY DEVITT '78, MA'85

PHOTOS BY JOHN HAWKS



What secrets lie below the surface? Amateur cavers, soon followed by scientists, found surprising, ancient secrets when they entered a network of limestone caves deep below the ground in South Africa. Descending from daylight into the so-called Rising Star cave (at left), they found these bones (above) and hundreds more that together tell a remarkable tale about our human ancestors.

The first clue was a skull spotted by amateur cavers as they descended deep beneath the ground of South Africa.

Before long, an international team of scientists, including a UW paleoanthropologist, undertook a remarkable task, bringing to light an unprecedented trove of fossils — more than fifteen hundred well-preserved bones and teeth that represent the largest, most complex set of such remains found to date on the continent.

They weren't just any old bones. Writing in two scientific papers published in September, the scientists revealed that the discovery adds a new branch to the human family tree, a creature they dubbed *Homo naledi*.

And there's more: the fossils — first discovered in 2013 in a barely accessible chamber, a labyrinth one hundred feet underground not far from Johannesburg — could only have been deliberately deposited, a behavior by these very early human ancestors that suggests culture. It's a supposition akin to discovering similar activities among chimpanzees, says John Hawks, a UW professor of anthropology and one of the team's leaders. "It would be that surprising," he says.

When announced to the world, the discovery sparked international interest and was covered by *National Geographic* (the project's main funder), *60 Minutes*, the *Guardian*, Slate, National Public Radio, the *New York Times*, the BBC, and many other news outlets.

So far, parts of at least fifteen skeletons representing individuals of all ages have been found, and the researchers, led by paleoanthropologist Lee R. Berger of the University of Witwatersrand, believe many more fossils remain. The chamber is part of a complex of limestone caves near what is called the Cradle of Humankind, a World Heritage Site in Gauteng province well known for critical discoveries of early humans, including the 1947 discovery of 2.3 million-year-old *Australopithecus africanus*.

"We have a new species of *Homo*, with all of its interesting characteristics," says Hawks, adding that the find is the "biggest discovery in Africa for hominins," a subfamily of the taxonomic system that includes humans.

Homo naledi — with a small head and brain, hunched shoulders, powerful hands, and thin limbs — was built for long-distance walking, says Hawks, an expert on early humans. Fully grown, it stood about five feet tall, was broad chested, walked upright, and had a face that included a smile that was probably more human than apelike. The powerful hands imply that it was also a climber.

The fossils have yet to be dated. The unmineralized condition of the bones and the geology of the cave have prevented an accurate estimate, says Hawks. "They could have been there 2 million years

15

At least this many skeletons — representing all ages — were found within a chamber of the limestone caves near the Cradle of Humankind.

150

The approximate number of countries with readers who clicked to view a UW website that launched when the *Homo naledi* story went public in September.





As specially recruited cavers make their way through narrow passages to reach the underground chamber, a live video feed (above) shows scientists on the surface their progress — and, ultimately, what they are discovering. Alia Gurtov, a UW anthropology graduate student and one of the cavers, says that the number of pieces of bone they found on the floor of the chamber was “like pick-up sticks. You couldn’t get one thing out without excavating something else.” Huddled around project leader Lee Berger’s computer on site in South Africa (far left), the researchers intently watch via video. Skeletal fossils of a hand (left) — complete with a broad thumb — suggest that *Homo naledi* was an expert climber.



Prepping for travel, researchers carefully wrap the bones and pack them into plastic containers after removal from the cave's wet sediment. Excavation followed forensic techniques (often using toothpicks) prescribed by paleontology. First collected in November 2013, the bones are now housed at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of Witwatersrand, where they are being carefully measured, documented, studied, and reconstructed.

Six scientists, all small in stature, were specially recruited for the expedition, which at first was thought to involve investigating a single hominin skull. "You're in this initial chamber, and then you have to squeeze through a crevice that opens into [another] chamber. ... We knew there was a skull in there. We had no idea we were going to find more than that," says Alia Gurtov, a UW anthropology graduate student, second from left.





Nearly 30 early-career scientists were recruited to participate in the project, each selected for expertise in a particular part of the human anatomy. They've analyzed the fossils in a workshop-like setting, gaining both firsthand knowledge and an extraordinary experience.

A skeleton begins to take shape in the vault at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. So far, more than 1,500 well-preserved bones and teeth have been excavated, representing the largest, most complex set of such remains found on the continent to date.



"None of this goes together the way we expected," says Caroline VanSickle (left), a UW postdoctoral fellow who is working with colleagues to piece bones together into a coherent whole. "*Homo naledi* has this weird combination of traits that we wouldn't have expected to see together."

ago or 100,000 years ago, possibly coexisting with modern humans. We don't yet have a date, but we're attempting it in every way we can.

"We depend on the geology to help us date things, and here the geology isn't much like other caves in South Africa," he continues. "And the fossils don't have anything within them that we can date. It's a problem for us."

One hope, he says, is finding the remains of an animal that may have been a contemporary of *Homo naledi*. The fossils are embedded in a matrix of soft sediment and there are layers that remain unexcavated.

The remains represent newborns to the aged. The researchers expect that many more bones are yet to be exhumed from the chamber, which is accessible only after squeezing, clambering, and crawling six hundred feet to a large space where the brittle fossils cover the floor.

"We know about every part of the anatomy, and they are not at all like humans," says Hawks, who co-directed the analysis of the fossils. "We couldn't match them to anything that exists. It is clearly a new species."

Naledi means *star* in Sesotho and refers to the Rising Star cave system that includes the Dinaledi Chamber, where the fossils were found. The circuitous and difficult passage to the chamber narrows at one point to a mere seven inches. The fossils were retrieved by a group of paleoanthropologists who were recruited in part for their diminutive size.

In addition to identifying an entirely new species in the genus *Homo*, the fossils, which bear no marks from predators or scavengers, are strong evidence that *Homo naledi* were deliberately interring their dead. "We think it is the first instance of deliberate and ritualized interment," says Hawks. "The only plausible scenario is they deliberately put bodies in this place."

The cave, he says, was likely more accessible to *Homo naledi* than it is for modern humans. Geochemical tests, however, show that it was never open to the surface, raising intriguing questions about the behavior and technologies available to *Homo naledi*. "We know it was not a death trap," Hawks says, referring to natural features such as hidden sink holes that sometimes trap and doom creatures over long periods of time. "There are no bones from animals, aside from a few rodents. And there are no marks on the bones from predators or scavengers to suggest they were killed and dragged to the chamber. We can also rule out that it was a sudden mass death."

Instead, Hawks, Berger, and their colleagues believe that the chamber was a place where *Homo naledi* routinely secreted their dead companions. The way the bodies are arranged and the completeness of the skeletons suggest they were carried to the cave intact. "It seems probable that a group of hominins was returning to this place over a period



Dawn breaks at the Rising Star Expedition campsite near Johannesburg, South Africa, as the project team readies for another day. The project was supported by the National Geographic Society, the South African National Research Foundation, and the Gauteng Provincial Government. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation also provided support, as did the Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts Seed Grant Program.

of time and depositing bodies,” Hawks says. “The bodies were not intentionally covered, and we’re not talking about a religious ceremony, but something that was repeated and repeated in the same place. They clearly learned to do this and did it as a group over time. That’s cultural. Only humans and close relatives like Neandertals do anything like this.”

The team has yet to find other organic materials or evidence of fire in the cave complex.

Hawks says plans include calling upon many new technologies to analyze the fossils, helping to determine diet, rate of aging, and *Homo naledi*’s home region.

Years of work remain both on and off site. The researchers will continue to excavate new materials and carefully analyze the remarkable find, unlocking secrets of a long-ago human ancestor. ●

Terry Devitt '78, MA'85, UW-Madison's director of research communications, notes that this discovery is among the most exciting he has reported during his long career.



John Hawks, a UW professor of anthropology who is codirecting analysis of the fossils (right), works with Lee Berger, a paleoanthropologist from a South African university who is leading the *Homo naledi* project.



A handwritten sign marks territory on a small table where researchers are carefully making sense of the brittle bones found so far. Sharing the table are colleagues studying the thorax, and nearby working spaces are dubbed Hand Land and Tooth Booth.

The *Homo naledi* project leaders intend to publish their findings quickly, which will provide data and access to other researchers so that they might draw their own conclusions.



Teeth are often the first thing examined at the site of a hominin discovery because they are telltale and tend to preserve well. Here casts of jawbone and dental fossils from comparative specimens are arrayed in the vault where the researchers are working.

THE REWARDS OF BEING SMALL



The Facebook query was exacting and cryptic: “We need perhaps three or four individuals with excellent archaeological/paleontological excavation skills. ... The catch is this — the person must be skinny and preferably small. They must not be claustrophobic, they must be fit, they should have some caving experience, climbing experience would be a bonus ...”

Alia Gurtov MS’13, a UW anthropology graduate student, fit the bill. “I just applied,” she recalls. “In a very bizarre email, I gave my dimensions and my CV.” Soon thereafter, the Wisconsin researcher was on a flight to South Africa.

A bantam frame was needed because Gurtov and five other small scientists were about to enter a difficult and dangerous subterranean labyrinth. They would crawl, clamber, climb and, finally, drop into a chamber last visited hundreds of thousands — or perhaps millions — of years ago by a lost member of the tribe of humanity, a species dubbed *Homo naledi*.

Traveling from daylight to the chamber was a grueling twenty- to twenty-five-minute commute. The scientists were forced to navigate several “squeezes,” including one fifteen-foot section called the “Superman Crawl,” where forward progress required wriggling on one’s belly with arms extended like the soaring Man of Steel. The final leg of the foray, “the worst choke point,” involved slithering down a twelve-foot, crag-studded chute in the dark.

The scientists worked underground in six- to eight-hour shifts for a month.

Entering the chamber for the first time was a solemn moment. “It had the feeling of a tiny cathedral,” Gurtov says. “It was just so still and dynamic at the same time. There was a sense of ages.”

The



Good Guy



TROY VINCENT WAS A STANDOUT IN BADGER AND PRO FOOTBALL, BUT THESE DAYS HE'S DETERMINED TO REACH A DIFFERENT GOAL LINE FOR THE NFL — AND IT'S PERSONAL.

BY JENNY PRICE '96

He lived the horror of domestic violence, seeing the cast on his mother's broken arm. He hid under his bed or huddled in the closet as her boyfriend beat her, trying to escape the screams coming from the other side of the bedroom wall. There were times he and his younger brother called 911, with their mother lying unconscious nearby.

Choking back the painful memories, Troy Vincent x'92 told his story. A player in the National Football League (NFL) for fifteen years, he now serves as the league's executive vice president of football operations. Last year, Vincent appeared in Washington before a combative U.S. Senate committee during a hearing on domestic violence in professional sports. The video of Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice punching his fiancée and dragging her from an elevator was fresh in the minds of senators who wanted to know what the NFL was doing to prevent similar crimes.

"We have to break the culture of silence," Vincent told them.

His voice trembled and tears pooled in his eyes as the six-foot-one former defensive back and five-time Pro Bowler recounted the darkest days of his childhood. "We saw how she struggled to seek help and find the voice and courage to say, 'No more.' The sense of fear, powerlessness, and all the complexities that accompany this violence remain very real for me today," Vincent told the committee.

Emotions rose up as Troy Vincent described his childhood during a U.S. Senate committee hearing on domestic violence among professional athletes.

The father of five has advocated against domestic violence for more than twenty years in his role as an NFL player, union leader, and now league executive. And UW-Madison was where he found both his voice and a path to becoming a student, an athlete, and a survivor determined to find ways to help others.

The Badgers were not a good football team when they recruited Vincent from the Pennsylvania high school he attended to escape the drugs, gangs, and violence that plagued his Trenton, New Jersey, neighborhood. Yet he and his mother, Alma, decided to visit Madison on an ideal fall weekend. It was sunny. He tasted a brat for the first time. The people were genuine, and — most important — it just felt right.

“Unlike what we see today, where many institutions are trying to sell something they’re not, Wisconsin was trying to sell me the school’s core values and the promise of a first-class education,” he says. “Wisconsin was genuine, sincere, stressing tradition and education, and that resonated with the family.” He picked Wisconsin.

During the season, Vincent’s relatives piled into an RV and traveled from the East Coast to attend as many games as they could. In his office, Vincent keeps a photo of himself from Senior Day at Camp Randall, posing with his mother and grandfather, who was wearing giant gloves and earmuffs.

“They hated that cold, but they did what they had to do,” he says.

On campus, Vincent struggled with shyness, recalls Jane Piliavin, a professor emerita of sociology who met him during his freshman year, when they were paired in a mentoring program aimed at curbing the high dropout rate among students of color. One day he came to her office after arriving late for a class; he couldn’t get up the nerve to enter the lecture hall, even though he needed to speak with the professor.

“We sat on the floor next to the [classroom] door, because I wanted to make sure that he actually did talk to that professor,” she says.

NCAA rules prohibited Piliavin from taking Vincent out to a restaurant for dinner, so he soon was spending most Sundays at her home for brunch. Her late husband, Irv, a professor of social work, didn’t cook, but he learned how to make omelets. Sausage, bacon, and morning buns were plentiful, and Vincent usually brought three or four hungry friends along with him. He says those Sunday conversations with the faculty couple, combined with his classes on campus, “stretched my mind in places that I never thought it could go,” and they guided his life in the years that followed.

“They shaped how I became a father. It shaped my relationship with my parents, my mom. It shaped what kind of teammate or leader I would become,”

Vincent received a **Jefferson Award**, known as the Nobel Prize for public service, in 2012. He is also the only NFL player to receive four major honors for character, leadership, and community service:

Athletes in Action/ Bart Starr award, 2005

Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, 2002

NFLPA Byron Whizzer White Award, 2003

Sporting News No. 1 Good Guy, 2003

he says. “That’s what Madison did for me.”

As a UW student, Vincent volunteered at food pantries and women’s shelters. He saw himself in the young kids he met in those places: children of single mothers working two or more jobs who often had to take care of their younger siblings.

Halfway through Vincent’s college football experience, Barry Alvarez arrived to take over the losing program. At that point, Vincent had begun to conflate his abilities on the field with that of the team’s 3–19 record during the previous two years. “Troy was really a gifted athlete but didn’t know it,” Alvarez says.

That changed for Vincent in a conversation with Alvarez, when he compared him to Todd Lyght, a defensive back he had coached the previous season at Notre Dame. Lyght was the fifth overall pick in the 1991 NFL draft — very impressive, but Alvarez told Vincent that he was bigger, faster, and more physical than Lyght. “He’s the fifth guy taken. Not the fifth round. Fifth guy. That’s how I see you,” Alvarez told him.

Vincent’s subsequent performance on the field earned him accolades, including first-team All-American, runner-up for the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation’s top defensive back, and Big Ten co-Defensive Player of the Year in 1991. He also set the school record for career punt-return yards.

During the fall semester of Vincent’s senior year, agents called day and night, Piliavin recalls. “We went home one day and found him in our bed asleep, because he had not been able to sleep the night before because people kept calling him. But that, of course, made him realize, ‘I can be something. I can be somebody,’ ” says Piliavin, who attended the 1992 draft with her husband and

HOW TO BE A PRO

A veteran NFL player could easily stand back and watch a rookie make mistakes. That wasn’t the case, though, with John Offerdahl, a Wisconsin Rapids native who was a veteran linebacker with the Miami Dolphins when the team drafted Troy Vincent in 1992. “He was one who came and tapped me on my shoulder,” Vincent recalls. “He said, ‘Hey, young fella, Coach [Don] Shula said that you have an opportunity to be a special player. Become a pro first.’” Vincent says Offerdahl taught him key lessons for success in football and in life: “Always be on time for meetings. Always sit up front. And never come into a meeting room without your notebook. Respect every coach, because you never know where a coach is going to end up. And respect this game. And you’ll be okay.”

The father of five has advocated against domestic violence for more than twenty years in his role as an NFL player, union leader, and now league executive.

daughter, seeing Vincent selected seventh overall, heading to the Miami Dolphins.

A photo of him in his Dolphins uniform hangs in her Madison office, where she still teaches a summer course on the sociology of sport. “He would not have told you this,” she says as she pulls a magazine from her file drawer. It’s the July 2003 edition of *Sporting News*, with Vincent gracing the magazine’s cover as its No. 1 Good Guy. Piliavin discusses Vincent with her students at the conclusion of a section on bad behavior by professional athletes, reminding them that they won’t hear about the good things some of them do.

When Vincent was growing up, his grandfather had the family make peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches to pass out to hungry people in their neighborhood. When he played for the Philadelphia Eagles, Vincent did the same with his wife, Tommi, and their children. The family also filled trucks with coats, hats, and gloves to give to those needing winter clothing. The couple formalized their charitable efforts in Trenton in the 1990s by founding Love Thy Neighbor, a nonprofit organization that has provided college scholarships, mentoring programs for fathers and college-bound students, and school supplies for children in inner-city elementary schools, among many other initiatives over the years. The Vincents also helped to restore a park in his old neighborhood where he once played basketball, but insisted it be named for his grandfather, Jefferson Vincent. “He had gardens. He organized the community, made sure people got out and voted,” Vincent says. “[He] was a difference-maker.”

Vincent was short the credits needed to graduate when he left Madison for Miami, but he took classes at Temple University in Philadelphia while still playing in the NFL. He completed his undergraduate degree at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, before moving on to earn certificates from executive education programs at several universities, including Harvard and Northwestern, and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He served as president of the NFL Players Association for four years and then joined the NFL front office in 2010 to lead the league’s player engagement department, which provides support programs for players and their families.

These days, his top priority is preserving the integrity and the competitive fairness of the game, he says. It was his signature on the letter sent to New

Vincent’s connections to Wisconsin still run deep. His daughter, Desire, attended the UW and served as a Badger football recruiting assistant. He visits campus every year, contributed to the Camp Randall Stadium renovation, and endowed a football scholarship for Badger defensive backs.

England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady detailing his suspension due to “Deflategate,” allegations that Brady was involved in tampering with the ball during last year’s AFC championship game.

He is now working his way through an online sports-management graduate-degree program. “I told my son I’ll have my MBA before he finishes college,” he says.

Troy Jr. plays cornerback for North Carolina State University. Vincent’s son Taron is a high school sophomore who is already being recruited by a number of colleges, including Wisconsin. Vincent has seven concussions on the books, but he doesn’t hesitate to say he feels good about the safety of the game today, especially when compared to his rookie season in 1992.

“We know more today,” he says. “There are natural risks associated with the sport itself, but we’re trying with all of our power, resources, and the right partners to [protect] players from unnecessary risk.”

When Vincent discussed growing up in the shadow of domestic violence so publicly on Capitol Hill, he did so with his mother’s blessing. “People don’t understand what a victim goes through or what that’s like,” he says. “It’s important to me to be the voice for the voiceless.”

The NFL established a mandatory education program for five thousand league employees and is training critical-response teams to quickly react to family violence and sexual assault. Earlier this year, Vincent traveled to the Austin, Texas, headquarters of the National Domestic Violence Hotline to visit with staff and learn more about the services it provides to victims. The league is giving the organization \$5 million a year during the next five years — money that has allowed the hotline to add staff, seek larger office space, and open shop in Washington, DC, to lobby lawmakers on key issues.

Most important, the staff can answer more calls. Too many were going unanswered for those seeking help, Vincent says.

“If you think of the calls as answered, someone is being advised properly. Someone’s hearing a voice on the other end of the phone. That may be the voice that saves their life,” he says. “This is so important, because the difference we’re making is not in football, we’re making a difference now in *society*.” ●

Jenny Price '96 is senior writer for On Wisconsin.





Hunters No More

A transformative program founded by two UW alumni is training African warriors to protect and honor the majestic animal they once killed.

BY MEGHAN LEPISTO '03, MS'04

PHOTOS BY PHILIP BRIGGS

Leela Hazzah sits in wait. Scanning the faces of those who pass, she and an assistant search for a young man just released from jail. His crime: a killing in the African savannah.

“That’s him,” says the helper, as Kamunu pedals past on a bike.

Hazzah approaches, and a partnership begins. As they chat candidly about Kamunu’s offenses and past regrets, her vision of transforming killers into protectors becomes even more concrete.

The meeting helps guide an organization that, now in its eighth year, is making great strides in protecting African lions, one of the planet’s most threatened species. By enlisting local Maasai (pronounced

Africa’s lion population has dwindled to fewer than 30,000, down from half a million in 1950. Previous spread: A Maasai warrior stops to log information about the lions he is tracking.

mah-sigh) and other tribal warriors who were once a principal threat — hunting the animals as a source of prestige and in retaliation for livestock attacks — Lion Guardians uses an innovative approach to help the people and lions of East Africa coexist.

Founded by Hazzah MS’07, PhD’11 and Stephanie Dolrenry PhD’13, the organization is based in the Amboseli ecosystem at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro, a critical corridor that connects Kenya’s largest remaining lion population, from Tsavo National Park, with the lion populations of Tanzania. More than eighty warriors — employed as Lion Guardians — monitor approximately 5,500 square kilometers, or 1.3 million acres, of lion habitat in non-protected lands across the two countries. The ranches and rangelands of these regions support tens of thou-



sands of pastoralists and their cattle, sheep, and goats, in addition to abundant wildlife, from wildebeests and giraffes to hyenas and cheetahs.

For the Maasai, cattle represent survival and livelihood, a symbol of wealth, status, and pastoral identity, while lions evoke strength and courage. The two have mostly coexisted for millennia, but conflict is inevitable where livestock and carnivores intersect, and the herdsmen will kill to protect their animals and to gain status in their community.

“The Maasai have a love and hate relationship with lions,” Hazzah explains. “They hate them because they eat their livestock — they jeopardize their livelihood — but they also revere them because they’re powerful animals.”

Lion hunting, though illegal, is also a rite of pas-

In a confluence of ancient and modern, tribal warriors are using GPS technology to collect field data as they travel across the woodlands and grass savannas on foot.



sage as Maasai men enter warriorhood, a cultural coming of age that brings esteem and the admiration of women. The first warrior to spear a lion during a hunt is given a new Maasai lion name, a sign of prestige he carries for the rest of his life.

Between 2001 and 2011, Maasai killed more than two hundred lions in the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem, the equivalent of 40 percent of the population being eliminated each year. While lions kill fewer livestock than other carnivores in the region, they are disproportionately vulnerable to retaliation, and are the easiest to hunt by the traditional methods of tracking and spearing. The conflict increases as human numbers grow and wildlife habitat gives way to towns and pastures, depleting natural prey for lions and isolating their populations. During the last century, lions have lost an estimated 80 percent of their historic range.



A LION PRIMER

“They’re so beautiful and so big and just cats — they’re just like a house cat,” says Stephanie Dolrenry, Lion Guardians’ director of science. If your house cat adopted the appetite of an apex predator and could burst to speeds of fifty miles per hour, that is. More about *Panthera leo*, the African lion:

- Largest of Africa’s carnivores; weighs up to 500 pounds
- Only feline species found regularly in large social groups, called prides
- Primarily nocturnal
- Males guard the pride’s territory; females serve as hunters
- Prey includes giraffes, wildebeest, and zebras
- Roar can be heard up to five miles away
- In the population monitored by Lion Guardians, few live past ten years of age
- Listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species



Fewer than thirty thousand lions remain across Africa, down from half a million in 1950. As a top predator and the largest of Africa's carnivores, lions' presence — or absence — affects all animals and plants below them.

With the threatened species in a tailspin, Hazzah and Dolrenry saw that something had to be done.

Perfect for the Job

Hazzah had been drawn to lions as a child, fascinated by her father's tales of listening to the majestic animals roar in the distance from the rooftop of their family home in Egypt. She longed to hear these same dramatic sounds, but her father explained why she couldn't: Egypt's population of lions had since gone extinct.

She was determined to help save the species, and to one day hear them roar.

Years later, in the rangelands of East Africa, her connection to lions grew stronger. Hazzah, who speaks the native Swahili of Tanzania and Kenya, had traveled there to study elephant conservation. But before setting out on her own studies each day, she would accompany a colleague on early morning excursions to search for lions.

"I found myself infatuated," she recalls. "Lions are such an elusive animal and [studying them] was more of a challenge. I enjoy challenges."

Colorfully dressed in traditional clothing framed against a cloudless sky, a Maasai warrior uses 21st-century technology to monitor the lions he is tracking.

Enrolled at UW-Madison in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Hazzah began studying carnivore conservation with an eye toward the dynamics within communities. She traveled to Kenya as often as possible, using breaks from coursework to conduct field research. Based in a small Maasai community, Hazzah worked to understand what drives these tribal pastoralists to kill lions and what could be done to stop the practice.

An ailing Land Cruiser helped her along. But due to her vehicle's propensity to break down, Hazzah walked long distances to reach communities, meeting many Maasai along the way. Days were spent attending church services, helping women carry water, herding livestock, sipping cups of chai tea over conversation, and observing community dynamics.

Her little home in the middle of nowhere, as she describes it, didn't have much by way of amenities, but it did have one important feature. "Slowly, traditional Maasai warriors started coming to my home because I was the only place with a radio. That's kind of how I attracted people," Hazzah says.

As she built trust with the warriors, they told stories about the lions they had killed. She listened without judgment, and they opened up more and more. In all, while working on her master's thesis, Hazzah conducted more than one hundred interviews and numerous group conversations. The war-

riors spoke of their animosity toward not only lions, but also current wildlife conservation programs.

“They started telling me, ‘We feel it’s unfair, because all of the jobs are going to educated, older people, but we know the bush so well. We would be perfect,’” Hazzah recalls. “And I thought they were right.”

She began to offer the warriors literacy lessons, and as they learned to read and write, she saw their pride build. The wheels started to turn. What if, Hazzah thought, the Maasai warriors could use their traditional ecological knowledge to monitor and protect lions, instead of to hunt them?

“It was what they wanted, and they had all of the skills to do the job,” she says.

Hazzah had recognized early on that community participation was absent in far too many conservation programs. For a program to be successful, she thought, it must involve and benefit the people who share the land with the animals, and it must acknowledge cultural values.

Building off her conversations with the Maasai and in consultation with other stakeholders, Hazzah hatched a plan. She approached the Wildlife Conservation Society for funding and, with a grant secured, set the novel idea in motion.

Merging a yin and yang of sociology and biology, in 2007 Hazzah teamed up with Dolrenry to launch a participatory conservation program. As the pair pursued their doctorates at the Nelson Institute, an interdisciplinary curriculum dotted with wildlife ecology, Swahili, and educational psychology helped foster their approach.

Conservation Instead of Killing

The donor-supported organization began with five young Maasai warriors employed as Lion Guardians in communities with the highest levels of lion-livestock conflict. Today, across their Kenya site alone, forty guardians monitor more than one hundred lions and have documented almost three hundred of the animals.

Each guardian lives and works in his home community, monitoring on foot different routes assigned each week. The guardians travel broad expanses of woodlands and grass savannahs to record tracks of the area’s primary predator and prey species: lion, spotted hyena, leopard, cheetah, wild dog, plains zebra, blue wildebeest, Maasai giraffe, and two types of antelope — common eland and lesser kudu.

They report the number of species tracked, their ages and sex as interpreted from the tracks, and the particular lion or lions believed to be present. (Lions are identified through a unique pattern of whisker spots, plus other characteristics such as ear notches or prominent scars.) Dolrenry, the organization’s director of science, uses this information to analyze lion presence near communities and species’ fluctuations over time.

Long fascinated by — and wanting to protect — the majestic animals, Leela Hazzah (right) co-founded Lion Guardians, an organization based in the rangelands of Kenya.



If a guardian finds fresh lion tracks, he reports to base camp by mobile phone and follows the route.

The work merges the warriors’ traditional tracking techniques with twenty-first-century technologies, providing unprecedented access to an elusive species. Guardians learn to use cell phones, track radio-collared lions, and mark tracks and sightings with a GPS point.

The catch is that at the time of their hiring, nearly all of the warriors are illiterate. More experienced guardians teach the new employees how to read, write, and communicate in Swahili, and to collect and report accurate field data — skills that fill the guardians with pride. They also like to flaunt their tracking equipment; during stops in town, they sometimes act as if they’re tracking lions with a radio receiver, even though none are nearby.

“You have to smile and encourage it, because that’s part of it,” says Dolrenry. “We want them to take pride in the job so they can [say to] their peers, ‘I used to be a lion killer, but what did that get me? Now I’m cool.’”

Enemy Becomes Friend

Through their monitoring efforts, the guardians are able to warn herders when lions or other predators are present and help steer livestock away. Guardians also reinforce *bomas*, the thornbush corrals used to keep livestock overnight; demonstrate ways to better manage livestock to reduce attacks; and help recover lost animals and herders — a growing

problem, as young, inexperienced children are sent to herd livestock while school and urban job opportunities draw older children away.

“These are young, young children who if left alone at night could get attacked by hyenas,” Hazzah says.

The work goes toward a key tenet of Lion Guardians: preventing conflict before it occurs. By reducing the number of livestock attacks, they lessen retaliatory killings, build community tolerance, and prevent the development of livestock-raiding behaviors among lions and other predators. If livestock are killed and warriors are ready to retaliate, guardians intervene, stopping dozens of hunts annually.

“Because the majority of the guardians we’ve hired have killed lions in the past, they’re very important in the eyes of their community — very respected,” Hazzah explains.

Still, stopping a hunt often requires a guardian to face twenty or more angry Maasai warriors. “They stand in front of people with spears to stop them from killing lions. And they’re not doing that because of their salary. They’re more invested in those lions,” she says.

In their daily lion monitoring, the guardians admire the animals from afar and collect videos, photos, and stories to share with their communities. Guardians also name the lions in their area, a whimsical activity that deepens their bond, and they’re proud when lions under their watch bring cubs into the world.

“It’s something I never dreamed would have hap-



Keeping detailed species data is a hallmark of Lion Guardians, says Stephanie Dolrenry (left), the organization's director of science, adding that her graduate training at the UW led to a commitment to that scientific mission.

UW CONSERVATIONISTS

Along with the Lion Guardians founders, many other successful wildlife conservationists have UW connections. Among them:

George Archibald, who received an honorary UW degree in 2004, fulfilled a longstanding dream by cofounding the International Crane Foundation

George Schaller MS'57, PhD'62, who, as a preeminent field biologist, has dedicated more than half a century to searching for rare animals, describing them, and finding ways to protect them

Amy Vedder MS'82, PhD'89 and her husband, Bill Weber MS'81, PhD'89, who worked with the Rwandan people to conserve mountain gorillas

pened — these fierce warriors with kid lions,” Dolrenry says. “Now it’s like a soap opera. They want to know who’s doing what, where their lions are, and all by the lion’s name.”

The guardians demonstrate that protecting lions can preserve the warrior’s respected cultural role as defender of the community, bring prestige through employment where opportunities are hard to find, and deliver a range of local benefits. In 2014, for example, the guardians improved 481 homesteads, recovered nearly 21,000 livestock, and found all of the 21 lost children reported to them.

The work has delivered results for lions, too. Since the program’s launch, lion killings have been all but eliminated in regions with Lion Guardians. And the guardians and biologists have documented a tripling in lion density in the areas of the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem they patrol — one of the few places in Africa where wild lion numbers are on the rise. A large percentage of cubs born in the region are now making it past their critical first two years; larger, multigenerational prides are growing in number; and new males are moving into the area, enhancing the gene pool.

Science at Work

The conservation solutions implemented by Lion Guardians are based on more than a decade of scientific monitoring. It is one of the few conservation organizations with detailed, long-term data on lions living in nonprotected, human-dominated lands. Dolrenry credits her graduate training at the UW with guiding the organization’s rigorous scientific mission.

“Learning and understanding science and how to implement it has provided the entire backbone for Lion Guardians,” she says. “We base everything on studies, and we’re very systematic about it.”

The group’s research shows that chronic livestock-raiding lions — animals that few studies



have previously examined — make up less than 20 percent of the population in Amboseli but cause an estimated 90 percent of attacks. Orphaned older cubs are especially likely to turn to stock-raiding, so the organization is targeting efforts to discourage their bad behavior as they grow into adulthood.

Dolrenry also discovered that the home range for lions in Lion Guardian territories averages thousands of square kilometers — more than twenty to forty times greater than the range of lions in nearby protected areas. By helping lions roam human-dominated landscapes, she realized, the organization provides connectivity between protected populations.

“We’ve seen this over the years in areas where we work,” she explains. “Lions move out of neighboring protected areas and maybe were hunted [in the past], but now guardians and collaborators stop the hunt, and those individuals can survive and breed. Then their offspring can disperse and may reach another population.”

A cub from a Lion Guardians’ monitored area, for

More than 80 warriors have now been trained to monitor lions across 1.3 million acres in Kenya and Tanzania.

example, recently traveled more than two hundred kilometers north to Nairobi National Park — a journey that researchers believe hadn’t been documented for at least two decades, Dolrenry says.

But not all lion travels end well: since the group’s inception, more than one hundred lions have been killed in surrounding areas outside its jurisdiction.

Scaling Up

By expanding its operations, building and strengthening partnerships, and sharing its model, Lion Guardians is now working to promote the movement and protection of lions across important adjacent habitats along the Kenya-Tanzania border and beyond. This is essential, Dolrenry says, because lions’ survival depends on genetic diversity, and few protected areas in Africa are large enough to support sustainable populations.

“If we can increase tolerance to allow lions to move through the landscape and breed, we’re keeping those populations viable for the long term,” she says. “That’s one of the most impactful things we can do as conservationists.”

In 2014, the organization launched the Lion Guardians Training Program, with assistance from Victoria Shelley MS’10, to train new guardians and apply the organization’s model across other cultures, species, and locales. Built on land donated by the Maasai leaders of Amboseli, the center’s construction was funded largely through the St. Andrews Prize for the Environment, one of several prestigious international awards the organization has received for its innovative approach. Hazzah was also named a Top 10 CNN Hero in 2014.

Hazzah describes herself as tenacious, and Stanley Temple, the Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation, remembers her determination. “She was one of the students who right from the beginning stood out,” he recalls. “Her vision, her passion, the fact that she was so single-minded about what she wanted to do, that was pretty unique.”

For the lions of East Africa, thanks to Hazzah’s foresight and the compassion of Maasai warriors, the future looks less threatening. Kamunu, the warrior Hazzah met after his release from jail, was inspired to join Lion Guardians in 2009. He has since been promoted to regional coordinator with the organization, awarded for his eloquence and leadership.

And Hazzah has achieved her childhood dream of experiencing lions in her midst, now many times over.

“When I hear lions roar, any doubt that I have, [I think to myself], ‘We’re doing it, we’re actually making a difference,’” she says. “It’s a constant reminder that we’re on the right path.” ●

Meghan Lepisto ’03, MS’04 is marketing and communications coordinator for the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

For more about Lion Guardians, visit lionguardians.org.



Virgil Abloh shows his Wisconsin colors at the Coach show during New York Fashion Week this past September. He's wearing The Red Shirt™, Limited Edition by Virgil Abloh, a special T-shirt he created to help raise money for UW scholarships. The models at right are wearing clothes from his Off-White Spring/Summer 2014 and 2015 collections.

Chasing Abloh

The hunt for UW-Madison's most elusive designer.

BY CHELSEA SCHLECHT '13

Some months ago — never mind how long, exactly — having little to no expectations, and nothing in particular to lose, I thought to do a story on Virgil Abloh.

Haven't heard of Abloh? You will. Since graduating from UW-Madison in 2003, he has thrown caution and his engineering degree to the wind to build an empire of music, fashion, and celebrity connections.

The music world knows him as DJ Flat White, famous for playing the hottest London dance clubs. Recently, he and French DJ Guillaume Berg formed a group under the Bromance record label called Paris, IL — which, if you haven't heard, had an A-list crowd surfer during its set at the Coachella music festival. It was rapper and cultural icon Kanye West, who also showed up during Abloh's set at the Bromance after-party. For more than a decade, Abloh has served as Kanye's creative director, a role that he described to *New York Magazine* as “basically just [helping] him see his vision through.”

But more than his music career, and perhaps even more than working as Kanye's “all-purpose cultural guru,” as the *New York Times* called him, Abloh is known for his clothing line, Off-White.

“OFF-WHITE c/o VIRGIL ABLOH is a fashion label,” reads the brand's website, “rooted in current culture at a taste-level particular to now.”

The *now* is achieved by a “real-world, feet-on-the-ground type of design approach,” Abloh told *GQ*. It's an approach that has earned him the honor of being the only American finalist for the prestigious Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH) Prize. This past May, Abloh flew to Paris to present his collection, along with seven other designers.

So Abloh is a busy man. Trying to find a sliver of time in his star-crossed schedule seemed nothing short of impossible until, finally, a breakthrough. Following a flurry of last-minute emails and several international text messages, Off-White's PR manager said Abloh could spare an hour to meet with me in person. Less than twenty-four hours later, I jumped in

my car to make the 250-mile round-trip to Chicago.

My 2005 Pontiac Vibe clunks down North Green Street, which is lined with gastropubs and artisanal pizzerias. To my left is an alleyway lit with hanging Edison bulbs — the entrance to a restaurant specializing in smoked meats. To my right, slightly hidden by a line of discarded Lincoln MKTs awaiting their valets, is our meeting spot: Soho House.

The interior of Soho House, Chicago's newest members-only hotel/spa/club "for creative souls," looks like somebody raided a log cabin and your grandmother's house to furnish an old factory. And yet, it's easily the chicest place I've ever been. I perch on the edge of a pheasant-patterned beige-and-blue couch and place my recorder on the gold rim of a glass table — moving in slow motion. The slightest dent could cost me the value of my aforementioned clunker.

Abloh texts me: he's running behind schedule. That's understandable, as the clock is ticking down on his LVMH presentation. He'll let me know when he's twenty minutes away.

I review my notes. Abloh is from Chicago's Lincoln Park, two neighborhoods north of the Fulton Market District and Soho House. But it's in this area that he'll launch his latest venture: a restaurant, co-owned with several of his buddies. Perhaps he's following in the footsteps of New York City restaurateur Gabe Stulman '03. The two were roommates for five years while at UW-Madison and were known for hosting sophisticated dinner parties rather than throwing pre-game keggers.

As I read, a well-dressed young man places an Afternoon Tea menu on the table in front of me. He asks if I'd like to order a drink. "No, thank you," I respond. "I'm waiting for someone."

Forty minutes later, he comes back. He compliments my necklace, stalling. "Sorry, I'm still waiting," I explain. "Really, he should be here any second."

Through several rounds of awkward encounters, the waiter and I proceed from small talk to microscopic. He stops checking on me. I peruse the Afternoon Tea placard, glancing up each time a Porsche or Lincoln passes the floor-to-ceiling window. A tall blonde woman wordlessly swaps out the Afternoon Tea menu for the evening's Small Plates offerings. I debate ordering the mini truffle grilled cheese for ten dollars, but decide against it. It would be rude to be eating when Abloh arrives.

One hundred and fifty minutes later, I get a call. Too many things have come up, and Abloh won't be able to make it. We agree to speak over the phone on Thursday — he'll be en route to Manhattan in the morning but will give me a call in the afternoon. I shell out half a day's paycheck in the parking ramp and head for home.

Thursday passes into Friday. At 11:30 a.m., Off-White's manager says Abloh could call me at 12:30, for one hour only. The LVMH awards are less than



a week away, and Abloh is the type of man you drop everything for. So I sit in an empty conference room, glancing at my phone, waiting for Abloh. At 12:50, the phone rings. Amid a symphony of Manhattan traffic, Abloh's tenor cuts through the phone.

He is a fan of long pauses and big words. He expounds on simple questions by instead answering others that you had never planned to ask — not unlike Kanye, his mentor. Perhaps it's a trait that's rubbed off in the thirteen years the two have spent working together. They were first introduced after Abloh received his master's in architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology, which he completed immediately following his undergraduate education.

At the UW, Abloh studied civil engineering at the advice of his father. Though he was "sort of irreverent" toward the major, he doesn't regret it. "Everything I did, in some way, made this result happen," Abloh explains. In studying engineering, he learned how to multitask and problem-solve — the basis of his career. "I have a philosophy on problem-solving. I guess," he says.

A pause. I ask what that philosophy is.

"There's ... remnants of juxtaposition," Abloh posits. He expatiates on the idea that functionality and modern humor are part of his approach to design, and that each solution should serve a purpose. "Sort of vague answers," he concludes, "but that's, like, a vague question."

But then Abloh is vague, particularly when it comes to discussing his upcoming LVMH presentation. "It's a little bit theoretical," he begins. Fashion critics have characterized Off-White as a high-minded streetwear line, but for Abloh, the term *streetwear* has yet to be formally defined. This lack of definition is what his award presentation aims to rectify. "My attempt is to add layers of sophistication to it and

This past May, Abloh flew to Paris to present his collection along with seven other designers.

bolster up the reason why it's important for *now*," he says. (The LVMH Prize was ultimately awarded to Marques'Almeida, a British label.)

Focused on the *now*, he is reluctant to chart a plan for his future. "I'll just hopefully have a long career doing what excites me," he says. And as Abloh's empire continues to grow — from music to fashion to restaurants — I'm guessing he will.

When he finds the time. ●

Chelsea Schlecht '13 is a writer for On Wisconsin and is working on her vague questions.





Born to Swim

Decades after graduation, six alumni defy sharks, aging bodies, and ocean swells in a race across Hawaii's Maui Channel.

BY ANDY MOORE '86

PHOTOS BY JASON MOORE



Previous spread:
Author Andy
Moore powers
through the azure
waters of Ha-
waii's Maui Chan-
nel (technically
known as the
Au'au Channel)
during his leg of
a nine-mile relay
race. Above, from
left, Doug Bosley,
Moore, and
team captain Art
Luetke chat on
the way to Lanai
at sunrise for
the start of the
competition.

Ho'omaka'ana *The Beginning*

We had tossed through two nights of jet-lagged sleep before the Royal Lahaina's elevator doors opened at 5:30 a.m. to reveal four nearly naked, tattooed men clutching tall-boy cans of Hawaiian beer. They had, as Hunter S. Thompson put it, "the fear of Lono" in their eyes: the kind of menacing, rum-soaked stare that suggests good times could collapse into calamity at any second.

I could relate. Maui waters host more tiger-shark attacks than anywhere in the islands, and in three hours, I'd be swimming in the deepest part of the nine-mile Au'au Channel between little Lanai and Kaanapali Beach. Hell, at least shark attacks are quick. Better than the brutal southern rip that sweeps around Kahoolawe. That craven current has tossed swimmers seven miles north to Molokai — if they were lucky — and to the outer Pacific Basin, if they weren't.

"Aloha," I offered as the doors closed on the elevator dudes. They resumed their crazed ascent. Beazer and I, a.k.a. "The Lost Boys" (missing items between us so far: one phone charger, one set of headphones, one swimsuit, one sunglasses case, one wristwatch), punched the down button. We were running late for our ride to the Lahaina Pier, where even now Captain Norm Ham was loading fresh bananas into the cooler strapped to his 1999 fishing boat, *My Girl*.

But wait. Before I tell you about the beginning of the day, I should tell you the start of the story.

Pu'iwa *Surprise*

No one told me Lake Mendota froze. That would have been good to know. Had I known, this Kentucky boy would have readjusted his college choice from UW-Madison back to Auburn. Fact is, I'd already given the Auburn swim coach a verbal commitment. In 1975, that was a good-as-gold promise.

Still, when I got the call for a recruiting trip to

the UW, I hopped on it. I figured I'd never have a reason to travel to Wisconsin again. I'd take Bucky's free flight, party for a few days in the Big Ten, and then, on schedule, become an Auburn University War Eagle.

"Where were you this weekend?" my mother asked. We were in my parents' powder-blue Grand Prix at the Louisville airport upon my return from Madtown. I had just told her of my change in plans.

"Wisconsin," I said. Madison has a way of drawing you in.

No one was more surprised than the Auburn coach, since his school had the number-one swim program in the country. On the other hand, let's face it — in the mid-seventies, sports were not Bucky's forte.

But State Street? The campus? The capitol? The lakes? Have you ever been to Opelika, Alabama?

It was a no-brainer.

In time, along with getting to know the Plaza Bar's jukebox by heart, I achieved world ranking in the 200 breaststroke, got a diploma, married a girl from Milwaukee, raised three children, and sprinted into middle age.

So along with everything else swimming has provoked in my life, it was only a matter of time before it also caused a reunion. In Hawaii. This past September. Exactly forty years after my arrival at the UW.

Ohana *Family*

Competing on an NCAA Division I sports team is like joining a fraternity, only without the annoying rituals and pastel shirts. Plus, you get to travel. The downside is that it's like having a forty-hour-per-week job while you're in college.

But oh, man, the ohana.

I was recruited to swim at the UW by Brad Horn-er '77, MS'80, '83, MBA'90, whose list of degrees is nearly as long as his swim accomplishments. The Pan American butterfly medalist also recruited me to join the relay for the 2015 Maui Channel Swim, the oldest continuously running rough-water race in the world. The Grumpy Old Badgers, as we called ourselves, entered three six-person teams in the channel swim. My team, the Silver Bullets, was a rogue's gallery of UW alumni swimmers from before, during, and after my time on campus.

Minneapolis native Jim "The Beaze" Pohle '76 is Badger swimming royalty. His father, the late Paul Pohle '43, is a UW Swimming Hall of Fame back-stroker. Beazer was a sprinter at the UW with a long reach, which came in handy midway in the channel race.

As manager of the swim team when I was at Madison, Steve Katz '77 of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, can claim to have woken me up for morning practice approximately seven hundred times. While I was on Maui, Steve called to tell me I was late for a team

picture. Some things never change.

If Katz woke me up seven hundred times, Silver Bullets team captain Art Luetke '68 shot a pistol at me seven hundred times. Well, not at me, but into the air at Big Ten home meets. After his own impressive swim career, Luetke became one of the conference's most respected deck officials. The Madison real-estate developer swims like a seal at age sixty-nine.

In addition to his full-time work as an IT consultant, Racine native Doug Bosley '85 is the election commissioner of Somerville, Massachusetts. The most serious masters swimmer among us, Bosley led us off from the beach at Lanai and plowed through the choppiest segment of the race in later legs.

Australian Neil Rogers x'77 was a finalist in the 100 butterfly at both the '72 Munich Olympics and the '76 Montreal Games. To say he's well known among Australian swimmers is a Down Under statement. Whenever we passed an Aussie boat during the channel race (or it passed us), someone would yell across the water, "Hey, mate! Is Neil Rogers aboard?" Rogers now coaches the Bondi Icebergs Swim Club in Sydney.

Mana'olana Hope

The Beaze and I strolled up to the Lahaina pier as the marina came awake. One by one, the Grumpy Old Badgers appeared on the deck. We stared off in the direction of Lanai's silhouette, wondering what we had gotten ourselves into.

We climbed aboard the *My Girl* and Captain Norm steered her through the Lahaina Harbor. Maui born, Hawaii proud, Norm was used to having wealthy anglers on board. You know, people pulling things out of the water, not diving into it. We explained our specific needs: keep the boat on our breathing side. Props in neutral as we come off and on. Watch for other swimmers. Help us read the currents.

The Silver Bullets chatted above the thrum of the diesel motors as we made the one-hour crossing to Lanai. I grabbed two bananas, savored their sweetness, and watched the sun slowly rise over the towering Mauna Kahalawai range of west Maui, growing more distant by the minute.

Kinohi Loa The Very Beginning

Forty-three million years prior to our departure for Lanai, Maui was one big island. Volcanic eruptions split the mass into four smaller islands: Lanai, Molokai, tiny Kahoolawe, and Maui. The underwater bowl that is the Au'au Channel, over which we swam, is a mere three hundred and fifty feet deep in the center. In winter, it's a protected hot tub for the humpback whales that swim in for a three-month-long orgy.

We anchored one thousand yards offshore from

Lanai. Luetke called for a warm-up and then a team meeting in the water. A cheer was sent up for the Grumpies. We patted Bosley for good luck and sent him to shore.

Back aboard the *My Girl*, the radio was tuned to the designated race channel. The receiver's ominous hiss was interrupted by a voice giving final



Hawaiian Islands



instructions just before the 8 a.m. start. Team members' ages were added together to determine team categories. The Silver Bullets, 362 years old, qualified for the Grand Makule division, along with seven other teams whose boats had to fly a green flag.

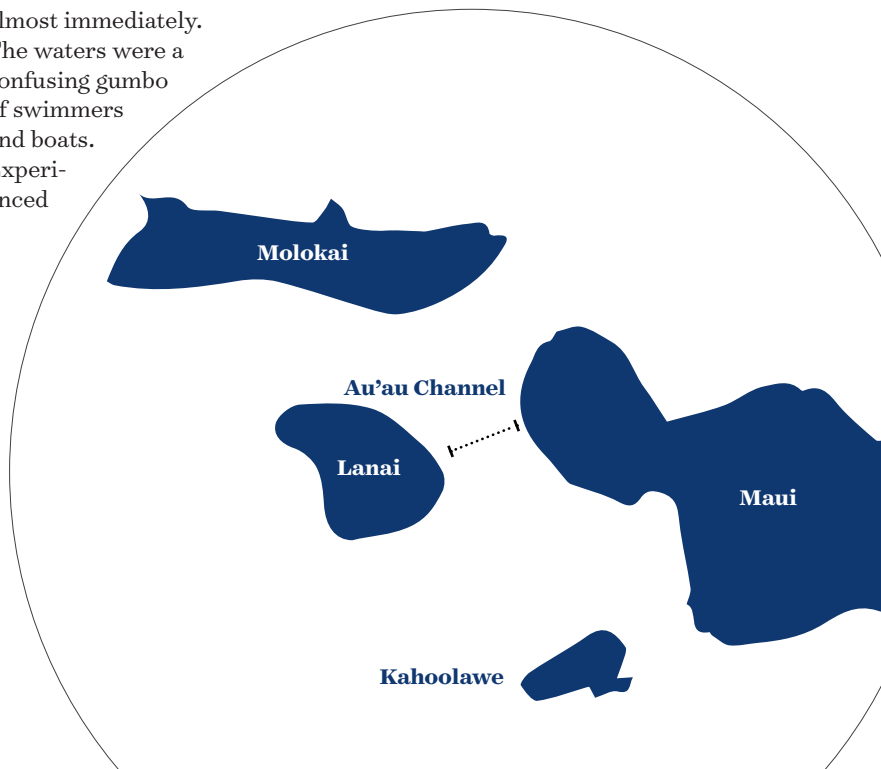
Green swim caps helped the Makule teams spot their lead-off swimmers, and when the starting flag dropped at 8:07, my stomach dropped with it.

Eha'eha Pain

"Where's Boz?" became our chant almost immediately.

The waters were a confusing gumbo of swimmers and boats. Experienced

Moore prepares to dive into the channel for the first leg of his swim.



swimmers can recognize a person in the water by the shape of his or her stroke.

Bosley has a high recovery, the crook of his elbow framing his face when he breathes to the left. After ten minutes of searching, we found him — in the upper middle of the pack and with a swimmer immediately behind him drafting on his toes. Against the rules!



Top: The author loosens up in the shallow waters off Lanai before the race. Above: Badger alums celebrate their success with W hand signs and general good cheer. Right: Moore is shown from below mid-channel.

Each swimmer does a thirty-minute leg for one rotation followed by ten-minute legs until the finish. Bosley got us well into the channel. Rogers was up next. We started peppering him with encouragement. “Don’t get me too revved up, mate,” he said as he strapped on his goggles. “I want my last fifteen minutes to be better than my first fifteen.”

As I soon found out, trying to pace ourselves was a tall order. You don’t train for months and travel for miles just to take your time about things. Still, an unexpected calm came over me just before my first leg. But did I tell you my left shoulder was killing

me? And I have two fake hips? Yeah, that.

I dove off the bow of the *My Girl* after Rogers and Beazer finished their first legs. The adrenaline shot through me so hard that for a moment I didn’t notice how warm the water was in the middle of the channel. After a summer of record Hawaiian heat and cross curls of hurricanes, it was hot. Too hot. But man, was it clear.

Crossbeams of sunshine darted down, down, through the limitless, blue depth. The surface water was relatively calm. Just beneath was another story. That southern rip was pulling my suit off, dragging me toward Molokai — the wrong island. Twenty minutes in, my body burned from the inside out.

While captains of other, much fancier boats had been watching their million-dollar electronics, Captain Norm had been watching the setting of the moon. Old school. His corrections, and a hell of a lot of yelling to our teammates, helped us maintain our position in the sleeves of currents.

In Olympic competition, finishing in the top three is called *medaling*. At the Maui Channel Swim, it’s called *toweling* for the beautiful, customized beach towels awarded to the top three teams. We wanted those towels.

That’s why we kept track of the green-flagged boats as we stroked our way to Maui. The old competitive juices boiled over. The Beaze swam the last leg to Maui, crashing home on a shore break in a glorious display of body surfing, then running up the beach to the finish line.

The UW’s Silver Bullets placed third.

He wai e ola Water

Water is to Hawaii what jazz is to New Orleans. A mainlander looks at a saltwater sea and says you can’t drink it. A Hawaiian says you can’t live without it. I thought about the blessing of water in my life as The Beaze and I rested on our hotel balcony after the race banquet, sipping our last cold beers of the night. We gazed out toward Lanai, where our day had begun — 4,127 miles from Bascom Hill.

In the salty, still night air, voices arose from the hotel pool seven stories below. I looked. Even from that distance, there was no doubt in my mind that the father and son were local. They were in the midst of the small child’s first snorkeling lesson.

The boy got it. Head down, he wiggled across the surface like a water snake. Awash in pool lights and against the black bottom, the long white sleeves of their aqua shirts lit them up like they were an X-ray. It may have been the fatigue, but the sight sparked within me a profound connection to them.

I was witnessing the first strokes of another boy who was born to swim. ●

Andy Moore ’86 is senior news producer at Wisconsin Public Television, an award-winning freelance writer, and a banjo player.



All In on All Ways Forward

With pomp and passion, UW-Madison launches into its fourth comprehensive campaign.



BY JOHN ALLEN

PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

Colonel William F. Vilas is more than a century dead, but it's a pretty safe bet that he'd be on board with *All Ways Forward*.

It's possible you aren't familiar with *All Ways Forward* — not yet, anyway. This is the name for the comprehensive campaign for UW-Madison, publicly launched last month at an event in the Kohl Center.

It's certain that you *should*, at least in a small way, know who Colonel William F. Vilas 1858, MA1861 was. Most of you have been to Vilas Zoo (named for his son Henry). Many have spent time in Vilas Hall. (If you studied journalism or mass communication, you spent a *lot* of time there.)

But Vilas was much more than the building and zoo that carry his name. He was a lawyer and a Civil War hero and a lumber baron. He served the UW as a professor and as a regent, and he served the nation as secretary of the interior, as postmaster general, and as a U.S. senator.

Still, that's not what makes us think he'd support *All Ways Forward*. The key piece of his legacy is what he did when he died: in 1908, Vilas left his entire estate, \$1.8 million, in trust to the UW for the purpose of funding distinguished research professorships.

Vilas was the first alumnus to put serious money behind enhancing UW teaching and research, and his gesture inspired followers (although the trust didn't begin paying to the UW until after Vilas's daughter died in 1960, so some of his followers' gifts actually preceded his). Still, it was a slow-burning trend. Between Vilas's death and November 2014, the UW built up 142 fully funded, endowed chairs and professorships: an average of 1.3 per year.

That slow burn sparked to high flame last November, when John '55 and Tashia '55 Morgridge offered \$100 million in matching funds to support faculty chairs and professorships. Over the next seven months, donors responded, and the Morgridges upped their offer to \$125 million, so that the university will receive \$250 million. That more than doubled the number of fully funded chairs and professorships, so the total tops 300.

Vilas wanted to see the UW become a leading institution in perpetuity, and that's what the campaign is about: creating large-scale change to ensure the university's stature.

All Ways Forward, notes UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank, is "only the fourth comprehen-



sive fundraising campaign in our history — and by far the biggest,” with a goal of bringing in \$3.2 billion by the end of the decade.

Though the university has been through a rough year with Wisconsin’s legislature — swallowing a big budget cut and changes to tenure that made faculty more than a little unhappy — Blank insists that the campaign isn’t about patching holes in state support. It’s about building on UW-Madison’s excellence.

“We are, and we intend to remain, a top-ranked, world-class university,” she says. “There’s not a single institution of higher education in the United States that doesn’t increasingly depend upon its friends and alumni. Gift dollars don’t replace other funds, but they help us leverage them.”

The campaign’s public launch during Homecoming week in October was a moment of pomp and fanfare. Blank announced the goal to a crowd of nearly a thousand students, faculty, staff, and members of the Madison community. The event included presentations that highlighted four strategic priorities:

- providing student support
- improving the student experience
- maintaining faculty excellence
- supporting research and innovation

But though the launch was last month, the campaign has actually been underway (in a “quiet phase”) for more than two years. Since July 1, 2013, the UW Foundation (which is UW-Madison’s official fundraising and gift-receiving organization) has received more than \$1.2 billion, about 38 percent of



the final goal. That includes the Morgridges’ gift, as well as a \$50 million matching gift for scholarships from Albert ’52, MBA’55 and Nancy ’55 Nicholas; two gifts from The Grainger Foundation, adding up to \$47 million, to support the College of Engineering; and a \$28 million gift of art and funds for art education from Jerome ’48 and Simona x’49 Chazen.

“These are the kinds of gifts that transform a campus,” Blank says. “They strengthen our ability to attract top-notch teachers and researchers, who in turn make us more competitive for federal research dollars and help us to attract the best faculty, staff, and students.”

And they’re the kinds of gifts that Colonel William F. Vilas would understand. ●

John Allen is senior editor of On Wisconsin. For more about the campaign, see allwaysforward.org.

With a chorus of “Varsity,” Chancellor Rebecca Blank sent the new campaign into high gear at a launch party in October. Above (from left, flanked by members of the UW Band) are John Morgridge, Blank, Tashia Morgridge, and Mary Sue ’81 and Mike ’80 Shannon. Former Badger football player Mark Tauscher ’99, MS’03 (left) served as one of the event’s emcees. Opposite are scenes from the evening, which brought together faculty, alumni, donors, and students.

On Alumni

Alumni News at Home and Abroad

2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards

*Four alumni who
make us proud*

The Distinguished Alumni Awards, which date back to 1936, are WAA's highest honor and indicator of general awesomeness. The awards recognize alumni for exceptional professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of the university. For more on the award winners, see uwalumni.com/awards. The deadline for 2016 nominations is December 1, 2015.

While on campus, **Geraldine Hines** participated in the black student strike. She learned how the law could be used as a tool for racial and social justice, and she has taken on many civil rights cases throughout her career.

Last year, **Steve Levitan** participated in a video for the UW (now on YouTube) that featured his advice for students.

McPherson House at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health is named to recognize **Alice McPherson's** contributions, and her portrait and bronze bust also grace the medical school.

The popular Goodspeed Family Pier on the Mendota lakefront is named in honor of the family of **Michael Shannon's** wife, Mary Sue Goodspeed Shannon.



Geraldine Hines JD'71

Hines, the Massachusetts Supreme Court associate justice, is the first African American woman to serve on that state's Supreme Court. After growing up in the segregated south, she decided to become a civil rights lawyer. In nominating Hines to the court last year, Governor Deval Patrick said, "At both the Superior Court and the Appeals Court, she's been a beloved and respected colleague, praised by judges and lawyers alike for being smart, prepared, fair, tough, decisive, warm, thoughtful, and gentle. All at the same time."

Steve Levitan '84

The co-creator and executive producer for ABC TV's *Modern Family*, Levitan has ushered the family sitcom into the modern era. He has written and produced series such as *Wings*, *Frasier*, *Stark Raving Mad*, *Greg the Bunny*, *Oliver Beene*, *Just Shoot Me!*, and *Back to You*. His numerous honors include nine Emmys, five Writers Guild Awards, two Humanitas Prizes, a Peabody Award, five Producers Guild Awards, a Comedy Writer of the Year Award, four American Film Institute awards, two Television Critics Awards, and a Directors Guild of America nomination.



ART STREIBER



Alice McPherson '48, MD'51

McPherson is one of the foremost retinal specialists in the world. She founded the retina service at Baylor College of Medicine and the Retina Research Foundation in Houston, Texas, and her support was critical in the establishment of the McPherson Eye Research Institute at UW-Madison. She has served on the UW Foundation board of directors for twelve years. McPherson founded the UW Ophthalmology Alumni Association and has been responsible for establishing endowed chairs and lectureships at the university. She was a UW-Madison commencement speaker in 1995 and received an honorary degree in 1997.

Michael Shannon '80

The founder of KSL Capital Partners, a \$6.5 billion private equity firm that invests in the hospitality and real estate industries, Shannon is a director for the UW Foundation and has served on the Wisconsin School of Business dean's advisory board. He and his wife, Mary Sue, have provided financial support to the School of Business, the Lakefront Gateway Project, and the School of Human Ecology. Shannon is also a recipient of the 2010 Wisconsin School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award and the 2012 Schaffner Award from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.



Tradition *Bascom Hill Snowball Fights*



JEFF MILLER

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has seen its share of civil wars. During the American Civil War, more than 70,000 soldiers trained in what is now one of the greatest college football stadiums in America — Camp Randall. And then, nearly 150 years later, hoards of students descended upon Bascom Hill for what came to be called the Battle for Bascom: an epic snowball fight between the Southeast and the Lakeshore residence halls.

On December 9, 2009, troops from the Southeast launched snowballs at the brave Lakeshore residents on the front lines. The Lakeshore brigade was unyielding, pushing forward until it claimed Bascom. As the battle fizzled, the carnage was clear: beards were crystallized with icicles, eyeglasses were

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE UW TRADITION?

Tell On Wisconsin at onwisconsin@uwalumni.com, and we'll find out if it's just a fond memory or if it's still part of campus life today.

fogged and askew. A man in a banana suit reached for a fallen comrade, who must have been quite chilled, as he was clad only in a Speedo.

The event had been organized on Facebook several weeks earlier as an attempt to break the unofficial record for the world's largest snowball fight. A perfectly timed snow day was a happy accident ... or was it? As snow blanketed Madison the evening of December 8, 2009, students took to Twitter to ask then-chancellor Biddy Martin for the day off. Then, at 7:45 p.m., Martin famously tweeted that campus would close. Just minutes later, residents of Sellery and Ogg commenced a smaller skirmish across the impassable Dayton Street. (This was the first full campus closure in nearly twenty

years, and one of only eight in history.)

The 2009 snowball fight saw nearly four thousand combatants, just short of what was needed to break the record. But that didn't dampen the flame: the Battle for Bascom continued to become a tradition. Subsequent fights took place on February 2, 2011; December 20, 2012; and February 8, 2015. So far, Lakeshore is undefeated.

Though millennials may argue otherwise, the very first Battle for Bascom actually took place many years ago, on a snowy day in 1923. Rather than residence hall communities drawing a line in the sand (er, snow), UW law and engineering students duked it out. There was no documented winner (but our money's on the engineers).

CHELSEA SCHLECHT '13

40s-50s

The 2011 painting titled *Crucial Eye* is the signature image for the first collections exhibition held in the Berkeley [California] Art Museum's new building, which opened this summer. It's the work of author and artist **Sylvia Fein (Scheuber) '42** of Martinez, California, who's been termed both a surrealist and a magic realist. Many of Fein's earliest paintings are in the Chazen Museum of Art collection on the UW-Madison campus.

In March, **Lucille Koehl Wilcox '47** celebrated turning ninety, and her husband of sixty-seven years, **Ralph Wilcox x'48**, reached eighty-nine. In August, the Onalaska, Wisconsin, couple also toasted the one hundredth anniversary of the family farm in Darien, Wisconsin. Lucille was president of the UW's chapter of Phi Beta and earned two additional degrees. Ralph was a navy pilot before attending college. We thank granddaughter **Allison Arlt Suchon '03** of Madison for sharing this news.

Interspersed with her time as an educator, **Betty (Mary Elizabeth) Risley '50** of Wauconda, Illinois, spent many years volunteering in Nigeria, Cameroon, and American Samoa through Lay Mission-Helpers — an international Catholic service organization — and became its first board president. Risley seems richly deserving of the group's first annual Ernst Ophuls Award, which she received in September.

Charles Bingman '52, MBA'56 of Falls Church, Virginia, is on his fourth career. First: senior federal-government executive with the Office of Management and Budget, Federal Transit Administration, and NASA. Second: graduate-level educator at George Washington and Johns Hopkins Universities. Third: consultant for projects in thirteen far-flung countries. And fourth? He's authored six

BOOK NEWS

Please complete and submit the form at uwalumni.com/go/bookshelf. We then post submissions to a Wisconsin-alumni section of the book website Goodreads at 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
Class Notes, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476

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

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)

books (so far) about world governments, the latest of which is *Governments from Hell: Government-Sponsored Oppression and Terror* (iUniverse).

60s

John Newhouse MS'60 cares so deeply about his home community of Whitewater, Wisconsin, that he's spent the last twenty years as a founding member of the board of the Whitewater Community Foundation, a group that enhances the city's quality of life and advances the education of its young people. When the past principal of Whitewater High School retired from the board this year, a Founders' Scholarship was created to honor him and two other founders.

The career of **Jagdish (Jack) Bhatt MS'63** of Wesley Chapel, Florida, includes research; authoring fifteen books, the latest of which is *Triumph of the Bold: A Poetic Reality* (CreateSpace); and teaching earth and marine sciences at several colleges. Boasting eight UW-alumni relatives who add to his family's broad body of accomplishments, he concludes, "Our respective career success began in the enlightened epicenter of UW-Madison."

70s

Every year, you'll find photos by **Reggie Gauger '70** among the finalists in the *Wisconsin's Great Lakes!* calendar competition sponsored by the state's Department of Natural Resources. In the 2014-15 edition, his photo of two bald eagles graced the November 2014 page. Gauger has a great fan in fellow Sheboygan resident **Jim Schultz '63**, who applauds the former longtime UW employee's devotion to family, community, and nature, and his uncommon skill at fishing.

Legendary Pictures has acquired the rights to Madisonian **David Maraniss x'71**'s book

Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero (Simon & Schuster), with plans to develop a feature-length biopic about the late Pittsburgh Pirates star Roberto Clemente.

To say that **Michael Perelman '71** is eminent in his field is just plain understating it. He's a clinical professor emeritus of psychology in psychiatry, reproductive medicine, and urology at Weill Cornell Medical College; a codirector of the Human Sexuality Program at New York Presbyterian Hospital; a private practitioner in New York City; the editor-in-chief of *Current Sexual Health Reports*; and the founder of the MAP Education and Research Fund.

R. (Rajinder) Paul Singh MS'72 is the World Agriculture Prize laureate for 2015 — an honor conferred in September by the Global Confederation for Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences. On the UC-Davis faculty since 1975, Singh is now a distinguished professor emeritus who's made an international name for himself in energy conservation, freezing preservation, post-harvest technology, and mass transfer in food processing.

Crittenton Women's Union, a Boston-based nonprofit that helps low-income women and their families to become economically self-sufficient, has welcomed **Mary Laymon Coleman MA'76, PhD'90** as its new chief operating officer. Along with her extensive research in rural poverty, Coleman's thirty-plus years in higher education include her most recent post as dean of Lesley University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she founded its Initiative on Child Homelessness.

"An amazing, immersive writing opportunity in Ireland": sounds enticing, yes? This summer, **John DeDakis '77** of Washington, DC — a writing coach, University of Maryland-College Park adjunct faculty

member, and former CNN senior copy editor for *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer* — joined Irish wordsmiths to lead workshops at the Ireland Writing Retreat in Gweedore, Donegal. (Participants also played a wee bit of golf.) DeDakis is at work on the fourth book in his Lark Chadwick mystery/suspense series, *Bullet in the Chamber*.

80s

Roughly 670 operators have driven the 92 Original Wisconsin Ducks — by far the nation's largest collection of World War II-era amphibious vehicles — during their 70 seasons of operation in the Wisconsin Dells. More than half of those drivers returned for a reunion in June — a glorious weekend for **Dan Gavinski '80**, who began as a teenaged parking-lot attendant for the Ducks and is now its general manager and part owner, and a guiding force in the amphibious duck-tour industry.

"I was interviewed about being a world-class technology expert, attorney, entrepreneur, and award-winning author," writes **Stephen Lesavich '81, JD'95** about a March 2015 *#WORLDCLASS* magazine piece called "On the Edge of Everything." He's the owner of a publishing company and heads the Lesavich High-Tech Law Group in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Did you know that UW-Madison has one of the top construction engineering and management programs in the nation? **Tom Gunkel '82** of Minnetonka, Minnesota — the CEO of Mortenson Construction and a UW-Madison adjunct faculty member — has shown tireless support of that program, the College of Engineering, and its students — support that's earned him a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award in the Engineering and Construction Industry from UW-Madison's Construction Club.

WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

There's a lot of confusion about what graduates should call themselves. Let us help! One male graduate is an *alumnus*; one female grad is an *alumna*. Call an all-male group or a mixed group of male and female grads *alumni*, and refer to an all-female graduate group as *alumnae*.

"Our respective career success began in the enlightened epicenter of UW-Madison."

Jagdish (Jack) Bhatt MS'63

Hossein Jadvar MS'84 has taken the helm of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging as its 2015–16 president, and he's recently earned the Academy of Radiology Research's Distinguished Investigator Award as well. Jadvar is a tenured associate professor of radiology and of biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles. He also holds a second MS, a PhD, an MD, an MPH, and an executive MBA.

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) has recognized **Laurel Carney MS'85, PhD'89** — a professor in the Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Neurobiology and Anatomy, and Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Rochester [New York] — with its Hartmann Prize in Auditory Neuroscience for her research to better understand the links between auditory physiology and auditory perception or behavior. And, as the accreditation body for acoustics, vibration, and noise, ASA has tapped **Christopher Struck '85** as its new accreditation standards director. He's the founder, CEO, and chief scientist of CJS Labs, a San Francisco-based consulting firm that specializes in audio and electroacoustics applications.

We regret that we printed **Molly Gribb '85's** name incorrectly in the Fall 2015 issue.

By a unanimous vote in June, Madisonian **Regina Millner JD'85, MS'91** became the UW System Board of Regents' new president, and **John Behling JD'00** of Altoona, Wisconsin, joined her as vice president. Both have been regents since 2012. Millner's career as a lawyer and commercial real estate consultant spans more than thirty years, and she's held many board-leadership roles. Behling is the executive VP of regulatory affairs and general

counsel for Smart Sand, an industrial-sand supplier.

"These teachers are shaping America's success through their passion for math and science," said President Obama when he named 108 educators as recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Among them was **Leif Carlson '86**, a middle-school math teacher at Jefferson Community School in Minneapolis. The honorees were lauded at a summer ceremony in Washington, and each received a \$10,000 prize from the National Science Foundation.

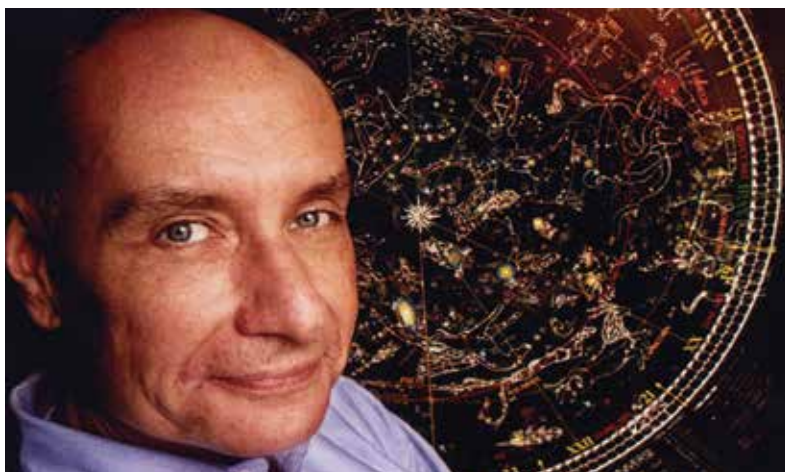
Margaret German Mucha '86 is the new global director of regulatory affairs at Milwaukee's Mortara Instrument, a developer and manufacturer of diagnostic cardiology and patient-monitoring technologies. She was most recently the director of regulatory affairs for GE Healthcare.

If you want to make a significant change to the landscape of La Crosse, Wisconsin, you'll need to clear it with the city's new planning director, **Jason Gilman '87**. He's also an adjunct professor of political science at Winona State University and UW-La Crosse, as well as a former planning director of Winona County, Minnesota, and Onalaska, Wisconsin.

According to *Human Resource Executive* magazine, one of the Nation's Top 100 Most Powerful Employment Attorneys of 2015 resides in our Badger midst. **Scott Beightol JD'88**, a Milwaukee-based Michael Best & Friedrich partner, is the only Wisconsin lawyer on the annual list, and it's his fourth consecutive appearance.

As part of the 2015 Healthy Iowa Awards program, **Ann Mansfield MS'88** has accepted the Visionary Leadership Award on behalf of all of the participants in the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative: an eight-year, six-county, collaborative effort to "create community

Recognition *Michael Molnar PhD'71*



COURTESY OF MICHAEL MOLNAR

STAR OF BETHLEHEM COMING INTO FOCUS

Astronomers typically make their discoveries by pointing a telescope into the night sky. But astronomer **Michael Molnar PhD'71** discovered what he believes is the identity of the most famous star in history by studying his coin collection.

In astronomy classes that he taught at Rutgers University, students often raised questions about the Star of Bethlehem at Christmastime. Molnar gave the conventional and inconclusive explanations that began with pioneering astronomer Johannes Kepler four hundred years ago.

But then a Roman coin depicting a ram and a star led him into the ancient world of astrology and an unexpected key. "I'm an astronomer, not an astrologer," Molnar says. "I had to learn what astrologers of two thousand years ago would have looked for in the sky for the birth of the king of the Jews."

His research suggested that a moon passing in front of Jupiter (an *occultation* in astronomical terms), while it was in the zodiacal territory of Aries the Ram, would signal the birth of an important king of the Jews. He calculated that such a rare occultation, with Jupiter as a morning star ("in the east"), occurred in 6 BC on April 17. "Then I knew I had the answer to the Star of Bethlehem," he says.

It was a different, yet logical, approach. "Molnar deserves credit for his research into the astrological context," says Peter Barthel, a professor of astrophysics at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

In 2014, that university celebrated its four hundredth anniversary with a colloquium focusing on the Star of Bethlehem. "Molnar's theory was central in our meeting," Barthel says. And while scholars quibbled, it's clear that Molnar had identified a phenomenon that had meaning for those who saw symbolism in celestial objects.

"The nature of the Star of Bethlehem must be astrological, not astronomical," says Louisiana State University astronomer Bradley Schaefer. "The scholarly community has largely been converted."

Molnar can claim to be living under a benevolent star of his own. While pursuing his PhD in astronomy in 1970, he worked long nights in Sterling Hall. Shortly after midnight on August 24, he became hungry and sought out a vending machine, which jammed and wouldn't give him his money back. Frustrated, he left early.

Three hours later, a bomb went off, killing researcher **Robert Fassnacht** and destroying part of Sterling Hall and the work of many students, including that of Molnar. With the help of faculty and fellow students, however, he was able to complete his degree in 1971 and continue his career in astronomy.

GORDON GOVIER '73

conditions where the healthy choice is the easy choice for children and their families." Mansfield is Luther College's coordinator for the initiative.

The Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation at Colorado State University in Fort Collins has chosen **Pete Waack '88** as its new president and CEO. Since 2001, he's been the general manager of Syracuse University's award-winning *Daily Orange* independent student newspaper.

"I believe I have an obligation to serve students in liberal arts colleges so they can learn in the best possible ways and have opportunities in their lives to contribute meaningfully to their communities," says **Marc Roy PhD'89** upon becoming the new provost and vice president for academic affairs at Albion [Michigan] College. He'd served as provost and chief academic officer at Baltimore's Goucher College since 2007 and is the board chair of the American Conference of Academic Deans.

90s

Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams (Wisconsin Historical Society Press) is the first Wisconsin Public Television documentary from producer/director **Robert Trondson '90**. First aired in February 2015, it chronicles the inspiring life story of civil rights trailblazer and 2013 WAA Distinguished Alumni Award winner **Vel (Velvlea) Rodger Phillips LLB'51**, who became Wisconsin's first African American judge and its first African American female secretary of state. The film's producers hope that it will foster conversation about equity and race relations.

The cover of the University of Illinois–Chicago (UIC) alumni magazine's Summer 2015 issue welcomed UIC's new chancellor, **Michael Amiridis PhD'91**. A native of Greece and a first-generation college student, he was a longtime chemical

engineering faculty member, researcher, and provost at the University of South Carolina. Now at UIC, Amiridis is characterized as a catalyst for change who's focusing on students above all, the university's distinction in research, and its future expansion in the health sciences.

Congratulations to **Laura Nelson MD'91**, the new vice president and chief medical officer for the northern division of Prevea Health. Now based in Green Bay, Wisconsin, she spent the previous twenty-one years with Marshfield [Wisconsin] Clinic, most recently as its chief medical officer.

Kristine Ackerman Sperling '92, JD'98 and **Daniel Sperling '94** are the wife-and-husband founders of Makes 3, which offers a line of soaps and balms made with certified organic ingredients — with lotions, hair-care products, home aromas, and cleaning products on the way. The couple says that their Santa Barbara, California-based company grew out of their “journey from unconscious living and serious health concerns to an integrated and organic lifestyle that is built around intentional and balanced choices made to nurture our lives.”

An innovative project that demonstrates the ability of low-impact development practices to effectively handle stormwater and flooding has earned **Brett Emmons MS'93** — CEO of the water-resources engineering firm Emmons & Olivier Resources in Oakdale, Minnesota — a National Grand Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies. His approach may serve as a national role model.

Among the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's (PNNL) top innovators is **Johnathan Holladay PhD'94** of Kennewick, Washington. The proof? In May, he was named one of two 2014 Battelle Distinguished Inventors for procuring sev-

enteen U.S. patents as a result of his work for Battelle, which operates PNNL for the U.S. Department of Energy. Holladay was also named PNNL's 2010 Inventor of the Year and is a leader in national biofuels and bioproducts consortia.

Timpani Capital Management — as in the kettle-shaped drums — is what **Brandon Nelson '94, MS'96** called the Milwaukee boutique investment firm that he cofounded in 2008, just a few months before ... well, we all remember the Great Recession. “We started the firm with only \$1 million of assets under management,” he says, but despite the timing, “[we] manage over \$300 million today.” But where do the drums come in? Nelson has been a percussionist since fifth grade and wailed on the snares for four years in the UW Marching Band. His experience culminated with the 1994 Rose Bowl.

While he was an undergrad researcher in the UW physics department, **Kurt Retherford '94** began studying the moons of Jupiter. Now at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, he's the lead scientist for one of the nine instruments that NASA plans to include on its next mission to Jupiter's moon Europa. Retherford recently used the Hubble Space Telescope to codiscover evidence of large water-vapor plumes emitted from Europa's icy surface that may connect to a habitable, subsurface ocean.

Women argue between 11 and 16 percent of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court (depending on whom you ask), and in that minority is where **Wendy Miller Seffrood Ward '96, JD'01** stood in April. She's a patent litigator and partner in the Madison office of the intellectual-property law firm of Merchant & Gould, but she stepped out of her usual arena to argue an excessive-force case for a pro bono client in *Kingsley v. Hendrickson*. In June, the

court ruled in her favor.

Have you ever toppled a tower of folded clothes because you wanted the item on the bottom? **Joe Kuipers '97** and **Sami (Samuel) Swift Kuipers '97** want to fix that problem with EZSTAX: a set of flat dividers that interlock in the back and flip up individually so that any item stored in the stack — from T-shirts to towels to paperwork — can be pulled out smoothly. A Kickstarter campaign worked marvelously to fund the Nokomis, Florida, couple's product.

Which Badger made *Scientific American's* latest Worldview 100 list? He's journalist **Luke Timmerman '97**: among the magazine's picks for the one hundred most influential folks in biotech. (Bill and Melinda Gates are in the list's top ten, so Timmerman's in eminent company.) He's the founder and editor of the *Timmerman Report* — a Seattle-based subscription publication that provides in-depth biotech news and analysis — as well as a frequent speaker and *Forbes* contributor. He's at work on his first book, *Hood: Trailblazer of the Genomics Age*.

In 1998, **William Belcher PhD'98** of Mililani, Hawaii, began working as a forensic anthropologist/archaeologist, lab manager, and deputy lab director at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's Central Identification Laboratory, which searches for and identifies the remains of missing U.S. service members. He's now accepted a post as an archaeologist and instructor at the University of Hawaii–West Oahu.

Is Wisconsin home to majestic mansions and grand family retreats? You bet, and **Michael Bridgeman MA'98** of Mazomanie tells about six of its most beautiful and intriguing as the host of the documentary *Remarkable Homes of Wisconsin*. Now available as a DVD through the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, it's full of video and photos

“I believe I have an obligation to serve students in liberal arts colleges so they can learn in the best possible ways and have opportunities in their lives to contribute meaningfully to their communities.”

Marc Roy PhD'89

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.

of the homes and interviews with their owners. **Jon Hornbacher '92** of Oregon produced the film for Wisconsin Public Television.

00s

Quarles & Brady's Madison office recently earned an award from the Dane County Bar Association for providing pro bono aid to survivors of domestic violence. **Emily Feinstein JD'01**, a partner in the law firm's litigation and dispute-resolution practice group, codirects a program to represent people seeking domestic-violence and harassment injunctions, as well as a legal clinic for clients of Domestic Abuse Intervention Services.

The highest accolade that the Commonwealth of Kentucky awards is commission in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and **Anthony Lamanna MS'01, PhD'02** is now such a colonel. The nonprofit organization honors extraordinary accomplishments and service by people from all walks, and its members do good works and serve as Kentucky's goodwill ambassadors worldwide. Lamanna is an assistant professor of construction management at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond and the chief engineer of Lamanna Engineering Consultants.

Salmon rarely make an appearance in Class Notes, so thank you, **Nic Mink '02, PhD'10**, for this opportunity. While earning his PhD, Mink worked in community outreach in Sitka, Alaska, where he envisioned a way to deliver fish to Midwest consumers — and in 2012, he founded and became president of Sitka Salmon. His process involves cleaning, vacuum-sealing, deep-freezing, and shipping fresh fish by barge and then overland to Galesburg, Illinois. The business has been expanding rapidly, thanks in large part to salmon-philos in Chicago and Madison.

Congratulations to **Brian Blackader '03**! Most recently the executive VP of strategic accounts for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa for Teleperformance Germany in Dortmund, he's now its CEO. The global firm provides multichannel customer-care services and experiences.

After completing his first year as an assistant professor of law at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, **Bryant Walker Smith '03** says that his work on the legal and policy aspects of self-driving cars has received quite a bit of attention, including an interview that appeared in the June 2015 issue of *Popular Science*. As an expert on legal issues related to emerging technologies, he shared his take on the newfangled cars' pros, cons, and future.

"I recently graduated with my bachelor's of science in nursing," began a note from **Jenny DiLegge Jackson '04** — and it was summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA, no less, from the University of Colorado. She now works in the high-risk labor and delivery unit at University of Colorado Hospital in Denver. "I'm so proud," she concludes, "but even prouder to continue to rock my red Reebok shoes that I bought on State Street more than a decade ago!"

You can belly up to the bar — or, rather, the barre — at either of **Betsy (Elizabeth) Wong '04, JD'09**'s The Barre Code fitness studios: in downtown Milwaukee's Third Ward or in suburban Brookfield. She also tied the knot recently with **Andrew Williamson '02**. Thanks to Chicagoan **Aaron Werner '04, JD'08** for letting us know.

After earning the 2014 Wisconsin Young Engineer of the Year Award from the Milwaukee Metro Chapter of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers, **John Kastner '05** went on to claim the same prize statewide for 2014–15. He's an MBA candidate at Marquette and a

WISCONSIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (WAA)

MEMBERSHIP
If you're already a member of our merry band, thank you! If you're not, check out all the nifty reasons to become one at uwalumni.com/membership/benefits, and join the WAA community at uwalumni.com/membership.

group manager at R.A. Smith National, a civil engineering and surveying firm based in Brookfield, Wisconsin. His proud wife, **Jenna Sachs Kastner '07**, shared this good news.

Would you prefer to shop for groceries online rather than in a store? Madisonian **Jeremy Neren '05** is betting that a lot of people in midsize markets would. That's why he's the founder and CEO of GrocerKey, which offers a free software platform through which retailers — such as Wisconsin chain Woodman's — create their own online, branded stores, and then they prepare and deliver orders to customers. Neren learned the grocery ropes through Madtown Munchies (later Munchie Delivery): an online, on-demand campus food-delivery service that he launched in 2006.

Whom has *Produce Business* Magazine fêted with one of its 40 Under 40 Awards for 2015? She's **Melissa Copas Sylte '05**, the marketing manager at RPE, a second-generation family farm in Bancroft, Wisconsin, that grows and ships potatoes and onions year-round. She's introduced several consumer brands, helped RPE to develop strong internship and community-outreach programs, and served as a leader within the Wisconsin FFA [Future Farmers of America] Alumni Association.

Knowles Science Teaching Foundation fellows are promising, early-career math and science teachers who receive stipends, professional development, materials grants, a national support network, and the opportunity to lead and mentor in the future. Among the thirty-four educators who make up the 2015 cohort of this five-year fellowship are **Meghan Mosher '06**, who teaches biology in Louisville, Colorado; **Helen Dauer Yan MS'11**, a chemistry instructor in Madison; and **Erin Oakley '13**, who's helping students to tackle

"I'm so proud ... but even prouder to continue to rock my red Reebok shoes that I bought on State Street more than a decade ago!"

Jenny DiLegge Jackson '04

math in Janesville, Minnesota.

If you're a fan of *The Big One with Marques Pfaff* — broadcast weekday afternoons on WSCO sports radio in Wisconsin's Fox Cities area — that's sports devotee and host **Marques Pfaff '06** you're listening to. He was a Badger football walk-on, began his radio career in Madison and Milwaukee, and worked in sports PR in Las Vegas before joining WSCO. Thanks to proud sister **Allison Pfaff '09** of Onalaska, Wisconsin, for the heads-up.

Sports have always been a big part of **Annie Nelson Thomas '07's** life. She began playing basketball in fifth grade, continued tearing up the court as a Badger star, provided radio color analyses for Wisconsin women's basketball, and served as an assistant coach for the Cleveland State University women's squad. While at the UW, she met **Joe Thomas x'09** — then a Badger football player, and now her husband and an eight-time Pro Bowl tackle for the Cleveland Browns. The Thomases recharge during the football off-season at their Wisconsin farm, and they're active in Cleveland causes that defend animals and children.

Here's a most unusual boy-meets-girl scenario. Boy's parents see impressive girl representing UW-Madison as a semifinalist in the 2008 *Jeopardy!* College Championship. Boy's parents tell him he should emulate her. Four years later, boy happens to meet girl at a wedding. Boy and girl hit it off and begin a long-distance relationship. Girl eventually meets boy's parents. Boy's parents realize she's the one from *Jeopardy!* Now physicians, the "girl" — **Suchita Shah Sata '08** — and the "boy" — Siddharth Sata — were married in May and began work in July at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. She's a hospitalist, and he's a fellow in regional and ambulatory anesthesia.



KEEPING WOMEN IN THE KNOW

Journalists often get the credit for shining light into the dark corners of government. But **Laura Neuman '89, JD'93** (at right, with Cleotilde Vasquez, the assistant secretary for the Presidential Secretariat for Women in Guatemala) has a better idea: empower citizens to demand transparency from their elected officials. She's worked in nearly forty countries, mostly in the developing world, to advance laws designed to reduce corruption and promote human rights.

Neuman is the director of the Global Access to Information Program at the Carter Center, the Atlanta-based nonprofit founded by former president Jimmy Carter. She's especially focused on helping to improve the access to government information for vulnerable populations — an interest that stems from her years as an advocate with Legal Action Wisconsin. Neuman regularly filed freedom-of-information cases to better understand government policies and to make sure that her mostly elderly, minority clients received their public benefits. She found that white women often received benefits for longer periods than Latina or African American women.

Neuman was gradually inspired to shift her career toward public health, and she happened to visit the Carter Center during a visit to Atlanta. Shortly after, the center offered her a position. "There were only two things I understood when I came [to the Carter Center]," she says: "how to work the phone system and the value of access to information."

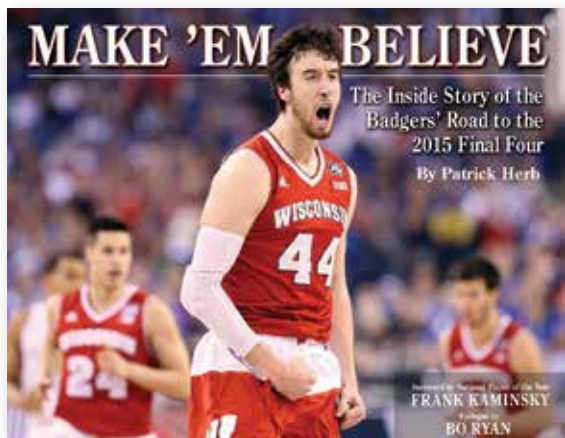
On one trip to India, Neuman saw that value on display. She watched as poor, illiterate residents gathered to listen as an aid worker read their health care rights out loud. The residents were upset to learn that sixteen government-purchased hospital beds had mysteriously gone missing. "After the meeting, you could see a little parade of beds being brought back," she recalls. "Doctors and nurses had taken them."

When Neuman started at the center in 1999, only a couple dozen countries had passed freedom-of-information laws. Now more than one hundred have implemented such laws, and Neuman's team has influenced many.

Recently, former president Carter encouraged Neuman to conduct studies on women's access to information in Liberia, Guatemala, and Bangladesh. She found that women are less likely than men to ask for and receive information about a wide range of topics. Much of her work now centers on addressing this problem and others that she's identified.

"This isn't an issue of one country or continent. It really is reflective of the state of women around the world," she says. "When you give people information, it can transform their lives."

SANDRA KNISELY '09, MA'13



DON'T STOP BELIEVING

Even people who don't particularly care about basketball were — they had to admit — pretty darned excited last spring when the Badgers made it to the Final Four and then to the national championship.



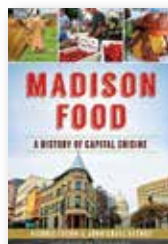
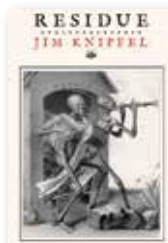
Patrick Herb '01, the assistant director for athletic communications for UW-Madison men's basketball, has chronicled the whole glorious adventure in *Make 'Em Believe: The Inside Story of the Badgers' Road to the 2015 Final Four* (KCI Sports Publishing) — and just in time to honor head coach **Bo Ryan**'s final year with the team

before retiring.

Make 'Em Believe's foreword comes from National Player of the Year **Frank (Francis III) Kaminsky '15**, and Ryan provided the afterword. The book gives Badger fans a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most successful basketball teams in UW history, playing in the university's first NCAA national championship game since 1941. The players provided fans — and the nation — with so many memorable moments that made them “Mid-western nice” media darlings who have been talked about long after March Madness ended.

The book also comprises firsthand accounts from the players and Ryan on key moments of the season, recaps of all of the tournament games, player and team features, extended coverage of the Final Four victory over Kentucky and the national championship game against Duke, plus more than one hundred full-color photos — including many never-published-before gems that Herb took.

To receive a 20 percent discount, purchase the book at uwalumni.com/shop using promo code **UWALUM**.



SALUTATIONS, BIBLIOPHILES! Check out the new UW-alumni section of Goodreads at goodreads.com/wisalumni for much more news about books by Badger alumni and faculty.

When Girl gets lost while playing hide-and-seek, her heart “thumped a ... trem-below sound” that only very special friends can hear — and Dragon did. **Barbara Monnot Jooose '71**'s lyrical, delightful-to-read-aloud *Evermore Dragon* (Candlewick Press) is soon to become a musical through Milwaukee's First Stage children's theater. She lives in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

The many lessons that **Lisa (Elisabeth) Wilde '78** has learned during seventeen years as a teacher in a second-chance New York City school have gone into *Yo, Miss: A Graphic Look at High School* (Microcosm Publishing). The debut graphic book that she's written and illustrated gives voice to her students and challenges misconceptions about who they are and what they need to graduate.

Screenwriter and filmmaker **Eric Williams '83** of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, has written and directed the documentary *Unforgettable: the Real-Life Adventures of "the Human Google"* about his brother, Brad Williams, whose hyperthymesia allows him to recall in great detail the events of nearly every day of his life. Among Eric's other credits are *Mad City* and *Lip Service*.

With deer season fast approaching, the timing is lousy for the sheriff of Beaver Rapids, Wisconsin, to be thrust into a quirky, double-homicide investigation in the deliciously dark, satirical *Residue* (Red Hen Press). It's the latest from cult author **Jim Knipfel '87** of Brooklyn, New York, a long-time *New York Press* staff writer whose column “Slack-jaw” has appeared widely since 1987.

Organic Struggle: The Movement for Sustainable Agriculture in the United States (MIT Press) analyzes how organic farming has grown from an obscure, countercultural practice to a multi-billion-dollar industry — and how the nation can build on its achievements. Author **Brian Obach MS'94, PhD'00** is a professor of sociology at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

How has Madison ascended as a culinary destination? Find out in *Madison Food: A History of Capital Cuisine* (History Press), coauthored by librarian **Nichole Fromm MA'04** and Jon-Michael Rasmus. Since 2004, the pair's *Eating in Madison A to Z* blog has chronicled their dining adventures at nearly a thousand area restaurants.

It's a long process to meet rigorous eligibility requirements and then pass a comprehensive exam to become certified with the American College of Microbiology's National Registry of Certified Microbiologists — but **Sharon Altmann PhD'09** has achieved it and acquired a new, impressive title as a certified Specialist Microbiologist in Biological Safety Microbiology. She puts her new credential to work as a staff scientist at MRIGlobal in Frederick, Maryland.

While completing his master's of geographic information science degree at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, **Devon Piernot '09** competed on a team that won the 2014 Esri Climate Resilience App Challenge with its Minnesota Solar Suitability Analysis app. He now works for Esri as a platform configuration engineer. "Better yet," says proud papa and news bearer **Bill Piernot '77** of New Berlin, Wisconsin, "[Devon] married **Sally Richie '09, MSW'12.**"

This summer, **Alex Wehrley '09** returned to a setting that no doubt held many memories. The former Miss Wisconsin USA was tapped to cohost the Miss USA pageant just days before the live event on July 12 after the original hosts dropped out following controversial remarks by pageant part-owner Donald Trump. Wehrley is a Venice, California-based actress and TV host.

10s

In St. Petersburg, Florida, **Joseph French '11, MAcc'12** and **Rachel Carpenter '12** are infusing the world of financial data with Badger innovation as the founders of Intrinio. The new firm has developed a proprietary process that provides investors, startups, and students with the real-time data they need to analyze publicly traded stocks, and they assist Fortune 500 clients and universities such

as Harvard. Intrinio has hired **Conor Farley '10** as its director of business development, and Rachel Carpenter's big bro, **Andrew Carpenter '10**, is its new strategic commander. With all of these Badgers, "it's hard for the one Penn State guy [on staff]," says Andrew, "but I think we'll keep him."

Can the moon provide power for Earth? As a NASA space technology research fellow who's affiliated with the Kennedy Space Center and working through UW-Madison's Fusion Technology Institute, **Aaron Olson '12, MS'14** has been trying to figure that out. He's helping to build prototype equipment that can demonstrate the extraction of helium-3 and other volatiles from the moon's resource-rich soil to fuel nuclear fusion reactors on Earth. Ultimately, of course, the goal is to get the equipment to the lunar surface and set it to work.

San Francisco-based product designer **Tom Rohlf '12** has created the Voting Game: an adult party card game that "uncovers the hilarious truth behind your friendships" because in each round, players vote anonymously for the player they believe is best described by the question. It launched in December 2014 to great success, and Rohlf began a Kickstarter campaign in July to fund expansion packs. Thanks to **Taylor Luse '12** of L.A. for passing this on.

(Maria) Fernanda De La Torre '15 barely had time to return her commencement gown in May before flying off to El Salvador. There, as the global village coordinator for Habitat for Humanity's UW-Madison chapter, she and seven other women worked alongside local masons and family members who will live in the home near Ahuachapán. "I learned so much about the people of this beautiful country," De La Torre says.

Phi Kappa Phi has bestowed one of six \$15,000 Urann Fel-

"I learned so much about the people of this beautiful country."

(Maria) Fernanda De La Torre '15

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.

lowships on **Nicholas Derr '15**. He'll use it to earn a master's in applied mathematics and theoretical physics during a one-year intensive program at Cambridge University (yes, we'd call that intense), followed by a PhD in applied mathematics at Harvard. Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

The Saint Andrew's Society of the City of Milwaukee — which is keeping the love for Scotland alive in America — has bestowed its 2015 scholarship on **Aidanne MacDonald-Milewski '15**. She used it to attend the summer archaeology field school at Ness of Brodgar, a Neolithic village in Orkney, Scotland. This fall she began attending the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Toronto and looked forward to becoming part of that city's Scottish community.

Obituary

As the madcap vice president of the Wisconsin Student Association in the late seventies and early eighties and a member of the Pail & Shovel Party — the wacky student-government group that instigated the plastic flamingos on Bascom, Lady Liberty on the lake, boom-box parades, and toga parties — former student **Leon Varjian** made a permanent impression on the hearts and memories of UW alumni, Madison, and the nation. The free-spirited kid-at-heart became a dearly beloved, unforgettable, and multiple-award-winning high school math teacher who instilled civic awareness in his students and was a tireless advocate for people without homes. He died in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey, in September. *Thanks for the fun.*

Class Notes/Diversions editor Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83 did, in fact, just fall off the turnip wagon. That hurt.

Your life, your plan.



You've made choices, and you've reaped the rewards.

Being in charge of your own legacy is part of who you are.
If there's a plan, you're going to be the one to make it.

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contact Scott McKinney in the Office of Gift Planning
at the University of Wisconsin Foundation:
scott.mckinney@supportuw.org or 608-263-4545



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There goes Bo Ryan's parking space.

Dear Coach Ryan,

As avid UW alumni and Badger fans, we're ecstatic to hear you are going to continue your incredible career. Unfortunately, we are unable to continue holding your penthouse apartment. Should you change your mind again, please do give us a call. We're here when you're ready.

Sincerely,

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*Supporting
Research &
Innovation*



The story of UW-Madison's accomplishments stretches back to the time of our founding and forward even further than we can imagine. Each step is a connection between our amazing past and our limitless future. In 167 years, we've come so far. But we still have a long way to go. To move *forward*, we need to attract and support the brightest, most promising students—those

who defy expectations and dance on the line between serious and silly. The ones who will carry on the proud traditions of Badgers everywhere. To move forward, we must maintain our community of luminaries and thought leaders—those talented and esteemed faculty who turn our snow-blanketed campus into a hotbed of creativity and *potential*. To move forward, we have to honor our campus community. Whether we're making wishes come true with Badgers



*Improving
THE
Educational
Experience*



*Providing
Student
Support*

Give Back, making breakthroughs in the lab, or making Bascom Hill a flamingo sanctuary, we're making a difference in the world. To move forward, we must continue to question the status quo. We've changed how the world takes its vitamins. We transformed a toxic chemical into a lifesaving drug. As the fourth largest research institution in the nation, we need

to keep reinventing the notion of possible to serve the needs of

people everywhere.

Together, we can explore beyond the limits of our

potential

and tell

the

*Maintaining
Faculty
Excellence*



story of how we are moving

our university, and the world,

forward. Our story continues

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FORWARD

Destination *Greenbush Bakery*



BRUCE RICHTER (4)



The bakery makes thousands of donuts each day, selling more than fifty varieties. The most popular is one of the simplest: the glazed, sour cream old-fashioned. The giant apple fritters are a close second.



Greenbush employs twenty people, including students. Some invite owners Marv and Barb Miller to their weddings. The couple has considered expanding, but Barb says, “Bigger is not always better.”

Students and alumni have flocked to the sweet oasis famous for fresh, kosher donuts since 1996, when Greenbush opened its doors at the corner of Regent and Orchard Streets.



Late-night customers get to indulge, too. Greenbush stays open until 3 a.m. for those out after midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Donut-making starts at 6 a.m. and continues throughout the day.



My Promise

Sharon Weber, MD
Cancer Surgeon

“I do solemnly swear – to continue to **fight cancer**.
To **find** it. To **study** it. To **remove** it. To **ablate** it. To **eradicate** it.
To **pummel** it into submission. To make cancer afraid
to ever rear its ugly head. This is **my promise.**”

With your help, the world-renowned physicians, researchers and health care professionals at the UW Carbone Cancer Center can find more treatments and cures for cancer.

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The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the land of boundless possibilities. And our amazing story will never be complete. We want to share all the incredible accomplishments and outcomes that are happening everywhere a Badger is working to advance the boundaries of possible. Because to continue our history of looking forward—we need to advance in all directions. We need everyone. We need you.

Because every story is another step forward.

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