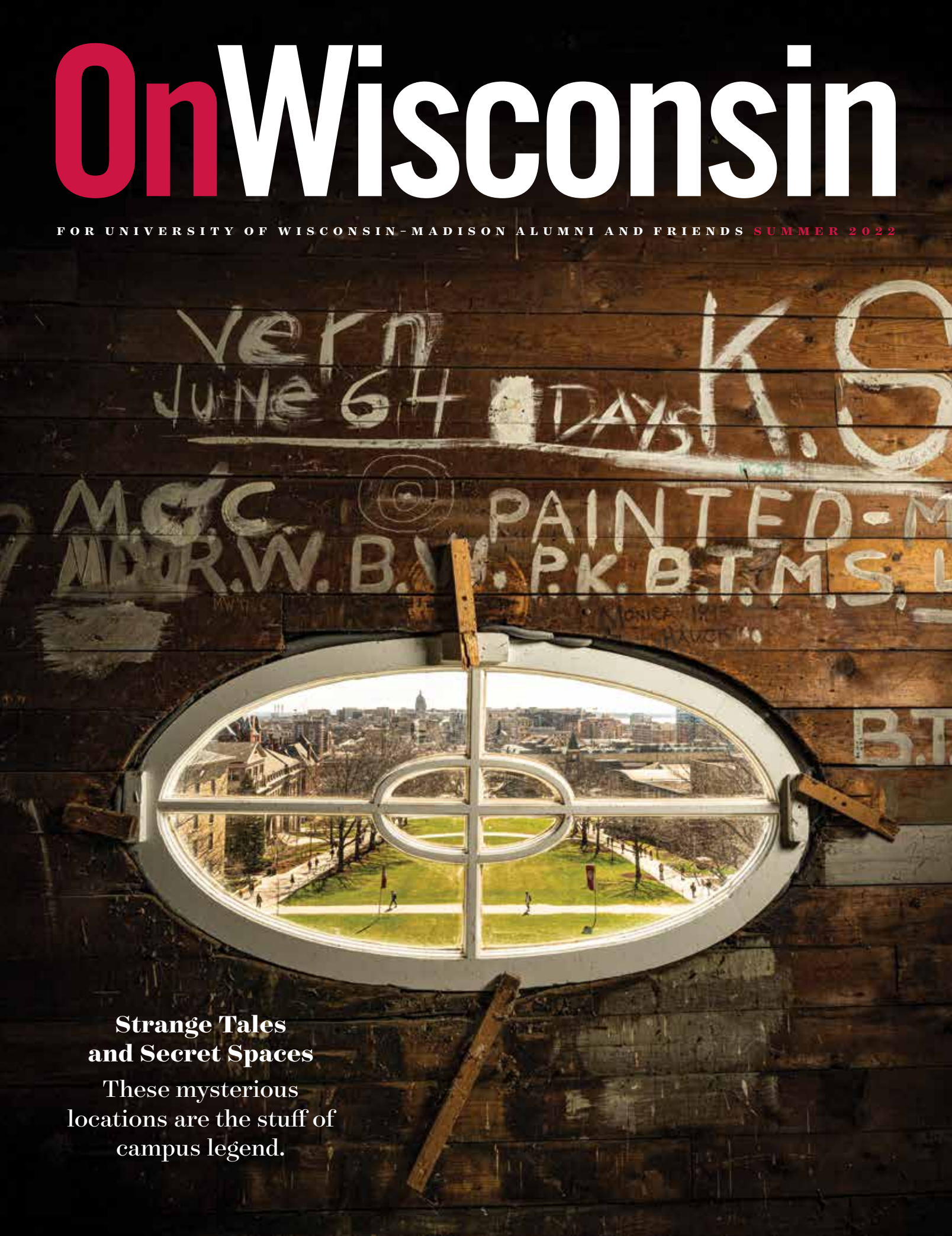
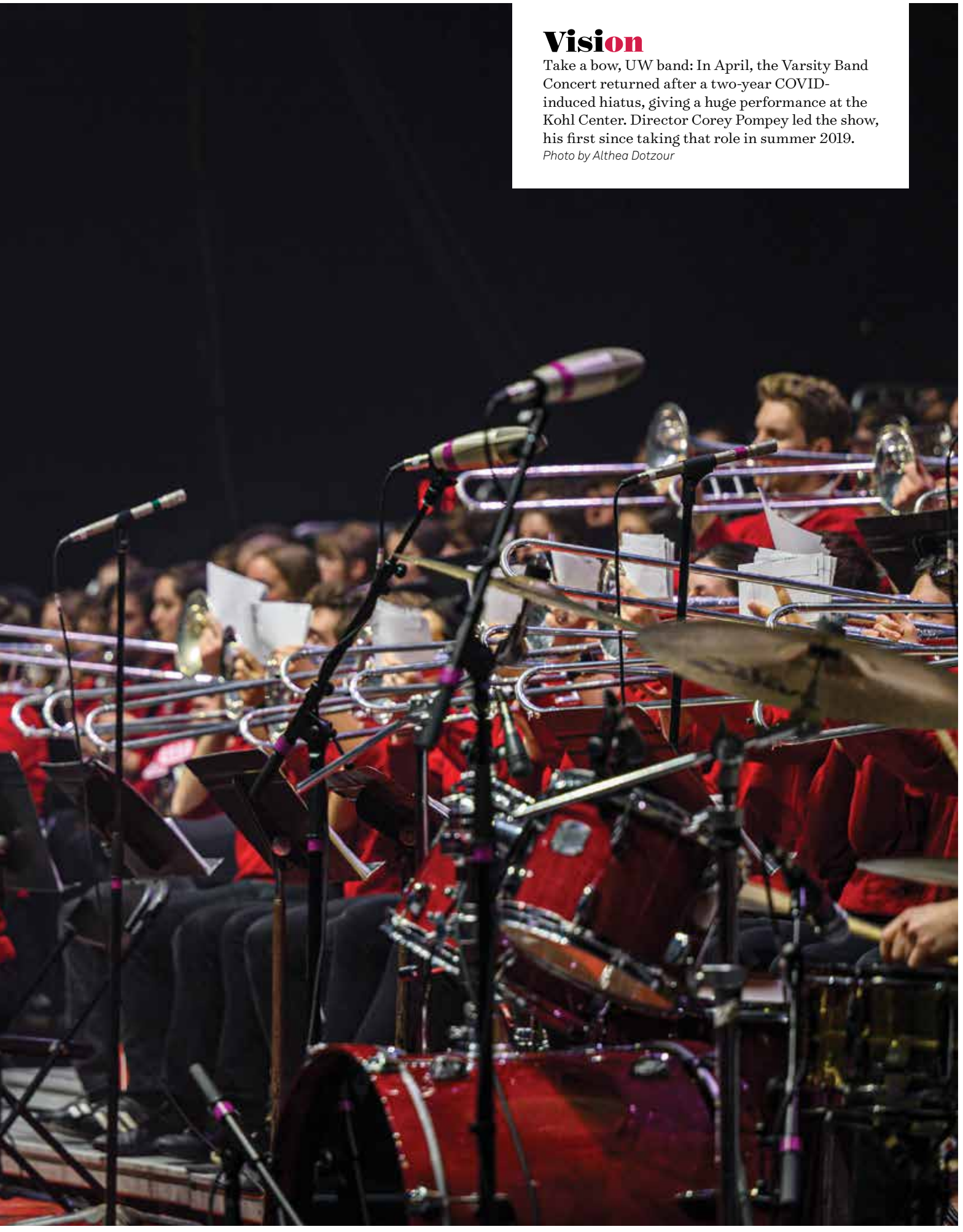
OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SUMMER 2022



Strange Tales and Secret Spaces

These mysterious locations are the stuff of campus legend.



Vision

Take a bow, UW band: In April, the Varsity Band Concert returned after a two-year COVID-induced hiatus, giving a huge performance at the Kohl Center. Director Corey Pompey led the show, his first since taking that role in summer 2019.
Photo by Althea Dotzour

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Following Title IX reforms in the 1970s, UW women's rowing won a national championship. See page 46.

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Gut microbiota in fish have implications for human health. See page 40.

JAMES R. EVANS

FEATURES

JEFF MILLER

Psychology professor Paula Niedenthal connects smiling to survival. See page 34.

Cover
The view from Bascom Hall's attic, charred in a 1916 fire. Photo by Bryce Richter.

SCOTT RESNICK '09
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Founding Member, StartingBlock Madison

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OnShore Technology Group

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President and CEO,
Sub-Zero Group, Inc.

B. LYNN ALLEN-HOFFMANN, PHD
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WARF Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Communications

Rock Stars

"The Matilda Effect" [Spring 2022 *On Wisconsin* magazine] was wonderfully inspiring in the midst of a superb issue. Seeing an image of Florence Bascom 1882, 1884, MS1887 (the MS awarded by the new Department of Geology and Mineralogy) reminded me that in an age when women's scientific contributions were largely ignored, Florence was a brilliant pioneer in the fields I studied at the UW 80 years later.
Chuck Barnes PhD'65
Flagstaff, Arizona

We want to hear from you! Please email your letters to onwisconsin@uwalumni.com or mail to WFAA, *On Wisconsin*, 1848 University Ave., Madison, WI 53726. You can also post comments online at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

College Bowl Cachet

In a life filled with adventures, nothing carries as much cachet as my membership on the UW's *College Bowl* quiz show team [Spring 2022 Bygone]. When I mention it to friends or colleagues, the enthusiastic response is much more pronounced than [when I mention] my year's residency in Cold War Moscow, publishing two books and scores of articles, or running marathons and triathlons.

[Many] memories returned as I leafed through the latest *On Wisconsin*. We all looked incredibly young, and my hair was remarkably thick and curly. Our victories came easily, reflecting the broad liberal arts education the UW provided. The article reminds me how much I owe to the university and how my time in Madison shaped me and made the remainder of my life successful and meaningful.
Stuart Grover '66, MA'67, PhD'71
Tacoma, Washington

Library Bliss

Thanks for featuring the study carrels at Memorial Library [Spring 2022 Tradition]. I spent many hours in those carrels keeping up with reading assignments for an English major. I don't like to think of them as cages because I have happy memories of the peace and quiet I experienced there. The library was such a great part of my life that I decided to be a librarian.
Katherine Alexander '64, MS'66
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

Fountain of Memories

The picture of the Hagenah Fountain [Spring 2022 Destination] brings back memories of carefree days in the '70s. The building on the left is the Wisconsin Historical Society, where I worked part time as a Xerox operator. I sometimes loitered at the fountain after work before heading home.
Henry Tse '76, MA'77, MS'79
Rosemead, California

The Eiffel Tower was [initially] hated by the French, [who considered it to be] hideous and an eyesore. The only thing that saved it was that it made an excellent radio tower in 1938. Love the fountain. It's iconic. I grew up with the fountain. Every day that I saw it at the UW, it was like saying hello to an old friend. The simple design was leagues ahead of that typical for the late 1950s.
George Bednar '77, MS'80

State Street Survivors

"Seven State Street Stalwarts" [Winter 2021 Calculation], which featured seven businesses that are still on State Street some 50 years later, evoked many memories for readers. For more, see the comment section of the story in Past Issues at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

I came to Madison in 1972 and worked at the Chocolate House scooping ice cream cones and making sundaes, malts, and shakes. Granted, the name has changed to the Chocolate Shoppe, but it is still in the same location. I think that it deserves mention for staying power on State Street. Prior to 1972, it survived all of the unrest of the Vietnam War era, so it measures up to the 50-year-plus litmus test used in your article.
Bob Villwock '76

What memories — the Var Bar, the Pub, the Brathaus, and the Plaza — which I was amazed to read is still there on Henry Street! The Plazaburgers were the best when I was at the UW. Also can't forget the Kollege Klub, where the "townies" ruled. After I graduated, I came back and couldn't wait for one of those delicious sandwiches at the Brathaus and the Plaza.
Claudia Smith Cole '66

A lot of business was done on State Street, including many visits to the Var Bar (Varsity Bar) and purchasing an engagement ring (still worn by the same girl) from Goodman's in 1965. (Who can forget the singing commercial "Goodman's diamonds are a girl's best friend"?)
Glenn Schmidt '65, MS'68, PhD'69

Troia's, owned by my friend's uncle, where I ate lunch many times during study rages, was east of the University Book Store. The Kollege Klub moved to the dining hall area of Langdon Hall. And just off of State Street, some survivors include Riley's Wines, the Plaza on Henry Street, Lombardino's way out on University Avenue, and the Edgewater on Langdon. No more Pub or Var Bar ... but the ghosts and empty bottles may still be there. Good times.
Donald Geldernick '68

OnWisconsin

Summer 2022

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BRYCE RICHTER

Schmitt ventures into the UW steam tunnels to give the rest of us a peek.

A One-of-a-Kind Campus Tour

Our journey into hidden places brings forgotten UW history to life.

Over the last couple months, writer **Preston Schmitt '14** and photographer **Bryce Richter** were two of the luckiest people at UW–Madison. They got to visit fascinating corners of campus that are hidden, hard to find, or completely inaccessible to the average person.

But the rest of us are lucky, too, because we can tag along on their journey. "UW Mysteries, Secrets, and Hidden Places" (page 22) ventures down into tunnels, up into attics, and even out into the woods in search of legendary UW spots. It's your once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore private areas of the university that coexist with the public ones in a parallel dimension.

"As a student, I'd heard rumors about some of these locations and have always been intrigued by them," Schmitt says.

To find the shadowy spaces, Schmitt and Richter needed help from UW staff, who not only unlocked doors but also told stories likely to surprise you. Did you know about the charred timber in Bascom Hall's attic from a devastating 1916 fire? About the Lost City in the Arboretum? About the remnants of a massive glass dome concealed above Memorial Union's Great Hall?

"In some cases, the institutional knowledge of these places has simply been passed down by generations of UW employees," Schmitt says. "The documentation that does exist often has to be pieced together through a century's worth of newspaper and magazine archives."

So what do we gain from this tour, other than the thrill of peeking behind curtains? By providing historical context for each location, the article significantly enriches our understanding of UW–Madison's evolution. The next time you stroll through campus, you'll surely see it with new eyes — and you'll know that, above your head and beneath your feet, there's more to this place than you ever dreamed of.

DEAN ROBBINS

Limnological sampling of Lake Mendota; Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)

A Universal Coronavirus Vaccine

UW–Madison researchers lead the effort to protect us from viruses yet to come.

BRYCE RICHTER

Viruses can be wily adapters, changing their identities to find new hosts and thwart efforts to stop them. That's why UW–Madison researchers and their collaborators are making progress toward developing universal vaccines against some of the planet's most harmful pathogens, including the virus family responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last fall, the National Institutes of Health announced it was investing in three teams developing a vaccine that would work against a broad range of coronaviruses. Among them is a research collaboration, the Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine consortium, led by **Yoshihiro Kawaoka,** professor of pathobiological sciences at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

"This pan-coronavirus vaccine is basically preparing for the future," Kawaoka says.

Kawaoka and his collaborators are looking for a vaccine or vaccines that could train our immune systems to respond to a broad array of coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, and their variants.

Before 2019, no one had ever seen SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. If successful, a pan-coronavirus vaccine would also protect against other as-yet-unknown coronaviruses.

"The pan-coronavirus vaccine may not be as effective as a vaccine that is specific for a particular strain, like SARS-CoV-2," says Kawaoka. But the trade-off for reduced effectiveness is increased coverage.

Adds **Peter Halfmann '00, PhD'08,** research associate professor in the Kawaoka lab at the UW's Influenza Research Institute, it would mean "having something ready to go in case something did pop up."

The researchers will also study how long vaccine-induced immunity lasts and whether vaccination can prevent transmission between animals.

Kawaoka expects that vaccine candidates they identify now will be at least five years away from the clinic, but his lab and others will continue to invest time, energy, and resources toward solving these challenges.

The future may depend on it.

KELLY APRIL TYRRELL MS'11

DON GIOVANNI'S #METOO PROBLEM

Lindsey Meekhof DMA'22 directed a unique spring production of *Don Giovanni*, Mozart's opera about a sexually obsessed nobleman. Her version commented on how its premise perpetuates rape culture.

"There are moments in the show that didn't sit well with me," Meekhof says. "I wanted to start a bigger conversation about the #MeToo movement and opera."

Meekhof was troubled by a scene in which the peasant Zerlina is instantly charmed by Don Giovanni (**Amanda Lauricella DMA'21** and **Luis Orozco DMAx'23,** below).

"I think there's room for an interpretation where Zerlina doesn't have the power [to say no] because she's in a lower position," she says.

Meekhof loosely based the Don Giovanni character on the Joker from DC Comics as a way to highlight his villainy.

"I hope my version inspires people to look at other productions and talk about different ways we can interpret opera," she says.

ILA SCHRECKER X'23

HYEWON PARK

A BODILY BARRIER TO LEGAL ABORTION

More than one in five women experience irregular menstrual cycles that could keep them from learning they are pregnant until it's too late to access an abortion under some state laws in effect or under consideration.

Researchers from UW–Madison and the National Institutes of Health analyzed anonymized data on 1.6 million menstrual cycles provided by more than 267,000 adults to a cycle-tracking app. Twenty-two percent of the people in the study had irregular menstrual cycles that differed in length from one cycle to the next by seven or more days.

"For almost everyone, the first symptom of a pregnancy is a missed period," says UW sociology professor **Jenna Nobles** (below), coauthor of the study. "But a large share of the population have long or highly irregular cycles and could not reasonably learn about their pregnancy in time to seek a legal abortion under laws that set limits at detectable fetal cardiac activity or six weeks."

The age group most likely to have cycles of irregular length is 18- to 24-year-olds — also the ages with the highest abortion rates in the United States.

Experts in reproductive health know that variation in menstrual-cycle length is common, according to Nobles, but the new study is remarkable for demonstrating how short the window can be between a missed period and fetal cardiac activity.

CHRIS BARNCARD

DESTINY SCHAEFER

BRYCE RICHTER

A Mighty Feat of Reading

For calendar year 2021, UW student **Kyla Vaughan '22** set a seemingly impossible goal for herself: read 365 books — one per day.

On December 3, she finished book 365.

Then she just kept going. By December 31, she'd read 392 books, an average of 7.5 per week.

"I guess I did it partly for the bragging rights, but also because I believe that reading about other people is the best way to gain empathy," says Vaughan, who graduated in May. "It was a joy to live the lives of so many characters this past year."

Vaughan, a double-major in English and history, attributes her accomplishment to being a naturally fast reader and making reading a priority. She once timed herself and found she could cover 50 pages in about 15 minutes, though she doesn't consider herself a speed reader. (She doesn't skim.)

To make time for reading, she put television, movies, and social media on the backburner. "When people asked me if I saw the latest movie, the answer was always no."

Vaughan worked two customer-service desk jobs on campus, both of which allowed employees to read or do homework during downtime. Her text-heavy majors also helped. She read 30 of the books for classes, although that still left more than 360 *other* books. Most of those came from her favorite genres of fantasy, romance, and science fiction.

Vaughan rated all 392 books on a scale of one to five stars. Her favorite: *As If on Cue*, a young-adult novel by Marisa Kanter.

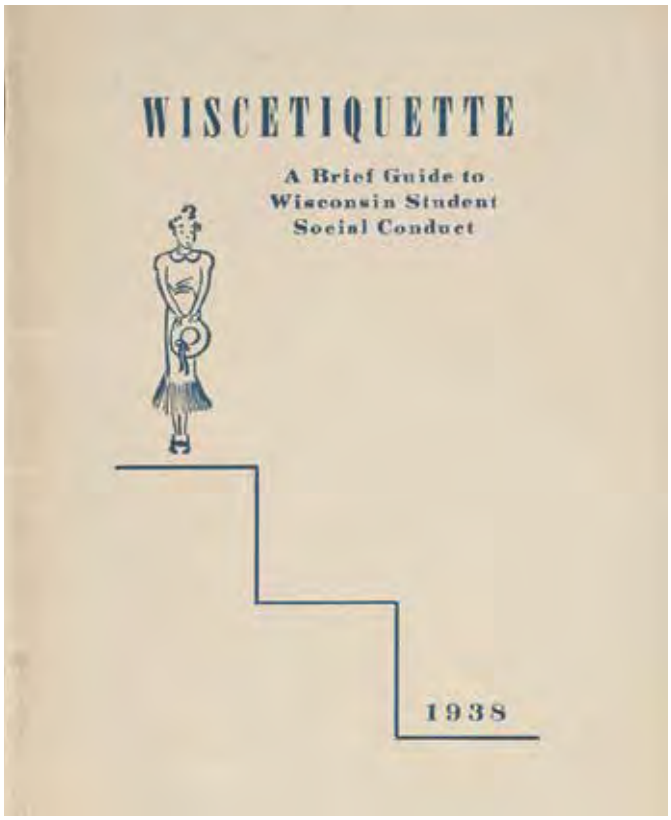
Vaughan's father remembers his daughter setting a class record in first grade for reading the most books in one year — more than 1,000.

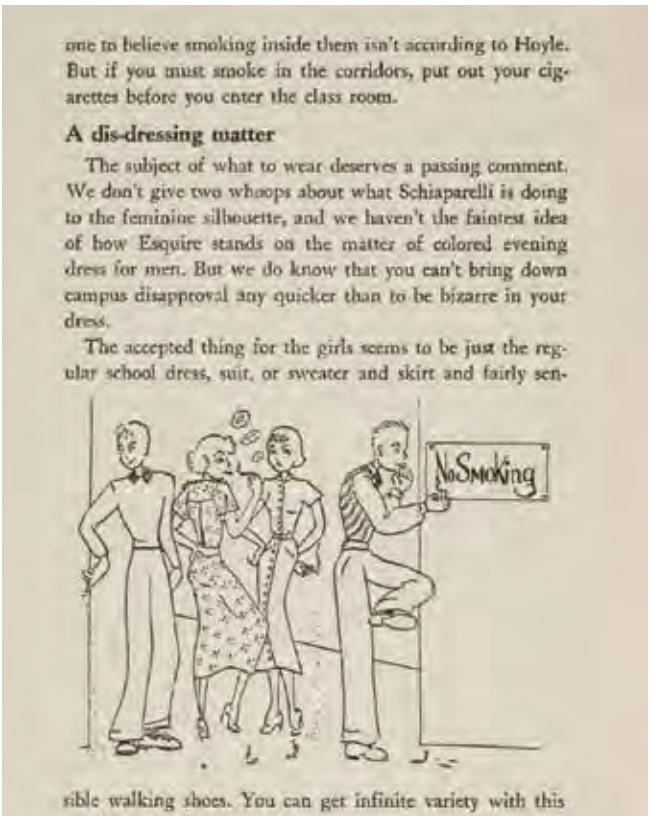
"I think her love of books comes from the fact that her mother read to her while she was still in the womb," says Jim Vaughan, "and we read to her every day while she was very young."

Vaughan's goal for 2022 is a departure.

"I want to read less," she says. "I want to focus more on quality and less on quantity."

DOUG ERICKSON





UW ARCHIVES

Sage Advice

In *Wiscetiquette*, past generations shared tips on UW student life.

Wiscetiquette got its start after a May 1936 issue of the campus humor magazine the *Octopus* published a feature article under the same name. There's no author attached to the original piece or in the series of handbooks that followed, but the *Octopus* lists **Helen Savage '36** as the chair of the *Wiscetiquette* section. She was savage, indeed, in her advice to incoming students. On blind dates, for example, the *Wiscetiquette* team writes: "Should your date turn out to be a first-class baby scarer, don't show that you are afraid of it. Goons often have good connections and quite possibly know the right people."

The board of the Women's Self-Government Association (renamed the Associated Women Students in 1953) clearly enjoyed Savage's work. The group partnered with the Wisconsin Union's Women's Affairs Committee and gained permission from the *Octopus* to reprint the advice in the form of a guidebook for freshmen and transfer students.

No cutting, no cribbing, and no apple-polishing. Translation: show up for class, don't cheat, and don't try to flatter your professors. Some rules stand firm throughout generations. Others don't age quite as well. You will find plenty of both in* Wiscetiquette, *a handbook for new UW students that ran from 1936 to 1959.

The first few issues maintained an *Octopus* sense of humor and gave readers an informal but informative look at classroom etiquette, dating protocol, and campus culture. Later issues became more respectable, albeit a bit boring. In 1959, Wiscetiqueditors traded the dating advice for messages from the deans and introductions to student organizations and honor societies.

The Associated Women Students dropped the *Wiscetiquette* title altogether in the 1960s and instead began sending out a student handbook called *On Wisconsin* — unrelated to the magazine you're currently reading.

If you were to publish *Wiscetiquette* in 2022, dating, drinking, and dress codes on campus would look rather different. Thankfully, women can now ignore the advice to stay out of the Rathskeller or to take their red nail polish off so as not to look garish on Monday morning. Men no longer have to feel pressured to foot every bill or wear a button-up to class every day. The following truism has also since expired: "Like the breath goes with the onion, so the chaperone goes with the party."

Today's students should, however, continue to follow *Wiscetiquette*'s advice on some matters. "Why not practice a little individuality and meet the light of your life somewhere else between classes beside the steps of Bascom Hall? In the first place you haven't any privacy, and then it seems a shame that only those with football experience should be able to get to class on time."

We're sure you never met up at Bascom Hall or cribbed in class, but did you commit another major campus faux pas? If so, we'd love to hear your stories. Post them in the comment section at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

ESTHER SEIDLITZ

The Thomson Timeline

During 30 years at the UW, James Thomson made Madison a hub for stem cell science.

For the last quarter century, UW–Madison has been among the global leaders in stem cell science, and that status is largely due to cell biologist James Thomson. Thomson made waves at the end of the 20th century when he isolated embryonic stem cells, opening new avenues of research and inspiring the imagination of scientists around the globe. In July, Thomson will retire from the UW, where he leaves behind a legacy of discovery.

JOHN ALLEN

DANIELLE LAWRY

1981 — Earns his bachelor's from the University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign (nobody's perfect)

1985 — Earns his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania

1988 — Earns his doctorate in molecular biology from Penn; his dissertation is titled "The Developmental Potential of Androgenones, Gynogenones, and Parthenogenones"

1991 — Begins residency in veterinary pathology at UW–Madison

1995 — Joins staff at the UW's Primate Research Center; publishes "Isolation of a Primate Embryonic Stem Cell Line" in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*

1998 — Publishes "Embryonic Stem Cell Lines Derived from Human Blastocytes" in the journal *Science*; in this research, Thomson becomes the first person to successfully culture human embryonic stem cells

WARF patents Thomson's discovery on December 1

WiCell is established, home to the Wisconsin International Stem Cell Bank

1999 — *Science* names Thomson's stem cell research the Scientific Breakthrough of the Year

The American Academy of Achievement gives Thomson its Golden Plate Award

2001 — On August 9, President George W. Bush delivers a speech that allows federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, but only in 60 stem cell lines.

2002 — *Time* magazine puts Thomson on the cover of its August 20 issue, naming him in an article titled "America's Best in Science and Medicine"

Thomson receives the World Technology Award

2004 — The UW announces that the Morgridge Institute for Research will open on campus; in 2008, Thomson is named the first member of the institute's scientific leadership team and director of the Regenerative Biology Theme

2007 — Both Thomson's lab and a lab at Kyoto University, headed by Shinya Yamanaka, announce the development of induced pluripotent stem cells — stem cells not obtained from embryos

2009 — President Barack Obama lifts restrictions on federal funding for stem cell research

2011 — With Yamanaka, receives the King Faisal Prize for medicine and, with Yamanaka and Elaine Fuchs, the Albany Medical Center Prize

2022 — Thomson gives a valedictory address to the campus community and retires

NASA/DESIREE STOVER

NASA technicians prepare to move the Webb telescope into a clean room prior to launch.

Fold Up the Telescope

When NASA wanted to pack up the world's most powerful telescope for delivery into space, it turned to a Badger. **Wei-Di Cheng '93** helped prepare the James Webb Space Telescope for its launch last Christmas — a journey that would take it about one million miles from Earth.

Webb's revolutionary technology will explore every phase of cosmic history — from within our solar system to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe. Cheng is a stress analyst at Northrop Grumman, and his job included working on the telescope's forward and aft unitized pallet structures, the casing that contains its carefully folded sunshield.

The ultrathin sunshield, about the size of a tennis court, is essential to protect the telescope from the light and heat of the sun, Earth, and moon, allowing Webb's instruments to cool down to the extremely low temperatures necessary to carry out its goals. Maintaining the sunshield's shape as it unfolds into position involves a delicate process. Cheng played a key role in testing the unitized pallet structures to help ensure that the sunshield would successfully deploy in space.

"The unitized pallet structures are roughly three stories tall and made of a very thin and light composite material," Cheng says. "At some points, the structure is about as thin as a few pieces of paper stacked together."

ADAM MALECEK '04

PARTNERING ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

UW–Madison, together with some 34 partners across the region, launched the Midwest Climate Collaborative in January.

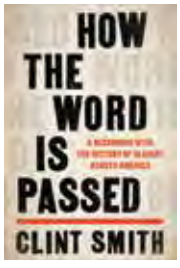
The MCC is a network of organizations committed to accelerating climate action in the Midwest by leveraging science and research, shaping public understanding and policy, advancing climate solutions, and developing leaders. The launch event included a panel discussion on best practices for climate action. Then-undergraduate **Natalie Tinsen '22** and a like-minded student at the University of Minnesota were instrumental in developing a student component of the MCC, which involves annual, virtual conferences to learn about sustainability initiatives at colleges and universities across the country.

"Climate change is a shared crisis that requires shared solutions," says **Chancellor Rebecca Blank,** noting that UW–Madison has an important leadership role to play as a founding member of the MCC. "The Midwest Climate Collaborative will do the vital work of convening leading academic institutions, businesses, and community organizations to create those solutions for the entire region."

NATHAN JANDL MA'10, PHD'16

NEWS FEED

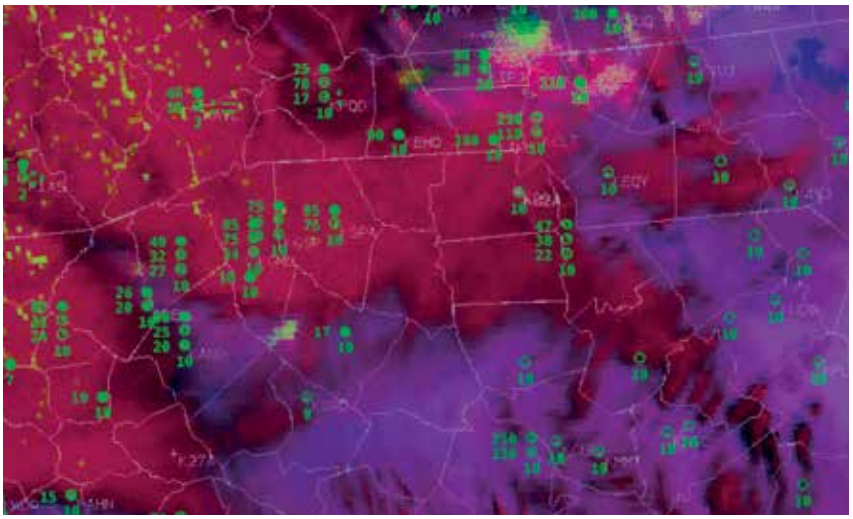
Clint Smith's *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery across America* is the UW's 2022–23 selection for Go Big Read, which engages the campus community in a shared reading experience. The book describes eight sites that illustrate slavery's role in shaping American history.



ALEX HOLLOWAY

A new procedure called "radiofrequency ablation" is working wonders for migraine headaches. Developed at UW Health, it uses heat delivered via electrical stimulation to nerves in the head — and one treatment can bring months of relief.

First-year UW engineering students sprang to the aid of Clyde, a four-year-old black Lab whose hind legs were paralyzed in an accident. In a design practicum course aimed at solving real-world problems, the students created an ingenious wheelchair that allows the pup to walk on his own.



COREY CALVERT

Making Air Travel Safer

If you experience fewer air travel delays in the years ahead, you can thank your alma mater. UW–Madison's Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) collaborated on new software with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), providing a new tool for the National Weather Service to detect fog and low-lying clouds. The software, which took more than 10 years to develop, uses machine-learning techniques with near real-time data from weather satellites to monitor conditions 24/7 and issue potential fog warnings.

Satellite observations have traditionally struggled to determine the size of fog patches, especially when other clouds were present above the fog. Additionally, previous techniques were limited to nighttime use due to interference from reflected sunlight. Unlike thunderstorms that contain larger raindrops and ice crystals, fog is composed of smaller droplets that do not show up on radar.

The new tool, which circumvents those problems, is known as the GOES-R Fog and Low Stratus product. (GOES-R refers to the nation's most advanced fleet of weather satellites.) According to CIMSS scientist **Corey Calvert,** the software "helps identify the type of fog over an area by evaluating every pixel in an image and generating a probability of the presence of fog and its intensity."

The product is saving airlines millions of dollars each year by helping them avoid delays. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, weather was responsible for nearly 70 percent of flight delays from 2008 to 2013. Each hour of delay costs airlines from $1,000 to $4,000 per flight.

The new tool identifies dangerous conditions for both large and small aircraft and can be used to issue warnings around the country, making air travel safer.

ERIC VERBETEN '10, MA'11

"In this mess there is a silver lining, and if we can just see it, recognize it, and begin to nurture and strengthen it, then I think we have a lot to look forward to."

— **Richard Davidson,** director of the UW Center for Healthy Minds, on rededicating ourselves to personal well-being after two years of the pandemic

NEWS FEED

Five former Badgers won Olympic gold and five won silver when Canada beat Team USA for the women's hockey title in Beijing. Scorers included Sarah Nurse '18 for Canada and Hilary Knight '12 (right) for the United States.

UW engineers have created a nanofiber material that outperforms steel plates and Kevlar fabric in protecting against high-speed projectile impacts. It lays the groundwork for improved bulletproof vests and spacecraft shields.

UW professor emerita Gloria Ladson-Billings (left) is the nation's second-most influential scholar in education, says the Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings. The rankings measure a scholar's impact on educational practice and policy.

DAVID STLUKA; JEFF MILLER

An Epidemic of Misinformation

With more than 400 interviews during the COVID pandemic, epidemiologist Ajay Sethi became a thoughtful voice against falsehood and conspiracy.

For more than a decade, **Ajay Sethi** has been on the UW–Madison faculty in the Department of Population Health Sciences, doing the typical work of a professor with a mostly low-profile professional life. He conducted research in Uganda and Wisconsin and taught courses in epidemiology. Following the increasing occurrence of measles outbreaks in the United States, he took an interest in misinformation and conspiracy theories. He developed a course called Conspiracies in Public Health, aiming to help practitioners have conversations with clients and the community about hot-button health topics. During the pandemic, Sethi was in demand as an expert — he gave more than 400 interviews in 2020 and 2021. His low-profile days are over.

What's it like to be featured so often in the news?
It definitely has changed how I spend my time. It certainly has made me feel like I'm part of an enterprise at the university, trying to help the public navigate the pandemic. It gives me a sense of purpose, and that's always an important thing for anybody to have — when you wake up in the morning, to feel like what you're doing may make a difference. But I also understand that every interview or every engagement with the community is just a tiny little drop in the bucket.

A lot of scientists became media figures. What mistakes have they made?
I'm sometimes a little dismayed when people who are part of the pandemic response are finding fault in what the Centers for Disease Control is doing. While I understand that there should be healthy debate in thinking about risk communication and how we help society navigate this, I think public arguments and finger-pointing by credentialed people only erode trust further. We should just remember that people at the CDC, people in our local health departments, are human beings just like us.

Why do you focus on misinformation?
I've always incorporated some element of behavioral science in most of my research — just thinking about what types of behaviors may promote the spread of infectious diseases and what kind of behaviors can prevent their becoming a burden to ourselves and to society. I don't find that a lack of knowledge is preventing us from managing COVID-19. Really, it's the division that we have in society that prevents us collectively from moving on. When we have that, it just generates a lot of resistance toward things that are quite normal.

What have you taken away from your public experience?
It's been a privilege to be asked to contribute to news stories and to represent the university. I'm not out in the community as much as some people are, but when I do get those opportunities, I try my best.

Interview by John Allen
Photo by Althea Dotzour

Sethi's on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). In May 2022, SMPH and UW Health, who have partnered for more than 100 years, launched the Wisconsin Medicine campaign to raise funds in support of research, education, patient care, and health equity. Learn more at wisc-medicine.org.

BRYCE RICHTER

Seeds from Africa

A new sculpture connects agriculture on two continents.

In her corner of the Chazen Museum of Art's Mead Witter Lobby, Mary Sibande's *Sower in the Field* is in constant conversation with light. The sculpture — a figure based on a body cast of the artist — wears a cascading dress and cradles an apron of seeds. At eye-level, the contours of the clothing catch the daylight from the wall of windows along East Campus Mall. When viewed from above, shadows spill from her skirt's hem and ebb and flow with the movement of the sun throughout the day. At night, passersby can admire the work's quiet, commanding presence backlit against the museum's lobby.

The bronze piece is a rare departure from Sibande's usual mixed-media approach but still bears hallmarks of her work, which interrogates intersections of race, gender, and labor in South Africa. The sculpture was cast for the Chazen at a foundry in South Africa and traveled by cargo ship, train, and truck to reach Madison. After its long journey, its message is right at home on the UW campus.

"For a land-grant university, we thought this was a really interesting dialogue: a woman who's planting something, birth and rebirth, agriculture," says **Katherine Alcauskas,** chief curator at the Chazen. "We have a lot of works by **John Steuart Curry** and other regionalists, and we have a lot of similar images of farmers in fields, so we thought this would be a counterpart [to inspire] students to think about planting, about regionalism, and about the role of crops in the Midwest and in Africa."

Mary Sibande's* Sower in the Field *graces the Chazen Museum's lobby. The Sara Guyer and Scott Straus Contemporary African Art Initiative brought 34 new works by 18 artists from 14 African countries to the Chazen's permanent collection.

Sower is the latest acquisition under the **Sara Guyer** and **Scott Straus** Contemporary African Art Initiative (CAAI), made possible by the Straus Family Foundation. The curatorial endeavor was funded thanks to former UW professors Sara Guyer and Scott Straus to celebrate the diversity of contemporary African art at a campus with a long history in African studies.

"Sara and I found incredible beauty, excitement, energy, and creativity in contemporary African art," Straus says. "Part of the impetus was wanting to bring it to a larger audience in the United States and to support African artists."

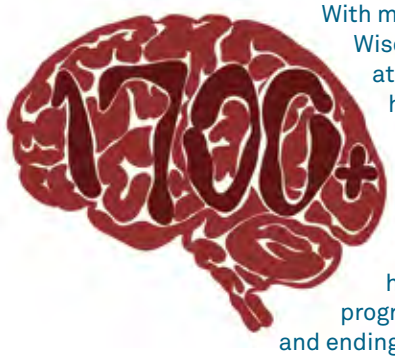
After an exhibition of CAAI works in fall 2023, the show will likely travel, sending *Sower* on another, albeit shorter, journey.

MEGAN PROVOST '20

BRYCE RICHTER

Light a Candle for Ukraine

On March 31, the UW–Madison community gathered on Library Mall to hold a vigil for peace in Ukraine. The event was presented by the UW Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia and the Associated Students of Madison, which passed a resolution condemning the Russian invasion and calling for a "democratic, peaceful solution." Amen.



DANIELLE LAWRY

With more than 1,700 research participants, the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention at UW–Madison is now the largest family-history study of Alzheimer's disease in the world. And with 20 years of data, it's also among the longest running. Every two years, participants take part in memory testing, blood draws, and interviews, enabling scientists to learn more about how Alzheimer's begins. "We are making real progress toward a future of delaying, preventing, and ending Alzheimer's disease," says **Sterling Johnson,** associate director of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute.

THE NEWS FROM VENUS

Is there life on Venus? For more than a century, scientists have pondered this question. Now, there is renewed interest in Venus as a place that could support living organisms.

"We are trying to make the case for exploring Venus and to inspire future missions to collect data with satellites," says **Sanjay Limaye PhD'77,** a scientist at the UW Space Science and Engineering Center who has been researching the planet for more than 45 years.

In a recent series of articles, Limaye explores the possibility that Venus supports microbial life, such as bacteria and other organisms.

The planet's massive atmosphere of mostly carbon dioxide makes it a place of extremes, with scorching temperatures, intense winds, and volcanic activity. But its thick global cloud cover may present gentler conditions for some microbial life forms due to the availability of sunlight, nutrients, and some water.

"When life began on Earth, the conditions on Venus were likely similar," says Limaye. "Some modeling suggests water could have existed for 1 billion to 3 billion years."

The next decade will see seven missions to explore Venus and uncover its atmospheric and surface mysteries. Limaye is hopeful that the missions will answer questions about a planet long considered hostile to life.

ERIC VERBETEN '10, MA'11

NEWS FEED

How awesome was the UW men's basketball season? Here's a clue: Johnny Davis x'24 (right) was chosen Big Ten Player of the Year, and Greg Gard was Big Ten Coach of the Year.

DAVID STLUKA / UW ATHLETICS; JEFF MILLER

Can virtual reality improve emotional regulation in children? UW researchers are testing a 3D underwater game in which players progress by practicing deep breathing via a chest-monitoring strap.

The UW has secured funding for a state-of-the-art shelving facility that will provide the space and environmental controls for preserving its invaluable library collections. Relocating materials will also free up room for more modern teaching, learning, and research spaces on campus.

"Doing It the Right Way"

Athletic Director Chris McIntosh '04, MS'19 upholds UW values in a turbulent time for college sports.

The landscape of college athletics looks a lot different today than it did when **Chris McIntosh '04, MS'19** took over as the UW's athletic director last July. On his start date, the NCAA adopted a new policy allowing college athletes to profit from their use of name, image, and likeness. A week before, the Supreme Court had ruled against limiting education-related benefits for student-athletes. And soon after, new COVID-19 strains threatened to disrupt the fall sports slate.

Fortunately, the former Badger football star and native of Pewaukee, Wisconsin, seems up to the task. Measured and even-keeled, McIntosh isn't fazed by change. He welcomes it.

"I'm really proud of the way our staff and our administration have worked through this change," says McIntosh, who returned to the UW in 2014 after a successful business career and quickly rose through the administrative ranks. "I'm even more proud of the way our student-athletes have dealt with it. They're the ones who are the most inspiring out of this."

What has been your approach to dealing with all the uncertainties?
Our focus is to embrace the change. Don't resist it. Advocate for what we think is most important, which is education. And then seek opportunity to enhance our program in ways that we couldn't have prior to this change.

McIntosh isn't fazed by change. He welcomes it.

The graduation rate of student-athletes is more than 90 percent. What is the department doing to maintain that level of academic success?

We talk about coming to the University of Wisconsin as a 40-year decision, not a four-year decision. The experience that our student-athletes have here within their sport and within the classroom are two major components of it. But then there's this other dimension, which is the human being. And we've got an incredible team of people who help position our student-athletes to be successful in the long game, in their lives and in their careers.

Last year was a difficult one for men's basketball coach Greg Gard, culminating in a leaked locker room recording of senior players criticizing him. You stuck by him in the aftermath. Why was that the right decision?

I've been on some successful teams that have had difficult conversations throughout the year. I think it's a healthy thing when players feel comfortable having real conversations. Those are closed-door meetings, meant for the team and for the coaches. It was an incredible breach of trust that those conversations were shared. And I thought it was important to support Coach Gard through that. He's done a great job turning that experience into something that has helped this team achieve their success.

In December, the women's volleyball team won its first NCAA title. How did you feel watching that five-set championship match?

My short answer is that it was torture. I'm kidding, obviously, but there were very few moments of those games that were comfortable. And that's because it was competition at its highest. It was everything you could have asked for in a volleyball match. I was so happy for the players and for the coaches and for our staff. There have been so many sacrifices made, so many decisions over the course of years and years that have led to the culmination in winning a national championship. And I was just moved to be there and to witness the joy they experienced.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Title IX legislation. What do you see as its lasting impact on college athletics?

It would have been impossible for me, a long time ago as a student-athlete, to appreciate the impact of Title IX. It's not impossible for me now as a father of three, including two daughters. My oldest is going to go play college volleyball next year [at Colorado State]. My youngest daughter, who's a sophomore, aspires to do so. And my wife, **Deann ['99],** was an athlete here in our rowing program. So it's personal to me. I've talked a lot about what access to a world-class education did in terms of developing me as a person and what it meant for the trajectory of my life. And Title IX has made that opportunity available to tens of thousands of women athletes here who are just as deserving.

In your introductory press conference, Chancellor Rebecca Blank talked about the Wisconsin way and the charge to maintain that culture here. How do you define that phrase?

In its simplest form, it's about being successful in the classroom and competitive in our sport programs. And it's as much about doing it the right way. That means doing it with integrity as an extension of this university. It's shepherding a program that has been here for a long time before I came along and will be here for a long time after I'm done.

Did you receive any advice from former Athletic Director Barry Alvarez that sticks with you today?

Barry has always been there for me, in different ways, in different roles. All I have to do is pick up the phone and give him a call. The first question that Barry would always ask in every decision is, "What's best for the kids?" And I don't think that asking that question will ever serve us wrong.

PRESTON SCHMITT '14
PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

For the full interview with Chris McIntosh, visit our website at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

UW SECRETS, MYSTERIES & HIDDEN PLACES

Join us on a tour of secluded spots that few have ever seen.

BY PRESTON SCHMITT '14

PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER

I often consult the alumni magazine's archives as I research UW–Madison's 174-year history. A while back, I glanced at the first cover published in October 1899 and was struck by the image of Bascom Hall with an unfamiliar dome. Investigating further, I learned that the dome burned down in 1916 and that charred timber can still be seen in the building's attic.

It made me wonder about other secret spots on campus, whether remnants of past glory or hidden inner workings. Would there be any way to visit them?

It turns out there is, with special permission (and a lot of keys). So over the course of two months, photographer Bryce Richter and I criss-crossed campus to uncover the stuff of UW legend. Few people have seen these fascinating locations and artifacts — until now. Join us on an exclusive tour of the UW's hidden places.

Three and a half miles of walkable tunnels snake under campus, some built in the 1890s.

The Charred Attic

At 10:15 a.m. on October 10, 1916, a chorus of fire alarms sounded inside Bascom Hall. It's unclear how the fire started, though early speculation faulted a cigarette butt. Regardless, by 11 a.m., flames were shooting out of the building's ornate dome as onlookers crowded Bascom Hill. Sections of the dome started to crumble in the blaze.

Instructor Oscar Roeseler 1915, MS1916, watching from the Chemistry Building, wrote to his father that "a great sheet of flame shot through the top part of the dome. [It] seemed to lean a little, and then it collapsed, everything disappearing."

Firefighters and volunteers confined the fire to the collapsed dome and the roof of the fourth floor before extinguishing it. The university erected a temporary roof and planned to ask the legislature to appropriate funds to reconstruct Bascom Hall's crown. But the United States' involvement in World War I delayed most construction efforts on campus. By 1921, reports on the project had petered out. A 1930s alumni magazine story stated that "the main structure would no longer support the erection of a heavy addition." The dome was never replaced.

We wanted to see the charred timber that remains in Bascom Hall's unfinished attic. You can locate this room from the outside — look for the small oval window on the front of Bascom's portico.

Building manager Lisa Walters '88 leads us to the fourth floor and a locked door clad with insulation. The wind rustles the creaky rafters as we enter the attic. It's largely empty, save for some empty shelving, moisture-damaged paperwork, spare lumber, and an abandoned Reebok sneaker. The oval window, framed by student graffiti, affords a singular view of State Street. As we glance up, we see blackened rafters and beams that trace how far the 1916 fire reached.

Legend has it that the fire was finally defeated when the eight-ton dome collapsed into a large cistern beneath it. While that water tank did exist, I couldn't find any contemporary newspaper accounts that confirm such a serendipitous event. The alumni magazine did report that hundreds of students provided "invaluable service in fighting the fire from the roof."

UW ARCHIVES S02410

Blackened rafters and beams in Bascom Hall's attic trace how far the 1916 fire reached.

A Subterranean Network

"Our forefathers who designed this were geniuses from a heating and cooling distribution standpoint," says Edward Corcoran, steamfitter supervisor for the UW's Physical Plant. And for him, *forefathers* is literal — his father, Kevin, held the same job. Who better to guide us around campus's subterranean system of steam tunnels?

In the late 1890s, the university constructed the first underground tunnels with pipes carrying steam from central heating stations to campus buildings. With the addition of chilled water pipes to provide air conditioning, the tunnel system remains a far more efficient and economical way to heat and cool a sprawling campus compared to installing individual HVAC systems in every building.

Corcoran brings us down to the basement of the Agricultural Bulletin Building, constructed on Observatory Drive in 1899 as the central heating plant for west campus. Down here, we can explore two of the three remaining original brick-lined tunnels.

Before we enter them, we notice a massive black boiler. At the bottom of this relic are heavy steel doors where soot-covered workers once shoveled in coal by the thousands of tons to keep the campus warm. (Today, the steam system is powered by cleaner natural gas.) We then climb a ship ladder to a six-foot-high arched passage heading toward King Hall. When I touch one of the tan bricks, it releases a plume of salt.

You can hear hisses of steam and the flow of running water in the UW's tunnels.

We hear the hisses of steam and the flow of running water as we navigate through the dark, damp, narrow tunnel. A few cockroaches scatter. Although the pipes are wrapped in four inches of insulation, it's far warmer down here than it is outside. The ambient air temperature of the tunnels can rise as high as 130 degrees, Corcoran says. We reach a diminutive door at the end of the passage, and I can't help but marvel at the artful brick arch framing it. I see more craftsman pride down here than in many new homes.

Most of the other brick-lined tunnels have been filled in and replaced with newer concrete tunnels or smaller box conduits. The route has become more efficient, but there are still three and a half miles of walkable tunnels snaking under campus. We head over to a new segment by the Gordon Dining and Event Center that stretches to Langdon Street. By comparison, the new tunnels are remarkably clean, bright, and spacious — not that you should go exploring unsupervised. The tunnels can be extremely dangerous (the steam travels at 425 degrees and 175 pounds per square inch in gauge pressure), and entering the locked passageways is a trespassing violation. We hope our photos satisfy your curiosity.

JACKI WHISENANT (3)

Where Beetles Feast

Perhaps you've heard a rumor that six feet beneath Bascom Hill lies a climate-controlled chamber crawling with a colony of flesh-eating beetles.

That's actually more fact than fable. The only objection you'll hear from the keepers of this crypt is the descriptor *flesh-eating*. These tiny dermestid beetles can't penetrate human skin. "They only like dried jerky," says graduate researcher Jacki Whisenant '11, MSx'22. But their appetite for residual meat makes them the perfect helpers for the UW Zoological Museum.

The museum keeps a catalogued collection of more than 500,000 animal specimens spanning the size chart from mussel shells to hippo skulls. Most of the specimens — including extinct species such as the passenger pigeon — are painstakingly preserved with skin or fur intact. But for research and teaching needs, some of them have to be reduced to the bones. And that's where the beetles come in handy.

The beetles' home is called the Dermestarium. Its unmarked exterior entrance is near Birge Hall's Botany Greenhouse. "You wouldn't notice it unless you were looking for it," says museum associate director Laura Monahan '02.

A dark hallway leads to a 300-square-foot arched brick room, where four stainless steel tanks hold the beetles feasting on the animal carcass of the day. They can reach and clean the deepest crevices of bone, finishing their dinner in a few days or weeks, depending on the size of the specimen. Other methods for precise cleaning, such as chemical maceration or boiling, risk damaging the bone.

Originally, the Dermestarium space was a magnetic observatory. The university built it in 1876 for $1,200 to conduct research for the U.S. Coast Survey. It was concealed underground and constructed with two feet of dead-air space around it to control temperature for accurate measurements of Earth's magnetic field. The space was later repurposed for cheese curing and oil storage and as a potato cellar before the zoology department acquired it in 1950.

It's become a perfect home for the picky beetles, which need steady warmth and humidity to survive. The museum staff members speak of them as if they were family — or roommates, as is currently the case for Dianna Krejsa. Nearby construction has temporarily blocked access to the Dermestarium, so the museum curator brought the beetles home.

"They're on my sunporch with my plants," she says, "with a humidifier and heater to try to keep them happy."

In an underground space built in 1876, tiny dermestid beetles clean specimens for the UW Zoological Museum.

UW ARCHIVES S11727

Remnants from the anatomy department's past experiments occasionally turn up in Science Hall's eerie attic.

The Anatomical Attic

In August 1974, graduate students in the geography department were cleaning out a room in Science Hall when they noticed a trap door to the building's attic. Trained to be curious, they popped their heads through the opening and saw what they initially thought was a dead chicken. It turned out to be an embalmed human foot.

"[We] thought it was gross and ugly but were not horrified," Jon Kimerling MS'73, PhD'76 told the *Cap Times*.

What the steely students had stumbled upon was research material from the attic's old tenant: the anatomy department, which had moved out of the building in the mid-1950s but apparently left behind a few souvenirs. (A set of leg bones was also discovered in the '70s and '80s.) These stories, along with Science Hall's undeniably spooky Romanesque Revival façade, have made the building a source of intrigue for paranormal enthusiasts.

We don't count ourselves among the ghost-hunting ranks, but we did want to explore the eerie north-wing attic that welcomed the anatomy department around the turn of the 20th century. Building manager Jay Scholz takes us up to the fifth floor via Science Hall's antique gold elevator, unlocks a couple of doors, and shows us the deserted space.

After the original burned down, the new Science Hall was one of the first buildings in the world constructed largely of masonry and structural steel in 1888. Up here, we can see how the workers crudely cut the Carnegie metal before acetylene torches were available — by drilling a row of jagged holes and bending the beams until they snapped.

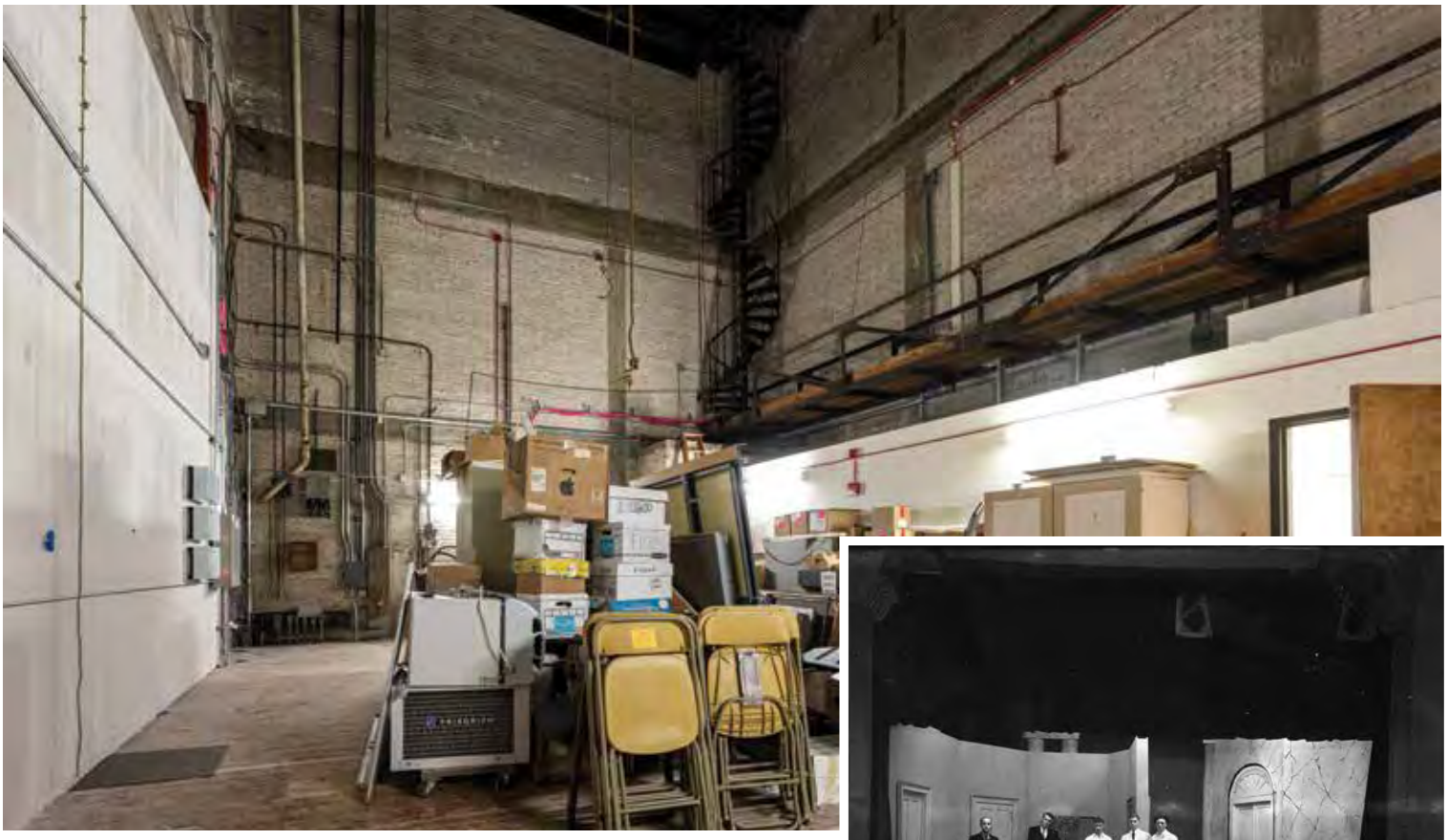
No one is sure what this space was originally used for. The anatomy department's dissection labs were on the fourth floor, with a winch that delivered cadavers up from the basement. According to Howard Veregin, the Wisconsin state cartographer, the most famous cadaver to come through Science Hall was that of Julian Carlton, who in 1914 murdered the companion of Frank Lloyd Wright x1890 and several others in the famed architect's home.

A 1926 alumni magazine article offers some clues to the attic mystery, profiling Professor Arthur Loevenhart's pharmacology lab, which studied neurosyphilis.

"An unused attic in the very top of the tower of Science Hall has been converted to one of the most attractive laboratories of its kind in the country," it reported. "Here, a number of strains of trypanosomes ... are maintained, as well as a large number of animals infected with syphilis."

We do find signs of past research activity in the attic. Three rooms contain deteriorating lab benches with old, disconnected gas lines running to them and nearby sink fixtures. I see a storage cubby with the label "Dick Bunge" attached to it. A Google search reveals Richard Bunge '54, MS'56, MD'60 studied anatomy at the UW and became a renowned professor at the University of Miami.

But much of the mystery of this space remains.



WISC. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Bascom Hall storage area was once part of the university's first theater, built in 1927 as "the finest college playhouse in the Middle West."

A Theater Hidden in Plain Sight

If you've ever sat for a lecture in Bascom Hall's Room 272 — as Rodney Dangerfield did for a literature class in the movie *Back to School* — you've been to the Bascom Hall Theater. If you didn't realize it, you're not alone: the theater's curtains have been closed for more than 80 years.

On May 18, 1927, the Bascom Hall Theater opened with a production of *Outward Bound* under the direction of speech professor William Troutman. Recognizing that the UW was lacking the theatrical equipment and space to host dramatic productions, the Board of Regents approved construction of a 414-seat theater with a two-story auditorium in the building's newer west wing.

The UW's alumni magazine called it "the finest college playhouse in the Middle West." Troutman had even larger ambitions for the theater, labeling it "a center for the theater movement in Wisconsin" that will "endeavor to encourage new playwrights not only at the university, but throughout the state." Students Don Ameche x'31 and Bernardine Flynn '29 performed at the venue. (During renovations in 2020, workers uncovered graffiti with the future stars' names.)

But by 1937, the alumni magazine was already lamenting the "inadequacy" of the theater. The much larger Memorial Union Theater opened in 1939, effectively decommissioning Bascom Hall as an arts venue. Despite a brief reopening in the late 1940s, the theater space transitioned to a full-time lecture hall.

Today, the biggest hint of the space's history is the intricate proscenium arch that frames the lecture stage. It's grander than you'd expect in an ordinary classroom.

But we wanted to see behind the scenes — literally.

Walters leads us to the back of Bascom Hall, through a locked and unlabeled door, to the theater's original backstage area and fly loft. What's now an oversized storage closet was once the command room for the university's first theater.

Immediately, we notice the black spiral staircase leading to catwalks by the ceiling. Around the room's brick-lined perimeter, original mechanicals are scattered among new wirings and 1980s fraternity graffiti. A slab of drywall permanently covers the area where the curtain once rose and fell.

I try to envision the earliest days here, with young stagehands frantically pulling off the university's first major productions.

"The theater is literally being flooded with hundreds who want to act, scores who want to shift scenery, dozens who want to work props, design costumes, and paint settings," Troutman wrote proudly in 1928.

And so they coined the theater's slogan: "Dramatics for all."

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Concealed Glass Dome

When Memorial Union opened its doors in fall 1928, visitors who entered Great Hall were treated to a churchly view. Suspended 25 feet above the room, a massive Tiffany glass dome sparkled with sunlight. "[The] dominating oval space in the ceiling is made of cathedral hammered glass and illuminated by a skylight above," the UW's alumni magazine wrote at the time.

But few visitors alive today have ever seen this work of art. The skylights leaked like a sieve, rendering the dome an instant liability. In the late 1940s, Wisconsin Union staff decided to seal the skylights, plaster under the dome, and remove its glass. If you know where to look in Great Hall today, copper detailing on the ceiling traces the dome's outline. What's left of the actual dome has been concealed from public view for nearly 75 years.

So we asked for a look above the ceiling.

"We don't do a lot of tours up here," says Paul Broadhead, the Wisconsin Union's assistant director for facilities management. He leads us to the fifth floor, through the Marketing and Graphics Office and a thick, locked door. This surprisingly spacious attic is where Memorial Union's mechanicals are housed. Climbing down a couple ship ladders, we reach a small metal door. Behind it lies the dome's 400-square-foot metal frame.

A 400-square-foot metal frame in the Memorial Union attic is all that remains of Great Hall's beautiful (though leaky) Tiffany glass dome.

The scale is still impressive, despite the structure's dusty, rusted, and naked appearance. A small oval pattern lines the outer ring, helping us imagine the intricate glasswork that once made the dome shine. The original swinging doors for the skylights remain, though the opening is covered with plywood and roofed over. A couple sheets of plastic are draped over the dome, offering evidence of past leaks.

"What it's really become is a structural support element for the plastered ceiling below," Broadhead says.

There have been unsuccessful efforts in recent years to raise private funds to restore the dome, with estimates as high as $500,000. The most realistic and cost-effective approach, Broadhead says, would be creating an homage to the dome below the existing ceiling rather than attempting to reuse the original frame.

"I don't think there are very many people left who remember it," he adds. "The folks who are nostalgic are those who have heard stories about it."

Madison's Lost City

Deep in the woods of UW–Madison's Arboretum lies the hidden history of a utopian subdivision gone wrong, doomed by human greed and swallowed up by Mother Nature. Before its remains became known as the Lost City, the planned community was called Lake Forest — "the greatest piece of work of its kind that has ever been undertaken in Wisconsin," according to a 1920 *Lake Forester* promotional newsletter.

Developers Chandler Chapman and Leonard Gay indeed had a grand vision for the 840-acre Lake Forest tract off the southern shore of Lake Wingra. After years of intensive dredging to build up marshland into residential habitat, they sought to create a new type of living community — a "Venice of the North" where urban housing would coexist with spacious parks and playgrounds, spring-fed lagoons, streetcar service, a golf course, and a civic center encircled by businesses. Between 1918 and 1921, the Lake Forest Company poured roadways and constructed single-family homes.

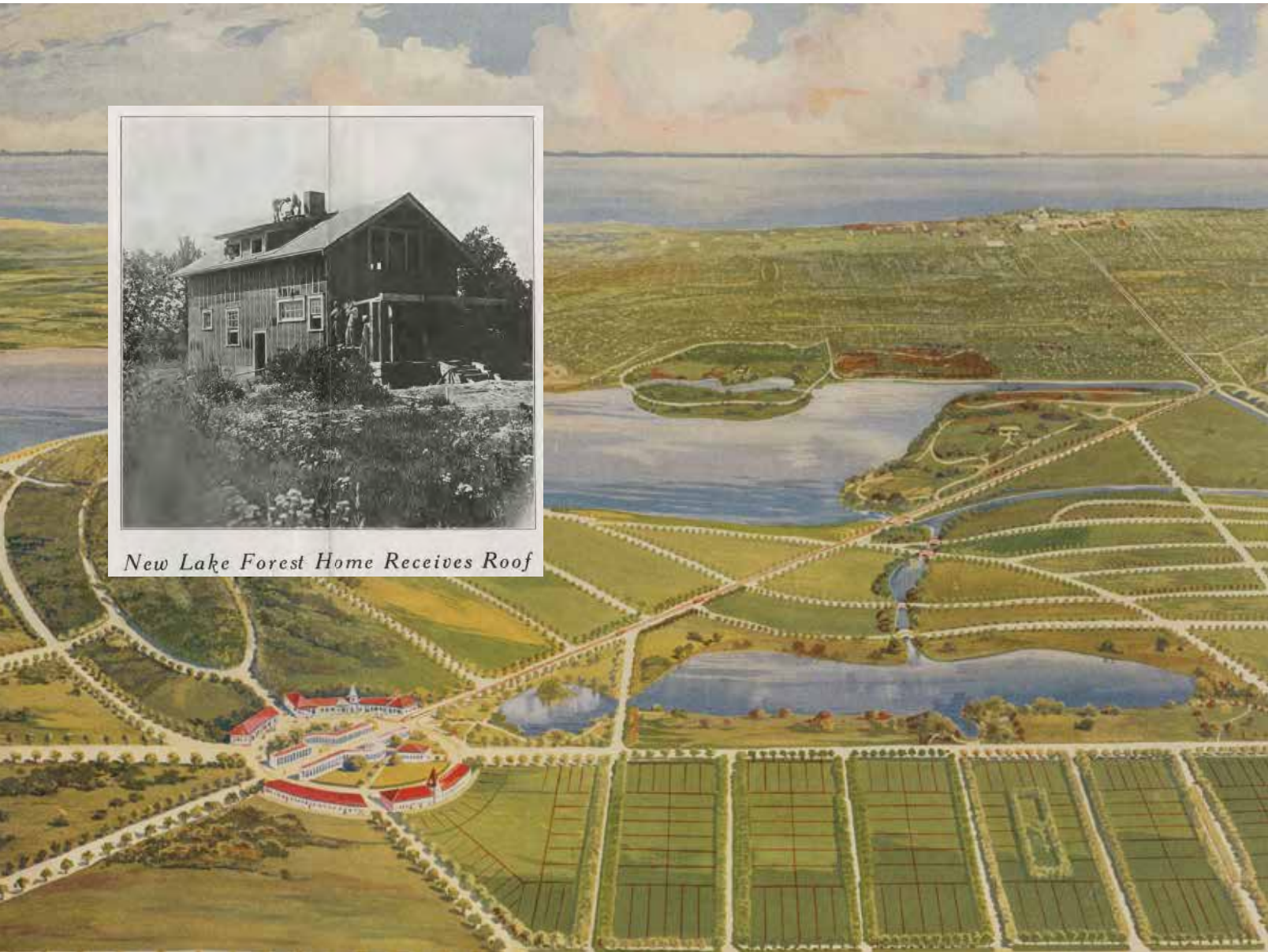
A utopian subdivision gone wrong has been swallowed up by the Arboretum's woods. The house below is survived by the crumbling steps at right.

But today, all that remains of that 1,000-lot planned paradise are some streets, seven still-occupied houses (many of them between Carver and Martin Streets), a brick pump station, and two large craters in the ground of the Lost City Forest.

Consumed by wilderness, the crumbling foundations within the Arboretum are well off trail and extremely hard to find. To protect habitat, the Arboretum offers only one guided tour each year around Halloween. Naturalist educator Kathy Miner '76, MA'04 took us on an exclusive visit.

Why did the Lake Forest development fail so spectacularly? First, the terrain proved untamable, with concrete roads and foundations sinking into swampy soil. Second, World War I caused a shortage of workers and a rise in the cost of building materials, slowing construction projects. And third, the Madison Bond Company, which underwrote the whole development, defaulted after its president was convicted of mail fraud. By 1922, the development had effectively died.

Our journey to the Lost City begins on Martin



Street, which extends into a public trail of the Arboretum. The concrete path, once a boulevard, is a relic of Lake Forest. Eventually, we head off trail, fight through dense thicket, and reach the concrete remains of Capitol Avenue. Now almost entirely covered with leaves and dirt but evident from its raised grading, this was to be the main diagonal roadway that led to the civic center circle and pointed straight to the state capitol.

We follow Capitol Avenue, avoiding branches and stepping over stumps, when a surprisingly square object emerges from nature. Miner climbs on top.

"I am standing on the front steps of the house that once stood at lot 14 Capitol Avenue, Lake Forest," she announces.

Behind the moss-covered concrete steps is a massive hole with remnants of the home's poured-concrete foundation and a matching set of back steps. A July 15, 1921, article in the *Lake Forester* noted of this once-standing abode: "The porches are of concrete; the house is roomy though compact; and the workmanship is excellent throughout."

See this article on our website, onwisconsin.uwalumni.com, for a video, additional photos, and more hidden places.

Following Capitol Avenue, we reach another set of front steps. This one is sinking unevenly, and behind it are a scattering of cinderblocks and a large, mysterious metal pipe sticking up from the ground. After Lake Forest collapsed around it, this house's isolated locale made it a perfect speakeasy during Prohibition until it burned down in 1928.

The UW acquired large portions of the Lake Forest area between the 1930s and the 1960s after "untangling knotty legal problems," the alumni magazine reported in 1967.

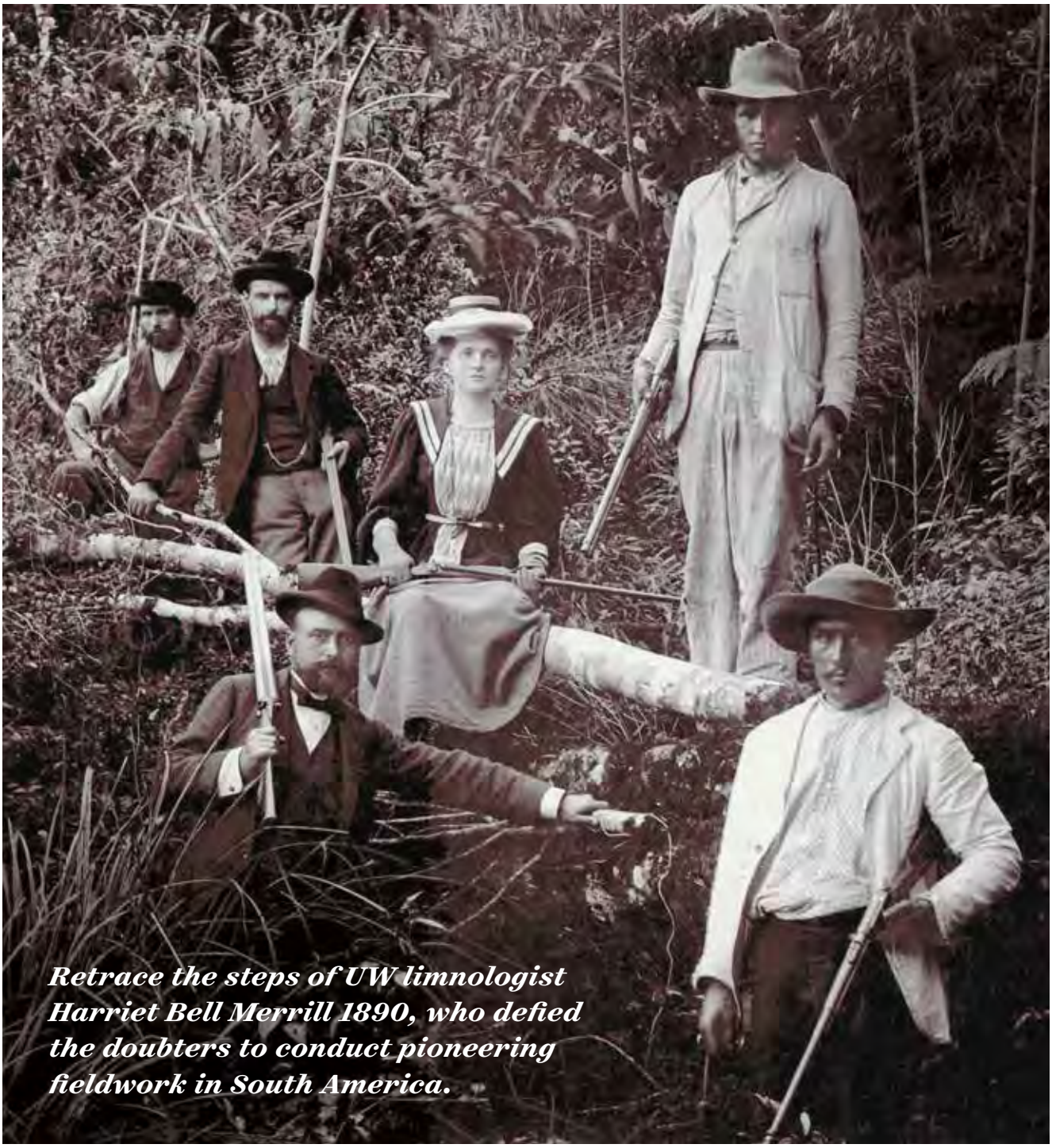
An initiative kicked off last November to restore the Lost City Forest — now overrun with invasive shrubs like buckthorn and honeysuckle — to its original oak savanna landscape. According to land care manager Michael Hansen, you could practically see through the forest until the 1950s. But clearing the whole area could take decades, so rest assured that the Lost City will remain lost for a while longer. ●

Preston Schmitt '14 is a senior writer for On Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR HISTORY

BY SANDRA KNISELY BARNIDGE '09, MA'13



COURTESY OF LYNN CASPER

Retrace the steps of UW limnologist Harriet Bell Merrill 1890, who defied the doubters to conduct pioneering fieldwork in South America.

In July 1902, the weary passengers of the cockroach-infested S.S. *Byron* were eager to depart the filthy cargo liner as it approached the Brazilian coastline. But a yellow flag was hoisted at the intended port, signaling the presence of bubonic plague.

"I feel more foolhardy than brave at this point," wrote Harriet Bell Merrill 1890, who endured the *Byron* in order to collect insects, tiny animals, and plants from South American lakes and rivers. "Wherever I land, the threat of cholera, malaria, and the plague are prevalent."

Despite her private worries, Merrill pulled up her bootstraps — literally — when the ship eventually came ashore. She wore a heavy pair of men's Oxford boots that drew stares from both locals and fellow travelers, and for the next year, those boots carried Merrill almost 2,000 miles through remote parts of Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. She collected hundreds of plant and animal specimens along the way, many of them previously unknown to science, as well as cultural objects for the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Merrill was almost certainly the first professionally trained limnologist to conduct fieldwork in Brazil — and probably everywhere she traveled.

Matthew Berigan '83, an independent historian now living in Brazil, stumbled upon Merrill's name while searching for the papers of another UW–trained limnologist, Stillman Wright PhD'28, who conducted the first large-scale survey of northeastern Brazil. It's likely Merrill's notes and connections helped to pave the way for Wright's work, and Berigan hopes that revitalizing the memory of these two scientists will inspire the next generation in both Wisconsin and South America.

"The legacy of inspired curiosity comes from people like Merrill and Wright dedicated to searching out what makes our world tick," he says.

Known to friends as "Hattie Bell," Merrill was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in 1863. She grew up exploring the Wisconsin River with her brothers and collected insects, rocks, and plants to study under her microscope. Her childhood passion inspired Merrill to become a high school science teacher in Milwaukee, and later to complete a bachelor's degree at the UW and a master's at the University of Chicago. After publishing a monograph on *Daphnia,* a genus of water fleas that filter particles out of lake water, Merrill was invited to become an assistant professor in the burgeoning limnology department at the UW. Founding department chair Edward Birge, later UW–Madison president, became a close mentor and was supportive of Merrill's long-held dream to conduct fieldwork abroad.

Birge's encouragement was a crucial counterweight to the many friends and family who tried to dissuade Merrill from traveling. One brother called her plans irresponsible and told her, "It is entirely out of the question for a petite little woman to hazard such a rigorous venture on her own." Another brother begged her to postpone the trip until it was convenient for him to accompany her as a chaperone.

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Facing page: Merrill (also shown at left) and her party posed for a photo on a tributary to the Amazon River during a trek in July 1902.

Merrill ignored them both. "In spite of all the deterrents, I am ready to roll to Rio," she wrote shortly before her departure.

She proved to be a hardy traveler, even in the roughest of conditions. Fellow expats advised her to "steep herself in whiskey" to fend off yellow fever. During her nights in the field, Merrill was harassed by giant praying mantises, surrounded by caimans, and besieged by fire ants. She trekked for miles on horseback — and by Oxford boot — to reach Iguazú Falls, becoming one of the first Western women to ever behold the monumental waterfalls.

In 1907, Merrill returned to Brazil for another expedition through Venezuela, Trinidad, British Guiana, and Curaçao. "I keep hunting for the 'unseen' through the rain forests and waterways," she wrote to Birge. "One cannot help but witness the coexistence of beauty with despair in the ecological struggle of procreation in this environment."

After her second trip, Merrill left the UW to pursue a doctorate at the University of Illinois, but during her studies, a genetic heart condition worsened rapidly. Merrill died in 1915 at age 52. Her letters and field notes were preserved by relatives and colleagues, and her grandniece, the late Merrillyn Hartridge, eventually compiled and donated them to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

"Harriet was a persistent, independent woman, afraid of no potential dangers in any country," wrote Hartridge in her biography of Merrill. "She died with her boots on." ●

Sandra Knisely Barnidge '09, MA'13 is a freelance writer currently based in Alabama.

The Science behind a Smile

UW psychology professor Paula Niedenthal '81 explores the wide variety of social rules for expressing emotion — and how they cause trouble.

BY JESSICA STEINHOFF '01

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE LAMBERSON PHILIPP

PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

A stranger smiles at you on the street. If you were raised in the United States, you'll probably assume this person is happy, friendly, or proud of their dental work. If you grew up in Norway or Russia, you're likely to draw different conclusions.

Americans are often stereotyped as loud, constantly smiling dimwits, a fact that shapes perceptions of smiling strangers abroad. The Norwegian government jokes that a stranger who smiles at you may be viewed as "drunk, insane, American, or all [three]" in a pamphlet titled *Living and Working in Norway*. Meanwhile, smiling at a stranger is viewed as insincere — or worse, idiotic — in Russia and quite a few other nations.

UW–Madison psychology professor Paula Niedenthal '81 recalls a conversation with a Russian journalist who had called to discuss her research. He remarked that wide, expressive American smiles are fake, unlike the smiles of other cultures.

This was during the 14-year stretch when she lived in France, working for the National Centre for Scientific Research and the University of Clermont-Ferrand. Comments of this nature were common during her time abroad, and they never ceased to rankle her.

"It became clear that many people believe American smiles are inauthentic and manipulative, as well as deeply embedded in capitalism," Niedenthal says.

How did these assumptions develop? Why are they so prevalent? What might help change them? She set out to answer these questions in 2011, when she joined UW–Madison's faculty and founded the Niedenthal Emotions Lab. She and a team of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers study the relationship between migration patterns and societal rules about expressing emotion. These unstated rules are key components of something known as emotion culture.

In addition to promoting understanding and a sense of what to expect from others, a shared emotion culture can help people from different ethnic, religious, or linguistic backgrounds find common ground. But there's also a dark side. Outsiders may misinterpret another group's emotion culture, breeding stereotypes, confusion, and cross-cultural conflict.

This is how a smile's good intentions get lost in translation.

Smiling to Survive

"I don't think some people are more emotionally expressive than others because they're stupid or manipulative," Niedenthal says. "There's something else going on."

Niedenthal's research suggests that this special something involves the history of cross-cultural interactions in a particular place. How these interactions happened, how often they happened, and how long ago they began all matter.

In regions where people from different cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds have had to communicate and adapt generation after generation, a preference for big, clear expressions of emotion tends to develop. The process can take hundreds of years.

Niedenthal and her team have found that this attribute — historical heterogeneity — predicts how often people smile across different countries and U.S. states. They've also found that people from places with a long history of cross-cultural contact use smiles that signal friendliness more often than people from places where most of the population relies on the same language and customs.

Examples of this phenomenon abound in the upper Midwest, including Wisconsin, which received immigrants from a wide range of cultures in the 1800s. The influx of immigrants led to numerous cross-cultural interactions, especially in the context of farming. Trade and collaboration were vital. If the farmhand you hired didn't speak your language, or if you needed help extinguishing a barn fire, you had to find a way to communicate your needs.

"Being more expressive with your face can help establish trust when language isn't doing the job," Niedenthal says. "If I know you want wheat to be unloaded at the grain elevator, but I don't know your language well, I'm going to smile at you to show that I'm cooperative, and that I'm not a threat to you or your lifestyle."

In situations like these, smiling isn't about joy. It's about survival.

This framework for understanding emotion culture explains why a person in present-day Norway typically wouldn't smile at a stranger, but a Norwegian who emigrated to Wisconsin in the 1850s would have smiled at his new neighbors

Ivette Colón PhDx'25 demonstrates a facial recognition study conducted by the Niedenthal Emotions Lab.

"Being more expressive with your face can help establish trust when language isn't doing the job."

Niedenthal studies the relationship between migration patterns and societal rules about expressing emotion.

A MIND WIDE OPEN

If you've taken a personality test or a course in personality psychology, you've probably heard the term "openness to experience." It's a measure of how curious and adventurous a person is. People who have a lot of this quality tend to be creative, adaptable problem-solvers with a broad range of interests. Professor Paula Niedenthal has so much that it could be named after her.

If her list of accolades is any indication, we'll be calling this trait *Niedenthality* a few years from now. Niedenthal has received numerous honors at UW–Madison, including a Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation named professorship in 2017. She's won more than $1 million in National Science Foundation funding, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Theoretical Innovation Prize, and the attention of the *New York Times*, which featured her research on facial expressions in 2011 and 2012. She has also coauthored a popular textbook (*The Psychology of Emotion*), published more than 100 academic articles, and served as the president of the Society for Affective Science.

These achievements are only a fraction of a colorful life that she shares with her husband, fellow UW psychology professor Markus Brauer. Niedenthal considers Chicago her childhood home, along with the Mauston, Wisconsin–area "vacation farm" her family has owned since the late 1960s. Throughout her life, this farm has connected her to the natural world and her German and Norwegian ancestors who farmed in Kansas and Wisconsin. It also conjures memories of her parents, who shaped not only her intellect but her love of travel and the arts.

Niedenthal shares her dad's love of jazz, with concerts by Sarah Vaughan, Ornette Coleman, and Dizzy Gillespie on her list of favorites. She got her first taste of jazz in the early 1960s, living near Harlem's legendary clubs while her father earned his doctorate at Union Theological Seminary. When the family went to church, they'd often see Duke Ellington in the congregation.

Niedenthal's charisma is all her own, and it stretches far beyond the world of academics. She's the kind of person who'll convince two dozen European friends to line-dance to Brooks and Dunn's "Boot Scootin' Boogie" in the French countryside. She's also the kind who'll deliver a public lecture titled "The Path from Basic to Applied Research," then add the subtitle "What the Hell Are You Doing with My Tax Dollars?" to punch it up. She's even the kind who'll announce to the world, "I want to be a cross-country skier, a winter bike rider, a Friday fish-fry diner, a National Public Radio and popular music listener, a no-stress driver, a smiler and a smile recipient," and then become all of these things. That's *Niedenthality* in a nutshell.

J.S.

from Germany, Ireland, and Poland. It also explains why the immigrant's great-great-grandchildren probably smile at strangers on American streets. Heightened emotional expressiveness became a part of Wisconsin's regional culture because its value persisted as immigration continued, and because it began to feel familiar.

Back in Norway, people rarely needed to communicate across cultural or linguistic divides. As a result, they didn't need to adopt big, clear facial expressions — and the thought of doing so still feels weird today.

Challenging Assumptions

Many people — especially motivational speakers and curators of inspirational Pinterest boards — would be shocked to learn that smiling isn't a universal language or an unmistakable sign of happiness.

First of all, smiling isn't always about joy, as much as we might want it to be. Second, assuming that all smiles are happy ones can lead to logical errors. If genuine smiles are assumed to reflect joy and someone smiles a great deal, this person would appear to be in a state of constant bliss. This just isn't possible, even for the most devoted optimist.

Instead of concluding that the person is delusional or dishonest, we need to examine our assumptions, Niedenthal argues.

"Smiles can show a range of emotions and intentions," she says. "You might smile because you feel superior to someone else, which is what we call a dominant smile, or you might smile to show approval, which is a type of reward smile. These two smiles look different from each other, and neither one is inauthentic."

On the flip side, a culture that frowns upon grins isn't necessarily dour. It's most likely operating with a different set of rules. Learning about these rules and appreciating why they emerged can help correct misguided assumptions, Niedenthal explains.

"My lab's research doesn't show that a particular culture is smarter or better than another one," she says. "It's more helpful to think of culture as a solution to the pressures people face in their environment. Understanding that these pressures result in different cultural practices can be humbling, and that humility can help us be far less judgmental."

Culture, in other words, is a product of adaptation. We must adapt when we enter a new environment or when our current environment changes. Certain kinds of change come easier to some of us because our culture has trained us to endure the discomfort. One of the newest findings from Niedenthal's lab suggests why this might be.

Stress-Fighting Superpowers

Expressive displays of emotion can be exhausting to

People from places with a long history of cross-cultural contact use smiles that signal friendliness more often than people from places where most of the population relies on the same language and customs.

produce — and to observe. Big smiles and sustained eye contact use substantial amounts of energy, and these behaviors put us in a state of emotional arousal. The discomfort that arises when we're surrounded by people we consider different also produces this state. And now there's evidence that regions with a long history of cross-cultural contact confer a superpower of sorts: conserving energy by keeping this type of stress in check.

Niedenthal suspected that people from such places would be better equipped to handle emotional arousal. To test this hypothesis, her team looked at vagal tone, a measure of pulse-rate variability associated with breathing. People with high vagal tone can relax faster than people with low vagal tone after a stressful event.

As predicted, the researchers found that people from Wisconsin and other ancestrally diverse U.S. states had the highest levels of vagal tone. This suggests that the residents of ancestrally diverse places are likely to find big smiles more appealing — or at least less exhausting — than residents of places where cross-cultural contact has been minimal. Plus, they're less likely to feel overwhelmed in the presence of cultural diversity.

But how did people develop this type of post-stress resilience in the first place? Once again, Niedenthal points to adaptation.

"If you grew up in an ancestrally diverse place, you'd have to confront differences without attacking other people and interpret facial expressions without becoming too emotionally aroused," she says.

Learning to regulate that emotional response would help you adapt to the demands of frequent cross-cultural contact. Over time, as that skill was practiced again and again, it could evolve into an automatic response.

These conclusions aren't just fascinating to think about. They're making a mark on the real world. People who teach others how to regulate their emotions — a list that includes psychologists, occupational therapists, and kindergarten teachers — can find all sorts of practical applications for Niedenthal's research. So can immigration lawyers, English as a second language instructors, and other professionals who serve a diverse set of clients.

Niedenthal demonstrates (top to bottom) a reward smile, an affiliation smile, and a dominance smile.

Bridging Cultural Divides

Many psychotherapists are eager to tailor their craft to the needs of clients who don't share their cultural background. Understanding a client's native emotion culture and applying its rules appropriately can bring a valuable new dimension to psychotherapy while strengthening trust and motivation.

May Han, a marriage and family therapist who offers cross-cultural counseling for children of immigrants and transracial adoptees, says all mental health clinicians can benefit from learning about cultural differences in emotional expressiveness.

"This gives clinicians a general idea of the rules for displaying emotions so they can meet clients where they are at and help them facilitate a better relationship with their emotions," she says.

Han says research like Niedenthal's matters because it acknowledges how big emotions can live inside anyone, including people from cultures that prefer stone-faced stares to smiles.

"Just because someone seems to have less intense emotions on the outside, it doesn't mean they're not experiencing something deep inside," she says.

Niedenthal agrees that it's crucial to acknowledge what may lie beneath the surface. This is especially important in international commerce and foreign affairs, where faulty assumptions can derail business deals, peace treaties, and more. Facial expressions form a wordless language that requires skillful interpretation. Gaining this skill takes time and practice, and a conscious effort to withhold judgment.

"The type of [cross-cultural] training that's popular in the business world often relies on value-laden clichés that are wrong and have damaging effects," Niedenthal says. "Removing those value judgments can help us establish common ground in a way that doesn't seem superficial or fake to someone from another culture. It helps us build mutual trust and respect — and ultimately, strong relationships." ●

Jessica Steinhoff '01 has been known to smile at strangers on State Street.

Kathryn "Kat" Milligan-McClellan leads a field collection of stickleback fish at South Rolly Lake in 2019 as an assistant professor at the University of Alaska–Anchorage.

GUT FEELINGS

While exploring the microscopic similarities that unite species, Kat Milligan-McClellan '99, PhD'09 embraced the Indigenous identity she thought she'd put behind her.

BY MEGAN PROVOST '20

PHOTOS BY JAMES R. EVANS

IT TAKES GUTS to do the kind of research that Kat Milligan-McClellan '99, PhD'09 conducts. Fish guts, to be accurate. It also takes some petri dishes, a good chunk of time, and, most importantly, an understanding of and respect for the environment she's inevitably changing through her presence there.

Milligan-McClellan is as much influenced by her environment as it is by her. Growing up in the Inupiat community of Kotzebue, Alaska, she was intimately aware of her Indigenous heritage and of the disdain with which she was conditioned to regard it. After spending her adolescence rejecting her Indigeneity in pursuit of whiteness, she found herself on a campus perfectly suited to the latter identity. She also found herself miserable. Science couldn't explain the painful disconnect between her spirit and her surroundings, but it played a crucial role in resolving it.

Milligan-McClellan — known to students and colleagues as "Dr. Kat" — is a microbiologist and assistant professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Connecticut. She was previously an assistant professor of biological sciences at the University of Alaska–Anchorage and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oregon. And before she was a Duck, she spent her undergraduate and doctoral studies falling in love with microbiology at UW–Madison. It's a journey that has brought her about as far as one can get from Kotzebue — literally and, at times, figuratively. But it's also led her back there.

Like any good research endeavor, Dr. Kat's started with asking the right questions.

THE PRICE OF PARASITOLOGY

Milligan-McClellan's early career plans put her not behind a microscope, but at a front desk. She attended hotel-administration school at Cornell University with the intention of running Kotzebue's local tourist mainstay. After quickly realizing that hospitality was not her calling, she traded lobbies for laboratories and headed to UW–Madison, encouraged by friends and family who assured her that she was destined to become a medical doctor. At the UW, she realized that there was still room to contribute to a field of scientific discovery that she once considered finite.

"I didn't know that the things we learn about in our textbooks came from research labs and that people are actively doing research," she says. "When I started working in a research lab and we were discovering new things, I was like, 'This is what I want to do.' "

A series of jobs working in labs ranging from plant pathology to studying malaria in mosquitoes brought Milligan-McClellan to her first scientific infatuation: *Staphylococcus aureus*, an infection-causing bacterium. Later, in her doctoral studies, she switched to the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. Her newfound excitement over microscopic life was less contagious back home, where toxoplasmosis — the infection caused by *T. gondii* — is an uncommon disease and an even less common term.

"When I was doing all this work, I thought it was very important, and everybody at the university was saying that this is important work. But I would go home, and I would tell my dad and my mom, and they'd [go], 'Staph-what-now? And toxo-huh?' " she says. "I was studying these things that they didn't know, and it had no impact on their life."

The disconnect with home wasn't exclusive to her research. At the same time that Milligan-McClellan was making breakthroughs in the lab, she was struggling to recognize herself. Years of being taught in school and by missionaries that traditional Inupiat lifestyles were backward had conditioned her to reject hallmarks of her heritage.

"When I first started out in research, I was very much into assimilating into Western science and Western culture," she says. "I didn't wear my traditional clothes. I only spoke fluent and 'eloquent' English. I was just thinking, 'I am white, and I am going to behave white, and I am not going to pay attention to all of these things my ancestors took 10,000 years to learn.' "

But what Milligan-McClellan once saw as the price of acceptance in "lower-48 culture" quickly proved too high a cost.

"That's really hard on your psyche. I was pretty dang depressed," she says. "By the time I got into grad school, crying in the microscope room was no big deal to me because I just felt so isolated, and I didn't know why."

> ***"By the time I got into grad school, crying in the microscope room was no big deal to me because I just felt so isolated, and I didn't know why."***

STICKLEBACK SOLUTION

According to Aaron Bird Bear MS'10, Milligan-McClellan's feelings of isolation are devastatingly common among Indigenous students. Bird Bear, the

Minnow traps are submerged at South Rolly Lake during a field collection of wild threespined sticklebacks, a species of freshwater fish found throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

UW's director of tribal relations, is a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Diné nations and is enrolled in the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota's Fort Berthold Reservation.

"The United States only decriminalized Native American language and culture in 1975 [with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act], but just because the United States decriminalized Native American language and culture didn't mean public institutions or broader society suddenly embraced it," he says. "Native students have to kind of reconcile that at least 80 percent of their peers know little to nothing about Native Americans."

Milligan-McClellan found the people who did. Through involvement with student groups such as Wunk Sheek and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), she surrounded herself with people who encouraged her to embrace elements of the culture that she'd long rejected.

Bird Bear was the American Indian student academic services coordinator in the College of Letters & Science when he first met Milligan-McClellan, then a new graduate student.

"Eagle feathers are the highest award Indigenous people can receive in their own communities, so we would invite students to come pick up an eagle feather to take home and bead it for a few weeks, and we would gift it to our graduates upon graduation," he says. "Kat came in to pick up an eagle feather and wanted to contribute to recognizing the graduating class of that year."

He recalls one AISES retreat during which Milligan-McClellan led attendees in Alaska Native winter games, a series of traditional challenges like seal-hops and one-legged kicks. While competitive and amusing, the activities also reflected the skills necessary for surviving in the Arctic north.

"It wasn't until I started talking with [other Indigenous students] that I started recognizing that I'm ignoring 10,000 years of knowledge," Milligan-McClellan says. "How does that benefit anybody to ignore that amount of knowledge? To turn my back on a history of strong people who have survived in the world's harshest conditions for that long — it can only do me a disservice."

Her newfound campus community was also a reminder of what she missed from Kotzebue. Ever the researcher, she began reaching out to family back in Alaska, asking questions and searching for answers that could strengthen her ties to her ancestral home.

"My aunt Lovie was very gracious and would answer all these questions that I had, and that made me understand that there was somebody in my family who would answer. I wasn't going to be ostracized for [not knowing more about my heritage]," she says. "She told me, 'You don't know this because we were told not to know this. Now you're learning it, and I think that's beautiful, and I'm going to welcome you back in."

But while Milligan-McClellan was in grad school, Aunt Lovie died in a house fire.

Kelly Ireland, then a graduate student in Milligan-McClellan's lab, collects the gut from a euthanized fish.

"Losing that one person who had so much knowledge … made me realize that it shouldn't be on *one* person," she says. "There should be multiple people who are holding onto that knowledge, and it's my responsibility to my community to start regaining that."

Milligan-McClellan began relearning her Inupiat language and incorporating traditional foods back into her diet, but she found that her postdoctoral studies offered a road home as well, and another opportunity to contribute to an existing body of knowledge — this time about her own people. She turned her attention from parasites to beneficial microbes and began studying interactions between host organisms and gut microbiota in wild threespine sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), a species of fish found across the Northern Hemisphere, from Connecticut to Kotzebue and beyond.

Studying a host organism's gut microbiome offers insight into both how the host's genetics predispose it to certain immune responses to microbiota in the gut and how the organism responds to microbiota introduced into its external environment. Milligan-McClellan intended to study the variations in these relationships across populations in zebrafish under microbiologist Karen Guillemin at the University of Oregon until she agreed to collaborate with Guillemin's colleague, who was studying stickleback. Initially, she was put off by the complexity of the organism — too many variables to consider. However, the intricacy of the fish proved to be one of its greatest assets, and it's part of what makes Dr. Kat's work unique.

Most researchers work with model organisms — think of inbred lab mice, whose diet and environment are meticulously controlled. This is useful for testing one variable at a time, but it doesn't reflect the unbridled variety of nature. Stickleback allow for a holistic analysis of a complex organism sourced directly from its natural habitat. Thanks to their ubiquity in bodies of water throughout the country, Milligan-McClellan's lab has been able to assess how each population's respective environment, available food supply, and stress levels influence its microbiota.

"We were doing collections on Cheney Lake, which is in Anchorage," she says, "and because we were physically at that lake every month, we could see how clear the water was at different stages. We could see how thick the ice was. We could see that there were bears and moose that wander, but there's also a lot of people with dogs, and they don't always pick up the poop. So how is that species of microbe getting into the water, and how is that changing the fish's microbiome?"

> ***" 'Yeah, you're Native. This is how you can use your Native voice.' "***

> ***"The only way we're going to move past this idea that science only belongs to a specific group of people is if we bring everybody into it."***

Stickleback also gave her a regular excuse to head back home. Toxoplasmosis may have been a mystery to her family, but fish guts had an immediate relevance. After all, it's only a short evolutionary jump between stickleback and *Homo sapiens*. "Billions of years ago, there were microbes," Milligan-McClellan says. "Then some small things happened, and then there were fish, and then a couple of really insignificant things happened, and then there were humans."

Blood cells such as B cells, T cells, neutrophils, and macrophages — all of which are crucial to a functioning immune system — are conserved from fish all the way to humans. In Milligan-McClellan's research, these evolutionary links may indicate that interactions in the gut microbiomes of stickleback are conserved to humans, too. The findings could assist in the research and treatment of diseases such as stomach and gastric cancers, which are common among Alaska Natives.

"There are so many diseases that affect Alaska Natives and Native Americans that are correlated with changes in the microbiome. I thought if I study the impacts of changing the microbiota — and also what changes the microbiota — I might be able to identify something that would be important for people back home," she says.

Studying stickleback in Alaskan ecosystems also means studying the ecotoxins that permeate what is some of America's most polluted water: the area around Kotzebue has contaminants such as crude oil, microplastics, and antibiotics. Milligan-McClellan's lab is identifying microbes that could degrade and reverse the effects of those pollutants in a host's microbiome.

"These contaminants are in the water that my family uses and that our animals come from and use," she says, "so these ecotoxicants are potentially harming us, the people of Alaska."

Now when she returns home with research to share, it's work that directly impacts her community.

"When I talk to people back home about the research I'm doing, they're not like, '*Toxoplasma*? Who's ever heard of that?' Now, they're like, 'Oh, crude oil. Yeah, we're getting more oil in our waters because of increased boat use or snowmobile use. How do you think that affected the waters?' " she says. "The only way we're going to move past this idea that science only belongs to a specific group of people is if we bring everybody into it."

GLOSSARY

Host
A larger organism that harbors a smaller organism.

Microbe
Microscopic organisms that first evolved 3.5 billion years ago and live ... pretty much everywhere. Microbes can be beneficial or harmful. Examples of microbes include bacteria (both good and bad), viruses, archaea, fungi, and protists.

Microbiome
A community of microorganisms living in a shared habitat.

LESS LONELY

Milligan-McClellan's research appreciates a living being for what it is, with all of its nuances and complexities. She appreciates nuance and complexity in people, too — even in herself.

After she arrived at the UW, her loneliness was crippling. By the time she left, Dr. Kat was the first person from her village to receive a doctorate in biological sciences. She's believed to be the first Indigenous person to receive a doctorate in her department and the 10th Indigenous person to receive a doctorate in a STEM field at the UW. They're feats that have set her apart in her field, but she takes great comfort in knowing she's not the "only" anymore.

"When I started, I was the only Native STEM person that I knew for a while," she says. "Now, I've got all these people I can talk to about this, and it feels really good to know there are so many of us out there. It's also awesome because I can tell people, 'Yeah, you're Native. This is how you can use your Native voice.' "

Milligan-McClellan's work has also caught the attention of some big names in research. The National Institutes of Health is interested in stickleback for their utility as a model for human diseases and human-microbe interaction. The National Science Foundation has taken an interest in her work as a means of studying the evolution of host-microbe interaction in stickleback, which may offer insight into this evolution in other ecosystems.

"Kat's really fulfilling all the promises we hope for [regarding] Indigenous scholarship," Bird Bear says, "being grounded in cultural values and advancing the scientific realm with her unique perspective on how she understands the universe to function through the Inupiat universe that she grew up in."

While relatively linear when traced on a map from start to finish, the arc of Milligan-McClellan's journey frequently circles back to Kotzebue. Her research excursions have even come to serve a dual purpose: adding to her data on fish guts and deepening her connection to a place that's been home to many Inupiat for centuries, and will continue to be for more to come.

"We have been on those lands for over 10,000 years. What does that mean? How does that change the way that I think of the tundra?" she asks. "It changes the way I think of the ecosystem there, which influences the way I think about science, which influences the way I think about people back home. All of it interconnects now. It took me going back as a scientist to see that connection." ●

Megan Provost '20 is a staff writer for On Wisconsin.

UW ATHLETICS

Before Title IX, Saunders had been trying with scarce resources to get a women's athletics program going.

THE FIGHT FOR TITLE IX

Fifty years ago, Kit Saunders MS'66, PhD'77 ushered in a new era for the UW's women athletes.

BY DOUG MOE '79

This excerpt is adapted from the book The Right Thing to Do: Kit Saunders-Nordeen and the Rise of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Wisconsin and Beyond *(HenschelHAUS Publishing). It deals with the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in education activities and programs receiving federal funds. Saunders-Nordeen (known as Kit Saunders earlier in her life) became UW–Madison's first athletic director for women and also served nationally as vice president of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. She retired from the UW in 1990 and died last year at age 80.*

President Richard Nixon signed the bill into law on June 23, 1972. It was a momentous development for women's college athletics that was not widely realized as such at the time. Other parts of the Education Amendments of 1972 — busing, financial assistance — received more attention. Title IX landed with a whisper.

Still, it was noted in Madison by Kit Saunders MS'66, PhD'77, who, as women's sports coordinator for the UW club sports program, had been trying with scarce resources to get a women's athletics program going.

"I can remember first hearing about Title IX being passed and thinking, 'Oh, boy, somebody finally did something,' " Saunders recalled. " 'This is probably going to help us.' "

And Saunders needed help. She described the landscape for women's athletics on campus, pre-Title IX, in a UW Oral History Program interview.

"We were not able to pay our coaches very much at all. ... Students did have to pay some of their expenses if there were overnights. Male athletes even in non-income sports were getting their ways paid completely.

"We had no priority on facilities," Saunders continued. "If a facility was available, wasn't being scheduled for something else, including intramurals and in some cases open basketball shooting, then we could get it. We were practicing in Lathrop Hall, which had no regulation-size [basketball] courts. Our swimming practices — we had one evening a week in the Natatorium.

"We had very limited uniforms. We had about two dozen warmup suits, and with 11 teams going at once, we called it 'musical warmups.' We'd have to try to launder them quickly and get them to the next team. We didn't have any kind of laundry service. The coaches frequently were doing the laundry, or the athletes were doing it themselves."

As women's sports coordinator, Saunders had to go in front of the intramural recreation board each year to request funding. The passage of Title IX in 1972 may have emboldened her — for 1972–73, the women's program received $8,000, four times the previous year's budget, if still a pittance in comparison to the men.

"These meetings were frequently harrowing experiences," Saunders noted. "The women's program was wearing out its welcome in the club sport program as it became more expensive and more closely resembled an intercollegiate program."

For 1973–74, when Saunders requested $25,000 to run her growing program, she was allocated only $18,000.

"So I went to the chancellor [Edwin Young PhD'50] and told him I was short," she recalled. "He came up with that for us."

UW ARCHIVES S00063

In 1972, Chancellor Young (above) appointed a committee to study women's athletics, but it included no UW women student-athletes.

Presumably with Title IX on his radar, Chancellor Young, in July 1972, appointed a committee to study women's athletics and make recommendations on how they might be better served on campus. But the committee included no UW women student-athletes. And Young seemingly erred in his choice of Athletic Director Elroy Hirsch x'45 as committee chair. Hirsch called only two meetings between July 1972 and March 1973, and the second meeting was canceled.

This so infuriated a member of the committee, Muriel Sloan PhD'58, chair of the women's physical education department, that on March 2, 1973, she sent Hirsch a blistering letter, threatening to resign from the committee.

"For me to remain on this inactive committee," Sloan wrote, "is to continue the illusion for women students and interested faculty groups that the problem of facilities for women is being seriously considered. ... You can see, therefore, that my membership on this nonfunctioning committee and its nonfunctioning status is untenable. I would prefer that the committee begin to function rather than resigning from it. If, however, you as chairman and other committee members are not equally devoted to pursuing the committee charge, then all should disband. A new committee could then be appointed by the chancellor, or existing groups concerned with equal opportunity on campus can follow up on their expressed interest in the issue."

Sloan was formidable, a New York native who came to Madison for graduate school and stayed. She also served as vice president of the International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women.

We'd love to hear your stories of UW women's athletics from pre-Title IX to today. Email us at onwisconsin@uwalumni.com or send a letter to *On Wisconsin* magazine, 1848 University Ave., Madison, WI 53726.

Equally formidable on the Madison campus in 1973 was Ruth Bleier, who joined the UW's department of neurophysiology in 1967, embarking on a career that included a deep dive into gender biases in science. Bleier was a founding member of the Association of Faculty Women at UW–Madison, and it was in that role, two weeks after Sloan wrote her letter to Hirsch, that she followed with one of her own.

Bleier began her March 16 letter by noting the antidiscrimination law that now existed under Title IX, and then wrote:

"Consequently we demand immediate and equal use of all facilities: tracks, fields, courts and pools, locker rooms, and showers. This means that all facilities be available to women and women's teams at times that are no more inconvenient for them than for men, such as dinner time for the tennis courts and after 5:30 p.m. for the track team, the periods currently allowed women.

"We demand adequate and equal (as needed) funding for all women's sports teams," Bleier continued, "including salaries for coaches with full-time academic appointments and expenses for training and competition. Anything less than this must be negotiated with us and other women in athletics and justified to our satisfaction. We do not want to hear again about inadequacy of facilities, space, and time. If they are inadequate, we will share equally with men in the inadequacy. The burden is no longer ours to wait. We have waited too long. The moral and, now, the legal burden is yours."

Hard to mistake a gauntlet being thrown down there.

One can imagine Saunders finding herself in a somewhat delicate circumstance. While she no doubt sided with Sloan and Bleier, she was also operating inside the athletic administration umbrella. Vitriol would not serve her purpose and was not her style, in any case.

"I remember after [Title IX passed], trying to explain it to the athletic board. I'd really learned about it and what it stood for — what we were going to have to do," Saunders recalled. "People

UW ARCHIVES S05706

"We demand immediate and equal use of all facilities," Ruth Bleier wrote to the UW committee on women's athletics in 1973.

had refused to act because they didn't have enough information. The women who had become versed in it were trying to tell [various administrators] what it was. And they were saying, 'This can't be.' "

On April 3, 1973, a complaint against the University of Wisconsin was filed with the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Office of Civil Rights.

"The University of Wisconsin, Madison campus, is in flagrant violation of Executive Order 11246 [a 1965 nondiscrimination order issued by President Lyndon Johnson] and of Title IX ... in its continued provision of unequal facilities and funding for athletics programs for women students and employees and unequal compensation for the coaching of its women's teams."

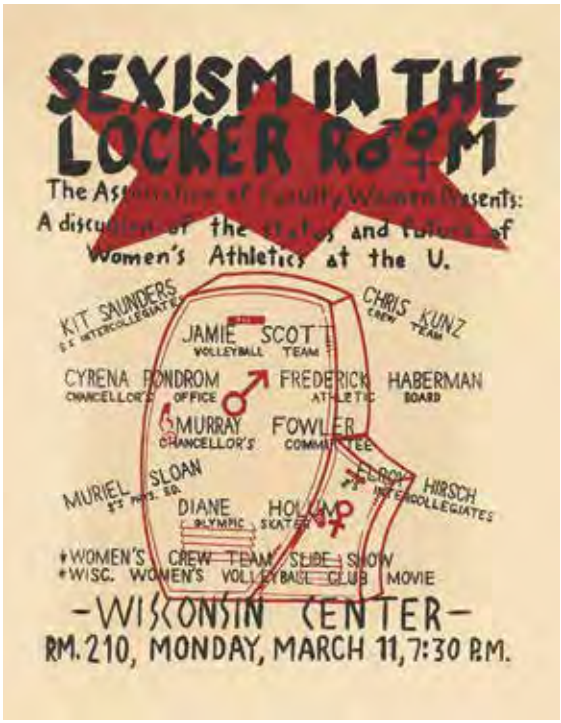
In Madison, Saunders and her colleagues were grateful for signals from Washington that Title IX would be enforced.

"The sort of sad thing about Title IX," she said, "is that most schools began to comply not because it was the right thing to do and had gotten started anyway, but because they were worried about the teeth that were in it and what the federal government could do. Like take away their federal funding and lots of other types of programs."

On April 19, Chancellor Young stepped in and replaced Hirsch as chairman of the Committee on Women's Athletic Programs and Facilities with Murray Fowler, from the Department of Linguistics. Young wrote a letter to Fowler stating his hopes.

"This committee," he wrote, "is charged with advising me of the most appropriate ways to achieve equity in men's and women's recreational, intercollegiate, and intramural athletic and physical education programs and facilities on the Madison campus."

Unlike Hirsch, Fowler moved quickly. By May, the committee had passed a recommendation requiring that "all physical recreation facilities administered by the University of Wisconsin should be made available for use by both men and women."



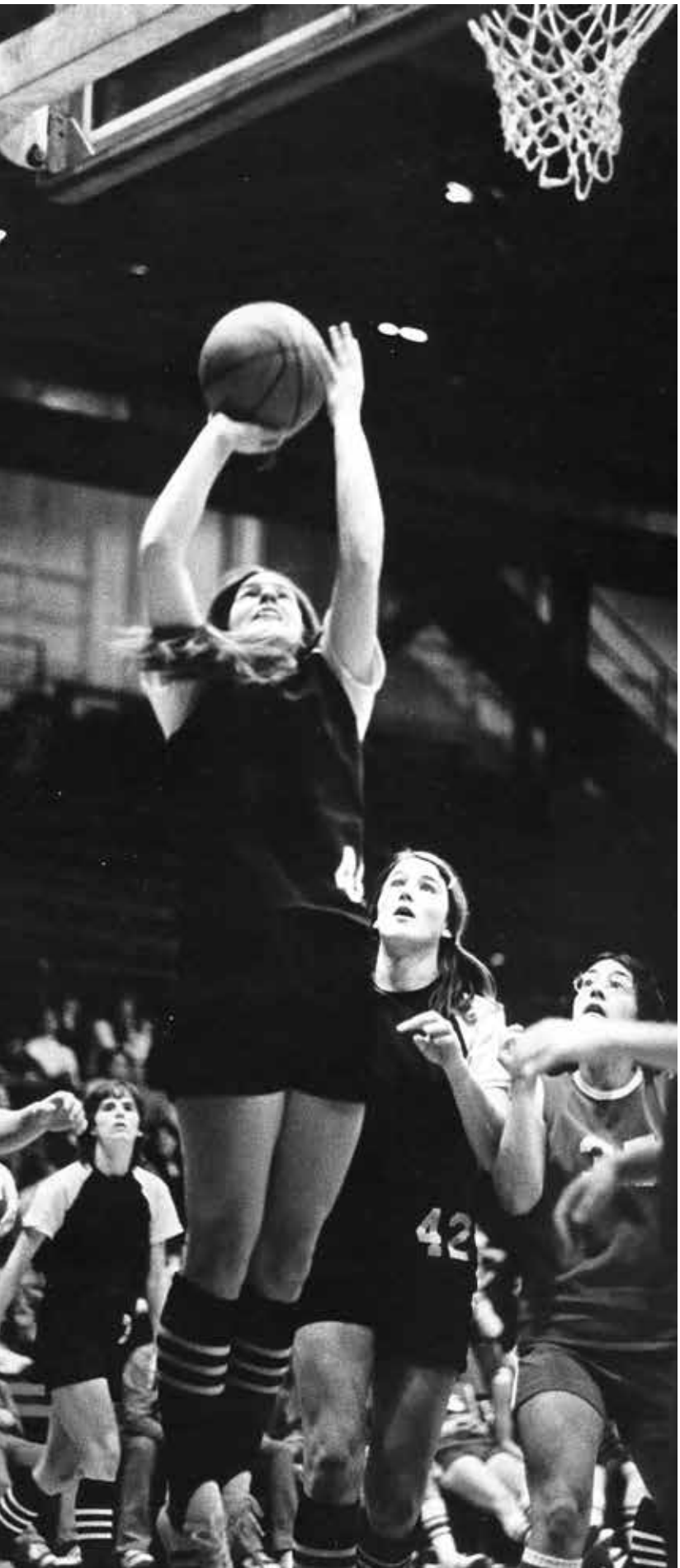
UW ARCHIVES 2017S00257

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the UW athletics department is raising $2 million to support women's crew, in honor of longtime coach Sue Ela. There are nearly 4,000 women's rowing alumnae.

Left: A poster for a 1974 panel discussion that descended into boos, hisses, and angry shouts.

Below: The 1974–75 women's rowing team, which won a national championship.

UW ATHLETICS



UW ATHLETICS

The most likely home for an intercollegiate women's program was inside the UW athletics department. The athletic board took a step in that direction in September 1973, during a meeting that the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported "opened the door to women's intercollegiate athletic competition within the framework of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics."

"The board did not immediately invite the ladies inside," wrote *State Journal* sports editor Glenn Miller in his inimitable way. "Still, it was a historic step."

What the board did was insert the following into its policy book: "It is the policy of the athletic board to make intercollegiate athletic competition, facilities, finances, administrative resources, coaching, and ancillary personnel available to all qualified undergraduate students without regard to race, creed, religion, national origin, or sex."

The Fowler committee was meanwhile formulating its own recommendations. The women members — who included Saunders and Sloan — presented a proposal to the full committee in December 1973. The committee accepted the proposal in its entirety, with Fowler saying that it would be up to Chancellor Young to act on it. A highlight among the committee's recommendations was this:

"We believe that combining athletic programs [men's and women's] will be beneficial from the outset for women's athletics and in the long run also for men's athletics in the educational setting of the university."

And this:

"That a woman whose title shall be director of intercollegiate athletics for women shall be responsible directly to the director of intercollegiate athletics."

Chancellor Young took the Fowler committee's recommendations and handed them to the athletic board, telling board chairman Fred Haberman to develop a plan of action, which some saw as the chancellor punting the issue, to use a sports metaphor. Haberman responded by appointing a committee to study it.

It was contentious, and Saunders, as ever, was a voice of calm. She gave an interview to the *State Journal*, stressing how well she got along with Otto Breitenbach '48, MS'55, Hirsch's top assistant.

"Our philosophies are similar," she said.

The uncertain status of Title IX nationally couldn't have helped. It had taken months to wake up, but the male college sports establishment — exemplified by the executives who ran the National Collegiate Athletic Association — was sounding a five-alarm alert. In numerous interviews, these men predicted doom if the Title IX regulations were enforced.

On March 11, 1974, an extraordinary panel discussion took place at the UW's Wisconsin Center. Its stated purpose was to review the progress of women's athletics on campus.

Members of the panel included Saunders, Hirsch, Fowler, Sloan, assistant to the chancellor Cyrena Pondrom, and four women student-athletes.

That the evening would be lively was assured by the moderator: Ruth Bleier, whose letter to Hirsch a year earlier had demanded equity for women's athletics.

Fred Milverstedt '69, a young sports columnist for the *Capital Times*, didn't mince words when it came to the reaction to Hirsch's comments: "Most everything he said subsequently was greeted with hissing, boos, some subdued cursing, and occasional angry shouts."

Somehow — quite possibly owing to Saunders's unflappable, behind-the-scenes work — the campus went from that raucous affair to another, vastly different gathering less than two months later.

On May 3, 1974, a news conference was held in which Hirsch and Haberman announced the first director of women's intercollegiate athletics at the University of Wisconsin.

It was Kit Saunders.

That it could hardly have been anyone else did not lessen the excitement.

Saunders told reporters that while there was "a great deal of work to be done," women's athletics at the UW had "an exciting future."

As usual, Saunders wasn't wrong. She started her new job on July 1, 1974. Within a year, she had a national championship in women's rowing. ●

Doug Moe '79 is a longtime Wisconsin journalist and the author of numerous nonfiction books.

UW ARCHIVES

As the first director of UW women's intercollegiate athletics, Saunders led the way to "an exciting future."

Facing page: 1974–75 women's basketball. Below: 1974 women's track.

UW ATHLETICS

On Alumni

News from Home and Abroad

A VOICE FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

The Wisconsin Medicine campaign aims to boost the UW's work in health care and research — with an assist from Badgers radio announcer Matt Lepay.

COURTESY OF MATT LEPAY

Linda and Matt Lepay, whom you may know as the voice of the Badgers, are strong advocates for UW Alzheimer's disease research.

Linda and **Matt Lepay,** the radio voice for Badgers men's football and basketball, know all too well the devastation of Alzheimer's disease. In 2012, Matt's mother, Lee, was diagnosed, and after a five-year battle, she succumbed in July 2017.

This personal loss offered Lepay a reason to lend his voice, and his platform, to promote the essential research being done at the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Passionate members of the board of visitors for the UW Initiative to End Alzheimer's, Matt and Linda are focused on spreading the word about the ongoing search for a cure and the emotional and financial impact this disease has on families.

"We didn't have to go very far to find other people going through the same thing," says Lepay. "Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on families, but thanks to work being done at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, there is reason for hope."

The UW aims to be one of the world's leading universities for the study of Alzheimer's, with assistance from the Wisconsin Medicine campaign, announced in May. The campaign is raising funds for UW Health and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, with the goal of supporting patient care, research, education, and health equity.

"Buzzer beaters are great," says Lepay. "Last-second touchdowns, walk-off home runs. This would top all of that. I'll say when, not if. When they can come up with an answer [for Alzheimer's disease], that will be the greatest victory of all."

To learn more about the campaign, visit wiscmedicine.org.

NICOLE HEIMAN

68
UW Now continuing-education livestreams since the program launched in 2020 (See uwalumni.com/uw-now)

196,020
Total views for UW Now since the program's inception

12,790
Total views for the most-watched UW Now episode, "On the Front Lines of COVID-19," which featured professor and infectious disease expert Nasia Safdar

ANDY MANIS

DAY OF THE BADGER

Day of the Badger, the university's annual online giving event, drew some 5,630 gifts, with donors providing more than $1.7 million over two days in April in support for the UW–Madison school, college, department, or program of their choice.

THE UW IN DC

In April, nearly 50 UW–Madison alumni, students, and faculty participated in legislative visits to mark UW–Madison Day in Washington, DC, and 140 guests attended an evening reception featuring members of Congress. Alumni were able to participate virtually, too, as more than 200 watched a livestream with UW faculty and staff that highlighted how federal policy affects the university.

JEFF MILLER

How Summer Nights Got Hot

The Terrace music series became a sensation in the '80s and is poised for a comeback.

Madison's WADOMA performs for the hip-shaking hordes in 2014.

Of all the things we lost during the pandemic, objective observers might argue that the summer music series on the Memorial Union Terrace was relatively insignificant.

But UW–Madison students and alumni would surely not be among those objective observers.

"The Terrace music series adds a sense of excitement to the Madison community," says **Heidi Lang,** the Wisconsin Union's associate director of social education. "It brings people together across generations, with something for everybody."

For nearly 50 years, the free outdoor concerts have helped define a Madison summer. The series began with a smattering of shows in the 1970s but revved up in the early '80s, when local acts performed on a wooden platform just outside the Rathskeller. One day, a few students had the bright idea of moving the platform down by Lake Mendota to create a more scenic backdrop, so they went ahead and did it without asking for permission. Startled administrators held meetings to debate the ramifications and decided that, hey, the new location wasn't such a bad idea.

A Terrace remodel in the 1980s installed a permanent stage by the lake, complete with a canopy. And that — along with an increased budget to attract bigger bands — helped turn summer music on the Terrace into a sensation. The new name for the series, "Hot Summer Nights," was not false advertising.

Top local draws alternated with national acts like the Violent Femmes and the Indigo Girls, attracting hip-shaking hordes. The Union's student music committee started booking bands on the way up, a tradition that continues to this day. Fleet Foxes are among those who played the Terrace before making it big.

If there's a secret ingredient to the summer-music magic, it's these student planners, who have the freedom to pursue their passions. That's why, for example, you'll see the up-and-coming singer-songwriter Indigo De Souza in summer 2022.

You heard that right: the music series is making a triumphant return to the Terrace after the pandemic pause. And just in the nick of time.

"There is this desire for normalcy, and the Terrace is such a special place," says **Susan Dibbell '84, MS'02,** deputy director of the Wisconsin Union. "We're all craving to be around people."

In other words, summer nights are about to get hot again.

DEAN ROBBINS

UW ARCHIVES S17568

Lawrence of Macedonia

Through four decades of Cold War, Lawrence Eagleburger was the crisis manager of American diplomacy.

Eagleburger is the only career Foreign Service officer to have served as U.S. secretary of state.

One day while **Lawrence Eagleburger '52, MS'57** was working on a master's degree in political science, he spied a poster on a campus bulletin board promoting the Foreign Service Examination.

"I took it, passed it, took the oral exam, and passed that," said Eagleburger. "Up until then, I had never even thought of the Foreign Service."

That exam started a widely respected diplomatic career that spanned more than 40 years, culminating with a 42-day stint as secretary of state at the end of President George H. W. Bush's term and making him the first Foreign Service officer to hold that post.

A quick-witted Milwaukee native, he rose to become the top aide to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in the Nixon and Ford administrations. He was known for his skill in managing international crises in Europe and the Balkans, where his seven years of work earned him the nickname "Lawrence of Macedonia."

Eagleburger was so valued by Kissinger that he was sent to carry out secret diplomacy with the Cubans to test whether relations could be reestablished. He was also dispatched to other hot spots: China after the Tiananmen Square uprising, and Panama after the 1989 U.S. invasion.

He had three sons, all named Lawrence. "It was ego," Eagleburger said. "And secondly, I wanted to screw up the Social Security system."

Though Eagleburger was a Republican, his diplomatic skill earned him an appointment by Democratic president Jimmy Carter as ambassador to Yugoslavia. President Ronald Reagan appointed him as assistant secretary for European affairs under Alexander Haig Jr., and he rose to undersecretary for political affairs.

After Eagleburger's death in 2011, President George H. W. Bush recalled that his performance was "heroic" in the 1991 Gulf War. "During one of the tensest moments of the Gulf War, when Saddam Hussein began attacking Israel with Scud missiles ... we sent Larry to preserve our coalition," he said.

DENNIS CHAPTMAN '80

40s–60s

Iris Apfel '43 of New York City; **Alexandra Glucksmann-Haverty '82** of Annapolis, Maryland; and **Patricia Marroquin Norby MA'01, MFA'02** of Osseo, Wisconsin, were honored on the *Forbes* "50 over 50: Vision" list for 2021. Apfel is a fashion icon and model whose textile company, Old World Weavers, provided fabric for nine White House presidencies. Her clothes and jewelry have been featured in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Glucksmann-Haverty is a molecular geneticist and the president and CEO of biotechnology company Cedilla Therapeutics, which develops novel small-molecule treatments for cancer patients. Norby is the Met's inaugural associate curator of Native American art. Prior to this, she was the assistant director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York.

Her flute and piccolo have sat silent for a while, but the music never stopped for **Doris Berg Sopkin '48** of Aventura, Florida, who writes, "I played flute in the band when **Ray Dvorak** was band leader. Director Dvorak was seriously injured in a terrible train accident. He was brought to Wisconsin General Hospital, and arrangements were made for the band to play outside the hospital. He came to the window and waved as we played 'On, Wisconsin' with tears in our eyes." Thanks for sharing this bit of Badger history, Doris!

A round of applause for **Ella Zarky '48** of Pacific Palisades, California, who was honored with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Impact Award during the organization's Dinner of Champions in September 2021. An avid volunteer, Zarky began working with the society in 1983 after two of her brother's children were diagnosed with MS, and she has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for people living with the condition. At 95, Zarky is still volunteering nearly seven days a week.

You may never see a horse fly, but you just might witness a tater trot. **Mary Beth Kuester '60, MS'74** of Antigo, Wisconsin, completed her first 10K race — the Antigo Tater Trot — in August 2021. Ever the athlete at age 83, Kuester also plays on a nationally ranked granny basketball team. Go, Grannies!

This Badger was born to be a star — and she has the winning trophies (and tiaras) to prove it. **Joanie Helgesen x'61** of Boynton Beach, Florida, competed in her first pageant, the Ms. Senior Florida America Pageant, in 2007 and won first place. After becoming a regular on the pageant circuit, she was named Ms. Super Senior USA and Ms. Super Senior Universe in 2019 after competing against women from around the world. Bravo, Joanie!

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties has named **Marianne Ivey '67** of Kenmore, Washington, as its chair for 2022 after serving as chair-elect in 2021. Ivey is a professor emerita in the College of Pharmacy's Division of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Services at the University of Cincinnati.

Charles Lavine '69 of Glen Cove, New York, chair of the New York State Assembly Judiciary Committee, led the independent investigation during former governor Andrew Cuomo's impeachment probe. Lavine previously served as chair of the Standing Committee on Elections Laws and the Standing Committee on Ethics and Guidance.

70s

It should come as no surprise to any Badger — or anyone who has weathered a Wisconsin winter — that **Louis Uccellini '71, MS'72, PhD'77** of Columbia, Maryland, is an expert on winter storms. After 50 years in meteorology, Uccellini retired from his role as the director of the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS) in January 2022. Uccellini spent 32 years with the NWS and 11 with NASA. He also serves as the U.S. representative to the World Meteorological Organization. His career achievements include improving communication of public safety measures in weather forecasts and overseeing the development of the award-winning National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Weather and Climate Prediction.

As cofounder of TBI Innovations, a company dedicated to developing brain-safety technology, **Neil Kosterman '72** of Lake Wylie, South Carolina, oversaw the creation and licensing of the Q-Collar, a device that is worn on the neck and protects athletes' brains during head impacts. The Q-Collar was authorized by the Food and Drug Administration in 2021.

Aaron Williams MBA'73 of Reston, Virginia, delivered the keynote lecture at International Education Week 2021. The lecture included excerpts from his book, *A Life Unimagined: The Rewards of Mission-Driven Service in the Peace Corps and Beyond*. Williams has served as a senior official at the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he became the organization's first African American secretary. He was also the first African American man to lead the U.S. Peace Corps when he served as its director under former President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2012. Williams shared this advice from his book: "Be kind to everyone. Hire the smartest people you can find. Give them far more responsibility than they can handle. Don't get mad if they make a mistake. Always acknowledge good work.

BOOK NEWS?
See page 62.

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS
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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY/ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

Pass the Termite Chips

Florence Dunkel '64, MS'66, PhD'69 sees food potential in bugs.

The petite **Florence Dunkel '64, MS'66, PhD'69** has a fitting nickname — Ladybug. This associate professor in plant sciences and plant pathology at Montana State studies insects. To be more precise, Dunkel, 79, has spent more than 50 years studying ways to get Americans to eat bugs.

Ten years ago, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization invited Dunkel (shown above with students at a bug buffet) to consult on edible insects. Later, she served on a global team that organized the first world congress on Insects to Feed the World. Two billion people routinely eat insects, says Dunkel, the former editor of the *Food Insects Newsletter,* "and they're not at the poverty level. It's an upscale thing in Mexico, Thailand, Korea, and Kenya."

There's a growing buzz about the insect protein market. The UN calls insects an "underutilized resource" especially in light of the need to combat climate change. By 2030, treats such as hazelnut cricket bread, mealworm wild rice, cheddar-flavored roasted scorpions, and termite chips could be part of an $8 billion market, according to Barclays Bank.

"My all-time favorite is grasshopper," says Dunkel, who harvests them in her backyard garden, roasts them, and sprinkles them on salads. "I do take off the legs, because their spurs can irritate the throat."

She says that black ants, which she freezes and dries, make a sublime culinary accent, since the formic acid in their venom imparts a lemony zing. "One of my students invented a shortbread recipe that called for lavender and black ants, and it was out of this world," says Dunkel, who for the past 34 years has hosted an annual Bug Buffet in Bozeman that draws scholars and executives from food-insect companies.

When she began collecting data in 1991 from buffet attendees, only 20 to 30 percent found such cuisine acceptable. Today those numbers are closer to 70 or 80 percent. Dunkel attributes this to increasing interest in nutrition and environmental issues, as it takes less water, land, and food to raise bugs compared to larger animals.

Dunkel declines to predict when — or if — Americans will add bugs to their diets. "I think the disgust factor is still a big elephant in the room," she admits. But younger generations might break the taboo. Her six grandchildren share her tastes. "As long as insects have chocolate on them, they're fine with them," she says.

GEORGE SPENCER

Don't meddle. If the situation requires, create a new rule."

After 43 years with Iowa State University, **Joe Colletti MS'74, PhD'78** of Ames, Iowa, retired from his position as senior associate dean of the school's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Colletti joined Iowa State's Department of Forestry in 1978. Among his career highlights are 25 years leading the Forestry Club; expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; and helping to develop the university's BioCentury Research Farm.

Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja PhD'75 of Cary, North Carolina, has been named ambassador and permanent representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo at the United Nations. Nzongola-Ntalaja was previously a professor of African, African American, and diaspora studies at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. He has also served as president of the African Studies Association of the United States and of the African Association of Political Science.

The Washington Global Health Alliance honored **Rachel Nugent '78** of Edmonds, Washington, with the Luminary Leader award during its inaugural Global Health Impact Awards. Nugent, the vice president and director of the Center for Global Noncommunicable Diseases at Research Triangle Institute International, was recognized for her four decades as a health economics researcher and policy adviser. She has been integral in showing that policy interventions can reduce conditions such as heart diseases, diabetes, and cancer in low- and middle-income countries.

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) nominated **Kris Ellingsen '79, DVM'88** of Portland, Oregon, to receive the 2021 Mud Bay Volunteer Award of Excellence. Ellingsen, a

feline-only veterinarian, began volunteering with the coalition in 2000 and has been improving the lives of stray and feral cats ever since. She was the organization's longest-serving board president from 2008 to 2021 and has volunteered more than 1,000 hours with the FCCO. You could say Dr. Ellingsen has been a purrrfect fit!

80s

Kimberlé Crenshaw LLM'85 of New York City is one of seven instructors teaching MasterClass's three-part Black History, Black Freedom, and Black Love project. Crenshaw will instruct a portion of Part I, The Past, and will focus on how the law and courts have been used as agents of oppression. Other instructors include political activist Angela Davis and 1619 Project creator Nikole Hannah-Jones. Crenshaw is the Promise Institute Professor of Human Rights at the University of California–Los Angeles Law School and the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law at Columbia Law School.

For a decorated career in innovative advertising, **Gary Mueller '86** of Mequon, Wisconsin, was inducted into the Wisconsin Advertising Hall of Fame. Mueller has served for the past 30 years as the executive creative director of Milwaukee-based advertising agency BVK. Mueller is also the founder of Serve Marketing, the first not-for-profit, all-volunteer ad agency, which has provided public service campaigns to more than 100 nonprofits nationwide. Former Milwaukee mayor **Tom Barrett '76, JD'80** named November 15 "Gary Mueller Day" in honor of Mueller's dedication to campaigns targeting issues in Milwaukee.

Susan Nieberle '88 of New Berlin, Wisconsin, is the new director of development for the College of Nursing at Marquette University. She will work with alumni and donors to support current students at the school. Nieberle was previously the director of development for Marquette's Klingler College of Arts and Sciences.

The Illinois chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), the largest AAML chapter in the nation, has inaugurated **James Quigley '89** of Libertyville, Illinois, as its newest president. Quigley is also one of 100 diplomates in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers.

> **"The fact that we are going to be exploring the universe in a new way, that should bring joy to anyone."**
> Kenneth Sembach PhD'92

90s

David Figlio MS'92, PhD'95 of Evanston, Illinois, has been named provost at the University of Rochester. Figlio is the Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. He has served as the dean of Northwestern's School of Education and Social Policy since 2017. At Rochester, Figlio will hold a primary appointment in the Department of Economics and a joint professorship in the Warner School of Education.

Paul Kriescher '92, MS'96 of Denver is the executive producer of *Heart of a Building,* a Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Service documentary series that explores the stories behind sustainable and environmentally friendly buildings in Colorado. The series will include homes in Pennsylvania and Florida in 2022.

To honor the health care workers who have died in the fight against COVID-19, **Susannah Perlman '92** of New York City helped to organize the Hero Art Project in partnership with the Brave Heart Fund. The initiative paired members of the ARTHOUSE.NYC artistic community, where Perlman is a curator, with family members of health care workers who lost their lives during the pandemic. The artists created 29 portraits, which were featured in an exhibit in the New York Life Building. "It is our hope that the art will convey the human lives and stories behind the statistics," Perlman says.

This Badger is taking space study to infinity and beyond: on Christmas Day 2021, **Kenneth Sembach PhD'92** of Ellicott City, Maryland, oversaw the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope. The telescope will allow researchers a look at galaxies billions of light-years away and could even detect life on other planets. "The fact that we are going to be exploring the universe in a new way, that should bring joy to anyone," Sembach told Madison's NBC15 in December. Sembach is the director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Angela Lurie '93 of Chanhassen, Minnesota, senior vice president of staffing agency Robert Half's full-time contract talent practice, has been named one of *Twin City Business*'s "Top 100 People to Know" for 2021. Lurie took on the role of vice president at the staffing agency during a time when many U.S. industries were facing a labor shortage. The magazine awarded Lurie the title of "Overachiever," which it defines as "leaders known for their relentless pace and effort."

Sunny Tan '94 of Hong Kong has been elected to the Legislative Council of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Tan is the executive deputy chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, an organization for industrial businesses. Tan represents the

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

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.

LAYAL FATHALLAH

Safer Religious Fasting

Mohamed Amin PhD'13 looks for healthy ways to go hungry.

Every year, nearly 2 billion Muslims observe the month of Ramadan, a period marked by prayer, reflection, and ritual fasting. While spiritually immersive and restorative, the practice can become complicated for people who have health conditions or who take medications that are not conducive to prolonged fasting. When **Mohamed Amin PhD'13** started his doctoral studies in the UW School of Pharmacy, he encountered a surprising lack of literature regarding how practitioners can support their Muslim patients during periods of fasting. Today, he's developed RAMCOM, a tool that helps clinicians guide their patients in adhering to their religious obligations without compromising their health.

Many Islamic religious scholars deem a fast broken by taking a pill with a glass of water. Some individuals believe that eye drops, inhalers, and injections can also nullify a fast. This variation in beliefs makes discussing them all the more important. RAMCOM (short for Ramadan Communication) helps facilitate culturally informed conversations about fasting and empowers patients to broach the subject with providers.

"My research is about giving that voice to someone who hasn't been very visible in the health care system," Amin says. "We need to make sure we're building an environment where a patient feels more comfortable saying, 'Hey, I'm different, and these are my needs.' "

RAMCOM now incorporates fasts from several religions, including Judaism and Hinduism. It made its debut in the School of Pharmacy's Communication Lab led by professor **Betty Chewning MS'71, PhD'73** and run by graduate students **Arveen Kaur PhDx'22, Bonyan Qudah PhDx'23,** and **Marwa Rawy MS'19, PhDx'22.**

"Understanding these diverse patient needs and improving our own knowledge on cultural competence and health disparities is an important step for improving health outcomes," Kaur says.

According to Amin, who is now an associate professor at Egypt's Alamein International University, RAMCOM is just one example of how pharmacists can serve as accessible points of primary care.

"Pharmacists in different countries underestimate the value of the very brief counseling that they give to patients," he says. "If we make the best use of pharmacies and pharmacists as resources, we can really take public health interventions to a different scale."

MEGAN PROVOST '20

textile and garment sector and championed reinvigorating the industry with new technology.

The UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) named **Amy Kind '96, MD'01, PhD'11** of Waunakee, Wisconsin, the inaugural associate dean for social health sciences and programs. In this role, Kind oversees the school's work in identifying socioeconomic and environmental causes of health disparities and developing approaches to eliminate them. Kind is a professor in the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology in SMPH's Department of Medicine, where she specializes in Alzheimer's and related dementias. She is the founding director of the Center for Health Disparities Research.

For her lifelong dedication to social justice fundraising, **Candace Weber '96** of Madison was presented with the Founders Award by Community Shares of Wisconsin during its 50th anniversary celebration and Community Change-Maker Awards. Weber helped found Community Shares of Wisconsin (then the Madison Sustaining Fund) in 1971 from a bail fund for antiwar protesters and established the organization's grassroots fundraising model. She continues her work with Community Shares today as an adviser and volunteer. "I remain a firm believer that change happens from the ground up. Local change is going to be substantial and real. My contribution can mean change for my community and my neighbor. Grassroots work is work that allows the trees to grow," Weber told Community Shares of Wisconsin last year.

Renée Trilling '97 has developed Old English Literature: Language as History for the Great Courses. The program explores what the earliest forms of English reveal about the people and cultures of medieval England. Trilling

is an associate professor of English and the director of the Program in Medieval Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Jason Eck '99, MS'01 of Brookings, South Dakota, is trading "u-rah-rah" for "go, go, go" as the new head coach of the University of Idaho football team. Eck comes to the Vandals from South Dakota State University, where he spent three years as the Jackrabbits' offensive coordinator and was named the 2019 Football Championship Subdivision Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association. He has been an assistant college football coach for more than 20 years, including time as a graduate assistant coach with the Badgers under **Barry Alvarez.** Eck was an offensive lineman with the Badgers and played on the 1998 Big Ten championship team, which also went on to win the Rose Bowl.

Carrie Leonard '99 of Stoddard, Wisconsin, is the new president of public accounting firm Johnson Block. Leonard interned at Johnson Block's Madison office before joining full time in 2000. She was promoted to partner in 2013 and has held numerous positions within the company, including chair of the board.

00s

Milwaukee's skyline has a few more splinters thanks to **Tim Gokham '01**'s New Land Enterprises. The real estate development firm codeveloped the Ascent apartment building, which will be the tallest mass timber structure in the world upon its completion in August. The building is 284 feet tall and will contain 259 apartments.

In March, **James Minor PhD'01** of Long Beach, California, became the first Black chancellor of Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville (SIUE). Minor comes to SIUE

JOHN CHIARAVALLE

Undergraduate Rap Star

As Yung Gravy, Matthew Hauri '17 conquered the music world while still a UW marketing major.

Some UW students miss class when they travel for marching band or athletics. **Matthew Hauri '17,** a.k.a. rapper Yung Gravy, missed class because he was jetting off for negotiations with major music labels.

Hauri notched the absences in fall 2017, when he was generating buzz with his debut single, "Mr. Clean," and its exuberant video, filmed in Madison. He wears a fluffy white bathrobe and sways to a sample of the Chordettes' "Mr. Sandman." He washes a car with bikini-clad women and rides a Sea-Doo in Lake Mendota as the UW campus gleams in the background. "Mr. Clean" has received more than 60 million YouTube views to date and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Missing class paid off. That November Hauri signed with the Universal Music Group imprint Republic Records, home to Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Post Malone. He graduated the following month with a degree in marketing. "It was a pretty crazy last semester," he says.

Since then he has toured extensively and released a string of singles and EPs, as well as three albums: *Sensational, Baby Gravy 2,* and *Gasanova.* He has collaborated with hip-hip icons including T-Pain and Lil Baby. His releases include another solo platinum single, and one with Canadian rapper bbno$, "Whip a Tesla," went gold.

A native of Rochester, Minnesota, Hauri splits time between Los Angeles and the Gopher State. He started making music in his sophomore year of college, inspired by rappers like the late Gustav Åhr, who as Lil Peep found success distributing his music online. Hauri first recorded beats and rhymes on his own, and later he collaborated with producers he encountered on the online distribution platform SoundCloud. A freestyle rap about gravy led to his stage name, which he styled after the Swedish rapper Yung Lean.

Hauri says his UW education has served him and his music well. "A lot of the business and marketing stuff has really stuck with me and helped me," he says. "I've always been very particular with imagery and branding."

Few musicians graduate college with a major-label contract in hand. Was Hauri tempted to leave the UW early and pursue his career? "I wanted to say I did it," he says of finishing school. "But I also knew my mom would want me to."

KENNETH BURNS PHDX'05

JEFF MILLER

Goodbye, Good Friend

Jerome Chazen '48 was a passionate supporter of UW–Madison and its art museum.

UW–Madison lost one of its greatest supporters when **Jerome Chazen '48** died in February. The university's Chazen Museum of Art was renamed for Jerome and **Simona Chivian Chazen x'49** when they gave a lead gift that facilitated the museum's 2011 expansion.

Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** says that Chazen found great joy in introducing new audiences to the art world and that he "was deeply devoted to the arts and to education." Museum director **Amy Gilman** says, "He was a force in every part of his life — business, family, art collecting, philanthropy — and perhaps his most profound legacy will be his everlasting pursuit of his passions."

Jerry and Simona (shown above at the museum's ribbon-cutting) met while students at UW–Madison. In the 1980s, they became active in what was then the Elvehjem Museum of Art. By 1997 Simona had joined its advisory council. In 2000 the couple made their first gift of art to the museum, Harvey Littleton's *Red Squared Descending Form* (1982).

The Chazens have served on the museum's advisory council for 25 years. They have already given many works of art to the museum, and eventually the UW will hold a large part of their remarkable collection.

Jerry, who majored in economics, credited a UW–Madison art history course with awakening his interest in the visual arts. He earned an MBA from Columbia Business School in 1950 and in 1977 became one of four founding partners of Liz Claiborne, Inc., steering its phenomenal growth and success in the 1980s. He also served as founder and chairman of Chazen Capital Partners, a private equity firm in New York.

At UW–Madison, the Chazens endowed the Chazen Family Distinguished Chair in Art in the School of Education and the Simona and Jerome Chazen Distinguished Chair in Art History in the College of Letters & Science. Jerry served on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) and received an honorary degree from the university in 2018.

In the words of WFAA CEO **Mike Knetter,** "Jerry's gifts to the university and the world go far beyond his philanthropy. He was a great partner, friend, mentor, and role model. I will cherish the memories of Jerry's wisdom, patience, kindness, smile, and generosity as we care for his legacy at Wisconsin through the Chazen Museum."

from California State University, where he was an assistant vice chancellor and senior strategist. He was previously deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Education.

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) has elected **Quan Chen MS'02, PhD'04** of Lexington, Kentucky, a fellow. Fellowship in AAPM is extended to members who make remarkable contributions to research, education, and leadership in medical physics. Chen has helped develop many features of different radiotherapy systems and received support from the National Institutes of Health to develop innovative solutions for radiation therapy.

Law firm Crenshaw, Ware & Martin has elected **Darius Davenport JD'02** of Suffolk, Virginia, managing partner. Davenport has been with the firm since 2012 and chairs its Cybersecurity and Data Privacy and Government and Public Sector practice groups.

Colin Finan '03 of Washington, DC, has been named senior adviser of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Finan comes to the role from McCabe Message Partners, a public-relations health care communications firm of which he was vice president.

The National Indian Education Association named **David O'Connor '05, MS'13** of Madison as its 2021 Educator of the Year. O'Connor is an American Indian studies consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. His work ensures that Wisconsin students receive a comprehensive education about Indigenous peoples and cultures. "We as Indigenous people have always shaped our state, historically. We shape our state today, and we'll shape Wisconsin tomorrow. We have stories, and they should be told," O'Connor told

Madison365 last year.

Chase Phillips '07, a financial adviser with Bank of America Merrill in Washington, DC, is among *Forbes* magazine's "Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisers" for 2021. Phillips has been named on this list every year since it was first published in 2017.

Podcast production agency Podcamp Media has opened a brick-and-mortar studio in downtown Milwaukee. According to Podcamp founder and president **Dustin "Dusty" Weis '07,** the location will allow the media company, which has been featured in *Adweek* and *Forbes* while operating out of Weis's home studio, to better serve its clients in creating branded podcasts and storytelling.

10s

Latino Leaders magazine has named **Kelly Kuschel '10** of Philadelphia as one of its 2021 "Lawyers to Keep on the Watch." The list recognizes 25 of the best Latino lawyers in the United States. Kuschel represents clients in the acquisition and sale of real estate.

The Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association has welcomed two more Badgers to its board of directors: **Brittney Muenster FISC'11** of Seymour, Wisconsin, and **Alison Demmer '18** of Arlington, Wisconsin. Muenster is an insurance agent who specializes in farm and agribusiness accounts, and she is a dairy and beef producer on her family's 200-acre farm. Demmer is a marketing and public relations specialist at Culver Franchising System, where she leads Culver's Thank You Farmers Project.

Kelsey Cleland '14 of Chicago is the newest president of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Illinois Youth Leadership Committee (YLC). After being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 14, Cleland joined the YLC in 2018 to find a community of people who shared her experience.

After feeling out of place on the golf course, a group of Badgers teamed up to create an inclusive golfing experience. Vibez Golf Club (VGC) is an amateur golf club founded by **Kenzel Doe '14** of Madison; **Darius Hillary '15** of Cincinnati; **Noe Vital Jr. '15** of San Diego; **Hugs Etienne '16** of Plantation, Florida; **Dare Ogunbowale '16** of Tampa; **Austin Traylor '16** and **Robert Wheelwright '19** of Columbus, Ohio; **Melvin Gordon x'15** of Denver; and **Tanner McEvoy x'16** of Madison. A blend of former Badger football players and friends, VGC hopes to reimagine golfing culture to create a welcoming environment for all who want to pick up a club and play, even against a former D1 athlete. "We want to build a bridge that allows someone who looks like us, talks like us, and vibes like us to just as easily pick up a golf club as they do a basketball or a football," Vital told the Wisconsin School of Business.

Rory Wakemup MA'14, MFA'15 of Saint Paul, Minnesota, has been chosen by the Highland Bridge Artist Selection Committee to collaborate on a public art project that will be installed in the Uŋči Makha (Grandmother Earth) Park at Highland Bridge in 2022. The piece, tentatively titled *The Story of Creation*, will incorporate murals, sculptures, and augmented-reality components that feature concepts and designs of the Dakota people. The project is part of an initiative to restore and redevelop Highland Bridge, the former home of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant. Wakemup is an artist and activist of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa tribe and proprietor of Wakemup Productions, a company that celebrates Indigenous peoples through art.

UW–Madison's University Health Services (UHS) has welcomed **Sarah Clifford '17, MPH'19, MS'20** as a health communications strategist. Clifford comes to UHS from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, where she worked on statewide COVID-19 pandemic-response efforts as a communicable diseases health educator. Welcome, Sarah!

The Chicago office of law firm Gordon & Rees has welcomed **Andre Hunter '17** as an associate. Hunter defends corporations in commercial disputes, product liability, and toxic tort litigation. Hunter previously served as assistant attorney general in the Illinois Attorney General's Office. He also mentors his former mock trial team at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Hunter was the class president during his senior year at the UW and spoke at the 2017 spring commencement ceremony.

Shelby Olstad '19 of Madison has turned a technical challenge into a showstopping success with her business, Miggy's Bakes. Olstad started her bakery out of her apartment in 2019 while still a student at the UW. In April 2021, she left her job at a start-up and moved her business to an industrial kitchen to pursue baking full time. Named after her dog, Miggy's Bakes specializes in cakes, cookies, brownies, and other baked goods.

DEATH NOTICES • NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, AND EMAIL UPDATES
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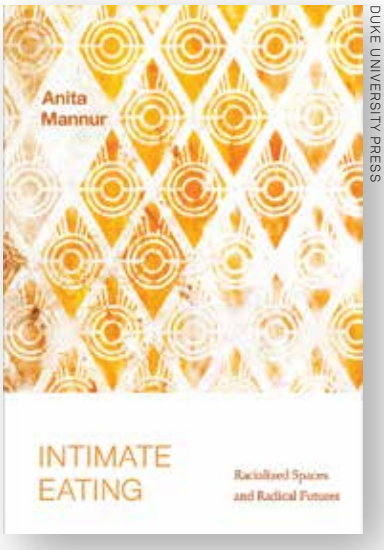
OBITUARIES
Brief death notices for Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) members and friends appear in *Badger Insider*, WAA's magazine for its members. You also may submit full-length obituaries (with one photo each) for online posting at **uwalumni.com/alumni-notes/submit.**

In Memoriam

David Black MA'03 of Lake Mills, Wisconsin, passed away on February 13, 2022, at age 66. Black founded the UW's student radio station, WSUM, in 1993 and led it until his retirement last year.

With the record selection and the mirror's reflection, Megan Provost '20 is dancing with herself (oh-oh, oh-oh).



DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Notes from a Radical Kitchen

Anita Mannur '96 explores the ways in which othered communities reclaim space through food.

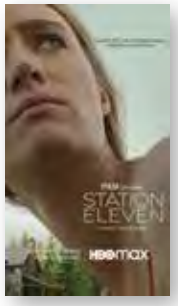
ANITA MANNUR

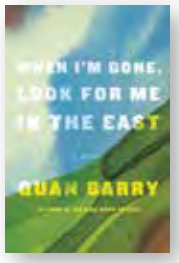
Curry is the first flavor one encounters in **Anita Mannur '96**'s *Intimate Eating: Racialized Spaces and Radical Futures.* Curry is ubiquitous in Indian cuisine; its popularity is also a product of British colonization. As Mannur writes in her introduction, artist Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik, who works in curry as a medium, views it as a way "for colonizers to contain the vastness of empire and consume the difference within it."

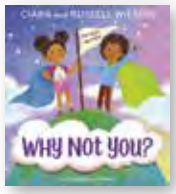
Mannur shatters that container with the explosive defiance of ceramic cookware dashed against terra cotta kitchen tiles, revealing the ways in which the culinary arts can be transgressive and liberating practices for people who have historically been confined. She explores this in communities of color, queer folks, and other marginalized groups by examining the portrayal of food in media. She also considers visual art (including the Bhaumik piece featured on the book's cover) to uncover the ways in which food shapes social worlds.

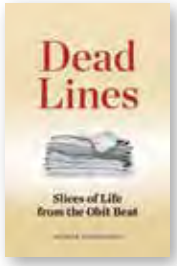
Mannur illustrates how these communities turn "private spaces and practices via the culinary into ones that foster sociability, intimacy, community, and belonging," one reviewer writes. "I want to eat every meal with this book," adds another.

Mannur is an associate professor of English and Asian and Asian American studies at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.









In the HBO Max show *Station Eleven,* showrunner **Patrick Somerville '01** of Los Angeles helps tell the story of how humanity endures after a pandemic decimates the population. Based on a novel by Emily St. John Mandel, *Station Eleven* focuses not on the gruesome details of the catastrophe that ended life as the characters knew it, but on the ways in which they push onward in a postapocalyptic world.

In her first novel, *We Ride upon Sticks*, UW Lorraine Hansberry Professor of English **Quan Barry** introduced readers to a field hockey team that wasn't afraid to tap into the occult for a leg up in their game. In her second novel, *When I'm Gone, Look for Me in the East*, readers join twin brothers on a road trip across Mongolia in search of a child believed to be a reincarnated Buddhist monk. With the same touch of magic that illuminated her first novel, Barry explores brotherhood, faith, and the ties that bind.

"Why not you?" is an inspiring question at any age. It's even more powerful when asked by a Super Bowl champion and Grammy-winner. In *Why Not You?,* Denver Bronco **Russell Wilson MSx'14** and singer Ciara encourage children to celebrate themselves and follow their dreams. "We just want to empower every child in the world to have a 'why not you?' attitude," Ciara said in an Instagram post of the couple reading with their children.

In *The Emancipation Circuit: Black Activism Forging a Culture of Freedom,* UW Afro-American studies professor **Thulani Davis** examines the ways in which four million newly freed Black people formed one of the first mass Black movements in the United States during Reconstruction. Starting with early activist groups and grassroots organizing, Davis traces the history of the Black freedom struggle from the Jim Crow era to present day.

Some of Madison journalist **George Hesselberg '73**'s story subjects never got to see their names in print, but they live on in *Dead Lines: Slices of Life from the Obit Beat.* Hesselberg memorialized a wide range of individuals, including a descendant of circus giants, Holocaust survivors, and soldiers in Iraq. Like death, Hesselberg didn't discriminate: he wrote obits for dogs, hogs, and even a local polar bear.

Submit your book news at **uwalumni.com/go/bookshelf** and visit **goodreads.com/wisalumni** to find more works by Badger alumni and faculty.

Emma Straub MFA'08's fifth novel, *This Time Tomorrow,* is like a '90s version of *Back to the Future* meets *13 Going on 30.* A woman's ambivalence toward her 40s and ache over her ailing father are thrown into flux when she wakes up in 1996 to her 16th birthday, a healthy dad, the chance to do things differently, and the question of whether she would. Straub is the owner of Books Are Magic, an independent bookstore in Brooklyn, New York.

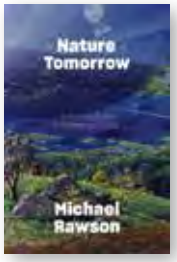
For **Jim MS'72** and **Elaine '74 Larison** of Philomath, Oregon, going into the office has meant everything from scaling snow-capped mountains to diving in the ocean. In *On Assignment: Memoir of a National Geographic Filmmaker,* Jim recounts adventures the Larisons endured to help create award-winning documentaries for the National Geographic Society, PBS, and the Discovery Channel.

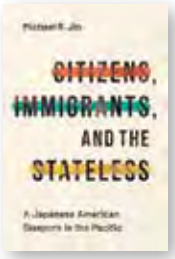
According to **Michael Rawson MA'99, PhD'05** of Harrison, New York, Western notions about infinite growth could be detrimental to hope for any future at all. In *The Nature of Tomorrow: A History of the Environmental Future,* Rawson, a history professor at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York's Graduate Center, argues that our desire for a technologically advanced and ever-progressing society is not sustainable in a finite world.

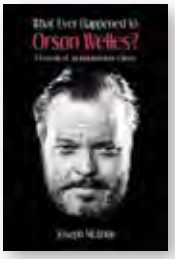
In the early 20th century, more than 50,000 U.S.-born Japanese Americans immigrated to Japan in the face of anti-Asian racism. In *Citizens, Immigrants, and the Stateless,* **Michael Jin '00** tells the stories of their experiences both living in the United States and arriving in Japan, and of their changing notions of home, identity, and belonging. Jin is an assistant professor of history and global Asian studies at the University of Illinois–Chicago.

Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane* is widely regarded as one of the greatest films of all time, and the rest of his career is largely overshadowed by it. In *What Ever Happened to Orson Welles? A Portrait of an Independent Career,* **Joseph McBride x'69** offers a comprehensive look at the later work of a director he knew well and with whom he worked as an actor. McBride is a professor in the School of Cinema at San Francisco State University.

MEGAN PROVOST '20







PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Sisterhood, Revisited

Hanna Halperin MFA'16 lays bare the shared experiences that unite long-divided paths.

SHARONA JACOBS

Few places hold as many memories or harbor as many secrets as a childhood home. When Tanya and Nessa Bloom return to theirs, they're met with far more emotions — and even more secrets — than they left there over a decade ago. So begins **Hanna Halperin MFA'16**'s *Something Wild.*

Upon discovering the brutality their mother endures at the hands of her romantic partner, the sisters grapple with what their reactions to the abuse reveal about themselves, their relationship to each other, and the paths they've taken since living under the same roof. Along the way, they reckon with a shared secret that, unlike a padlocked diary or tattered scrapbook, can't remain buried beneath the clutter of childhood nostalgia.

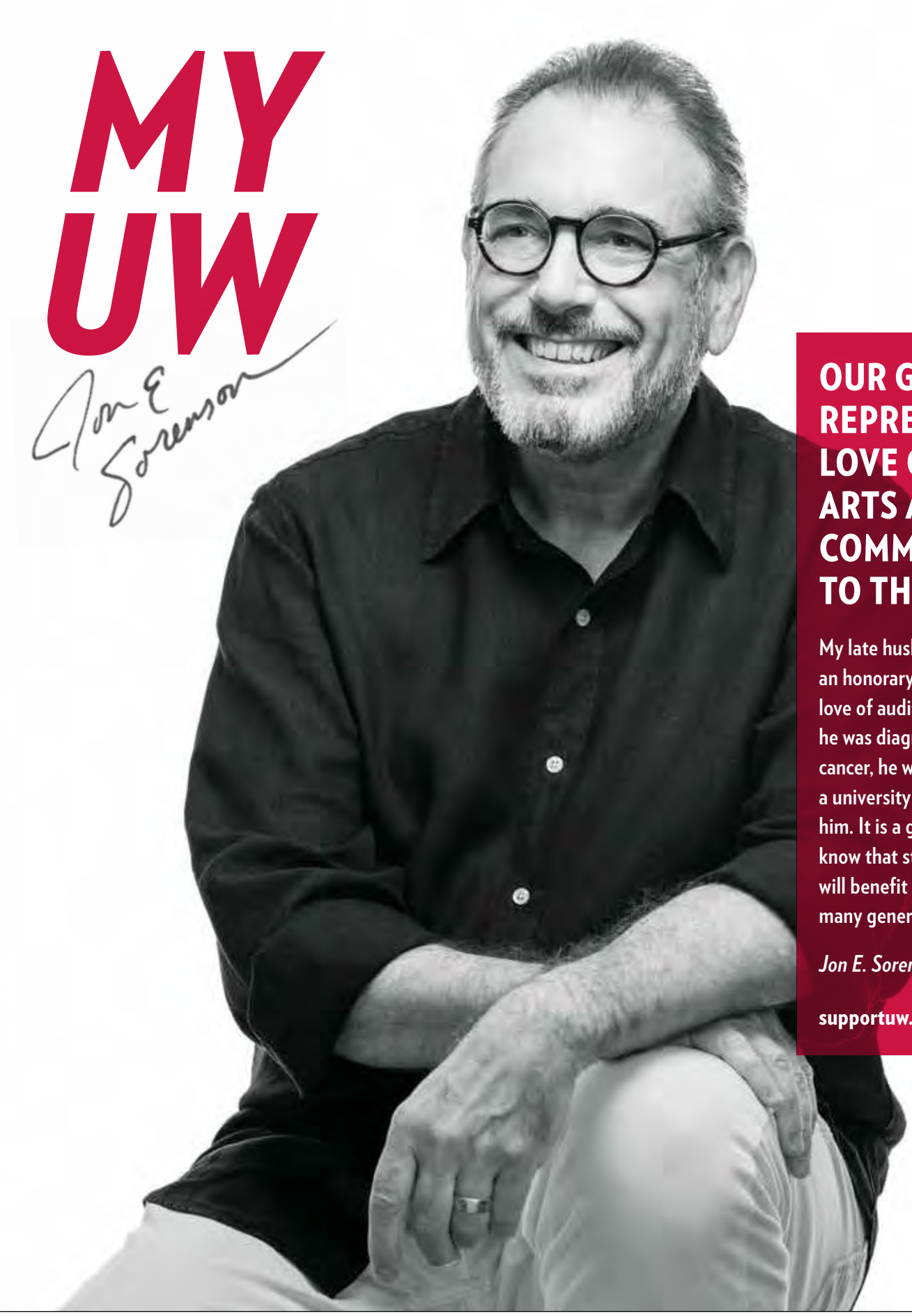
"At a time when many novels rely on intricate plots or eccentric narrative voices, *Something Wild* eschews literary pyrotechnics and relies instead on the power of truth," writes the *Washington Post*'s Bethanne Patrick.

The book won the 2021 Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish American fiction and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award for debut fiction. "Good books sometimes cut to the bone," says the *New York Times Book Review.* "This one feels like a scythe."

Halperin teaches fiction workshops and works as a domestic-violence counselor.

MY UW

Jon E Sorenson



OUR GIFTS REPRESENT OUR LOVE OF THE ARTS AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE UW.

My late husband, David, became an honorary Badger through his love of auditing classes. When he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he wanted to give back to a university that had embraced him. It is a great pleasure to know that students and faculty will benefit from our gifts for many generations to come.

Jon E. Sorenson '85

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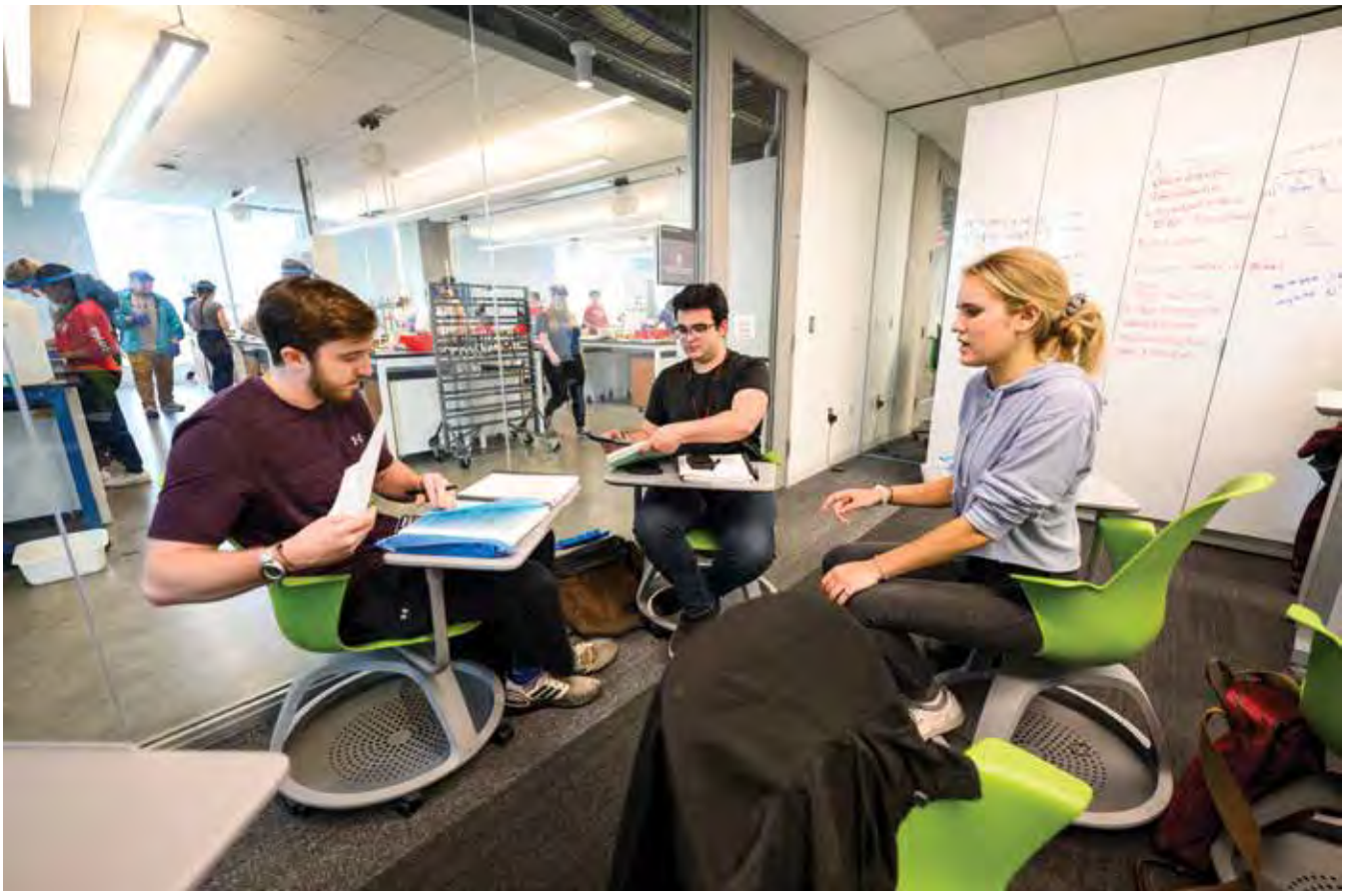

ALTHEA DOTZOUR (3)

Ready, Set, Collaborate!

The new Chemistry Building is open for business.

After unexpected construction delays, students returned to spring-semester classes in the new, state-of-the-art Chemistry Building, which includes a nine-story tower that adds much-needed space to the old facility.

More than half of UW–Madison undergraduates take at least one chemistry class, and with the previous inadequate building, some of them were reduced to taking core classes at other universities, while others experienced delays in earning a degree.

The $133 million upgrade, which began in 2018, allows the university to meet an increased demand for courses required by students majoring in STEM fields.

In the top photo, two general chemistry students meet with their TA (at right) in one of the seventh-floor write-up rooms. The remodeled facility accommodates modern computers, equipment, and safety and teaching standards — including more collaborative learning. Every lab has a connected room where students can write up lab results, which they often had to do while sitting in the hallways of the old building. Classrooms and other spaces feature moveable tables, swivel seats, and similar innovations to enhance group work.

The shining new facility, above, is located at the corner of University Avenue and Mills Street.

Shrey Ramesh x'24, above, operates a rotary evaporator in the Witting Lab for organic chemistry on the building's eighth floor. The evaporator quickly removes solvents from reaction mixtures by means of a vacuum. The new building provides a number of the valuable evaporators for organic chemistry students. And, Ramesh says, "Going from online labs last semester to this in-person lab was a huge upgrade!" Another building amenity is a "library of the future" where students access information solely online.

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