

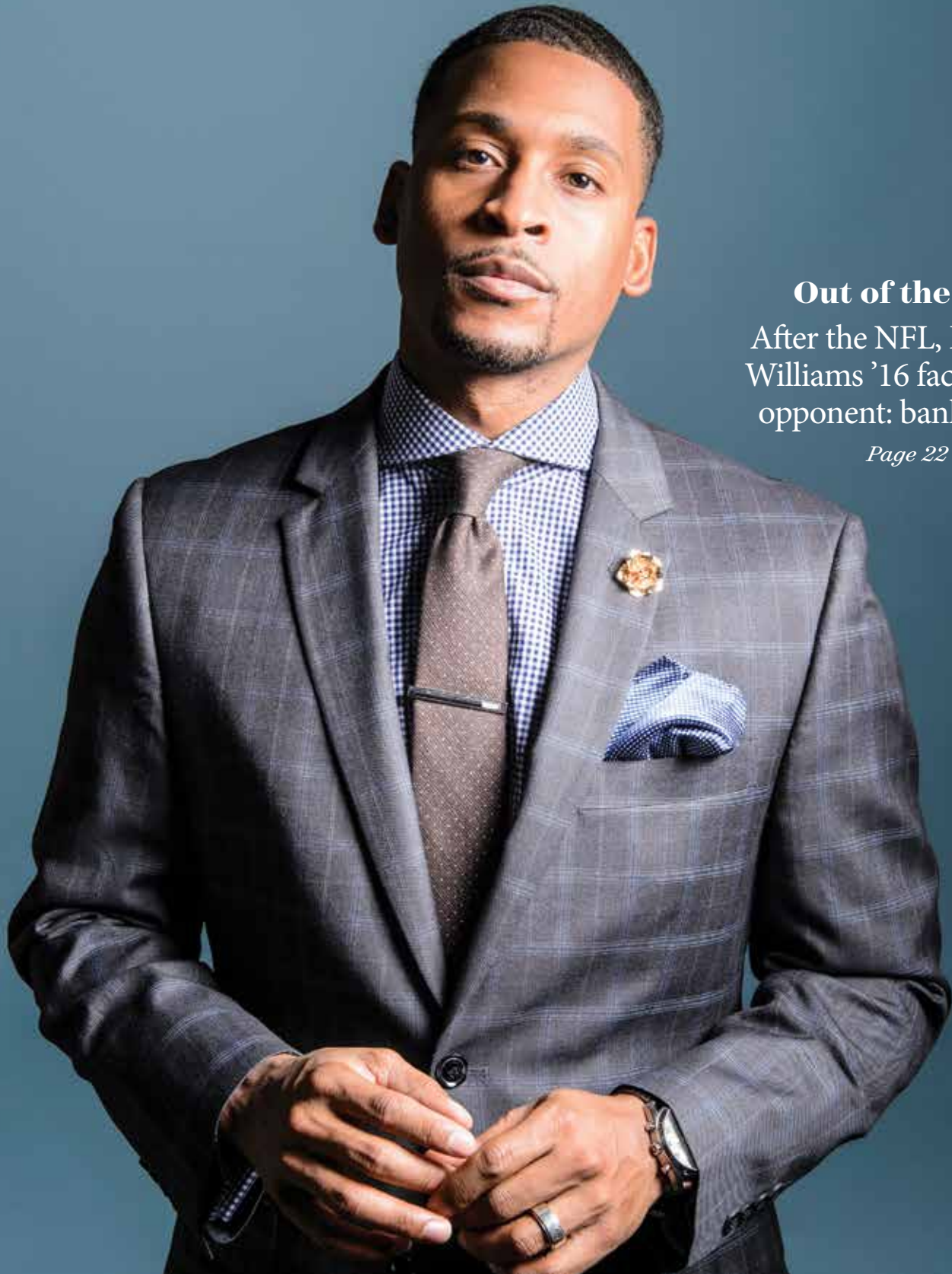
# OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SPRING 2018

## Out of the Red

After the NFL, Brandon Williams '16 faced a new opponent: bankruptcy.

*Page 22*





## Vision

*Can we have class outside today?* Environmental science students enjoy the environment on a spring day in 2017. Science Hall houses the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies — when it's not outdoors.

*Photo by Jeff Miller*











## AWAY *or* HOME?

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# OnWisconsin

Steve Miller  
conducts Fifth  
Quarter in 2017.  
See page 26.

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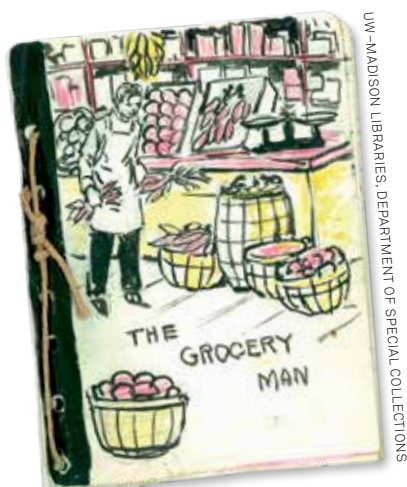
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From sketchbooks to bookshelves.  
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BRUCE RICHTER

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An NFL career left Brandon Williams '16 bankrupt. But he's reinvented himself and found success in multiple fields.  
*By Doug Moe '79*

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Tara Linhardt '94 found that Himalayan and Appalachian tunes have a lot in common — and she promotes traditional music in both worlds. *By Joan Fischer MA'95*

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John Becker LLB1890 spoke out against the government during World War I and lost his career in public service when his words were deemed a crime. *By Adam Schrager*

### 38 Arctic Watch

In Alaska, where glaciers are melting, Fran Ulmer '69, JD'72 leads a commission tasked with helping U.S. officials decide what to do about climate change. *By Andrew Faught*

### 44 Michael Finley: The Sequel

After his NBA career ended in 2010, Michael Finley '14 took roles behind the scenes with the Dallas Mavericks and in Hollywood. *By Jenny Price '96*



ERIK JEPSEN

See page 20.

#### Cover

Brandon Williams '16 has found success as a broadcast sports analyst, speaker, and author. Photo by Bryce Richter.



## List Love

Thanks for the List Issue [Winter 2017 *On Wisconsin*]. I'm keeping this one!

**Dave Carlson MS'59, PhD'63**  
Carlsbad, California

I always read *On Wisconsin*, but the Winter 2017 issue was special. Your lists of notable events, activities, and places around campus brought back many memories for a graduate from yesteryear. Can I re-enroll?  
**DuWayne Herning MS'68**  
Wausau, Wisconsin

[I'm] a long-time resident of Madison and an enthusiastic participant on a couple of UW advisory committees, but [I'm] not a UW graduate. For the first time, the List Issue made me really wish I were.

**Jane Coleman**  
Madison

Enjoyed the last issue of *On Wisconsin* so much that I now have 349 reasons to love the UW.

**Kenneth Becker '49**  
Lodi, Wisconsin

## More Frozen Landmarks

When we published a map of 58 features in Antarctica named for UW–Madison faculty, staff, and students, we knew it couldn't possibly be complete. Given the long history of Badgers doing research and exploration on the continent, it seemed there had to be more. We hoped readers could help fill in the gaps, and sure enough, we heard from scientists, along with the friends and family members of those who also made their marks. Here are some landmarks we missed:

- Brandwein Nunataks
- Frostman Glacier
- Gruendler Glacier
- Lazzara Ledge
- Sponholz Peak
- Sternberg Peak
- Whiting Peak

## Five Great Sports Plays

As a former UW athletics board member and three-sport high school athlete, I was surprised that no women's sports and no sports other than football or basketball were featured among the "5 Great Plays in Badger Sports History." Keep the Koenig/Showalter play and showcase more of the UW's proud and diverse athletics history.

**Angela Wellsmith '98, JD'07**  
Brookfield, Wisconsin

## Six Things I Learned from the List Issue

1. Sergei Rachmaninoff, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Harry Belafonte, and Itzhak Perlman all played at Madison?
2. Groucho Marx's letter is hilarious.
3. Alumni Park is full of hidden secrets, and I can't wait to see it.
4. Wow! The UW–Madison firsts are stunning — I'm so proud of my university.
5. I love that our university has a sense of humor — what funny pranks.
6. Babcock ice cream flavors — yum!

**Ben Raznick Johnson '08**  
Denver

## Legendary Concerts

In reading your list "11 Legendary Concerts," I was curious to learn what criteria you used to make your selection and why the November 7, 1952, Homecoming concert featuring Sarah Vaughan, Stan Kenton, and Nat King Cole was not included. That event was certainly a memorable one for those of us who were students at the UW in the early 1950s.

**Evert Wallenfeldt '54**  
West Melbourne, Florida

### Editor's Note:

*As you might guess, the danger of making a list issue is that we would unavoidably leave some things out due to space, seeking a variety of content (concerts*

*from a number of decades and musical genres, in this case), and visuals available to us. We remain amazed by all of the exceptional artists who have performed at the UW over the years — the list could truly fill a magazine.*

The REM concert at the Stock Pavilion on May 10, 1985, may not have made *On Wisconsin's* list of legendary concerts, but it tops ours. It was our first date. We've been happily married for almost 30 years!

**Catherine Allen Dadlez '86**  
**and Paul Dadlez '88**  
Saint Paul

### THE LIST ISSUE IN REVIEW

**95**

total letters,

**20**

compliments,

**6**

corrections

## 6 Mistakes We'd Like to Correct

Publishing an issue with lists of facts increases the potential for error, so thanks to all who wrote in to inform us of what we got wrong. We offer no excuses for our inability to count (see first item).

1. "12 Custom Confections" should have been 13.
2. In "10 Things Aldo Leopold Used in the Field," an eagle-eyed reader pointed out that the cover for *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America* appeared alongside the interior pages for *A Field Guide to the Birds* and vice versa. The UW Archives has since clarified the label on the photo that led to this error, proving that we take your corrections seriously.
3. The author of *The Wisconsin Capitol*, featured in *Diversions*, is not Madison resident Michael J. Edmonds JD'85, but Michael Edmonds, director of programs and outreach at the Wisconsin State Historical Society.



4. "8 Lions of the Lecture Hall" mentioned Professor Juda Shohet, who actually goes by his middle name, Leon.
5. Also in "Lions," Grace Wahba has actually taught for 50 years, not 47.
6. "11 Legendary Concerts" reported that the Marian Anderson concert in the Wisconsin Union Theater occurred on April 23, 1940, two weeks after she was denied use of Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. That denial actually occurred in April 1939 and led to her famous concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

## Two Who Got Away

In “Two Who Got Away,” John Allen states that Milton Friedman was one of two Nobel Prize winners who slipped through the university’s fingers.

All we need to do is examine the Bureau of Labor Statistics graph of family income for the last 40 years to see what Friedman’s trickle-down theories have done for the bulk of us. [The United States is] third in the world for income inequality. Three cheers for Dean Sellery’s having saved the university from a big black eye.

**Calvin Smith MA’60**

*Orland Park, Illinois*

---

## Snow Days

I enjoyed reading “4 Snowiest Snow Days” in your Winter 2017 edition, but I was sad that one of the snowiest days wasn’t mentioned. On December 3, 1990, Madison hunkered down under a massive storm that dumped 17 inches of snow over a 12- to 13-hour period, resulting in Chancellor Donna Shalala canceling classes mid-morning. I remember a great number of us taking cafeteria trays and jubilantly traying down the Liz Waters hill through the huge piles of snow — it was a blizzard I’ll never forget!

**Jenny Mathison-Ohly ’93, MS’99**  
*Middleton, Wisconsin*

### Editor’s Note:

One of the most hotly contested stories from our list issue was on one of the coldest topics: UW snow days. A dozen of you wrote in with recollections of days that weren’t included in our list, and ... you’re all correct! Our list included only the days when the university shut down completely — when no classes were held whatsoever. The university has closed early on several other occasions, including December 3, 1990, when classes were canceled around 10:30 a.m. on what turned out to be one of Madison’s snowiest days on record.

---

## LOST AND FOUND

The List Issue featured four University Archives images in search of captions. Readers answered the call and helped identify three of them, with the first image (below) generating the most replies.



▲ The dueling knights were part of an event sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronism, according to alumni. Memories varied as to what year the image was captured, but responses narrowed the time frame to the late 1970s or early 1980s.

► This photo was likely taken outside Sellery Hall in fall 1973, wrote **Larry Classen ’77, JD’80**, noting, “Streaking was a rather popular cultural phenomenon at that time, as was anti-Nixon sentiment. I have no recollection of whether this was organized in any way or how we learned about it. But at some point, word spread that there were streakers outside.”



◀ Friends and former classmates of **Ben Jeffrey Madoff ’71** identified him as the mystery man in this image. Madoff launched his own clothing line in Madison and now leads a video-production company in New York City serving clients such as Gucci and Ralph Lauren. “That is me in the picture,” Madoff confirms. “I’m real; the parrot isn’t.” He says **Jeffrey Jayson ’72** captured the image inside a campus library in 1968 or 1969. “I don’t remember where I found the parrot, but I had it for a few years,” Madoff says. “It was low maintenance. Never ate.”





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INVISIBLE  
CURRENTS  
BEFORE  
THEY  
FORM?

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## OnWisconsin

Spring 2018

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COURTESY OF MICHAEL RIPPEY

"They just couldn't be without each other," Michael Rippey told *New York Times* reporter Julie Bosman '01 about his parents, Charles '41 and Sara x'43 Rippey. The couple — pictured above in 1946 — fell in love long before they became Badgers, having met in grade school in Hartford, Wisconsin. They stayed together at the UW, after his Army service in World War II, and during his years as an engineer for Firestone Tire. Charles affectionately referred to his wife as "the queen" and exhorted Michael, one of their five children, to bring a bottle of champagne on his frequent visits to their Napa Valley home. The Ripeys died there in October, just months after celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary, in the deadliest wildfires in California's history. But in the end, Michael said, "The fact that they went together is probably what they would have wanted."





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## Taking Safety Seriously

*Recent incidents spur interest in campus security services.*



JEFF MILLER

The campus community was shaken following an assault and attempted abduction near Observatory Drive in October. A UW student who was walking home from College Library around 1 a.m. was placed in a headlock by an unknown assailant with an edged weapon, forcefully moved to an area parking lot, and struck multiple times.

The victim was able to escape and get help, and the suspect has since been arrested. The incident — a rare, but extreme, case — gained significant attention and correlated with an increased use of campus safety resources, says **Marc Lovicott**, director of communications for the UW Police Department (UWPD).

In the fall, UWPD launched a free app, WiscGuardian, that transforms smartphones into personal safety devices. Created with input from the Associated Students of Madison, the app allows students, faculty, and staff to ask trusted “guardians” to virtually monitor their walks to their destinations. It also has other safety features, such as the ability to text tips to the police and dial 911 at the touch of a button.

“Is this app the only answer to keeping people safe? Absolutely not,” Lovicott says. “But we think this is just another tool that individuals can use to better protect themselves and have that peace of mind.”

Lovicott adds that the app has garnered positive feedback so far and has helped UWPD to obtain tips it might not have received otherwise. As of early January, it had nearly 700 registered users.

A similar campus safety resource, SAFEwalk — a “walking companion service” started in 1993 that dispatches teams of UWPD-trained students in response to requests — saw its number of walks nearly triple in October compared with earlier in the semester. Although SAFEwalk was able to accommodate the increased demand, more staff members have been hired to help relieve pressure on student workers, says **Carolyn Wolff**, a communications specialist with UW Transportation Services.

“We want to keep extra staff available at night as long as there is a demand and need for it,” she says.

STEPHANIE AWE '15

Demand is up for services from SAFEwalk, which dispatches teams to accompany students on campus.

## MOSQUITO TRAPPERS

After Hurricane Harvey, millions of mosquitoes blanketed southeastern Texas, hampering recovery efforts and raising public health concerns about the diseases they can carry.

**Melissa Farquhar DVMx'21** and **Erin McGlynn '13, MPHx'19**, students from UW-Madison's Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease, traveled to Texas last fall to participate in a public-private partnership to trap and identify mosquitoes and determine the effectiveness of control efforts.



MICHAEL CIAGLO, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

## Opioid Epidemic

**Todd Molfenter PhD'04** isn't a doctor. He's not a psychologist or an addiction counselor or a pharmacist. But he's helping to lead the effort to fight the opioid epidemic.

A scientist in the College of Engineering, Molfenter directs the Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center, which received a federal grant to support those who help people suffering from drug problems.

Opioid deaths have tripled in the U.S. since 2000, leading the government to declare the situation a health emergency. The UW's center works with medical providers to improve treatment, not by recommending medical plans, but rather by evaluating processes.

“Health care is a system,” Molfenter says. “At the center, we may not have subject experience, but we have systems experience.”



## AUTISM'S SPECTRUM

Children living in low-income neighborhoods are less likely to be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) compared to kids from more affluent neighborhoods, according to a new study led by **Maureen Durkin '77, MA'79, PhD'82**, a researcher with the UW's Waisman Center.

The disparity is especially troubling considering that the overall prevalence of the diagnosis is on the rise, more than doubling from 2002 to 2010 — to 14.7 cases per thousand children. In 2006, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that all children be screened for ASD.

Durkin's team wanted to learn whether advances in screening techniques and medical training mean more children from disadvantaged backgrounds are gaining access to autism diagnoses and services.

"It doesn't seem that's the case," she says.

The study merged autism surveillance data with U.S. census measures of socioeconomic status, such as median household incomes and the number of adults who have bachelor's degrees. While not the first study to highlight socioeconomic differences in rates of autism diagnosis, the findings suggest that children living in lower-income areas are being diagnosed at lower rates due to limited early access to qualified health care providers.

"We need to find cost-effective interventions and supports, and make sure they are distributed equitably and in a way that reaches everybody who needs them," Durkin says.

**ADITYARUP  
CHAKRAVORTY PHD'15**

# Get Happy



ISTOCK IMAGES; ILLUSTRATION: N. BRINEHART

As sleepy students filter in for an 8:50 a.m. class, UW consumer science clinical professor **Christine Whelan** scans a playlist on her laptop in search of a song. She settles on the soul classic "Lovely Day" by Bill Withers, and lets it play before beginning her morning lecture in the School of Human Ecology building.

"It's not even 9 a.m., and we're going to talk about obituaries," she says, before eventually challenging students to write their own.

It might feel like a stark shift in mood, but the task is typical of the self-examination required in Consuming Happiness — more informally known as "the happy class" — which focuses on the relationship between well-being and money.

"The argument we are making in this course is, yes, you can buy happiness — if you spend your money right," Whelan says.

How we spend our money is a window into our values, but the two don't always match up. To illustrate, Whelan proposes students play what she calls an "evil" game: paper clip a note listing their values to their credit or debit cards, which they must confront every time they pull them out to buy something.

The course also draws on social science research on spending that reveals some key principles for how to spend your way to happiness. A big one is buying experiences, such as travel or concerts, which brings more satisfaction than buying stuff. "When we tell our story, who we are, we talk about our experiences," Whelan says. Another strategy is to "make it a treat,"

which means you'll savor that morning latte much more if you buy one a week rather than one every morning. Research also suggests the benefits of delayed gratification: paying for something, such as a trip, upfront to separate the pain of its cost from the pleasure of enjoying it.

Finding purpose is another key course theme. "If you achieve a goal without having a purpose, it is empty," Whelan says. Happiness — and a meaningful life — come from using our natural gifts to live out our values and help others. To explore that idea, she touches on philosophies rooted in sources ranging from Christianity to Confucianism (the class is cross-listed with religious studies) and digs into scientific research. Studies have shown that people who live with purpose are healthier and make \$10,000 to \$15,000 more a year, Whelan says.

"Consuming happiness is a path to figuring out what you care about, what matters," Whelan says.

The course also examines the \$12 billion self-improvement industry, with a reading list that includes self-help titles such as *The Power of Positive Thinking* and *The Secret*, as well as academic critiques of the theories they espouse. Students even follow some of the books' advice to determine whether it can work in their own lives. One observation a student shared during the final day of the class: "*The Secret* is a joke."

But there are more fruitful takeaways, too, such as this one: "Happiness won't just come to you; you have to work for it."

**JENNY PRICE '96**





PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA FOREST SERVICE, FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY, MADISON

I always knew my children would be smarter than me — I just didn't expect it to start when my oldest daughter, Harper, was nine. For a fourth-grade living history unit, she chose to portray **Eloise Gerry PhD'21** to a roomful of classmates and parents, including me, who had never heard of her.

Gerry, a Boston native, was the only female staff member of the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory when it opened in Madison in June 1910. The lab hired her because, as Gerry later remembered, "there wasn't any man willing to come and do the work."

She was a microscopist, and initially her job was to catalog the anatomical features of wood species that were sent to the lab. But in 1916, she initiated her own research into saving the pine

tree population of the American South.

She traveled on horseback, in Ford Model Ts, and on foot through the woods of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi to collect samples. She studied them under her microscope and helped to restore businesses that were dependent on resin and turpentine by proving that lumberjacks were cutting too many of the area's pine trees.

She insisted on signing her full first name to correspondence — breaking with the era's tradition of using only a first initial after *Dr.* — so everyone would know she was a woman.

Gerry retired after 44 years with the laboratory, and years later, when she died, she left the majority of her estate to Graduate Women in Science, an interna-

**Researcher Eloise Gerry blazed a trail for female scientists during her four decades with the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison.**

tional organization that has since given hundreds of thousands of dollars in fellowships to female scientists for research support.

Gerry is a personal hero to Michelle Booze, president of Graduate Women in Science and an embryologist at the Sanford Health Advanced Reproductive Laboratory. "Those who gave so much to the scientific community, and then gave above and beyond so that other women could follow in their footsteps just a little bit easier — it's an amazing legacy to leave behind," Booze says.

When Gerry retired, she told her colleagues, who by then included dozens of women, "Our work here opens a way to one of life's great adventures as we constantly press on toward new and greater understanding."

**ADAM SCHRAGER**



ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE LAWRY

## Final Words

Half a century ago, a thousand language lovers fanned out across the country to chat with as many people in as many places as possible with a single goal in mind: creating an all-encompassing dictionary of how Americans talk.

After decades of playing back tape recordings, demystifying phrases like “dog my cats” and “eat the greaser,” and chronicling five volumes’ worth of our country’s language, staff members at UW–Madison closed the book on the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE) this past January.

“I would prefer to see it go on,” says **Joan Hall**, a former editor

of the dictionary, who retired in 2015 but stayed on as an active volunteer. “There’s a tremendous amount of work still to be done.”

Lack of funding was what eventually brought the project to an end, as support from two of its largest benefactors, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation, dwindled in recent years.

In an effort to share their findings more broadly, dictionary staff members completed what would be their final sizable task — putting the recordings online. After enlisting volunteers from the university and the community to censor any identifying informa-

tion from the tapes, they launched the collection for web listeners in July 2017.

Although it’s unlikely the project could be replicated exactly, Hall remains optimistic about the dictionary’s future.

All of the recordings collected over the years were carefully cataloged before being sent off to the UW Archives. Hall suspects that at some point, the country’s priorities will realign with those of the dictionary, and people will once again value these comprehensive snapshots of our changing language through time.

“I trust that the pendulum will swing,” she says. “But how soon? I don’t know.”

**MADLINE HEIM X’18**

Listen to Joan Hall’s favorite recording, the old New Mexico cowboy: [go.wisc.edu/ya6de1](http://go.wisc.edu/ya6de1)



# A Muffled Voice

Enslaved for nearly 70 years, George Moses Horton was perhaps the unlikelyst man of letters. After teaching himself to read, he took to poetry, composing and memorizing verses in his mind. For a price, he'd recite them to students at the nearby University of North Carolina (UNC) who were eager to use his love poems as their own. Later, Horton regularly traveled to the university to write poetry and serve as a handyman, using any income to purchase part of his own time from his owner.

Part of Horton's repertoire, however, was lost in time. Although Horton released three collections of poetry — becoming the first slave and African American to publish a book in the South (*The Hope of Liberty*, 1829) — there was no record of other types of works until recently, when **Jonathan Senchyne**, an assistant professor of book history in the UW's Information School, took a serene dipitout trip to the New York Public Library.

Senchyne was poring through the papers of Henry Harris, a French-born lawyer who taught at UNC in the 1850s, when he came across a two-page document with handwriting distinct from the rest. The signature read, "George M Horton, of colour ... belonging to Hall Horton." Senchyne was holding Horton's first known essay, "Individual Influence."

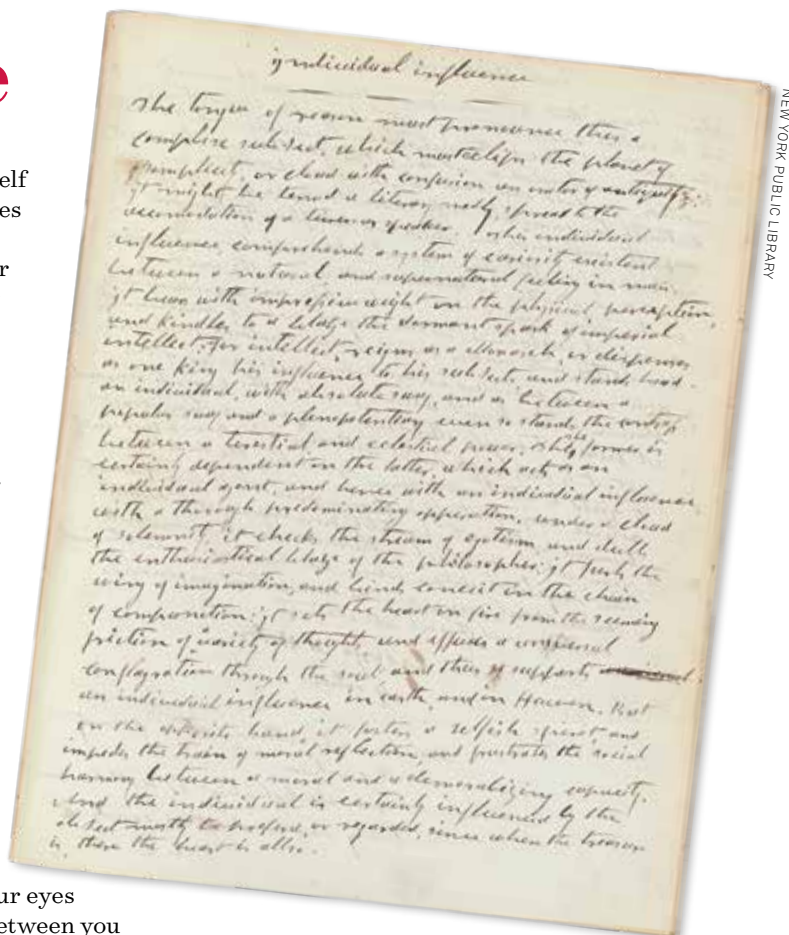
"There's always a certain moment of fascination — the very literal meaning of fascination, which is to have your eyes frozen," Senchyne says of his find. "It's a special moment between you and the person who's writing. You [run] your hand over it, and you have this moment where you're present to each other across time."

Senchyne transcribed and published the essay in the October issue of the Modern Language Association's journal, *PMLA*. Horton ponders the limitations of "popular" human power compared to "absolute" divine power.

Humans have control over how (and *whose*) history is preserved and told, Senchyne notes, and those everyday decisions can lead to the century-long burial of an important document and the relative obscurity of an extraordinary poet.

"Why wasn't [Horton] in all of our history books and literature classes?" he asks. "That's the question I'd leave people with. Think about your own education and the choices that were made [by people along the way] when history [was] told to you."

PRESTON SCHMITT '14



## FAITH COMMUNITY

A new campus program offers students of different beliefs a home for tough conversations about religion. The Center for Religion and Global Citizenry has selected 12 students to participate and receive a stipend for their work promoting inter-religious dialogue on campus. **Ulrich Rosenhagen**, the center's director and a faculty associate in the religious studies program, says religion is pushed to "the fringes" of campus, and UW students rarely talk about religious differences and commonalities. "Religion is part of our identity, part of who we are," he says.

## NEWS FEED

BRYCE RICHTER; JEFF MILLER



**The Badger football team** went undefeated in the regular season before falling to Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game in December, narrowly missing the College Football Playoff. The Badgers beat Miami in the Orange Bowl.

**The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation's annual gift to campus** totaled more than \$80 million. The funds were awarded directly to UW-Madison, earmarked for specifics such as faculty recruitment and graduate student support, and to the Morgridge Institute for Research.



**The SERF** (Southeast Recreational Facility, at left) is making way for "the Nick," thanks to a \$20 million lead gift made in honor of the late Albert "Ab" Nicholas '52, MBA'55, by his wife, Nancy '55, and their family. The Nicholas Recreation Center is expected to open in 2019.





HYUNSOO LEO KIM

## CELL SURVIVORS

Cancerous cells produce energy differently from normal cells. And that, hypothesizes UW oncology professor **Wei Xu**, may be their undoing.

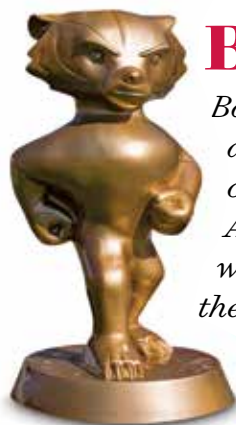
Normal cells, Xu notes, rely on mitochondria to produce energy. But cancer cells grow and divide faster than normal cells, requiring up to 200 times as much energy. To create new cells, they rely on an enzyme called pyruvate kinase (PKM2). Though present in all cells, the form of PKM2 in cancer cells is highly enriched, enabling them to build more cell mass.

Xu's lab focuses on a protein that shows up in more aggressive forms of cancer. "We accidentally found that [the protein] interacts with and chemically modifies PKM2" from its healthy to its cancer-promoting variant, she says. She believes that by inhibiting the protein, doctors can program cells to starve tumors.

"When we inhibited PKM2 modification in cancer cells," Xu says, "the cells lost the aggressive features, indicating [they] are vulnerable to attack of their energy pipelines."

**JOHN ALLEN**

**WALK ON** Fifty years ago, Luciano Barraza MS'66, PhD'68 missed his chance to participate in commencement after completing his doctorate in agricultural economics. He couldn't attend due to work obligations in his native Mexico and a lack of money. Earlier this year, his grandson Raul Correa reached out to the university to remedy what Barraza called his one regret in life, and Jeremy Foltz, chair of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, invited Barraza to walk across the stage at December's commencement to receive his diploma.



## Buckys on Parade

*Badger fans thrill at the sight of their iconic mascot, and a new public art event coming to Madison this spring offers dozens of ways to catch a unique glimpse of him. Artists will decorate life-sized Bucky Badger statues, which will be displayed around the city from May through the summer. Afterward, they will be auctioned off, with the proceeds benefiting charitable organizations. Learn more at [buckyonparade.com](http://buckyonparade.com).*

## NEWS FEED

The Odyssey Project celebrated its 15th anniversary in October, recognizing the successes of hundreds of graduates who earned UW course credits despite facing tough barriers to higher education. The project has expanded since its inception and now offers curricula for families and for those currently in prison.

The Wisconsin men's soccer team clinched the Big Ten championship in November, putting up a strong defensive performance against number-two seed Indiana. The group's seniors led the way to the program's first title in 23 years.



A UW-led team of scientists conducted an extensive study of blood samples from Ebola patients in Sierra Leone, identifying several molecular clues that virology professor Yoshihiro Kawaoka says could ultimately help develop drugs to treat the outbreak.

UW ATHLETICS



Erik Iverson calls himself the consummate outsider: he is not a UW-Madison alumnus and he's not from Wisconsin. But in 2016, he became the managing director for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), which helps UW researchers take their discoveries to the marketplace. Since then, Iverson has poured resources into startups, connected with powerful investors, and capitalized on the entrepreneurial spirit that he sees in Madison and throughout the state.

***What does WARF's partnership with the university look like on a day-to-day basis?***

WARF doesn't exist without the university. It's walking the halls of the labs, and talking with a scientist to find out what exciting new inventions are going to happen. One of my roles is to talk with the chancellor, vice chancellors and deans of the schools about what their needs, pressures, and strategies are, and explore how could WARF best help them.

***Last year the UW fell out of the nation's top five universities for research expenditures, dropping from fourth to sixth. What is your take?***

We can't allow UW to fall from five, to six, to seven, to eight. It is a collective effort to figure out how the entire set of ingredients comes together in a recipe that continues to make this university top five.

And again, that falls within the university's leadership and their discussions with federal leadership, state leadership, alumni donors, WARF, the [UW] Foundation.

***You've talked about partnering with other Wisconsin schools, such as Marquette and UW-Milwaukee, to develop technologies across the state. Why?***

One could ask the question, why doesn't [UW-Madison] talk with the folks at Stanford, or MIT, or Harvard, or the University of Washington, or UT-Austin and say, "We have some amazing computer science technologies. What do you have? Together, do we have something that we could really create a massive new company with?" And over time, there has been an interest in that,

but nobody has really done it. It's very complicated; it's very political. And there are a lot of legal aspects that make it complicated. You have this very robust system all within the same state — why don't we just start at home, first, and look at how we could do this within our own system and try and build technologies, businesses, and jobs within our own state? And is there a possibility to make this work and lead the way, nationally, looking at a new model of technology transfer across multiple schools versus just one?

***You were in Seattle previously. What drew you to Wisconsin and to WARF?***

[My wife and I] were walking around the Square in Madison before I had started here, and [she] felt the energy of the university. She saw entre-

preneurism, she saw the arts community, she saw the athleticism, the younger population. ... She turned to me and said, "This is what Seattle was when we moved there."

We have so much of an opportunity here. It's really an exciting place to be.

*Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Madeline Heim x'18*

*Photo by Bryce Richter*



# Exhibition *Hoopes Sisters Illustrations*



UW-MADISON LIBRARIES, DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Susan Barribeau '77, MA'91** had no time to waste when she came across a listing for 25 sketchbooks that had belonged to Margaret and Florence Hoopes. She recognized their names immediately.

It was 2008, and Barribeau — then the new English-language humanities librarian and literary-collections curator for UW-Madison Libraries — had struck gold. She knew the sisters as one of her favorite illustrating teams through her personal interest in collecting readers from the early 20th century. Some of their work appeared in the *Alice and Jerry* children's books, similar to the well-known *Dick and Jane* series.

Barribeau acquired the set before anyone else could claim it, thinking the sketches would be a fitting addition to the William B. Cairns Collection of American Women Writers 1650–1940, housed in Special Collections in Memorial Library.

The sketchbooks contain a range of the sisters' work starting around the 1920s. The artists, who lived together in Philadelphia, often practiced drawing using neighborhood children for models, and they included thorough notes with their sketches.

But this acquisition was just the beginning.

UW Special Collections is home to sketchbooks and other materials that highlight the careers of illustrators Margaret and Florence Hoopes.

In 2012, Barribeau received an email from the owner of the Hoopes' former house, saying that a box owned by the sisters was still sitting in the attic. Barribeau visited the home and retrieved the box — which held the sisters' correspondence with publishers such as Row, Peterson & Company and Houghton Mifflin Company — for the UW's collection. While there, she also met a neighbor who knew one of the sisters.

"It was a series of odd things, which then continued with people contacting me through the years about this collection," Barribeau says.

She has since met relatives — some of whom live in Madison — who have come to Special Collections to see the work. During one of their visits, they revealed a UW connection: although the sisters never married, their brother did, and one of his daughters married the late **Saul Epstein**, who was a physics professor at the university.

The Hoopes collection continues to expand beyond Barribeau's expectations. Just when she thinks, "Okay, now I have them all," she says, "I keep finding new series or new publications."

**STEPHANIE AWE '15**





WILDANDFREE/ISTOCK

## A PERFECT STORM

UW professor **Harold Tobin** planned to teach Geoscience 140 — a new course examining natural hazards and disasters — assuming he could draw from current events to teach the science behind the news. But Tobin couldn't have predicted that hurricanes and wildfires would own the news cycle at the start of the fall semester, and Mexico would see its largest earthquake in a century before September was over.

In a session blending physics and earth science, Tobin explained the source of Hurricane Irma's energy, the role of atmospheric pressure, and how its path affected the intensity of a deadly storm surge. He touched on why tropical cyclones — commonly referred to as hurricanes and typhoons — occur in bands north and south of the equator, but not within five degrees of the equator itself.

The course also explores how government policies and human choices affect risk, and how those risks can be reduced. Even though we call them "natural" disasters, "it's not just chemistry, physics, and earth science that are at play," Tobin says. "It's also a matter of the social decisions that we make every day, sometimes without understanding the ramifications."

**DAVID TENENBAUM MA'86**

## Asked and Answered

For years, UW-Madison has been committed to making sure all students feel welcome. Findings from a first-ever campuswide student climate survey suggest much is going well with the university's social climate — but more can be done.

Most students from nearly all backgrounds said they find UW-Madison to be a safe, welcoming, and respectful place, one where they feel they belong. Most respondents indicated they value diversity and that it's important to them that the university does, too.

However, challenges remain. Students from historically underrepresented and disadvantaged groups, while reporting generally positive experiences on campus, consistently rated the climate less favorably than students from majority groups.

"As a person of color, I wasn't necessarily surprised by any of the findings," says **Tiffany Ike x'18**, who served on a campus task force that reviewed the findings. "It's a predominantly white campus, so it makes sense that majority students would feel safe and welcome here, and others perhaps a little less so."

University officials say the survey confirmed what they've long known anecdotally — that students often experience the campus differently based on their backgrounds. The survey task force, led by Vice Provost **Patrick Sims** and Dean of Students **Lori Berquam**, has recommended several steps, including continuing to invest in climate initiatives that have shown promise and increasing the ability of students, faculty, and staff to intervene in response to hostile and harassing behavior.

The survey was offered to students in fall 2016, and 21 percent responded. Findings were released in November 2017. The full results are available at [diversity.wisc.edu/climate/survey](http://diversity.wisc.edu/climate/survey).

**DOUG ERICKSON**

**80%**

of UW students feel welcome, safe, and respected "very or extremely often."

**11%**

of students reported personally experiencing hostile, harassing, or intimidating behavior while at UW-Madison.

**72%**

of students stated that a strong commitment to diversity by the university was "very or extremely important" to them.

## NEWS FEED

**Neuroscientist Richard Davidson** has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. The founder of the UW's Center for Healthy Minds, Davidson has earned international recognition for his research on the brain and emotion, including the effects of Buddhist practices for mindfulness.



**Young girls looking for a healthy snack** and a confidence boost can take a bite out of the Jouzge bar, a dairy-based creation from alumna Dana Wendt '97 and the UW's Center for Dairy Research. Wendt says the health bar pushes back on competitors' potentially harmful messages about body image.



**UW-Madison** topped the list of U.S. public universities for the number of students who participate in semester-long study-abroad programs. More than 2,200 students left the U.S. for classes during the 2015-16 academic year, a 4 percent increase from the previous year.

## Contender *Jo Ann Heckroth Jansen*

"I'm a scorer. And a rebounder. But I should be — I'm the youngest," says Jansen of her 80-and-over team.

The video of the San Diego Splash has surpassed 20 million views on ESPN's Facebook page and has hundreds of thousands more on ESPN.com. There's talk of a full-length documentary. But for Jo Ann Heckroth Jansen '57, the impressions she and her octogenarian basketball teammates are making on young girls mean more than celebrity status.


"I'm the oldest person they ever saw, probably," the 82-year-old Jansen says with a chuckle. Invariably, a Girl Scout troop and other young girls are in the stands at the suburban San Diego YMCA when Jansen and the Splash are on the court — and Jansen can see how inspired they are.

"They bring signs, and they cheer, and they stay for the whole game," she says. "I think they look up to us."

A lifelong teacher, Jansen taught physical education and special education in Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, and California before retiring at age 77. But her basketball-playing options were limited growing up as an Iowa farm girl. Pick-up games with her brothers and their friends were far more intense than the 6-on-6, half-court, high school games sanctioned for girls of her era. And when she arrived on campus at Wisconsin, her only hooping option was on a women's rec-league team at Lathrop Hall.







“There were no leagues for girls to play in then,” she says. “People just didn’t think it was good for you. And it wasn’t lady-like.”

These days, knowing that her youngest fans can play the game in a post-Title IX era fills her with joy, not jealousy.

Jansen arrived in California in 2000, but she didn’t find out about the women’s league for several years. So just as she always had, she fearlessly played against men. “The ball would go up for a shot and I’d block out,” she says proudly. “And guys would say, ‘Did you see that? That little old lady, she blocked me out!’ ”

She joined the San Diego Senior Women’s Basketball Association for women age 50 and over and last year, ESPN’s Julie Foudy — a former U.S. women’s soccer star who won two World Cups and an Olympic gold medal — happened upon the 80-and-over team in a chance meeting with its coach,

CJ Moloney.

“I just felt this incredible awe and respect for what they’re doing. I’m 46 now, and I make excuses to not get out there. Who am I to stay on the couch?” Foudy says. “These women are rad. They’ve been breaking barriers their whole lives, so to them, they’re just playing basketball. People are going crazy for this.”

This isn’t Jansen’s first brush with athletic fame — “Alan Ameche ’56 was in our folk- and-square-dancing class,” she recalls of the UW football legend — and she’s enjoyed being the Splash’s go-to player in most games. Although she missed the national tournament one year following hip and wrist injuries suffered in a game, she’s returned to her pre-injury form

this season.

“I’m a scorer. And a rebounder. But I should be — I’m the youngest,” she says. “The speed of the game slows down a little every year.”

Meanwhile, the Splash’s popularity has grown quickly. The players put earnings from their newfound notoriety toward sending young girls to basketball camps.

“The crazy thing is, JoAnn and these amazing women, they don’t even realize how inspirational they really are,” Foudy says. “I think that’s the coolest thing.”

**JASON WILDE ’94**

**PHOTO BY ERIK JEPSEN**







*Williams demonstrates his broadcasting chops in the Big Ten Network studio at Camp Randall Stadium.*

# A Big Bounce BACK

*Former Badger wide receiver  
Brandon Williams reached his NFL  
dream, but then he lost everything.*

**BY DOUG MOE '79  
PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER**

BRANDON WILLIAMS '16 always knew that his younger brother, Walt Powell, wanted to be like him. Growing up in Saint Louis, the kid — there are seven and a half years between them — followed Williams everywhere, and as the years went by, they stayed close. When ESPN's live broadcast revealed that Williams, who had starred as a wide receiver at UW-Madison, had been picked by the San Francisco 49ers in the third round of the 2006 NFL draft, 14-year-old Powell ran into the street and shouted the news to the neighborhood.

The story took a fairy-tale turn eight years later, when Powell was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in 2014. Williams, who had been out of the league for several years by then, was thrilled that his brother would follow him to the NFL. But he was determined that there was one place Powell would never follow him: bankruptcy.

A 2009 *Sports Illustrated* article noted that "by the time they have been retired for two years, 78 percent of former NFL players have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress because of joblessness or divorce." Williams was part of the majority. His bankruptcy, in January 2010, while personally devastating, was hardly unique among former professional football players.

In Williams's case, there was nothing left of a signing bonus that was in the middle six figures after taxes. The houses and cars were gone, too, along with a fiancée and daughter, who moved to the West Coast. Williams hadn't been truly reckless — but he hadn't saved, either, and hadn't foreseen his playing career ending after just three seasons. In the end, he'd had no financial guidance.

He needed the NFL's help to qualify for an apartment lease in Saint Louis in August 2010, but Williams didn't draw the curtains and hide. Instead, after a brief moment of soul-searching, he went



*Williams (center) and BTN reporter Michelle McMahon (right) mingle with Badger football fans at a BTN Tailgate taping.*

into a frenzy of activity. He lined up some paid speaking engagements, coached at camps, and reached out to the sports information director at the UW for an introduction to the Big Ten Network. And there was something else.

"After I went through my whole financial ruin," Williams says, "I got an epiphany. God put something in my heart to say, 'Look. This should not happen. It's an epidemic. What are you going to do about it?'"

His brother — by then a promising college football player — was on his mind, too.

"I was thinking, 'I can't let him down. I can't let him go through what I went through.'"

Williams made a deep dive into the tenets of financial literacy, reading books, scouring the internet, talking to savvy investors, and networking.

"He taught himself about financial literacy," says Stephen Johnson, a regional president with BMO Private Bank, where Williams was employed as a private wealth adviser in 2016–17, having previously worked for Northwestern Mutual.

His desire to help his brother — and other athletes — navigate the choppy circumstance of being handed a lot of money in a hurry was a powerful motivator.

"I learned a great deal," Williams says, "about the markets, about how you interact with wealthy people, and how you present things."

In 2015, Williams self-published a financial guide for athletes called *Millionaire Mindset*, and since 2010, he has worked as a studio analyst for football on the Big Ten Network. He has lived with his wife, b. Marcell Williams '08, in Madison since 2015, when he moved back to finish his UW–Madison degree. They have four children between them.

Williams left BMO — on good terms — in summer 2017, and he now works as a consultant for InitiativeOne, a leadership-training company based in Green Bay. The new role takes Williams beyond finance into all aspects of leadership development and executive coaching. It also allows more flexibility for his broadcasting duties and the increasing demand for his services as a speaker and event host. In October, Williams proved a personable and witty master of ceremonies for the Wisconsin Innovation Awards at the Memorial Union.

Of course, anything Williams does will be buttressed by his hard-earned financial education. He's given advice to younger brother Powell, who played for the Buffalo Bills after being drafted by the Cardinals and was most recently signed by the Jacksonville Jaguars to their practice squad.

"He was a sixth-round pick [for the Cardinals]," Williams says. "He didn't get a lot of money. He's got money now. He's got real estate, multiunit properties."

"We talk at least four times a week," Powell says. "We've been doing that since I was in college. He tries to steer me in the right direction."

Powell continues, "He's my brother; he's my best friend; he's my psychiatrist. He's a great big brother to have."

The extended family is big but close, and football has been there at the center, always.

Williams had an uncle and a close family friend who were both high school football coaches in the Saint Louis area, and he started playing youth football when he was seven.



Once he started high school, he worked tirelessly, lifting weights and running passing routes for his uncle, Terrell Davis, now a high school coach in Florida. “[Brandon] had great hands,” Davis says. And by the time Williams was a junior at Hazelwood East in Saint Louis County, people were noticing. It didn’t hurt that his best friend was Hazelwood senior Scott Starks ’11, who was also a gifted athlete who later played in the NFL. They lived near one another and worked out together, sticking to a punishing routine even on hot summer days when their teammates sought air conditioning.

Williams came to the UW on scholarship — as Starks had a year earlier — arriving in Madison on May 26, 2002, the day after he graduated from high school.

“From the moment Brandon Williams arrived on campus,” wrote UW athletics director — and then head football coach — Barry Alvarez in the foreword to *Millionaire Mindset*, “he showed he was a tough, talented, and confident young man and football player.”

Williams played a lot as a freshman — star Badger receiver Lee Evans III ’14 was hurt in an intrasquad game the previous spring — and never looked back. He ended his career at Wisconsin as the all-time leader in pass receptions with 202 (a record that was subsequently tied by Jared Abbrederis ’13), and he was a standout kick returner as well.

His relatively small size — five-foot-nine inches, 177 pounds — kept Williams from being a first-round NFL pick. But he was confident he would be drafted somewhere, and he hosted a large party for family and friends at his mom’s house in Saint Louis on draft day in April 2006.

Early that day, an aunt called. “When are you going to be drafted?”

“I don’t know,” Williams said.

“What year were you born?” his aunt asked.

“Nineteen eighty-four,” Williams said.

“You will be the 84th player picked,” his aunt said.

She nailed it — Williams went in the third round. “They say you speak it into existence,” he says now, laughing. “She did.”

He was happy to be going to the 49ers — “I loved [49ers legend] Jerry Rice,” Williams says — but in hindsight, he feels the team never gave him a real shot as a receiver. He returned punts. A stomach virus in the off-season made for a slow start the next year, and the 49ers released him after three games.

He ended up back home with the Rams in Saint Louis, even living in his mom’s new house.

“I’d bought the house,” Williams says. “I figured there was a room in there for me somewhere.”

His time with the Rams was unremarkable, and after a failed tryout with the Steelers in 2009, Williams was out of football. He was also out of money. Among his mistakes: a \$75,000 investment

in a company that went nowhere.

“I invested in some people as well,” Williams says, “who didn’t pan out.”

The bankruptcy filing in January 2010 was a low moment, but by June of that year, Williams had picked himself up and was headed out to New Jersey and something called NFL Broadcasting Boot Camp.

When Williams reached out to Justin Doherty MA’03, who led communications for UW Athletics, Doherty provided an introduction to Quentin Carter, a producer with the Big Ten Network. As a player, Williams did well in interviews, and he hoped to leverage that into a future in broadcasting.

He auditioned in May 2010. “You’re good on camera, but you’re just not ready,” Carter told him. “I can’t put you on TV yet.”

Williams then applied for the four-day immersion broadcasting boot camp course sponsored by the NFL’s Player Engagement office.

Carter, also at the camp, noted Williams’s progress and offered him a Big Ten Network spot. Williams made seven appearances in 2010, and he’s still with the network. He did 27 shows in one year alone and interviewed Alvarez at the Rose Bowl. Williams also did five seasons of pre-game shows for the Rams in Saint Louis.

“He’s knowledgeable, he’s personable, and I think that resonates on TV,” says Carter, who today is vice president for studio production for the Big Ten Network. “People like him. He has a bright future.”

In 2015, Williams moved his family to Madison, enrolled at the UW, and completed his degree in communications. That same year he published *Millionaire Mindset*.

The chief lesson Williams learned was to surround himself with the right people. “Build your team,” he says. “That’s the first chapter in the book. ... If [your main adviser is] your mama, what can she do? Has she run a business or put together a budget or a marketing campaign?”

Williams is now at work on a second book, tentatively titled *The IIT Factor of Leadership*. IIT stands for intelligence, intangibles, and toughness.

He wants to see people reach their full potential. In his postfootball life, Williams has seen how it can happen, and not happen, and he feels well-positioned now to share those lessons.

As for his own potential, Williams says that a decade from now, he’d love to be “running a firm that is dedicated to executive coaching and leadership transformation.” He grins.

“And also on [ESPN’s] *College GameDay*.” ●

*Doug Moe’s latest book, Tommy: My Journey of a Lifetime, a collaboration with Tommy Thompson on the former Wisconsin governor’s autobiography, will be published in September by UW Press.*

**78**  
**percent**

of former NFL  
players experience  
bankruptcy or other  
financial stress  
within two years  
of retirement  
(*Sports Illustrated*,  
“How [and Why]  
Athletes Go Broke”  
March 23, 2009)

# Keep on a-Rock'n Us, Baby

*Steve Miller reflects on his 50-year career and campus in the '60s.*

BY JOSHUA M. MILLER

**L**ong before Steve Miller x'67 sang about being a space cowboy and flying like an eagle, he was a UW English major with a passion for civil rights. After growing up in Texas, Wisconsin was a homecoming of sorts for Miller since he was born in Milwaukee and spent his first five years in the state. More recently, he returned to campus during actual Homecoming in October, when he guest-lectured for a music class, performed a concert at the Memorial Union's Shannon Hall, and directed the Fifth Quarter after the football game. One of Miller's early influences was his godfather, acclaimed musician and inventor Les Paul, who became a friend of his parents when they lived in Waukesha, Wisconsin.







*Steve Miller and his band played a concert at the Memorial Union's Shannon Hall this past October. Miller, who began his career in the early 1960s, helped to create rock music's modern stage design and lighting.*

### **What are your favorite memories of Les Paul growing up?**

Well, Les was one of the best guitar players ever. And he was always so generous. He taught me my first chords. He would always invite people to come and play with him — all kinds of people across all different generations. I think that was one of his greatest attributes — his openness to all kinds of music. You'd see Tony Bennett come up and sing a song with Les, and the next artist might be Jimmy Page or Keith Richards or Johnny Rotten or somebody you never heard of. He was very generous with the spotlight on his stage. That was my favorite thing.

### **Why did you decide to go to the UW?**

I had a cousin there in graduate school. I had friends there. It had a wonderful reputation and great history and English departments, and I was very interested in creative writing and comparative literature. And also, it was really far away from home, and I wanted to get the hell out of town.

### **Did being an English major influence how you thought as a songwriter?**

Yes, because it was basically comparative literature. The more writers you read, the broader your thinking becomes. That was part of it. But while that broadened my vision and ability to write, I was probably more influenced by blues artists and rhythm-and-blues artists and country artists — you know, the actual songwriting.

### **What UW lessons have informed your career?**

The things I really learned there were when I joined SNCC [the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] and became a Freedom Rider. I was in the civil rights movement. And I was involved with the antiwar movement. That was probably the greatest thing I was exposed to, that there were activists on the campus, and it wasn't something you [just] read about. You could go to a political gathering and get a different view than the standard view in the newspaper. If you felt as I did — very disturbed by the condition of blacks in America — and you wanted to fight for civil rights ... that was the important part for me. It was more the political atmosphere on the campus than it was actually the classes I was taking.

### **You first met Boz Scaggs x'66 when you were in Texas, right?**

Boz and I went to the same school, and when I was in the seventh grade, I started a band called the Marksmen Combo. And in the eighth grade, I asked Boz to join it. Boz and I played together all through junior high school and high school. Boz was a year behind me in school. He came up to the University of Wisconsin, and we played together there as well [in the Ardells]. We grew up together playing in the same band.

### **What was it like playing with the Ardells?**

We were really a shuffle blues band. At the time, there really weren't any rock 'n' roll bands. There was maybe one other band on campus at the time. So we played all the parties — all the sorority parties, all the dorm parties, just everything. We backed up artists that came through town to do shows at the Coliseum. Those guys were all terrific, and Boz and I did the vocals. It was two guitars, bass, and drums. We were pretty funny, too, and really enjoyed playing.

### **What are some of your favorite memories of playing with them?**

We usually played five times a weekend. In the afternoon, we'd play a beer supper, we'd play a fraternity party, before the football game, after the football game. Our last gig as the Ardells, I think we played "Louie Louie" 24 times in a row because we knew that was our last gig.

### **Why did you decide to go into music full time?**

My mom and dad came to Madison and had a meeting with me. I had entered school when I was very young — I was 16 when I started my freshman year. So I was 20 years old, and my parents came to see me and said, "Steve, what are you going to do? Like what's going on?" And I said, "Well, I want to go to Chicago and play blues." It's the last thing a parent wants to hear from their child. My dad gave me a look that said, "Nuh-uh."

But my mother said, "You know, it's a great idea. You're young. You don't have any responsibilities right now. So why don't you go to Chicago and see if you can make something of your music. Just try."

And honestly, the next 10 years were really rough. But for some reason, I believed in my ability and in myself. So I went to California and started a band, and we started managing ourselves and designing our stages and creating things. I was part of a group of people that changed the way people listened to music. When you come out to Summerfest and see that big stage and PA and those groovy lights, and things sound really great, that stuff all had to be invented in the late '60s and early '70s. It didn't exist. It was a really exciting time because it was a real leap of faith. There was no set path. The path before that was to be on the Dick Clark show and get in a bus and ride around with seven other bands and play three songs on a show Dick Clark presented. And they owned all your publishing and work and everything. But we changed all that and turned it into a whole new world.

### **You've lived in and played places all over the world. Has that nomadic style of living affected you?**

I go to about 70 cities a year and have for about 50 years, so I've been all over the United States and Europe and Australia. My wife and I really enjoy it.

#### **STEVE MILLER'S GREATEST HITS**

"The Joker"  
No. 1  
(1973)

"Rock'n Me"  
No. 1  
(1976)

"Abracadabra"  
No. 1  
(1982)

"Fly Like an Eagle"  
No. 2  
(1976)

"Jet Airliner"  
No. 8  
(1977)

"Swingtown"  
No. 17  
(1977)

"Jungle Love"  
No. 23  
(1977)





We like traveling and have friends all over the world that we visit and see.

**You currently serve on the welcoming committee of the Department of Musical Instruments of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and as a board member of Jazz at Lincoln Center. What have you enjoyed most about those experiences?**

The musical instruments department is one of the most fun places in the whole museum. They have the first piano and things like that. We've done two exhibits on guitars at the Met, and they've been very successful — 500,000 people came to each one. So that was a big deal.

I was asked by Wynton Marsalis to design the blues program at Lincoln Center. They wanted to start teaching blues like they do jazz. My wife, Janice, and I curate shows on jazz at Lincoln Center. We work on 12 music-education programs. The most important one is for children from the ages of eight months to three years. We've had metrics on those kids for 25 years. And it's a very serious educational program as well as one of the great music venues.

For me, it's a wonderful opportunity to work with really brilliant musicians and very smart people. At this point in my life, instead of retiring and playing golf, I'm being challenged, and I'm very enthused about the creativity that's required of me to work in

*By the early 1970s, Miller and his band were touring around the world. Here, he plays Amsterdam in 1972.*

those environments. ... It allows me to use my experience that I've gained over my lifetime and apply it to educational systems. When I'm [not touring], I work at Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Met. I'm thankful that somehow fate has washed me up on those shores. I'm giving them all I have, and will continue to do so until I leave the planet.

**You were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2016. You were critical of it at the time. What do you think now?**

The people who run the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame are well meaning. In my year, my induction, there were actually no ceremonies for anybody. We were just told to show up and do a television show. That was it. They've changed that.

[Now] they're trying to do a lot of good programs. The music-education programs should actually make a difference and should have a goal. [The Hall of Fame] should be in Cleveland, not New York. They should keep track of the metrics. I think it's going to be more inclusive and, in the end, will become a beacon of light for music education. That's what it really should be. It's drifting that way. ●

*Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Joshua M. Miller (no relation to Steve). Joshua has written about music and entertainment for the Chicago Sun-Times, Paste, and a variety of other publications.*

# Bridging Mo-





# untains

BY JOAN FISCHER MA'95



GEORGE CROWLEY

*The Appalachians and the Himalayas are on opposite sides of the globe, but an alumna's exploration of folk music reveals surprising and meaningful connections.*

In 2006, musician and music teacher Tara Linhardt '94 was traveling around Nepal with her partner, Danny Knicely, hoping to renew old ties from a UW study-abroad program some 14 years earlier. While the pair were ambling along a street in Kathmandu, their instruments strapped on their backs, they encountered a young man playing a sarangi, a wooden, bowed string instrument similar to a fiddle.

They stopped to listen, enchanted. In sound and feeling, the tunes reminded them of the “high lonesome” music — songs of love and longing, joy and hardship, begging to be belted from a mountaintop — that they’d grown up with in the Appalachians, half a world away from the Himalayas.

Linhardt, still fluent in Nepali, fell into conversation with the musician and quickly agreed to a jam session with his friends. Like him, they were members of a caste called *Gandharba* (gan-DAR-bah), “singing messengers” of sorts, who over the centuries, long before mass media, brought stories and news from one village to another in exchange for food or money. Nowadays Gandharbas make their living mostly by playing and teaching music. In recent decades, declining appreciation of folk music among Nepalis — accompanied by an influx of contemporary music from the West — has endangered both preservation of the music and the Gandharbas’ livelihood.

Linhardt and Knicely recorded the food-and-laughter-infused gathering, where the musicians swapped songs and stories. Only later, back at their hotel, did Knicely identify a melody that gave them goosebumps.

“It was ‘Sally Anne’! We both heard it!” says Linhardt, referring to an old-time music standard that they knew from Virginia.

And indeed, parts of a Nepali folk tune, “Resham

*Tara Linhardt, far left, collaborates with musicians Ranjan Budhathoki and Roshan Palpali at a Nepali New Year's celebration in Washington, DC. Linhardt cofounded the Mountain Music Project to help preserve traditional Nepali music.*



*Nepali musician Mohan Gandharba plays an almost-extinct instrument called the arboj on his front porch.*

Firiri,” sound a lot like “Sally Anne,” to the point where, when she and Knicely played “Sally Anne” at the next jam session, their Nepalese friends praised them for so quickly learning their music.

“No, that’s *our* music,” Linhardt told them with a laugh — and a “Whoa!” of recognition lit the room. It was *their* music — something they shared — and it was clear they had to make more of it.

From that feeling of kinship, a program of musical and cultural exchange was born. Linhardt, Knicely, and their friend Jacob Penschansky soon founded the nonprofit Mountain Music Project to help preserve traditional songs in Nepal and around the world.

They recorded a CD of Nepali and Appalachian folk tunes performed by leading Gandharba musicians, Linhardt, Knicely, and — as a testimonial to the project’s compelling mission — some of American bluegrass music’s most prominent artists, including Grammy winners Tim O’Brien and Abigail Washburn, Tony Trischka, and banjo player (and former NPR newscaster) Paul Brown.

The project also spawned a one-hour documentary about connections between Himalayan and Appalachian mountain music and culture, including

interviews with Gandharbas about their way of life. The award-winning film debuted in 2012 and has drawn audiences at film festivals, universities, museums, and other screenings around the United States and Asia.

Nepali and American musicians have performed together at dozens of folk festivals in the United States and abroad — including such major venues as the Smithsonian Folklife Festival — and have offered workshops centered on the music and traditions from both mountain cultures.

Perhaps most important, the project has established programs around Nepal in which Gandharbas teach children about folk music and how to play the sarangi. More than 100 youngsters have participated in these lessons, which are held at orphanages and in other settings where children typically don’t have the opportunity to learn music.

Growing up in tiny Taylorstown, Virginia, Linhardt had always longed for a bigger world.

“It was really small. No one saw anybody,” Linhardt recalls. “We had



20 acres of woods along the side of the mountain. Everything was slanted. It wasn't the kind of town that people walk through on sidewalks."

Her first big move was to UW-Madison, where she was hungry to learn about "anything and everything" and eventually majored in international relations. Her second big move was signing up for the College Year in Nepal program, directed by renowned sociology professor emeritus and Asian-cultures expert Joe Elder.

For Linhardt, that year was to prove "life-changing and magical," she says. She fell in love with Nepal, both with the stunning beauty of the mountains and villages and with the people, whose self-reliant spirit felt surprisingly familiar.

"Coming from rural Virginia, where people often rig things up when they don't work — they're like, 'Let's put a little duct tape on the radiator, a little WD-40' — we joke about that, but the Nepalis have a lot of that same thing," Linhardt says. "I was telling my friends, 'This place is so much like rural Virginia. These people are so much like some of the people I know at home.'"

Living with host families fostered close ties and allowed students to take part in village life. "You could explore and study whatever your interests were," Linhardt says. "Whatever your passion was, you could learn it with people who were actually doing it."

Her love of music was long-standing; she'd dabbled in guitar, banjo, mandolin, and tabla, an Indian drum. But in Nepal, she began exploring Tibetan Buddhism. These two interests came together when she discovered that playing music was, to her, a form of meditation. That recognition inspired her to commit to becoming a serious musician, with the mandolin as her instrument of choice. She went on to make a living as a performer and teacher (teaching guitar and ukulele as well as mandolin), and along the way she earned a master's degree in education from Shenandoah University.

All of these experiences, Linhardt says, ultimately found expression in the Mountain Music Project, an effort that Elder believes serves as a reflection of the study-abroad program. "Tara is identifying similarities and differences in the field of mountain folk music," he says. "Identifying cross-cultural similarities and differences is part of what a liberal education is all about."

Jim Leary, a UW professor emeritus of folklore and Scandinavian studies, says that the Mountain Music Project exemplifies a phenomenon he has long observed: folk musicians from vastly different regions and cultures finding unlikely common ground.

"I've seen many instances of musicians who couldn't even speak one another's language jamming together," Leary says. "When you find people who are artists in some kind of roots tradition, they

## Rebuilding a Village

On April 25, 2015, Natasha Wozniak '97 woke up to a text with horrible news: a 7.8-magnitude earthquake had shaken Nepal, killing nearly 9,000 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. Entire villages were destroyed.

Wozniak, a jewelry designer based in Brooklyn, New York, had maintained close ties to Nepal since participating in UW-Madison's study-abroad program there some 20 years earlier.

"I felt utter despair," she says. "I immediately tried to reach out to people. I had to do something."

She got ahold of her friend Bibek Pandit, who had been a child when she'd lived with his family during her year abroad. Pandit was in India when the quake struck, and as a social worker and community organizer, he was ready to help back home. Wozniak wired him \$100 to buy relief supplies, and she set up a fundraising page so that others could contribute. Within a week, she had raised \$2,000.

Residents of the hard-hit Lamjung district asked Pandit if he could coordinate an effort to build new, more earthquake-resilient homes there. He and Wozniak pivoted their mission from providing relief to safeguarding the future. Within two years, the nonprofit they founded — now called Sangsangai ("Together for Nepal," [sang-sangai.org](http://sang-sangai.org)) — had funded and led reconstruction of the entire village of Rainaskot, with 14 homes for 100 residents as well as a community center. It was the first permanent rebuilding project in Nepal, Wozniak says.

Pandit coordinated workers and engineers — all labor was provided and paid for locally — while Wozniak raised money for building materials. The group has raised \$200,000 thus far, she says. During the next five years, they plan to build 125 houses in three more villages.

Wozniak's efforts have brought study-abroad alumni together, including many who had never met. Musician Tara Linhardt '93, who studied in Nepal a few years before Wozniak, held a number of fundraisers to support Wozniak's work through the Mountain Music Project.



*Educational programs are an important component of the Mountain Music Project. Many of the children and adults at right are honing their skills on a traditional instrument called the sarangi.*

recognize a kinship with other artists,” even from across the globe. The Mountain Music Project takes that kinship and runs with it, going beyond jamming to performance, recording, and education.

This leads to another phenomenon the Mountain Music Project illuminates, Leary says: the power of music to spark cultural revitalization.

“It’s been profoundly important in many parts of the world where folk music may be endangered or seen as low,” Leary says. “If there are steadfast practitioners and people with sufficient vision to rally around the music as a vital force and culture, it can elevate things that go beyond music.”

**A**ppalachians have long felt the stigma associated with “hillbilly” music and culture. Gandharbas have had to cope with a caste system, fading but still influential, that classifies them as “untouchables,” the lowest of the low.

Efforts to further erode that designation are increasingly successful, and music is part of the charge. The Mountain Music Project’s documentary

“I’ve seen many instances of musicians who couldn’t even speak one another’s language jamming together. When you find people who are artists in some kind of roots tradition, they recognize a kinship with other artists,” even from across the globe.

features an interview with the late Hum Bahadur Gandharba, a revered musician whom Linhardt calls “the Woody Guthrie of Nepal.” Hum Bahadur Gandharba traveled all over Nepal, singing about the injustice of the caste system and sharing his vision for cultural change.

“People used to hate me in the villages. I was constantly harassed. Caste discrimination was everywhere,” he says in the film. “Over the last 12 years or so, the situation has changed. People don’t hate us; in fact, they respect us now. That’s good for us.”

The Mountain Music Project is part of that push for respect, participants say. Noted sarangi player Shyam Nepali has performed at numerous festivals around Nepal and the United States as part of the

project. He is tremendously heartened, he says, by the enthusiasm for Nepali folk music from audiences of all backgrounds, many of whom are hearing it for the first time.

Nepali points to more performance and teaching opportunities stemming from the project. “The music has inspired a new generation in Nepal,” he says.

That new generation includes the very youngest players. Beverly Bronson runs House with Heart, a residence for abandoned children in the Kathmandu Valley. For some 10 years, she has participated in the Mountain Music Project’s education program, in which Gandharbas give music lessons to orphans and other disadvantaged children.

“The sarangi is a difficult instrument, but the children enjoy it,” Bronson says. “Some have learned that if they stick with it, they will learn how to play.”

The Mountain Music Project has established seven such programs in various parts of the country, with the goal of having them become self-sustaining. Bronson, for example, values the program highly and has found continued funding at House with Heart. The project has also received support from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, along with private donations.

Meanwhile, in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York — the place she has called home for the past three years — Linhardt pursues a life that includes teaching and playing at music camps and conventions all over the country, as well as giving private lessons both in person and online. She’s received awards for her songwriting and performances and won first place for mandolin playing in a number of festival contests. In 2012, she led a successful effort to set a Guinness World Record for the largest mandolin ensemble in history when she fronted a band of 389 mandolinists in a one-time performance at a national music convention in Galax, Virginia. Three years later, in an attempt to win back the title from a Greek band, she led a group of 491 players. That attempt did not receive approval from Guinness, Linhardt says, but she describes it as a “beautiful and momentous event” nevertheless.

But the Mountain Music Project remains very much on her front burner. She’s making plans with her partners in Nepal for more performances, workshops, talks, and screenings, both there and in the United States. And she continues to pursue the project’s mission to preserve traditional music and strengthen cultural ties.

“It’s something I can do to try to make the world a better place — bring that peace and happiness and understanding of cultures,” Linhardt says. “It’s amazing how much of that can really be accomplished through things like art and music.” ●

*Joan Fischer MA’95 is a folk-music fan and the former editor of Grow, the alumni magazine of the UW’s College of*

*Agricultural and Life Sciences.*





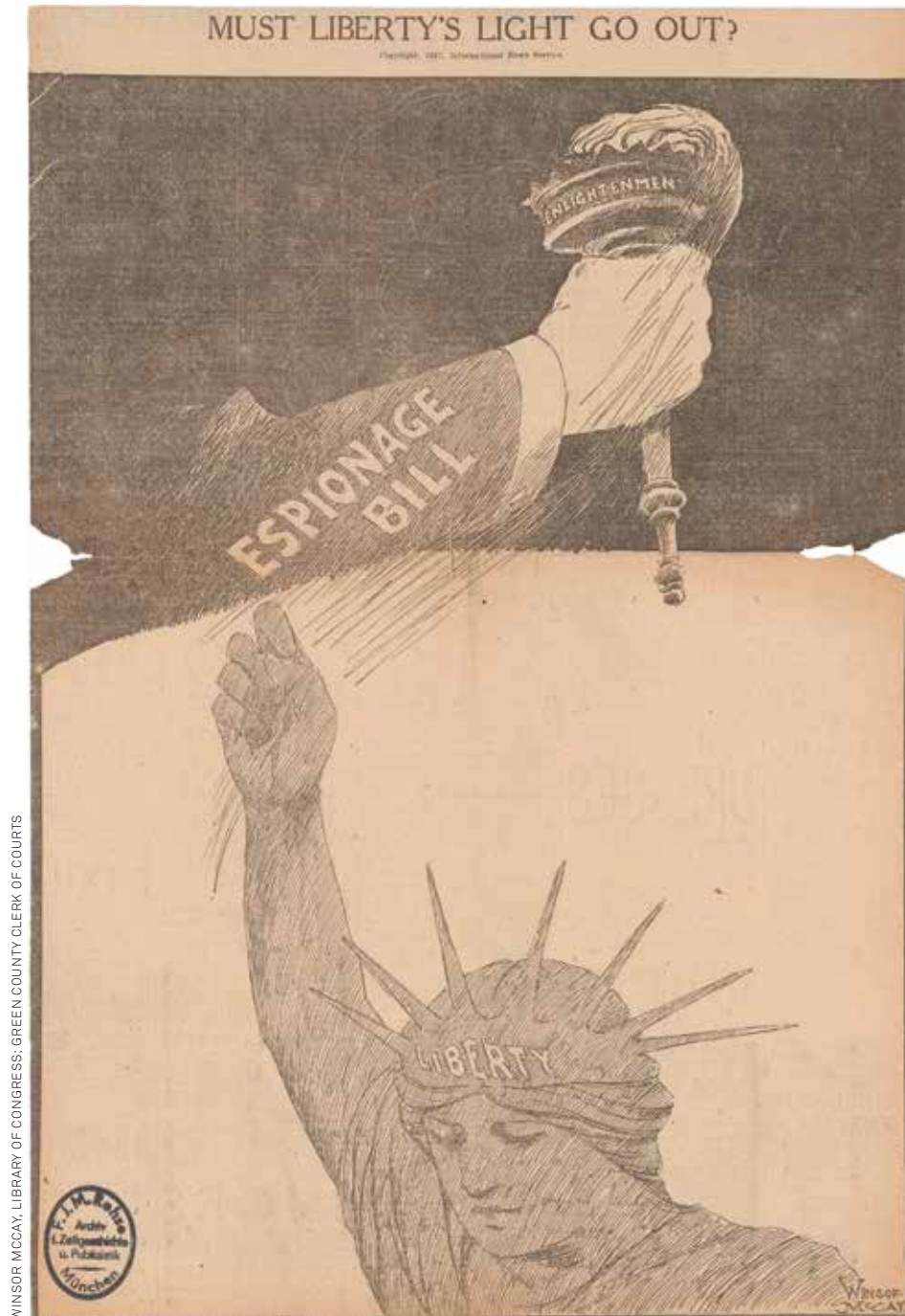
PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARA LINHARDT; SECOND ROW, RIGHT PHOTO BY KWESTUDIO12; BOTTOM ROW, MIDDLE PHOTO BY JACOB PENCHANSKY



# A Judge on Trial

*With the U.S. embroiled in war, John Becker stood up for his beliefs and paid the price with his career.*

**BY ADAM SCHRAGER**



*This editorial cartoon opposing the Espionage Act was published before Congress passed the law in June 1917. Federal prosecutors used the act to charge Becker less than a year later.*



**BEFORE TWITTER AND CABLE NEWS,** political fights were up close and personal. For John Becker LLB1890, the battle that would change the course of his life took place 100 years ago on a February night in Monroe, Wisconsin, at the height of World War I.

It was 17 degrees below zero outside when the shouting started inside the courthouse. Becker, a local judge, was among 50 or so residents who trudged through two feet of snow in the howling wind to attend a regularly scheduled meeting of the Green County Board. Not enough board members made the journey, so without a quorum, the group left county business aside. An informal and increasingly agitated conversation about the war erupted. Becker did not back down.

"There is no shortage of food. The idea of a shortage of food is being preached by agents employed by corporations for their own gains and going about the country on high-paid salaries," said Becker, an ardent pacifist and Progressive Republican gubernatorial candidate. "This is a rich man's war. There is no labor shortage. There is no seed shortage. Farmers, beware of taxes, war taxes, which must be paid in July."

"I have listened to a speech which is seditious," responded Monroe school superintendent Paul Neverman with indignation. "If the boys over in France could have heard his speech, they would make short work of him."

"I doubt you can define the word *seditious*," Becker replied.

"You're a traitor," the superintendent sneered.

Roughly three and a half months later, Albert Wolfe LLB1900, the U.S. Attorney for Western Wisconsin, made the accusation official.

In a 12-page indictment, he accused Becker of violating the Espionage Act of 1917. He charged him with seven counts of making false statements "willfully and feloniously ... with the intent to interfere with the operation and success of the military and naval forces of the United States."

Becker was no stranger to challenging the government: he believed it was the definition of what citizens should do. He was the chair of Wisconsin's Commission on Peace and lobbied for a citywide referendum in Monroe on whether the United States should get involved in World War I. In April 1917, three days before the U.S. entered the war, Becker and his fellow Monroe neighbors voted 954 to 50 against American intervention in the conflict.

The *Milwaukee Journal* called the referendum, "The Monroe Folly," and wrote that the "stupidity and disloyalty" of the city injured the whole state. And the *Los Angeles Times* editorialized that there was "more disloyalty per square foot in Wisconsin than anywhere else in the country."



*"This is a rich man's war," said Becker, a Wisconsin judge who questioned U.S. involvement in World War I.*

But once U.S. soldiers headed to Europe, Becker encouraged his son to sign up for the military and stated publicly it was the responsibility of all citizens to support the war effort. At the same time, he poked and prodded at elected officials, as did his political mentor, Wisconsin Senator Robert La Follette 1879, to ensure a more representative policy.

"Judge Becker practiced a complex patriotism, not unlike that of Senator La Follette," says Richard Pifer MA'76, PhD'83, who recently authored *The Great War Comes to Wisconsin: Sacrifice, Patriotism, and Free Speech in a Time of Crisis*. "He approached the war effort with similar integrity and nuance, advocating policies he thought best for the nation during the war, even when his position flew in the face of government policy, and even though the result would lead to hostile attacks by super-patriots with little understanding of the war or Judge Becker."

Those "super-patriots" took Judge Becker to trial in August 1918. A jury took less than six hours to convict him and he was sentenced to three years at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas. Wolfe, the U.S. attorney, told reporters afterward that he hoped Becker's situation would "deter" lesser citizens who might be disloyal. Becker was forced to resign the seat on the bench he'd been elected to five times and held for 21 years in his community.

"It seemed to me, the response to what he said was over the top," says Leslie Bellais MA'09, curator of social history at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. "It was an ongoing struggle in America, balancing civil liberties with national security. We saw it all over the United States and especially in Wisconsin — this overwhelming desire to shut down civil rights — a reaction, as we would see it today, that seemed un-American."

The museum displays a sign donated by Becker's family members that someone affixed to their home during his 1918 trial. Below his name is a crudely drawn figure in yellow with a speech balloon that says, "Berlin for Me."

"It's a powerful statement that during World War I, people would attack others this way," Bellais said. "It's not an abstract concept. This impacted real people."

Becker never served a day in jail, and the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned his conviction two years later, but the court of public opinion had rendered its verdict. He was defeated in his subsequent attempts to run for district attorney and for his former county judge seat.

When he died in 1926 at age 57, the local newspaper in Monroe described him as "a fighter, but fair. If he felt he was right, he battled to the end, staunchly supporting his friend, client, or cause upon which he was engaged and if defeated ... winning admiration even of those opposed to him at the time." ●

# Arctic Watch

*Fran Ulmer's career took her from UW-Madison to Alaska, where she fell in love with a state that is sounding the alarm on the effects of climate change.*

**BY ANDREW FAUGHT**







*Ulmer (in Anchorage with the Chugach Mountains in the background) has chaired the U.S. Arctic Research Commission since 2011.*

**T**hey arrive every summer — pods of massive humpback whales that voyage thousands of miles from wintering waters in Hawaii and Mexico. Having fasted the entire season, they come to the top of the world with one abiding objective: to pig out.

At Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve, the knobby-headed mammals feast on small schooling fish for as long as 23 hours a day, gulping down as much as half a ton of food in that span. It's a made-for-tourists binge, punctuated by explosive full-body breaching, followed by the equally explosive splashdown.

But there is more to the scene than meets the eye. The park's namesakes — 1,045 tidewater and terrestrial glaciers that span 3.3 million acres (an area slightly smaller than Connecticut) — are showing signs of thinning and receding, as are 95 percent of the state's glaciers. For the first time in centuries, sunlight bathes limestone and argillite forged in the Paleozoic Era.

These warning signs from nature weigh on Fran Ulmer '69, JD'72, who since 2011 has chaired the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. Congress created the seven-member body in 1984 — when the effects of greenhouse gases on global temperatures were not common knowledge — to “observe, understand, and predict Arctic environmental change.” The commission develops and recommends national Arctic research policy, strategies that could aid in the country's understanding of and response to climate change.

“It's alarming and disturbing ... when I think about how these changes are going to magnify, multiply, and dramatically impact the lives of not only my grandchildren, but future generations all over this planet,” Ulmer says.

Ulmer arrived in Alaska in 1973, after serving a “boring” stint doing antitrust litigation for the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, DC. When a UW Law School classmate working in the state beckoned her to the Last Frontier, she bit.



Ulmer took a job in the state capitol with the Legislative Affairs Agency, where she was the only woman lawyer. She helped to develop the oil-and-gas-taxation system as the state prepared for construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, an engineering and political feat. For Ulmer, it was an exhilarating learning experience.

“I went from not knowing what I wanted to do with the rest of my life,” she says, “to feeling certain that Alaska was the right place for me. I was in the middle of a very exciting place and time.”

Ulmer was working as an aide to Governor Jay Hammond when motherhood intervened. For a few years, she was a stay-at-home mom to her young daughter and son, volunteering at church and for organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the March of Dimes. Her volunteerism stretched to the Juneau Planning Commission, which served as an unexpected springboard into higher office. When the mayor resigned in 1983 to take a job in Japan, friends nudged Ulmer to run for his seat.

Her win marked the beginning of 18 years in elective office, including a stint in the state House of Representatives as minority leader. In 1994, she was the first woman to be elected to statewide office in Alaska, as lieutenant governor to Governor Tony Knowles. The pair, both Democrats, met when each was a mayor, with Knowles in Anchorage. Knowles and Ulmer won their race by a mere 584 votes.

“A lot of people say that I gave her the really tough jobs, while I took the easy ones. That may well be true,” Knowles says.

The tough jobs included expanding internet access to rural communities, replacing the state's old punch-card ballots with the first ever optical scanning technology, and an unsuccessful ballot initiative that would give priority hunting and fishing rights to native Alaskans who lead subsistence lifestyles. (At least nine indigenous groups, most of them living in rural areas, rely on hunting, fishing, and gathering for survival.) Ulmer won the Democratic nomination for governor in 2002, but lost the race to Republican Frank Murkowski.



Nearly 500 miles to the northwest of Glacier Bay, Ulmer lives in the shadow of the Chugach Mountains, which provide a dramatic backdrop to her home in Anchorage. Snow falls on the peaks later in the fall than is typical, and it's disappearing earlier than normal in the spring. In 2017, lack of snow forced the famed Iditarod sled dog race to move its starting line from Willow, just north of Anchorage, to colder northerly climes in Fairbanks.

While the United States is among eight countries that make up the Arctic bloc of nations, Ulmer concedes this is sometimes a surprise to those in the Lower 48.

“Most people know that Alaska is in the north and in the Arctic, but I think it's kind of a remote idea for many Americans that we're an Arctic nation,” says Ulmer, who was appointed to her post by President Barack Obama and finishes her term on the research commission in spring 2019. “Unquestionably, over the last seven to eight years, there's more press



coverage about the rapid changes in the Arctic.”

Her adoptive state may provide an early warning of what could lie ahead for the rest of the world. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, its glaciers are losing 75 billion tons of ice each year, a major contribution to the rise in sea level.

Ulmer helped plan Obama’s 2015 visit to Alaska, during which he surveyed firsthand the effects of climate change. Lynn Scarlett, former deputy secretary of the interior under President George W. Bush, calls Ulmer a strong voice for public lands, science, and the environment.

“Fran is viewed as a problem-solver, someone who understands scientific complexities and who tries to recognize and balance the needs of advancing environmental protections while sustaining economic community,” Scarlett says. “She’s a person who tries to bring it all together while keeping environmental concerns up front and center stage.”

Having a convivial exchange on climate change is no sure thing in 21st-century America. One of the earliest actions of President Donald Trump’s administration was to remove climate data and scientific information from the Environmental Protection Agency’s website. There has been no indication that the president intends to defund or dismantle the Arctic commission, but Trump announced plans in 2017 to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, in which 195 countries agreed to limit carbon emissions.

“We can make progress whether we are in the agreement or not in the agreement,” Ulmer says. “The importance of moving forward continues one way or another, with or without us, but I can’t help but think the world would make more progress if the U.S. was serious about its commitments.”

Many questions remain unanswered. Scientists aren’t sure about how quickly or how much permafrost is thawing in the Northern Hemisphere. Permafrost, found beneath 85 percent of Alaska, is a frozen layer of soil below the surface that doesn’t thaw, even in summer. It contains vast amounts of carbon from Ice Age plants that never decomposed. When it does thaw, permafrost releases methane, a pernicious greenhouse gas that promotes warming even more dramatically than carbon dioxide.



Ulmer’s interest in the natural world dates back to her days growing up in Horicon, Wisconsin, a small city situated on the Rock River, a nearly 300-mile tributary of the Mississippi. Her grandfather, Louis “Curly” Radke, led the campaign for the public acquisition and restoration of Horicon Marsh, the largest cattail marsh in the United States.

At age five, Ulmer fished for bullheads and perch (“what you eat on Friday nights”) using a cane pole. Her parents were undertakers whose business doubled as a furniture store. Ulmer, a mezzo soprano, did her part for the family business, singing at memorial services.

“The first time I actually got paid for singing at a funeral, I thought, ‘Wow, maybe this is my career,’” she says. “I quickly decided that was not my career. But it taught me about being able to do something in spite of whatever emotional situation you’re in, and to be able to power through it.”

“The importance of moving forward continues one way or another, with or without us, but I can’t help but think the world would make more progress if the U.S. was serious about its commitments.”

Childhood friend Nina Macheel connected with Ulmer in grade school over their mutual love of the outdoors.

“Her parents really got us outside, appreciating nature in a way that parents didn’t in those days,” says Macheel, a retired software developer who splits her time between Utah and Wisconsin. “They actively schooled us on how to appreciate the water, the plant life on the lake, or the waterfall. Or what was happening in the backyard.”

When it was time to choose a college, Ulmer enrolled at the UW because of its academic reputation. She majored in economics and political science and nurtured her love for singing, spending her senior year as a member of a USO musical group called On Stage Tonight, which performed in Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, and Newfoundland. She went on to the UW’s law school, propelled by President Kennedy’s 1961 call to public service. “Getting a law degree was less about practicing law and more about being able to use lawyering skills to help make the world a slightly better place,” she says. “But running for public office and being in politics was not ever part of my plan. It just happened.”

One of her greatest influences during law school was Professor Walter Raushenbush LLB’53, whose moot court sessions were by turns intimidating and invigorating. “By the end of that semester, I had developed self-confidence and the ability to think,



*A melting iceberg illuminated by the Arctic sun in the Bering Strait, west of Barrow, Alaska, in 2012.*





and speak, under pressure,” Ulmer says. “Those kinds of skills have been useful in many different situations.”

Ulmer hasn’t strayed far from higher education. After eight years as lieutenant governor, she was a fellow at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and also served as chancellor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she also taught in the master’s program in public policy. This spring, she’s a visiting professor in Stanford’s School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences.

And then she will return to her beloved state, which long ago got into her soul.

“Alaska is something of a spiritual experience,” Ulmer says. “Not only is it incredibly beautiful, but it’s always a surprising place. It’s an increasingly rare thing to live in a place and literally walk forever on a trail and not run into another human being. Some people find that scary or lonely or too far from the comforts of a place like New York City, but I can’t imagine living anywhere else.”

Ulmer, whose husband of 36 years, Bill, died in 2013, keeps a cabin on remote Lemesurier Island near Glacier Bay National Park. She’s been known to scud off in her Klepper folding kayak to fish, be it on the Agulowak River or the Icy Strait. Her love of the outdoors extends beyond Alaska. She serves on the global board of The Nature Conservancy, and, as a board member and former chair of the board for the National Parks Conservation Association, she worked on the centennial celebration of the National Park Service.

“She really gets the big picture,” says the association’s CEO, Theresa Pierno. “She has a passion for these wild places. Being the visionary that she is, Fran recognizes that our future could be in peril if we don’t make the right decisions.”

For now, Ulmer’s work on the commission is not done. The group continues to collate its “daily update,” an electronic newsletter that provides a snapshot of ongoing Arctic research, public policy announcements, and a listing of important meetings. The commission also oversees three working groups: one on fostering renewable energy in the region; a second on water and infrastructure issues; and another that studies mental health and suicide in the Arctic.

“I’ve always tried to make whatever place I worked or whatever situation I was in a little better,” she says. “And I’ve always tried to identify things that are within the realm of the possible. I have never claimed to be a person who can make miracles happen. Those happen usually when a whole lot of people come together to make them happen.” ●

*Andrew Faught is a regular contributor to On Wisconsin.*

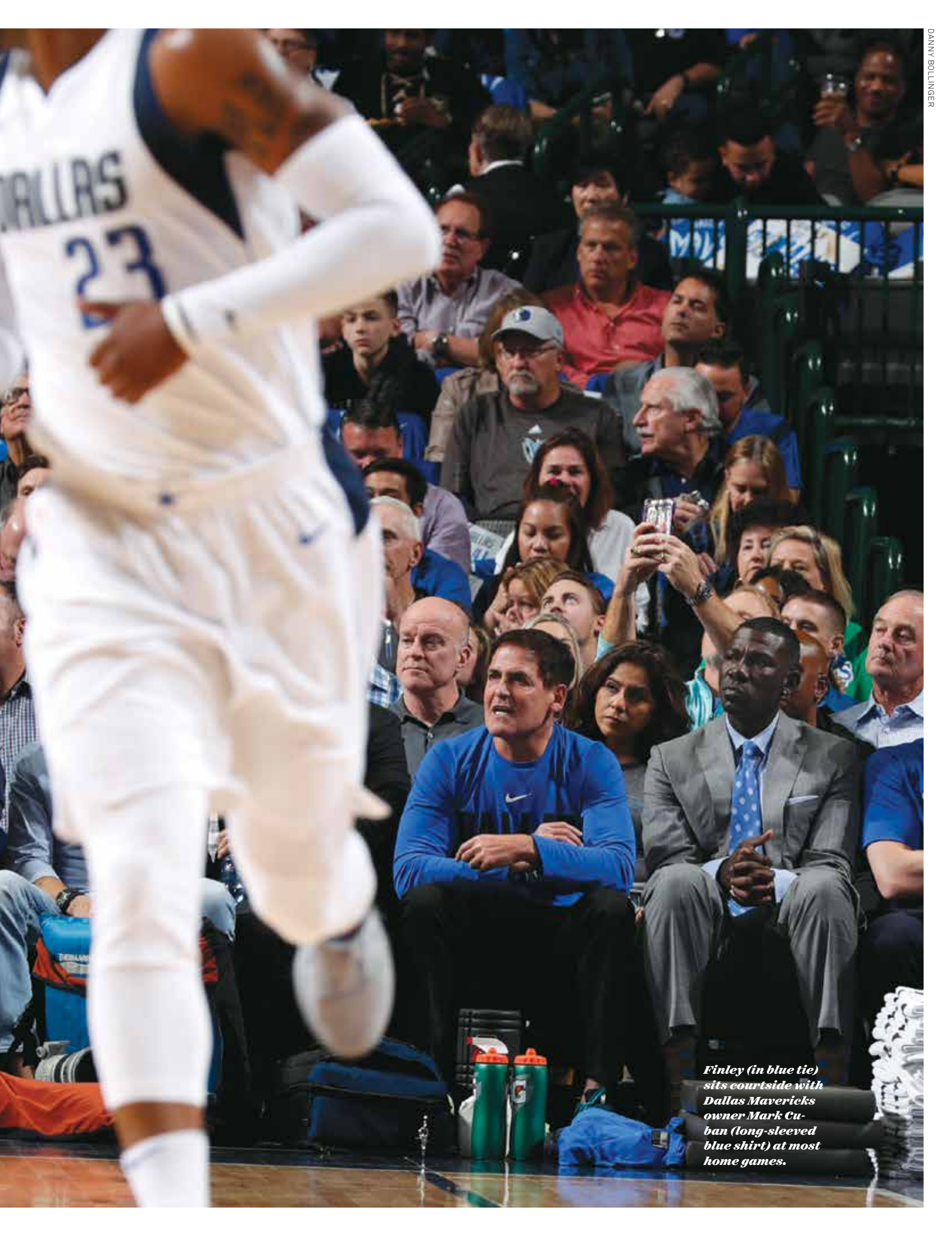
# Michael FINLEY *The Sequel*

BY JENNY PRICE '96

*With one foot in basketball and  
another in Hollywood, the former  
Badger star writes his next chapter.*







*Finley (in blue tie) sits courtside with Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban (long-sleeved blue shirt) at most home games.*

**O**n the hit show *Shark Tank*, billionaire Mark Cuban urges would-be entrepreneurs to “follow the green, not the dreamy.” Former Badger basketball star Michael Finley ’14 is doing both.

After nine seasons with Cuban’s Dallas Mavericks and 16 total in the NBA, Finley has learned the business of the sport and now serves as the team’s assistant vice president of basketball operations. He’s also launched a career as a film producer, making movies that tell stories Hollywood has ignored, yet still have the potential to turn a profit.

In February, *The First to Do It* was released in theaters nationwide. A documentary Finley produced about Earl Lloyd, the first African American to play in the NBA, it premiered last year during the NBA All-Star Weekend in New Orleans. “There’s a lot of guys in the NBA of African American descent who have never heard of Earl Lloyd or don’t know the significance of him in NBA history,” Finley says. “They’re playing the game that they love because of guys like Earl Lloyd who broke those boundaries down.”

The documentary follows the critical and commercial success of the Finley-produced *American Made*, which starred Tom Cruise. The movie, made for \$50 million, grossed more than \$130 million at the box office after its October 2017 release.

A two-time NBA All-Star, Finley is also an active philanthropist who has endowed an athletic scholarship at the UW and is building up a charitable foundation that works to help kids in the Dallas-Fort Worth community avoid the “summer slide” and make strides in school.

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### “What Would You Do with Life after Basketball?”

That’s the question Finley’s business manager posed to him as his NBA career was winding down in 2009. Finley had harbored an interest in both real estate and the entertainment industry, so his lawyer set up a meeting with a successful film producer. The conversation left Finley amazed and intrigued by what went into making a movie. “The rest is history,” he says. That same year, Finley started Follow Through Productions. He has 10 credits to his name as a producer, including *Lee Daniels’ The Butler* and *The Birth of a Nation*, and he’s clear about his decision-making process for getting involved in a production. “First of all, for me it’s a business, and it has to make financial sense for me,” he says. “But even more important than that, the story has to resonate with me.” Finley reads every script he receives and says he has to be “in awe” of it and able to imagine what it would look like on the big screen. “If the script has that kind of effect on me, then I go to the next stage and try to see if it makes financial sense. And if those two things go hand in hand, nine times out of 10, I’ll usually do the movie.”

**2,147**

The number of points Michael Finley scored as a Badger

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### “It Keeps the Competitive Fire Going in Me.”

With the Mavericks, Finley evolved into a team leader who could bring calm to a locker room. “He’s the one guy on the team, when he opens his mouth, everybody shuts up and listens,” a team insider revealed to *Sports Illustrated* in 2002. Finley says he brings that strength to his front-office position with the Mavericks. “When I’m talking to either Mark [Cuban] or scouts ... they respect what I have to say, because they know I’m not just saying some stuff just to hear myself speak. There’s substance to it.” But Finley’s confidence also comes from what he learned about the business of professional basketball while spending two years essentially interning for Cuban before being named to his current role. “As a player, you think you know everything, and once you get on this side, you realize that you really don’t know anything,” Finley says. “It’s like going back to school and learning, and it’s been a great journey for me.” One lesson: the complexities of player contracts. “I always thought that if Player A made \$1 and Player B made \$1, you can trade them for Player C who makes \$2 — but it’s not that easy. There’s a lot of rules and regulations that go into trading for a guy.”

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### “You Have to Dive Deeper.”

Finley has run the draft for the Mavericks the past two years. As more players enter the draft at a younger age, teams have to do more than study game film or scout in person to make smart choices. The job requires Finley to do in-depth research to “try to find out as much as you can about that person as a basketball player and as a young man. ... We’re investing a lot of money into these individuals, and you just don’t want to go in blind.” Finley’s efforts have impressed his boss. “He’s been one of the smartest moves I’ve made in a long time,” Cuban told the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* after the 2016 draft. “We’re becoming more and more dependent on him.”

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### “This Is Home.”

Even though Finley left the Mavericks for the San Antonio Spurs in 2005 after Cuban waived his contract for salary-cap relief, he has long considered Dallas home. (His wife, Rebekah, is from Fort Worth.) “When I played [in Dallas], the community embraced me with open arms. I did a lot of community service in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, so it always had a special place in my heart,” he says. After his family returned to Dallas, Finley reinvented his approach to giving back to the community that embraced him as a player. Last summer, his foundation, which he established in 2003, provided instruction in core academics, computer programming, fine arts, and life skills to 19 students in third





UW ATHLETICS

*“When I’m talking to either Mark [Cuban] or scouts ... they respect what I have to say, because they know I’m not just saying some stuff just to hear myself speak. There’s substance to it.”*

Badgers’ all-time leading scorer and was drafted by the Phoenix Suns. “I talk to kids all the time about the importance of education, and I felt kind of like a hypocrite when I was telling these kids to ‘get your education, get your college degree,’ but I didn’t have mine,” he says. Between online classes and taking courses at a local college, Finley reached his goal. In 2014, he received his degree from the UW in agricultural and applied economics. His mom, sisters, wife, and children were on hand. “It was a great time — not only for me, but for my family and for all the kids who look up to me as well,” he says.

### **“The Four Years That I Had at Madison ... Were the Best Four Consecutive Years of My Life.”**

Finley lives out of a suitcase for periods of time, traveling with the Mavericks for about 85 percent of the team’s road games. But he found time to return to Madison last fall with his wife and three children for a visit, which included a stop at Mickies Dairy Bar. “People who haven’t been on campus or who don’t know much about Wisconsin always ask me, ‘Why did [you] go to Wisconsin?’ I say if you go to Wisconsin and spend a week there, getting to know the people at the university and in the community, you’ll realize why: because it’s a loving place, a place that truly loves not only the athletes, but also their students. To this day, I can travel around the world and always see someone from Wisconsin, and it’s a great family to be a part of.” ●

Jenny Price ’96 is co-editor of On Wisconsin.

and sixth grade, and offered tutoring and parent education throughout the school year. “Statistics show that during the summer, kids either stay the same or forget what they learned the previous year ... so we’re trying to limit that,” he says. “The goal is to follow those kids, not only through the summer, but throughout the school year and then bring those same kids back ... then enroll a new flock.”

### **“It Was Something I Promised My Mom, Something I Promised Myself.”**

When Finley first arrived at the UW as a freshman, his plan was to pick up enough extra credits during summer school to graduate in four years, “but because of basketball, my summers were booked,” he recalls. He left campus in 1995 as the

*Finley (during a home game at the Field House in the mid-1990s) is the only player in Badger basketball history to score 500 points in three different seasons.*

# On Alumni

Alumni News at Home and Abroad

## Groovin' ... on Reunion Afternoons

*Bringing the '60s Back Home will celebrate an iconic decade.*

UW alumni who were in Madison during an era known for its protests and flamboyant pop culture will return to campus this summer for a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Jazz musician **Ben Sidran '67** says the idea for the June 14–16 reunion — called *A Party with a Purpose: Bringing the '60s Back Home* — originated while he was on tour. After he and his wife, **Judy Lutrin Sidran '69**, met UW alumni who had never returned to campus, they joined forces with **Jerilyn Goodman '71** to plan the gathering.

Madison is “more a state of mind, rather than a time or a place,” Ben Sidran says. Festivities will include concerts with **Boz Scaggs x'66** (see page 26), **Tracy Nelson x'67**, Sidran, and other musical grads from the era, as well as Motown Night with the Temptations and a dance party with legendary WORT deejay Rockin' John McDonald.

The Wisconsin Alumni Association will sponsor a Babcock Hall ice cream social on the Memorial Union Terrace on June 16, which will include a '60s sing-along and a special ice cream flavor inspired by the decade. The Union also plans to feature live music from the era on the Terrace throughout the reunion.

Madison mayor **Paul Soglin '66, JD'72** and **John Karl Scholz**, dean of the College of Letters & Science, will provide a welcome in the new Alumni Park; UW Cinematheque will show period classics such as *Easy Rider* and *The Graduate*; and trolley runs will include a food tour, a Mifflin Street historical tour, and a trip to Monona Terrace.

All-star panels featuring UW alumni and professors will cover topics including the Vietnam War, civil rights, the legacy of **George Mosse**, and the women's movement. Among the nearly three dozen discussions will be sessions titled *The State of the Fourth Estate*, with **David Maraniss x'71, Lowell Bergman '66, Walt Bogdanich '75**, and **Jeff Greenfield '64**; *Earth Day* with **Tia Nelson '86** and **Kathleen Falk JD'76**; *The Politics of Resentment* with **Katherine Cramer '94**; and *What's So Funny about Madison?* with **Jim Abrahams x'66, Ben Karlin '93**, and **Andy Bergman MA'66, PhD'70**.

“Obviously, these are dramatic times — these are times of social change, and I think there are parallels with the '60s,” Sidran says. “Issues of race, of gender, of America at war — journalists fighting to get the truth out — these are things we all went through [then]. It's odd, but the '60s are very relevant today.”

To register, visit [madisonreunion.com](http://madisonreunion.com).



UW ARCHIVES 2018S00007

Face paint and street theater were hallmarks of the counter-culture during the antiwar years.



### Saluting Young Alumni

The Forward under 40 Award honors alumni under the age of 40 for early-career success. The 2018 honorees are:

**Sarah Coglianese '00**, writer, Speed4Sarah.com; founder, #whatwouldyougive campaign

**Zainab Ghadiyali MS'12, MS'12**, cofounder, Wogrammer; product manager, Airbnb

**Raul Leon MIPA'07, PhD'10**, associate professor of higher education and student affairs, Eastern Michigan University

**Manu Raju '02**, senior congressional reporter, CNN

**Roberto Rivera '04**, chief empowerment officer, 7 Mindsets

**Paulina Stowhas MS'15**, veterinarian and project facilitator, Island Conservation

**Kevin Thao '06, MD'10, MPH'11**, primary-care physician, Aspirus Wausau Family Medicine; faculty associate, Family Medicine and Community Health, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

**Rupa Valdez '03, MS'07, PhD'12**, assistant professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Virginia School of Medicine; founder, Blue Trunk Foundation

## 122

young alumni have been honored with Forward under 40 Awards since the program began in 2008.

## 158

degrees have been earned by the Forward under 40 honorees, including 94 undergraduate, 34 master's, 15 doctoral, and 15 professional degrees.



## Conversation **Ladee Hubbard**

At home in New Orleans, **Ladee Hubbard MFA'14** was booked. She had a full-time job as an adjunct lecturer in Africana Studies at Tulane University, a growing family, and a super-powerful calling: to write a novel. Sight unseen, Hubbard moved to Wisconsin with her three children — the youngest then just four months old — for UW-Madison's creative writing program, where the award-winning author transformed one of her short stories into her debut novel, *The Talented Ribkins*. Inspired in part by a 1903 essay by W.E.B. DuBois, "The Talented Tenth," Hubbard's book tells the story of an African American family with a catalog of superpowers (think fire-breathing, super strength, telekinesis) and a generations-long fight for social justice.

***Tell us about the moment [last fall] when you were a guest on Late Night with Seth Meyers, and the crowd applauded your mention of W.E.B. DuBois, the sociologist who wrote "The Talented Tenth."***

A lot of times I have to explain the reference to people. I think he's not as well-known as I feel he needs to be. I was happy that people were acknowledging his role. He's a towering figure in American history. He was not just an African American figure, but really, he's such an important thinker.

***How did your University of Wisconsin experience influence this novel?***

I knew I needed to go somewhere and focus, because I have a lot of other responsibilities here in New Orleans. I didn't have much of [the book] written until I got there, beyond the first draft. If you really want to write a book, you're going to have to make

some changes if you want it to actually happen. I just really wanted to have a chance to immerse myself in writing.

***What are you hearing from readers of The Talented Ribkins ?***

It's been really gratifying that so many people seem to connect with what I was trying to accomplish with it, because there is a lot going on in the book. It talks about the family dynamic a lot, which I think you can certainly extend to how people interact with each other when they do have a connection. We are one people, in a sense.

***What do you hope readers will take away from the novel's themes of politics, history, freedom, and movement?***

I talk about self-love a lot and learning to love yourself — also, in the face of all these obstacles, the value of just trying to do the best that you can with what you've been given. What I personally find so heroic about [Johnny the Great, a central character in the book who has a gift for making maps of places he's never seen] is that he keeps trying. I think that's really important, trying to find new paths — not getting stuck on one way of seeing things, either, but not being afraid to keep trying to make things better.

*Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Kate Kail Dixon '01, MA'07  
Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano*





# Tradition *Becoming Bucky*



JEFF MILLER (4)



Each spring, a small group of students vies for the chance to become the most visible member of the UW Spirit Squad: Bucky Badger. A three-night audition — filled with equal parts fun and intensity — puts their creativity, humor, and strength to the test.

First there are push-ups, a skill required when Bucky counts up points after the football team scores at Camp Randall. The would-be mascots line up on a mat on the UW Field House floor, and a former Bucky counts: “Down, one, Down, two, Down, three ...” The first person gives up at 27. Others make it into the 50s.

After that comes another physical feat. An aspiring Bucky must be able to balance at the top of an “elevator,” a maneuver in which two squad members wedge their hands under his feet and help him rise to the top of a human pyramid.

Improvisation is key. Candi-

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE UW TRADITION?

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

dates are presented with a pile of props and must employ them in novel ways. (Don't use the broom to sweep — make it a guitar or an oar to paddle a laundry basket across the floor.)

During a dance tryout, without the costume, subtle moves won't cut it. “It's awkward. It's weird,” Spirit Squad director **Josette Jaucian '97** tells the candidates. “Have fun with it.”

Simply putting on the outfit doesn't make someone Bucky. How students handle themselves while wearing the suit during a one-minute comedic scene, with directions from a member of a panel of judges, helps determine whether they have what it takes. Each candidate emerges from the costume hot, sweaty, and smiling. “How's it smell in there?” one student is asked when he is done. His answer isn't printable.

The second night of tryouts includes navigating an obstacle

course on the ice and taking shots on goal while wearing the top half of the suit, including Bucky's heavy head. Last April, nine out of 14 students made it to the final night, when they performed a two-minute original skit, complete with homemade costumes. **Keegan Gallup x'20**, who made the team, presented an homage to every Big Ten mascot, including Michigan State's Sparty.

The final squad of seven Bucky Badgers includes three returning veterans — two had to try out again as is customary after their first year on the squad. They will collectively appear at more than 700 events in a year, ranging from wedding receptions to game days before a capacity crowd at Camp Randall.

**Seth Van Krey x'19**, a returning Bucky, doesn't hesitate when asked about the time commitment required: “It's worth it.”

**JENNY PRICE '96**



## 40s-50s

The friendship between **Marial Pliss Poll MS'44** of Hazel Crest, Illinois, and **Anna Lou Riesch Owen MPH'42, PhD'52** of Boulder, Colorado, knows no boundaries. The two friends met during their time at the UW and have each led storied and accomplished lives, keeping in touch with letters, phone calls, and cards through it all. Though they have not seen each other since 1944, their 73-year friendship continues as strong as ever.

**Low (Lewis) Harned '47** of Madison was honored as a Wisconsin Football Season Ticket Holder of the Game in fall. His son-in-law (**J. Todd Ondell '71** of La Crosse, Wisconsin; grandson **Jason Vandehaar '04** of Madison; and great-grandson (and likely future Badger) Henry Vandehaar also share his Badger pride.

Perhaps by fate more than happenstance, navy veteran **Mike Chapman '53** of Waukesha, Wisconsin, was traveling for business when he saw the grave of General Harry Collins, a World War II major general who commanded the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division (the Rainbow Division), which helped to weaken the German assault in the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Dachau. Since the encounter, Chapman has interviewed Collins's widow and other officers, publishing his first book, *General Harry J. Collins: The General of the Children*, at the age of 90.

Twenty-seven: that's the number of total solar eclipses that **Donald Liebenberg '54, MS'56, PhD'71**, an adjunct professor of astronomy at Clemson [South Carolina] University, has seen, according to Clemson University's *The Newsstand*. Altogether, he has spent nearly three hours in totality! Although Liebenberg has traveled the world to view eclipses (including one from a

**BOOK NEWS?**  
See page 58.

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Concorde supersonic airliner, in which he spent 74 minutes in totality), he and his wife, **Norma Malmanger Liebenberg '55**, watched the August eclipse from their home.

The 14th annual Barbara A. Rider Colloquium at Western Michigan University (WMU) has honored **Barbara Burnham Rider '54**, chair of the WMU occupational therapy department from 1976 to 1985. She also served two terms on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and other boards and organizations related to health care and education in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She continues to be active in her community and in her profession.

## 60s

As an elected national president of Hadassah Associates — an organization comprising more than 33,000 men — **James Rotenberg '66** of Lawrence, New York, has been pursuing its mission to advance medical research, healing, and education in the United States, Israel, and worldwide. Under his leadership, the group's 2017 Men's Health Initiative has worked to raise funds for Alzheimer's disease research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel.

In addition to recently publishing his book, *The Art of Selling the Family Business*, **Jonathan Pellegrin '67** of Monterey, California, spent 26 years in publishing and developed more than 30 business magazines in the agricultural, manufacturing, and distribution fields. He was chair of the American Business Press trade organization, held multiple top posts with the Young Presidents' Organization, and traveled on behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce. A retired professor of entrepreneurship and strategy at the UW's Wisconsin School of Business, Pellegrin earned a Distinguished Alumni Award

from the Wisconsin Alumni Association in 1986 and was named a Distinguished Business Alumnus by the UW's business school in 1995.

**Steve Cony '69**, president of Communications Counselors in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, is a marketing-communications professional and storytelling coach who has told his own story in his recently published novel, *He's All I Have*, coauthored by Rabbi Jennifer Jaech. The book, which addresses nurturing young children through the loss of loved ones, shares memories of Cony's childhood, the death of his father when he was three, and a childhood doll — now more than 65 years old — that helped him through it.

**Russ Nelson '69** of Saint Paul — a founder of Nelson, Tietz, and Hoyer (now NTH) — retired at the end of 2017. During his tenure, Nelson managed many real-estate transactions, including deals that involved new headquarters for U.S. Bancorp in Minneapolis and Ecolab in Saint Paul.

## 70s

**Edward Van Gemert '72, MA'78**, the vice provost for libraries and university librarian, has announced that he will retire in May. He has more than 45 years of work with libraries, starting as a student assistant in Memorial Library in 1971 and eventually becoming the first person at the UW to hold his current title. Under his leadership, the libraries have enjoyed campus support for increased acquisition funding, spearheaded well-attended programs, and more. Thank you, Ed — it's been a great run!

**George Hesselberg '73** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, retired last year following 42 years as a reporter at the *Wisconsin State Journal* in Madison. He wrote about a range of events, people, and happenings at the

UW, from interviewing Tunnel Bob — “one of those campus apparitions” whom few see — to uncovering the burial spot of diseased cows at Picnic Point. In retirement, Hesselberg plans to freelance, finish a children’s book, and compose a series of murder mysteries.

### David Marcou ’73

La Crosse, Wisconsin, has published more than 50 volumes of his Spirit of America series, contributing to the more than 135 books he has authored so far — many of which contain photos he has taken. Marcou’s work has received praise from David McCullough, Jon Tarrant, and the September 12 Guild. He has lived in London and Seoul, and he has also earned degrees from the Universities of Iowa and Missouri.

It’s been a busy time for **Gerald Popelka PhD’74** of Redwood City, California, whose faculty appointment has been transferred to neurosurgery at Stanford University after he served as chief of audiology in the otolaryngology department. Now he researches tinnitus, or “ringing in the ears,” which Popelka asserts is a neurological condition — not a hearing problem. He was also one of several editors on a book, *Hearing Aids*, that provides insight on hearing-aid research.

A distinguished professor in agriculture and life sciences at Iowa State University, **Max Rothschild MS’75** has earned important recognition recently. He was named a fellow by the National Academy of Inventors for discoveries in swine genetics, and he received an Award of Distinction from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis, for his work as an animal geneticist who has improved swine and other livestock species.

A former editor for CNN’s *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer*, **John DeDakis ’77**

of Baltimore has made the best out of a tragedy. Following the loss of his 22-year-old son from a heroin overdose in 2011, DeDakis wrote his latest mystery-thriller, *Bullet in the Chamber* — a book that earned three national awards, including a first-place Reader Views Reviewers Choice Award, a silver Foreword INDIES Book Award, and a bronze 2017 Feathered Quill Book Award.

Kudos to **Michael Lenard ’77**, who has been named the Olympic Torch Award honoree for his positive impact on the U.S. Olympic Movement through promoting Olympic ideals and serving as an advocate for athletes. Lenard, vice president of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport and senior adviser for international private equity firm 7 Bridges Capital Partners, is a former VP of the United States Olympic Committee and a 1984 handball Olympian. He lives in Pacific Palisades, California.

**Michelle Vaughan Buchanan PhD’78** has been appointed the deputy for science and technology at the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge [Tennessee] National Laboratory. Buchanan had been the lab’s associate director for physical sciences since 2004. “It is a great privilege to be entrusted with shaping our future as a laboratory,” she says.

Congratulations to Madison family physician **John Frey ’79**, who has earned the John G. Walsh Award for his dedication and leadership to help further develop family medicine. Frey served as professor and chair at the UW’s Department of Family Medicine and Community Health until 2006 and is now a professor emeritus.

**William Wielgus ’79** of Alexandria, Virginia — recently retired after a 30-year career as an oboist in the National Symphony Orchestra — has presented *A Celebration*

*of Peruvian Music* at the University of Arkansas in collaboration with some of its faculty members. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month festivities, the concert featured music written or arranged by Peruvian composers as well as numbers that included Peruvian motifs.

## 80s

Known as “Dr. Z” to his students and local community members, **Richard Zielinski ’82**, a professor and director of choral activities at the University of Oklahoma, has celebrated his 10th year as artistic director and conductor of the Classical Music Festival Eisenstadt Summer Academy. Last summer, he led the orchestra, chorus, and soloists — composed of global musicians — as they performed in the Esterházy Palace, Saint Stephen’s Cathedral, and the Bergkirche in Austria. He also accepted the Business Person in the Arts Award from the Norman [Oklahoma] Arts Council last year.

**Michelle Hart Behnke ’83, JD’88**, principal of Michelle Behnke & Associates in Madison, has become the treasurer of the American Bar Association (ABA), for which she will serve a three-year term as one of five officers on the ABA’s board of governors. In 2015, Behnke was named Real Estate Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers* in Wisconsin. She was also recognized by the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers for Outstanding Leadership in 2004 and was named one of the Best Lawyers in America each year between 2005 and 2015.

Following the unexpected death of his stepfather, **Bill Moore ’84** left his position at Procter & Gamble to become president and CEO of his stepfather’s company, the George Meyer Company (now PacMoore), in Hammond, Indiana. The company provides

**“I feel like it’s a legacy that I’m living out when it comes to my family ... doing something that is trailblazing.”**

Vanessa McDowell ’03



food contract-manufacturing services, employs about 300 people, and processes some 250 million pounds of ingredients each year. Moore has helped the company to expand by developing a functional ability to process recycled starch products and spurring employee transformation, including spiritual development.

**Melinda Myers MS'86**, a gardening expert in Mukwonago, Wisconsin, has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of GWA: the National Association for Garden Communicators. Myers joined GWA in 1981 and has served as a national board member and regional director. Her eponymous company works to inspire and educate gardeners. Among her many accomplishments, Myers hosts TV and radio program *Melinda's Garden Moment*, has authored more than 20 books, and has written for *Backyard Living*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Fine Gardening* magazines.

### 90s

Here's some news that gets us mooovin' — cofounder **Michael Hull '91** of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, helped launch start-up Yodelay Yogurt, which began production in Wisconsin last spring. Its Swiss-style yogurt line comes in seven reduced-fat flavors, and its availability is spreading across south-central Wisconsin and into Milwaukee and Chicago.

**Jill Koski '91** has taken on the role of president and CEO of Holden Forests & Gardens, which includes the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio, and the Cleveland Botanical Garden. She was previously at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, where she served as the vice president of development for 10 years. Prior to that, she was with Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. "Public gardens and arboreta are more important than ever to help connect people



ANDREA MOHIN/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

### A STORE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

The planning took months. For a brief moment, when emotions ran high, they almost called it off. But when the big day arrived, it was glorious. Some might even say magical.

"The opening itself felt very much like a wedding," says best-selling novelist **Emma Straub MFA'08**, owner of Books Are Magic, a New York City bookstore. "All of a sudden, the doors were open, and people could come in, and we just hugged everyone."

Straub and her husband, artist Michael Fusco-Straub, opened Books Are Magic this summer, near their home in Brooklyn's Cobble Hill neighborhood. The store is designed to welcome everyone from families to the literary community — and the stock is pointedly curated.

"My goal when we opened was to be a feminist, female-author-centric bookstore," Straub says. "I want to be a loudspeaker for women writers and other marginalized writers, writers who are often not taken seriously or not given space on a bookstore shelf."

The store carries Straub's own *New York Times* best sellers — 2016's *Modern Lovers* and 2014's *The Vacationers* — as well as her 2012 Wisconsin-influenced debut novel, *Laura Lamont's Life in Pictures*. Alumni will recognize a Madison flavor in her 2011 collection, *Other People We Married*; she wrote many of the short stories while in the UW's creative writing program.

At UW-Madison, Straub was delighted to study with author Lorrie Moore, whom she describes as "one of my favorites of all time." As a graduate, she's the latest in a line of distinguished alumni that includes her parents, Susan Bitker Straub '66, a literary advocate, and Peter Straub '65, a best-selling horror novelist.

The bookstore is younger than Straub's two preschool-aged sons, but no less demanding of attention. Her husband serves as the store's first responder (think leaky roofs or shoplifters); Straub hosts dozens of fellow authors for events, and she's hiring booksellers so she can devote time to writing her next novel.

Straub says they had just started planning for Books Are Magic during the November 2016 election season. Amid the national mood of political strife, the couple wondered if their timing was right.

"When the election happened, we thought, 'Oh, God, no, the world is falling apart. We can't open a bookstore; it's too risky,'" she recalls. "That was for, like, three hours, and then we realized, 'No, this is exactly why we need a bookstore.' It's even more important now."

**KATE KAIL DIXON '01, MA'07**

SHAWN PARKIN



## ONE SQUARE INCH OF SILENCE

In 2005, **Gordon Hempton MAx'82** was hiking an unmarked trail through a wild, wet corner of Washington state when he finally found what he was looking for: silence.

Hempton, an Emmy Award-winning sound recorder and engineer, placed a red rock on the spot and declared it the quietest place in America. The act was more symbolic than scientific, but it drove home the point that few places are truly free of human noise.

"Natural quiet is the antidote to the toxic noise that's all around us now," he says. "There is not one place on Planet Earth that's set aside for protection from noise pollution."

Hempton's One Square Inch of Silence site in Olympic National Park's Hoh Rain Forest has become a monument to silence. Hundreds of people make pilgrimages to the rock-marked grove every year. A Russian TV crew, a German magazine reporter, *CBS Sunday Morning*, and a team of *New York Times* journalists have come calling.

Hempton has circled the globe three times, capturing the rarest nature sounds — "sounds that can only be fully appreciated in the absence of manmade noise," he says. His recordings have been used by the National Geographic Society, Microsoft, and the Smithsonian Institute. In 1992, he won an Emmy for a PBS documentary about natural soundscapes on six continents.

At UW-Madison, Hempton studied the quietest of living things — plants. He was aiming for a master's in plant pathology when he made a fateful pit stop in a cornfield. "I pulled over, and I just listened to the crickets and then an amazing thunderstorm that came over me," he says. "I thought, 'How can I be 27 years old and never [have] truly listened?'"

Hempton's hero is naturalist John Muir x1864. From Muir, Hempton learned to listen deeply to nature.

"In his writing, he takes you on a sonic journey," Hempton says. "With a river, he describes all the various voices — in the mountains where it starts, the river's young and 'babbling' and 'boisterous.' Lower down, it's quiet and meandering in old age."

A few years ago, Hempton suffered an unexpected and career-crippling bout of hearing loss. He recovered, but not fully. His hearing comes and goes, but his work as a recorder and advocate of natural sounds remains constant.

"I'm still on a search for that next beautiful concert," he says.

**TRISTAN BAURICK**

to the world around them and positively impact the economy, health and wellness, and of course, the environment," Koski says.

A hearty congrats and best wishes to **Brian LeClair '91**, who has accepted an offer from President Donald Trump and the leadership of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to be principal deputy administrator within the Health Resources and Services Administration.

**Mark McIntyre '91** is now the senior director and chief security adviser within the Enterprise and Cybersecurity Group at Microsoft Corporation. In this role, McIntyre works primarily with national governments across the globe, supporting their information-assurance and risk-management efforts. He also advises public- and private-sector leadership teams at Microsoft's Executive Briefing Center at the company's Redmond, Washington, campus.

**Wenyuan Shi PhD'92** has been named the chief executive officer and chief scientific officer of the Forsyth Institute, an independent research organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that seeks to understand the connections between oral health and overall wellness. Prior to this role, he was the chair of the Section of Oral Biology at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry and the doctoral adviser for its oral-biology PhD program. In addition, Shi is the cofounder of a biotechnology company, has coauthored more than 200 scientific articles, and is credited as a coinventor on 45 patents.

**Jeffrey Tangney '93**, the founder and CEO of Doximity, based in San Francisco, California, has announced an integration with Epic, a health-software firm. The Doximity Dialer, integrated



with Epic Haiku, will give doctors access to patient records and allow them to contact patients from their cell phones without exposing doctors' personal phone numbers. "By working with an industry leader in electronic health records, we can help them save time while improving patient care," Tangney says.

Last summer, **Erik Clark '94** of Parker, Colorado, was part of an eight-man cycling team that placed first in the Race Across America. Starting in Oceanside, California, the team arrived at the finish in Annapolis, Maryland, after bicycling more than 3,140 miles in five days, 17 hours, and 22 minutes. Congratulations, Erik, on your well-earned win!

**James Hamilton PhD'94**, a professor of chemistry at UW-Platteville, has caught the eye of NASA with his First Contact Polymer, a "peel-able coating" with the ability to clean and protect certain surfaces that are typically difficult to clean, such as optical surfaces on telescopes and satellites. Hamilton has received a grant to develop a similar polymer system designed for the needs of a NASA telescope project.

In 2013, **Carrie (Caroline) Holan Spanuella '94** of Brookfield, Wisconsin, gathered the help of friends to begin Broads for a Cause, a nonprofit volunteer group that fundraises and donates to other nonprofits. The group has grown to more than 30 women strong, all of whom donate monthly to organizations such as humane societies and homeless shelters. The "Broads" hold large fundraisers several times a year and recently raised more than \$24,000 for the Fisher House of Wisconsin, a veterans organization.

**Matthew Becker '96** of Harrison, Montana, has been doing good for the globe, serving as the CEO and program manager for conservation

organization **Zambian Carnivore Programme** in Zambia. In addition to working in research and conservation, the organization mentors the next generation of wildlife conservationists, such as 2016 National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Thandiwe Mweetwa**.

**Nancy Hoffman '96, MS'03** has been named the permanent director of the UW's Campus and Visitor Relations office after serving as its interim director. Hoffman has worked in the unit — which manages campus tours and visits, the Parent and Family Program, and Bucky's Classroom — since 1996.

In addition to sports stadiums and airport terminals, the furniture and interior design work of **Eric Villency '97**, CEO of the Villency Design Group in New York, includes the SoulCycle and Peloton indoor bikes. Villency, a recipient of several design awards, is also on the board of Operation Renewed Hope, which is dedicated to decreasing homelessness among veterans. He is working on a new collection, and proceeds will benefit that organization.

**Brian Zimmerman '97** of Strongsville, Ohio, is on a roll! The CEO of Cleveland Metroparks, he has been honored with *Smart Business* magazine's Smart 50 Award, which recognizes the top 50 executives in the region who have effectively built and led innovative organizations. Zimmerman was also named the 2016 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Professional of the Year.

Did you know that **Susan Chapman-Hughes MBA'98** of Brooklyn, New York, has served as the treasurer on the Girls, Inc. board of directors? From its national office, Girls, Inc. runs a network of local nonprofit organizations that serves girls between the ages of six and 18 at more than 1,400

sites in 400 cities across the United States and Canada. Chapman-Hughes is also a senior vice president at American Express Company and a director at Potbelly Sandwich Works.

## 00s

**Amy Kerwin '00** works with her nonprofit group, Primates, Inc., to operate a primate sanctuary in Wisconsin's Marquette County to improve the quality of life for monkeys after they retire from research facilities, private ownerships, and the entertainment industry. She previously worked at the UW's Harlow Center for Biological Psychology.

**Katherine Himes MBA'01**, a 2017 Wisconsin Alumni Association Forward under 40 award recipient, has been appointed director of the University of Idaho's James A. & Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research, which conducts and oversees non-partisan, science-based, public-policy research that seeks to engage students and inform dialogue. Previously, Himes was a special adviser and adjunct faculty member at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

**Tony Lamanna MS'01, PhD'02** has joined Arizona State University, taking the reins of the Del E. Webb School of Construction as its program chair and the Sundt Professor of Alternative Delivery Methods and Sustainable Development. He was also elected a fellow of the American Concrete Institute and the American Society of Civil Engineers, and he is a certified beer judge.

**Christian Schauf '03** founded Uncharted Supply Company, located in Park City, Utah, and — with the help of **Eric Janowak '02**, who is now cofounder and CFO — created an emergency survival kit called The Seventy2. The product made an appearance on

**"It's as big of an honor as you can have — a chance to represent your country as part of an Olympic team."**

**Tony Granato '17**

a recent episode of ABC's *Shark Tank*, where Schauf accepted a deal from Robert Herjavec.

**Jeff Mack Jr. '03**, a former UW football team captain and Academic All-American, has joined Park Bank in Madison as first vice president for private banking. He brings 15 years of experience in the financial-services industry. Mack is also a board member of the Overture Center for the Arts, a program committee member for the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, and an adviser for the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development.

Madison native **Vanessa McDowell '03** has become the CEO of the YWCA in Madison — the first woman of color to lead the organization in its 109 years. She had been serving as the interim CEO since January 2017 and brings more than a decade of experience to her new post. "I feel like it's a legacy that I'm living out when it comes to my family ... doing something that is trailblazing," she told Madison365 in July. Her mother, **Candace Stone McDowell '73**, is the founding director of the UW-Madison Multicultural Student Center; and her father, **Charles McDowell '77**, served as the Wisconsin Alumni Association's president in 2003-04.

Newlyweds **Andrew Finn '05** and **Jamie Farnsworth Finn '06** are Badgers, but the couple met not on campus but at a Memorial Day weekend party in Manhattan, according to the *New York Times*. Although they reside in New York — Andrew works at law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, and Jamie works at NBC News — they returned to their college town to be married at the Edgewater hotel on July 29. Wishing them a happily ever after!

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, **Marcela Guerrero MA'05, PhD'15** has moved to New York City, where she has

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

**OBITUARIES**  
Brief death notices for Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) members and friends appear in *Badger Insider*, WAA's magazine for its members. You may also submit full-length obituaries (with one photo each) for online posting at [uwalumni.com/go/alumninotes](http://uwalumni.com/go/alumninotes).

joined the curatorial team at the Whitney Museum of American Art to help organize exhibitions with a view toward accessibility. Previously, she worked as a curatorial fellow at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles.

**Sean Moore '06, MS'16, LJ (Lawrence) Neumann '12, and Sarah Timmler '14, MS'16** were among 37 high school mathematics and science teachers starting their careers that were selected by the Knowles Teacher Initiative as members of its 2017 Cohort of Teaching Fellows. Moore, who teaches chemistry, is in his second year at Rhinelander [Wisconsin] High School; Neumann, who teaches biology, is in his first year at Monona [Wisconsin] Grove High School; and Timmler, who teaches biology, is in her second year at Wauwatosa [Wisconsin] West High School.

Former Badger hockey, American Hockey League, and National Hockey League player **Andrew Joudrey '07** has taken on the role of president of the Madison Capitols, a team of a Tier 1 junior hockey league called the United States Hockey League. "It's a great opportunity," he says. "There will be a lot of work in front of us, but I'm looking forward to being a part of the process of building on the foundation that's been set in place, and bringing the Madison Capitols forward."

Badgers help Badgers do great things. Just ask **Lexi (Alexis) Shereshevsky '09** of Redding, Connecticut, who established The Syria Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people during the Syrian refugee crisis, in 2015. Her father and Syria Fund board member, **Jerry Shereshevsky '68**, introduced her to **Andy Freedman MBA'06** of Needham, Massachusetts, who was recently part of starting an organization —

Miles4Migrants — that helps to relocate refugees and war victims into new homes by using donated frequent-flier miles to cover the cost of travel.

## 10s

**Lynsey Spaeth '10** is up to impressive work. She was one of 16 new students accepted this academic year into the American Museum of Natural History's Master of Arts in Teaching program. Spaeth joined her peers at the Richard Gilder Graduate School campus, located at the museum in New York City.

A big Badger high-five goes to prose writer and cartoonist **Ebony Flowers MS'12, PhD'17** of Denver, who has earned a 2017 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. The \$30,000 annual award is given to six women who demonstrate excellence and promise in the early stages of their careers.

**Catherine Harris '13** is excited and proud to serve as the executive director of the Richard Davis Foundation for Young Bassists, which will celebrate its 25th annual bass conference this year. The group, founded by professor emeritus **Richard Davis** and **Peter Dominguez '80, MM'82**, hosts this annual conference in Madison, inviting alumni who have gone on to become well-known performers, educators, and professionals to mentor, inspire, and teach younger generations.

**Samantha Johnson '13, MSW'14** has started her new role as the violence-prevention manager for the UW's University Health Services (UHS) Violence Prevention and Survivor Services. A UHS employee for three years, Johnson recently accepted the Student Personnel Association Campus Impact Award for her work expanding violence-prevention education requirements for incoming students.



In her new role, Johnson oversees UHS violence-prevention efforts and serves as an on-campus expert for issues relating to harassment, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault.

Siblings **Allison Cunniff '14** and **(Thomas) Drew Cunniff '16** stirred up some Wisconsin pride with their family in August on Fox's *The F Word*, hosted by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. Tweaking one of Ramsay's recipes to make a large batch (enough for 50 guests!) of ricotta gnocchi, the cheese lovers won the episode.

The Morgridge Center for Public Service in Madison, which connects UW students, faculty, and staff to communities to build partnerships and solve issues through service and learning, has introduced three new staff members: **Reuben Sanon '15** is the center's new Badger Volunteers coordinator; **Xai Xiong '15** serves as its communications specialist; and **Amy Wilson '17** is the AmeriCorps Achievement Connections campus coordinator.

Badger men's hockey and 2016–17 Big Ten Coach of the Year **Tony Granato '17** served as the head coach of the 2018 U.S. Olympic men's hockey team at the Winter Olympic Games in South Korea. "It's as big of an honor as you can have — a chance to represent your country as part of an Olympic team," Granato told the *Sun Prairie Star* in September. He was an assistant coach for the 2014 U.S. Olympic team in Sochi, Russia; and competed at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. **Chris Chelios x'83**, a former UW defenseman, was one of Granato's assistants.

*Stephanie Awe '15 feels honored to be the new Class Notes and Diversions editor. She thanks Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83 for her guidance as she passes the baton after 21 years.*



BRUCE RICHTER

### WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

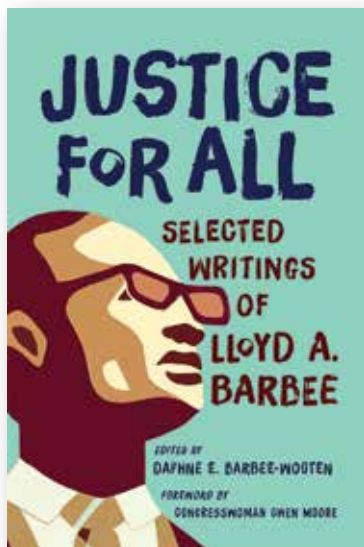
"Busy as a bee" seems like just another cliché — until you spend time tracking each tiny insect's flight pattern. UW graduate student Jeremy Hemberger '12 is doing just that, and his work as a member of entomology professor Claudio Gratton's lab will help farmers sustainably optimize crop production.

Seventy percent of crops worldwide benefit from insect pollination, and bees are the best pollinators in the insect kingdom. Many farmers rent honeybees for their crops, but they are a non-native species in Madison and many other parts of the world — which makes them expensive to procure, unlike the indigenous bumblebee. By tagging bumblebees with minuscule radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, Hemberger focused on how much time colonies spent foraging for food in various habitats in and around the Madison area.

He and his team are now collecting data to identify where bumblebees live in cranberry-growing areas. Their goal is to help develop tools for growers to assess their properties for bumblebee habitat, helping them to make decisions such as whether to rent additional honeybees or to plant flowers to attract the buzzing creatures. "The RFID work has helped inform how bumblebees interact with cranberries as a crop, and confirmed that bumblebees are extremely active pollinators within cranberry," he says.

Hemberger's investigations into the intersection of ecology, conservation, and entomology are helping him to develop models and tools for a wide range of farmers. Even slight adjustments create more bee-friendly environments, significantly improving the pollination potential — and the yield — of crops across Wisconsin and arable land everywhere. As the world struggles to meet the dietary demands of a growing population, the best solution might be to start very, very small.

For information about supporting UW–Madison's research tradition, visit [allwaysforward.org](http://allwaysforward.org).



## A CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER

The influence of **Lloyd Barbee LLB'56**, a civil rights leader and lawyer in the 1960s and '70s, lives

on through *Justice for All: Selected Writings of Lloyd A. Barbee*, which was edited by Barbee's daughter and civil rights lawyer

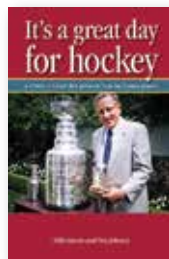
**Daphne Barbee-Wooten '75**, pictured above. The book includes a foreword by Wisconsin congresswoman Gwen Moore of Milwaukee, who describes Barbee's lasting impact on the state and the nation.

Barbee, who died in 2002, frequently signed his correspondence with "Justice for All," a principle he carried out day to day. An attorney who is most remembered for the case that desegregated Milwaukee Public Schools in the 1970s, he defended prisoners, protestors, the poor, and Wisconsin college students who were expelled after pushing the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh to offer black-history courses.

Barbee was the only African American in the Wisconsin legislature from 1965 to 1977, and he advocated for fair housing, criminal-justice reform, equal employment opportunities, women's rights, gay rights, and equal access to quality education.

The selected writings detail Barbee's experiences during the civil rights movement and the challenges he faced while legislating. In the book's introduction, Barbee-Wooten says that growing up as his child was like "riding a wave of history." She writes, "By introducing and compiling this book, I am proudly fulfilling his goal and dream to share his thoughts and philosophy with all."

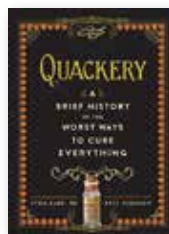
KATHY BORKOWSKI



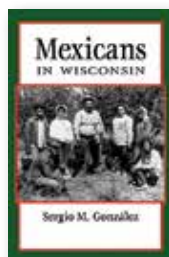
Former Badger and professional hockey players pay tribute to legendary NCAA and Stanley Cup-champion coach Bob Johnson in *It's a Great Day for Hockey*. The book is edited by former Badger players **Mike Cowan '69** of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; and **Pete Johnson '83** of Faribault, Minnesota, who is Bob Johnson's son. To purchase the book, visit [wisconsinhockeyhistory.com](http://wisconsinhockeyhistory.com).



In *At Peace: Choosing a Good Death After a Long Life*, **Samuel Harrington MD'77** of Stonington, Maine, draws from his 30 years of medical practice and his father's death to offer a discussion of end-of-life challenges that the elderly face. His advice includes how people can make decisions that influence how and where they will die.



**Ali (Alice) Gartzke Berlow '86** of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, provides strategies for improving community food quality in *The Food Activist Handbook: Big & Small Things You Can Do to Help Provide Fresh, Healthy Food for Your Community*. Berlow shares ideas such as starting neighborhood kitchens and connecting food pantries with local family farms.



*Quackery: A Brief History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything*, coauthored by librarian, historian, and writer **Nate Pedersen '04, MA'05** of Bend, Oregon, uses humor, science, and storytelling to offer readers a look back at "medical misfires and malpractices" throughout history.

Timed with the recent 20th anniversary of James Cameron's *Titanic*, three UW alumni — **Joe Duellman '05** of Milwaukee, **Rob Lumley '05** of Madison, and **Dan "Duff" Marfield '05** of Minneapolis — have launched the *Titanic Minute*, a podcast series during which the three longtime friends break down each minute of the movie into its own 20-minute episode. It is available for free on iTunes and Google Play.

The newest addition to the Wisconsin Historical Society Press's People of Wisconsin series is *Mexicans in Wisconsin* by **Sergio González '10, MA'14**, a doctoral candidate in the UW's Department of History. It traces the journeys of generations of Mexicans who immigrated to and settled in the Upper Midwest, becoming an integral and diverse part of Wisconsin's cultural and economic history.





NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

## **Alice Catherine Evans MS1910**

knew that she was right. She stayed the course, her doubters eventually came around, and, in time, she was credited with making one of the most important contributions to public health in the 20th century.

Evans identified a bacterial infection in cows — and passed on to humans through drinking raw milk — that caused brucellosis, or undulant fever, an infectious disease characterized by high temperature and painful joints. Her findings led to pasteurization, ensuring that the milk that we drink today is safe.

She cut a rare figure in 1909, when she became the first-ever female recipient of a graduate scholarship in bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin. After studying under UW professors including Elmer McCollum, who

*Alice Evans is one of many impressive Badgers featured in the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Alumni Park. To discover their stories, visit [alumnipark.com](http://alumnipark.com).*

discovered vitamins A, B, and D, she moved on to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When news broke that a woman was joining their ranks to research the bacteriology of milk and cheese, Evans said, her coworkers “almost fell off their chairs.”

Evans published a paper with her brucellosis findings in 1918, and the naysayers came out in force. Her fellow scientists dismissed the notion that a woman — and one without a PhD, no less — could make such a discovery. They scoffed at the idea that similar bacteria could cause disease in both animals and humans. And despite threats to the nation's food supply, the dairy industry lobbied against her ideas. The skeptics shared the view, Evans said, “that if these organisms were closely related, some other bacteriolo-

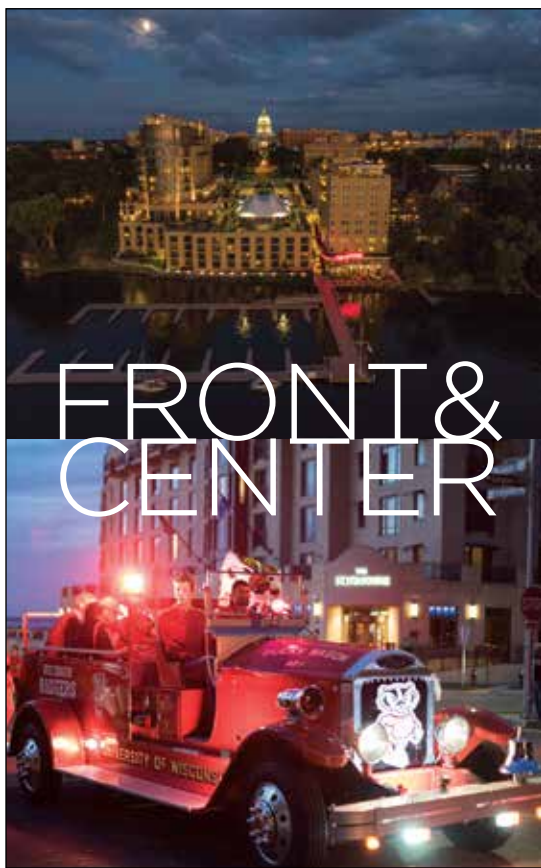
gist would have noted it.”

But she held firm. In the late 1920s, male scientists confirmed her findings, and in the 1930s, milk pasteurization became mandatory.

In a cruel twist, Evans herself was infected with undulant fever in 1922, and the illness, which she experienced periodically for years, kept her from attending the meeting where she was elected the first female president of the Society of American Bacteriologists.

For one who had faced so much professional and personal adversity, Evans remained remarkably optimistic. “The course that was open for my ship to sail was on the whole gratifying,” she wrote in her memoirs. “The going was rough at times, [but] there were stretches of clear sailing, too.”

**CINDY FOSS**



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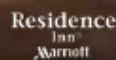
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JEFF MILLER (3), PRINT, CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART



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**Free tours** are offered for school groups and other visitors, touching on highlights of the museum's exhibitions and collection such as *Our Good Earth*, a 1942 piece by American painter John Steuart Curry.

The Chazen presents 10 to 12 temporary exhibitions each year, featuring works from its permanent collection and pieces on loan from museums around the world.



**A bridge** over East Campus Mall connects the Chazen Museum of Art expansion — opened in 2011 — to the former Elvehjem Art Center building. It offers both a gallery space and a view of Lake Mendota to the north.



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we want to thank all of the Badgers  
who contributed to the UW in 2017.  
Strengthening the Wisconsin Experience:  
this is what Badgers do.

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