

OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SUMMER 2023

Embracing the Future

Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin leads campus into a bold new era.

Hope for Alzheimer's

UW's Unsung Heroes

Forgiveness Science

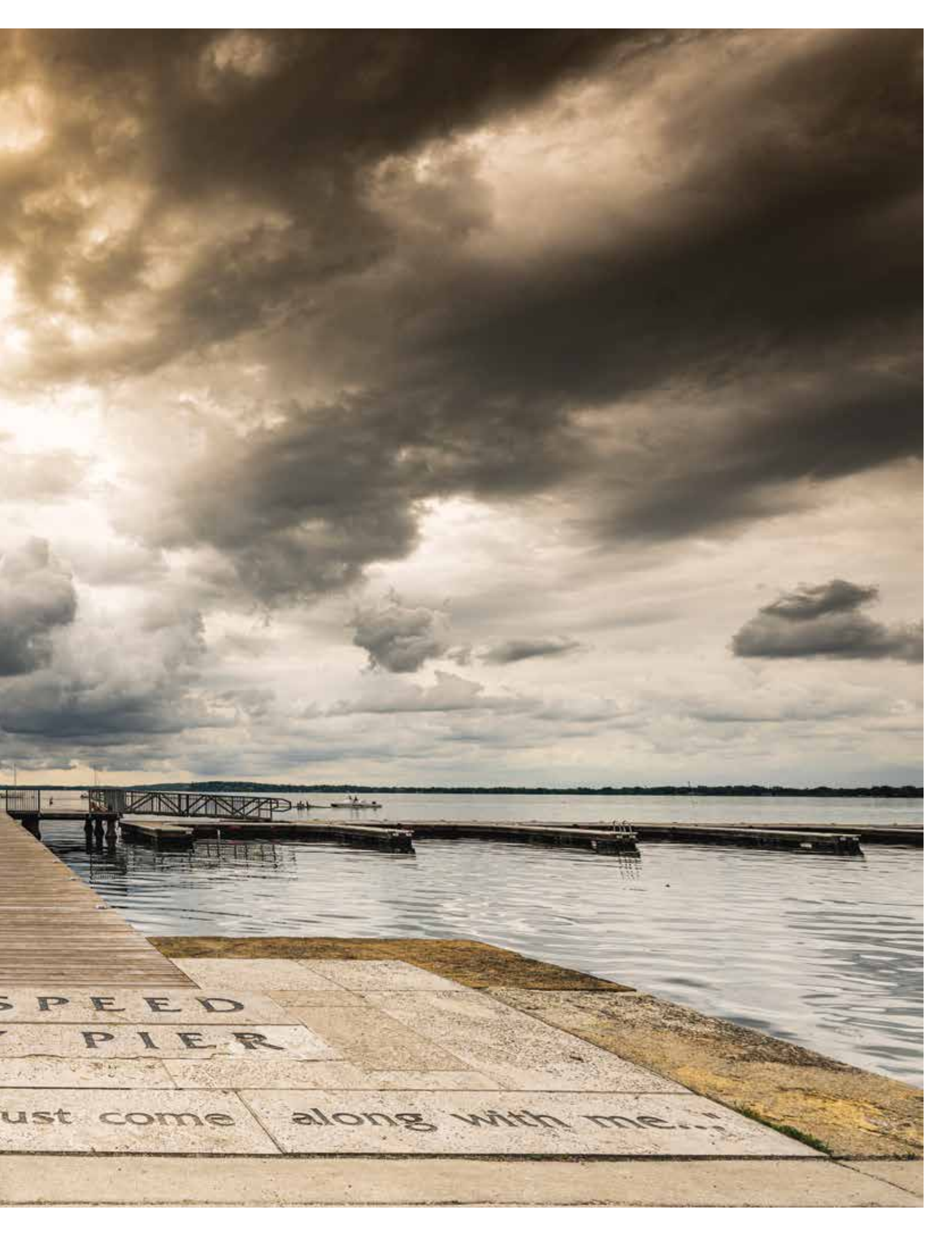


Vision

Welcome to pier-adise! Storm clouds part to create a heavenly glow over Lake Mendota in this view from the Goodspeed Family Pier at Alumni Park. The floating pier segments (stretching off to the right) return from storage each summer so that boaters can enjoy access to the Union Terrace.

Photo by Bryce Richter





SPEED
PIER

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OnWisconsin

Nathaniel Chin leads the effort to prevent and treat Alzheimer's. See page 28.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Vision
- 6** Communications
- 9** Salutation *A Party with a Purpose*

OnCampus

- 11** News
- 12** Bygone *Troia's Steak House*
- 14** Calculation *How to Stock the Brat Stand*
- 16** Exhibition *Badger Veteran Photo Project*
- 19** Contender *Coxswain Emma Collins x'24*
- 20** Conversation *Institute for Diversity Science*

OnAlumni

- 52** News
- 53** Tradition *Honorary Ice Cream Flavors*
- 54** Exhibition *Plastic Art*
- 55** Conversation *Clean Energy*
- 56** Class Notes
- 62** Diversions
- 66** Destination *Transforming the University Club*



JEFF MILLER

FEATURES

22 The UW's New Era

Campus welcomes Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin while celebrating Badger tradition. *By Doug Erickson*

28 Progress on Alzheimer's Disease

Nathaniel Chin '06, MD'10, medical director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, sees cause for hope. *By George Spencer*

34 Campus after Dark

Meet the custodians, security officers, resident advisers, and other unsung heroes who help make the UW-Madison experience possible. *By Preston Schmitt '14*

42 The Teachings of Plants

For Robin Wall Kimmerer MS'78, PhD'83, respecting Indigenous wisdom can help the world heal its relationship with the land. *By Sandra Knisely Barnidge '09, MA'13*

46 Peace in the Wake of Pain

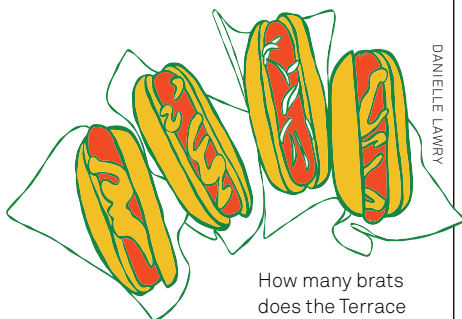
Professor Bob Enright's forgiveness research focuses on seeing the humanity in others as a solution to polarization. *By Laurel White*



JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Robin Kimmerer wrote *Braiding Sweetgrass*, an environmental classic. See page 42.

Cover
The chancellor's investiture. Photo by Bryce Richter



DANIELLE LAMRY

How many brats does the Terrace Brat Stand sell? See page 14.

Forecasting the Future

Your Future Issue was meaty and impressive [Spring 2023 *On Wisconsin*]. I liked the looks into the future and the idea that the UW's impressive faculty is helping to create it.

Greg Barnes PhD'71

Philadelphia

On Wisconsin is insupportably sanguine about our future in the Future Issue. Consider *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert, or *The Uninhabitable Earth*, by David Wallace-Wells, or any of the speeches by Greta Thunberg, or the internet posts by climate scientist James Hansen. How does the future of the UW or the future of the world look in light of that? Where is your "fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth may be found"?

Kirk Elliott '69

Madison

The Key to Happiness

"How to Have It All" [Spring 2023 *On Wisconsin*] was spot-on about how the key to happiness lies more in altruistic actions than in selfishness.

Upon retiring some five years ago, I was told that a person needed a plan, or at a minimum some thought on the "what's next." I kept hearing I needed to make a bucket list. And ironically, I had just watched a movie called *The Bucket List* with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, so it had to be important. My list had a wide variety, and I hit it pretty hard. Initially I had great self-actualization satisfaction, but I soon became aware that something was still lacking.

Readdressing my list revealed an item about doing volunteer work. My proverbial lightbulb went on. I added Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food-bank, and Meals on Wheels to my retirement plan. And at only 10 to 15 hours per week, [they were] not a big commitment. I found myself happier, with a renewed sense of purpose. And

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

I was able to check off another bucket-list item by writing and sharing this with you.

Bill Walters '82

Madison

Kudos for the excellent article "How to Have It All." The article really resonated with me, since I've always considered myself to be happy. In fact, my husband has told me that I'm not a "glass half full" [type of person], but rather "glass totally full"!

Belonging to SedonaKind [an Arizona nonprofit] and, until the pandemic, also taking part in Kindness in Schools prove your point that volunteering and helping others truly do bring one joy.

Kari Lee Christiansen

Hertzberg '69

Sedona, Arizona

The Future Is in Our Genes

"The Truth in Our Genes" [Spring 2023] is the best substantive article I have ever read in *On Wisconsin*. That is the key to our future, and how it is used will obviously have major implications for all of us.

Mike Rathsack '69

Park Ridge, Illinois

"The Truth in Our Genes" was fascinating, and I was particularly interested in the segment "Genetic Inequalities." The discussion about smoking rates and public policy hit home. In 1970-71, I was a nonsmoking 19-year-old in the U.S. Army going through basic training at Fort Ord, California. In the first week, it was an acceptable practice to stop after a long march and give everyone a short smoke break. (The price of cigarettes at the PX [base store] was 10 cents per pack, which was almost free.) Those of us who did not smoke were immediately ordered by our drill instructor to police (clean) the area for cigarette butts, paper, etc. We very quickly became smokers to avoid this

unpleasant task. The problem was that many of us nonsmokers kept smoking post-training or went through the daunting task of quitting.

Richard Mowris '74, MS'76

Rockford, Illinois

236 Years of Paul's Books

Paul's Book Store was delighted to be included in artist Tommy Washbush's illustration "UW-Madison in the Year 2198" [Spring 2023]. And we're glad his vision of the future includes books!

Caryl Askins '51 (and the many Paul's Book Store alumni)

Madison

Cities of the Future

I enjoyed the Future Issue and especially Conversation ["Urban Upgrade," Spring 2023] regarding the blueprint of a futuristic city laid out by Professor Edna Ely-Ledesma. My wife, Karen, and I moved to just such a place in 2018.

Babcock Ranch is America's first solar-powered town, fueled by an 870-acre solar farm with battery storage system. It is 18,000 acres backed up to a preserve with 50 miles of hiking and biking trails.

Built to Florida Green Building Coalition standards, homes emphasize energy and water conservation and have a full gig of fiber-optic connectivity. They also have front porches encouraging neighbor interaction.

The town has its own school system and its own water-treatment facility, offering potable water as well as gray water (irrigation) for residents.

Babcock Ranch embodies innovation, technology, and sustainability. Its infrastructure and well-planned drainage system passed the test with flying colors on September 30, 2022, as the eye of Hurricane Ian made landfall 20 miles away. The town experienced several hours of 90-

to 120-mile-per-hour winds with gusts up to 150 miles per hour and suffered minimal damage with no flooding, and with residents never losing power, water, phone, or internet throughout the storm.

Ernie von Heimburg '66,
MBA'67
Babcock Ranch, Florida

One major component of green planning is to place essential services close to residential buildings, so that people can walk or ride a bike. However, it is important to consider the elderly and people with disabilities, who may not be able to walk even a short distance. They still need motors, although electric would be cleaner than gas. They also need a place to park.

Julie Johnson

Destination Rennebohm's

In the latest issue of *On Wisconsin*, the back page had an article about the statue atop the state capitol dome called *Wisconsin* ["Facing the Future," Destination, Spring 2023]. But when I was a student, we knew her as Mrs. Rennebohm, who was pointing the way to the newest Rennebohm drugstore.

**Mary Ann Boettger
Cunningham '70, MS'73**
Middleborough, Massachusetts

"Facing the Future" was a terrific review of history and gave us a view of the discussion about which direction that statue should or could be facing. On July 20, 55 years after *Wisconsin* was positioned at the top of the capitol, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. Forward is a long journey.

James Neupert '75, MBA'78
Atherton, California

Destination failed to mention Daniel Chester French as the sculptor of [the statue atop the Wisconsin state capitol]. He also did the *Alma Mater* statue at my

undergraduate school [Columbia University], not to mention the monumental statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

David Shaw MS'72, PhD'75
Denver

Long Live the Flamingos

Loved the photo of the pink flamingos on Bascom Hill in the item about Fill the Hill [On Alumni News, Spring 2023]. I was a freshman the year [when the Pail and Shovel party covered Bascom Hill with pink flamingos]. My coworkers have heard that story as well as the one about the Statue of Liberty on Lake Mendota. Great memories.

Ann Schreiter '82
San Jacinto, California

Hard to Be a Flop

Thank you, *On Wisconsin*, for including [Peter and Lou Berryman '77] in this neat list ["The All-Time Greatest UW Playlist," Winter 2022], and thanks to Brent Nicaastro '77 for the wonderful old photo. Madison is a great town for musical experiments, as can be seen by the variety of these groups. With the radio and press support and the enthusiastic audiences, it's hard to be a flop — though heaven knows we tried!

Peter Berryman x'69
Madison

Canadian Reflections on Campus Food

[In reference to "We Are What We Ate," Winter 2022]: As a Canadian student in the early '60s, I had never heard of bratwurst, sauerbraten, veal birds, rouladen, PB&Js on banana nut bread, and my favorite, the Reuben sandwich, which I now make every Saturday.

My fellow dorm dorks moaned about how much better their moms' cooking was, but I thought the food was great.

I was almost ejected from the Rathskeller for asking for vinegar to sprinkle on my French

fries (a holdover from British colonial times in Canada).

On Sunday night, the Memorial Union offered up prime rib with Yorkshire pudding for an astounding \$1.25! The Brathaus brats were 50 cents and rib eye steak sandwiches were 75 cents. A pitcher of beer was 75 cents in the Var Bar. I was introduced to the bar by my friend Tina Uihlein '67, who made sure I tried her family beer, Schlitz. Had my first McDonald's [food] out in Middleton. Four of us pigged out for like two dollars.

Fast-forward to my return to campus in 2013. The Rathskeller now had not only vinegar, but the preferred malt vinegar for fries.

Robert Patterson '66
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Online



UW AT A CLICK

Do you hate waiting three months between issues of *On Wisconsin*? Then try visiting us anytime at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com. Our redesigned website features decades of articles you may have missed in the print edition, along with stories, photos, and videos that have appeared only online. Read our most-viewed article of the past year, "UW Mysteries, Secrets, and Hidden Places" (above), or type your favorite Badger keyword into the search box and see what comes up.

See onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.



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75
YEARS

OnWisconsin

Summer 2023

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ALTHEA DOTZOUR

A Party with a Purpose

Badgers celebrate what UW–Madison is and what it will be.

In April, UW–Madison held a series of events marking the investiture of Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin. An investiture is a traditional academic ceremony that welcomes a new leader, and the UW’s version doubled as a celebration of the Badger community. In our cover story, you’ll learn about a day of service called Bucky’s Big Event, a campus picnic on Library Mall (above), and showcases for UW teaching and research. You’ll also learn more about Chancellor Mnookin and her vision for the university. The article includes an excerpt from her investiture speech, which touched on classic UW–Madison values: finding innovative solutions to the world’s problems, welcoming all points of view, collaborating across boundaries, and helping a diverse group of students cultivate their talents.

These are the values we try to reflect in every issue of *On Wisconsin*, including the one you’re reading right now. In “Progress on Alzheimer’s Disease” and “Peace in the Wake of Pain,” you’ll meet UW researchers addressing challenges that affect our everyday lives. “The Teachings of Plants” and “Clean Energy at Last?” profile alumni who honor the Wisconsin Idea by doing good in the world.

One of the investiture events paid tribute to the second- and third-shift workers who keep the university running while the rest of us sleep. “Campus after Dark” goes a step further by accompanying these unsung heroes on their late-night rounds as they clean labs, operate boilers, and ensure student safety. As you’ll see, they play a significant part in the UW–Madison experience, albeit mostly behind the scenes.

At the campus picnic, Babcock Dairy rolled out the chancellor’s namesake ice cream: Mnookie Dough. Needless to say, Babcock scoops are a Badger obsession, and we offer a history of honorary flavors on page 53. Does Mnookie Dough reflect the current chancellor as well as, say, Strawbiddy Swirl did former chancellor Bidy Martin? This will require — ahem — a bit of research.

It’s a sad truth that being part of a community means periodically bidding farewell to a cherished member. On page 15, we memorialize former chancellor Rebecca Blank, who died of cancer in February. Blank was acclaimed for her wise financial stewardship, her steady hand during the pandemic, and her many beneficial programs for students, faculty, and staff. We remember her fondly as the UW takes its next decisive step into the future.

DEAN ROBBINS



WHERE

WE TURN

THE

CLASSROOM

INSIDE

OUT.

Inside: UW student Nina McElhatten's neon bird art project (photo: Sirtaj Grewal). Outside: Bird research with instructor Seth McGee and students.

wisc.edu

CAN'T STOP A BADGER

OnCampus

News from UW-Madison



MEG KELLY

Seeded sixth in the tournament, the Badgers were the lowest seed to ever win the NCAA title.

And a Shutout Makes Seven

With another NCAA championship, the Badgers are the winningest program in women's hockey.

It's bold to call Wisconsin women's hockey an underdog, but that didn't stop the phrase from being thrown around going into this season's NCAA playoffs.

It also didn't stop the Badgers from winning the whole tournament and making program history.

After a rough patch in January and a heartbreaking third-period loss to Ohio State to close out the regular season, the Badgers certainly didn't glide to the 2023 title. Seeded sixth in the tournament, they went up against number three Colgate in regionals and number two Minnesota in the Frozen Four semifinals before facing top-ranked Ohio State once again in the championship game in Duluth on March 19.

The Badgers struck early with a goal from freshman **Kirsten Simms '27**, assisted by fellow freshman **Claire Enright '27**, just six and a half minutes into the first period. It was the only goal scored on either side, as the Badgers' relentless defense and a strong performance from goaltender **Cami Kronish '22, MS'23** shut out the Buckeyes — the first time Ohio State had been held scoreless since January 2022.

"I think that just proved to everybody who doubted us that we were the better team at the end of the day," Kronish says. "We came ready to play, and we were able to accomplish something amazing."

Kronish was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2023 Frozen Four, a title both well deserved and a long time coming. While this marked her third national championship with the Badgers (along with conference tournament titles in 2019 and 2021), she spent her previous four seasons waiting patiently as goalie greats **Kristen Campbell '20**, **Kennedy Blair MS'22**, and **Breanna Blesi '22** guarded the net.

"Learning how to become a supporting teammate from the sidelines was a huge factor in becoming a better leader on this team," Kronish says. "Not everybody has this opportunity — to play here, to play Division I hockey, to play hockey, period — so [you just have to] be thankful for every moment that you get on the ice and make the most of it."

The 2023 victory marks the Badgers' seventh national title, breaking their tie with Minnesota to become the most decorated women's hockey program in the country.

MEGAN PROVOST '20

NEW CENTER WILL EXPLORE THE UW'S PAST

UW-Madison will establish a permanent center with full-time staff to continue and expand on the work of its well-received Public History Project. The new entity, to be called the Rebecca M. Blank Center for Campus History, will be devoted to educating the campus community about the university's past in ways that will enrich the curriculum, inform administrative decisions, and bolster efforts to achieve a more equitable university.

Late chancellor **Rebecca Blank** commissioned the Public History Project in 2019 as one of several responses to a campus study group that investigated the history of two UW-Madison student organizations in the early 1920s that bore the name of the Ku Klux Klan. The project was charged with giving voice to those who experienced and challenged bigotry and exclusion at UW-Madison and improved the university through their courage and actions.

The project's museum exhibition, called *Sifting and Reckoning: UW-Madison's History of Exclusion and Resistance*, ran last year at the Chazen Museum of Art.

"Students and alumni alike told us that visiting the exhibition made them feel more connected to the UW," says **LaVar Charleston MS'07, PhD'10**, deputy vice chancellor and chief diversity officer. "They saw themselves and their communities being reflected in the history of the university — in some cases for the first time."

John Zumbrennen, vice provost for teaching and learning, says many instructors across campus have incorporated the findings of the Public History Project into their courses and expects this practice to grow.

DOUG ERICKSON



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Troia's Steak House

On State Street, even legends come to an end.

Madison's State Street is an ocean of change, dotted with islands of stability. Even in the brief span that an undergrad might stay in Madison, many State Street storefronts go through two, three, or even four identities.

One of the steady islands — or steady-ish — is 661 State Street, a location that has been home to not just one but several long-lasting businesses. For the last quarter

of a century, Starbucks has stood at 661 State — enough time for most students to believe that the coffee shop was there since dinosaurs roamed the land and will be there long after the human race is forgotten.

But Starbucks arrived in the late 1990s. Before that, 661 State was home to Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers for a couple of decades, dating back to the late 1970s. (Wendy's made an attempt to return to State Street — in the 500 block — in the 2010s, but it only lasted three years.)

Before that, 661 had a couple of men's clothing shops, but from 1955 to 1967, it was one of State's swankier establishments: Troia's Steak House.

Before there was a Starbucks, there was a Wendy's, and before Wendy's, Troia's Steak House was a fixture in the 600 block of State Street.

Troia's — opened by Joe Troia, nephew of Mateo Lombardino of Lombardino's Restaurant — advertised steaks and martinis and live music. It had a Friday night fish fry (irrespective of the ethnicity of the restaurant, this is Wisconsin) and something foreign in modern Madison: plenty of municipal parking.

Troia also ran the adjacent Italian Village restaurant, and he attracted celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Vic Damone, and Liza Minnelli.

Troia's and Wendy's each must have seemed like permanent residents to the UW students of their day, just as Starbucks does to 21st-century Badgers.

JOHN ALLEN



DANIELLE LAMBY

Learning to Love the Chatbot

Last semester, the UW–Madison Teaching Academy convened instructors from across campus for an urgent chat. The topic: ChatGPT, a new artificial intelligence chatbot that has almost every industry — including higher ed — on edge. After all, it seems to know and do everything. It can compose a song or write an essay in seconds.

But if you were looking for alarm, the Teaching Academy’s virtual conversation was not the place. UW instructors are approaching the new technology with cautious optimism and an open mind about its potential in the classroom. Psychology professor and Teaching Academy cochair **Morton Ann Gernsbacher** kicked off the discussion with a reminder that technology-related moral panics in education, from pencil erasers to hand calculators to spell checkers, have rarely been worth the fuss.

OpenAI’s ChatGPT software is pretrained on a massive data set of existing text from the internet and uses it to predict an appropriate conversational response to any prompt. Instead of one million search-engine results, you get one answer. It’s not always right, but the algorithm is constantly improving with more data, development, and interactions. Microsoft and Google have since released their own rival chatbots.

UW instructors and students are already experimenting with the technology. Instructors can, for example, use ChatGPT to generate an insufficient answer to a problem and then invite students to critique it. A chatbot can also serve as the world’s most patient tutor for a student, allowing for endless follow-up questions.

Concerns about the technology range from lazy problem-solving to outright plagiarism. Teaching Academy cochair **John Martin MS’04, PhD’09** is less concerned about the obvious cases — “A plagiarizer will always find a way to plagiarize,” he notes — than the passive ones.

“We talk a lot about the struggle of learning, of coming up with the wrong answer and figuring out why it’s wrong,” he says. “Learning from your mistakes is the heart of education. If we have a tool that just gives us the right answer, then what effect does that have on our ability to struggle through the problem space on our own?”

PRESTON SCHMITT ’14



UW ATHLETICS

Make room in the trophy case — here come the Badgers. Offensive lineman Joe Thomas ’07 is the fourth UW–Madison alum selected for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Meanwhile, former UW cornerback Troy Vincent x’92 (above) is the 12th UW player to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

No need to worry, parents and caregivers: new UW–Madison graduates are having spectacular success in the job market. A survey found that 71 percent of those seeking jobs had an offer by the time they graduated in 2021–22, with others opting to continue their education.



POWERS SPEES AND SADAT KHAN

Let the fun begin: the Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center opened in April on the site of the old Natatorium. With the Lake Mendota topography echoed in its elegantly curving design, the facility includes eight basketball courts, an ice sheet, an indoor jogging track, and a fitness lab for the kinesiology program.

After a last-place finish in the Big Ten Conference, UW–Madison has replaced men’s hockey coach Tony Granato ’17 with Mike Hastings. Expectations are high for Hastings, who’s earned multiple coach-of-the-year honors during his 25 consecutive winning seasons with the Minnesota State Mavericks and the Omaha Lancers of the United States Hockey League.

How to Stock the Brat Stand

Nothing says summer like standing in line at this seasonal campus staple.

Summers at the Terrace flood the senses. Waves lap against Lake Mendota's shore; fiery sunsets fill the sky; sticky ribbons of Babcock ice cream dribble down cones; and the intoxicating scents of burgers and brats waft from the Brat Stand. This summer marks the Brat Stand's 36th year of serving up classic summer fare on the Terrace. Here's a look at what goes into hosting the biggest barbecue of the summer.

WHAT'S ON HAND IN THE BRAT STAND?

 **1,000** BRATS

 **800** BURGERS

 **500** VEGAN BRATS

 **15** GALLONS OF SAUERKRAUT*

AVERAGE SALES PER TERRACE SEASON:

 **50,000**

 **31,000**

 **7,000**

RETIRED BRAT STAND FARE:

Foot-long hot dogs

Hot 'n' spicy hot dogs

Turkey legs

Chicken sandwiches

Corn on the cob

BUSIEST DAYS/WEEKENDS:

Madison Jazz Festival

Memorial Day weekend

Labor Day weekend

500 THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYEES NEEDED TO MAKE TERRACE SEASON POSSIBLE**

**Brat Stand sauerkraut comes from Porchlight Products, a Madison organization that employs disabled and formerly homeless individuals who struggle to return to or maintain employment.*

***Each summer, the Wisconsin Union employs more than 300 students to support Terrace dining operations, along with an additional 200 students in other areas of the Wisconsin Union.*



BRYCE RICHTER

A Path to Debt-Free Education

UW-Madison has long been committed to ensuring that an education at the state's flagship public institution is affordable and accessible for Wisconsin residents. A new program called Bucky's Pell Pathway significantly strengthens that commitment.

The UW has pledged to meet the full financial need for four years for new first-year Wisconsin-resident students who qualify for Pell Grants, the federal program that plays a critical role in expanding college access for students in low-income households. Transfer students from Wisconsin meeting the same criteria will receive two years of full-need funding.

More than 800 incoming students are expected to be eligible in the upcoming year.

"If we are going to live our values of creating real access and opportunity, we need to do more for our students from Wisconsin's lowest-income households — our Pell Grant recipients," says UW chancellor **Jennifer L. Mnookin**. "Bucky's Pell Pathway will, in most instances, allow recipients to complete a four-year degree without taking on debt to cover their educational expenses."

The program will guarantee grants, scholarships, and work-study opportunities sufficient to cover a Pell-eligible student's full financial need (defined as cost of attendance minus any expected family contribution). The guarantee covers not just tuition and fees, but also housing, meals, books, and most other educational expenses.

Bucky's Pell Pathway will also include funds to ensure that eligible students can be more fully involved in the many life-changing experiences the university offers, such as study-abroad opportunities and summer-term courses.

Bucky's Pell Pathway expands on the groundbreaking Bucky's Tuition Promise, which guarantees scholarships and grants to pay for tuition and segregated fees for Wisconsin residents whose household adjusted gross income is roughly at or below the state median income. The UW has raised the eligibility threshold for household income for Bucky's Tuition Promise from \$60,000 to \$65,000, meaning even more Wisconsin students will qualify.

"The bottom line is, if you are eligible for one of these programs, we've got you covered," says **Derek Kindle**, vice provost for enrollment management. "We want to continue to message to our talented and competitive Wisconsin residents that we will help remove any financial barriers to becoming a Badger."

DOUG ERICKSON



BRYCE RICHTER

A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP

Former UW-Madison chancellor **Rebecca Blank** died of cancer on February 17 at 67. During her tenure at the UW, from 2013 to 2022, she focused on improving educational outcomes and the student experience, further elevating the university's world-class faculty, and placing the university on firm financial footing through a combination of private fundraising and inventive strategies.

Blank was known for her direct style, quick analysis, and dry sense of humor, and she led one of the country's top public research universities through a complex political period and a devastating global pandemic.

Under Blank's leadership, the university created new programs, most notably Bucky's Tuition Promise, which makes the UW more accessible to lower-income students across the state. She also led increases in undergraduate enrollment, made strides in expanding campus diversity, and helped reduce the average time it takes students to graduate from the state's flagship campus. Blank left the UW to become president of Northwestern University but withdrew just prior to serving due to her cancer diagnosis.

Before becoming chancellor, Blank served in the U.S. Department of Commerce as undersecretary for economic affairs, deputy secretary, and acting secretary in President Barack Obama's cabinet.

"Whether in government or academia," Obama wrote after Blank's death, "she devoted her career to reducing inequality and increasing opportunities for others, and made everyone around her better."

Soldier vs. Civilian

The Badger Veteran Photo Project reveals the people behind the uniform.

Veterans are both heroes and regular human beings. Everybody knows that, of course, but UW–Madison’s Badger Veteran Photo Project helps you see it and feel it.

University Veteran Services reached out to service members who’ve attended the UW with a request: submit one photo of yourself in uniform and one out of uniform. That simple concept yielded a psychologically rich collection of images, viewable at go.wisc.edu/veteran-photo-2022.

In uniform, the veterans train for combat, shoulder their weapons, and serve far from home, with danger lurking around the edges of the photographic frame. Out of uniform, they look like anybody else, hugging their dogs, cradling their babies, and dressing in Badger gear.

The contrast creates an emotional response in the viewer: admiration for these ordinary people tasked with extraordinary responsibility.

For the older veterans, the paired images often produce a time-lapse effect. With **Stephen Greger '71**, for example, we see a somber, blurry, black-and-white photo from the Vietnam War era next to a more recent color snapshot of Greger in a happy mood. In the accompanying text, he writes, “During my UW junior year, I was selected as ‘Number ONE’ in the December 1969 Vietnam-era draft lottery. I knew military service was in my future upon graduation. Wanting to be in control of that future, I enlisted in the air force shortly before graduation in 1971.”

That bit of information creates another emotional response in the viewer: relief that Greger survived into the 21st century.

DEAN ROBBINS

Abigail Lindsay '23 was an air force F-16 crew chief deployed to Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.



Justin Cape MSx'24 plans to teach after retiring from the air force.



Rachel '00 and Adam Landsee '01 both served two tours of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



After his military service, Stephen Greger '71 worked in the insurance industry for 35 years.



Leah Henning x'24 did four years of active duty and plans to be a nurse.





UW ARCHIVES

Chipping the Old, Old, Old Block

What might be the UW's oldest experiment will end this summer, when Professor Emeritus **Steve Cramer '79** smashes the last of several century-old blocks of concrete. Once he does, he'll bring an end not only to the long-running project but also to his career-long fascination with the construction material.

"I was in the last undergraduate concrete technology course taught by Professor **George Washa '30, MS'32, PhD'38**, and I was amazed at his instruction," Cramer says. "He came down into the laboratory, and here was this distinguished old gentleman. He reached down, and he grabbed a handful of concrete. For me, he brought it to life."

This particular study began in 1910, when engineering instructor **Owen Withey** (above) took an interest in the technology underlying concrete. "Professor Withey jumped on this as a new material and started to ask questions about it, about the longevity, and he created a tradition then of being at the leading edge of this material," says Cramer.

Withey wanted to know how long concrete would last, and so he created a collection of six-inch-wide, 12-inch-long cylinders, and then he put them aside to age. He repeated the process in 1923 and again in 1937. At various intervals, he would take some of the cylinders, put them in a hydraulic press, and apply pressure until they broke.

"These old, dry cylinders either crumble or explode," Cramer says. "It's a rather modest explosion, but there'll be a little bit of a bang, they'll fall apart, and the test will stop."

When Withey retired in 1953, he passed the experiment to another faculty member, who passed it on to another, each concrete specialist often choosing a former student as the heir to the experiment. Washa studied under Withey long before he inspired Cramer, who took over after he joined the faculty in 1984.

Cramer, Washa, and others destroyed the last of the 1937 batch on its 50th anniversary, in 1987, and his lab crushed the last of the 1910 cylinders at their centennial in 2010. Although Cramer retired in 2021, he means to see the experiment to its conclusion. When he watches the 1923 batch get smashed this summer, that will be the end of Withey's concrete — and the results, you might say, will be set in stone.

"One thing led to another," says Cramer. "Younger students don't quite understand. They often think they plan their career, but relationships and things happen that lead you on the path if you're open to that path."

JOHN ALLEN



UW ATHLETICS

In February, former UW–Madison track star **Alicia Monson '20** (above) set an American record in the 3,000 meters. With barely time to catch her breath, she set another one in March in the 10,000 meters. Can't say we're surprised: Monson was a five-time all-American at the UW and 2019's Big Ten Indoor Track Athlete of the Year.

UW–Madison had an impressive eight Fulbright Scholars for 2022–23, tying it for third on the Department of State's top-producers list. Fulbright is the federal government's flagship international educational-exchange program, in which faculty, administrators, and other professionals travel abroad to research and teach in a wide variety of fields.



ATHENA DOTZOUR

Happy trails to Provost John Karl Scholz (above), who's leaving the UW to become president of the University of Oregon. Scholz has taught in the economics department since 1988 and also served as dean of the College of Letters & Science, where he launched the SuccessWorks career center. He has been provost — the UW's chief academic officer — since 2019.



The Badger Flame Beet

Horticulturalist **Irwin Goldman PhD'91** doesn't beet around the bush when it comes to root vegetables. His research at the

UW revolves around a medley of carrots, onions, and the divisive table beet. As Goldman

has seen time and again, people either appreciate the distinct earthiness of a traditional beet, or they walk away with wrinkled noses muttering something about dirt. So Goldman, his colleague **Nick Breibach**, and a team of graduate students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences set about breeding a better beet.

After nearly 20 growing seasons, the UW offers the world the Badger Flame beet — a sweet, crunchy, oblong bulb that one would happily eat raw, with no pickling liquid or caramelization necessary. "I call it the slowest of the performing arts — plant breeding," says Goldman. "It takes a very long time, but it's very rewarding."

The process was, indeed, both artistic and scientific. Through years of testing crops by subjective taste, selecting away from the earthy flavor gene, and crossing new batches with sweeter and more colorful varieties, the team developed beets that would please any picky eater's palate, in an array of colors that would beautifully adorn any painter's palette.

The old-fashioned beet is undergoing a renaissance, and Goldman's research, seeded by the UW and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, is at the forefront of bringing the beet into the new age. His team has championed Wisconsin's top spot in traditional table beet production and delivered breakthrough beet varieties to supermarkets and restaurants across the nation.

"I felt some guilt, honestly," admits Goldman, "because we were de-beeting the beet."

At the same time, he's glad to support Wisconsin's beet farmers, gardeners, and chefs with the best-bred beets. And he's happy to help people not only eat their veggies but also enjoy them.

ESTHER SEIDLITZ



Attendance at the February 3 women's hockey game at the Kohl Center, making it the second-most-attended women's NCAA hockey game ever. The Badgers also hold the record for the most-attended women's hockey game: 15,359 at the Kohl Center in 2017. On its home ice, the team has topped 10,000 attendees six times in its history, while no other women's college hockey program has done it even once. Given the Badgers' (now) seven NCAA championships and nine regular-season WCHA titles, it's no mystery why fans flock to their games.

"A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR" NOT TRUE FOR CATS

Any cat owner knows that trying to get felines to take medication is a challenge. A School of Veterinary Medicine veterinarian is hoping to make the dreaded task easier. **Amy Nichelason** and colleagues tried to find cats' favorite flavors to add to liquid medications.

Pills sometimes must be forced into a cat's mouth and throat, which can impair the human-animal bond. Liquid medications are typically easier to administer, but cats' acceptance of these formulations depends on the flavor and type.

In the study, healthy pet cats received a variety of flavorings — such as chicken, beef, and fish — in unmedicated oil- and water-based formulas. However, no flavor stuck out as the favorite. Instead, the study found that cats actively disliked sweet flavors. This surprised Nichelason, because cats can't taste sweetness.

Owners even struggled to accurately predict which flavor their cat would like, indicating that veterinarians should avoid using a client's judgment to determine flavor preference for medication.

The study also found that cats favored oil-based flavorings over water-based ones. That said, cats remain picky: 60 percent didn't like any of the oil-based flavors, compared to 85 percent that disliked the water-based flavors.

"What I took home from this as a veterinarian is that I should avoid sweet flavors and use oil-based flavorings when possible," Nichelason says.

BRITTA WELLENSTEIN x'24

"I jumped around like a silly guy, and I don't do that. Their energy jumped into me, and all of a sudden, I was doing the Wisconsin 'Jump Around' tradition."

— Musician Everlast on experiencing his hit "Jump Around" for the first time at a Camp Randall football game

Split-Second Decisions

As coxswain, lightweight rower Emma Collins x'24 analyzes a race as it happens.

Emma Collins x'24 has been called an architect, quarter-back, navigator, and coach, but her official position on the UW women's lightweight rowing team is coxswain.

From the bow of the boat, Collins's job is to analyze the race as it happens and make split-second decisions regarding pace, rhythm, and course for the team. "Coxing is definitely more of a mental exercise, whereas rowing is physical," she says. "You are taking everything in as it goes on."

Lightweight rowing involves athlete weight restrictions and slightly smaller boats, and at four-foot-11, Collins is a natural fit. Growing up in coastal Duxbury, Massachusetts, she spent most of her life sailing and rowing. "I definitely have a love for the water," she says.

"I pretty much spend every day possible of my life on it."

After being recruited by both men's and women's rowing programs, Collins committed to Wisconsin. When she arrived on campus during a time of COVID restrictions, the team looked much different than it does today. Since the program was unable to take walk-ons, who usually account for some 50 percent of the roster, Collins coxed most of the lightweight races in her freshman season. At times, she was the only coxswain on the team.

Taking on a leadership position as a first-year student was nerve-racking. "I hated having to tell seniors what to do or having to hold them to a high standard," she

Since there's no playbook to being a coxswain, "no one can really tell you what to do," Collins says. "You have to learn from experience."

says, "but it's definitely been a rewarding journey."

Now Collins is heading into junior year as a mentor to a team that has doubled in size, including many coxswains.

"I was lucky to have great mentoring as a freshman, so I'm glad to be there for [the current team] and hold their hands a little bit, but also push them to grow," she says.

From daily erg workouts, weekly meetings to analyze race audio and videos, and indoor tank trainings to observe strokes, coxswains work year-round to stay engaged with the rowers. The months of mundane indoor winter training really pay off when they return to the water in the spring.

Collins will spend this summer in the Caribbean teaching sailing before returning to the UW to complete her studies in communications and graphic design. After graduation, she

hopes to continue coxing on the national level, or maybe even continue the program's tradition of competing as a Badger Olympian.

Whatever she pursues, she'll never be off the water.

HAYDEN LAMPHERE
PHOTO BY BRYCE RICHTER



Where All People Thrive

The new Institute for Diversity Science will use rigorous methods to address inequality.

Diversity science takes an empirical approach to reducing discrimination. UW–Madison has dozens of faculty members who conduct innovative research, but there has been no infrastructure to connect the various diversity-science initiatives across multiple disciplines — until now. Psychology professor **Markus Brauer** teamed up with **Angela Byars-Winston** of the Department of Medicine to launch the Institute for Diversity Science, which is unique in higher education. It positions the UW as a leader in addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion through rigorous scientific methods. Byars-Winston, who serves as chair (with Brauer as executive director), believes the new institute can help create a society “where all people thrive.”

How did the Institute for Diversity Science come about?

It was Markus’s forward-thinking idea to create this intellectual hub for campus and beyond so researchers could share their methods and translate their research into actionable solutions. Markus, for example, has been doing field studies about the impact of prejudice-reduction initiatives in real-world spaces. I’ve been looking at how we can diversify the biomedical sciences by race, ethnicity, and gender through mentorship. The Institute for Diversity Science gives us an opportunity to say, gosh, what happens if we actually shared what we learn from each other, under one umbrella?

What’s an example of “actionable solutions”?

Let’s say we want to diversify the workforce in Deerfield, Wisconsin. What would help to draw more ethnically diverse people to that community? There are businesses all around Wisconsin that want diverse people to come to their communities, but they don’t know how to effectively promote inclusive behaviors in workplace settings. How do you promote women’s interest in entrepreneurship? How do you reduce the institutional barriers for scientists of color?

The U.S. is steeped in research that has documented the extent of underrepresentation, exclusion, and race- and gender-based violence. But how do we actually ameliorate those issues? Under what conditions are diverse teams most effective? How do you increase voter turnout from marginalized groups? Those are the kinds of questions that diversity-science researchers study.

How does science play a part in addressing those questions?

One of the things diversity science can do is to offer more precision for well-intentioned people, like most of the folks I meet in Wisconsin and beyond. They want to see a society that’s just and equitable because it benefits all of us. But we want to be more precise in how we work toward that. We don’t want to throw good money after bad on things that we’ve never studied but that we only think will work.

For example, does role-modeling actually work? You can’t just put a Native American astronaut in front of middle schoolers and hope that more people from Indigenous backgrounds will want to go into aeronautics. It’s more complicated than that, and we have to study the results. What are the conditions that make those role models more or less effective?

How will the Institute for Diversity Science carry out its mission?

We’ll have visiting scholars so that researchers from across the country can bring their methods here. We want to support graduate students who are really on the cutting edge. We’ll have frequent opportunities to share what’s happening with the campus, city, and state. The success of our institute will be in connecting with every sector, including industry, higher education, primary and secondary education, health care systems, the business community, and the scientific community. We’ll have a range of activities that can address real-world challenges and create partnerships with communities to come up with solutions to the issues that we all want to see resolved.

Byars-Winston says the institute will translate research into “actionable solutions.”



What’s an ideal outcome for the institute?

UW–Madison has advanced research in horticulture and botany and transplant science, so we can surely advance diversity-science research. Markus and I hope the institute will attract faculty who are already national leaders to elevate UW–Madison’s visibility in this field. Wouldn’t that be a game changer, to have people think of Wisconsin when they think of diversity science? That alone, to me, is revolutionary.

I also hope the institute encourages more investigators to take up diversity-science research. More work needs to be done. I want the UW to be a place where early-career researchers will see an opportunity to learn from investigators who are already established in the field so that there’s a sharing of knowledge across career stages. Then we’ll be better able to identify the factors that contribute to group-based inequality so we can intervene and eradicate them.

Interview by Dean Robbins

Photo by Jeff Miller

The UW's New Era

*A celebration honors Badger traditions while
welcoming Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin.*



*“Let our
future story
be dazzling
and bright”:
Mnookin at the
investiture cer-
emony in Hamel
Music Center.*

BY DOUG ERICKSON

PHOTOS BY ALTHEA DOTZOUR, JEFF MILLER,
BRYCE RICHTER, AND TAYLOR WOLFRAM x'24

On a warm, windy April day, senior Akshay Kalra x'23 ditched his art history class — sorry, prof! — for what he considered a higher calling.

Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin had rallied Badgers for a day of community service — dubbed the first-annual Bucky's Big Event — and Kalra didn't want to miss it. That's how he found himself somewhat improbably side by side with Mnookin, lopping invasive buckthorn from the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

"Public service is so important and such a big part of the UW tradition," said Kalra, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. "The fact that she's embracing the Wisconsin Idea like this bodes well for her tenure."

Bucky's Big Event was just one of many special events during a week that celebrated Mnookin's formal installation as UW-Madison's 30th leader. The culmination of the week, a vibrant, majestic investiture ceremony steeped in centuries-old traditions, brought luminaries from around the country to campus on April 14.

"This is a new chapter in the UW-Madison story," said UW System president Jay Rothman, who called Mnookin "the right leader at the right time" while welcoming more than 400 people at the Hamel Music Center and others watching on live stream.

It was a week that mixed formality with fun. There was pomp and circumstance befitting one of the country's most prestigious institutions of higher learning. And there was lightness and levity — cherished Badger traits as well. Forming an indelible campus memory, thousands of people flooded Library Mall following the investiture ceremony for a community picnic that turned into a giant, sunshine-fueled party.



An investiture ceremony is an opportunity to both usher in a new era of leadership and celebrate an institution, including its people. The week began with a lively recognition event for hundreds of second- and third-shift employees on the floor of the Kohl Center. There was food (brats and hot dogs), music (the UW Marching Band), and polka dancing (nice moves, Bucky!).

"We're feeling very appreciated right now," said Martha Gonzalez, a second-shift custodial lead at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (see page 34).

Mnookin hit the Kohl Center stage at 11:30 p.m., giving remarks in both English and Spanish. She took selfies with people until almost midnight. (Not a big deal, she said. "This is easier for me than a 7 a.m. meeting.")

The next morning, Mnookin joined Ho-Chunk

Nation president Marlon WhiteEagle for the raising of the Ho-Chunk Nation flag at Bascom Hall. Bucky's Big Event followed, with Badgers flexing their volunteering muscles at eight community sites.

"This is a wonderful way to combine important events," said Janay Walters, a research intern on campus who helped create a new walking trail at Governor Nelson State Park. "Service is such an essential part to any successful organization."

A series of campus events brought out diverse crowds. During a live cooking demonstration for students at Union South that highlighted Wisconsin food traditions, Mnookin hand-grated potatoes and conversed with chef Luke Zahm '03 of The Driftless Café in Viroqua, Wisconsin. (Her go-to cuisine? Middle Eastern fusion.) Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist and UCLA professor Andrea Ghez, a close friend of Mnookin, headlined an academic symposium titled "Discovery Past, Present, and Future: Black Holes, Neutrinos, and Life in Our Galaxy" that packed Union South's Marquee Theater.

At the center of the week's festivities was the investiture ceremony, one of the oldest traditions in academia. Usually held during the first year of new leadership, the ceremony confers the authority and symbols of the office to a new academic leader.



Mnookin, formerly dean of the UCLA School of Law, officially began her tenure as UW-Madison chancellor last August. She told the crowd at the Hamel Center that she was "grateful and humbled" to be given the opportunity to lead such an incredible university, adding she was "acutely aware that I stand on the shoulders of so very, very many others."

Mnookin extolled the virtues of the Wisconsin Idea, saying it is "both anchor and propeller, keeping us grounded to our mission while creating that multiplier effect that allows us to do truly great things at scale. And it must remain at the heart of our goals and aspirations for our beloved university."

The ceremony began with a procession of delegates from higher education, elected office, UW System leadership, the UW System Board of Regents, faculty, staff, and student leadership, all in academic regalia.

More than 50 universities and colleges sent delegates, including Harvard University, represented by Robert H. Mnookin, the Samuel Williston Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the chancellor's father.

Wisconsin governor Tony Evers '73, MS'76, PhD'86 spoke, as did four former UW-Madison chancellors, three in person (David Ward MS'62,

PhD'63, Donna Shalala, and John Wiley MS'65, PhD'68) and one by video (Biddy Martin PhD'85).

Shalala, chancellor from 1988 to 1993 and the first woman to serve in the role, drew laughs as she scanned the audience for her “best friend” from when she was on campus, Bucky. “He was the only person that never talked back to me,” she said.

Keynote speaker Michael Schill, president of Northwestern University, recruited Mnookin and her husband, political scientist Joshua Foa Dienstag, to join the UCLA faculty nearly 20 years ago. Confidantes who talk weekly, Schill and Mnookin now both lead Big Ten universities.

“The Wisconsin Idea is both anchor and propeller, keeping us grounded to our mission while creating that multiplier effect that allows us to do truly great things at scale,” Mnookin said.

Schill said the importance of higher education, both in educating the next generation and as an engine for discovery and innovation, could not be greater, yet the challenges are more difficult than they have been in decades.

“I can’t remember another time when we’ve been under the microscope so intensely,” he said. “So many of our nation’s problems are playing out on our campuses today.”

One of the biggest challenges, he said, is the growing lack of trust in higher education. No one is better positioned to negotiate these challenges and opportunities than Mnookin, he added.

“She listens, she synthesizes the views of her community, all the while guided by an amazingly strong moral and academic compass. She is the perfect person to lead you through a period that requires the very best in a leader.”

Karen Walsh '81, president of the UW System Board of Regents, placed a “Numen Lumen” medallion, bearing the official seal and motto of UW–Madison, on Mnookin’s shoulders and formally installed her as chancellor. Mnookin will wear the medallion — newly recast by engineering students — at commencement and convocation events going forward.

In her remarks, Mnookin told stories of UW–Madison inventors, researchers, and pathbreakers — stories, she said, that illustrate the “multiplier effect” of the university’s transformational work. She spoke of a young researcher named Tom Brock who would later become a UW–Madison professor. During a visit to Yellowstone National Park, Brock discovered a strain of bacteria in the park’s hot springs that no one had ever described. Many

For additional coverage of the investiture events, including stories, photos, and videos, visit go.wisc.edu/investiture-coverage.

decades later, his discovery would be fundamental to the development of the PCR test for COVID-19. At the time, though, Brock said he was “just trying to find out what kind of weird critters were living in that boiling water.”

“Which strikes me as a very ‘Wisconsin’ thing to say!” Mnookin shared. “Then, as now, the University of Wisconsin–Madison is simultaneously exceptional and modest, driven not by a need for glory but by a dedication to excellence that is rooted in and grows from a trio of core commitments: to curiosity, to collaboration, and to service.”

Afterward, Liam McLean '23, senior class president, said the investiture ceremony gave him new perspective on the university’s place in higher education.

“I teared up a little during some of the moments,” he said. “To have so many people from the Badger community in the same room really made me realize how much UW–Madison is at the forefront of so much that is happening in the country and in the world.”



Following the ceremony, Mnookin walked with friends and family members, including her husband and children, Sophia and Isaac, to Library Mall, where the community picnic unfolded amid balloons, dancing, and tunes provided by the UW Marching Band.

“How can you not come to a picnic on Library Mall on a day like today?” asked Bruce Beihoff '77 of Madison, who called his experience on campus life-shaping. “I’ve always felt great about this university. This makes me feel even better.”

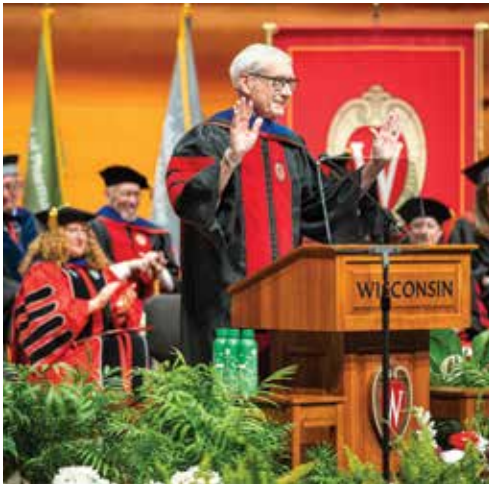
The picnic served as the big reveal for the new Babcock Dairy ice cream flavor named for the chancellor — Mnookie Dough. She took her first bite at the picnic and dubbed it dee-licious. “The caramel is a nice touch.”

Throughout the weeklong celebration, Mnookin expressed gratitude and awe. Following a blockbuster panel that featured six faculty and alumni discussing what motivates them, Mnookin said their insights outstripped the already high expectations she had for the event.

“Every one of your talks was thoughtful, inspiring, exhilarating,” she said. “It makes me very, very proud to be here and really inspired that all of you are Badgers and that I get to be one now, too.” ●

Doug Erickson writes for University Communications.

Left to right, from top row to bottom row: Marching Band at the Library Mall picnic; Mnookin at Bucky’s Big Event; cooking demonstration; Jerzy Gillon MM’23 sings the national anthem at Hamel Music Center; Mnookie Dough ice cream; Ho-Chunk Nation flag; Wisconsin governor Tony Evers ’73, MS’76, PhD’86; “Discovery Past, Present, and Future”; second- and third-shift employees recognition event; “Wisconsin Ideas: Inspiration and Insights from Extraordinary Badgers”; Mnookin with husband Joshua Foa Dienstag; MadHatters sing “Varsity.”



"The right leader at the right time": Walsh presents Mnookin with the Numen Lumen medallion.



CELEBRATING OUR STRENGTHS **BY JENNIFER L. MNOOKIN**

On April 14, UW–Madison capped a weeklong celebration of the Badger community with Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin's formal investiture ceremony at the Hamel Music Center. The chancellor delivered an eloquent speech that championed the university's "deep-rooted commitment to making a genuine and positive difference across Wisconsin, our country, and the globe." Read an excerpt below and visit go.wisc.edu/investiture-speech for her complete address.

How can we make sure that our 175-year-old institution will shine even more brightly on its 200th birthday? That our impact will be not just multiplied but strengthened exponentially? ...

The Wisconsin Idea is both anchor and propeller, keeping us grounded to our mission while creating that multiplier effect that allows us to do truly great things at scale. And it must remain at the heart of our goals and aspirations for our beloved university. ...

We need to make sure we are affordable, especially for Wisconsin families. We need to make sure we are a place where all students can flourish, no matter their backgrounds, their identities, or their political perspectives. We need to make sure — in the words of Governor Robert La Follette 1879, LLB1901 — that we are not just a “great storehouse of knowledge,” but that we impart that knowledge in a way that engages our students deeply in their learning, and that the degrees we confer reflect not only the successful completion of coursework, but a real ability to add something of value to the world. And we need to strengthen and affirm our efforts to acknowledge that the land under our feet is the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk people, and to build strong relationships with the Native Nations who call Wisconsin home.

We do not all have to have precisely the same answers about how to create the conditions that will best allow us to address the many issues our world is facing. Indeed, we shouldn't. But we can, I think, find common ground in what one Illinois politician running for president back in 1952 said in a campaign speech here in Madison that still rings true: “The Wisconsin tradition [means] ... a faith in the application of intelligence and reason to the problems of society.”

Intelligence and reason are absolutely necessary ingredients, but insufficient. They are like pieces of a puzzle — parts of a whole. The other pieces come in a variety of shapes and colors:

- Curiosity
- Compassion
- Courage to cross boundaries and work in ways that are radically interdisciplinary
- Commitment to being a place where ideas are nurtured and explored
- And a community where all people have a strong enough sense of belonging to engage successfully across differences

This is a tall order, but if we can manage to put these pieces together, we will multiply our ability to address momentous challenges, here and around the world. ...

It will mean redoubling our efforts to create a campus where every student — whether first in their family to go to college or a fourth-generation Badger; whatever their race, sexual orientation, or gender identity; whatever their political viewpoint or religion; whether they hail from a big city or a small rural community — knows that they belong and that they are part of the kaleidoscopic fabric that makes us great.

Let us also work to become a national model for how universities can engage across difference. Because this is a problem we cannot ignore. It's not a Wisconsin problem, or even a university problem. It's a problem for our nation and our democracy. And we've seen far too many examples of people on both the right and the left wanting to silence or censor speech and ideas they disagree with.

Here at UW–Madison, we need to remain resolutely committed to that “continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found.” At the same time, we need to acknowledge that not all of our students have the same sense of full belonging or equally feel that this special place, our university, is, so to speak, for them. And not everyone at UW–Madison feels consistently comfortable sharing their views, whether in the classroom or in the hallways.

Our university must be a place that not only welcomes all points of view and allows for free discussion of ideas but also, simultaneously, helps students develop a strong sense of belonging. So they can flourish, and so that they can learn to talk across difference without feeling untethered or unmoored. I say to you: free speech and belonging must both be core institutional priorities. They must both be North Stars that guide our way. To be sure, they are sometimes in tension with one another. But both must be nonnegotiable.

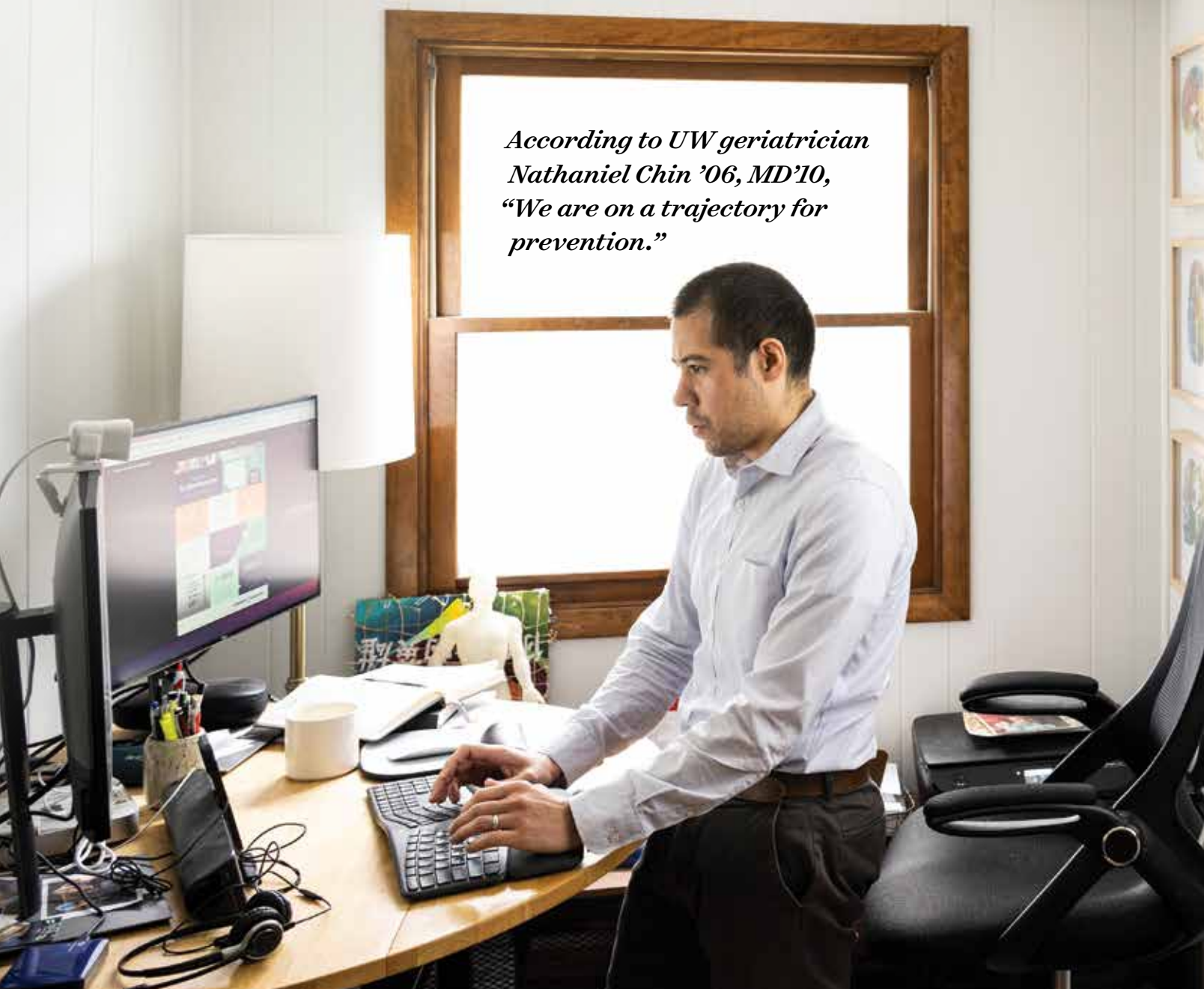
It is urgent that we help build pathways back to civil dialogue across difference. And I firmly believe that this university can be a national leader in supporting both free speech and belonging, by creating the place that the author, activist, and UW alum bell hooks MA'76 envisioned when she said: “I want there to be a place in the world where people can engage in one another's differences in a way that is redemptive, full of hope and possibility.”

Let us, here at UW–Madison, lead the way. Let our future story be dazzling and bright. Let us connect, with curiosity and enthusiasm, across our differences and across our disciplines. Let us grow our partnerships and collaborations to do more and greater things together than we could ever do alone. ●

PROGRESS ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

BY GEORGE SPENCER

*According to UW geriatrician
Nathaniel Chin '06, MD'10,
"We are on a trajectory for
prevention."*





Chin abruptly changed his career plans when he learned that his father had Alzheimer's disease.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

During a holiday visit home in 2012, Nathaniel Chin '06, MD'10 sat down with his mother for a talk — an event that changed his life. At the time, Chin was doing his internal medicine residency in California. He planned to specialize in infectious diseases.

For nearly 40 years, his father, Moe, a first-generation American, had been a doctor in Watertown, Wisconsin. Working as many as 100 hours a week, he treated everyone in town from birth to death. Growing up, Nate often watched his father as he left home late at night toting his black leather physician's satchel. The next morning, as he went to school, he would greet his father coming back.

On that fateful day in 2012, Chin learned that Moe probably had Alzheimer's disease. His father couldn't remember what he was watching on television or recognize their car in parking lots. "I can close my eyes, be back in that room, and remember the tears on my face," says Chin, who abruptly changed his career plans. He would now care for Alzheimer's patients.

His father's Fisher Scientific microscope has a place of honor in Chin's office.



After finishing his residency, Chin returned to University Hospital and became a memory care geriatrician. In his spare time, he made the hour-long trip to Watertown to help his mother. He fed, bathed, and cleaned Moe, who passed away at home at age 66, six years after his diagnosis.

Today Chin is an assistant professor in the UW Department of Medicine and the medical director of the UW's widely respected Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), one of the nation's 33 federally funded research hubs studying the condition. Founded in 2009, it supports 42 scientists and dozens of investigators seeking to improve early Alzheimer's detection and to arrest the disease's onset and progression.

Chin is also the medical director of the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP), one of the world's largest and longest-running studies of individuals at risk for Alzheimer's disease. Its 1,700 mostly middle-aged volunteers have close relatives with Alzheimer's. They make every-other-year visits for testing to gauge their mental status.

More than six million Americans and about 50 million people around the world have Alzheimer's, numbers that will likely double by 2050. Through funding from the National Institute on Aging and the National Institutes of Health, the ADRC seeks improved diagnosis

and care for patients while pursuing an ambitious long-term goal: preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease. It marshals academic, clinical, and research expertise from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, UW Health, and the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital.

Chin believes that over the next 20 years, new drugs will likely block Alzheimer's progress in people who have been diagnosed. They may even halt the onset of symptoms. "We are on the trajectory for prevention," he says. "Making Alzheimer's a chronic condition instead of one that's terminal is not only feasible, but it seems we're getting closer and closer to that."

A Fast-Moving Field

Chin inherited his father's confident bedside manner. His voice is as soft and gentle as Mister Rogers's. He has an open face. His smile beams. His eyes sparkle. It is easy to imagine caregivers and patients pouring out their hearts to him.

Like his father, Chin stays busy. He sees patients two days a week in the UW's memory clinics; acts as a dementia consultant for a local nursing home; teaches residents how to evaluate patients who may have memory disorders; and sits on boards for the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter. As host of the popular podcast *Dementia Matters* (see sidebar), he has





Chin with his father's scuffed physician's satchel.

“Every week there’s a new finding or study. I think two years from now, based on how fast this field is progressing, it’s going to look completely different.”

become one of the nation’s best-known figures in the field of Alzheimer’s medicine.

Chin keeps Moe close in his heart and thoughts. In his home office, the silvery Fisher Scientific microscope that was his father’s has a place of honor atop a cabinet. A stark centerpiece greets visitors in his living room. It is the ultimate talisman, battered, scuffed, scarred, and tattered from decades of use: his father’s black bag.

Even with a toddler and a newborn at home, Chin puts in 80 hours a week. “I feel like I’m always behind, because every week there’s a new finding or study,” he says. “I think two years from now, based on how fast this field is progressing, it’s going to look completely different.”

One major advance is the drug that doctors like Chin have been waiting for: lecanemab. Approved using the accelerated approval pathway by the Food and Drug Administration in January, it does not stop Alzheimer’s. It poses risks such as brain bleeding and swelling. Its benefits may be modest or short-lived. But in a recent trial of 1,800 volunteers with mild mental impairment, lecanemab slowed their cognitive decline by 27 percent over 18 months. It did this by reducing their levels of amyloid, a protein that clumps into plaques in the brains of people with the disease.

For more than 20 years, drug trials targeting amyloid went nowhere, so lecanemab’s approval gives Chin hope. “It’s better than anything we have

now, and I’m pretty excited about that,” he says. “Lecanemab is a game changer in a lot of ways. Its accelerated approval is going to change the research landscape and direct its trajectory for the foreseeable future.”

While some researchers dismiss lecanemab’s effectiveness as too modest to make a difference, Chin disagrees. “That five- to six-month extension of current ability may not sound like a lot, but if we were talking about cancer, that would be quite significant, and everyone would approve of such a drug.”

Today, doctors routinely order cholesterol blood tests as part of checkups. Chin predicts that at annual exams in the future, they will do brief verbal thinking tests. These quizzes might start at around age 45 or even earlier, because Alzheimer’s can lurk in the brain for 20 years before symptoms arise. Following that mental exam, future physicians would order tests to look for biomarkers (molecules) of Alzheimer’s in a patient’s blood. If the results are positive, the doctor would write an amyloid-lowering prescription just as statins manage cholesterol levels. (Such Alzheimer’s blood tests currently exist but are expensive.)

Researchers are still struggling to figure out the underlying mechanisms of Alzheimer’s. “Unlike polio where, boom, we identified its cause, we are probably going to have to identify many different pathways relating to insulin, inflammation, the immune systems, and so forth,” Chin says.

“What’s exciting for us in Wisconsin is we have

Chin, Carlsson, and Johnson meet at University Hospital to discuss the ambitious long-term goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease.



researchers looking at reversible factors. We have researchers looking at insulin. We are well positioned to reinforce those studies or collaborate with others.”

Jason Karlawish, codirector of the Penn Memory Center in Philadelphia, admits that “we’re all kind of jealous of what’s going on in Wisconsin. From the beginning, Wisconsin has stood out for its leadership. It was the only center founded by a geriatrician. Today it has an elegant combination of geriatricians, psychologists, and neurologists working together. It’s a marquee center, one of the jewels in the crown. Its leaders do their work in a calm, collegial atmosphere. It’s really inspiring.”

A More Personalized Approach

Like Chin, Cynthia Carlsson MS’05 has a personal history with Alzheimer’s. As a middle schooler, she felt helpless watching her grandmother Mimi decline. Mimi put mayonnaise in the spaghetti sauce and lost the ability to make her famous cookies. Today Carlsson is a professor in the UW Department of Medicine and shares leadership of the ADRC’s research with Chin, heading its clinical trials.

She leads the Wisconsin arm of the global AHEAD study. Its volunteers, all middle-aged and older, have no symptoms, but they do have elevated amyloid levels, and many have relatives with dementia. Over a four-year period, they will be given lecanemab versus a placebo to see if tailored dosing slows or stops the disease or prevents the onset of symptoms. “The overall hope is that we’ll be able to find people with early brain changes in amyloid and

identify personalized, tailored therapies,” she says.

Biomarker analysis has made great strides at Wisconsin, according to Chin’s colleague Sterling Johnson, professor in the UW Department of Medicine and principal investigator for the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer’s Prevention.

Unlike Carlsson and Chin, Johnson had no close relative with Alzheimer’s. But as a child, he was curious about how things worked. He loved to take apart toys and bicycles. “That curiosity is something that has stayed with me, and now I’m dealing with the most complex organ — the brain,” he says.

Johnson took over from WRAP’s founder, Mark Sager, when he retired. “Sterling has revolutionized WRAP and made it a powerhouse of data and analysis,” Chin says.

For years, select WRAP volunteers have undergone PET scans or spinal fluid tests. The results have allowed Johnson to identify early brain changes and pinpoint the date when their brain cells began dying. “This gives us a contextual anchor point to understand why some people develop symptoms early and some later,” he says. “It’s going to help us create a more personalized approach to treating Alzheimer’s.”

Female, Black, and Hispanic populations are more susceptible to Alzheimer’s than other groups. Nearly a fifth of WRAP volunteers come from under-represented populations, and Johnson hopes to boost that percentage.

The scientific value of the WRAP study is increasing because it now has 20 years of cognitive data. “WRAP is rapidly becoming the study identified with early identification of Alzheimer’s,”

Johnson says. “When researchers anywhere on the globe think about preclinical Alzheimer’s, they think about WRAP. I’m so proud of that.”

Push through the Denial

Chin hops in his 2010 Prius at 7:45 a.m. for his quick commute to University Hospital. The car was once his father’s. “I’ll never get rid of it until it’s absolutely dead,” he insists.

Coffee is always with him on the drive. Some things are never in his mug — milk, sugar, and artificial sweeteners. Instead, Chin doses his brew with cinnamon and turmeric. Both have anti-inflammatory properties that may help brain function.

The trauma of Moe’s decline changed Chin. Warding off Alzheimer’s now governs what he eats and how he exercises and sleeps. For the past five years, he has practiced intermittent fasting. He dines only between noon and 6 p.m. Restricting eating hours lowers blood pressure and alters brain chemistry, both of which can boost brain health. Chin limits red meat, most carbs, and dairy products, except cheese. He loads up on white meat, berries, and salads with olive-oil-based dressing.

Getting eight hours of sleep forms the heart of his daily routine. “Sleep is the most foundational thing we can do,” he says. “Less than six hours a night is dangerous.”

Chin is quick to note that just because a relative had Alzheimer’s does not mean a child will get it, though some families do have a genetic risk marker.

He could take a test to learn if he has it, but he prefers not to. “The psychological consequences would be too great,” he says. “I don’t want a private company to have that information. Anyway, there’s no medication I could take to protect myself. For most of us, getting Alzheimer’s is likely a combination of things, some of which we can control, some we can’t. You do the best you can.”

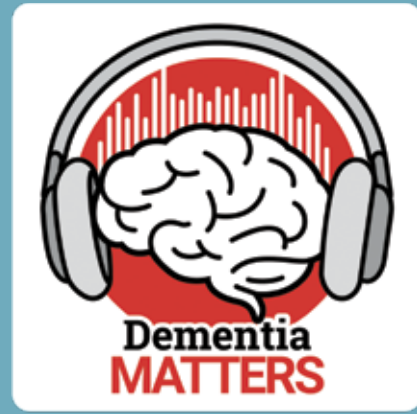
Chin does the best he can for himself with his own family in mind.

“Certainly now that I have children, I want to be around for them,” he says.

Chin has advice for families in crisis due to a loved one’s diagnosis. “Push through the denial. You’re going to need to come together, not only for the patient but for the primary caregiver who is typically a woman. Support her. Create a system. Be honest with each other.”

Chin also recommends savoring interactions with loved ones diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. “Enjoy each moment. The reality is they are the best now they are going to be. Prepare for behavior and personality changes, but also enjoy the time you have,” he says. “Don’t let it slip by.” ●

Freelance writer George Spencer is a former executive editor of the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine.



“YOU’RE NOT ALONE”

Nathaniel Chin takes joy in recording his biweekly podcast, *Dementia Matters*, which is in its sixth year. “The message is, you’re not alone,” he says. “We can help you.”

Chin interviews international experts on clinical topics and caregiving with the goal of translating complicated science into understandable information. With more than 150 episodes and listeners in nearly 130 nations, the 20-minute show ranks in the top 20 percent of all podcasts. It has also lassoed new clinical trial volunteers and donors for the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and Chin hopes it will attract more financial support, too. “We’d like to build what we think is a needed memory center,” he says.

Jason Karlawish of the Penn Memory Center calls Chin the perfect podcast host. “What Nate brings are the skills of a geriatrician, the talents of a neurologist and psychiatrist, and the skills of a great communicator. He’s a very special person in our field.”

Chin wants the podcast to be a trustworthy source that cuts through all the misinformation about Alzheimer’s. “The disease is very scary,” he says. “My job is to help people master their own feelings and face facts rationally.”

G.S.

The Initiative to End Alzheimer’s is one of the primary areas of support for the Wisconsin Medicine campaign, which raises funds for UW Health and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. [Learn more.](#)



CAMPU

AFTER DARK


Nightshift workers played a significant part in your UW experience. You just didn't know it.

BY PRESTON SCHMITT '14
PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER





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At UW-Madison, it takes thousands of behind-the-scenes workers to keep the world-class research university and \$3.7 billion enterprise operating overnight. They clean bathrooms, lock doors, open gates, heat buildings, and support students who seemingly never sleep.

For most of these workers, a job well done at night means that in the morning no one else even notices that they were there.

Photographer Bryce Richter and I wanted

to shine a light on this nightshift work, so we took a red-eye tour around campus and chatted with dozens of second- and third-shift employees. At times, their jobs can feel invisible and more than a bit isolating, so it often makes their day (or night) when students, professors, visitors, or alumni take the time to recognize their work. With this group, a simple thank-you goes a long way.

Meet just a few of the dedicated workers who make the UW-Madison experience possible.



“It’s Not Like We’re Just Party Poopers”

UW–Madison junior William Dettlaff x’24 is a people person. And it’s a good thing, because as a house fellow — also known as a resident adviser — he’s always on the job, serving the 60-some students on his Sellery Residence Hall floor.

“You always have to be there to help your residents,” he says. “I’m such a helper that I say my love language is acts of service.”

On this Saturday night — which always qualifies as an event in highly social Sellery Hall — Dettlaff is on rounds duty with Amanda Tung x’25. They start with a “social walk-through” around 8 p.m. to greet passersby in the hallways, snaking down from floor 11 to two, and then up through the next tower. That’s followed by a round at the start of quiet hours (midnight on weekends) and another at 2 a.m.

“There are certain policies and precautions in place for the safety of residents,” Dettlaff says. “It’s not like we’re just party poopers. We want to help them and make sure they’re being safe and being smart. I don’t know if I’m just lucky, but I’ve never found anyone who’s been impaired and needed assistance.”

The rounds that we join are uneventful, with just a single incident report (a crude doodle on a milk jug left in a common area). The most frequent issue,

Left: House fellows Dettlaff and Tung do a “social walk-through” in Sellery Hall to make sure residents are being safe and smart.

Dettlaff says, is excessive noise.

“The general rule of thumb is that if you’re two doors away and can still hear it, then you interact,” he says. “You knock and say, ‘House fellow. Can you turn off the music?’ Residents are really kind and usually are very compliant.”

Technically, Dettlaff is on duty for University Housing until 8 p.m. the following night, a 24-hour shift during which he’s expected to stay in or near the building. One of the house fellows always carries the afterhours phone, a battery-deficient iPhone 5 that seems like a relic to today’s students. One sleep-deprived night, Dettlaff fielded seven calls from locked-out residents.

The finance and marketing major views the most important part of his job as helping freshmen with the transition to a large campus. He makes sure his residents know that he’s always a text away. He plans activities for his floor and stops frequently for hallway chats with residents.

“It’s a fun job for me to do,” he says. “Plus, I get free food.”

“How Can I Work for the College?”

Ebonie Wilson-Brown tells me about her daily bus rides through the UW campus on her way to work at a nursing home some two decades ago.



“I always thought to myself, ‘How can I work for the college?’” she says.

Six years ago, she applied to be a custodian for the Division of Facilities Planning & Management. Once she was hired, her supervisor asked her where she saw herself in the future.

“I told her that I wanted her position — to be a supervisor,” she says. “And I was determined.”

Today, Wilson-Brown supervises Crew 216, a team of 15 custodians assigned primarily to the Discovery Building from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. “It takes coffee, tea, sugar, and lots of music to get through it,” she says.

Her crew touches any surface that’s touched, wiping down tables and chairs, sanitizing the bathrooms, mopping the floors, polishing the elevators and windows, and keeping the research labs in order. In winter, they turn into snow-removal specialists. Wilson-Brown’s favorite part of the job is when students say thank you as they pass.

“We’re out there to make sure if they have finals, it’s easy for them to get to their finals. We want them to be safe,” she says.

Central campus employs some 400 custodians. Each day, they combine to clean more than 10,000,000 square feet throughout nearly 150 buildings. Almost all of them work second or third shift.

Middle: Gonzalez (left) and Wilson-Brown are among the 400 custodians on central campus who clean more than 10,000,000 square feet. Right: Doyle goes beyond the call of duty at DeJope Residence Hall.

It’s easily the most diverse work area on campus — the division offers learning resources to roughly a third of custodial employees who don’t speak English as their primary language.

Martha Gonzalez, the custodial lead worker under Wilson-Brown on Crew 216, prefers the second-shift schedule because it allows her and her husband to alternate childcare for their 10-year-old son with a disability.

“This was my wish to grow up in this country and show my kids that you can be wherever you want to be,” says Gonzalez, who emigrated from Argentina 20 years ago. “I’m really happy and proud, because I’m growing here.”

“How’s the Studying Going?”

For a college freshman, Lillian Doyle x’26 sure is a pro. Working as a cashier, she fools me more than once while making small talk with a long line of customers at the Flamingo Run convenience store in DeJope Residence Hall. I just assume most of them are her friends.

“How’s the studying going?”

“Do you have a lot of exams?”

It turns out that most of the patrons are just regulars or complete strangers. Regardless, every transaction with Doyle comes with a friendly smile,



an earnest greeting, and impressive efficiency.

“I like that you get a chance to talk to people,” she says while simultaneously scanning items and greeting a customer. “They come after lab or a class, and they just want to talk about their day.”

Campus has three Flamingo Run locations that look like unusually clean gas stations, stocked with snacks, drinks, packaged meals, and assorted essentials. All of them stay open until 11 every night, their customers becoming more numerous once the main University Housing dining markets close by 8:30.

Doyle goes beyond the call of duty, reminding patrons to grab silverware and even indulging a fellow student who says he’s stocking up on iced tea cans to wrap around his dorm room.

And which are the most popular late-night purchases?

“A lot of energy drinks,” Doyle says. “A lot of coffee.”

The Last Face You See

The UW Hospital ramp is the second-busiest parking structure in Wisconsin, outpaced only by the Milwaukee airport. Matt Finch, an attendant with the Division of Facilities Planning & Management, has staffed one of its parking booths for a decade. He’s the last face that many hospital patients and

Finch (left), an attendant at the busy UW Hospital ramp: “The people who try to get you to laugh or smile make it worth working here.”

visitors see during their visits. That means he feels the pressure to be “polite, prompt, professional,” which he recites almost dutifully.

There are three exit lanes, one that’s fully automated and two that typically host booth attendants. To my surprise, Finch says that an overwhelming majority of customers opt to engage with a person.

“People tend to go to where the cashiers are,” he says. “I think dealing with a human being might feel easier, and I notice that a lot of people seem to be wary of machines.”

Finch will jump in to help those who trust machines but fail to read instructions. They might jam their tickets into the credit card slot or insert them upside down. In his service lane, Finch estimates that he processes as many as one customer per minute in peak times. Later at night, he may process as few as three or four in an hour (and, as a former English major at UW–Eau Claire, get some creative writing done in between).

Finch speeds through standard transactions and troubleshoots a wide range of issues caused by both human and computer error. As with everything involving money, the interactions aren’t always pleasant.

“I have been called a bunch of different names and have been accused of being a robber,” says Finch,



laughing. “We’re a convenient target. Being patient with people is a key thing in this job.”

His favorite customer interaction was with a regular who always drove up to the booth prepared with a corny joke.

“They were not great jokes, but I remember her really well because I always felt a little bit happier after that,” Finch says. “The people who do take the time to interact with you or even try to get you to laugh or smile make it worth working here.”

“Campus Is So Different Overnight”

By muscle memory alone, Kyle Kaul can tell you the location of every exterior door on Bascom Hall.

I put him on the spot by asking how many doors there are as we circle the building. He closes his eyes briefly and counts. “Twenty-one.”

Kaul is a campus security officer with the UW-Madison Police Department (UWPD). His primary duty is locking campus buildings at night. It’s no small task: UWPD services more than 300 locations, manually locking as many as 2,000 doors every night. You can spot the security officers by their tan vests, bright yellow security patches, circular badges, and industrial-size key rings.

After five years of locking campus buildings, Kaul doesn’t need a map or guidebook to know, for

Security officer Kaul works for the UW-Madison Police Department, which locks as many as 2,000 doors every night.

instance, which doors should be left unlocked to preserve mailroom or other limited access.

Security officers also patrol buildings, searching for unlocked or wedged-open doors and signs of water leaks or other property damage, as well as monitor campus’s electronic access control system. (Not all doors, after all, are locked manually.) And in between, they’ll respond to lockout calls, fire panel alerts, and security alarms.

Later that same night, we meet with Megan Owen at the Health Sciences Learning Center. The building is home to UWPD’s central security office, which is staffed 24/7. Owen is the sole security guard on tonight’s third shift, which runs from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

“Campus is so different overnight when nobody is around,” she says. “I like the freedom to explore.”

Owen, who studied forensic investigation at UW-Platteville and hopes to work in that area, notes that the position is the perfect way to “dip your toes into the law enforcement field.” Many UWPD security officers move up to police.

As for the community members they encounter along the way, Kaul says that he’s had “nothing but good interactions.” One time, students even invited him to sled down Bascom Hill. He dutifully declined.

“We Were Black with Tar”

Ramkumar “Solomon” Bhulai talks about the days of a coal-powered campus with a surprisingly nostalgic tone.

“It kept your brain more active,” says the senior operator at the Charter Street Heating and Cooling Plant. “Because almost everything is automated now. Everything is on a computer.”

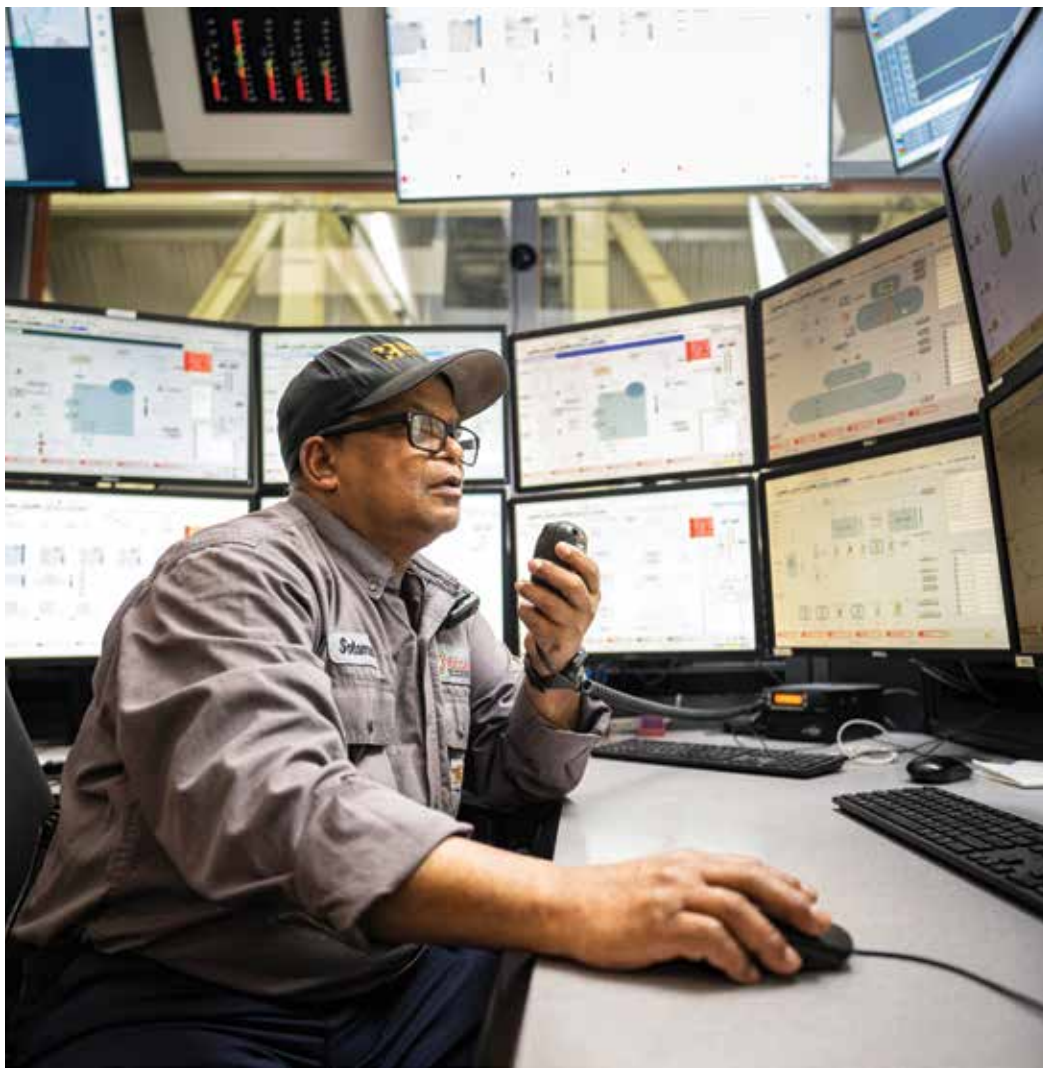
To his younger colleagues, Bhulai is a true heating and cooling artisan. He’s worked in power plants his whole life, starting in his native Guyana and for the past 16 years at UW-Madison.

“Usually I tell the guys, ‘You have it nice now. You don’t know what I passed through,’” he says, laughing. “We’d come out of the furnace room, and you could barely see our eyes. We were black with tar.”

But even Bhulai will acknowledge that the cleaner natural gas on which UW-Madison’s boilers now run is much better for the workers, the campus, and the planet. (The Division of Facilities Planning & Management plant has won national awards for its innovations in sustainability.)

The Charter Street location is one of three facilities that generate high-pressured steam, chilled water, electricity, and compressed air to heat and cool all university buildings.

This 24/7 operation is the beating heart of campus, with the five-person operating crews alternating 12-hour shifts (the overnighter ending at 6 a.m.). They spend most of their time in the control



room, scanning a wall of computer panels, as well as doing manual rounds to check the condition of the five modern boilers, the largest chillers of their kind in the world, and the water running to and from them.

Every few months, there are surprises, like when extreme cold interrupts the supply of natural gas. The backup source for the boilers is fuel oil, preserved in a single tank holding 840,000 gallons. That transition is largely a manual one, as operator Ethan Carlson found out the hard way during his first year on the job.

“We have to put on special equipment and actually insert the fuel oil guns [to produce boiler combustion],” Carlson says. “Solomon told me, ‘Ethan, we’re going to get through this.’ He walked me through the process, and we got through it without problems.”

For Bhulai, teaching is just part of the job — one that’s given back to him as much he’s given to it.

“I built a brand-new house. I drive a nice vehicle. My family’s okay,” he says. “I’m living a middle-class life with this job.”

“Thank You for Being Open”

Nick Brockley isn’t your standard library worker. With professional experiences ranging from

Bhulai, the senior operator at the Charter Street Heating and Cooling Plant, is nostalgic for the days when campus was powered by coal.

correctional officer to auto shop manager, Brockley serves as the overnight supervisor at College Library — the only academic building that stays open all night during the week.

He starts his shift at the front circulation desk at 10 p.m. Even though he has school during the day at Madison College, the hours suit him.

“Waking up with a cup of joe just isn’t my type of thing,” Brockley says. “And I don’t know if you’ve ever been to a grocery store at 8 a.m. when everyone else is working, but it’s phenomenal.”

Brockley’s primary duty is security, making sure students can study safely and without disruption throughout the night. He’s joined by several student workers who handle the bulk of library reference requests. They all get asked frequently about the vending machines and bathrooms, how to track down a book, and how to deal with someone who is being disruptive in the quiet sections.

“Overnight, we can have anywhere from 30 people up to 1,300 people in this library,” Brockley says. “It all depends how close we are to midterms and finals.”

Around 3 a.m., he can typically count on the same trio of students to start packing up their belongings after a long study session.

“I always know exactly when they leave,” he says,



“because they make sure to stop at the desk every single time and say, ‘Thank you for being open.’ And that just makes my day.”

“We Have to Be Here”

Guadalupe Jensen is a passionate advocate for night-shift workers. In addition to her role as building services assistant supervisor for University Housing, she serves in the University Staff Congress in a peer-elected position and on the Second and Third Shift Issues Committee.

“I can be the voice of others,” she says. “It’s important to have someone who can listen to their concerns, bring those issues to Congress, and see if we can fix them.”

The most common concern for her constituents is compensation. Last year, UW-Madison increased its minimum wage for university staff from \$15 to \$17, helping more than 600 of the university’s lowest-paid employees.

“I think [UW leaders] have been trying,” Jensen says.

Another area of concern for these shared governance bodies is the nationwide labor shortage, which has made it particularly difficult to fill overnight positions on campus. Current employees can feel the squeeze and may have to pick up extra shifts.

As the overnight supervisor at College Library, Brockley (middle) ensures that students can study without disruption throughout the night. Jensen (right) advocates for UW night-shift workers.

Jensen adds that overnight workers carry an additional burden: being the only people around. For her team at University Housing, that means not only carrying out normal custodial duties, but also responding to any issue a resident might report, from building maintenance to information technology.

“We are there for the residents — no matter what — because they need us,” Jensen says.

The importance of these positions was underscored at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the word *essential* took on new meaning. Remote-work arrangements rarely applied to nighttime workers.

But during that time, Jensen appreciated the UW’s safety protocols, massive testing operation, and other efforts to keep its workers both safe and employed.

“They were really taking care of us,” Jensen says. “No one I know lost their job because of the pandemic.”

Like everyone, she had concerns about her health and safety. But she showed up to work. It served as the one constant in an otherwise uncertain time.

“I was here, every day,” Jensen says. “We have to be here.” ●

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

The Teachings of Plants

*Robin Wall Kimmerer MS'78, PhD'83 braids
Western science and Indigenous knowledge
into a vision for a sustainable future.*

BY SANDRA KNISELY BARNIDGE '09, MA'13



One summer evening in the early 1980s, then-graduate student Robin Wall Kimmerer MS'78, PhD'83 stood with a friend in the Curtis Prairie at the UW Arboretum. A half century after pioneering botanist John Curtis MS'35, PhD'37 first planted seeds of native prairie species on the site of an abandoned cornfield, the grasses surrounding Kimmerer were head high and swaying in the wind.

She was awestruck. "I just kept thinking, 'This is what plant ecology can do,'" says Kimmerer, who is now a distinguished professor of environmental biology, bestselling author, recipient of a 2022 MacArthur "genius grant," and founding director of the SUNY Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. Kimmerer's most prominent book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, articulates a vision for incorporating Indigenous plant knowledge and storytelling into Western science, and in the 10 years since the book was first published by an independent press, it has sold almost half a million copies worldwide.

Kimmerer describes herself, "at root," as a plant ecologist focused on the field of biocultural restoration, with the aim of healing human relationships with the land. She's an expert in plant ecology and mosses in particular, but her broader passion for human-land relationships was inspired, in no small part, by her time at the UW.

"People have a great longing to be in a right relationship with nature, and they just don't know how. We're suffering from a failure of imagination."

The summer she walked through Curtis Prairie, Kimmerer wasn't just a visitor to the Arboretum — she was also its resident security guard. During her graduate studies in plant ecology, she lived in a small house on the grounds and was responsible for making nightly checks on the visitor center and other buildings. "It was a remarkable place to live and become intimate with," she says. "The Arboretum is a place about the science of land, but it's also the story of land and appreciation for the living world. My time there was very crucial for me."

Kimmerer is the author of the environmental classic Braiding Sweetgrass, which shines a light on how ancient wisdom can help us steward the land of today.



She befriended fellow prairie walker Bill Jordan PhD'71, MA'74, then the public relations coordinator for the Arboretum. In those years, Jordan and Arboretum ranger Keith Wendt '71, MS'73 were developing what would become the first scientific journal devoted entirely to the new field of ecological restoration, and in 1989 Jordan cofounded the international Society for Ecological Restoration.

"We gradually came to the realization that restoration actually has a crucial role to play in healing and ensuring the perpetuation of historic ecosystems," Jordan says. "And we realized that the restoration process itself offers a way of achieving a healthier, actually ecological, relationship between ourselves and the rest of nature."

For Kimmerer, the concept of teaching people to have a dynamic, ongoing relationship with nature resonated with her Potawatomi heritage and upbringing in upstate New York. "The way we treat land is how we treat each other. It's the idea of kinship with each other and with other species," she says. "We can extend that idea of kinship to the land itself. ... Reciprocity is an ecological principle."

During one of her nightly checks around the Arboretum, Kimmerer and her then-husband found a garage door left open. While her fellow security guard investigated, she scanned a nearby bulletin board and spotted a photo of a massive American elm in Kansas, which had recently been measured at 99 feet tall and was therefore the tallest elm in the United States. It was named the Louis Vieux Elm in honor of a Potawatomi tribal elder, who also happened to be one of Kimmerer's ancestors.

"When you look back on a life, it's funny little moments that end up being truly pivotal. That was one of those moments," says Kimmerer. "I'd heard the stories of this person, which prepared the ground for me to understand the significance of seeing that photo." She traveled to Kansas to visit the tree and learned new details about her ancestors' histories. She returned several times until the tree was destroyed by lightning and vandalism in the late 1990s.

In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer writes that

encountering the Louis Vieux Elm made her realize that "to walk the science path, I had stepped off the path of Indigenous knowledge. But the world has a way of guiding your steps."

Shortly after seeing the photo on the bulletin board, she was invited to a gathering of Native elders to hear them talk about plant wisdom, which sparked her lifelong pursuit of studying and promoting Indigenous and Western knowledge in tandem.

"I dream of a world guided by a lens of stories rooted in the revelations of science and framed with an Indigenous worldview — stories in which matter and spirit are both given voice," she writes.

"We can imagine ourselves as kinfolk instead of masters of the universe."

After graduation, Kimmerer taught at colleges in Kentucky while raising two young daughters. When an offer came from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, her undergraduate alma mater, she jumped at the opportunity to move back to Syracuse. "I'm a Northern person. I need to be close to the Nation of Maples," she says, referring to the northeast/Great Lakes region of the United States, where sugar maples thrive and are integral to Indigenous culture.

In 2003 Kimmerer published her first book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*, which blended lyrical personal essays with groundbreaking observations about these remarkably resilient, if underappreciated, plants. "It was surprising and wonderful to me to see people's response to that book," she says. "Having seen the way that story can be a portal for people into science, I wanted to use it as a portal into Indigenous thinking, as well."

That idea eventually evolved into *Braiding Sweetgrass*. "I wanted to open people's awareness to another way of knowing and to say you can choose to just be a taker from the land, or you can choose



to be a giver to the land,” she says.

Kimmerer feels a shifting tide in terms of cultural awareness and interest in environmental issues. “People have a great longing to be in right relationship with nature, and they just don’t know how,” she says. “We’re suffering from a failure of imagination. We think the world we live in, that’s the way the world is. We need to invite people to see that’s not the only way to live. We can imagine ourselves as kinfolk instead of masters of the universe. ... We can give people a sense of moving toward something, an intimacy with the natural world.”

Fellow conservation biologist Curt Meine MS’83, PhD’88, who wrote the first full-length biography of famed Wisconsin naturalist and UW professor Aldo Leopold, was once a student in the general ecology course Kimmerer taught at UW–Madison. The two became friends and are now collaborators at the Center for Humans and Nature, a nonprofit headquartered in Libertyville, Illinois, where Meine is a senior research fellow and Kimmerer is a regular contributor.

“Robin is a remarkable voice who came out of Wisconsin at an important moment,” Meine says. “She has always had a deep appreciation of the cultural context and meaning of the natural sciences.”

He remembers one weekend near the end of Kimmerer’s tenure as the Arboretum security guard when she hosted a potluck. “The rule she gave us was to bring a dish made mainly from a woody plant. No leafy greens, no vegetables,” Meine says. “It was a challenge to think about what exactly our food was made of, and what was available that time of year. So she was offering important botanical lessons, even then.”

What did he end up making? “A Waldorf salad, with apples, walnuts, and raisins.”

At the Center for Humans and Nature, Kimmerer recently coedited a five-volume book series called *Kinship: Belonging in a World of Relations*. Meine says the response to the series, which explores human interdependence with other living beings, exceeded the center’s expectations. “Right now, everyone is looking for sources of guidance, resilience, and beauty

in a world that’s turned upside down,” he says. “We’re looking for those who can speak to our core need to respect and honor our relationships with one another and with the living world.”

“It is better to be a participant in justice instead of complicit in injustice.”

For Kimmerer, offering a vision for a healthier, more interconnected future is especially crucial for addressing our biggest challenge in the present: climate change. “The consensus is that we have all the science and technology we need, but we don’t do anything because we’re relying too much on the intellectual knowing alone,” she says. “We have failed to activate our emotional responses to propel us to change — as Aldo Leopold said, we need poets who are foresters.”

Out of these personal awakenings can come larger collective change. “I realize I can’t topple the fossil fuel industry by myself, but I can change my own mind and how I think and then invite others to try it,” she says. “The challenge, of course, is to find common ground, but a love of land and home is, I hope, what we can agree on.”

Kimmerer is similarly passionate about land-justice initiatives and LandBack, a movement to empower Indigenous communities across North America. “We all have an innate sense of justice and redemption,” she says. “It is better to be a participant in justice instead of complicit in injustice.”

When asked how someone can take the first step toward reimagining their own personal relationship with nature, Kimmerer’s advice is characteristically understated yet profound. “Go outside with humility, ready to listen,” she says. “When I don’t know what to do, I go to the plants. To learn from the land, you need to be in the presence of a teacher.” ●

Sandra Knisely Barnidge ’09, MA’13 is a writer and amateur gardener in central Alabama.

When she was a student employee at the UW Arboretum, the tall grass of Curtis Prairie provided an epiphany for Kimmerer about the potential of plant ecology.

PEACE IN THE WAKE OF PAIN

*The latest on the science of
forgiveness — and why we
need it now more than ever*

BY LAUREL WHITE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIELLE LAMBERSON PHILIPP





He's sitting in a room with glass walls in one of the tallest buildings on campus. From this spot on the Educational Sciences Building's top floor — a hidden oasis accessed by taking a rather spartan staircase behind a not-so-well-marked door — you can see the blue of Lake Mendota, the tops of trees on the Lakeshore Path, and a patchwork of brown and gray campus rooftops.

It's a place that makes the world below, and all of its problems, seem rather far away.

But on the streets and in the buildings several stories down, the bustle of campus and the unique complexities of life in today's world roll on. Several years into an exhausting global pandemic, judgment and disappointment continue to beleaguer family and friends over issues like taking a COVID test or wearing a mask. A polarizing election is over, but political conflicts still line up like dominoes. And the social media world remains inherently tumultuous.

At this moment, it seems plausible to say people are more tired and angry and at odds than at any time in recent memory.

Sitting in this glass room, back straight, hands clasped on the table in front of him, Bob Enright isn't here to say those conflicts don't matter. But he is happy to offer a way out of them.

Enright holds the Aristotelian Professorship in Forgiveness Science in the UW-Madison School of Education's highly ranked Department of Educational Psychology. He's also a five-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, winner of the American Psychological Foundation's Gold Medal Award for Impact in Psychology, and author of the first scientific study on person-to-person forgiveness.

"When I started studying forgiveness in the social sciences, the idea was considered absurd," Enright says. "Not anymore. Why? An idea mattered, and an idea grew."

Can forgiveness help us all? Make us less depressed, less angry, more hopeful?

Enright has a simple answer: yes.

And he has years of scientific evidence to prove it.

THE IDEA THAT GREW

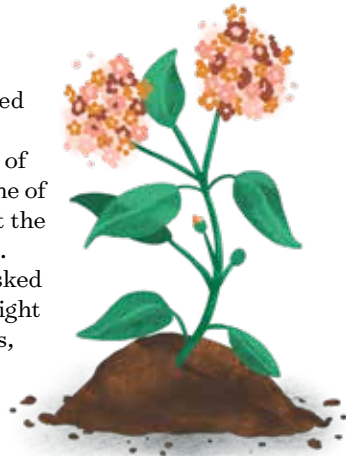
In 1985, Bob Enright was a self-described "obedient" academic.

A tenured professor in the School of Education, he focused his research on one of the most popular areas of psychology at the time: the moral development of children.

"And then I woke up one day and asked myself a very dangerous question," Enright says, pausing for dramatic effect. "It was, 'Who am I helping with my research?'"

Enright answered his own question rather brutally: no one. He

Professor Bob Enright has found that forgiveness can make us less depressed and angry and more hopeful.



wanted his work to reach outside scholarly inquiry and into people's everyday lives, and he didn't believe it was doing that.

"That was a crisis in my academic career," he says. "I threw all my research over a cliff. And I didn't have a new area to study."

The seed of the scientific study of forgiveness came not long after, during a conversation with a graduate student. Enright suggested approaching the academic question of moral development and justice from a different angle. There was consensus about the results of people behaving justly, but what about people behaving unjustly — and their victims?

"What happens to people when they're thrown to the mat of life by others being unfair?" Enright asked. "How do they get out of that?"

The resulting paper, published in 1989 by Enright and his then-graduate students Maria Santos MS'86 and Radhi Al-Mabuk PhD'90, was



the first empirically based academic study focused on person-to-person forgiving, which Enright defines as the willing act of someone who has been treated unfairly to reduce negative thoughts, feelings, and behavior toward the person who wronged them. Enright notes that the forgiver also strives to offer more positive thoughts, feelings, and behavior toward the person they are forgiving, though they do not excuse the behavior, reconcile, or abandon the quest for justice. The paper examined how young people think about forgiveness and what circumstances make their forgiving more likely.

Enright remembers this time, at the outset of his study of forgiveness, as an intimidating personal crossroads.

“It was kind of like you’ve gone down a pathway, and the road in back of you has crumbled,” he says. “We didn’t really know what we were going to be facing — but it was literally my only choice.”

“THE HUGE INNER PAIN IS THE MOTIVATOR”

Over the past 35 years, Enright and his colleagues have worked almost exclusively with people who have been deeply traumatized and are looking for a way out of their pain. Enright says people who have suffered deeply for a long time — victims of domestic abuse, incest, and political violence, for example — are often the most likely to commit to the difficult process of forgiving the injustices done to them.

“The huge inner pain is the motivator — the possibility of the hope of a cure,” he says.

A participant in one of Enright’s most recent studies was four years old when his stepfather started molesting him at night and beating him with belts, shoes, and extension cords during the day.

“My stepdad would threaten to drown me and kill



me if I said anything,” the study participant said. “I was scared.”

That study was groundbreaking. Published in 2021, it was the first to study forgiveness therapy with an incarcerated population in the United States. It offered forgiveness therapy to 24 men in a maximum-security institution, many of whom were serving life sentences for violent crimes.

Maria Gambaro '83, MS'86, PhD'02, a correctional psychologist who coauthored the study, acknowledges some may not agree with providing forgiveness therapy to people who have committed crimes. But she argues it is both appropriate and necessary.

“While we do not discount their victims’ suffering, our focus in the prison is to rehabilitate inmates and help them work through and understand what led to their deep anger and resentment that resulted in criminal acting-out,” Gambaro says. “If they do not learn to understand the history of their own pain and learn to view it from a different perspective, then they are likely to re-offend. This contributes to a cycle of more victims, more suffering, and more incarceration.”

Gambaro and Enright’s study found 26 weeks of forgiveness therapy effectively lowered participants’ clinical levels of anger, anxiety, and depression. And, notably, those results remained at a follow-up evaluation six months later.

“The results of our study suggest that forgiveness therapy is a powerful treatment that can change the lives of inmates and prevent recidivism,” Gambaro says.

Researchers in Spain took notice of the results and are conducting a similar intervention and study with an incarcerated population. Gambaro says she hopes many other studies will follow, fueling a large-scale change in rehabilitation policies for inmates in the United States and abroad.

A MORE FORGIVING GENERATION

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, Annette Shannon uses one of Enright’s 14 forgiveness curricula to teach grade-school children about the concept of forgiveness. Only 24 years have passed since the Troubles

in Northern Ireland, and the physical and emotional scars of the bloody, deeply polarizing conflict remain.

Shannon tells a story about the first day of the forgiveness curriculum in one of her classes.

“I had an eight-year-old say to me at the beginning of the program, ‘But there are just some people you can never forgive.’ You know that’s not that child: you know that’s coming from an adult that’s in a very bad place, that’s deeply hurt, that’s passing that on to their child.”

As the lessons continued, Shannon says she saw the concept “spark” with the students.

“It kind of unlocked something. It was great to be able to get, very quickly, to a point where you were having really important discussions about emotions and about forgiveness and about kindness and respect.”

A 2022 study published in the journal *Child Development* offered the first broad analysis of classroom forgiveness curricula. It evaluated about 1,500 grade-school students in 10 countries who were taught forgiveness concepts.

As part of the study, researchers in an economically disadvantaged part of Milwaukee used something called the Beck Anger Inventory to evaluate anger levels in students before and after the forgiveness curriculum. A fifth-grade student told researchers he lives in a community with gang activity and had been experiencing severe bullying by a classmate. Before the forgiveness curriculum, his clinical anger level was recorded as “extremely elevated.” Afterward, his anger was rated as “mild.”

“We found that anger significantly decreased after such intervention,” says Jiahe Wang Xu MS’18, MS’21, a doctoral student in the School of Education’s Department of Educational Psychology and a lead author on the study. “Dr. Enright’s work has changed many people’s lives. It’s very impactful.”

“The results of our study suggest that forgiveness therapy is a powerful treatment that can change the lives of inmates and prevent recidivism.”

Enright points out forgiveness education is not about teaching students to forgive. Instead, it focuses on instilling an understanding and appreciation of the concept of forgiveness. Enright is energized by the potential ripple effect of that understanding in communities — particularly communities that have experienced profound conflict.

“When students of forgiveness education grow up, maybe, just maybe, they’ll have different views of how to solve these entrenched problems in their communities that haven’t been solved for centuries,”

he says. “They might be able to come up with a new vision for peace.”

THE PATH AHEAD

Across the country and around the world, thousands of researchers are now at work studying the effects of forgiveness and providing forgiveness therapy and education.

Suzanne Freedman MS’91, PhD’94 was one of the first graduate students to take up Enright’s novel approach to moral development in psychology.

“To find a field in psychology that’s new is really rare,” says Freedman, who is now a professor at the University of Northern Iowa. “The idea of helping people heal from deep hurt really resonated with me.”

Freedman built her career around the spark Enright lit almost 40 years ago. One of her first published papers on the topic, her dissertation, focused on forgiveness therapy for victims of incest. In the years since that study, Freedman has stayed in touch with the victims. She says they continue to experience peace year after year in the wake of deep pain.

“That’s what’s meaningful to me — that we’re making a difference in people’s lives,” she says. “I just feel so fortunate that I’m still passionate about this topic. I owe that to Bob, for starting this field.”

Freedman continues to provide forgiveness therapy and education to different populations, including fifth-graders and at-risk adolescents.

Applying the lessons of forgiveness outside these clinical and classroom settings could be a salve for the often-painful times we live in, Enright says. He points out that many people who haven’t experienced profound trauma are still living with anger and resentment, and those emotions can create deep internal pain.

“Let’s think about what forgiveness does, just at the basic level,” Enright says, sitting in that glass-walled room overlooking campus. “When people forgive, they make a free-will decision to try and get rid of resentment and offer goodness.” He adds that years of research have shown that seeing and accepting the humanity in others — the whole picture, good and bad — allows someone to truly forgive.

“What we are trying to see is: there is something to the person who hurt you,” he says. “That’s not happening in today’s world.”

The Aristotelian Professor in Forgiveness Science, the first of his kind, says Aristotle had the answer all along: seek the truth rather than thinking you already know it.

“When in conflict with others, seek the truth of knowing the other person on a deeper level,” he says. “When that happens, resentment declines and peace can take its place.” ●

Laurel White is the research writer at the UW–Madison School of Education.

On Alumni

News from Home and Abroad

Happy 175th Birthday

Celebrate UW–Madison’s demisemiseptcentennial.



If you turned 175, you’d probably plan a yearlong celebration, too.

We know that’s a mouthful, but it helps to break it up: Demi. Semi. Sept. Centennial. Half of a half of seven hundred years. That’s the complicated way of saying that UW–Madison will observe a milestone 175th birthday this year.

To commemorate this event, the university, the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA), and many other campus partners will celebrate for the full academic year. The special anniversary will be a theme at annual traditions, such as Homecoming and Founders’ Day, and a gala will take place in Madison on October 27. A special Incorporation Day event — held on July 26, the date in 1848 when Wisconsin governor Nelson Dewey signed legislation establishing the university — will also highlight the anniversary.

This summer, UW–Madison is making visits to communities across Wisconsin to emphasize its strong partnerships in the state. The tour, which kicked off with a visit to Green Bay in May, is celebrating how businesses and alumni have built connections over the years and have become part of the fabric of these communities. The tour will also include the WFAA ice cream truck to literally illustrate how the university is “now serving” these areas. A visit to Sheboygan is planned for June, and other stops are scheduled for August 3 in Eau Claire, August 17 in Milwaukee, and August 30 in Wausau. The tour will then resume in spring 2024. (Visit 175.wisc.edu/state-tour for more information.)

“UW–Madison and the state of Wisconsin have been close partners since both were founded in 1848,” says **Sarah Schutt**, chief alumni officer and executive director of the Wisconsin Alumni Association. “Celebrating partnerships around the state illustrates the positive impact of the UW and its alumni, and the visits serve as a reminder of the interests and pride we share with everyone in Wisconsin.”

The yearlong celebration is centered on the theme “Where an Idea Can Change the World.” Events and activities will not only reflect on the successes and challenges of the past 175 years but also aim to spark conversation around the next two-and-a-half decades, leading up to the university’s bicentennial celebration in 2048.

The university welcomes alumni to share their memories and hopes for the future on social media by joining the conversation at #UW175.

NIKI DENISON



MEIL BROWN

DAY OF THE BADGER

This spring’s Day of the Badger, a WFAA day of university giving, surpassed \$1.6 million in donations, with more than 4,620 contributors and 6,390 gifts. The donor total was the highest ever for Day of the Badger. Thank you, loyal UW alumni and friends!

17

Number of students enrolled in the UW’s inaugural class in 1849

49,886

Number of students enrolled in the fall 2022 semester

2

Number of faculty members in 1850 (including the chancellor)

25,297

Number of faculty and staff in the fall 2022 semester

SAVE THE DATE

As part of the university’s 175th festivities, a special Incorporation Day event will be held on campus on July 26 to celebrate the day the governor signed legislation establishing the university. Check 175.wisc.edu for more information.

ENRICH YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Wisconsin Idea Spotlights showcase the innovative work of UW–Madison experts. Guests attend in person on campus or via livestream. Past topics have included the mind-body connection, understanding North Korea, the power of forgiveness, and the history of the civil rights movement in Wisconsin. For more information, see uwalumni.com/wisconsin-idea-spotlight.



Honorary Ice Cream Flavors

The UW's displays of gratitude are served in a cup or a cone.

Commemoration comes in many forms on a college campus: an honorary degree, an eponymous building, a named scholarship, a seat in the bleachers. The UW also doles out honor by the scoop.

Stocked among Babcock Dairy's classic vanilla and bold-but-beloved orange custard chocolate chip are cheeky flavors whose limited runs in campus dipping cabinets serve as sweet shows of affection for some of the UW's most iconic figures. Berry Alvarez, a berry-flavored base with strawberries, raspberries, and a blueberry ribbon, riffs on the former athletic director's first name while channeling the deep red of his iconic sweater. Upon his retirement in 2019, marching band director **Mike Leckrone** left a delicious legacy with March On Leckrone, a vanilla ice cream with a cranberry swirl and white chocolate flakes that is equal parts Wisconsin flavor and Leckronian flair. Bec-Key Lime Pie, a key lime ice cream with a graham cracker swirl, debuted upon former chancellor **Rebecca Blank**'s arrival in 2013. Most recently, Babcock welcomed Chancellor **Jennifer L. Mnookin** with Mnookie Dough, a vanilla ice cream swirled with caramel and fudge ribbons and studded with cookie dough pieces.

"The dairy plant and store staff work closely with

campus leadership to develop products in a thoughtful way, almost like an important memorandum or a message coming out from campus," says **Scott Rankin**, chair and professor in the UW Department of Food Science, describing the formulation of an honorary flavor.

Other odes-by-ice-cream include Strawbiddy Swirl, a Wisconsin welcome to former chancellor **Biddy Martin PhD'85** in 2008; Frankly Righteous Raspberry, an eclectic blend of vanilla ice cream with a fudge swirl, raspberries, and mint chocolate pieces worthy of the famed architect **Frank Lloyd Wright x1890**; and Morgridge Marble Medley, a vanilla base with butterscotch and fudge swirls, brownies, and pecans, which honored a \$100 million gift to the university from **John '55** and **Tashia '55 Morgridge** in 2014.

Whether the final product reflects more of the individual's preferences or personality depends in part on the whims of the honoree and on the bounds of what can be achieved in the medium of ice cream. When dreaming up a new flavor, Babcock's staff have to consider the composition of the frozen base dessert, potential allergens of added flavors or mix-ins, and the ways that ingredients will affect the ice cream's texture and melt. So far, Rankin says, no custom concoction has been too creative for Babcock's ice cream team to churn out.

"We all have long, hard days and complicated decisions to make," Rankin says. "We need to have a little fun with something as enjoyable as ice cream."

MEGAN PROVOST '20

Mnookie Dough, Babcock Dairy's latest sensation, is named for the new chancellor.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ONE BEACH PLASTIC

One Word: Plastics

Richard MFA'73 and Judith Lang turn found objects into artistic statements about how we are polluting the planet.

It looks remarkably like pasta in different shapes and sizes arranged on many white ceramic plates, but it's actually an artwork composed of white toothbrushes, eyeglass frames, toys, hair curlers, container fragments, and other plastic trash. **Richard Lang MFA'73** created *For Here or to Go* (above left) as a jarring reminder that the stuff we discard often returns to us as microplastics in our food.

Another artwork, a large, multicolored fish with vivid blue fins and tail (above, bottom right), turns out to be composed of bottle caps in different colors and sizes. Yet another, *Ghost Net Monster*, is made from more than 450 pounds of fishing nets and other plastics found inside the stomach of a dead whale that washed up on a beach.

Lang and his wife, Judith Selby Lang, began picking up plastic trash on the beach near their home in Marin County in Northern California in 1999. Then more. And more. Sorting it by color and shape, the couple ultimately picked up more than two tons of plastic trash from a single beach, Kehoe Beach, on the Point Reyes National Seashore, and started con-

The Langs have picked up more than two tons of plastic trash from a single beach. Their art reminds us that the stuff we discard often returns to us as microplastics in our food.

verting it to art installations. The pair fittingly call themselves One Beach Plastic.

Lang's awareness of ecological problems dates back to his MFA days at the UW, when he won a grant for materials and a stipend to build a sculpture on Lake Mendota's shore.

"I felt bad about using all those new materials, so I decided to make my exhibit using only what I could glean from scraps gathered in other grad studios. I also chose to make one thing each day," he says. The found objects became his *Palace at 4 AM*.

"Do the next thing" is Lang's motto. He explains how this has underpinned his entire life, with each step organically flowing from whatever he's currently doing. He applies it to his methodology as an art teacher; the photography and printmaking gallery/studio that he and Judith own in San Francisco; work as an environmental artist after retirement in 2016; the creation of an art park next to his house in Forest Knolls, California; and his marriage and parenting. "DNT, as I call it, coupled with my other motto, 'The ball is always in your court,' is a happy and fruitful way to live a life," he says.

The Langs' art is displayed at museums and research centers from Zurich, Switzerland, to Hong Kong to Hamburg, Germany. For more images, visit beachplastic.com.

SHARON MCDONNELL

Clean Energy at Last?

Physicist Fatima Ebrahimi PhD'03 sees hope in a recent breakthrough in fusion energy.

In December, scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL's) National Ignition Facility in California achieved a breakthrough in nuclear fusion, a process by which the sun creates its own energy. Unlike nuclear fission, which is used in today's power plants and creates radioactive products, fusion has the potential to provide the world with a clean energy source. For the first time in a laboratory, the LLNL scientists successfully produced more energy than they put into the experiment. Although she wasn't involved with

Nuclear fusion avoids the carbon emissions associated with fossil fuels and produces less radioactive waste than nuclear fission.

the LLNL experiment, **Fatima Ebrahimi PhD'03**, a fusion researcher at Princeton University (see "A Driving Force," *On Wisconsin* Summer 2019), says that the breakthrough indicates a fusion-fueled future for humankind.

Why is nuclear fusion important?

It's one of the best ways to get an unlimited source of energy for now and for future generations. It has a lot of advantages in terms of making an abundance of energy, and it's carbon-free.

What is the significance of LLNL's breakthrough, and what might its implications be?

It's a milestone, physics-wise, because physicists and engineers have been trying to get a net gain in fusion energy for a while. So, this is a physics experiment that shows that yes, in fact, we can get a bit more fusion energy compared to what you put in the experiment.

What did you think when learning of the breakthrough?

It was exciting. It means that we see the light at the end of the tunnel; there will be a path to commercial fusion energy, to have reactor fusion-energy systems. It's really a positive sign, but that doesn't mean that this is necessarily the path.

How might this breakthrough affect your research?

It's not going to directly impact my research because we have so many concepts we need to pursue. ... There are many paths to fusion energy pursued at various institutions.

What challenges does fusion still pose before it can become commercially viable?

There are both physics and engineering challenges ... [For example], the huge engineering challenge is how to effectively extract the heat produced by fusion and convert it to electricity.

*Interview by Stephanie Haws '15
Photo by Julie Brown Harwood*



50s–60s

Few people know the globe as well as **John Butters '55**. In the summer before his senior year, long before the existence of the UW's study abroad programs, Butters attended classes at the National University of Mexico in Mexico City. What followed was a more than 50-year career in travel that brought him to agencies around the country to lead trips across the world. He opened travel-training schools in Madison and Rockford, Illinois; authored training materials for the Institute of Certified Travel Agents; and conducted travel-training seminars in all 50 states. By the end of his career, Butters had visited seven continents, sailed seven seas, and visited 170 countries before retiring to Mesa, Arizona.

The Society for Italian Historical Studies and the American Historical Association awarded **Brenda Deen Schildgen '65** of Annapolis, California, the 2022 Helen and Howard Marraro Prize for her book *Dante and Violence: Domestic, Civic, Cosmic*. The book examines how Dante's poem *Commedia Divina* (*The Divine Comedy*) considers the impacts of violence. Schildgen is a distinguished professor emerita of comparative literature at the University of California–Davis.

Margaret Rossiter MS'67 of Ithaca, New York, was awarded the George Sarton Medal by the History of Science Society. The medal is the society's most prestigious honor and recognizes lifetime scholarly achievement in the field. Rossiter is best known for coining the term “the Matilda Effect” to describe the systemic misattribution of women's contributions to scientific discovery and the erasure of women from scientific history. (See “The Matilda Effect,” Spring 2022 *On Wisconsin*.)

70s

For his contributions to “reducing the risk of nuclear war by developing and popularizing the science of nuclear winter,” **Alan Robock '70** of Manasquan, New Jersey, was awarded the Future of Life Award from the Future of Life Institute, a nonprofit organization that works to reduce the potentially catastrophic risks of modern technologies. Robock is a distinguished professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University and conducts award-winning research on the potential climatic impacts of nuclear war and volcanic eruptions. His current project uses computer-simulated climate models to demonstrate environmental responses to the smoke from fires ignited by nuclear war.

Steven Skolaski '71 of Madison retired as president of the Oscar Rennebohm Foundation in December. Skolaski joined the foundation as president in 1987 and will remain on its board of directors in his retirement. Named for pharmacist Oscar Rennebohm 1911, the foundation provides funding for education and health initiatives in the Madison community.

Freida High W. Tesfagiorgis MFA'71 of Madison accepted the Legacy (Lifetime Achievement) Award at the 2022 Wisconsin Visual Art Achievement Awards. She was also recognized with a lifetime achievement award from the 31st annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora, hosted by Howard University and the National Gallery of Art in 2021. High retired as the UW's Evjue-Bascom Professor of African and African American Art History and Visual Culture in 2012. Among her many achievements is helping found what is now the UW's Department of African American Studies in 1970. More

recently, she is a cofounder of the Bronzeville Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization in Milwaukee.

Praful Sanghrajka '73 was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute of Fire Engineers in India. Sanghrajka founded Technofire Protection Services in Mumbai in 1986. The company has developed custom fire-protection systems across several industries, from steel and power plants to ships and high-rises, and it has overseen the fire protection of the largest oil refinery in the world.

For his commitment to equal representation under the law, **Thomas Zander '75, JD'77** of Oldsmar, Florida, was presented with the Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund. Zander served as executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee from 1981 to 1994, representing thousands of low-income Milwaukee residents and litigating major class-action lawsuits that led to landmark law reform. In semi-retirement, he teaches mental health law at Marquette University and provides pro bono forensic psychological evaluations of low-income individuals in civil cases.

After 41 years serving the federal judiciary, **Michael Williams '76** of Mequon, Wisconsin, retired as chief deputy of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin. Williams was previously a staff attorney in the United States Trustee's Office and an estate administrator with the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin.

80s

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) presented its highest honor, the Martin Wagner Award, to **Arthur**

BOOK NEWS?

See page 62.

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS

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Pasquarella MS'80 in recognition of his years of dedicated service. Pasquarella became an advocate for organ donation after watching his father receive a kidney transplant, and he later donated a kidney to his brother. He has served NKF in roles ranging from volunteer and committee chair to board president. Pasquarella is a principal and chief operating officer of Philadelphia-based real estate investment company Equus Capital Partners.

Sheryl Bunker '83 was named chief financial officer of Milwaukee-based culinary group Bartolotta Restaurants. Bunker was most recently chief financial officer of Potawatomi Hotel and Casino.

This just in: **John Stofflet '83** will retire next month after 40 years in broadcast journalism. Stofflet began his career in Madison before relocating to Seattle, where he worked for nearly two decades at KING-TV and as a freelance correspondent at the National Geographic Channel. He returned to Madison in 2005 to be the main evening coanchor of NBC15, and he'll sign off for the last time in June. Stofflet is a 25-time regional Emmy winner and recently won the 2022 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Writing from the Radio Television Digital News Association.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists elected **Donald Arnold MD'84** of Saint Louis, Missouri, first vice president of the organization. Arnold is president of Western Anesthesiology Associates and chair of anesthesiology at Mercy Hospital in Saint Louis.

Congratulations to **Mary Ellen McCartney MS'87** of La Crosse, Wisconsin, on her retirement from Gundersen Health System. McCartney spent nearly 35 years with Gundersen, the last five as chief human resources officer.



ANDY MANIIS

Content Coach

Muaaz Shakeel '19 has found a niche teaching people how to post YouTube videos.

Muaaz Shakeel '19 started watching YouTube videos not long after the platform debuted in 2005, when he wasn't yet a teenager.

"Dumb comedy videos," he says. "Silly skits that at the time I thought were hilarious."

While attending a Madison-area high school, Shakeel had his own YouTube channel. He made a few random videos — "I might review an Xbox controller" — but he mainly subscribed to other YouTubers. Soon, however — first at Madison College and then UW-Madison — Shakeel developed the desire and, most importantly, the discipline to create YouTube content that might draw his own followers. He figured college, where he majored in information systems in the Wisconsin School of Business, might be his last chance to get serious about YouTube before he "got busy with life."

"I wanted to make at least one video a week," he says. "I stayed very disciplined with that. It didn't matter if I stayed up until 3 a.m. studying for an exam, I was going to finish my video before I went to sleep."

Shakeel began by making gaming videos that functioned somewhat like reviews in real time. He didn't get many subscribers, but those he did often had questions about topics related to editing, streaming, or how to make a thumbnail — a quick snapshot of the video.

"All the things I learned to do," Shakeel says, "I had to figure out myself. At that time if you looked it up on YouTube, there weren't tutorials." He realized there was a gap in the market for informational videos for people who want to become content creators. Shakeel, who goes by Muaaz (rhymes with "pause") on YouTube, created a channel to fill that void.

"When I started making tutorials," he says, "my audience numbers started heading upward. I started earning solid revenue while in college."

Now 25 and living in Madison, Shakeel says that by late 2022 he had 281,000 YouTube subscribers and 39 million video views.

"This is how I make my living," he says.

Those numbers could be even higher, but for much of 2022 Shakeel didn't upload new content. He spent time creating an animation store where, he says, "creators can buy pop-up animation to use in a video."

Looking forward, Shakeel foresees a creator economy that may well reward YouTube influencers more than film stars or athletes. "They have a much stronger connection to their audiences," he says.

DOUG MOE '79



PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNN OVASKA

Lessons in Gratitude

Lynn Ovaska '96 teaches her high school students the power of saying "thank you."

Today's teenagers have watched their schools become battlegrounds for the most contentious issues of the day while weathering the standard struggles of the high school experience. Still, they carry themselves with admirable grace — sometimes with a little help along the way.

In her classroom in Los Alamos, New Mexico, high school psychology teacher **Lynn Ovaska '96** creates a "sacred space" in which her students are comfortable being vulnerable and studying topics like genuine happiness and how to achieve it. One way she does this is by having students write gratitude letters to individuals who have had an impact on their lives.

"The letters are more than thank-you notes," Ovaska says. "They're letters of gratitude, but they're also letters of apology, forgiveness, and honesty."

Ovaska uses the exercise — drawn from Martin Seligman's book *Authentic Happiness* — to illustrate the difference between temporary and long-term happiness as part of the emotion unit in her AP Psychology course. To ensure that her students experience the happiness of sharing their heartfelt messages, Ovaska encourages them to personally read the letters to the recipients.

"This is an exchange," she says. "When you write a letter and you hand it to someone and then walk away, you did your part, but you didn't get back what their response was to that letter."

These emotional exchanges were captured in a "There's Good News Tonight" segment of the NBC *Nightly News* in November, after a production team joined Ovaska's class for a moving day of writing and reading gratitude letters. The segment features students reading letters to grandparents and former teachers and aloud to the class. According to Ovaska, there wasn't a dry eye in the room, on camera or off.

"You can't plan that stuff as a teacher," Ovaska says. "It was a true emotional, physical change that kids experienced in the room."

Ovaska keeps her own teeming box of letters from former students near her desk as a reminder of the power of simple acts of kindness. Of all the lessons she instills in her students, this is the one she hopes they will carry with them well beyond the classroom.

"That's when learning takes place. It doesn't have to be complicated," Ovaska says. "Having kids do something that's going to change their life is unbelievably powerful."

MEGAN PROVOST '20

Denita Willoughby '88 of Los Angeles was appointed to the Network Wireless Solutions board of directors. She is the chief executive officer of the consulting firm Willoughby Group and previously served as a vice president at AT&T and Sempra Energy. She is also a founding board member of Vision to Learn, an organization that provides free vision screenings and eyewear to students in low-income areas.

Lynn Blake '89 is the new chief financial officer of Minneapolis-based medical device company Nuwellis. Blake comes to the role with more than two decades of leadership experience, most recently as a managing director at the consulting firm Growth Operators.

After nearly 30 years programming theatrical runs of international and domestic cinema, **Michael Maggione '89** was named artistic director of Film Forum, an independent art house theater in New York City. Maggione started his career in cinema while serving on the Wisconsin Union Directorate Film Committee at the UW.

90s

After a successful tenure leading the Holden Forests & Gardens in Cleveland, **Jill Koski '91** was named president and CEO of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. The role marks a return to roots for Koski, who previously spent 10 years as the arboretum's vice president of development. She has also held development leadership positions with the John G. Shedd Aquarium and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago. *Cleveland Magazine* named Koski a 2021 Community Leader of the Year for Environment and Sustainability.

In 2003, **Daryle Bobb '92** and **Beth Ostrager-Bobb '93** founded Most Valuable Kids (MVK), a nonprofit organization in Washington, DC, that sought

to counter social inequality by providing young people with tickets to live sporting and cultural events. While the original MVK has since transitioned to Tickets for Kids, two new branches of MVK have been founded in Atlanta and Cincinnati by **Susan '89** and **Brian Banner** and **Tedd Friedman '89** and **Sherri Jaffe-Friedman '89**.

As an anesthesiologist, **Suzanne Yu PhD'93** of Mount Arlington, New Jersey, puts her patients to sleep. In her other role as an executive producer on the movie *The Comeback Trail* (2020), she hopes the action-packed plot and star-studded cast will keep viewers wide awake and well entertained. The film follows two movie producers whose insurance scam turns into an unexpected cinematic success. It features such household Hollywood names as Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones, and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

Would you believe that the head of a luxury Swiss fashion house was born and raised in Badger country? **Melissa Beste '98** of New York City is the first non-family global CEO of Swiss fashion house Akris. Beste began her fashion career as a buyer for Neiman Marcus, Marshall Field's, and Saks Fifth Avenue before joining Alexander McQueen as president of the Americas in 2006. She first worked for Akris as CEO of North America and the UK from 2009 to 2015 before leaving to become CEO of luxury fashion partner InterLuxe Holdings. Beste rejoined Akris as global CEO in 2018.

Steven Rankin '98 of Madison celebrated his recent retirement by biking across North America in the summer of 2022. This marked Rankin's second coast-to-coast ride after age 65. Rankin spent 22 years as an occupational therapist with UW Hospital and Clinics.

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the late Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the throne, **Toni Samek PhD'98** was among several librarians presented with Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) by the Library Association of Alberta. The medal recognizes outstanding service in the library community. Samek is a professor in the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Alberta.

00s

Monica Berry JD'01 of Dallas was featured in the Fall 2022 issue of *Vanguard Law Magazine* for her work as first general counsel at manufacturing company Innovations in Nutrition and Wellness (INW). Since joining INW in 2020, Berry has overseen the company's merger and acquisition, the relocation of its headquarters, and its recovery after a major fire at a production facility in 2021.

Digital forensics group 4Discovery named **Andrew Kent '01** of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as the company's new chief operating officer. Kent previously served as COO of eDiscovery and litigation support company Page One Legal. He is also a board member of the nonprofit Ink Against Cancer.

Shawn Boyne MA'02, PhD'07 was named associate vice chancellor of undergraduate education at the University of Illinois–Springfield (UIS). She comes to UIS from Iowa State University, where she was the director of undergraduate education and academic quality. Previously, Boyne was a tenured professor in the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, where she was also codirector of JD program evaluation, teaching, and assessment. Her research includes comparative law, cybersecurity, and national security law.

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.

The Center for Regional Studies at the University of New Mexico appointed **Milton Bluehouse Jr. JD'04** of Tucson, Arizona, as its tribal/community research scholar during the fall 2022 semester. His research examines the potential role of cryptocurrency in the economic development of tribal governments. "His work is providing an important context for how money shapes the economic destiny of our Indigenous communities," Bluehouse's mentor, Manuel Montoya, said. Previously, Bluehouse taught economic development, business management, and tribal government management at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, and served as deputy chief of staff for the president and vice president of the Navajo Nation, of which he is a citizen.

Stephanie Kundert '05, MA'11 of Washington, DC, was promoted to senior vice president of Direct Impact, a leading grassroots communications firm. Kundert oversees communications campaigns for multistate public affairs and advocacy initiatives within the health care sector. One of Kundert's campaigns to improve EMS triage and transportation protocols for stroke patients received a 2022 North American SABRE Award for Best in Healthcare: Healthcare Providers from PRovoke Media. Kundert previously worked as a policy adviser and committee clerk in the Wisconsin state legislature and managed several political campaigns.

In November, President Joseph Biden appointed **Adam Tindall-Schlicht '06** administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, which oversees the operation and maintenance of the U.S. portion of the Saint Lawrence Seaway between Montreal and Lake Erie. Prior to his appointment,

On Alumni Class Notes

Tindall-Schlicht served in the cabinet of Milwaukee mayor **Cavalier Johnson '09** as the director of Port Milwaukee.

10s

After more than 20 years with the UW, **Aaron Bird Bear MS'11** retired in December as assistant dean of student diversity programs and the university's first director of tribal relations. Bird Bear joined the UW in 2000 as the American Indian student academic services coordinator in the College of Letters & Science. His many achievements include establishing the Indigenous Student Center, developing the First Nations Cultural Landscape Tour, and strengthening relationships with Wisconsin's Native Nations. "These are tangible stepping stones along the way," Bird Bear said. "We're starting to see what it really means when you embrace the full human story of this space."

Mikaela Louie '11 of Seattle was elected to the Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors. She most recently served as chair of the Washington State chapter's board of directors, as well as chair of the chapter's diversity, equity, and inclusion committee. She is also the Alzheimer's advocacy ambassador to U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA). Louie became involved in dementia awareness efforts after her mother was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. In addition to her advocacy work, Louie is an associate at Foster Garvey P.C., where she represents health care facilities and providers.

Welcome to the den, baby Badger! **Nick '13** and **Gabriela Falk '14** of Little Rock, Arkansas, welcomed Xander Falk (x2044?) in November. His parents are already excited about baby's first Badger game at Camp Randall and Babcock ice cream on the Terrace.

The Overseas Press Club presented **Dylan Moriarty '13** of Madison with the 2022 Kim Wall Award for his work on the *Washington Post* article "Africa's Rising Cities." The award recognizes the use of creative and dynamic digital story-

"Teachers are coaches, mentors, and facilitators of information and skills. They are researchers, community leaders, and curriculum designers and organizers."

— **Alejandro Nunez MS'22**

telling. Moriarty is a graphics reporter and cartographer for the *Post* and a member of the North American Cartographic Information Society. Prior to joining the *Post*, he worked as a cartographer for the *Wall Street Journal*.

Brandon Altenburg '14 was named to the National Recreation and Park Association's 2022 30 under 30 list. Altenburg, a grant and special project administrator for the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, was recognized for securing more than \$900,000 in revenue and resources during 2020, leading environmental mitigation efforts, and improving facilities and programming in the community. He got his start in the field while working for the UW's Rec Sports as a student.

Your package has been delivered — thanks in no small part to Badger engineers. **Suzan Iloglu MA'14, MS'17, PhD'19** of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the founder of the UW student chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) and a research scientist with Amazon Robotics. **Soovin Yoon MS'15, PhD'19** of Seattle is a research scientist in Amazon's supply chain optimization technology, specializ-

ing in topology and forecasting; she presented a session titled "OR/MS in Industry Practice" at the 2022 INFORMS annual meeting. **Kay Zheng PhD'17** of Seattle is a senior research scientist in Amazon Fulfillment Technologies.

Whether they're longtime locals or Badgers homesick for their college town, **Bianca Martin '14** keeps listeners connected to the isthmus as the host of *City Cast Madison*, the Madison edition of the national City Cast podcast network. The daily show broadcasts commute-length segments that cover local news, culture, community, politics, and more. Martin has been a producer for National Public Radio's *1A*, Chicago Public Media, and National Geographic's *Into the Depths*. *City Cast Madison* is produced in part by **Dylan Brogan '09**, who came to the program from Madison's alternative newspaper *Isthmus*.

Erin Ovadal '16 was named a Rising Star among Ragan Communications' Top Women in Communications of 2023. Ovadal is an account supervisor with the Max Borges Agency, a Miami-based public relations firm, where she specializes in emerging lifestyle and women-focused brands. Her notable successes include work with virtual fitness platform Alo Moves and appliance company Hisense.

After beating a childhood bout of stage-three Hodgkin's lymphoma, **Tom Costello '19** died in a waterskiing accident at age 24. In honoring Costello's posthumous wishes, his family donated his organs, saving upward of 75 lives. "His entire life, he was a very giving person, and he was really known for random acts of kindness," Costello's mother, Beth, told the *Chanhassen Villager* in 2022. "I think we really felt like we were able to honor his last wishes of giving back to someone

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

by donating his organs.” The family established the Thomas A. Costello Legacy Foundation, which provides scholarships to students at Minnesota’s Chaska High School and at the UW.

Vincent Falcone JD’19 joined the Madison office of von Briesen and Roper as part of the firm’s Business Practice Group. He is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and was named One to Watch by Best Lawyers in 2022.

20s

Joshua Michels ’22 was 13 years old when he bought and restored his first car. At 17, he cofounded Michels Auto Design, a custom restoration shop, with his father in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Recently, at 21, Michels became the youngest-ever competitor to win the 2022 Specialty Equipment Market Association Battle of the Builders Young Guns Championship in Las Vegas. His winning build was a 1966 Chevrolet Corvette. Michels currently works full-time at Michels Auto Design, where he and his father specialize in modernizing classic cars by adding new engines and technology while maintaining the vehicle’s original aesthetic.

Alejandro Nunez MS’22 was named to the 2022 cohort of teaching fellows by the Knowles Teacher Initiative. The Knowles Teacher Fellowship is a five-year program that provides early-career high school math and science teachers with grants, stipends, coaching, and mentorship. “Teachers are coaches, mentors, and facilitators of information and skills,” Nunez said. “They are researchers, community leaders, and curriculum designers and organizers.” Nunez was a first-year teacher at Verona Area High School in Verona, Wisconsin, during the 2022–23 school year.

Megan Provost ’20 thinks you deserve a treat today.

Scholarship Helps Veteran Find His Calling

Ethan Taylor ’22, DPTx’25 is pursuing his dream to become a physical therapist.

Ethan Taylor ’22, DPTx’25 isn’t just the first in his family to attend college — he will also be the first medical professional. Taylor grew up in Blaine, Minnesota, and when he enlisted in the Army National Guard at 17, he was certain that his future was in engineering. However, he soon discovered otherwise.

When he was in basic training, he realized that he had a passion for exercise and rehabilitation. “I learned more about physical therapy and found that I really enjoyed rehab for the sports population,” he says.

Taylor enrolled in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), which has one of the oldest physical therapy programs in the country. He was drawn to the diverse range of injuries and rehab processes and the way athletes tend to commit themselves to healing. “It always motivates me to be the best clinician I can be,” he says.

Taylor is a recipient of the Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Price Memorial Scholarship, which honors a marine who was killed in action in Afghanistan in July 2012. This fund, created in 2019 by **J. D. Garbrecht ’97**, provides support to physical therapy students with veteran status. Over the last two decades, Garbrecht has helped rehabilitate wounded service members through physical therapy. His patients and their families, as well as 35 years of military service, inspired him to create the scholarship.

Taylor was inspired by his own military service. “Being part of the Army National Guard showed me what hard work truly looks like,” he says. “Some of the most difficult experiences of my life happened during that phase. Those situations taught me how to handle almost any adverse scenario with a level head.”

Having found his path, Taylor seized both educational and social opportunities at SMPH. “The faculty and staff make it obvious that they care about each individual,” he says. “I’ve also found some incredible friends who I can see being with for the rest of my life. They’ve really helped pull me through some tough times.”

Taylor also mentions a particularly powerful experience he had working for a pro bono clinic. “The patient I currently work with is extremely receptive to therapy and is always excited to participate,” he says. “On the final day of the 2022 fall clinic, he was able to walk up the stairs without assistance, which was one of his goals for the semester. It was an amazing and emotional experience. He motivates me every week and is a shining reminder of why I began this journey in the first place.”

NICOLE HEIMAN





In The Writing Retreat, there's more at stake than a book deal.

Write for Your Life

A jaded author gets more mystery than she bargains for in *The Writing Retreat* by Julia Bartz '06.

The idyllic title of **Julia Bartz '06's** debut novel, *The Writing Retreat*, belies its eerie narrative. But the deceptive moniker befits a book that follows a hopeful protagonist into an opportunity that proves too good to be true — or, rather, too sinister to survive.

Alex has all but abandoned her dreams of a writing career when she receives an invitation to attend an exclusive writing retreat hosted by an eccentric horror author at a haunted estate. The price of admission — competing with her friend-turned-nemesis and churning out 3,000 worthwhile words per day — pales in comparison to the prospect of a seven-figure publishing deal that could change her life. But after the ominous disappearance of a fellow attendee, Alex begins to realize there's more at stake than a book deal.

Unlike the literary truism, this book is best judged by its cover: the overcast, blustery landscape etched with a ghoulish-green font delivers a sense of foreboding that Bartz expertly carries throughout the narrative. Just as Alex finds herself stuck in a retreat that is more of a trap, readers report finding themselves trapped among the pages of this haunting read.

"The book's pacing — a slow roll of dread and horror, especially in the first half — is exceptional," *Kirkus Reviews* writes. "Bartz hits all the gothic highlights, but, far from feeling stale, they work."

The Writing Retreat was a *New York Times* best seller. *Library Reads* named it a "Top Pick" of librarians across the country, and it was a Book of the Month Club selection in February 2023. Bartz is a licensed therapist in Brooklyn, New York.



Fridge-opolis
MELISSA COFFEY '94

In her debut children's book, Coffey instills lessons on food waste and recycling. Through illustrations of anthropomorphic groceries on the verge of (or well past) peril, she creates a chaotic community within the confines of a refrigerator. The situation erupts in a food fight before sustainable solutions race to the rescue. Equal parts entertaining and educational, the book pairs Coffey's whimsical rhyme with real-world statistics about food waste.



Engage & Evade: How Latino Immigrant Families Manage Surveillance in Everyday Life
ASAD ASAD '11

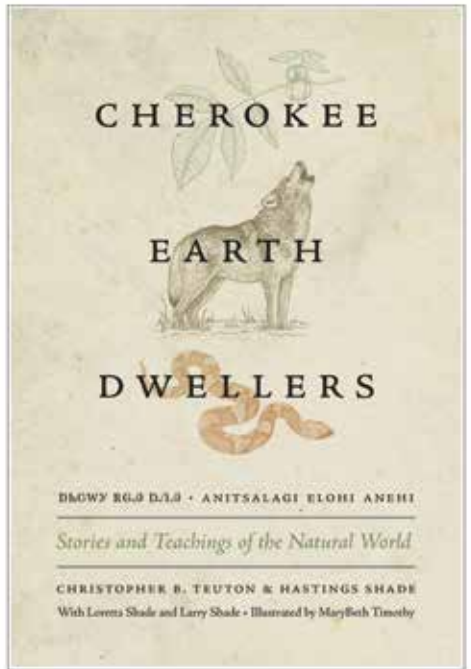
Asad explores the risks that undocumented immigrants take in the United States by interacting with institutions that can both help and hinder their ability to live here. He uses interviews and surveys with Latino immigrants and their families to understand how engagement with entities like the IRS and public health care can either earn favor with immigration officials in later bids for citizenship or warrant adverse consequences.



Planting an Idea: Critical and Creative Thinking about Environmental Issues

JERRY APPS '55, MS'57, PHD'67
AND NATASHA KASSULKE MA'93

Fittingly published on Earth Day, *Planting an Idea* is an accessible introduction to environmental issues and offers concrete instructions for approaching them. The book covers topics from energy to endangered species, and each section includes an overview of the subject, relevant applications of critical and creative thinking, and actionable steps.



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

Teuton imparts traditional Cherokee knowledge to a broad readership.

Our Place in the Universe

In *Cherokee Earth Dwellers*, Christopher Teuton MA'95, PhD'03 explores humanity's role in an interconnected web of lifeforms.

At one time, traditional Cherokee knowledge was shared only among community and family members. According to **Christopher Teuton MA'95, PhD'03**, it's time that knowledge enriched everyone's understanding of their place in the world.

In *Cherokee Earth Dwellers*, Teuton, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, imparts the knowledge of his former collaborator, the late Cherokee elder and knowledge-keeper Hastings Shade, to bring the tribe's understandings of the world to a broader audience. The book combines Shade's lifelong work of documenting the Cherokee names of plants and animals with oral histories and contributions from Shade's late wife, Loretta Shade; his son Larry Shade; and other knowledge-keepers. Their combined wisdom elucidates the concept of *ayetli gadogv* — "to stand in the middle" — from which humans can begin to understand their relationship with and responsibilities to the "more-than-human" relatives with whom we cohabit the Earth.

"*Cherokee Earth Dwellers* imparts a full, rich, and exciting vision of a living Cherokee cosmos that fosters balance, health, maturity, and awareness of the interconnection of all that is," writes Kristine Morris of *Foreword Reviews*.

In preserving traditional names and stories from the natural world, the book also contributes to a language-revitalization movement that counteracts efforts of colonial forces that once sought to eradicate Cherokee language and culture.

Teuton is a professor of American Indian studies at the University of Washington and author of *Cherokee Stories of the Turtle Island Liars' Club*, a collection of 40 interwoven stories about Western Cherokee life and storytelling.



Let America Be America Again: Conversations with Langston Hughes

CHRISTOPHER DE SANTIS MA'90

Named after Hughes's poem of the same title, *Let America Be America Again* is a collection of Hughes's essays, interviews, and speeches, including some previously unpublished pieces. It showcases the late writer's critiques of fascism, racism, and oppression, as well as his commitment to championing Black artists' contributions to their fields and exposing the adversity they face within them. All editor royalties from the book will go to the NAACP, to whom it's dedicated.



Departure Stories: Betty Crocker Made Matzoh Balls (and Other Lies)

ELISA BERNICK '86

Bernick expertly blends heart and humor in recounting her experience growing up in a Jewish family in suburban Minnesota in the 1960s and 1970s. Pieced together like a scrapbook or a well-worn quilt — full of character and flaws — the memoir includes recipes and anecdotes along with encounters with antisemitism and the cultural shift of the feminist movement in a reflection on a family on the brink of collapse.



The Material Culture of Writing

CYDNEY ALEXIS JD'06, PHD'12

This collection analyzes the physical materials that make the craft of writing possible. The book explores ink, a Victorian hotel visitors' book, Mole-skine notebooks, and a college makerspace, among other writing-related artifacts and environments. In analyzing the tools of the trade, *The Material Culture of Writing* offers a new perspective for traditional writing studies.

MEGAN PROVOST '20

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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*

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COLTON MANSVAGE

The New University Club

Now operated by the Wisconsin Union, the campus dining staple transitions to casual food service.

The University Club, a fixture of campus dining on Library Mall for more than a century, was one of tens of thousands of restaurants to fall victim to the pandemic in 2020. It even served as a temporary COVID-19 testing site after the club's board of directors dissolved it as an affiliated private social organization and integrated it fully into UW-Madison.

Thanks to the Wisconsin Union, it's back in the food business.

Reopened on January 23, the dining option is now called Union Commons at the University Club. Patrons will still recognize the building's Tudor Revival style. The interior is largely preserved, with its dark, intricate woodwork, stained-glass windows, hanging chandeliers, classical décor, and intimate lighting.

"We prioritized retaining the University Club's historic charm, beautiful ambiance, and elegance," says **Shauna Breneman**, communications director for the Wisconsin Union.

Contrasting with the traditional atmosphere is the space's shift from table service to casual dining. There's a counter in the main entryway that serves

The building retains the historic charm that makes it the UW's grandest study spot.

coffee, cider, and baked goods (plus beer and wine for older guests), as well as a lunch counter in the dining area with house-made soup and toasted sandwiches to-go. That's not to say Union Commons rushes its guests out the door; they're invited to sit down at tables to eat or to pull out a book at the grandest study spot on campus. They can also relax on the front porch during warmer months. The space is open to the public and served more than 150 customers per day in its first semester of operation.

The University Club formed in 1907 as a members-only organization for UW-Madison faculty and alumni. It found a physical home the next year at the old residence of UW vice president **John B. Parkinson** at the corner of State and Murray Streets (the latter now the pedestrian East Campus Mall). Still at the same location, the current University Club building comprises a series of later additions; the original Parkinson house was demolished in 1924. Initial reported membership neared 340 people, with 15 of them living full time at the club for \$3.50 per week.

The University Club has been a staple of campus long enough for history to repeat itself. During the 1918 flu pandemic, the club mobilized into an infirmary for sick students. And in 1933, financial hardships from the Great Depression necessitated a transfer of ownership to the UW. Fortunately, it thrived from there — and should again.

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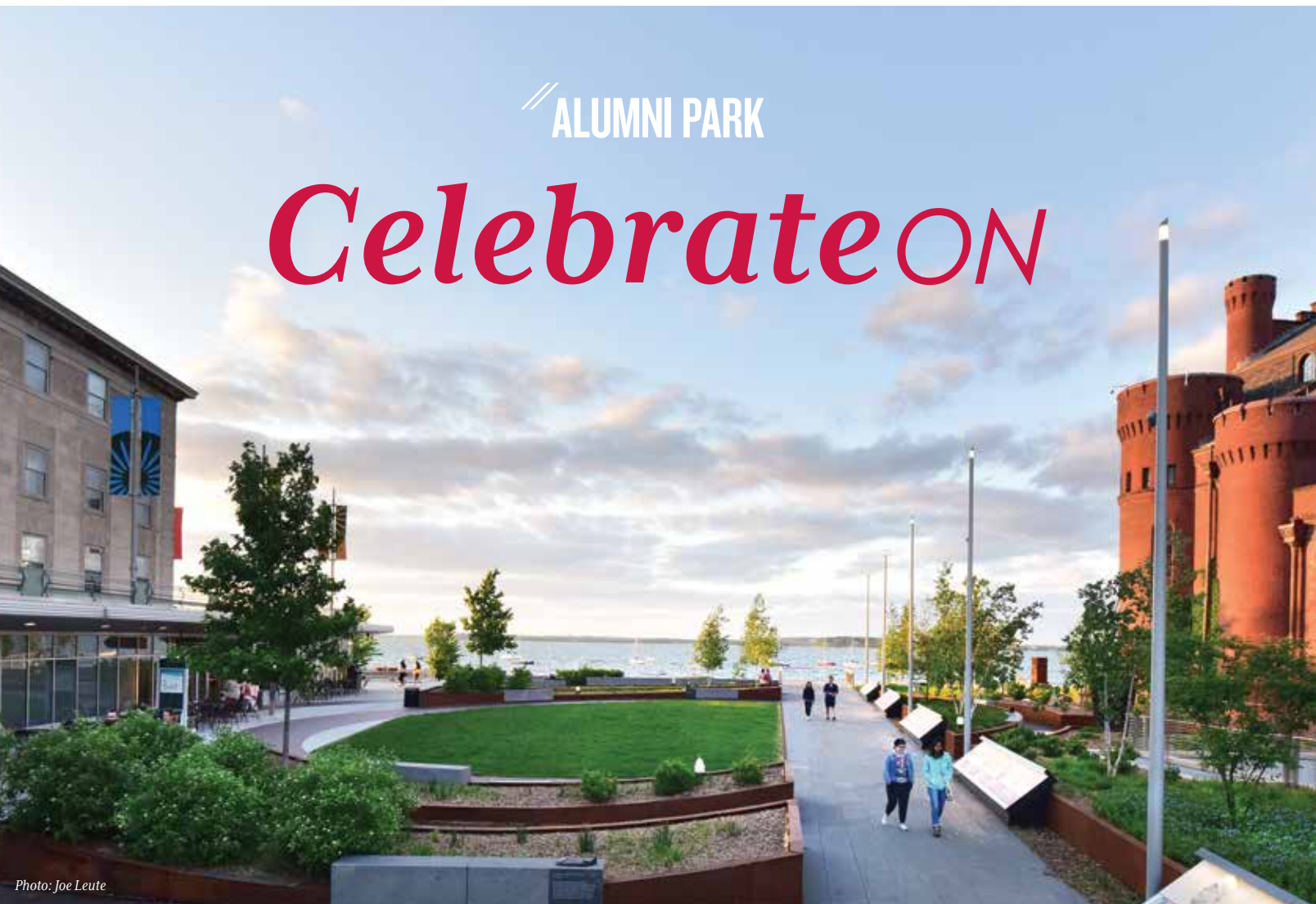


Photo: Joe Leute

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