

# OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WINTER 2022

## How Badgers Eat

A history of UW  
cuisine

---

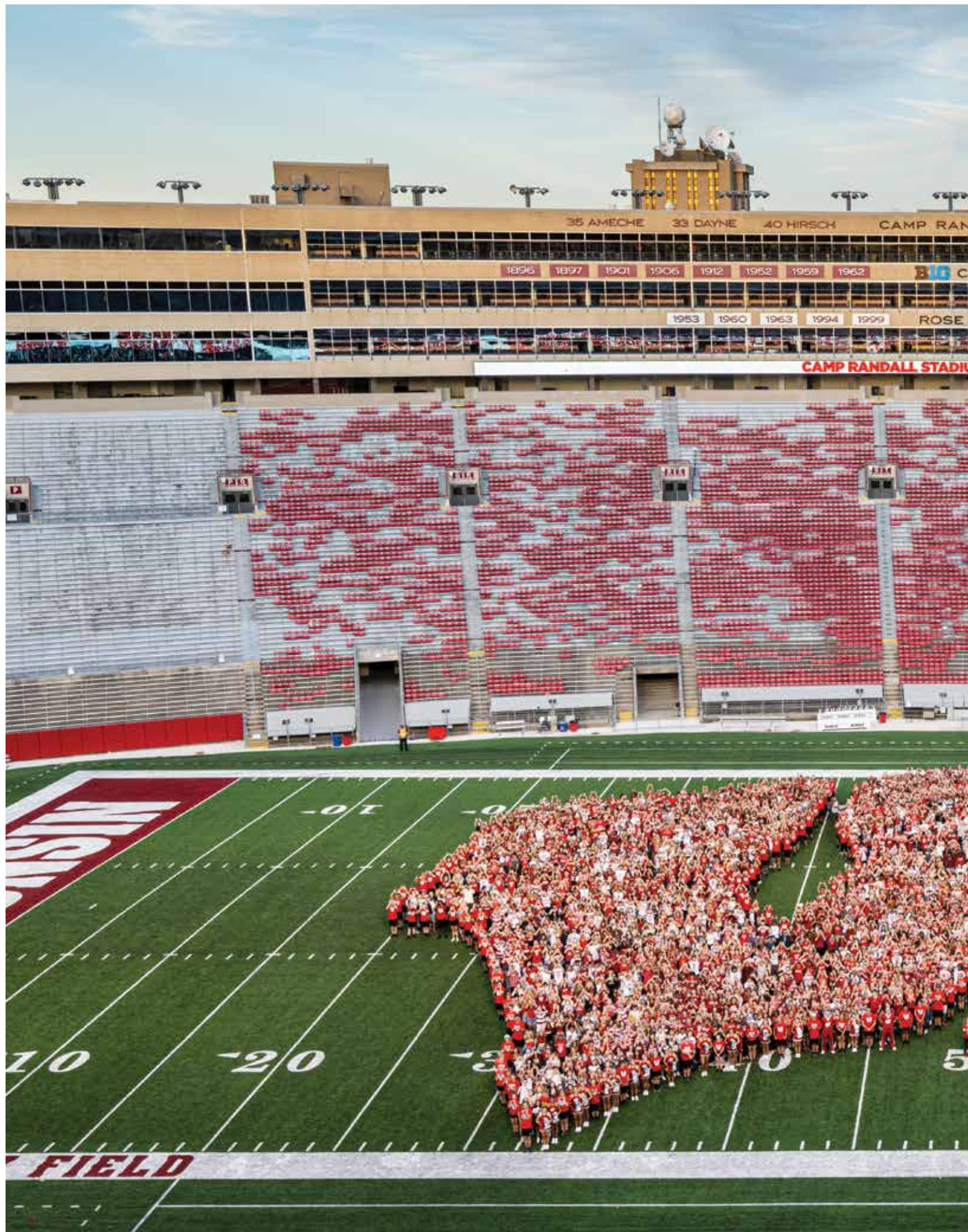
A Senator's Plan to  
Save Democracy

---

The 19 Best Songs  
by UW Alumni









## Vision

*W* for welcome: new students form a giant Motion W — serifs and all — at Camp Randall on September 1. The W Project has been part of Wisconsin Welcome since 2014. Then, the UW had welcome *week*; in 2022, events ran from August 28 to October 2.

*Photo by Bryce Richter*





IF YOU WANT TO

BE A BADGER

SHOP THE

UW ALUMNI

STORE



[UWALUMNISTORE.COM](http://UWALUMNISTORE.COM)



# OnWisconsin

Marcella Ng rose to new heights when she completed military flight training. See page 40.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Vision
- 6** Communications
- 9** Salutation *The UW's Grand Achievements*

## OnCampus

- 11** News
- 12** Bygone *An NCAA Title for Men's Hockey*
- 14** Calculation *Badger Diaspora*
- 16** Conversation *Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin*
- 18** Exhibition *Rare Beatles LP Collection*
- 22** Contender *Winning Volleyball Coach Kelly Sheffield*

## OnAlumni

- 54** News
- 55** Tradition *Tudor Holiday Dinner Concerts*
- 56** Honor Roll *Health Care Leader Kiana Beaudin*
- 57** Class Notes
- 64** Diversions
- 66** Destination *Cool New Camp Randall Seating*



Mills Music Library embraces Beatlemania. See page 18.

CHRIS FLINK



COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY

## FEATURES

### 24 We Are What We Ate

From veal birds to fudge-bottom pie, UW-Madison cuisine has always been unique. *By Linda Falkenstein '83*

### 30 Law Prof by Day, Novelist at Night

Steven Wright MFA'14 drew on his own legal experiences in *The Coyotes of Carthage*, a screwball dive into dark-money politics. *By George Spencer*

### 34 Nobody's Senator but Ours

After a distinguished political career, Herb Kohl '56 continues to work behind the scenes to find practical solutions to today's problems. *By Preston Schmitt '14*

### 40 The Sky Is No Limit

Determined not to let others define her, Marcella Ng '78 made history as the first Black woman pilot in the U.S. military. *By Esther Seidlitz*

### 44 The All-Time Greatest UW Playlist

Our picks for the best songs by alumni musicians. *By Kenneth Burns PhDx'05*

### 50 What Superheroes Teach Us

UW English professor Ramzi Fawaz believes that reading about comic-book mutants can foster extraordinary abilities. *By Jessica Steinhoff '01*



BRUCE RICHTER

Steven Wright: "For me, writing is a loud experience." See page 30.

## Cover

Bucky Badger enjoys a classic UW fudge-bottom pie. Photo-illustration by Bryce Richter.



## Inspired by an Ancient Canoe

What an amazing quote from Casey Brown, public relations officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation, in the article “Mendota Remembers” [Fall 2022 *On Wisconsin*]. “The entire Four Lakes area is essentially a university. Even before the UW was there, the Ho-Chunk were using it as a teaching tool.” An expansive new perspective on the Wisconsin Idea.

**Gordon Govier ’73**

Madison

[Megan Provost] did an excellent job on this article! Packed with historical facts, and it carried on a theme of the water having memory (from the movie *Frozen*) — very readable and informative. I still want more information on the canoe. Is there a guide to all of the Lake Mendota mounds? There should be a trail or at least markers to describe them. Thanks for lighting my curiosity on this!

**Iver Anderson MS’77, PhD’82**

Ames, Iowa

The Megan Provost story on the Ho-Chunk canoe was tremendous, brilliant, thrilling. Great writing! There has to be a documentary done about it.

**Jeff Kelly**

Madison

[Editor’s note: Visit the story on our website, [onwisconsin.uwalumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com), to see the video we produced about the canoe.]

## Hail to the Coach

Outstanding article on Coach Greg Gard [“Coach of the Year,” Fall 2022]. I have known him for almost 20 years. He’s an even better person than coach. The UW is very fortunate to have him.

**Jon Blair**

Chardon, Ohio

## The Courage of Mildred Fish Harnack

Your article on [Nazi resister] Mildred Fish Harnack [“An

We want to hear from you! Please email your letters to [onwisconsin@uwalumni.com](mailto: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](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com).

Unsung Hero,” Fall 2022] was excellent and prompted me to read the book *All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days*. The book was superb and detailed Mildred’s courage and intellect. It’s amazing how many lives she touched. It also reinforced my belief that we all need to be aware of what is happening in our country. We can never ignore what is threatening to our democracy.

**Thomas Peck ’79**

Florence, Arizona

So glad to read about Mildred Fish Harnack in *On Wisconsin* magazine. I encourage all alumni to learn more about Mildred’s brave story. Last year, I read the book about Mildred. The story resonated with our family, as my wife’s parents escaped Berlin in 1939.

Just after I finished the book, my wife and I decided to visit Madison for our 38th wedding anniversary. We visited the alumni center and booked a boat tour on Lake Mendota with Steve Holtzman. Steve extended his boat tour (on a slow day) to see the memorial dedicated to Mildred that is on the opposite side from campus on Lake Mendota.

We want to thank Steve for the tour and thank the alumni association for offering so much to UW grads.

**Barry Lipsett ’81 and Debbie Franks Lipsett ’81**

Falmouth, Massachusetts

## Defining Diversity

[In reference to “Looking Back to Move Forward,” Fall 2022]: If UW–Madison were actually “diverse,” a third or half of its faculty would be voting Republican in elections. Just saying.

**Mary Dunlavy Croke ’75**

Narberth, Pennsylvania

In regard to Doug Erickson’s piece on inclusiveness on campus, I came to Madison in 1957 and was involved in many efforts to improve things. One of my roommates was Andy

Goodman x’65, who was one of the three young men killed in Mississippi [while advocating for civil rights in 1964]. I can tell you that between the late ’50s and the 1970s, real integration was flourishing. All that came to a screeching halt when politicians like state senator Gordon Roseleip took over the state legislature and started a campaign to have it run the university. The idea was to get rid of most of the “out-of-state students.” This was conservative-speak for Blacks and Jews. It was a very successful move. Over the ensuing years, the only time I saw any attention to racism in Madison was [when there were] periodic blackface parties put on by fraternities.

**Joel Black**

Blue Mounds, Wisconsin

## Ticket to Free Travel

I enjoyed the story about [travel influencer] Drew Binsky [“Where in the World Is Drew Binsky?” Fall 2022]. It mentions that Drew knew the key to getting his travel paid for was to teach English abroad and that he “went down to the offices near College Library” to apply for a program to teach English in Korea. As former chair of the English department, let me point out that [he was referring to] the office of the English as a Second Language program, located in the English department. The TESOL certificate (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) offered by the ESL program still prepares students from diverse academic backgrounds to teach English abroad. As Drew’s example illustrates, it can open the door to exciting experiences and careers.

**Anja Wanner**

UW–Madison Professor of English

## Badger Bash Memories

I enjoyed reading “The Beloved Badger Bash” [Tradition, Fall 2022]. It brought back great memories. In fact, I was so





inspired, I dug out a few photos from the 1976 football season [above, Bucky with cheerleaders]. U-rah-rah, Wisconsin!

**Tom O'Connell '77**  
*Bloomington, Illinois*

### TV Horse Has Canine Fan

My Irish terrier loved the *Mister Ed* television show ["What's Your Dog's Favorite TV Show?" On Campus, Fall 2022]. She would lie on the floor with her front legs crossed, entranced by the show. When Mister Ed (the horse) came on, she walked around behind the TV to see him. There was a puzzled look on her face when she could not see him. She seemed to know when it was time for that show to come on.

**Patricia Krueger '43**  
*Middleton, Wisconsin*

### Bolstering Hope

The trend [of dietary choices to reduce greenhouse gases, "The Climate Diet," On Campus, Fall 2022] is so very important, and each tidbit of good news bolsters my hope that future generations will make better decisions than my generation.

**Frederick White MS'78**  
*Piscataway, New Jersey*

### Beloved Lakeshore Path

From the moment I first ran the Lakeshore Path ["Miracle Miles," Destination, Fall 2022] 25 years

ago while my wife [Denise Breyne MS'99] was meeting with a graduate school admissions officer, to now having lived in Madison and run/biked all of the city for decades, this is still my favorite place to go.

**David Grace**  
*Madison*

### Title IX Memories

"The Fight for Title IX" [Summer 2022] brought back memories of my freshman year. After experiencing the fight for equal sports support in high school and my high school volleyball team taking second in state in 1974-75, I was thrilled to be accepted onto the UW-Madison JV volleyball team for fall 1975. What a difference from the championship team of this past year! Nevertheless, I fondly recall being ankle-taped before every daily practice, working hard, traveling by bus, and cheering the varsity team after we played. I also remember not being able to afford decent shoes, resulting in blisters and losing toenails.

Kit Saunders was a fixture and a true leader for women's sports. I really appreciated reading this behind-the-scenes account of the efforts these women put forth for us all. Women of this era have no idea.  
**Kris Ellingsen '79, DVM'88**  
*Portland, Oregon*

### Kudos

I was a graduate student in the math department during the entire 1960s. I developed a great love of the UW. My grandfather William Dodge Frost PhD1903 was a nationally famous bacteriologist at the university all his life. And I have a total of 11 relatives who graduated from the UW. So, I've been shedding a lot of tears of happiness reading your Fall 2022 *On Wisconsin*. It's so moving! Just another alumnus grateful to you for publishing it.

**Theodore Frost MS'64, PhD'69**  
*Escondido, California*

I took your Fall 2022 publication on a plane with me and found myself reading every article. I suspect that broad appeal is unusual for an alumni magazine.

**Nancee Wildermuth '69**  
*Cave Creek, Arizona*

## Online



### HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

The U.S. Supreme Court has made headline-grabbing rulings on abortion, gun rights, climate change, immigration, school prayer, and separation of church and state. UW political science professor **Howard Schweber** puts the current court in historical perspective, exploring its new approach to constitutional rights.

See [onwisconsin.uwalumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com).



# MY UW

*Rose  
Schultz*



## MY EDUCATION HAS ALLOWED ME TO LIVE MY LIFE AS I WISH.

And that's the greatest gift anyone could hope for. Now I feel it's my turn to help students who have similar aspirations. That's why I put the UW in my will. My hope is that a more enlightened generation will make the world a better place.

*Rosemary Schultz '80, MS'82, MD'85*



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
FOUNDATION

LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN UW LEGACY  
[supportuw.org/giftplanning](http://supportuw.org/giftplanning)

## the university BOOK STORE



Proud Partner of UW-Madison



## Find Your New Favorite!





## OnWisconsin

Winter 2022

### COEDITORS

Niki Denison, Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA)  
Dean Robbins, University Communications

### PUBLISHER

Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association  
1848 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53726-4090  
608-263-4545  
Email: onwisconsin@uwalumni.com  
Web: onwisconsin.uwalumni.com

### ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

John Allen, WFAA

### SENIOR WRITER

Preston Schmitt '14, University Marketing

### CLASS NOTES/DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Megan Provost '20, WFAA

### ART DIRECTOR

Danielle Lawry, University Marketing

### DESIGNERS

Christine Knorr '97 and Danielle Lamberson  
Philipp, University Marketing

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jeff Miller and Bryce Richter, University  
Communications

### DESIGN, LAYOUT, AND PRODUCTION

Kate Price '09: University Marketing; Nicole  
Heiman, Esther Seidlitz, Erin Sprague '94:  
WFAA

### ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

Madison Magazine: 608-270-3600

### ADDRESS CHANGES AND

### DEATH NOTICES

888-947-2586

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

Quarterly production of *On Wisconsin* is supported by financial gifts from alumni and friends. To make a gift to UW-Madison, please visit [supportuw.org](http://supportuw.org).

The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) is open to all alumni, students, and friends of the university. WFAA encourages diversity, inclusivity, and participation by all of these groups in its activities and does not discriminate on any basis.

Printed on recycled paper.  
Please recycle this magazine. Please read it first.



## High Honors for UW-Madison

2022 has been a year of grand achievements and gold awards.

It's been a glorious year for the UW. In August, **Jennifer L. Mnookin** assumed the role of chancellor, bringing new ideas and energy to campus. Badger men's basketball won a share of the Big Ten championship, with **Greg Gard** honored as Coach of the Year and **Johnny Davis x'24** as Player of the Year. UW-Madison continued its streak of stratospheric rankings among institutions of higher education — 20th nationally and 27th in the world, according to the Center for World University Rankings.

It's been a good year for *On Wisconsin*, too. We won the gold award for best magazine from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), competing against alumni publications from the world's other top universities. We also won three CASE awards for writing and design, along with three more from the Milwaukee Press Club in a contest for all Wisconsin newspapers and magazines. Our goal is to be a first-class publication worthy of a first-class university, and we're proud to add our awards to the UW's other honors in 2022.

More than prizes, of course, we care about pleasing our readers. A recent readership survey found engagement at an all-time high, with 90 percent reporting that *On Wisconsin* strengthens their connection to UW-Madison. To make the magazine even more appealing, we've improved our design over the past year. Check out the new treatment for Diversions, Destination, and other pages, including the one you're on right now.

We hope you've had a good year as well, and we look forward to celebrating the UW's 175th anniversary with you in 2023. Who knows what glories lie ahead.

**DEAN ROBBINS**





WHERE

EDUCATION

PROVIDES

BOTH

ROOTS

AND

WINGS.

CAN'T STOP A BADGER



# OnCampus

News from UW-Madison



JEFF MILLER

## Pay for Play, the Right Way

*UW student-athletes will receive financial awards for academic achievement.*

In July, the UW Department of Athletics committed to providing academic-based financial awards to student-athletes for the 2022–23 school year and beyond.

Under the plan, all UW student-athletes — regardless of whether they're on an athletic scholarship — will have the opportunity to earn up to \$5,980 per year. That dollar amount represents the maximum allowable award for academic performance following the landmark *NCAA v. Alston* Supreme Court case last year. The court ruled that universities may not limit education-related benefits for student-athletes, opening the door to direct financial payments for academic achievement. However, the ruling allows the NCAA to cap the amount proportional to the financial value a student-athlete can receive from athletic-performance awards.

"As soon as the Supreme Court ruling was determined, we knew we wanted to commit the full allotment to our student-athletes," says UW athletic director **Chris McIntosh '04, MS'19**. "I'm really proud of the fact that we can provide our athletes with a significant amount of money to start their postgraduate lives."

In April, ESPN reported that Wisconsin was the first Big Ten school to have a plan in place to provide academic bonus payments in 2022. At that time, only 22 of the 130 schools that ESPN surveyed had committed to such payments this year.

In addition, the UW's approach to disbursing the payments will incentivize the completion of a degree. Student-athletes who are academically eligible for the award will receive \$980 per year until their athletic eligibility has expired. Once they graduate, they will receive the additional \$5,000 for each year, up to \$25,000. The university's commitment totals more than \$3.8 million per year.

"This is a game changer for Wisconsin," says women's soccer coach **Paula Wilkins**. "For me to be able to offer every athlete, including walk-ons, this award money can't be [overstated]. I think about this from my own personal perspective as a former student-athlete and the impact \$20,000 upon graduation would have had for setting up my future. I'm thrilled for our players."

**PRESTON SCHMITT '14**

## BIG TEN GETS BIGGER

If you enjoy catching some rays while cheering on the Badgers, we have good news: the University of Southern California (USC) and the University of California–Los Angeles (UCLA) are soon joining the Big Ten Conference.

On June 30, the council of Big Ten leaders voted unanimously to admit the California schools effective August 2, 2024. The criteria for admission included academics, competition, diversity and inclusion, and financial sustainability.

"UCLA and USC are two of the premier athletic and academic institutions in America," UW athletic director **Chris McIntosh '04, MS'19** said in a statement. "Their addition further strengthens the Big Ten's stature as the nation's most impactful athletic conference, on and off the fields of play."

There was a mixed response from fans of Big Ten teams, though many acknowledged that consolidation into "mega conferences" appears to be the future of college athletics. In August, the Big Ten cemented its status as a powerhouse conference by reaching a new broadcast-rights agreement with Fox, CBS, and NBC for more than \$7 billion over seven years.

The Big Ten Conference has expanded several times in recent years. It admitted Penn State in 1990 as well as Nebraska, Maryland, and Rutgers between 2011 and 2014. The addition of USC and UCLA in 2024 will increase membership to 16 universities.

"I am especially thrilled for our West Coast alumni," McIntosh said of the expansion. "They will now be more connected than ever to the conference and to their alma mater."

**PRESTON SCHMITT '14**

**\$5,980**

What UW athletes (including women's hockey players, above) will be able to earn per year for academic awards.





UW ARCHIVES

## The Birth of a Dynasty

Badger men's hockey came into its own with a 1973 NCAA title.

Life on campus was dramatically different a half century ago. The football team had only two winning seasons in 17 years, including a stretch of 23 consecutive winless games, while the men's basketball team finished above .500 just three times from 1968 to 1988. Antiwar protests regularly roiled the university.

From such a time sprung a new men's hockey contender. Over one improbable weekend in Boston in March 1973, the Badgers captured their first NCAA hockey title. In the 33 years that followed, they added five others — more than any other college program in that span.

Most remarkable about the achievement is that it came just seven years after Coach **Bob Johnson** arrived like a dynamo from Colorado College, and just three years after Wisconsin

was admitted to the powerhouse Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), which had won 16 of the 22 NCAA titles up to that point.

The Badgers had been to two of the previous three NCAA tournaments before 1973, but they had never played for the title. Merely reaching Boston required a gauntlet of six games in nine days.

Wisconsin finished the regular season with a weekend sweep at home against Minnesota, completing a 17-1 record at the Dane County Coliseum. The team swept two games against the Gophers in the first round of the WCHA playoffs, the last punctuated by a wild brawl with 39 seconds left. The Badgers followed a tie against Notre Dame with a 4-3 victory, punching their ticket to Boston.

Back then, the NCAA tournament was a small affair, with just four teams. Against Eastern champ Cornell in the semifinals, the Badgers fell behind 4-0 in the second period, then 5-2 early in the third. Yet the 3,000 UW fans who trekked to Boston kept cheer-

*Unintimidated: Two come-from-behind goals by Talafous (left) sent the Badgers into the finals.*

ing. "They never allowed us to die," Johnson said.

Goals by **Gary Winchester '74** and **Jim Johnston '73** got Wisconsin within one, and with five seconds left, sophomore **Dean Talafous '74** scored. With 33 seconds left in overtime, Talafous scored again, sending the Badgers into the finals against high-powered Denver, the number one team in the country.

The Pioneers had two all-Americans and the WCHA's top freshman, "but we weren't intimidated," said Wisconsin captain **Tim Dool '73**, a puck-hounding dervish.

The UW fell behind early, but Dool's second-period goal tied the game 2-2, and Talafous earned a place in Badgers lore with another game-winner. The celebration carried deep into the night in the streets of Boston.

Upon their return to Madison, the Badgers were greeted by more than 8,000 supporters at the Field House. A new dynasty in college hockey had begun.

**GARY SANTANIELLO**



BRYCE RICHTER

## Another Amazing Find in Lake Mendota

As the sun rose over Lake Mendota on the first morning of autumn, a team of divers with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) braved the crisp winds and choppy waves, warmed by the promise of what lay beneath: another ancient dugout canoe.

Not even a full year had passed since the team's first excavation of a Ho-Chunk canoe in November 2021 (see "Mendota Remembers," Fall 2022 *On Wisconsin*), but this latest vessel to surface from Lake Mendota's depths was crafted long before its predecessor — 1,800 years earlier, according to radiocarbon dating.

The 14.5-foot-long canoe, recovered in large pieces, is believed to have been paddled around 1000 BC by Late Archaic ancestors of the modern Ho-Chunk Nation, making it the oldest canoe ever recovered from the Great Lakes region. According to **Amy Rosebrough MA'96, PhD'10**, terrestrial archaeologist in the WHS State Historic Preservation Office, it's among the oldest canoes ever recovered in the Americas.

"Rome was barely a collection of huts when this canoe was sailed," she says.

**Tamara Thomsen '91, MS'93**, a WHS marine archaeologist who found last year's canoe, made this latest discovery just 100 yards from the site of the first while giving a diving lesson in May. After two accidental archaeological finds in Mendota's lake bed, the WHS team is asking the question: What might we find if we go looking?

**Jim Skibo**, WHS state archaeologist and honorary fellow in the UW Department of Anthropology, intends to find out. Skibo and his team will partner with **Bill Quackenbush**, tribal historic preservation officer of the Ho-Chunk Nation, to conduct a survey of the lake bed near the recovery site in search of additional canoes and artifacts.

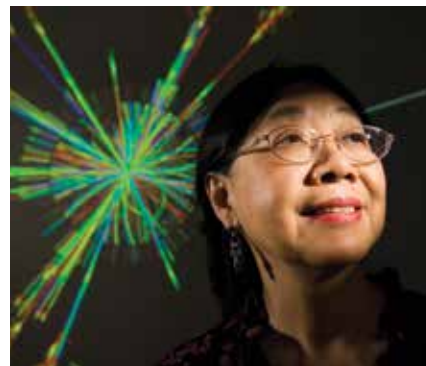
"The find has prompted us to research fluctuating water levels and ancient shorelines to explore the possibility that the canoes were near what are now submerged village sites," Skibo says.

Several members of the Ho-Chunk Nation accompanied the canoe through the water on the day of recovery and welcomed it to shore, including President **Marlon WhiteEagle**.

"Every person that harvested and constructed this *caašgegu* [white oak] into a canoe put a piece of themselves into it," WhiteEagle said. "By preserving this canoe, we are honoring those that came before us."

According to Ho-Chunk Nation public relations officer **Casey Brown x'04**, the tribe will also act as ambassadors of the canoe, which will be featured in the new Wisconsin history center in 2026.

MEGAN PROVOST '20



JEFF MILLER; BRYCE RICHTER; UW ATHLETICS

## The International Astronomical Union

has named a minor planet "Saulanwu" after UW-Madison physics professor Sau Lan Wu. The planet is in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Wu, who was featured in the Summer 2019 *On Wisconsin*, is a particle physicist renowned for her role in discovering the charm quark and Higgs boson.



## A book by UW math professor Jordan Ellenberg

got its star turn on the *Jeopardy!* game board. On the July 1 broadcast, the TV quiz show offered this clue:

"Shape, about the

hidden meaning of this branch of math, is dedicated in part to 'AB' — presumably a person, not a line." The answer: What is geometry?



Former Badger star Sarah Nurse '18 is the first women's hockey player to grace the cover of the Electronic Arts NHL video game series, appearing on *NHL 23: X-Factor Edition*. Nurse set an Olympic record with 18 points for Canada earlier this year and became the first Black woman to win Olympic hockey gold.

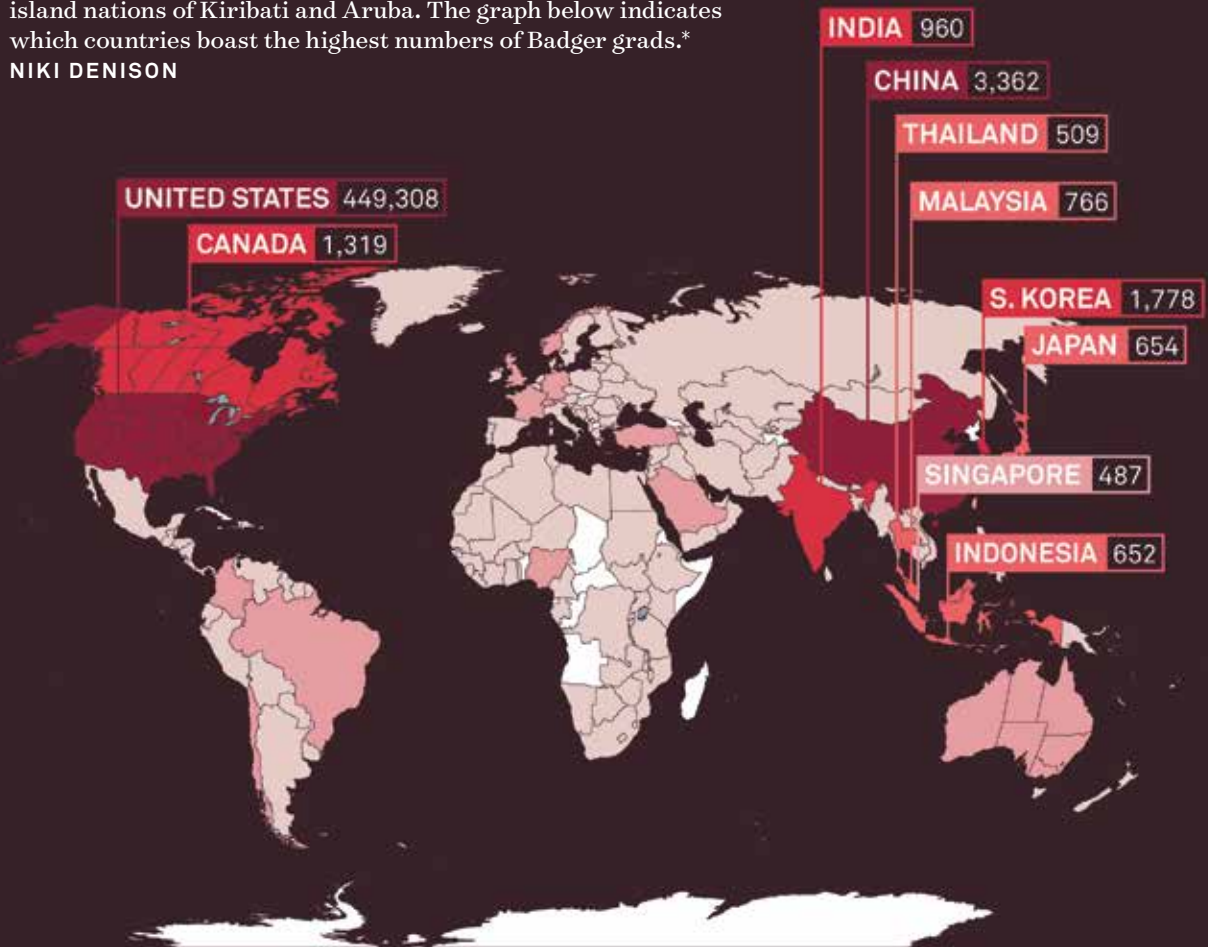


## Badgers around the World

See which countries alumni call home.

UW-Madison graduates are everywhere. There are 449,308 in the United States, and the university claims alumni in 166 countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe — including one each in the tiny island nations of Kiribati and Aruba. The graph below indicates which countries boast the highest numbers of Badger grads.\*

NIKI DENISON

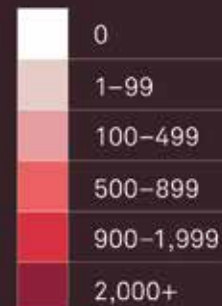


**38**  Countries with no alumni.

**1<sup>st</sup>** International student was William Stewart from Ancaster, Canada, who was among the 20 men in the first class in February 1849.

**7,342** Number of international students enrolled at UW-Madison.

**24**  Countries with only one alum.



\*Data current as of August 2022.



BRUCE RICHTER

## Promising Teachers

As America — and Wisconsin — try to navigate a deepening shortage of K-12 teachers, the UW-Madison School of Education is working to inspire more people to enter the profession. The Wisconsin Teacher Pledge gives students a chance to have their tuition waived if they promise to spend several years teaching at Wisconsin schools.

The National Education Association estimates that the United States has 300,000 fewer teachers than it needs, and in Wisconsin, 74 percent of school districts report being unable to fill positions. In August 2020, the School of Education announced the Teacher Pledge as part of its Impact 2030 campaign: tuition forgiveness for all students who promise to teach in the state for at least four years, or three years in high-need subjects or school districts.

“Salaries in Wisconsin are very low for teachers,” says **Diana Hess** (above), the dean of the School of Education. “We can’t do anything directly to improve the salaries, but we can improve the standard of living by ensuring that students don’t have a lot of student loan debt.”

To be eligible for tuition forgiveness, students make the pledge when they’re admitted to a teacher education program, usually after their sophomore year or when they enter as graduate students. The school gives those students a loan that covers tuition and then forgives a percentage of that loan as the students fulfill each year of teaching after they graduate. Hess believes that, after at least three years of working as a teacher, people are likely to commit to the profession for much longer.

But Hess says that the pledge is about more than attracting people into the teaching profession. It’s also a live study to see if the loan forgiveness program really does keep teachers in the profession long-term.

“We’re trying to find out, essentially, does it work and does it work to hit those goals?” Hess says. If the data back that up, she hopes to see the pledge program expand.

Currently about 500 students have taken the Teacher Pledge, and Hess is seeking funding to continue the program into the future.

**JOHN ALLEN**



DANIELLE LAMRY

## HOW TO SAVE 50,000 LIVES PER YEAR

Eliminating air-pollution emissions from energy-related activities in the United States would prevent more than 50,000 premature deaths each year and provide more than \$600 billion in benefits annually from avoided illness and death, according to a new UW study.

The study reports the health benefits of removing dangerous fine particulates released into the air by electricity generation, transportation, industrial activities, and building functions like heating and cooking. These are also major sources of carbon dioxide emissions that cause climate change, since they predominantly rely on burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas.

“Our work provides a sense of the scale of the air-quality health benefits that could accompany deep decarbonization of the U.S. energy system,” says **Nick Mailloux PhD’24**, lead author of the study and a graduate student at the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. “Shifting to clean energy sources can provide enormous benefit for public health in the near term while mitigating climate change in the longer term.”

UW professor **Jonathan Patz**, senior author of the study, thinks it could motivate more action on climate change.

“My hope is that our research findings might spur decision makers grappling with the necessary move away from fossil fuels to shift their thinking from burdens to benefits,” he says.

**CHRIS BARNCARD**



## UW-Madison's Next Chapter

New chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin crafts a “collective vision” for the university’s future.

**Jennifer L. Mnookin** started her job as UW-Madison chancellor on August 4, and she wasted little time immersing herself in Badger culture. She served Babcock ice cream at an all-campus party on Bascom Hill, posed for pictures with her new friend Bucky Badger, and scheduled listening sessions with faculty, staff, alumni, student groups, legislators, tribal leaders, and community members. Mnookin also took time to tell *On Wisconsin* about her unique approach to creating a vision for the UW’s future.

### *How are you adapting to life at UW-Madison after 17 years at UCLA?*

It’s been an exciting first few months, a whirlwind but wonderful. I’ve been soaking in as much as I can about our university, our broader community, and the state. That’s involved many meetings with faculty, staff, students, and alums, and opportunities to do things like meet with fruit farmers who partner with one of our agricultural research stations, hold a baby pig at a county fair, and start to meet community leaders and legislators in Madison and across the state. Provost **Karl Scholz** has teased me that every time he asks me, “How’s it going?” I respond with some enthusiastic version of “Great!” and then share with him some interesting tidbit that I’ve just learned about this amazing university.

What’s so striking is that nearly everyone I’ve met shares a deep sense of pride in this university. Though we might sometimes have different ideas about priorities, virtually

everyone does want to see us continue to grow and thrive, and I’ve already benefited from hearing a variety of thoughtful perspectives about UW-Madison’s next chapter.

I’ve also been grateful for the many suggestions about how my husband and I should best embrace our first winter in Wisconsin. I’m hearing that lots of layers are even *more* important than the perfect winter coat! (I still do have a little time before I actually need that winter wardrobe, right?)

### *What are your top priorities for your first year at the UW?*

My top priority right now is to listen and learn. The best vision for the university’s next chapter isn’t going to emerge from a 10-point list from on high; it’s going to grow out of building a genuinely collective vision for the university’s future. I’ve been asking everyone I meet two questions: What is working well here? And where do you see the most meaningful opportunities for change?

I want to hear ideas that are feasible and concrete, and I also want to hear ideas that are ambitious, creative, and innovative.

I am deeply committed to making sure UW-Madison is a place where we can discuss *everything* — the ideas we strongly agree with and the ideas we strongly disagree with. That’s sifting and winnowing, and it’s part of what both academic freedom and freedom of speech are all about. At the same time, I want to make sure our students feel safe and supported and know that they belong here even when they’re in discussions

**Mnookin:**  
*“Nearly everyone I’ve met shares a deep sense of pride in this university.”*

with classmates who might have very different worldviews. Both the university as a place of vibrant and sometimes challenging intellectual exchange, and the university as a space of belonging for those who are with us, whatever their identities, backgrounds, or political perspectives, are very important to me.

### *How do you see UW-Madison leveraging its strengths to make a difference in the world?*

I’ve spent my academic career at top public universities, and they all have a mission to make a difference in the world — but here at UW-Madison, that mission is even a bit stronger and more foundational to our identity and sense of purpose. There are several reasons, I think, that we’ve been able to build this culture and to engage in real-world problem-solving in an energetic way.

The first is our dedication to working across disciplines to solve complex problems. We have veterinarians working with physicians, pharmacists, and engineers, for example, on research related to animal health that also has major implications for human health in areas like cancer treatment and animal-human disease transmission. Cross-disciplinary work can be enormously challenging, but we know that bringing creative researchers together across disciplines to work on critical problems can spark extraordinary discovery and innovation. There’s a serious interest in thinking *across* here, and that’s a great thing.

Related to this is a second important value, the Wisconsin Idea. Our commitment to public service shapes the way we teach and drives many of the crosscurrents that make our research





enterprise extraordinarily broad, deep, and excellent. As we approach our 175th anniversary next year, we have an opportunity to celebrate the Wisconsin Idea in a way that further builds UW-Madison as a national and global model for what a great public university can be.

***Finish this sentence: "I'll have a brat, cheese curds, and..."***

A scoop of Babcock Dairy's orange custard chocolate chip!

*Interview by Dean Robbins*

*Photo by Jeff Miller*





CHRIS FLINK

## She Loves U-Rah-Rah (Rah)

The Beatles have finally made it to Madison, thanks to a new collection in the Mills Music Library.

Throughout their brief but busy touring years, the Beatles never touched down on a Madison tarmac. Neither the unmistakable opening chord of “A Hard Day’s Night” nor the frenzied shrieks that drowned out the band’s live concerts ever rattled the rafters of the Stock Pavilion or echoed through the stately halls of Memorial Union. More than 50 years after the Fab Four broke up, they have finally found their way to the UW–Madison campus — not on a stage, but in the rare kind of library where sound abounds.

The **Jim Berkenstadt** Beatles LP Collection, the latest addition to the Mills Music Library, isn’t your local record store’s stock of the band’s biggest hits. Instead, this treasure trove of vinyl and memorabilia explores the nuances of some of the most influential musicians in history through bootleg recordings of the band and of the individual members in their solo careers. It comprises more than 600 rare LPs featuring live shows, interviews, press conferences, home recordings, outtakes, unreleased tracks, and more.

“I took classes in art in college, and we would follow a Picasso from its very first drawings all the way to the finished painting,” says Berkenstadt, the curator and donor of the collection. “[Through these

*Selections from this new collection are featured in the exhibition Press Play: Recorded Sound from Groove to Stream, which is on display in Memorial Library’s Special Collections Room during the fall semester.*

bootlegs], I was looking at the Beatles’ music in that same way.”

Berkenstadt is a music historian who has made a name for himself as the “Rock and Roll Detective.” In addition to publishing numerous best-selling books, he has consulted on such projects as Martin Scorsese’s *George Harrison: Living in the Material World* (2011), Ron Howard’s *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week — The Touring Years* (2016), and Peter Jackson’s *The Beatles: Get Back* (2021).

The beauty of the collection lies not only in the novelty of its items, but in their utility for teaching the history of recorded sound through a band that was instrumental in shaping it.

“The Beatles were issued in lots of different configurations, so we can study how those recording technologies actually impacted the sound,” says **Nate Gibson**, an ethnomusicologist and audiovisual preservation archivist at Mills. Music public services librarian **Tom Caw** also sees the collection as a tool for teaching students about the unique attributes of vinyl, such as liner notes and cover art.

“I’m excited about having the physical evidence to share with students so that they get the fuller sense of what these LPs meant in their time: for us to hold them in our hands, to look at them, to turn from the front cover to the back cover, and then to take the LP out and play it on our equipment,” says **Susan Cook**, director of the UW Mead Witter School of Music. “It [shows] that the music isn’t just the sound. The music is the technology. The music is the material culture.”

**MEGAN PROVOST ’20**



ERIC ROMAN BEINING PHOTOGRAPHY

*"Our brains want our expectations to be supported," says Cox.*

## The Science of Stereotyping

A new UW study shows why letting stereotypes inform our judgments of unfamiliar people can be such a hard habit to break. It found that stereotypes self-perpetuate in our minds, growing stronger with use.

"Think back to when you were in grade school learning your multiplication tables, and you would repeat them in your mind," says **William Cox MS'08, PhD'15**, a UW scientist who studies prejudice. "Going through the world making assumptions about other people with stereotypes we've learned is another form of mental practice. With more rehearsal, those assumptions get stronger over time, even when we have no real evidence to back them up."

Cox, **Xizhou Xie '16**, and UW-Madison psychology professor **Patricia Devine** put more than 1,000 people to work on a stereotyping task that involved reading social media profiles (some of them seeded with stereotypical information) and deciding whether the men in the profiles were gay or straight. Some received feedback about whether they were correct or incorrect, and others received no feedback. Then they read more profiles so researchers could see how the previous feedback affected their answers.

When the feedback mostly confirmed stereotypes, people stereotyped even more over time. Meanwhile, people who received feedback countering stereotypes didn't seem to learn from it, continuing to stereotype at the same rate. Even more distressing, the people who received no feedback showed learning patterns like the people whose stereotypes were confirmed.

For Cox, the results support the theories behind the neuroscience of learning.

When an uncertain prediction is confirmed — like successfully guessing which number will come up on a roll of dice — that confirmation activates reward processes in our brains. The result is a pleasant little chemical release that reinforces the value of the prediction. In Cox's new studies, this neural-reward process made stereotyping more appealing than accuracy. Participants continued relying on stereotypes even when the feedback said that they were inaccurate.

"Our brains want our expectations to be supported," says Cox. "Because of that reward engagement, we can start becoming addicted, in a way, to stereotyping. Simply understanding that this happens is an important way to check those assumptions and not let them influence your judgment."

**CHRIS BARNCARD**



U.S. OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

## NUCLEAR FALLOUT COULD CAUSE NEW ICE AGE

With the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, fears of nuclear war have increased. And while we've had an idea of how nuclear fallout will affect life on land, a new study sheds light on what could happen in the ocean's darkest depths.

**Elizabeth Maroon**, a UW assistant professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences and affiliate in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, was on the team that published the findings. She and her colleagues used climate models suggesting a nuclear war could lead to oceanic changes that would cause temperatures to drop more drastically than in the last ice age.

"Within the first year or two," Maroon says, "water in the North Atlantic sinks all the way to the bottom of the ocean, which we think has not happened even in the ice ages. In today's ocean, only near Antarctica does water sink all the way to the seafloor."

This change in ocean circulation would only be the beginning, paving the way for a damaged ocean food web and extending sea ice.

**CHELSEA RADEMACHER '13**





## Off to See the Wizards

The Washington Wizards scooped up Badger basketball star **Johnny Davis '24** with the number 10 overall pick in the 2022 NBA draft, making him the first UW player drafted in the first round since 2015 and the 10th in history. The sophomore from La Crosse, Wisconsin, helped the team win a share of the Big Ten championship last spring and was named the conference's Player of the Year. We'll miss Davis's competitive fire at the Kohl Center but can't wait to see how far it takes him in the pros.



Average annual "pink tax" for auto loans over a 12-year period, based on a study led by UW-Madison marketing professor **Cheng He**. The term pink tax refers to the markup that women pay for products compared to how much men pay. Many buyers are unaware that auto dealers can mark up interest rates for loans regardless of buyers' risk profiles, potentially leading to gender discrimination.

*"As the cause of our rapidly warming climate, we also have the power to be the solution."*

— **Andrea Dutton**, UW professor of geoscience and MacArthur "genius" fellow, quoted in the *Guardian*



## DO TALK TO STRANGERS

Between working from home, having groceries delivered, and banking online, it's increasingly possible to conduct life without engaging face-to-face with another human being. The average person can mostly avoid conversation with strangers.

But it turns out that not talking to strangers can lead to poorer decision-making, less creativity, and diminished well-being, according to a study coauthored by **Stav Atir** (above), assistant professor of management at the Wisconsin School of Business. The study also suggests that we underestimate the potential for learning from those we casually interact with.

"Failing to accurately anticipate how much someone could teach you is consequential," says Atir.

The study randomly paired strangers for a 10-minute conversation and compared how much they expected to learn before the conversation with how much they reported learning after the conversation. Participants consistently learned more than they expected, including understanding another's perspective and acquiring advice or instruction on various topics.

Talking with others communicates norms, creates shared understanding, and conveys morality, among other benefits. "If we fail to use our capacity for learning from others to its full extent," says Atir, "we're short-changing ourselves of the full human experience."

**LEIAH FUNDELL**



DANIELLE LAMBY

## No Newsfeed, No Cry

Anxiety and fear went hand in hand for Americans trying to learn more about COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic — and the most distressed people were turning on the television and scrolling through social media, according to UW-Madison research.

“Higher media consumption — seeking out the news — was associated with more emotional distress,” according to UW psychology professor **Markus Brauer**.

Brauer and collaborators in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication surveyed more than 2,200 people throughout the United States in March and April of 2020.

They asked respondents if they felt “overwhelmed,” “anxious,” or “afraid about what might happen,” as well as how often they were seeking out pandemic information via different types of news media.

Younger respondents and women were more likely to be emotionally distressed, as were people with liberal political views and, naturally, people who felt they were likely to catch the virus. But the findings held even when controlling for age and gender.

“We sort of expected that with social media consumers,” says Brauer, who partnered with journalism professor **Dhavan Shah ’89** on the study. “Negative news gets more clicks and is shared more often, so people who get their news from social media are disproportionately exposed to distressing content.”

However, the negative impact wasn’t limited to consumers of social media.

“What really surprised us was the association between emotional distress on the one hand and frequency of getting news from print media and television on the other hand,” says Brauer.

Both television and social media had the strongest positive relationships with emotional suffering. The association was smaller for print media consumption, but still significant.

The study doesn’t allow for causal conclusions. While it is likely that seeking out news updates about the pandemic led to emotional distress, according to Brauer, it is also possible that people who are distressed try to manage their emotions by checking the news more often.

“So many of us are connected what feels like constantly throughout the day, and there’s certainly a point where continued attention isn’t a benefit,” Brauer says. “Would nine hours a day checking the news for COVID information make you more informed than five hours a day? Probably not. Our results tell us you’re just more likely to feel worse.”

**CHRIS BARNCARD**



BRYCE RICHTER; JEFF MILLER

**UW—Madison came out 33rd** in the world and 23rd in the United States in the Academic Ranking of World Universities, which rates 2,000 institutions of higher education. The Princeton Review also ranked the UW 11th for “students who love their colleges” — though we certainly don’t need a scientific survey to tell us that Badger pride is off the charts.

## Google's July 6 Doodle illustration

celebrated the 71st birthday of the late Charlie Hill x’75, the first Native American comedian to appear on national television. Hill, who had Oneida, Mohawk, and Cree heritage, challenged stereotypes on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Richard Pryor Show*, and *Late Show with David Letterman*. He majored in speech and drama at the UW.



**The UW fired football coach Paul Chryst** ’88 five games into the season. It was the first time the Badgers had dismissed a head coach in the middle of a season. Jim Leonhard ’06 stepped into the role — the fourth time Badger football has had an interim head coach. Barry Alvarez coached bowl games after Bret Bielema and Gary Andersen left, and Jim Hilles coached the 1986 season after the death of Dave McClain.



# The Comeback Coach

Show Kelly Sheffield a struggling volleyball team, and he'll show you a championship season.

This may come as a surprise: **Kelly Sheffield**, the winningest volleyball coach in UW history, has never played the game himself. While Sheffield may never have stared an opponent in the eyes through the weave of a net, he makes up for it with more than 30 years of an arguably more valuable perspective.

Sheffield joined the UW as the head coach of the volleyball team in December 2012, just as the Badgers were coming off one of the lowest slumps in the program's history.

"I thought that this was a place that could be great in this sport," Sheffield says. "I thought that with the fan base, and the location, and the academics here, it could be a place that people would want to be a part of — that this could be a monster."

Today, he's led the team to four Big Ten Conference championship titles and nine consecutive NCAA tournaments, including three of the program's four appearances in the NCAA championship, the latest of which resulted in the Badgers' first national title in 2021. At this point in his career, turning fledgling teams into forces on the court is Sheffield's signature play.

Sheffield assumed his first head coaching position at the University at Albany in 2001. His first team ended its season 4–20. By the time he left in 2007, the Great Danes had won three regular-season and

three conference-tournament championships. He then spent five years as head coach at the University of Dayton before joining UW–Madison, where the Badgers had spent their last five seasons failing to qualify for the NCAA tournament, left out of the American Volleyball Coaches Association's (AVCA) Top 25 Poll, and ranking in the bottom half of the Big Ten.

Enter Sheffield. In his first season, the Badgers tied for fourth in the Big Ten, were ranked second by the AVCA, and became the lowest NCAA seed to ever qualify for the championship when they made the program's first appearance in the tournament since 2007 and first championship appearance since 2000.

The secret to these turn-arounds, Sheffield says, is no secret at all: shared goals, strong players, and sheer passion.

*Wisconsin volleyball set an NCAA attendance record for a regular-season match when 16,833 fans packed the stands during the Kohl Center Classic against Florida on September 16.*



"You've got to give everybody a vision of where it is you want to go. Then, every single day, you're just working toward it, trying to find ways to get better," he says. According to his players, he conveys that vision in no uncertain terms.

"[He] tells you how it is whether it's what you want to hear or not," says middle blocker **Danielle Hart '21, MSx'24**. "In Kelly's mind, to be anything but honest is to not care enough about that person and their improvement."

But there's a little more to it than that for the coach. As much as Sheffield invests in the success of his team on the court, he invests more in the development of his players as people whose lives extend beyond volleyball.

"If it's just about volleyball, to me, that's boring," Sheffield says. "We've got the opportunity to teach life skills through sport and through competition. Finding ways to help make a connection between

these things won't only help you become a better volleyball player or a better team, but it will help you through challenging times of your lives."

In his 10th season with the Badgers, Sheffield's goals haven't changed much since his first: be elite and remain elite. (Check and check.) His coaching philosophy also remains the same, and you'd be hard-pressed to find someone in favor of changing it.

"I want [players'] time here to catapult them toward their future," Sheffield says. "I want them to know that I care about them more as a person than what they can do as an athlete. I care about who they are right now, and also about their future. ... And along the way, hopefully, we teach them a thing or two about the game of volleyball."

**MEGAN PROVOST '20**  
**PHOTO BY BRYCE RICHTER**



# We Are What We Ate

*The evolution of UW cuisine,  
from 19th-century pigeon soup to  
21st-century grain bowls*

BY LINDA FALKENSTEIN '83

**M**y memories of UW cuisine center on cost-cutting lunch strategies, like ordering gravy over rice from the Lakefront Cafeteria in the Memorial Union, or pairing a bag of salty yellow popcorn from the Rathskeller with a 25-cent carton of Bucky Badger chocolate milk, sold out of a vending machine on the lower level of the Humanities Building. That's right, Humanities had a milk vending machine. Bucky Badger in all his pugilistic glory was emblazoned on the side of the waxy little red-and-white carton. Welcome to UW-Madison.

The thing about being an undergraduate is, you are not usually tuned in to fine dining. Generally, undergrads have neither the time nor the money to be gourmands.

With the money I saved, though, I would reward myself with a slice of fudge-bottom pie or a Babcock ice cream cone from the Union — or better, a hot fudge sundae if I rode my bike out to Babcock Hall. And every so often, I would invest in a glass of good red wine and a slice of Queen of Sheba cake at the then-reigning monarch of State Street dining, the Ovens of Brittany.

My good friend Becky Harth '82, who waitressed at the Ovens while in school, remembers the restaurant's morning buns, as well as other local favorites: "Rocky Rococo slices, sprout and cheese sandwiches on grain bread, and tap beer — never from bottles." It's a representative selection from the early 1980s. There are beginnings of locavorism side by side with remnants of hippie dishes and the pizza and beer beloved by 20-year-olds everywhere.

Although UW-Madison doesn't have a dish named after it, the school has plenty of reasons to distinguish it as a unique culinary zone. And besides, who wants to eat Harvard beets anyway?

Classic Badger  
snacks in the  
Rathskeller.







BRYCE RICHTER (LEFT): UW ARCHIVES S08733

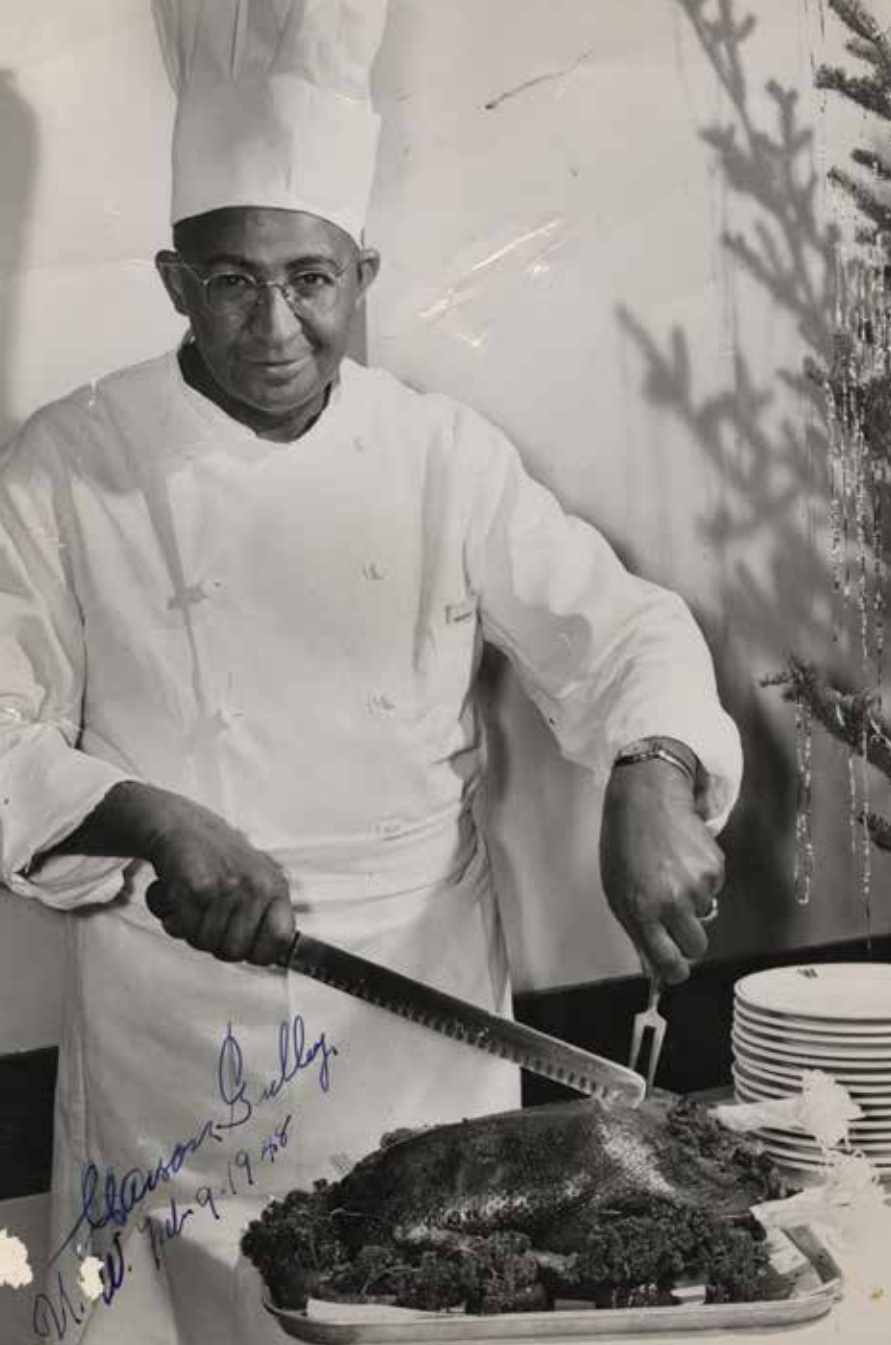


*Bucky Badger helps out in Gordon Commons; one of the UW's legendary fudge-bottom pies in 1953.*



UW ARCHIVES S15057





### ***In the Beginning***

The first dining hall on campus was in South Hall, one of the original dormitories along with North Hall. Scott Seyforth PhD'14, current assistant director of residence life, says the kitchen was overseen by the wife of math professor John Sterling.

Many students, however, lived off campus and would have needed to find food elsewhere. Following a fire in Science Hall in 1884, North and South Halls were taken over for classroom instruction, and there were no dorms for men until the opening of Tripp and Adams in 1926. Women continued living on campus in Ladies Hall, which was later renamed for UW president Paul Chadbourne — in a kind of reprimand by President E. A. Birge, who wanted to punish Chadbourne for his lack of enthusiasm for coeducation on campus.

While no official menus or recipes have survived from this earliest era of the UW, it's reasonable to assume students ate meals the way other Madisonians did during the period. Recipes from early residents were collected by Lynne Watrous Hamel in 1974's *A Taste of Old Madison*. In the latter half of the 1800s, soups might range from those familiar today, like black bean, to a corn soup made with plenty of venison — or, barring the availability of that meat, rabbit, squirrel, pigeon, or duck.

Hamel includes a recipe for popovers from President Birge's wife, Anna; cornmeal/pumpkin pancakes from Emma Curtiss Bascom, wife of president John Bascom; and crullers from the wife of Thomas Chamberlin, who followed Bascom as president. These doughnuts would not be unfamiliar to the decades of students who have haunted the Greenbush Bakery on Regent Street for treats fresh out of the fryer.

Desserts tended to be spice and fruit cakes or fruit pies; cookies were likely to be ginger, oatmeal, or sugar. Chocolate, that staple of today's desserts, was not produced for the mass market until the late 1800s.

### ***Carson Gulley: Influencer***

The next era of UW cuisine begins in December 1926 with the hiring of Carson Gulley as head chef of the new Van Hise Refectory, which opened in conjunction with the first lakeshore dorms that year. Don Halverson MA 1918, then director of dormitories and commons, discovered Gulley working in a resort up north and hired him on the strength of his cooking.

Gulley was influential not just in campus kitchens, where he paid special attention to cook training, but in Madison as a whole. As an African American, he fought Madison segregation laws for years along with his wife, Beatrice, in their attempts to buy a house.

The couple encountered so many barriers that the UW built the Gulleys an apartment in the basement of Tripp Hall before they finally managed to buy a home in the Crestwood subdivision.





He and Beatrice had a pioneering cooking show on Madison television in the 1950s, and many area families and UW graduates still use his method for roasting a turkey — no basting required. Still, Gulley is most often remembered as the creator of the UW's fudge-bottom pie: a graham-cracker-crusted, vanilla-custard-filled, whipped-cream-topped concoction distinguished by a bottom layer of intense chocolate. Some sources claim the recipe came from two chefs at the Memorial Union, and both the dorm cafeterias and the Union have served the pie for years. As its originator, Gulley wins out in popular memory, and his recipe for the pie is included in his cookbook *Seasoning Secrets and Favorite Recipes of Carson Gulley*.

Gulley, who died in 1962, was honored when the Van Hise Refectory was renamed Carson Gulley Commons in 1966. It's now called Carson's Market within the Carson Gulley Center.

### ***The Mysterious Maizo Salad***

Since the Memorial Union opened in 1928, it's been in the business of serving daily breakfast, lunch, and supper from fast student sustenance to fine dining. For much of the 20th century, the Georgian Grill was a table-service, linen-tablecloth restaurant on the second floor, while Tripp Commons was a cafeteria-style gathering place for faculty and students (in addition to the Rathskeller and the Lakefront Cafeteria on the first floor). Ted Crabb '54, director of the Memorial Union from 1968 to 2000, says the Georgian Grill was a "very elegant dining

*Opposite page: Celebrity chef Carson Gulley in 1948; Tripp Commons in the 1960s. This page: Babcock Dairy Store in 1981; 1955 cookbooks with recipes for "veal birds."*



What's the secret to making the fudge-bottom pie pictured on our cover? See this story at [onwisconsin.uw alumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uw alumni.com) for behind-the-scenes photos and video.



room” used to entertain visiting guests and was frequented by the public before theater performances. Faculty would bring their families there for dinner in the evening.

Tripp Commons often saw faculty and their students meeting at lunch, pulling tables together, and “discussing the issues of the day,” says Crabb. “There was a sense of community.”

Many Union menus from Tripp Commons and the Georgian Grill from the 1940s have been saved in the University Archives. Lunches usually included a lighter option like a sandwich or creamed chipped beef on toast, but there were also heartier entrées that could serve as dinner.

Dinners included an entrée, vegetable, fruit, roll, and beverage. Meat was the star of the show — veal, lamb, pork chops, steak, roast beef, chicken. There was the occasional inclusion of smoked beef tongue or one-offs like a chicken liver omelet with creole sauce. Global cuisine was limited to chow mein and “Italian spaghetti with meatballs and parmesan cheese.”

Crabb says the most popular meal at the Georgian Grill was steak, and the most requested dessert was fudge-bottom pie.

that crops up frequently in the 1940s Union menus, is included in both a 1955 and a 1965 version of a cookbook for Elizabeth Waters Residence Hall. It collected recipes “for all girls of Liz who will wish to recapture an important part of dorm life — mealtime,” as the introduction to the 1955 edition puts it. Veal birds are strips of veal steak stuffed with a bread-cube dressing, rolled, and baked.

Another milestone from midcentury was the Babcock Dairy Store, which was an innovation included in plans for the new Babcock Hall in 1950. The small dairy bar on Linden Drive was intended primarily for campus patrons, as the university did not want its product to compete with commercial ice cream producers.

### Comfort Food

Campus dining underwent many changes during the reign of Rheta McCutchin ’56, food service director from 1958 to 2002. In the 1970s, McCutchin was instrumental in creating an eater-friendly, à la carte model. She said the other Big Ten schools thought the UW was crazy for going to individual item choice and pricing, but the system served the university well for many years. McCutchin was also instrumental in making food available at a wider range of hours and introducing more global flavors into the menu.

When Julie Luke began working for dining services in 1985, many of Carson Gulley’s original recipes were still in rotation. “Probably up to 1995 or so, there were a lot of remnants of cuisine that started with Carson,” says Luke, who retired in 2017 as associate director.

By the mid-1990s, though, even modifying the old recipes wasn’t quite working. “That older-style food just wasn’t what the students were looking for,” Luke remembers. “But I think the basics of what Carson stood for — the quality of ingredients, his technique, his commitment to teaching students — have stayed.”

Luke says student favorites tended to be “comfort food,” like macaroni and cheese or mashed potatoes and gravy. And they were good — made from scratch.

Luke mentions a popular mint brownie from the mid-1980s. The minute the words are out of her mouth, that brownie materializes in front of me like the dagger in front of Macbeth. Dense and fudgy, it had a layer of vivid mint-green frosting. A recipe for “Creme de Menthe Bars” is included in McCutchin’s three-ring binders held in Steenbock Library, with the suggestion that green food coloring and extra mint extract can be substituted for the creme de menthe. It sure sounds like the brownie I remember. The bad news for the from-scratch crowd: its base ingredient is Pillsbury Tradition Brownie Fudge Mix.

I was unable to track down another dessert bar I think I remember from that era. It had a sweet crumb crust so caramelized it might as well have been pure



UW ARCHIVES 2017S01241



*The elegant Georgian Grill in the 1960s. Meat was the star of the show.*

Salads were also in rotation. Lots of them. In addition to a spinach salad that wouldn’t be out of place in today’s dining rooms, there was “banana and salted peanut,” “devilled cabbage,” many aspics and gelatins, and some whose ingredients are likely lost to time, like a perplexing “Maizo” salad.

Most dishes say “1940s America” more than they say “Wisconsin” specifically, although the state’s cheeses are sometimes called out as part of a menu item. “Fresh red plum with Wisconsin cheese and toasted crackers,” “Wis. blue cheese with t. crax.,” “apple pie with Wisconsin cheese,” and “grilled Wisconsin cheese sandwich” all make appearances. The recipe for the mysterious “veal birds,” an entrée

brown sugar, topped with a mix of nuts, dried fruits, granola, and chocolate chips. “It was very sweet,” I tell Luke, probably unnecessarily, but she doesn’t recall the dessert. Anybody?

### ***Personal Kitchens***

Peter Testory, the current director of dining and culinary services, emphasizes the attention that his team gives to student suggestions when it comes to recipe development. “First and foremost, we continually gather student feedback,” he says. “What are the flavor profiles that they’re looking for?” This evolves constantly with each new group of students.

In the last five years, Testory has seen students looking for bolder and spicier flavors, but interest in food doesn’t stop at how it tastes. “We’ve seen a huge increase in interest in where the food comes from, what manufacturers we have relationships with, and the practices of those manufacturers,” he says. “How do they treat their employees? What humane practices do they have for animals? The whole process.”

That includes a reusable to-go container program. Students exchange a token for the container, which can then be returned to be cleaned. Upon return, the student gets a new token.

Testory sees the dining halls as being students’ “personal kitchens,” and so it is crucial to “make sure that we are in tune with what menu offerings they want.” That can mean the availability of grab-and-go items as well as plenty of options for what looks like an old-fashioned sit-down dinner. Today, boneless chicken wings are one of the most consistently popular items.

Dining areas are now called “markets,” and the choices available are like a cafeteria times four. Stations serve customizable pastas, pizza, noodle bowls, stir fries, and multiple vegetarian and vegan options like dal, black bean burgers, and tempeh with red peppers and broccoli rabe. There’s even vegan beer-battered cod for a traditional — or maybe not so traditional — Friday fish fry.

“We’re starting to see more and more interest in our plant-based vegan and vegetarian options — grain bowls, Beyond burgers, plant-based chicken nuggets and patties,” Testory says.

Yet even though the markets are full of dishes that Carson Gulley might not recognize, such as a barbecue jackfruit sandwich or imam bayildi, there are, too, daily options that could make Gulley — or most alumni — believe they’d been transported back to the campus of an earlier era. Beef sirloin tips. Mashed potatoes and gravy. Roasted brussels sprouts. Herb-crusted pork loin. Homestyle mac ‘n’ cheese. And yes, even a slice of fudge-bottom pie now and then. ●

*Linda Falkenstein ’83 is associate editor of the Madison newspaper Isthmus, where she has long covered the area food scene.*

## **OFF-CAMPUS CLASSICS**

### ***Avocado Spring Rolls***

UW–Madison’s Library Mall is the epicenter of giant avocado spring rolls; they may well be unique to our campus. Unlike most spring rolls, these are the size of hefty burritos, with lettuce, rice noodles, cucumber, fresh basil or mint, slices of avocado, and add-ons loaded into a ginormous rice paper wrapping. They’re sold at three carts, but Fresh Cool Drinks has the longest lines.

### ***The Red Brat***

State Street Brats (formerly the Brathaus) is home to the red brat, a mixture of pork and beef that’s smoked and split before grilling, maximizing that crispy exterior. The sausage has been made by a number of butcher shops since its birth in the 1950s. Currently it’s made by Trig’s Smokehouse of Rhineland, Wisconsin. The flavor is rich and almost sour, even without adding kraut.

### ***Rocky Rococo Pizza***

There have been other campus-area pizzas, from Gino’s to Ian’s, but it would be hard to overestimate the impact of Rocky Rococo, which opened on Gilman Street in 1974. The pizza was pan-style, not easy to find in those days. The name came from a character in a Firesign Theatre skit, which gave the place a touch of counterculture cred that dovetailed nicely with the campus vibe of the era. Pizzas were sold by the slice or the pie, and there was always the vegetarian option, the Garden of Eatin’. While pizza trends have changed since the mid-1970s, there’s still nothing quite like a slice of Rocky’s, the slightly sweet doughy crust playing off the mild marinara sauce, united by generous amounts of gooey cheese.

### ***Cheese Curds***

It wouldn’t be a Wisconsin Game Day without fried cheese curds, which are available, well, everywhere. The devoted turn to the Old Fashioned on the Capitol Square, whose curds crunch with a light beer batter. Chef-owner Tami Lax says she tried taking the curds off the menu during the takeout-only days of the pandemic because curds don’t travel well, but customers wouldn’t hear of it.

—L.F.





*Wright (in the UW Law School library) is the former codirector of the Wisconsin Innocence Project, which seeks to exonerate wrongly convicted people.*

# Law Prof by Day, Novelist at Night

BY GEORGE SPENCER

*Steven Wright MFA'14 draws on a unique set of legal experiences in his acclaimed fiction.*

In the midnight hour. When no one else is around. That's when the creativity of Steven Wright MFA'14 comes tumbling out. That's when his fingers fly. On his keyboard nouns meet verbs. Prepositions do their thing. Punctuation finds its place, and letter by letter a new novel is born.

Most nights find Wright, an associate clinical professor at UW Law School, working on his second thriller, a follow-up to his smash debut, *The Coyotes of Carthage*, a screwball dive into the bleak world of dark-money politics. No less an authority than bestselling legal-thriller writer John Grisham calls Wright "a major new voice."

Down in his basement, sitting at a wood desk strewn with papers and empty bottles of unsweetened tea, Wright faces the wall with two screens in front of him (one for research, one for writing). Music pounds. Sam Cooke, Aretha, Master KG, Outkast, the Chicks. More often than not, the same song roars over and over and over and over again.

"For me, writing is a loud experience," says Wright, who also lectures in the UW Program in Creative Writing, where he earned his MFA. "Part of the way I know I'm doing okay is that you sort of zoom out on the music. You're not really listening to the lyrics. You lose track of time. You're mesmerized with whatever's on the screen."

Author Lorrie Moore, Wright's former UW writing instructor, is a bit in awe of him. "He works hard and stays up late," she says. "He laughs and makes you laugh. He is blessed/cursed with a quick, high-energy brain."

Wright is a towering presence, both intellectually and physically, thanks to his six-foot-two height. Besides his UW degree, he has a bachelor's in economics and history and a master's in environmental economics from Duke as well as a law degree from Washington University. He even found time to get a master's from Johns Hopkins's writing program while doing a five-year stint as a trial attorney in the civil rights division of the Department of Justice. When Wright applied to the UW's program, he wrote, "I have the perfect job. For someone, but not me."

His sly wit snakes through every page of *The Coyotes of Carthage*. When asked to describe himself, he conjures up a cinematic vision, pointing out his freckles, hair that's a little wild, and his "exceptionally big head," which requires him to wear "special big-headed glasses."

Besides teaching in two programs, Wright is the former codirector of the Wisconsin Innocence Project, which seeks to exonerate wrongly convicted people. Thanks in part to his efforts, four men were freed.

Wright continues to meet clients in Wisconsin's maximum-security prisons with law students in his clinic. "I sometimes describe it as being like *Scooby-Doo*," he says. "A bunch of students and I get in a van, and we go and try to solve murders around the state."

Experiences like these inform Wright's fiction. His Department of Justice work, for example, had him trekking to rural areas to try voting rights cases. While passing time in places like Bolivar County, Mississippi, he befriended local politicians — "masters of their communities," as he calls them. And the down-and-dirty secrets he learned about small-town elections reveal themselves throughout *The Coyotes of Carthage*.

### Swamp Creature

The novel tells the tale of Dre Ross, a sleazy, 30-something, African American political consultant in Washington, DC. A former small-time drug dealer raised by a bipolar schizophrenic mother, he slept in alleys and did hard time in juvenile prison for a savage assault he didn't commit.

*The down-and-dirty secrets Wright learned about small-town elections reveal themselves throughout The Coyotes of Carthage.*

This down-and-out swamp creature has been given his last chance: Go to backwater Carthage, South Carolina. Dupe its flag-waving voters into approving a ballot initiative that will sell public land to a mining company. Never mind that its toxic runoff will kill tourism, poison the water supply, and basically destroy the place.

The dirty trickster whips up websites for phony front groups such as the Council of Christian Commerce and the Society for American Freedom. He runs dishonest ads and polls. He launches nasty online attacks.

Dre, writes Wright, "wonders at what point he lost control." Whether he means of the campaign, his sanity, his decency, or all three goes unsaid. Lest a reader think Dre only has it in for white people, he is an equal-opportunity abuser who "admits that for his people he might have done more harm than good."

Sour wisdom from the dark-money world — and Wright's rural journeys — peppers Dre's thoughts. "Elections are about getting voters to hate others." "God bless social media. Good for pictures; terrible for truth."

"Steve has a real heart to his work," says novelist Judith Claire Mitchell, who formerly taught in the UW creative writing program. "There's an emotional openness that balances the cynicism. His main character in *Coyotes* is very openly wounded. His heart is broken, and that's not hidden."

Critics loved the book for the way it combines the



alienation of *Catch-22*'s Joseph Heller with Hunter S. Thompson's gonzo ethos and the wacky imagery of a Coen brothers movie. "Riveting," with a "tick-tock pace and knockout prose," cheered the *Washington Post*. "Darkly funny and bleakly honest," gushed *Salon*. "Crackerjack debut," raved *USA Today*, which put Wright on its list of "100 Black Novelists You Should Read."

"Writing," says Wright, "is the art of keeping people paying attention."

Like most first-time novelists, he took a long time to finish *The Coyotes of Carthage* — four and a half years. He came home from work and would "eat something, walk the dogs, and write — and that was my life."

## *The ability to see all sides of people benefits Wright's work as both a novelist and a law school professor.*

When he gave the supposedly final manuscript to friends to read, they hated it. Too intellectual, too grim, they said.

During those years Wright had started visiting prisons. "The darkness of that world — the horrific crimes, the awfulness of the wrong person going to jail, and the possibility that the real person who did it was out there and causing more harm — entered the novel, and it became very different from what I wanted it to be," he says. "I don't know if I was using it as therapy."

When told he should cut it from 140,000 to 70,000 words, Wright says, "I was pretty sad, but you stand up. You brush yourself off, and then you go at it, and in the end, I'm still quite proud of it. But it's obviously a very different book than I thought I had finished four years ago."

First novels are notoriously autobiographical, but Wright's upbringing bears no resemblance to Dre's. When asked what traits he has in common with his ruthless, haunted antihero, Wright jokes, "I think in the book I describe him as exceptionally good-looking." He quickly confesses that he shares Dre's "cynicism and acerbic responses. I can be a bit of a smart aleck."

### *A Family of Eccentrics*

The son of a computer scientist mother and a father who was an army doctor, Wright grew up obsessed with storytelling. He loved the Choose Your Own Adventure book series, which allowed preteen readers to control plots by deciding which way stories would turn.

He wrote his own *Star Trek: The Next Generation* episodes and fan fiction and remains an avid devotee of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*. His dog, Ahsoka, a black Lab/Great Pyrenees mix, is named after a *Star Wars* character mentored by the virtuous young Anakin

Skywalker (before he became Darth Vader).

"He tries to show her all the ways in the world to be good, with the irony being he ends up the worst person in the world," Wright says, adding, "Now that's not at all my relationship with my dog."

His two sisters and parents were also Trekkies. "I'll be honest," he says, "I come from a family of eccentrics."

He had a globetrotting childhood, growing up in Nashville, Spokane, Oakland, and on military bases in West Germany and Alaska. "There's nothing like being an American overseas, especially during the Cold War, to make you love and admire your country."

Having been in spit-polish schools on military bases, Wright got the shock of his young life in Augusta, Georgia, where he endured his junior and senior high school years. With uncharacteristic understatement, he says, "That experience was formative." Westside High School introduced him to a community where education was inseparable from race, Christianity, and traditional notions of patriotism.

Once, when he stayed silent for a football game prayer and merely bowed his head, teammates razed him. A teacher yelled at a student for failing to show respect for the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance. Students isolated themselves by race at lunch, and admission to Advanced Placement classes seemed to Wright to have a cap on Black students.

"Race is one of those things we continue to try to figure out," he says. "Obviously, over the arc of our country, we've made tremendous progress, but especially as a Black civil rights lawyer who represents Black men in the criminal justice system, [I see] we clearly have a long way to go."

"A lot of the conversations we have about even discussing race in our schools deal with people's discomfort with having conversations about our past and how that implicates our present. My hope is that we can get better at having those conversations. Hopefully, that will lead to better policy in health care, criminal justice, poverty — things I've dedicated my life to dealing with."

Part of the key to Wright's success is his easy-going nature, which allows him to feel at home in varied settings.

"He has no problem being plunked down in a room with conservatives or liberals, or with people who aren't interested in politics or who are very interested in politics," says his former Department of Justice colleague Robert Popper, who is now senior counsel at the right-leaning group Judicial Watch. "He likes to laugh with and, frankly, at them all."

Back in his days as a rural trial lawyer, Wright became friends with a lot of politicians he would not necessarily vote for. "But I thought they were very good people, and it wasn't the end of the world," he says.



This ability to see all sides of people and situations clearly has benefits for Wright's work as both a novelist and a law school professor.

### *No Easy Answers*

Wright takes his law students behind bars in the Wisconsin towns of Waupun, Stanley, and Green Bay.

He struggles to describe the smell of a maximum-security prison. A "giant antiseptic bleach" scent provides the top note. Underneath lurk odors of men who haven't showered because of guard shortages. "I think it's the smell of misery," Wright says.

Before the students go in, he gives them a talking to.

"This is something you're going to remember the rest of your life," he tells them, keeping tabs on their moods. "I'm always mindful of their energy and the tone, because there's just objectively sadness in a prison, and for some students, it's scary.

"Prisons are by design intimidating. You walk through one hall. A door closes behind you, the barred door opens in front of you, and you walk down another hall. Just the sound of it. The clicking of bars behind you and the clicking of doors ahead of

you. The whole aesthetic. You're occasionally given a tour, and we've been to solitary wings. There are guys in there just screaming for their lives."

Nevertheless, Wright encourages his students to retain a sense of humor.

"You can still have moments of levity and moments of laughter," he says. "I want them to learn, but I want them to have fun. I don't see how you can have fun without laughing every once in a while."

Most of his students have very strong feelings about the criminal justice system. Some hate police and believe no one should go to jail. Some think police can do no wrong, and there are no innocent people in jail. "They tend to be a little simplistic at both extremes," says Wright.

"Part of what I hope to do is to create some complexity, to explain to students that oftentimes there aren't a lot of easy answers, that there are different stakeholders, and that all people — including the police, suspects, and victims — are not all just one thing."

Spoken like a true novelist. ●

*George Spencer is a freelance writer who lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina.*

*Wright the teacher: "A bunch of students and I get in a van, and we go and try to solve murders around the state."*



# *Nobody's Senator but Ours*

BY PRESTON SCHMITT '14

*Kohl's gift to  
the La Fol-  
lette School of  
Public Affairs  
has proved  
transformative,  
boosting its  
efforts to train  
future leaders  
and advance the  
public good.*

---

*After a quietly effective political career, Herb Kohl '56  
is helping UW-Madison find practical solutions for  
an ailing democracy.*

---

**H**erb Kohl '56's steadfast commitment to finding common ground made him one of the most successful problem-solvers in the U.S. Senate. His nearly compulsive modesty also made him one of the least known.

That is, except to Wisconsinites, who rewarded his earnestness by electing him to four terms from 1989 to 2013. He was, according to his famous campaign slogan, nobody's senator but theirs.

Former colleagues of Kohl, fellow Democrats and rival Republicans alike, invariably describe him as gracious and honest, quiet but effective, and above all, dedicated to Wisconsin.

A decade after he left office, with Washington consumed by partisanship and gridlock, Kohl's soft touch in the Senate seems almost archaic. But always an optimist, he continues to work behind the scenes to promote practical solutions to society's problems. In 2019, he donated a record \$10 million to the UW's La Follette School of Public Affairs. The gift has already proved transformative for the school, boosting its efforts to train future leaders and advance the public good.

"I think we are seeing all of our greatest fears right now. The chaos, the disregard for truth and facts, the unwillingness to listen and talk to each other," Kohl says. "But my greatest hope is in the fact that we are still a democracy in the greatest country in the world. I think we can look to appeal to our better angels and come together if we make the effort."

Kohl, 87, believes he still has a debt to pay off, despite decades of public service and hundreds of millions of dollars in philanthropic gifts. It's the debt he feels from having had such good fortune in his life. In his first stump speech in 1988, he noted that wealthy people have a "special responsibility to those who are not as comfortably well off" — those like his parents, European Jewish immigrants who came to America with nothing and built a business empire that set the stage for one of Wisconsin's most beloved public servants.

### *The American Dream*

The Kohl family's American dream began 100 years ago. Kohl's father, Max, emigrated from Poland, and his mother, Mary, from Russia. They left behind many family members in Europe who later lost their lives to the Holocaust.

Struggling to find their way in Milwaukee, the couple decided to open a corner food market beneath their southside apartment in 1927. Their English was so poor that customers had to point at the items they wanted to purchase.

Max and Mary Kohl often discussed social justice at the dinner table with their kids.

"They always looked forward to the future with optimism and determination," Kohl says. "And they

showed us that your life would be measured far more by what you contribute than by what you have."

In 1946, at age 11, Kohl cut the ribbon at his family's first supermarket, which would soon expand to multiple locations. In 1962, the family opened the first Kohl's department store. It's now the largest such chain in the United States with more than 1,000 stores.

*"My greatest hope is in the fact that we are still a democracy in the greatest country in the world."*

Kohl grew up with his sister and two brothers on 51st Boulevard in the Sherman Park neighborhood. A few hundred feet away on 52nd Street lived Bud Selig '56, the future commissioner of Major League Baseball. They met in early grade school and have remained best friends for more than eight decades. They still meet for lunch almost every week, calling each other only by their last names.

"We have a lot of great memories, fun and funny stories, and maybe even a bit of a shtick," Kohl says.

They bonded over sports from an early age, and Kohl delights in sharing the story of how the two faced each other as captains of their respective baseball teams in the sixth grade. In Kohl's telling, Selig recruited a towering 6-foot-something stranger to pitch in the championship game. Kohl's team struck out at every at-bat and lost 9-0.

"He has a wonderful imagination," Selig says, laughing.

The two friends found their way to the UW for what Kohl calls the best four years of his life. Both he and Selig studied history and political science,

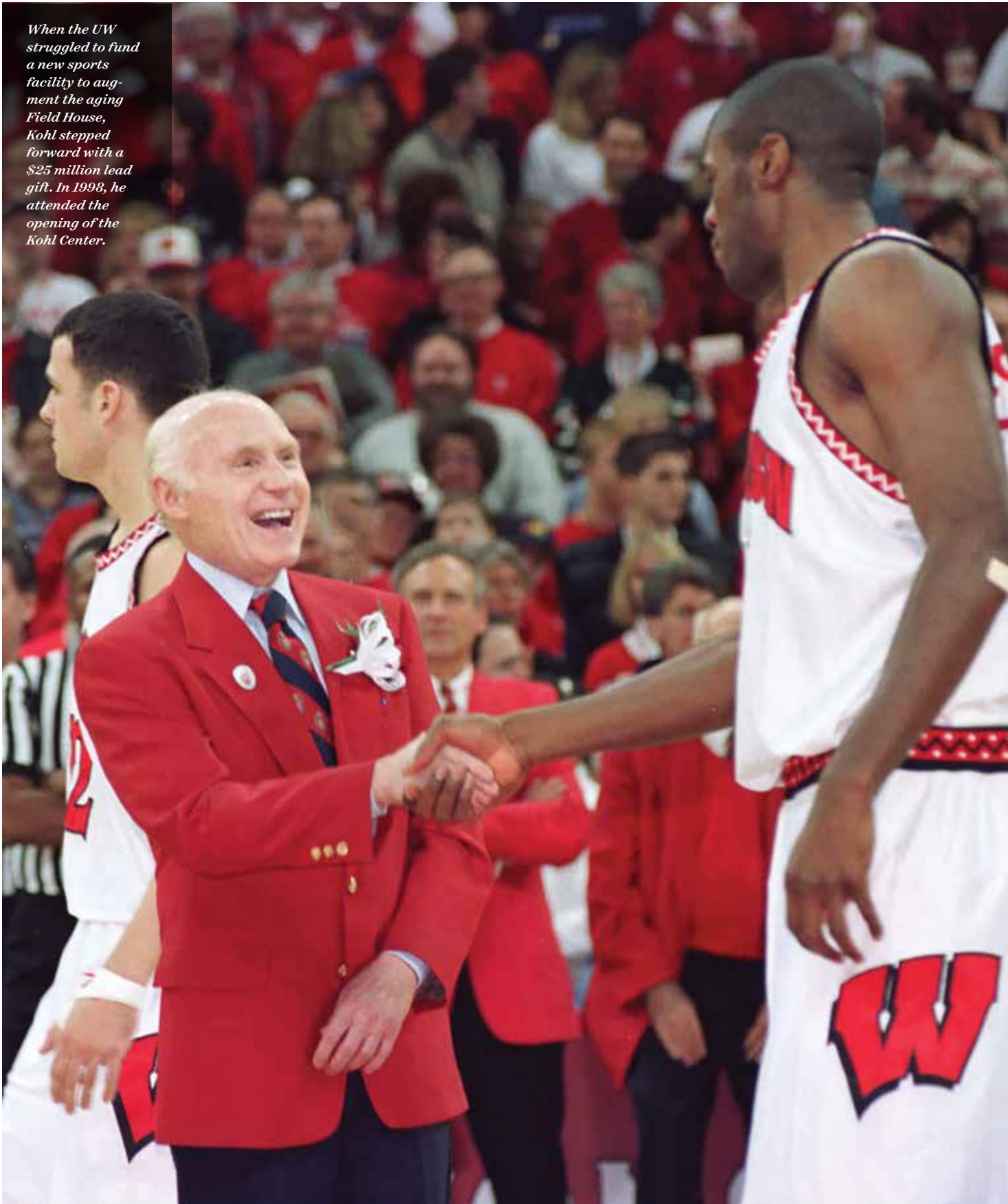


UW DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

*Kohl (right) with best friend Bud Selig in the 1955 Badger year-book. He calls his UW experience the best four years of his life.*



*When the UW struggled to fund a new sports facility to augment the aging Field House, Kohl stepped forward with a \$25 million lead gift. In 1998, he attended the opening of the Kohl Center.*



roomed together, and joined the Jewish fraternity Pi Lambda Phi.

At the UW, Selig became close friends with Charlie Thomas '57, a Black football player, and encouraged him to join the otherwise all-white fraternity. It was a radical notion in the 1950s, but Kohl immediately offered his support.

Thomas's pledging was controversial both inside and outside of the fraternity house. But on the night of the vote, which lasted until 2 a.m., Selig and Kohl deployed the persuasive skills that would later define their careers. They convinced their peers to integrate the fraternity. Thomas went on to a successful career as superintendent of North Chicago schools.

Kohl still holds dear the values his immigrant parents instilled in him: integrity, humility, determination, kindness, hard work, resilience. They're the same ones that made him one of Wisconsin's most respected employers and policymakers.

### *"He's Unique"*

After he graduated from the UW, Kohl earned an MBA from Harvard, joined the Army Reserve, and became president of the Kohl's Corporation, which had expanded to 50 supermarkets and several department stores.

Taking after his father, Kohl continued to run the rapidly growing chain as if it were still a small mom-and-pop shop. He conducted many job interviews himself, believing that employees would be more loyal if they were hired by a Kohl family member. He made the rounds to every store, inspecting the tidiness of food displays and even bagging groceries for customers during busy times.

"With any store we walked into, he knew every employee by their first name, and he knew all their families," Selig says. "You could tell his whole heart and soul was into it."

Employees stayed for years, if not their entire careers. They had their own credit union and health insurance. They had five weeks of paid vacation. They received employee discounts and grocery coupons to buy Christmas dinner for their families.

"Our employees were extensions of our family," Kohl says.

The family sold the business in 1979. Almost a decade later, when Kohl first ran for office, many former employees championed their former boss. Mary Carini, who worked for Kohl's food stores for 10 years, was a registered Republican but volunteered for Kohl's 1988 Democratic campaign, still touched by how he checked in on her during her divorce.

"He's unique," she told the *Capital Times*. "I never knew a businessman of his caliber of intelligence and drive, yet so compassionate toward people."

It didn't hurt Kohl's political prospects that he was the savior of the state's professional basketball team.

Milwaukee Bucks owner Jim Fitzgerald announced in 1985 that he was selling the franchise, lamenting that its arena had the lowest seating capacity in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Kohl feared a sale to out-of-town bidders.

"I knew I needed to step up and do what I could to keep the Bucks here," says Kohl, who bought the team for nearly \$20 million.

*Kohl still holds dear the values his immigrant parents instilled in him: integrity, humility, determination, kindness, hard work, resilience.*

Kohl preserved the Bucks yet again in 2014. He sold the franchise with the contingency that the new owners make a long-term commitment to Milwaukee. He also donated \$100 million to the construction of a new arena to help make that a reality.

And Kohl arguably deserves as much credit as anyone for the team's 2021 NBA championship. It was under his ownership that the Bucks drafted league MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and traded for all-star Khris Middleton.

Before the championship parade, a TV reporter told Kohl that he made the moment possible by saving the team. Kohl, looking as always like he wanted to be anywhere but in the spotlight, responded simply: "Well, that's nice to hear. I was one of many."

Such implausible humility is familiar to anyone who knew him as a senator.

### *A Nonpolitical Aura*

It's one of the most effective and imitated slogans in recent political history: "Nobody's senator but yours."

"Voices of special interests were drowning out the voices of ordinary citizens," Kohl says of his first Senate run in 1988. "And I made the pledge not to accept contributions from political action committees or other special interests."

As he stated at his campaign kickoff event: "The important thing is that when the campaign is over, I will owe nothing to anybody but the people of Wisconsin."

Crucially, Kohl's everyman personality made it believable that he couldn't be bought. He often wears the same navy-blue blazer with a faded Bucks cap. Even when he owned an NBA team, he sat with the crowd rather than at courtside. He's lived in the same Milwaukee condo for 50 years. He prefers to dine at casual "paper napkin" restaurants like George Webb and Ma Fischer's.



"I think in a lot of ways he was always seen as a guy with Wisconsin at the forefront and as a businessman at heart," says Scott Klug MBA'90, a former Republican congressman from Wisconsin who served with Kohl for eight years. "That gave him sort of a nonpolitical aura."

Kohl was late to enter the crowded Democratic primary in 1988. At 53, he was a political outsider. He staked liberal-to-moderate positions on issues, overcame a few gaffes, and sailed through the primary, despite criticism about his heavy campaign spending. Kohl won the seat and held onto it with steadily increasing support. In his last Senate race, he carried all 72 Wisconsin counties. He did it by treating public office a lot like his business. But now, five million Wisconsin citizens were his customers.

---

## *A Workhorse Senator*

He welcomed them all. The office hosted Wednesday morning breakfast for any Wisconsinites who happened to be visiting Washington, DC. The senator would stop by, take photos, and hand out Bucks pens. His aides were on hand to respond to the visitors' policy concerns or assist them with their travel plans.

"It was mandatory," says Ben Miller, who served as a legislative aide in Kohl's office in the early 2000s and now oversees government affairs for UW-Madison. "Every week, we all had to be there with doughnuts and coffee."

Kohl's office earned the reputation as one of the best customer service operations in the Senate. If a constituent called about a missing Social Security check, his staff would promptly track it down. Every phone call was returned, and every letter answered.

Behind the scenes, Kohl was one of the Senate's biggest (if quietest) players, sponsoring or cosponsoring more than 3,000 pieces of legislation over his career.

With gun violence on the rise in the '90s, he negotiated a series of bipartisan gun-control measures. He authored a bill banning guns in school zones. When the Supreme Court overturned it on a technicality, he rewrote the legislation to address the loophole and prohibit guns within 1,000 feet of schools. He also cosponsored the Brady Bill, which required an instant background check and a five-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns.

Such bipartisan compromises on a hot-button issue were anything but inevitable. In July 1998, Kohl wrote legislation mandating that manufacturers include child-safety locks with the sale of handguns. He allowed California senator Barbara Boxer to serve as the lead sponsor of the amendment, which the Senate rejected on a 39–61 vote. Less than a year later, Kohl introduced a nearly identical proposal. It passed 78–20.

"We used to call it the 'Herb Kohl Vote Count'

in our office. There would always be more support than projected when Senator Kohl held a floor vote because his colleagues on both sides of the aisle trusted him," says Jon Leibowitz '80, a former chief counsel for Kohl who later became chair of the Federal Trade Commission. "Everyone knew he was doing it for the right reasons, and they would want to vote with him."

With a soft voice, shy demeanor, and short stature, Kohl rarely commanded the room. But when he did talk, his colleagues knew to listen.

Republican senator Chuck Grassley told *Milwaukee Magazine* in 2010: "I'll bet he never has done anything to harm or hurt anybody behind their back." He added that he probably talked to Kohl less than to any other senator, and yet accomplished more with him than anyone else.

"Since I came from the world of running a business, politics to me has always been based on working hard, finding common ground, and getting things done," Kohl says. "It often means being willing to meet in the middle."

Over 24 years, he cast his fair share of controversial votes. He voted to prohibit same-sex marriage in 1996 but against a constitutional ban in 2006. In 2002, he supported the resolution to authorize the use of military force in Iraq.

"I had misgivings at the time but ended up voting in favor," he says. "I was wrong."

After his fourth term, Kohl retired from the Senate in 2013. His colleagues lined up to recognize his legislative achievements around public education, health care, child and senior care, consumer rights, and Wisconsin's dairy industry. One called him "a classic workhorse senator, as opposed to a show horse senator."

*"He saw it as his job to give a voice to people who need to be heard in Washington — children, working families, and farmers."*

"He saw it as his job to give a voice to people who need to be heard in Washington — children, working families, and farmers," says Tammy Baldwin JD'89, who won Kohl's Senate seat after he retired. "I think when you ask people what they want public service to be, Herb's legacy is a shining example of what it can and should be."

---

## *Leading by Example*

Kohl's father once told him the old adage "Money is like manure; it's not good unless you spread it around." Kohl has made a habit of it.



In 1990, he started the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, which has provided more than \$30 million in grants and scholarships to Wisconsin students, teachers, and schools. His main charitable entity, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, has awarded thousands of grants to nonprofits that support educational and economic opportunity.

“My parents taught me the immeasurable value of a good education,” Kohl says. “Education is an investment with the greatest return. It is also the great equalizer.”

After the UW struggled for years to fund a new sports facility to augment the aging Field House, Kohl stepped forward with a \$25 million lead gift in 1995 for the basketball and hockey center that still bears his name.

And now he has turned his attention back to policymaking. In 2016, he gave a \$1.5 million gift to the UW’s La Follette School of Public Affairs to establish the Herb Kohl Public Service Research Competition, which supports evidence-based policy and governance research by faculty members and students. Topics have ranged from childhood poverty and solar energy to water quality and opioid prescriptions.

Encouraged by its success, Kohl donated \$10 million in 2019 to boost the school’s outreach, teaching, and research efforts.

“Our democracy is being threatened by bitter partisanship, and the La Follette School is poised to lead by example — fostering cooperation, respectful

discourse, and service to others,” Kohl said at the time.

The school now hosts the annual La Follette Forum, convening hundreds of lawmakers and leaders to discuss timely policy topics and bridge partisan divides. It’s launched a poll to capture Wisconsin residents’ thoughts on policy issues. And it’s holding several community events across the state this fall to share policy research and enhance public discourse.

“At UW–Madison, we’re not just convening conversations,” says Professor Susan Webb Yackee, director of the La Follette School. “We’re creating the research that identifies major problems and connects them to solutions. We’re educating future leaders whose public policy skills will translate to government action.”

With Kohl’s support, the UW is becoming an incubator for practical solutions and a setting for common ground. To say he’s fighting an uphill battle may be the understatement of this political decade. Congress — and much of the country — has doubled down on partisanship and division.

Is it too late?

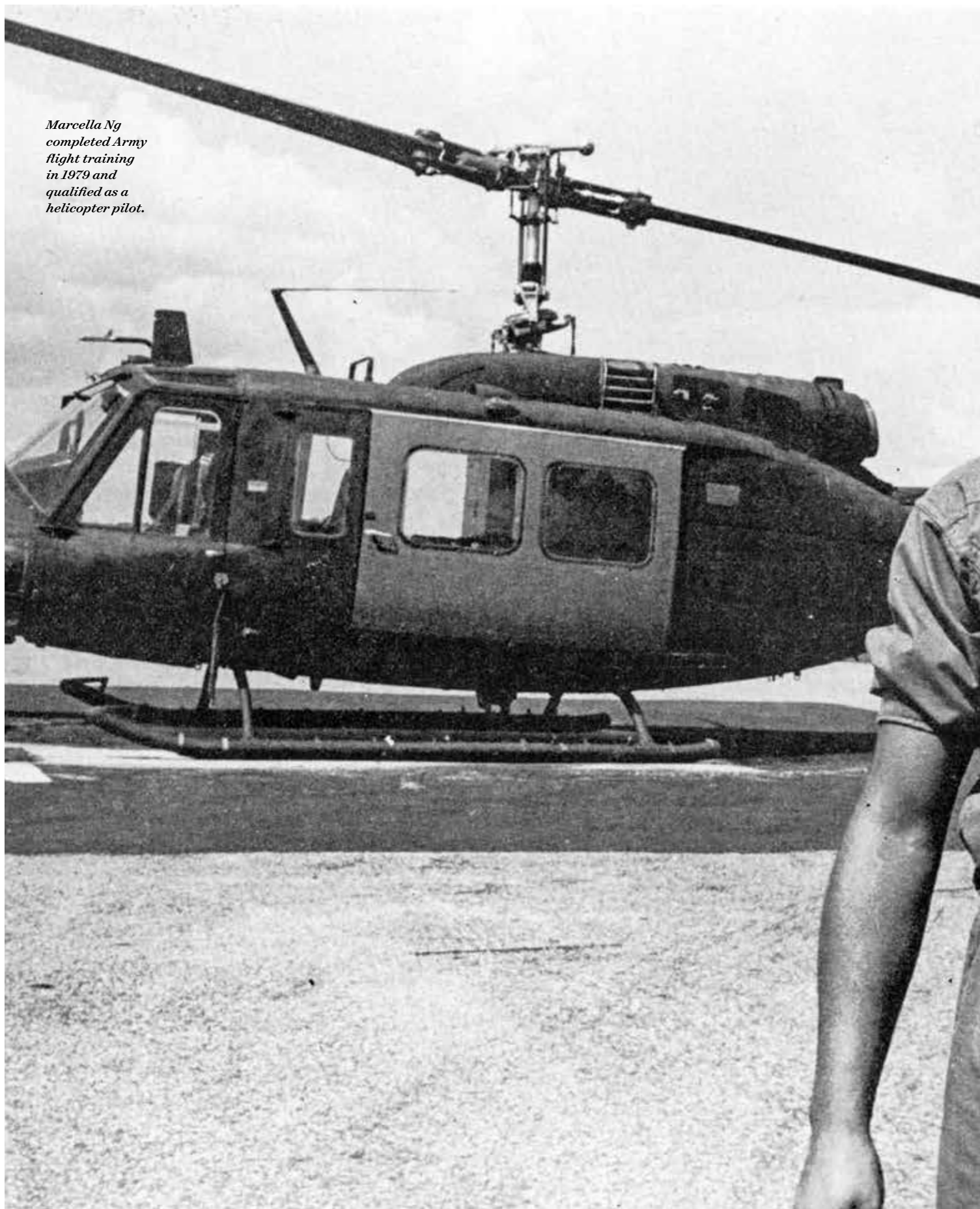
“I have to believe that there’s still room in today’s political environment for people like Senator Kohl,” says Miller, his former legislative aide. “Otherwise, I’m not sure how I would get through the day. I don’t want to lose hope. And part of that optimism is because of what he’s instilled in me.” ●

*Preston Schmitt ’14 is a senior staff writer for On Wisconsin.*

*Senator Kohl (right) with Republican Orrin Hatch: “His colleagues on both sides of the aisle trusted him.”*



*Marcella Ng  
completed Army  
flight training  
in 1979 and  
qualified as a  
helicopter pilot.*



# THE SKY IS NO LIMIT

*As the first Black woman aviator in the military, Marcella Ng '78 is used to breaking through barriers.*

BY ESTHER SEIDLITZ

**M**arcella Hayes Ng '78 calls herself a drug baby. "But a different type of drugs," she clarifies. "I was *drug* to church every time they opened the doors — in and out, in and out."

Ng's imagery might suggest that she went unwillingly, but she follows with a burst of warm laughter. Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, just across the street from Ng's childhood home in central Missouri, was a center of joy and community. As a young girl, Ng helped her parents keep the church clean. She'd go with her mother to choir rehearsals, and her dad was a member of the deacon board. These daily visits to church while growing up led Ng on a path to continued service as an adult: religious, family, community, and military.

They also led her toward shattering a glass ceiling: becoming the first Black female pilot in the United States military.

Mount Olive didn't only form Ng's faith; it gave her a space to form a thick skin. In the church's large lot, she liked to play football with her older male cousins, though they didn't usually welcome her participation. In fact, the boys often played with the intent of making Ng cry so that she'd stop bothering them. It wasn't uncommon for her to run the ball and end up at the bottom of a heavy pileup of bigger cousins. "But you don't dare cry," she'd tell herself. "If you do, it's game over."

*Game over* was not something Ng wanted to hear — ever. She spent her childhood roughhousing with cousins, climbing trees, and ignoring her father telling her, "Go on, girl, get out of here," as he worked on engines. She remembers one of the church ministers saying that the sky was the limit: "And if you shoot for the stars and you don't reach them, at least you'll hit the moon by some chance."

As a young Black girl growing up in the 1960s, Ng wasn't going to let anyone shoot her down. Although she had a number of very good childhood friends in







BYRCE RICHTER



COURTESY OF MARCELA NG

her hometown of Centralia, she also encountered unkindness and hateful names. She switched to a school in the neighboring university town with a more welcoming community. At Hickman High School in Columbia, Missouri, Ng loved going to the football games — not for sport, but to revel in the uniformity and regimen of her high school marching band. She didn't know it at the time, but studying the band's formations and precision would serve her well.

In her senior year, Ng buckled down to focus on her grades and made the National Honor Society. She focused her college search on three schools: the University of Missouri, the University of Kansas, and the University of Wisconsin–Madison. None of them required an application fee: “If they decided that I was not worthy of going to their college,” she says, “I couldn't stand the thought of paying for rejection.”

All three schools accepted Ng. She settled on the UW for two reasons. First, a pair of her high school teachers had done a training at Madison the summer before, and they told her how great the campus was. “If you go far away and it doesn't work, you can always come back home,” they advised her. “But if you never leave, you may never break out of this cycle.”

The second thing that swayed Ng toward the UW was a daytime call from the ROTC department. She was impressed that an organization had called her during daytime hours when phone calls were charged at a higher rate.

“All I could think — this naïve kid — ‘They must really want me,’ ” she recalls. “ ‘They're calling during daytime hours. This is high dollar, man.’ ”

## LADY HAYES

Ng arrived on campus in the fall of 1974. During spring semester, she began training in the ROTC program — and she excelled. In 1976, she was chosen as one of only two women to participate on the ROTC's Tri-Service Exhibition Drill Team at the UW. With a competitive nature and experience literally tackling whatever came her way, she was a standout.

In 1977, Ng was selected for advanced camp in Fort Riley, Kansas, where she continued to impress. In a physical training test involving five different events, Ng earned 497 out of 500 possible points. But when she heard that some of the men at camp were complaining that the few women there were showing them up, Ng considered pulling back. Her master sergeant noticed her change in demeanor and learned what the men had said. “Lady Hayes,” he told Ng, “if you back off, I'm going to drop you like a hot potato. What makes you think that if you slack off and don't give your best that they're going to step up the ante?”

Ng didn't wait to see if anyone else would step up. She decided to compete against herself instead and committed to doing her best. She took on leadership positions and seized opportunities that had only recently been opened to women. After ROTC

advanced camp, she took army airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, to learn how to “jump out of perfectly good airplanes.”

One of her ROTC advanced camp instructors, Lt. Col. Bobby Pedigo, encouraged Ng to apply to flight school, another new opportunity for women in the military. She hadn’t had any previous ambitions to fly, but Ng looked at it like every other adventure she’d already taken on, thinking, “Oh, well, that sounds cool — something new to try.”

After graduation, Ng was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army, and she headed off to flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in 1979. The first woman to graduate from flight school in the U.S. military, 2nd Lt. Sally Murphy, had reached that milestone only five years earlier. When Ng showed up for processing, the mail clerk did a double take and exclaimed, “You’re the first one of you guys I ever seen come through here!” Ng didn’t believe him until a member of the base’s public affairs office approached her with a photographer and informed Ng that she really was the first Black woman to go through flight school.

Instructors at the base quickly stopped public coverage of Ng’s training to protect her privacy and prevent any animosity from her peers. She notes that, while there were a couple of classmates who still gave her sideways glances, she and the one other woman in her class were largely accepted. One classmate, Dennis Ng, became her husband; they’ve now been married for 42 years.

## FOR EVERYBODY COMING THROUGH BEHIND YOU

In 1979, Ng completed her flight training and qualified as a helicopter pilot, becoming the first Black female aviator in the U.S. military. Once it was a sure thing, the public affairs specialist was welcomed back to talk to her about her historic achievement. The barrier was never something Ng set out to break, but she’s grateful for the opportunity and humble about her accomplishment. “It’s just where God allowed me to be.”

The newly married Ng next set out to a post in Germany with her army aviator husband on the Married Army Couples Program. Assigned to the 394th Transportation Battalion, she was the first Black officer, the first female officer, and the first female aviator within her unit in Germany. She had a personal first, too, albeit less joyous: she came up against a subgroup within her unit known as “No Blacks, No Broads” and faced similar sentiments from a few of her superior officers. She lost her flight status in Germany and repeatedly fought to get back in the air, but to no avail.

While it hurt Ng deeply to have flying unfairly taken away from her, her friends comforted her. “Marcy,” they explained, “you’re going through those doors. And you are encountering the hard times. And

*Top left: Ng returned to campus this fall for her induction into the Army ROTC’s Badger Battalion Hall of Fame. Bottom: Ng (middle row, left) pictured in 1989 at Fort Ord, California.*

the hurtful times. If it did nothing else, it caused it to be a little bit easier for everybody else who has to come through behind you.”

## MILILANI

After moving from base to base in the United States and South Korea, Ng eventually became the commander of the 49th Transportation Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. She retired from the military as a lieutenant colonel in 2000 after 22 years of service and stayed in the area with Dennis and their three children.

Of course, Ng hasn’t really stopped serving. During her transition to civilian life, her next career move was decided by her youngest daughter’s unplanned pregnancy. Ng was no stranger to such things — her biological parents had been in the same position when she was born, and her grandparents legally adopted her when she was eight years old. While looking for ways to support her daughter and new grandchild, she discovered a local pregnancy resource center and was inspired to get involved. She joined the organization as a peer counselor and served for seven years as its director until retiring in 2013.

Ever the thrill seeker, Ng and her husband took up motorcycling in the 1990s and are still active with the Christian Motorcyclists Association, a religious organization aimed at ministering to bikers and spreading the faith. Ng explains that evangelizing doesn’t always require words — sometimes she’s just along for the ride, with the simple goal of showing where her joy comes from. “Sometimes you got to use words, but most times it’s just you, living your life, and people being able to see what makes you different,” she says.

Ng’s latest adventure is taking place right on her own lawn in Nolanville, Texas. In 1998, she and her family started putting together a large Quonset-style building on their property. It was a project aimed at family bonding more than anything else — they didn’t have a specific use planned for the building until Ng’s oldest daughter married. Ng decorated it as a reception hall and saw that they could be putting their land to better use.

It formed the basis of the Ngs’ next venture, Mililani Woods, which provides an inexpensive venue for weddings, community meetings, and outdoor photography. The name bridges Dennis’s Hawaiian upbringing with the couple’s faith. *Mililani* comes from the Hawaiian translation of Psalm 100:4 and is posted on the venue’s website: “E komo ‘oukou i loko a kona ‘ipuka me ka mililani!” In English: “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving.” And for Ng, there’s every reason to be thankful. “All 11 acres — it belongs to him. We’re just stewards of the vineyard.” ●

*Esther Seidlitz is the editor of the Wisconsin Alumni Association’s Badger Vibes, where this story first appeared.*

To read more about how Ng became a rap-pelling standout at training camp, visit [onwisconsin.uwalumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com) and click on this story.



# *The All-Time Greatest* **UW PLAYLIST**



**Stupid Girl**  
Garbage



*Our picks for the best songs by Badger alumni*

**BY KENNETH BURNS PHDX'05**



Beethoven and Bach in the Hamel Music Center. National headliners at the Wisconsin Union Theater. Sweet summer sounds on the Memorial Union Terrace.

On the UW campus, music is everywhere, whether it's being performed on stages or taught in classrooms. Little wonder, then, that the university has produced popular musicians of the highest order. They've mastered their genres, sold millions of records, even been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Here are some of the greatest songs by artists Badgers can proudly call their own.



*Pop-music masters (left to right): The Cash Box Kings, Rainer Maria, Yung Gravy, Garbage, Leon Lee Dorsey, Toby Lightman, and Zola Jesus*

## “Down So Low”

### **MOTHER EARTH, 1968**

Madison native Tracy Nelson x'67 spent a couple of years at the UW studying social work and singing at parties and coffeehouses. Then California beckoned. In San Francisco she fronted the blues-rock band Mother Earth and, following a romance with future rock legend Steve Miller x'65, wrote the weeper “Down So Low.”

Nelson has recorded the soul-inflected song numerous times over the years. As performed by Mother Earth, it's staggering, a slow burn punctuated by startling key changes and sweet backing vocals. Nelson's singing is gigantic. “I know your opinion of me isn't good,” she moans, and anyone who's ever been through a breakup knows just what she means.

## “Feel Your Groove”

### **BEN SIDRAN, 1971**

After earning a doctorate in American studies at the University of Sussex, keyboardist Ben Sidran '67 launched a music career that included work with the Steve Miller Band and a series of solo albums on which he perfected a distinctive blend of jazz and rock. “Feel Your Groove,” the title track of his debut release, feels like a statement of purpose, with Mose Allison-inflected speak-singing, dreamy chord sequences, teasing strings, and an extended jam that signifies maximal groove-feeling.



## “Dueling Banjos”

### ERIC WEISSBERG AND STEVE MANDELL, 1973

Bluegrass seldom dominates the pop charts, but that’s what happened in 1973, when the rollicking “Dueling Banjos” peaked at number two on Billboard’s Hot 100. The release was also a number-five country hit and even topped the easy-listening chart. Not bad for this simple instrumental duet recorded by guitarist Steve Mandell and, on banjo, the late Eric Weissberg x’61. (Right, one of the banjos on “Dueling Banjos” isn’t a banjo. Don’t worry.)

Weissberg attended the UW and the Juilliard School of Music before collaborating with future screenwriter and director Marshall Brickman ’62 on a 1963 album, *New Dimensions in Banjo and Bluegrass*. Tracks from that album, as well as “Dueling Banjos,” wound up on the soundtrack of *Deliverance*, the unsettling 1972 film that gave “Banjos” its wide audience.

## “The Joker”

### STEVE MILLER BAND, 1973

Steve Miller came of age musically in Texas, but his roots are in Milwaukee. That’s where he had an early mentor in Les Paul, a pioneer of electric guitar and a good guy for a future Rock & Roll Hall of Famer to know. At the UW, he founded the Ardells, which featured future stars Boz Scaggs x’66 and Sidran. Miller left Wisconsin to soak up the blues in Chicago, then made his way to San Francisco and launched a campaign to conquer radio and the rest of the world.

A series of albums and singles met, at first, middling success. Then came “The Joker.” It reached number one on the Billboard pop chart and set the template for hit records that followed: sparkling arrangement, glib lyrics, guitar hooks no one forgets. But as great as other Miller singles are, “The Joker” wields a secret weapon: the word *pompatus*. Pompatus.

## “Lowdown”

### BOZ SCAGGS, 1976

Boz Scaggs and Steve Miller were friends and musical collaborators as schoolboys in Texas, and with the Ardells they entertained in dorms and at sorority parties. Scaggs appeared on the first two Steve Miller Band albums and released a series of tasteful solo albums that didn’t make much of a commercial impact, notwithstanding the searing Duane Allman collaboration “Loan Me a Dime,” from Scaggs’s second, self-titled release. But when Scaggs released *Silk Degrees* in 1976, the album’s deft agglomeration of soul, rock, and disco captured a moment. The Force was strongest on the low-key “Lowdown,”

with its sly groove and louche lyrics, to say nothing of a flute earworm to beat all flute earworms.

*Silk Degrees* was a multiplatinum smash. No need to wonder-wonder-wonder who is doing that smooth, dare we say silky, singing. It’s Boz.

## “Member of the Family”

### SPOONER, 1982

Garbage cofounder and drummer Butch Vig ’80 walked a long road to alt-rock megastardom. A native of Viroqua, Wisconsin, Vig studied film at the UW. Beginning in the 1970s he was in the power-pop band Spooner, along with future Garbage guitarist Duke Erikson, and the band went on to release three indie albums. The first, 1982’s *Every Corner Dance*, received positive attention in *Rolling Stone*. Singer/guitarist/songwriter Erikson “acknowledges his debt to the Beatles in just about every song,” critic Lloyd Sachs wrote.

The album yielded the memorable track “Member of the Family,” which features the jerky rhythms and tinny keyboards familiar to fans of early 1980s New Wave. The song’s melancholy lyrics fit uneasily with the upbeat music, and what’s more New Wave than that?



Tell us about your own choices for the greatest songs by UW alumni by emailing [onwisconsin@uwalumni.com](mailto:onwisconsin@uwalumni.com); writing [OnWisconsin, 1848 University Avenue, Madison, WI, 53726](mailto:OnWisconsin, 1848 University Avenue, Madison, WI, 53726); or commenting on this article on our website, [onwisconsin.uwalumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com).



## “Carry the Torch”

### FIRE TOWN, 1986

Next on Butch Vig’s musical journey came Fire Town, a rock band whose members included two other UW alumni, Steve Marker ’89 and Phil Davis ’76, MA’81. The group released a pair of albums with Atlantic, *In the Heart of the Heart Country* and *The Good Life*. A standout track from the former, “Carry the Torch,” features the chiming guitars and Byrds-like dreaminess that were all the rage on college radio in the mid-1980s.

## “Stupid Girl”

### **GARBAGE, 1995**

The music Butch Vig made with his 1980s bands was taut and effective, but something was missing. That something, it turns out, was Shirley Manson. Vig, Steve Marker, and Duke Erikson teamed with the flame-haired Scots siren to form Garbage. A signature act of alternative rock's commercial triumph in the 1990s, Garbage has sold zillions of albums, played the grand stages of the world, and recorded a James Bond theme, all while maintaining its acerbic wit and fierce artistic integrity. At the height of their fame, band members stayed in Wisconsin even as performers not half as successful might have drifted to the coasts.

“Stupid Girl,” the highest-charting single from the group's self-titled debut, perfectly encapsulates the Garbage strategy: voluptuous synthesizers, concise guitar hooks, arch lyrics, and, best of all, Manson's menacing vocals. Wherever this song is playing it's 1995 again, but only in good ways.

## “Breakfast of Champions”

### **RAINER MARIA, 1999**

From the ashes of another group named for a poet, Ezra Pound, UW students Kaia Fischer '97, William Kuehn '93, and Caithlin De Marrais '96 formed Rainer Maria. The emo combo made a name for itself among indie fans with its musing lyrics, soft-loud dynamics, and proudly unvarnished singing. In the 1990s and 2000s, the group released five albums and toured the small venues of the unforgiving indie circuit before parting ways in 2006. They subsequently reformed and, in 2017, released another album, *S/T*.

“Breakfast of Champions,” from the 1999 release *Look Now Look Again*, is a mournful, despairing breakup song with lyrics that are in turn abstract and all too precise in their sadness. “When he left me, we drove into a snowstorm,” De Marrais murmurs at the end. Sigh.

## “I’m Not Shy”

### **JOY AND THE BOY, 2004**

Ben isn't the only talented Sidran to graduate from the UW. Son Leo Sidran '99 is a music-business veteran in his own right, with credits that include the Academy Award-winning song he produced, Jorge Drexler's “Al Otro Lado del Río,” from the 2004 film *The Motorcycle Diaries*. In the early 2000s, Sidran teamed with the gifted singer-songwriter Joy Dragland '00 to form the pop duo Joy and the Boy. Early gigs included a 2000 spot opening for presidential candidate Al Gore on Madison's Capitol Square. Then came a series of releases, each one a showcase for Sidran's taut musicianship and

BRENT NICAstro



## “Madison, Wisconsin”

### **LOU AND PETER BERRYMAN, 2000**

Madison-based Lou '77 and Peter x'69 Berryman have forged a long, remarkable career recording albums and performing their funny, subversive songs in folk clubs and church basements. Accordionist Lou writes the music, guitarist Peter the lyrics, and they harmonize robustly as they sing laugh-out-loud ditties about consumer paranoia, ecological dread, and weird stuff in the refrigerator. Career highlights include *Love Is the Weirdest of All*, a 2004 theatrical revue of Berryman songs that Madison Repertory Theatre staged in the UW's Vilas Hall.

“Madison, Wisconsin” is a sweet, nostalgic tribute to the Badger State capital in general and the UW experience in particular. “I used to sit out on the Terrace,” they sing, “and watch my grade point disappear.”



Dragland's poised singing.

A standout song is "I'm Not Shy" from the pair's first album, *Paradise*, with a teasing vocal by Dragland and a lively beat that recalls 1970s funk. "I'm not shy," she purrs, and we believe her.

## "Night"

### **ZOLA JESUS, 2010**

As a UW student, Nika Roza Danilova '10 studied philosophy and French. She also developed Zola Jesus, the brooding, goth-inflected music persona that, starting in the early 2010s, has been received ecstatically in the indie music world and beyond. Danilova has released a series of acclaimed albums marked by her powerful, operatic singing. "Not many female pop voices have sounded like this," the *New York Times* reported admiringly in 2011.

"Night," a highlight of Danilova's 2010 release *Stridulum II*, recalls goth icons like Siouxsie and the Banshees with its moody atmospherics. Yes, it's a love song, but take a line like: "In the end of the night we'll rest our bones." "Rest our bones" is a normal, everyday saying, but in this gloomy setting it has all kinds of creepy connotations.

## "Devils and Angels"

### **TOBY LIGHTMAN, 2013**

As a member of the Omega Chi sorority, Toby Lightman '00 honed her musical chops performing in Humorology, the annual variety show staged by UW Greek organizations. "I was in the cast all four years and directed my senior year," she told the *Badger Herald* in 2004. After graduation the Cherry Hill, New Jersey, native tended bar in New York City and eventually signed with Lava Records.

Her debut album, *Little Things*, included "Devils and Angels," a cheeky woman-done-wrong anthem that melds rock and hip-hop sounds with Lightman's seething lyrics. "I'm going to greet you at her back door as you're coming out," she hisses. That can't end well! The song slid into the Top 20 on Billboard's Adult Pop chart, and a series of major-label and independent releases followed.

## "Impossible"

### **LUCIEN PARKER, 2017**

Since 2007, undergraduates in the UW's First Wave scholarship program have studied hip-hop culture in its many aspects — rap, poetry, visual art, dance. Some have gone on to successful recording careers, including rapper Lucien Parker '19, the South Minneapolis native who landed his musing, low-key track "Impossible" on an episode of the Marvel TV series *Cloak & Dagger*. That makes Parker officially part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Achievement unlocked!

## "Mr. Clean"

### **YUNG GRAVY, 2018**

In the weeks leading up to his UW graduation, rapper Matthew Hauri '17, a.k.a. Yung Gravy, had to miss class — but not for the usual college-student reasons. He was flying off for contract negotiations with major music labels.

The absences paid off when Hauri signed with Republic Records and launched a platinum-selling recording career. But he notched one of his greatest successes when he was still an independent artist: "Mr. Clean," which samples the Chordettes' "Mr. Sandman" and features Hauri's funny boasting about his romantic conquests. The video, in which Hauri traverses Lake Mendota on a Sea-Doo, is a stitch.

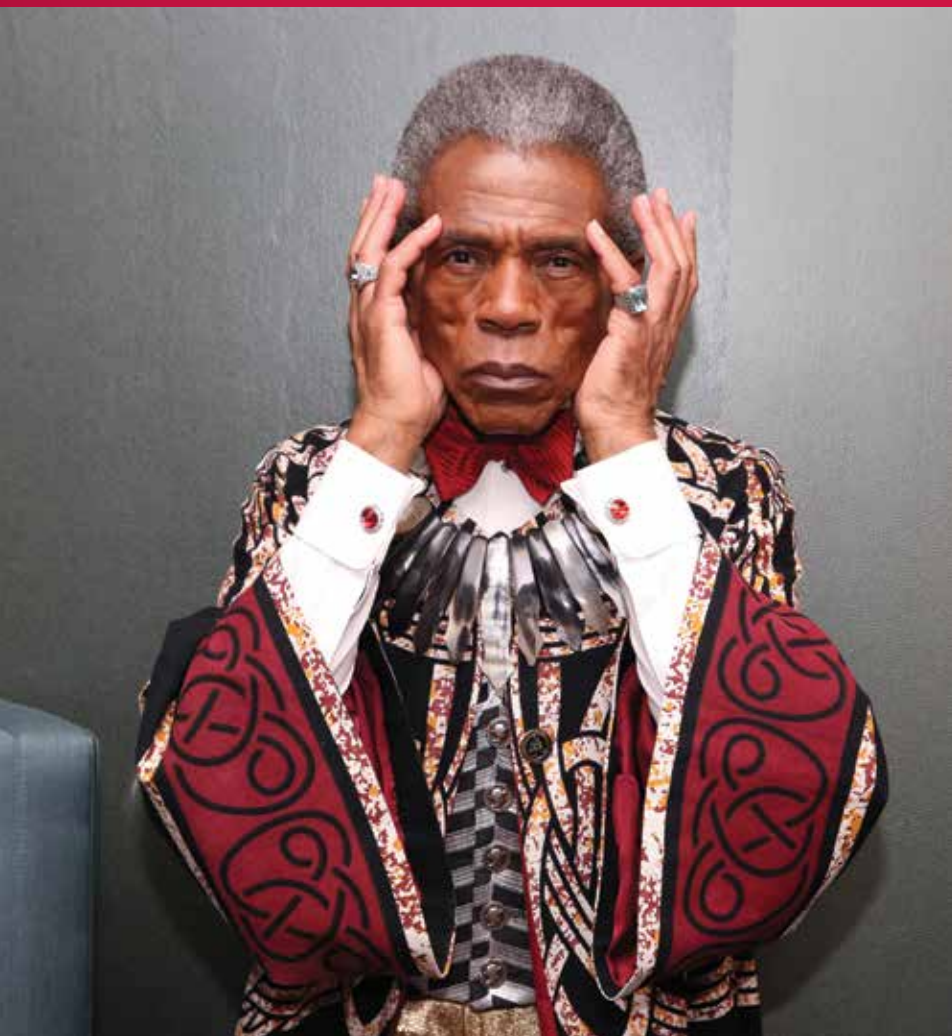


## "Lala"

### **ZHALARINA, 2019**

Another First Wave alum, rapper Zhalarina Sanders '15, MS'18, earned a regional Emmy for *The Light*, a collection of music videos she created for PBS Wisconsin.

She told National Public Radio that her powerful track "Lala" is a love letter to her father, who was incarcerated when she wrote it. "My favorite thing about the song is that it has done exactly what I wanted it to do for my family," she said. "My dad definitely cries every time he hears it."



LIA CHANG

## “Road to Hell”

### ANDRÉ DE SHIELDS, 2019

If you were watching the Tony Awards in 2019, there’s a 99 percent chance you cried as actor-singer-dancer-director-choreographer André De Shields ’70 accepted his honor for best featured actor in the musical *Hadestown*, which revisits the mythology of Eurydice and Orpheus. Rather than rattling off the list of names typical of these moments, De Shields shared what he called his cardinal rules of ability and longevity, beginning with: “Surround yourself with people whose eyes light up when they see you coming.” It was a graceful moment in an unforgettable career, and the award was well deserved.

His signature tune from the show, “Road to Hell,” opens the proceedings with a slinky New Orleans sound and singing that is merrily malevolent.

## “The Wine Talkin’ ”

### THE CASH BOX KINGS, 2019

Harmonica player Joe Nosek ’97, MA’00 formed the blues band the Cash Box Kings as a UW graduate student in the early 2000s. His inspiration, he told the *Chicago Tribune* in 2017, was the Windy City legends whose music he heard when growing up in the Chicago suburbs: James Cotton, Junior Wells, Sunnyland Slim. “We wanted to help keep alive the traditional ’40s, ’50s, ’60s Chicago blues sound, and the ensemble approach to playing blues music,” Nosek said. A key personnel change came in 2007, when Chicago singer Oscar Wilson joined the lineup. The band tours internationally and has released albums steadily since its 2003 debut, *Live! At the King Club*.

On the group’s latest, 2019’s *Hail to the Kings!*, Brown duets amusingly with blues diva Shemekia Copeland in the boisterous shuffle “The Wine Talkin’.”

Visit this story  
on our website,  
[onwisconsin.  
uwalumni.com](http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com),  
to hear all these  
songs on a  
Spotify playlist.

## “Rakin’ and Scrapin’ ”

### LEON LEE DORSEY, 2021

At the UW, jazz bassist Leon Lee Dorsey MM’83 studied with legendary professor Richard Davis. Now Dorsey’s an associate professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and the list of artists he has performed with is a who’s-who of American music: Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Sinatra, Lionel Hampton, Art Blakey.

Dorsey also leads his own band, and his latest release, 2021’s *Thank You Mr. Mabern!*, was the final recording project of the late pianist Harold Mabern, a legend in his own right. The Mabern composition “Rakin’ and Scrapin’ ” is a standout. ●

Kenneth Burns PhDx’05 is a music critic and a former member of the alternative-country band the Junkers, made up of UW grad students. Their songs touched on classic country themes as well as Hegelian dialectics.



# WHAT SUPERHEROES TEACH US

*UW English professor Ramzi Fawaz shows how comic-book mutants can help readers make sense of cultural differences.*

**BY JESSICA STEINHOFF '01  
PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER**

**Y**ou don't need to be bitten by a radioactive spider to gain world-changing superpowers. According to UW-Madison English professor Ramzi Fawaz, reading superhero comics can foster extraordinary abilities, such as tolerance and understanding.

This idea inspired Fawaz to write *The New Mutants: Superheroes and the Radical Imagination of American Comics*, his award-winning 2016 book on how comic-book superheroes of the 1960s and '70s illustrated new forms of social belonging while wrestling with political questions raised by the civil rights movement, gay liberation, and second-wave feminism. He says mutant superheroes living on society's margins — and more conventional characters exploring these margins, like those in Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* — have helped readers see themselves in people who don't share their race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or cultural background.

"Series like *The Justice League of America*, *The Fantastic Four*, and *The X-Men* provided readers an exceptionally diverse range of new characters and creative worlds, but most importantly, modeled what it might look like for those characters to bridge divides of race, species, kin, and kind for their mutual flourishing and the good of the world," he argues in "The Difference a Mutant Makes," an essay on the *Los Angeles Review of Books* culture blog.

A quest to promote intergalactic peace and justice fuels the divide-bridging process for many superheroes. It drives them to interact, negotiate differences, and take action together. It's also one of the things that drew Fawaz to them, first as a reader and later as a scholar.

*Fawaz sees stories as a tool for self-liberation and societal transformation.*







## Origin Stories

Fawaz's meet-cute with superhero comics involves a teleporting elf, a fighter who extracts her bones to use as weapons, and an acrobat sporting a prehensile tail. They appear on the splashy pink cover of *X-Men's* 80th issue, which beckons readers with the promise of "a team reunited ... a dream reborn!"

The year was 1998, and the place was Orange County, California. Fawaz was primed for transformation when he spotted that unforgettable scene on a shop shelf.

"Here I am, this gay, Middle Eastern middle-schooler living in a predominantly white area and experiencing a ridiculous amount of bullying," Fawaz says, recalling his instant kinship with the motley crew of mutants. Though disempowerment shaped his everyday life, he identified intensely with one of the series' most powerful characters: Storm.

"We didn't have many obvious similarities — I'm not a woman, I'm not Kenyan, and I can't control the weather, unfortunately — but I saw tiny pieces of myself in her," he recalls.

Fawaz and Storm both learned how differences can make a group stronger. As his attachment to *X-Men* grew, Fawaz noticed how the entire series wrestled with thorny questions about diversity and nonconformity. It also inspired readers to grapple with these questions in their own lives.

When Fawaz forged his path into academia, he zeroed in on these transformative processes.

"That ability to imagine what it's like to be someone else — someone in entirely different circumstances — is a fundamental part of being human," he says. "We each have our own way of exercising this ability, and I think that's beautiful."

Students often ask Fawaz to explain the meaning of a story they're reading. He uses this moment to discuss the power of interpretation: how readers' experiences of a story influence its meaning in innumerable ways. What we bring to the story also matters, including our values and culture, our memories and personality traits, even what's happening around us when we're reading.

The imaginative space where interpretation takes place is Fawaz's favorite intellectual playground. In his academic life, he examines how people find meaning through the lenses of feminist and queer theory, cultural studies, and literary criticism, among others.

Fawaz wants to know how popular culture can help us find alternative ways of expressing who we are, including gender and sexuality. Stories, in other words, are a tool for self-liberation as well as societal transformation.

## Our Possible Futures

Fawaz began exploring such ideas during his undergraduate career at the University of California–Berkeley and at George Washington University,

where he earned his doctoral degree in American Studies in 2012. He settled at UW–Madison a year later and has been collecting accolades ever since, including the Vilas Faculty Early Career Investigator Award in 2019, the Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence Award in 2020, and the H. I. Romnes Faculty Fellowship and named professorship in 2022.

Fawaz has received numerous honors beyond UW–Madison, too. *The New Mutants* won an award for best first-book manuscript from the Center for LGBTQ Studies, as well as praise from academics, comics creators, and literary titans. One of those titans is Junot Díaz, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

Díaz appreciates how Fawaz uses comics — a marginalized medium — to discuss marginalized identities.

*According to Fawaz, comic-book superheroes of the 1960s and '70s illustrated new forms of social belonging.*

"For a long time, comics were viewed as disposable and meritless, and it is precisely in these types of cultural creations that one finds a culture's political unconscious writ large," he says. "Comics are the funhouse four-color mirror that reveals our society's true face. To peer into such mirrors and not get lost requires a scholar of uncommon insight, rigor, wit, and generosity."

Díaz says *The New Mutants* reveals something essential about Americans' relationship with difference.

"Fawaz understands that our fantasies of the Other — racial, sexual, physical, gendered — are the secret fuel that powers so much popular culture. To trace these shifting, contested visions in, say, comics is to make visible our strange past and our possible futures."

## The Element of Surprise

Excelling at this kind of close reading is a bit like having x-ray vision: Fawaz sees fascinating things that have remained hidden to other readers. He uses this gift in a novel way in *Queer Forms*, which hit bookstores in September.

The book shows how America's understanding of gender and sexuality has expanded to include many types of nonconformity. Fawaz supports his argument with examples from pop culture, including Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*, a set of stories exploring friendship and LGBTQ life in 1970s San Francisco.

Though Maupin's stories evolved into nine novels and a '90s miniseries that stoked a firestorm at PBS, they began as a humble 1976 serial in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Millions of readers grew curious about LGBTQ culture as they invested in the characters and their soap-opera adventures. Fawaz interviewed nearly 30 of these early fans,



discovering how *Tales* shaped their relationships, actions, and identities.

He found that they were constantly in dialogue with others about what they were reading. Maupin's narrative surprises were irresistible to nearly everyone, regardless of their station in life, and the conversations opened hearts and minds.

As Fawaz explained in a campus talk last spring, reading and other aesthetic experiences can offer a host of surprises that “catapult us into new and enlarged states of perception.” These effects can radiate through social circles, pushing people to ponder their assumptions about others.

Fawaz points to one interviewee's account of helping her family make sense of the unfamiliar concepts in *Tales of the City*.

“This person and her parents had daily phone calls about these stories for two years,” he says. “She described a slow and steady transformation of her parents’ thinking, especially how her dad started out homophobic but changed along the way.”

### Coming Out of the Closet

Fawaz says readers who knew little about LGBTQ culture often gravitated toward *Tales*’ Mary Ann, whose journey from wide-eyed Midwestern transplant to worldly woman about town is a driving force in the story. Through her, many readers learned what “coming out of the closet” meant — and what it could mean to them, no matter what their sexual orientation happened to be.

*As a gay, Middle Eastern middle-schooler experiencing “a ridiculous amount of bullying,” Fawaz felt an instant kinship with X-Men’s motley crew of mutants.*

Coming out in the 1970s was “a revolutionary act performed repeatedly to reproduce and normalize queerness,” according to Fawaz, yet *Tales of the City* also presents it as a practice straight people could use to “forge bonds across difference.” Characters come out as all sorts of things as the story unfolds: proud gay man, transgender matriarch, and LGBTQ ally, to name a few.

The series even begins with Mary Ann declaring her devotion to something she “shouldn’t” love: San Francisco, the place her parents associate with hippies and murderers. When she announces her decision to stay there instead of returning to Cleveland, she comes out as a free-spirited adult eager to make her own decisions. She embraces how she’s different from the person her parents expect her to be.

At 28 Barbary Lane, where the landlady tapes a psychoactive welcome gift to each new tenant’s door, Mary Ann’s friends challenge her to shed her inhibitions, unleash her imagination, and find the humor in life’s inherent messiness. They also help her see herself in new ways.

Her entry into this chosen family mirrors Fawaz’s first encounter with the *X-Men*, which he lovingly describes in *The New Mutants*: “I sat by the family pool, [then] carefully opened the dazzling holographic cover; what I discovered there has kept me dreaming and made life far, far less lonely ever since.” ●

Jessica Steinhoff ’01 is a Madison-based freelance writer. Her favorite superhero is mutant mind reader Jean Grey.



# On Alumni

News from Home and Abroad

## NEW FACES ON THE BLOCK

*Alumni Park welcomes 11 more honorees.*



JEFF MILLER

*Likenesses of John Muir '1864, Kathryn Clarenbach '41, MA'42, PhD'46, and Robert La Follette 1879, LLB 1901 adorn a display at Alumni Park.*

Alumni Park, the enticing green space between the Memorial Union and the Red Gym, is celebrating its fifth anniversary. The park and the adjacent One Alumni Place were designed to create a new home on campus for alumni while inspiring students and visitors with amazing Badger history. Over the past five years, Alumni Park and One Alumni Place have provided a unique way to share the impact of the university through the accomplishments of its most outstanding graduates.

To mark the fifth anniversary of this new campus landmark, the Wisconsin Alumni Association has added 11 more Badgers to the park:

- **Kiana Beaudin '10, MPAS'15**, executive director of health, Ho-Chunk Nation
- **William Campbell MS'54, PhD'57**, winner of a 2015 Nobel Prize for discovering ivermectin, used to treat parasites
- **André De Shields '70**, Tony award-winning actor
- **Tony Evers '73, MS'76, PhD'86**, governor of Wisconsin
- **Elsie Higginbottom '65**, founder of East Lake Management, one of the largest real estate development firms in Illinois
- **Geraldine Hines JD'71**, first Black woman to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- **Marcy Kaptur '68**, longtime Democratic U.S. representative for Ohio's Ninth Congressional District
- **Jesús Salas MA'85**, labor organizer and educator who helped established the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies certificate at UW-Madison
- **Jim Sensenbrenner JD'68**, former Republican U.S. representative for Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District
- **Linda Thomas-Greenfield MA'75**, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations
- **Allee Willis '69**, songwriter and multimedia performer

Alumni Park features more than 200 alumni in all, highlighting decades of achievements that embody the Wisconsin Idea — the UW's cherished principle that the benefit of the university should reach to the borders of the state and beyond. It's no wonder this "beautiful meeting spot on the lake" has generated so many five-star reviews from no less an arbiter than TripAdvisor.

NIKI DENISON



BETSY POPELKA MASSNICK

## THANK A BADGER DAY

On September 21, the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association celebrated #ThankABadgerDay by sending emails to donors who have given in the last fiscal year. Several schools and colleges hosted tables for students to fill out postcards thanking donors who gave to Fill the Hill or Day of the Badger. And WFAA posted thank-you notes on social media, celebrating all the ways that alumni and friends have supported the university through both volunteering and gifts.

**17,592**

Number of donors who contributed to UW-Madison in the last year

**5,000**

Number of new scholarships created in 2021, thanks to donor support

**3,528**

Number of students who received aid in the last year through Bucky's Tuition Promise, which is largely funded by donor contributions

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

If you know of any UW-Madison alumni whose achievements are so extraordinary that they deserve wide-ranging recognition, visit [uwalumni.com/awards](http://uwalumni.com/awards) to nominate them for a 2023 Distinguished Alumni, Forward, or Luminary Award. The deadline is January 6, 2023.



ANDY MANIS

## Merry Olde Madison

The Tudor Holiday Dinner Concerts ring in the yuletide season with figgy pudding and a fake boar's head.

For a few magical nights each holiday season, UW-Madison practically transforms into 16th-century Oxford. The annual Tudor Holiday Dinner Concerts, hosted by the Wisconsin Union, put a playful twist on traditional English pageantry. Gathered in Memorial Union's decked-out Great Hall, guests indulge in a feast fit for royalty while enjoying a spirited performance from the Philharmonic Chorus of Madison and a ceremonial presentation of a (fake) boar's head.

The Tudor Holiday Dinner Concerts date to 1933, when a group of singers under the direction of music professor **Edgar Gordon '27, MA'29** performed at the University Club and the Memorial Union. The boar's head was inspired by a tradition at the University of Rochester in New York, which drew on an old English legend of a scholar who slew a wild boar by ramming a book by Aristotle down its throat. (Score a point for academia?)

The evening typically begins with a cocktail hour,

*A playful twist on traditional English pageantry.*

with hors d'oeuvres and traditional wassail (hot mulled cider). When the bells ring, it's time for the presentation of the boar's head, a yuletide toast, and the start of the feast. The Wisconsin Union's catering team brings out the extravagant spread. This year's entrées include maple-glazed pork tenderloin with mustard fingerlings and a vegetarian maple-glazed acorn squash. Dessert is always flaming figgy pudding with a hard sauce.

The UW's Tudor Singers performed at the event until 1972, when the Philharmonic Chorus of Madison took over. Now, the crowd sings along with the ensemble's holiday carols. The night ends with a formal concert, which includes stately renditions of "Silent Night" and Mozart's "Donna Nobis Pacem."

After a COVID-19 hiatus in 2020 and 2021, the Tudor Holiday Dinner Concerts return this year to Great Hall. The Wisconsin Union will host five events from November 30 to December 4, offering some 250 tickets for each.

"Tudor Holiday Dinner Concerts are nights of relaxation, delicious food, and beautiful artistry," says **Shauna Breneman**, communications director for the Wisconsin Union. "They are the perfect way to enjoy winter as a family, couple, or group of friends."

In other words: long may this tradition reign.

**PRESTON SCHMITT '14**



## Personal Health, National Health Care

Kiana Beaudin '10, MPAS'15 has devoted her career to health, first for her own patients and then for the entire Ho-Chunk Nation.

**Kiana Beaudin '10, MPAS'15** got into the field of health care because of her father.

"My dad got cancer," she says. "And I was Daddy's girl."

Beaudin grew up in Madison, where her mother was a librarian in the UW's College Library and her father was on the faculty at UW Law School. He succumbed to cancer when she was just 13, and while he was ill, she accompanied him to appointments, amazed at the technology but more impressed with the professionals who worked so hard to heal him. She considered medical school but decided to focus on becoming a physician assistant rather than an MD. "That was a better fit for me," she says. "It appealed to me because I would be able to spend more time with my patients than a typical MD would."

After graduation, she spent a decade in practice before she received a higher calling. In the summer of 2019, Marlon WhiteEagle, the president of the Ho-Chunk Nation, asked Beaudin to take on the role of executive director of health in his administration. She accepted, not out of ambition but obligation.

"It was the way in which he asked me," she says. "He didn't say, 'Oh, hey, do you want to take this position?' If he had, I'd have said no, I don't want to do that, because patient care is my passion. I never thought about leadership and policy. But he said, 'I need you to help. I'm asking you to help our people.' When he framed it that way, I felt I couldn't refuse."

*Kiana Beaudin trained as a physician assistant but became the executive director of health for the Ho-Chunk Nation.*

Less than a year after she accepted the role of executive director, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, upending public health efforts around the world. Beaudin had begun her job with straightforward goals: to cut red tape and encourage more preventive health care. Once COVID arrived, she found herself dealing with the pandemic in many ways. COVID

restrictions shut down casinos — a major employer — which led to layoffs and a broader range of health issues. But though her work is vital, she intends to step down in July 2023. She misses the personal contact.

Being in a clinic, she says, "felt carefree. I'm looking forward to going back."

**JOHN ALLEN**



ANDY MANIS

## 40s-60s

As the members of the University of Wisconsin Class of 1947 crossed the stage at their commencement ceremony, **Lillian Picard '47** was already well on her way to Milwaukee to start an engineering job with Cutler-Hammer. Seventy-five years later, the 98-year-old Picard finally received a hard copy of her mechanical engineering degree from the UW. Thank you to Picard's granddaughters, **Jenny Tasse '16** and **Izzie Tasse '21**, for tracking down this document and for sharing this news!

After 45 years of hamming it up for the readers of *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine, regular contributor Professor Emil Heisseluft revealed himself to be none other than **Theodore Cohen '60, MS'61, PhD'66** (call sign N4XX) of Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Cohen wrote humorous articles in every April edition of the magazine under the pen name Heisseluft, a fictional professor whose contributions were notorious for eliciting both giggles and groans. According to former *CQ* editor Alan Dorhoffer, "A Heisseluft piece isn't worth a tinker's damn unless at least five people cancel their subscriptions." Bravo to Dr. Cohen on nearly half a century of Heisseluftian hijinks!

The best way to make a library better is to make it bigger. Thanks to the generosity of **Harold MS'61** and **Grace Kurtz** of Saint Paul, the public library in Brandon, Wisconsin, will soon get an upgrade. The Kurtzes donated \$200,000 to the library's expansion and are the honorary cochairs of the library fundraising drive. Harold Kurtz, an author, grew up in Brandon, and his childhood influenced many of his books.

Several Badgers were involved in a new exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

*Jewish Americans in Military Service during Vietnam* was organized by **Jerry Alperstein '64** of New York City, a U.S. Navy Vietnam combat veteran, and features **Sheldon Goldberg MA'68** of Silver Spring, Maryland, a U.S. Air Force Vietnam combat veteran and docent of the museum. The exhibition was curated by **Pamela Elbe '01** of Halethorpe, Maryland, who also serves as the museum's director of collections, archives, and exhibits.

**"Every day, I feel more passionate about the importance of journalism in our society. I hope this award inspires aspiring and working female journalists to continue covering difficult and dangerous stories. We need to see the world through women's eyes."**

— Lynsey Addario '95

After graduating from the UW with advanced degrees in physics, **Jane English MA'66, PhD'70** of East Calais, Vermont, shifted her focus from Newton's laws to nature photography. Her work was later published in the 1972 edition of the *Tao Te Ching*, a translation of Chinese philosopher Laozi's ancient text that English produced with her late husband, Gia-fu Feng. The book, which has sold more than one million copies and was reissued in 2011, celebrates the 50th anniversary of its original publication this year.

Dickinson College has presented **Judy Faulkner MS'67** of Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, with an honorary doctorate of civic engagement. Faulkner is the founder and CEO of Wisconsin-based health care software giant Epic Systems. Dickinson, Faulkner's undergraduate alma mater, conferred

the degree in recognition of her philanthropic work, which includes establishing the Roots & Wings Foundation to support low-income children and families and committing 99 percent of her assets to charitable causes posthumously through the Giving Pledge.

## 70s-80s

**Herman Milligan Jr. '71** of Minneapolis is the cocurator of *A Picture Gallery of the Soul* in the Katherine E. Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Regis Art Center. The exhibition features more than 100 Black American artists from the 19th century through the present and explores Black history, culture, and politics through photography and mixed-media and conceptual art. Milligan is a managing partner with the independent consulting firm The Fulton Group.

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) presented **Alan Gunderson '77, MS'79** with its 2022 Distinguished Service Award. The award is AFIA's highest honor and recognizes a career of dedication to the animal feed industry. Gunderson retired from Madison-based dairy and livestock feed producer Vita Plus in 2021 after 41 years with the company, where he most recently was vice president of sales and marketing.

After 41 years with the U.S. Department of Defense, **Jay Chesky '81** of Herndon, Virginia, has retired. He most recently served as director for international engagements for the chief information officer of the department. He advised on international matters and negotiated formal international agreements to improve U.S. and allied communications capabilities. Chesky's career included 27 years as a naval officer, where he attained the rank of commander.

**BOOK NEWS?**  
See page 64.

**CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS**  
[uwalumni.com/alumni-notes/submit](http://uwalumni.com/alumni-notes/submit) •  
Class Notes,  
Wisconsin Alumni  
Association,  
1848 University  
Avenue, Madison,  
WI 53726



KRISTEN GOURLIE



## The Sound of Silent Movies

Paul Woelbing '79 has assembled the world's largest theater organ.

When **Paul Woelbing '79** entered the 40,000-square-foot warehouse his family company was thinking of buying in 2000, his father noted the roof and the parking-lot size. Woelbing noticed something else.

"I thought, 'Wow, there's a two-and-a-half-second delay in here when you talk. There's a nice echo —

I could do something with that,' " says Woelbing, now president of Carma Laboratories, Inc., the third-generation maker of Carmex lip balm.

While the company didn't buy that facility, it built a similar one — with acoustics to match. Twenty-two years later, the unremarkable warehouse on the outskirts of Milwaukee is filled to the rafters with not only boxes of lip balm but also the soaring sounds of a theater organ.

Woelbing turned to experts at Century Pipe Organs in Minneapolis to assemble his vision with parts from dozens of retired organs. The core is a Wurlitzer console from Chicago's Nortown Theater. It has four keyboards, plus myriad switches that mimic strings, percussion, brass, woodwind, and voice. Its many pipes vary from a quarter-inch to 32 feet tall.

An American invention, theater pipe organs provided a lively backdrop for silent movies in the early 1900s. Only a few hundred of the nearly 10,000 original organs still exist. At 6,000 pipes, the Carmex instrument is the largest theater organ in the world. "The organ is a manifestation of being a quirky, family-owned business," Woelbing says.

When Woelbing was young, he was curious about mechanical instruments such as music boxes and player pianos. At the UW, he studied metalsmithing under professors **Fred Fenster** and **Eleanor Moty**. He earned his bachelor's in art education and then taught high school art for 10 years before joining Carmex in 1992.

To professional organists such as film composer Mark Herman, the Carma Labs instrument is a gem. They sit at the console and lean into the keys, feet flying on the pedalboard, filling the warehouse with booming music. They make it purr, too, with soft arrangements lifted by transcendent strings — "the anteroom to heaven," Woelbing says with a sigh.

Younger listeners are discovering the instrument. Local Gen-Xers and Millennials in the American Theatre Organ Society help Woelbing put on free concerts. One drew an unexpected 1,400 people during a community open house. "My goal is to make it friendly, make it fun," Woelbing says.

And like the company that houses it, the organ will pass to the next generation. Woelbing has bequeathed it to his nephew, who has promised to keep the music playing.

SALLY PARKER

When Madison videographer **Bill Roach '82** boarded a plane to war-torn Ukraine this year, he was on a mission to capture a story of hope: the Ukraine national soccer team's bid for the 2022 World Cup. Roach accompanied a crew from ESPN on multiple trips to Europe to cover the team's run, which ended with a loss to Wales in June. Roach has spent nearly 27 years traveling the world as a freelance videographer and independent documentary filmmaker.

**C. Thomas Sylke '82, JD'85** of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, has been named state director for the Task Force on National and Homeland Security. He'll examine critical U.S. infrastructure, including transportation, communications, electrical power, banking and finance, and food and water, and he will advise on protecting these systems in the event of a threat. Sylke is the general counsel of Bright Acceleration Technologies.

For his research on out-of-this-world phenomena and their effects on Earth, **Frank Eparvier '85** of Nederland, Colorado, has been named associate director of science at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Eparvier's research focuses on measuring solar irradiance (light output), solar variability, and their impact on the atmospheres of Earth and other planets. He has held key leadership roles on several satellite and sounding rocket missions, including the NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory and the NASA MAVEN mission to Mars.

Two Badgers are recipients of the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* 2022 Diversity in Business Awards. **Emery Harlan JD'89** of Brookfield, Wisconsin, was recognized with a Trailblazer award for

his dedication to mentoring young lawyers to increase representation of women and other marginalized groups in the field. Harlan is an equity partner with MWH Law Group. **Sylvestra Ramirez '06** was honored with the Individual award for her work with Physical Therapy Milwaukee. Ramirez founded the company in 2013 to provide Milwaukee's Hispanic community with its first fully bilingual physical therapy clinic.

## 90s

**Jonathan D'Cunha '90** has been named chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. Prior to joining the clinic in 2019, he was chief of the Division of Lung Transplantation and Lung Failure at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

## “Public media is an essential public service in the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea.”

— Heather Reese JD'02

President Yoon Suk-yeol of South Korea has appointed **Seog-hoon Kang MS'91, PhD'91** of Seoul to lead the state-run Korea Development Bank (KBD). Kang is also a professor at Sungshin Women's University and was previously the presidential secretary for economic affairs. Kang will be tasked with overseeing the KBD's corporate restructuring and improving its handling of mergers and acquisitions.

Neuroscientist **Aneeq Ahmad MS'92, PhD'98** of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, was the speaker and guest of honor at the University of Central Punjab Department of Psychology's seminar Neurobiology of Emotions. Ahmad is a distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Psychology at Henderson State University.



JOHN MANIACI, UW HEALTH

## A Heartfelt Cause

The Fait family carries on a tradition of support for American Family Children's Hospital.

While attending his 50th class reunion at UW-Madison in 2000, the late **George Fait '50** first learned of a philanthropic opportunity related to the American Family Children's Hospital (AFCH). He had seven grandsons and a history of generously supporting the UW, and so pediatric medicine was close to his heart.

“Having lived in Madison and been a supporter of the UW for more than 60 years, my family and I made a unanimous decision to support the American Family Children's Hospital,” he said at the time. “Being able to contribute to this world-class children's hospital is both an honor and a privilege. The new facility will be a beneficial legacy to all the children and families who pass through its doors.”

Before he died in 2013, Fait involved his entire family, including his three children, **Leslie Farmer, Diane Zillner '84, and Joel Fait '82** (shown above), along with their spouses, in a transformational \$3 million gift to create the George Fait Family Pediatric Specialty Clinics at AFCH. The clinics include 41 exam rooms, radiology labs, special procedure rooms, teaching and education spaces, and rehabilitation facilities. The more the Fait family became involved in the planning, the more they were drawn to the project.

“We wish no child would ever have to use the clinic, but seeing how warm and inviting it is will make any child's hospitalization the best possible experience,” says Farmer. “We are really excited and happy to be a part of it.”

As trustee of the George A. Fait Trust and a long-time family friend, **Jay Lengfeld '81** has assisted the family with supporting research and services at AFCH and the UW Carbone Cancer Center. “George worked very hard to earn his wealth and was generous in sharing it to help improve other people's lives,” Lengfeld says. In 2022, Lengfeld oversaw an additional \$2.6 million gift from the trust that went to AFCH and the UW Carbone Cancer Center.

The Faits' continued support is also helping to improve clinical programs, enhance services, and enable leaders to respond to the hospital's greatest needs. Because of their generosity, these facilities will ensure world-class health care for generations to come, serving children with acute issues such as cancer and heart ailments.

“My brother, sister, and I want to fulfill our father's wishes to make a significant contribution to benefit the entire community,” says Zillner. “We wanted it to be something that would live on and really help people.”

NICOLE HEIMAN



The University of Chicago has appointed **Gina Miranda Samuels MS'92, PhD'02** faculty director of the school's Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. She is an associate professor in the university's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Miranda Samuels's research explores displacement, belonging, and healing among people who have experienced transracial adoption, foster care, or homelessness in childhood.

Attorney **B. Thassanee Gutter-Parker '93, JD'96** of Lawrenceville, Georgia, has been appointed consumer member of the State Board of Optometry in Georgia. Gutter-Parker will serve alongside five licensed, practicing optometrists to oversee and regulate the state's optometrists. She manages her own law firm, B. Thassanee Gutter-Parker, P.C., and recently ran for Gwinnett County Superior Court Judge.

Photojournalist **Lynsey Addario '95** is a recipient of the 2022 Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation. Addario has spent more than 25 years documenting conflict and humanitarian crises in the Middle East and Africa for the *New York Times* and *National Geographic*. Her most recent work has taken her to the front lines of the war in Ukraine. "Every day, I feel more passionate about the importance of journalism in our society," Addario said. "I hope this award inspires aspiring and working female journalists to continue covering difficult and dangerous stories. We need to see the world through women's eyes from all backgrounds and all ages."

**Annie Caputo '96** of McLean, Virginia, was nominated commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by President Joseph

Biden. She has worked in the federal government for nearly 20 years and most recently served on the NRC from 2018 to 2021. Prior to her career in government, Caputo worked for Exelon Corporation. Her August swearing-in marked the beginning of a five-year term.

CECO Environmental has welcomed **Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi '96** of Chicago as the company's new senior vice president of general counsel and corporate secretary. She comes to the role with more than 20 years of legal experience, most recently with JBT Corporation as the company's deputy general counsel, chief ethics and compliance officer, and global DEI council chair. In her new role, Watkins-Asiyanbi will lead CECO's legal strategy and support its board of directors. CECO is an environmentally focused industrial company.

### 00s

**Joey Fauerso MA'00, MFA'01** of San Antonio, Texas, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in the Creative Arts (Fine Arts) by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Fauerso is a professor in the School of Art and Design at Texas State University. Her work explores themes of gender, nature, humor, and family through painting, video installation, and performance.

Wisconsin Public Media (WPM) has welcomed **Heather Reese JD'02** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, as its new executive director. Since 2021, she had served as interim director, and previously she was WPM's associate director and director of strategic initiatives and compliance. "Public media is an essential public service in the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea," she says. In her new role, Reese will continue to garner support for

public media and communicate its importance to audiences around the city, state, and country.

For her work in organizing and facilitating social movements, **Jessy Tolkan '02** of Hubertus, Wisconsin, was featured on the *Goodniks* podcast. Over 10 episodes, the program explores the hows and whys of people who dedicate their careers to making the world a better place. Tolkan is a senior adviser and cofounder at Purpose Labs, a social change agency that works with nonprofits and other philanthropic entities on creating positive change.

With an activity level that includes competitive logrolling, coaching, and chasing around after two young boys, it's no wonder **Shana Verstegen '02** of Madison won the 25th anniversary Tri-Fitness World Challenge. Tri-Fit athletes compete in five categories: a 160-yard obstacle course; fitness skills including box jumps, bench press, and a shuttle run; a fitness routine; a 230-yard "true grit" challenge; and grace and physique. Verstegen is a fitness coach, professional logroller and boom runner, and co-owner and head coach of Madison Log Rolling.

Cybersecurity company Viking Cloud has welcomed **Tracey Luehring '03** of Lincolnshire, Illinois, as its new chief financial officer. Luehring comes to the role from real estate company Jones Lang LaSalle, where she was the global chief financial officer of their sustainability-centric Work Dynamics business.

Just in time for election season, **Wendy Hathaway '04** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, was hired as the new executive director of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Previously, Hathaway was a full-time freelance writer (you may even find her byline in

**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.

these pages from time to time) and member of the League. As its director, Hathaway will oversee the organization's missions of empowering voters and defending democracy.

Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, has promoted **Rachel Bicicchi MA'05, MA'10** to professor within the school's Staley Library. She is also Millikin's director of online learning, a role for which she was recognized with the 2021 Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award and the 2022 Outstanding Faculty Service Award.

The University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School of Communication has welcomed **Aswin Punathambekar PhD'07** of Philadelphia as its newest professor of communication and director of the school's Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication. He was most recently an associate professor in the University of Virginia's Department of Media Studies. Punathambekar's research explores the globalization of media, the evolution of global media industries, and how the dispersion of global media influences audience identities.

**Anurag Voleti MBA'07** of Lincolnshire, Illinois, has joined the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) as its new chief data officer. In this role, he will oversee BCBSA's national data strategy to help Blue Cross Blue Shield companies securely analyze data in advancing their mission of providing equitable and affordable health care. Voleti most recently held leadership positions at Boston Scientific and GE Healthcare.

**Chris Jenkins MS'08, PhD'11** of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was honored with a research leadership award at the Black Engineer of the Year STEM Conference in February. Jenkins is a cyber-



COURTESY OF BRUCE RAVID

## Hitmaker

Bruce Ravid '74 propelled a stint in student radio to a career in the music industry.

As a DJ and music director for UW-Madison radio station WSRM, the predecessor to WSUM, **Bruce Ravid '74** (above center with The Knack) helped increase its visibility while putting his stamp on the music played in the early '70s.

"I used to joke with people that I majored in college radio and minored in business at the UW," says Ravid, who was music director at the station for three years. That experience allowed him to get to know Capitol Records, which offered him a radio-promoter job in Chicago while he was a senior. He spent the next five years there, reveling in the opportunity to discover and play emerging bands on the radio.

He then transitioned to a managerial position, where he helped develop a variety of musical artists, including The Knack, Iron Maiden, Duran Duran, and "Weird Al" Yankovic.

One of his favorite memories is pitching Yankovic's parody cover of The Knack's "My Sharona" to Capitol. First, he needed to run it by the band. As the group's tour bus was parked in front of Memorial Union during a Madison gig, he recalls The Knack members erupting in laughter when he shared "My Bologna." "That was the beginning of what's been an amazing career for 'Weird Al,'" Ravid says.

Recently, he's returned to his DJ roots. In addition to a radio show, *Go Deep with Bruce Rave*, he has a weekly podcast called *Rave's Indie Radar*. The 20-minute episodes feature indie rock tracks selected from well-known and emerging artists. "If I can get some other people to really like this song or like this artist, it still feels great to me," he says.

He credits the late **Dave Black MA'03**, the general manager of WSUM for 26 years, for his renewed interest in radio. In 2008, Black asked Ravid to host "these eight-hour marathons, although since I would call myself Bruce Rave on the air, we called them Ravathons. I developed this great love for being back on the air behind the microphone," he says.

That led to his developing his own radio show on several stations, including WSUM and Monona, Wisconsin's WVMO. He later received an offer from Snippet.FM to do a podcast version of his show.

He hopes his career provides inspiration for others.

"I always tell students, 'Once your grades are sorted out, find something that you're really passionate about, because it just might lead to a career you weren't anticipating,'" he says.

**JOSHUA M. MILLER**





C&NP PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

## A UW–Madison First

A School of Human Ecology deanship is named for a woman.

**Soyeon Shim** (right), dean of the School of Human Ecology (SoHE), has received one of the highest honors in academia — an endowed deanship. It's named after the late **Elizabeth Holloway Schar '75** (left) marking the first time in the university's history that such a deanship has been named solely in honor of a woman.

Endowed deanships provide funds for current and future deans to support the strategic direction of their school. Because deanships are not limited to a particular program or research area, they give the school flexibility in fulfilling its mission.

The Elizabeth Holloway Schar Deanship fund was made possible by a visionary group of donors, including **Linda Ahlers '72; Leola Culver; Lynn '69 and Gary Mecklenburg; Nancy Nicholas '55; Dorothy O'Brien '70; Richard Antoine '69; Elizabeth '75 and Mark Schar; Jane '72 and Patrick '72 Thiele;** and one anonymous contributor.

Schar had deep UW roots and strongly believed in the power of individuals to better the world, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to making a difference. Her loved ones described her as humble, curious, and compassionate. She was also a SoHE Board of Visitors chair emerita and a campaign committee chair for the All Ways Forward campaign.

"Elizabeth was such an inspirational leader and close friend to all of us as well as a distinguished alumna and a human ecologist through and through," says Shim. "She has left a huge legacy, and it is up to us to live up to that."

The gift will ensure the school's future, help it to recruit and retain a diverse community of outstanding scholars, and foster innovative approaches to solving societal problems. It will reflect the mission of its namesake by enhancing the school's ability to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities.

"I see a future where all UW students will graduate with a human-centered approach to problem-solving and strategic thinking," Shim says. "I welcome the challenges the future might bring because I am confident this is the time for human ecology to dream big and for our faculty, students, alumni, and friends to take bold steps to move forward toward a shared vision of excellence."

NICOLE HEIMAN

security engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, where he leads a cybersecurity team and conducts groundbreaking research on cyber-physical and embedded systems, moving-target defense algorithms, and technology to improve space-mission campaigns.

## 10s

Between saving lives as a firefighter and emergency medical technician, **Anaré Holmes '10** still finds time to give back. He's an award-winning journalist, a cultural competency trainer, and an LGBTQ+ liaison and public information officer with the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department. With a fresh coat of paint, some natural light, and 12 hours of rapid renovation, Netflix's *Instant Dream Home* repaid his generosity tenfold. The show surprises deserving homeowners with seemingly instantaneous home makeovers. Holmes appeared in the show's third episode, "A Room with a View," during which the modest bungalow he shares with his partner and mother became the envy of the neighborhood.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can alter a person's lungs forever, and veterans are among its most common victims. Now, thanks to **Ed Portillo '10, PharmD'14**, they can breathe a little easier. Portillo developed COPD CARE, a primary care service that provides a comprehensive plan to reduce the risk of future flares. The program, which has reduced readmissions and improved rates of patient follow-up, has been implemented in 20 other facilities nationwide. The initiative's many accolades include the 2021 Best Practice Award from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and a \$16.7 million grant from Veterans Affairs to expand the service. Por-

tillo is a clinical pharmacist practitioner at the William S. Middleton Veterans Memorial Hospital in Madison and an assistant professor in the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy.

After graduating with her MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, **Brittany Drengler '12** has joined Boston-based investment firm Bain Capital as the vice president of investments in the company's special situations group. Drengler comes to Bain from Entrada Partners, a Los Angeles-based real estate investment firm where she was most recently an assistant vice president of investments.

**Jay Flores '12** of Plantation, Florida, scrambles through seemingly insurmountable obstacle courses as if by magic — but as Flores would be the first to say, it's not magic; it's science. After nearly a decade of auditions, Flores appeared on the 14th season of NBC's *American Ninja Warrior*, a competitive obstacle-course show in which he made the semifinals before his run came to an end. When he's not training for the show's next season, Flores encourages kids' curiosity about science through his company, Invent the Change, and his YouTube series *It's Not Magic; It's Science!*, in which he shares simple magic tricks and explains the science behind them.

It's only fitting that the United Center — a.k.a. the Madhouse on Madison — welcomes a Badger to its broadcast booth: **Chris Vosters '13** is the newest voice of the Chicago Blackhawks. Vosters fills a role vacated by longtime Blackhawks announcer Pat Foley, who called his last game in April after nearly 40 years with the franchise. When his eyes aren't trained on the ice, Vosters also broadcasts for the Big Ten Network and NBC Sports, with whom he's

covered the last three Winter Olympics and the last two Winter Paralympics.

**“I try to teach and focus on being present in the moment and [setting] achievable goals. Winning a race is exciting but continuing to grow is what matters.”**

— **Mary Murphy MA'17**

Harvard University physics professor **Carlos Argüelles Delgado PhD'15** was awarded the Young Scientist Prize in Astroparticle Physics from the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics in July 2021. Argüelles Delgado is a collaborator on the IceCube Neutrino Observatory, a project he first joined during his time at the UW while working with physics professor **Francis Halzen**, IceCube's principal investigator.

Clattering trays, beeping fryers, and love were in the air when **Stuart Quinn '16** and **Mariana Pastureczak '19, MPH'21** met as student employees in Four Lakes Market at DeJope Residence Hall. The two tied the knot in September in a ceremony officiated by their former Four Lakes manager and attended by a Badger-studded wedding party. The dining hall didn't cater the event, but the couple's affection for their former workplace runs as deep as the filling in a fudge-bottom pie. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has recognized **Mary Murphy MA'17** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, as its 2021 Volunteer Coach of the Year. Murphy is a coach at the Madison Speedskating Club. She has increased the club's membership of women and girls tenfold and is committed to making

speedskating more accessible by seeking grants to eliminate financial barriers, organizing clinics, and facilitating outreach to raise awareness of the sport. “My hope is to create a community that builds confidence, encourages a growth mind-set, and instills love of sport,” Murphy says. “I try to teach and focus on being present in the moment and [setting] attainable goals. Winning a race is exciting, but continuing to grow is what matters.”

For **Kaitlin Yira '18**, the path to a career in environmental justice started in a public health course at the UW. It most recently included her graduation from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law in Saint Paul and the Student Award of Merit from its alumni association. The award recognizes her exceptional extracurricular involvement and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Yira served on the boards of the school's ACLU chapter and the Environmental Law Society, worked in the reentry clinic, and was active in the Native American Law Student Association.

## 20s

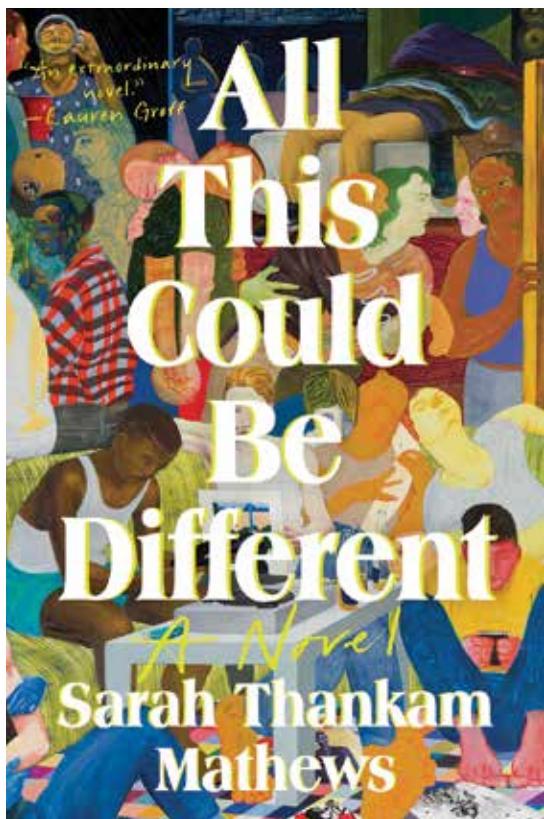
We're so proud, we can hardly bear it! **Maura Barry '22** is putting her UW degree (and a Badger bandana) to good use as a wildlife technician with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak, Alaska. Barry assisted with a recent rescue mission to safely sedate and relocate a mother grizzly bear and her three cubs by monitoring their temperatures and heart rates throughout the process. In a photo that made the front page of the *Kodiak Daily Mirror*, one of the cubs sports Barry's Badger-red bandana as a makeshift blindfold.

*Megan Provost '20 is starting to think the Great Pumpkin might not show this year after all.*

**DEATH NOTICES • NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, AND EMAIL UPDATES**  
alumnichanges@uwalumni.com • Alumni Changes, WFAA, 1848 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726 • 888-947-2586

**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](http://uwalumni.com/alumni-notes/submit).





PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

*All This Could Be Different is a finalist for the 2022 National Book Award for fiction.*

## The Roaring Twenties

Sarah Thankam Mathews '17's *All This Could Be Different* explores the thrills and challenges of young adulthood in a tumultuous world.

Long before **Sarah Thankam Mathews '17's** debut novel, *All This Could Be Different*, published in August, reviewers had already dubbed it one of this year's "buzzy books." The term has nothing to do with bees (and neither does the book). Instead, it refers to the excitement — the hum — the novel has elicited from the literary community and beyond, and the buzz has only gotten louder.

The book follows Sneha, a recent college graduate exploring identity, independence, and young adulthood in Milwaukee. After graduating into a recession, she takes a job she doesn't love but that pays the bills; she stays loyal to family she supports from afar; and she falls in love with an enchanting dancer named Marina. As if Sneha's college town (complete with mentions of the Terrace and lakeside bike rides) isn't relatable enough, readers can empathize with her internal conflict as a young person striking out on her own while balancing confounding pressures. She tries to compartmentalize a multiplicity that is inherently and inescapably human. "One of the things that I hope the novel sort of gestures toward is that everyone is imperfect, and that does not make them disposable," Mathews said in a recent interview with *Vogue*.

*All This Could Be Different* is a finalist for the 2022 National Book Award for fiction. Mathews is a New York City-based writer and organizer best known for establishing Bed-Stuy Strong, a mutual aid resource founded in 2020 that has since raised \$1.2 million to reinvest in the community.



### ***Still True***

**MAGGIE GINSBERG '97**

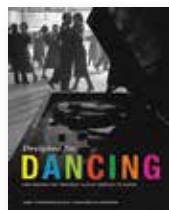
Happily married couple Jack and Lib have lived separately for 30 years in small-town Anthem, Wisconsin, when Lib's adult son, whom she abandoned long before meeting Jack, shows up at her door. At the same time, Jack opens his grandfatherly heart to a lost young mother and her little boy. With much more than physical distance in their marriage, Jack, Lib, and their respective visitors must hold on to the hope that love truly conquers all. *Still True* is Ginsberg's debut novel.



### ***All the Flowers Kneeling***

**PAUL TRAN**

Tran's debut collection of poetry honors the human capacity for resilience through a tactful examination of the experiences that require it. In aching, honest, and vulnerable poems, Tran explores trauma, violence, imperialism, gender, bodies, and other topics that compel readers to reconsider their sense of self. *All the Flowers Kneeling* was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. Tran is an assistant professor of English and Asian American studies at the UW.



### ***Designed for Dancing: How Midcentury Records Taught America to Dance***

**JANET BORGERSON MA'92, PHD'96**

Before TikTok was teaching the hottest dances, Americans learned the steps to everything from the tango to the Watusi from vinyl records. Borgerson analyzes these albums as artifacts of midcentury culture and a means by which Americans redefined themselves in a post-war country. The book is a finalist for the prize for excellence in historical recorded sound research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections.



MICHAEL VELLIQUETTE

Submit your book news at [uwalumni.com/go/bookshelf](http://uwalumni.com/go/bookshelf) and visit [goodreads.com/wisalumni](http://goodreads.com/wisalumni) to find more works by Badger alumni and faculty.

It Rises Up in Wordless Gentleness and Flows Out to Me from the Unseen Roots of All Created Being, *Paper sculpture* 16" x 6" x 6" 2021

## Paper Cuts

Michael Velliquette MA'99, MFA'00 turns monochrome materials into extravagant works of art.

Even if you've turned a sheet of paper into an airplane, a snowflake, or an origami swan, you haven't come close to what **Michael Velliquette MA'99, MFA'00** can do with studio art's most fundamental tool. Velliquette is an assistant professor in the UW School of Education's art department and a sculptor whose material is sold by the ream.

Yes: Velliquette's medium is the canvas on which other artists scrawl their epics and smear their paints. But a look at one of Velliquette's intricate sculptures proves that bare paper can put even the most lifelike paintings or evocative etchings to shame. His technique and tools are simple — scissors, knives, paper, glue, cutting, layering. But they create pieces that reflect the high level of skill and hundreds of hours (around 500 per artwork) that go into each one.

"When individuals encounter my sculptures, I'd like them to feel a sense of wonder and inspiration," Velliquette told Shoutout HTX in May. "I want to convey the same sense of joy that I experience making them."

His sculptures are not so much reflections of our world as newly imagined worlds in and of themselves. They are monochromatic, but Velliquette's color choices are bold and tasteful, purposefully calling attention to the details that seem to emerge infinitely the longer one spends with a piece.

"I like there to be something everywhere that the eye rests [on] that sort of engages you or pushes you to the next thing," he told *Madison Magazine's* **Maija Inveiss '17, MBAX'24** in May.

Velliquette's work has been featured in collections and galleries around the world. Images of his sculptures can be found on his website, [velliquette.com](http://velliquette.com).



### *Geopedia: A Brief Compendium of Geologic Curiosities*

**MARCIA BJORNERUD MS'85, PHD'87**

This is a book for the casual rock collector and trained geologist alike. Bjornerud takes readers through not only the geologic materials themselves, but also the intricate language developed over time to describe the ever-growing groups of rocky phenomena. Like a carefully curated rock collection, *Geopedia* is a trove of unique nuggets of knowledge that are sure to delight and inform.



### *More than Meets the Eye: Exploring Nature and Loss on the Coast of Maine*

**MARGIE PATLAK '78, MS'83**

Patlak, a science writer, expertly translates observations of nature into lessons about life. From the ancient phenomena that shaped the mountains to the movement of animals and insects before her eyes, Patlak turns to the natural world to make sense of human emotions while sharing anecdotes that help readers enter into moments with her and make connections of their own. The book won the 2021 American Society of Journalists and Authors Award in memoir/autobiography.



### *Unpacking School Lunch: Understanding the Hidden Politics of School Food*

**MARCUS WEAVER-HIGHTOWER PHD'06**

Weaver-Hightower traces the history of school food programs in both the United States and England to reveal pink slime, lunch shaming, and other unsavory struggles in nourishing the countries' students. He concludes by proposing an alternative system that is "healthy, pleasurable, educative, shame-free, and, most importantly, free for all students, just like the rest of school."





ALTHEA DOTZOUR

## Sitting Pretty

Camp Randall's new south end zone gives fans a high-end experience.

At the end of the UW football team's 2021 home schedule, the athletic department sprang into action. Shortly after staffers cleaned out the last of the debris following the Badgers' victory over Nebraska, crews moved in and began deconstructing and reconstructing Camp Randall's south end zone, aiming to have the stadium ready for play again when the 2022 season began nine months later.

In spite of supply chain issues that affected many construction projects, Camp Randall met its schedule. The firm JP Cullen completed its work just ahead of deadline, and the Badgers unveiled their new seating section when Illinois State arrived on September 3. Well, mostly.

"We had one set of basically 150 chairs that were not here for the first game," says senior associate

*Badger fans pack the seats in Camp Randall's new south end zone during the season opener against Illinois State.*

athletic director **Jason King**, "but we were able to rent chairs temporarily. And I don't think, frankly, anyone knew [the correct chairs] weren't there."

The south end zone adds a new section of premium seating to the stadium, an area that keeps fans "inside the bowl," in King's terms — connected to the action in the stands rather than separated into a luxury box. The new section also connects Camp Randall to the Field House so that fans can experience both of the UW's historic sports facilities at the same time.

"People are impressed by the Champions Club Bar, which really ties the Field House into the space," King says. "The backdrop to the bar is actually the facade of the Field House. And above it are the windows that allow you to see from the bar area into the Field House."

King notes that fans seem intrigued by the new south end zone, but many will have to experience it from afar. Season tickets sold out this year.

**JOHN ALLEN**

# From Leaving Your Mark, To Writing Your Next Chapter, We're Here For Every You.

When you join UW Credit Union, you aren't just investing in your own future — you're also helping us to provide a brighter one for every Badger. That's because every new member helps to further our support for the University of Wisconsin-Madison through endowments for on-campus activities, scholarship programs, community charities and more.

Join today, and discover the difference it can make for you,  
and your community.

**Here For Every You**  
**uwcu.org**

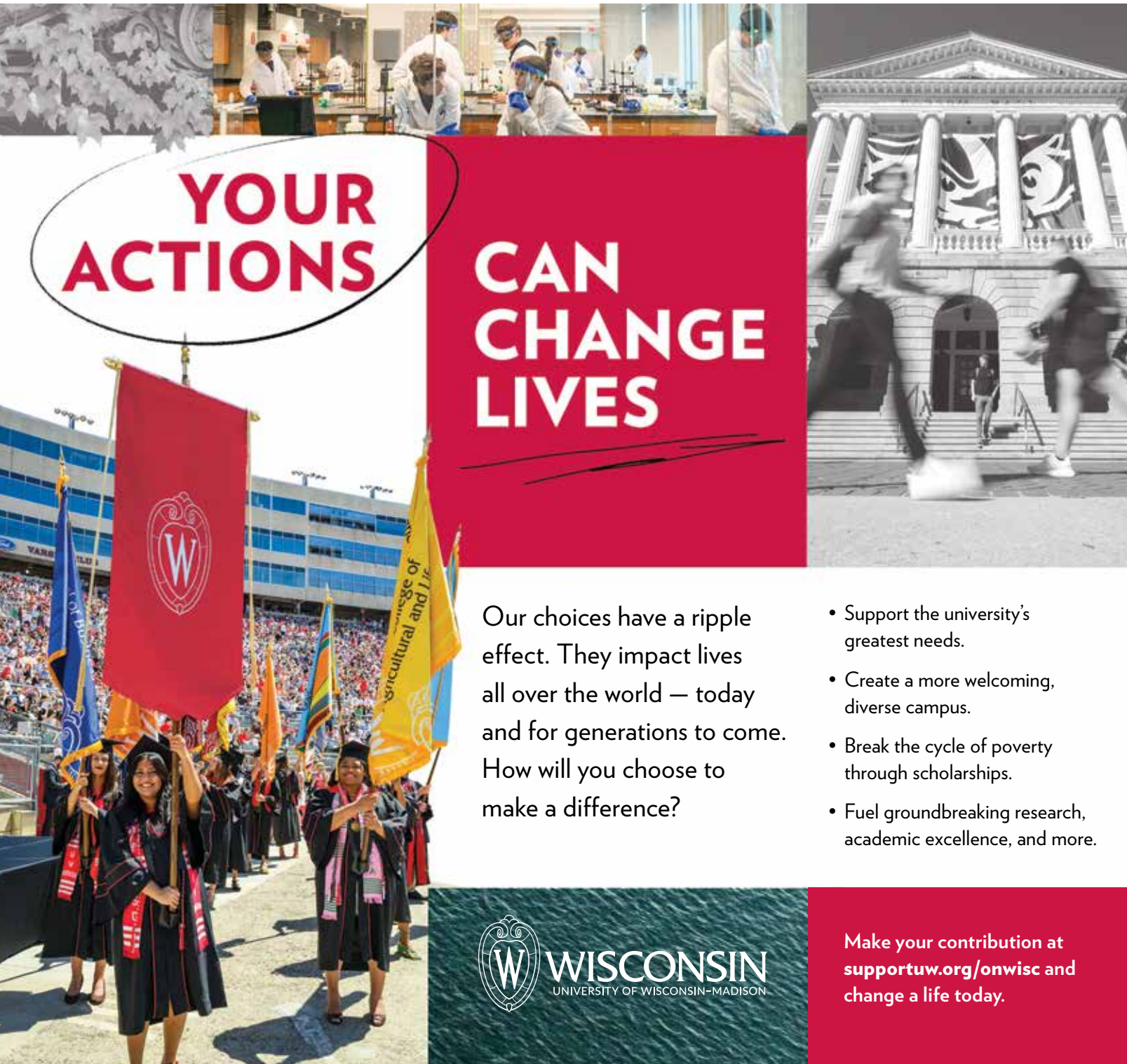


Federally Insured by NCUA



UW Foundation  
Address Correction Department  
1848 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53726-4090


Change Service Requested



# YOUR ACTIONS CAN CHANGE LIVES

Our choices have a ripple effect. They impact lives all over the world — today and for generations to come. How will you choose to make a difference?

- Support the university's greatest needs.
- Create a more welcoming, diverse campus.
- Break the cycle of poverty through scholarships.
- Fuel groundbreaking research, academic excellence, and more.

 **WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Make your contribution at [supportuw.org/onwisc](https://supportuw.org/onwisc) and change a life today.