OnWisconsin

FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS FALL 2024

Fabulous Fossils

The rock stars at the UW Geology Museum find the stories behind the stones.

Also: Take a Behind-the-Scenes Campus Tour.


BIOCORE

Vision

I feel the need — the need for seed. Students scatter seeds into the wind at Lakeshore Nature Preserve's Biocore Prairie near Picnic Point. The Biocore project began in 1997, and it currently occupies about 11 acres. A generation later, students still scatter seeds, pull weeds, observe controlled burns, and catalogue species of plants and animals.
Photo by Bryce Richter

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Sitting Pretty is this year's Go Big Read book. See page 22.

JEFF MILLER

FEATURES

STEVE GUNTHER

John Malpede '68 started the nation's first performance group for unhoused people. See page 50.

Cover
The Geology Museum's replica of a *T. Rex* skull makes googly eyes. Photo by Jeff Miller

Travel ON

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Communications

The Artistic Legacy of James Watrous

[In "Art for All," Summer 2024 *On Wisconsin*], the author mentions *Freedom of Communication*, the mosaic on the north face of Vilas Communication Hall. It was created by Professor James Watrous '31, MA'33, PhD'39, whose Paul Bunyan murals are described in the story.

Watrous also made mosaics for Ingraham Hall, Sewell Social Science Hall, and Memorial Library, along with other works for UW–Madison. His legacy lives on in the James Watrous Gallery of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, open to all under the glass dome in the Overture Center.

Meg Hamel '87
Madison

Kudos

Kudos to the editorial staff for making *On Wisconsin* the superb magazine it has become. In years gone by, I never paid much attention to it, but now I really look forward to its excellent articles. To the point: in recent weeks I've been studying breathing techniques as a way to lower blood pressure. Then in the Summer 2024 issue, the "So What Else Did You Learn in College?" article mentioned the Wim Hof Club and Tibetan breathing techniques. What a great eye-opener!

Wayne Surguy '68
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Memories of the Lake Street McDonald's

I enjoyed the article on the Lake Street McDonald's restaurant [Bygone, Summer 2024]. I worked there from 1971 to 1973. It opened at 8 a.m. but had no breakfast menu back then. People would come in for their morning coffee and hamburger. One thing that was not mentioned in the article was that this was the first sit-down McDonald's in the country.

Bill Folz '86
Madison

I loved "Lake Street's Lost Golden Arches." It was one of the first multilevel McDonald's. My strongest memory, probably from 1969, was going in to avoid a State Street student protest, with the staff passing out moistened napkins to help with the tear gas.

Thomas Straka '72, MS'73
Pendleton, South Carolina

Terms of Engagement

I read with great interest "Here, You Need to Listen" [Conversation, Summer 2024]. I thought the piece was well done.

One aspect bothered me, however: To my knowledge, no other publication refers to the war between Israel and Hamas as the Israel–Palestine War.

There are innumerable implications (mostly negatively biased against Israel) in referring to the war as a Palestine vs. Israel conflict, when in fact the genocidal, United States–designated terrorist group (and elected government of the Gaza Strip) Hamas and Israel are at war.

Perhaps you would see a better dialogue among students with different philosophies and belief systems if you more accurately described who was at war.

Jeffrey Sanders '03
Lake Elmo, Minnesota

Crest Logo Credit

I read "Creating the Badger Brand" by Preston Schmitt '14 in the Winter 2023 *On Wisconsin* with great interest. However, my recollection is different than Earl Madden's about my reaction to the decision by the University Ridge Golf Course when they "grabbed the crest logo." I certainly wasn't "furious," but rather felt gratified that another UW–Madison organization would emulate the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Similarly, when Chancellor John Wiley called and informed me that UW–Madison was going to use the W Crest logo for the entire university, I was delighted and reminded myself that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." Our faculty generally felt the same pride.

Philip Farrell
Dean Emeritus and Professor, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison

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

Favorite Summer Spots

My perfect summer spot was James Madison Park [Destination, Summer 2024]. I loved playing hoops, volleyball, frisbee, and laying out. After a long day there, my friends and I would head over to the Caribou bar for beers and 'Bou burgers. Great times in Mad City.

Rick Burish '88
Santa Monica, California

It has to be the Terrace. It's one of my favorite places I have ever been to. Love the lake setting.

Jim Ciha '78
Grand Junction, Colorado

Online

UW ARCHIVES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

UW–Madison has been publishing an alumni magazine for 125 years, and we'd like to suggest a way to celebrate our big anniversary: reading! Search for "*On Wisconsin*'s Greatest Hits" on our website to peruse some of our most popular articles about UW people, places, sports, research, history, and traditions. And for our superfans (we know you're out there), there's a link to archival issues stretching all the way back to October 1899.

Visit us at onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

OnWisconsin

Fall 2024

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Please recycle this magazine. Please read it first.

Richter (left) and Schmitt chronicle the magical ice-cream production process at the Babcock Dairy Plant.

BRYCE RICHTER

An Insider's Tour of UW–Madison

Our Fall issue goes behind the scenes at significant campus spots.

This issue of *On Wisconsin* serves as your ticket to extraordinary campus places that, normally, only insiders get to see.

"Every Stone Tells a Story" takes you behind the scenes at the UW's 175-year-old Geology Museum, where the dedicated staffers consider themselves in "the inspiration business." These folks are world-class storytellers, making age-old stones come to life for 60,000 visitors a year — and here, for the first time, associate publisher John Allen and photographer Jeff Miller shine the spotlight on them. Each landed at the Geology Museum as part of a lifelong love affair with rocks and fossils.

"The VIP Campus Tour" is an all-access pass to the locations where important things happen, including the Badger football locker room, the chancellor's office, and the plant where Babcock ice cream magically materializes from milk and sugar. Senior writer Preston Schmitt '14 and photographer Bryce Richter spared no effort to capture these rare glimpses, even if it meant climbing a treacherous ladder to the top of the UW's iconic Carillon Tower.

Along with such remarkable spaces, our Fall issue has no shortage of amazing UW–Madison alumni. "A Freedom Rider's Perilous Path" profiles civil rights hero Dion Diamond x'64, who risked everything — his freedom, his life — to challenge discrimination in the 1960s. "Finding a Home in Theater" tells the inspiring tale of John Malpede '68, who encourages artistic expression among unhoused people.

Is it any surprise that such extraordinary people came out of such an extraordinary place?

DEAN ROBBINS


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AND
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Beets: UW Carrot, Onion, and Table Beet Breeding Lab, Department of Horticulture. Beats: UW Dancers, Dance Department.
CAN'T STOP A BADGER

OnCampus

News from UW–Madison

COURTESY OF SEAGRANT

Christy Remucal, who will head the UW's new PFAS Center, is an expert on the dangerous chemicals in the Great Lakes Region.

New Research Center Combats "Forever Chemicals"

The UW leads the charge in protecting water quality and public health.

As the home of the new Center of Excellence in PFAS Environmental Science, UW–Madison is better positioned than ever to identify dangerous chemicals in our environment.

The new center will be housed at the UW's Water Science and Engineering Lab (WSEL), where students and scientists from around the state and across academic disciplines are already conducting research into chemical contaminants in our water and throughout the environment. The center was made possible by nearly $1 million in federal funding secured with the help of U.S. representative **Mark Pocan '86.**

"This funding will be used to help conduct research to improve the quality of Wisconsin's drinking water by removing these harmful PFAS chemical compounds from the environment," Pocan said at an event at WSEL.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are used in the production of everything from nonstick pans and food packaging to carpets and flame retardants. They accumulate quickly in water supplies, and some do not degrade naturally — hence the nickname "forever chemicals." Some PFAS are also toxic even at low concentrations and have been linked to birth defects, weakened immune response, reproductive issues, and cancer.

Most of the new center's funding is designated for the purchase of a high-resolution mass spectrometer, an instrument used to detect and study PFAS. The Core Facility for Advanced Water Analysis in WSEL currently owns a mass spectrometer capable of detecting less than 40 of more than 9,000 chemicals designated as PFAS. The new instrument will allow researchers to study more types of PFAS. In the future, it could even assist with conducting PFAS forensics: determining the sources introducing certain PFAS into the environment.

"Not very many other Universities of Wisconsin–system schools even have [the technology] for basic PFAS analysis," says **Christy Remucal**, UW professor of civil and environmental engineering and leader of the new PFAS research center. "To my knowledge, this will be the first high-resolution mass spectrometer dedicated for PFAS work in the state."

MEGAN PROVOST '20

DANIELLE LAMBERSON PHILIPP

WHEN DOCTORS SIT, PATIENTS FEEL BETTER

A new study indicates that when a doctor sits in a chair during hospital bedside discussions, it improves the experience for both physicians and patients.

Past studies have shown that when doctors sit next to a patient's bed, it promotes eye contact and makes patients feel that they understand their conditions better and believe that their clinician is spending more time with them. However, many hospitals don't have spare chairs in patient rooms.

Blair Golden, an assistant professor of medicine at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, led a research team that studied four internal medicine units at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. In two units, they installed a wall-mounted folding chair at the entrance to patient rooms and educated physicians on the value of sitting during patient interactions. In the other two units, physicians were simply educated on the value of sitting during interactions.

The study showed that education alone improved sitting frequency by 15 percent, but that adding dedicated chairs for the clinicians improved sitting by 45 percent.

"It was remarkable to see how such a simple action increased an activity that we know can lead to better patient care," Golden says.

ANDREW HELLPAP

UW ARCHIVES

The 1960 Presidential Campaign

The Kennedy vs. Nixon contest overshadowed UW Homecoming.

In the fall of 1960, a narrowly divided United States was careening toward a bitter presidential election. Democrat John Kennedy and Republican Richard Nixon vied for support in a race that came down to less than two-tenths of a percentage point difference — Kennedy carried 49.72 percent of the national popular vote, while Nixon had 49.55 percent. UW students got caught up in that tight race.

Kennedy worked hard to appeal to campus. He spoke to more than 12,000 students at the Wisconsin Field House in late October, less than two weeks before the vote. **Bill Whitford '61** of the Young Democrats declared approvingly that Kennedy was "devoted to foresight, not hindsight." The conservative student publication *Insight and Outlook* disagreed — it said that Kennedy would "lead the ship of state into its rendezvous with bankruptcy." (*Insight and Outlook* remained sour on Kennedy. After he was assassinated, it conceded that he had been "warm and friendly," in an otherwise ungenerous obituary; Kennedy, it said, was "not an exceptionally able chief executive" who "had failed even in what he thought his mission to be.")

Deceptive political campaign ads, circa 1960: partisans for Richard Nixon marched at the UW Homecoming game showing support for John Kennedy ... to remain in the Senate.

That year's election fell on November 8, and Homecoming was November 5. During the UW's annual football festival, partisans put their allegiance on display. Pictured above, Nixon supporters trolled the Kennedy campaign along the sidelines at Camp Randall — presumably suggesting that voters keep Kennedy in the Senate by electing Nixon president.

Ultimately, the Badgers carrying this sign were disappointed. Nixon won Wisconsin, but Kennedy ended up in the White House. Further, Northwestern won the Homecoming game, beating the Badgers 21–0.

JOHN ALLEN

JEFF MILLER

The Next Challenge for RISE-EARTH

The new UW initiative will hire faculty to address environmental problems.

UW–Madison has announced the next area of focus in its Wisconsin Research, Innovation, and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) Initiative. RISE-EARTH will strengthen the university's ability to address complex problems related to the environment, translating discoveries into tangible benefits for Wisconsin and the world.

The RISE initiative involves accelerated and strategic faculty hiring; research and infrastructure enhancement; interdisciplinary collaboration; and increased student opportunities. RISE-AI, focusing on artificial intelligence, was the first area announced earlier this year.

RISE-EARTH, which stands for Environment: Adaptation, Resilience, Technology, and Humanity, will center on two themes. The first goal is to reimagine economic and environmental systems — for example, finding innovative ways to revitalize communities with new modes of transportation or renew agricultural lands to reduce erosion and enhance biodiversity. The other goal is to build sustainable energy and technical systems, such as new clean energy technologies and ways to capture and store carbon.

"UW–Madison has long been a leader in responding to community-identified environmental challenges and in developing solutions to problems that can be put immediately into action," says Chancellor **Jennifer L. Mnookin** (above). "By investing in the next generation of faculty leaders through RISE-EARTH, the UW will be well poised to make even greater contributions to sustainability research, education, and problem-solving in the world."

Hiring for the initiative will begin this fall, with 40 hires planned over the next several years.

For decades, UW–Madison has explored sustainability across a variety of fields, from economics to policy, chemistry to engineering. For example, UW researchers laid the foundation for the study of wildlife ecology and pioneered remote sensing of Earth's resources.

"RISE-EARTH will help bring new thinkers with bold ideas to campus to fuel greater interdisciplinary collaborations," says Provost **Charles Lee Isbell Jr.** "Challenges like those we face to achieve carbon neutrality, future-proof our economy, and prepare tomorrow's sustainability leaders are best tackled when people across multiple disciplines come together to create solutions."

ELISE MAHON

MICHAEL P. KING/CALS

Sourdough alert! This fall, the UW–Madison Department of Food Science is launching a certificate in fermented food and beverages, with coursework touching on beer, sauerkraut, cheese, wine, and yogurt, among other favorites. Students interested in finding solutions to global environmental challenges can also examine the role of fermentation in developing sustainable feedstocks, renewable materials, and biofuels.

UW–Madison was the number one source of Peace Corps volunteers for fiscal year 2023. Since 1961, volunteers have supported community-led development around the world, and the UW ranks number two on the all-time list of producers. "Their drive to create global connections and use their skills to partner with communities makes a profound difference," says Frances Vavrus PhD'98, vice provost and dean of the International Division.

EVAN SIEGLE/GREEN BAY PACKERS

After last season, wide receiver Christian Watson (above) and cornerback Eric Stokes of the Green Bay Packers sought help from the specialists at the UW's Badger Athletic Performance. The treatment was part of a $4 million grant the NFL Scientific Advisory Board awarded to UW medical researchers to study prevention and treatment of hamstring injuries for elite football players.

CHELSEA MAMOTT

A PAINKILLER FROM PLANTS

UW scientists have developed a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way to make a popular pain reliever and other valuable products from plants instead of petroleum.

Building on a previously patented method for producing paracetamol, the active ingredient in Tylenol, the discovery promises a greener path for one of the world's most widely used medicines, as well as other chemicals. More important, it could provide new revenue streams to make cellulosic biofuels — derived from nonfood plant fibers — cost-competitive with fossil fuels, the primary driver of climate change.

Paracetamol, also known as acetaminophen, has a global market value of about $130 million a year. Since it was introduced in the early 1900s, the drug has traditionally been made from derivatives of coal tar or petroleum. In 2019, **Steven Karlen** (above) of the UW's Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center and UW biochemistry professor **John Ralph PhD'82** showed how it could be made instead from a compound in poplar trees using a well-known chemical reaction.

Now Karlen's team has improved the process for making paracetamol as well as other drugs, pigments, textiles, and biodegradable plastics. The process is available for commercial licensing through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, the nonprofit organization that commercializes UW discoveries to support ongoing research.

CHRIS HUBBUCH

Dreams Come True with Online Degrees

The UW graduates its first class of returning adult students.

They've taken detours and traveled winding roads, but through perseverance and fully online learning, a pioneering cohort of returning adult students arrived at their dream destination: a degree from UW–Madison. Last spring, 29 Badgers received their diplomas and the distinction of being among the first graduates of UW–Madison Online.

UW–Madison Online launched in 2020 to increase access to the university for students who can't attend in person and want to balance work, family, or other obligations. It's designed for people who have earned some college credits or an associate degree and want to complete their bachelor's. There are currently three online bachelor's degree programs from the Wisconsin School of Business in human resources, management, and marketing, as well as a bachelor's in nursing.

"The success of our first cohort underscores the creative ways to enable access through online education," says Provost **Charles Lee Isbell Jr.** "It demonstrates the transformative power of education to break down barriers and empower individuals to realize their full potential and their dreams."

First-generation college student **Manny Avila '24** started in person at UW–Madison in 2002 but left to take time off for his family and career. More than 20 years later, he completed his bachelor's while working full time and raising his son.

"My son was nine at the time I restarted college, and I could see how he mimicked everything I did, which led me to set an example that school is important," Avila says. "I'm proud to finish my degree so that he can follow my steps one day."

Kristy Jorgensen '24's high school counselor told her she wasn't college material, but the working mom finished her bachelor's degree with UW–Madison Online.

"My parents worked on campus in maintenance when I was a kid, so I got to know the campus space very well," says Jorgensen (below). "UW–Madison has always been my dream school."

Jorgensen is the first in her family to complete a bachelor's degree. "Though my journey took 17 years from when I graduated high school," she says, "it feels amazing to finish."

LISA BAUER

VENDI ADVERTISING

APRIL SZAFRANSKI

Sober Support Network

Badger Recovery helps students dealing with alcohol and substance misuse.

On a Monday night, on the second floor of College Library, students gather in a meeting room. This isn't a study group. It's a meeting for Badger Recovery, which creates community and support for UW–Madison students who are in active substance use recovery, as well as those who are just beginning to explore changing their relationship with alcohol and drugs. Since its inception in 2020, the organization has facilitated peer support groups, social events, and recovery coaching on campus.

Students struggling with addiction who want to connect with others and build friendships face unique challenges. They may worry about experiencing stigma when sharing their struggles with new friends — or about attending social events where potential triggers are present. The organization's project assistant, **Maura Swan '23, MSx'25** (third from left above, with current and former staff), says, "For those in recovery, it can feel hard to find other people like them." The group fights this isolation by connecting students who have similar challenges.

"We believe recovery is individually defined," says assistant director of high-risk drinking **Jenny Damask,** "so we welcome students at different points in their journey."

To support the diverse experiences of its members, Badger Recovery hosts weekly meetings for students (including graduate students) and friends and family. Participants engage in discussion topics such as coping with triggers, building support networks, showing gratitude, and setting boundaries. One member, who asked to be anonymous, says, "It really only takes listening to someone else share a struggle to lift some of your own burden — and hopefully also theirs."

The group recently hired a full-time collegiate recovery specialist and has expanded opportunities to create community through events such as bowling, rock climbing, and community dinners. Currently, Badger Recovery's primary goal is to find a permanent home, which could facilitate casual hangouts, substance-free events, and community-building beyond recovery meetings.

For now, even without a dedicated space, the group provides "a place to be accepted, seen, and cared for by peers," according to one undergraduate. "I can just be whatever I am."

ALISON THUMEL MFA'21

UW ARCHIVES

The Wisconsin Folksong Collection contains 900 recordings gathered between 1937 and 1946 in homes, taverns, and logging camps throughout the state. While the collection will remain at the UW's Mills Music Library, it has been inducted into the National Recording Registry — a prestigious honor from the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

UW–Madison was named one of Princeton Review's "Best Value Colleges" for demonstrating "impressive commitments to affordability." The UW also ranked 15th among public institutions for best alumni networks — and here at *On Wisconsin,* we're beaming.

TAYLOR WOLFRAM

How could UW volleyball star Sarah Franklin '24 top her awards for Big Ten Player of the Year and National Player of the Year? By receiving a nomination for best college athlete in all women's sports at July's ESPY Awards. It proved to be the rare honor Franklin didn't win — though there's certainly no shame in losing out to Iowa basketball phenom Caitlin Clark.

JEFF MILLER (4)

Our Stickers, Ourselves

UW students express their personalities via laptop decorations.

Some students choose to express themselves through their clothes; others through their music and makeup, haircuts and hobbies. But an easy way to get a grasp on Badgers' personalities — their likes and quirks and obsessions — is to look at their laptop cases.

A trend among college students is covering their laptops with stickers. The cases become canvases of creativity, tailored to their owners. And with each sticker comes a story.

Taylor Smith '24 laughs while describing a sticker picturing a beaver named Beave, who was taken in by a woman and later became TikTok famous. Beave was eventually released back into the wild but lives on as merch — hence the sticker on Smith's laptop. "My favorite goofy one," she says.

A sticker for the NCAA golf championships signifies an accomplishment that Smith was especially proud of.

"I got to go on a work trip to the championships," she says. "It was the first time I traveled with the men's golf team, and it was really cool for me to have a lot of responsibility when it came to social media and reporting on the team."

Laptops showcase students' likes and quirks and obsessions.

Serena Wang x'26's favorite sticker, which says "#stayhydrated," represents her passion for Formula 1 racing. It's an inside reference to a driver's comment from the Red Bull team.

Marin Rosen x'26 has a sticker of a cake with her sorority's name on it. It was a gift from someone at a different school who became a good friend.

Rosen has no use for a laptop without stickers. "It's just another part of my life that I can personalize and make colorful."

SOPHIA ROSS X'25

New Solutions for Our Planet

UW–Madison launches the Sustainability Research Hub.

The new Sustainability Research Hub will make UW–Madison a preeminent destination for sustainability research and education. It will connect researchers across departments, target major federal grants, and create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student research.

UW–Madison has produced substantial sustainability-related research in recent years, including nearly 1,200 grants supporting $130 million in research and development expenditures during fiscal year 2022. The Sustainability Research Hub will facilitate a significant expansion in this research at a time when sustainability insights and solutions are in high demand across many sectors, from governments to corporations.

"The breadth and depth of sustainability research on this campus — from engineering to agronomy, and from history and art to chemistry and geosciences — is remarkable," says **Paul Robbins '89,** dean of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. "But the challenges of coordinating all this talent, the effort required to produce the synergies needed to be competitive, and the expertise to turn all that talent into major, highly competitive, multimillion-dollar grants: those are things that the hub can address. By investing in grant writers, matchmakers, and project and award coordinators, we are empowering scholarly talent and leveraging it to do something far bigger than we are achieving today."

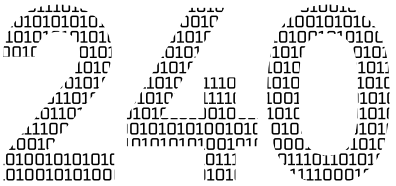
Holly Gibbs PhD'08, a geographer with the UW Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, says the Sustainability Research Hub will "accelerate our capacity to get the funding needed to implement our ideas." Gibbs leads a team that studies tropical deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon and solutions for sustainable supply chains, with research that has informed policies for government, nongovernmental organizations, and companies.

"The Sustainability Research Hub will power the types of transformative collaboration that are easy to dream about but hard to put into action," Gibbs says. "It will allow us to take more risks, join more campuswide research teams, and dig deeper to find the solutions needed by our planet."

NATHAN JANDL MA'10, PHD'16

Robbins: "We are empowering scholarly talent."

NELSON INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



The number of UW–Madison students who have opted for an information science major in just its second full year as an undergraduate program. The interdisciplinary major integrates coursework in computing, analytics, design, ethics, and social impact, exploring the intersection between technology and human values. "The information science program gives students a unique angle of inquiry, a lens through which they can study how technology and data are changing the world — and how they can be harnessed to improve it," says **Kristin Eschenfelder,** academic associate dean for the School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences.

"Failure is not final unless you choose not to learn from it. Since some measure of failure is inevitable in each of the journeys you're about to take, I hope you react by learning what you're willing to do to find your own version of success."

— Badger hockey legend **Meghan Duggan '11** at spring 2024 commencement

RAW MILK IS RISKY

Exposure to raw milk infected with the currently circulating H5N1 avian influenza virus poses a real risk of infecting humans, but the virus may not spread very far or quickly to others, according to a set of laboratory experiments led by UW–Madison researchers.

"This relatively low risk is good news, since it means the virus is unlikely to easily infect others who aren't exposed to raw infected milk," says **Yoshihiro Kawaoka,** a UW–Madison professor of pathobiological sciences who led the study alongside **Keith Poulsen '00, DVM'04, PhD'12,** director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. They collaborated with researchers at Texas A&M University, Japan's University of Shizuoka, and elsewhere.

Kawaoka cautions that the findings represent the behavior of the virus in mice and ferrets and may not account for the infection and evolution process in humans. In their experiments, the UW–Madison team found that mice can become ill with influenza after drinking even relatively small quantities of raw milk taken from an infected cow in New Mexico. They also tested the bovine H5N1 virus's ability to spread through the air by placing ferrets infected with the virus near but out of physical contact with uninfected ferrets. There was some airborne transmissibility, but not a substantial level.

These results underscore the potential risks of consuming unpasteurized milk and possibly undercooked beef derived from infected cattle if the virus spreads widely among beef cattle.

"The H5N1 virus currently circulating in cattle has limited capacity to transmit in mammals," Kawaoka says. "But we need to monitor and contain this virus to prevent its evolution to one that transmits well in humans."

WILL CUSHMAN MS'16

UW–MADISON IS A "NEW IVY"

Forbes magazine has named UW–Madison a "new Ivy," one of 20 public and private universities across the United States that are "turning out the smart, driven graduates craved by employers of all types."

When it drew up the list of new Ivies, *Forbes* looked at more than just test scores and admissions selectivity. The magazine conducted surveys with hiring managers about institutions where they frequently recruit. It found that compared to five years ago, 33 percent of employers were less likely to hire Ivy League graduates, and 42 percent were more likely to hire public university grads.

Hiring managers are increasingly turning to these 20 public and private institutions for graduates who are better prepared to enter the workforce, as they've done much to improve their students' readiness over the past five years, *Forbes* said. The new Ivies are schools that "attract high achievers and turn out hard-working, highly regarded employees."

Being named a new Ivy is a reflection of UW–Madison's successful efforts to strengthen educational outcomes, career development, and the college experience for all students, says Provost **Charles Lee Isbell Jr.**

"UW–Madison has committed to expanding educational programming not only in areas of high student demand, such as in the rapidly growing School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences, but also by emphasizing a broad and interdisciplinary educational experience. At the same time, we've worked to make education here more accessible and affordable through efforts such as Bucky's Tuition Promise and increased online offerings."

KÄRI KNUTSON

ALTHEA DOTZOUR

An Old Friend in a Different Form

For more than 100 years, a stately elm tree known as "Elmer" stood in the courtyard outside the Hector F. DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Building. It served as a meeting place that connected generations of students and researchers — until Dutch elm disease struck, and Elmer came down in 2018. But the tree has returned to the building in the form of a striking art installation by **Chloris Lowe '04,** who created rods from Elmer's wood, attached them to a frame shaped like a molecular structure, and hung them in a study room near the tree's old location. Titled *Hogiwe Hirokirere Hii (Connecting Paths),* the piece recognizes campus's Ho-Chunk history and anchors yet another UW meeting place.

BORA ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

A New Home for Humanities

The College of Letters & Science building is set to open in 2026.

The future home for the humanities at UW–Madison took one step closer to reality in May, when donors joined campus and local officials to break ground for Irving and Dorothy Levy Hall.

"Not only are we breaking ground, but we're making a statement," says **Eric Wilcots,** dean of the College of Letters & Science. "We're making a significant investment in the humanities and renewing our commitment to telling the human story."

Levy Hall is the College of Letters & Science's new, 136,000-square-foot academic building, set to open in the summer of 2026. When complete, the new building will feature five levels, 13 classrooms, and 1,100 seats for students. Designed to partially replace the Humanities Building, it will be home to the departments of African American Studies, American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano/a and Latina/o Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, History, Jewish Studies, and Religious Studies.

The building is named for the parents of **Marv '68, JD'71** and **Jeff '72 Levy,** whose $20 million gift helped make the project possible.

"If we were going to get involved, it was going to be this project, because all three of us have L&S degrees," said Jeff Levy, noting that deceased brother Phil Levy '64 was also an L&S alum. He predicted that the building that honors his parents would become "a beehive of activity" for UW students. "Every student at some point in their undergraduate career has at least one or two classes in Letters & Science, and that means a lot to us, too."

AARON R. CONKLIN MA'93

TOM LYNN/UW ATHLETICS

Last season, with help from new coach Mike Hastings (middle), Badger men's hockey roared back into contention with a 26–12–2 record and a spot in the NCAA Tournament — and fans noticed. Ticket scans at the Kohl Center increased 58 percent over the previous season, and the February 3 game against Minnesota was the first sellout in nearly five years. Wisconsin ranked second nationally behind North Dakota with an average announced attendance of 10,059.

JEFF MILLER

Many athletes proudly represented UW–Madison at the Paris Olympics. Among them were Rose Lavelle '17 (above) in soccer; Lauren Carlini '17 and Dana Rettke '21 in volleyball; Zach Ziemek '16 and Mohammed Ahmed '14 in track and field; Phoebe Bacon x'25 and Taiko Torepe-Ormsby x'26 in swimming; Alev Kelter '15 in rugby; and Grace Joyce '20, Lauren O'Connor '20, Maddie Wanamaker '17, MS'24, and Sophia Vitas '16 in rowing.

A GENDER SPLIT IN HOMESCHOOLING

Women took on more education-related childcare responsibilities than men during the first several months of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this disparity was even sharper for some lower-income women, according to a new UW study.

The study found that daily time spent helping children with education-related activities, such as virtual schooling, homework, and school projects, decreased for men in 2020 compared to previous years. For women, that daily time commitment more than doubled. For low-income women living in areas with widespread childcare facility closures during the pandemic, the increase in time was even steeper.

Women reported spending an average of 32 minutes per day on education-related childcare activities between May and December 2020, compared to an average of 12 minutes per day on education-related childcare activities in 2019. Men reported about five minutes per day prior to the pandemic and just one minute per day in 2020.

While previous studies have shed light on gender disparities in caregiving work during the pandemic, this analysis is the first to examine a possible link between childcare facility closures and such disparities.

Ran Liu, an assistant professor in the UW School of Education's Department of Educational Policy Studies, says the findings show a need for stronger support for women from care partners, childcare centers, schools, and community organizations during similar public crises in the future.

"This gendered division could seriously limit women's opportunities for employment and exacerbate household and labor market inequality," Liu says.

LAUREL WHITE

MICHAEL P. KING/CALS

Creating No-Melt Ice Cream

The new product holds it shape for four hours.

Eating ice cream puts you in a race against the clock to finish your scoop before it becomes a puddle. But in the UW Department of Food Science, **Cameron Wicks PhD'24** (above) is working on a solution that adds naturally occurring compounds to ice cream to prevent it from coating your hands and new jeans.

"We learned that adding polyphenols to ice cream can create a product that holds its shape for over four hours at room temperature," says Wicks. "That's pretty close to a no-melt ice cream."

Polyphenols are compounds found naturally in foods like green tea, blueberries, and cranberries and known for their health benefits. After creating ice cream samples with various levels of polyphenol extract, Wicks ran some meltdown tests. She positioned ice cream samples on a wire mesh, each above its own beaker. The beakers sat on scales to record the weight of the dripping ice cream. With this data, she assessed how quickly each ice cream sample melted.

Prior research had shown that polyphenols can decrease the ice cream's melting rate, but little information was available to explain how that happened. At UW–Madison, Wicks was able to combine the expertise from Associate Professor **Bradley Bolling '02, PhD'07**'s lab, which has been studying polyphenol chemistry, with the expertise of Professor **Richard Hartel**'s lab, which has the scoop on ice cream science.

"Ice cream already brings delight to many people around the world," Wicks says. "So to be able to make a new novelty is a pretty cool thing to do."

ELISE MAHON

Relive the 1994 Rose Bowl

On its 30th anniversary, the Badgers' first win in Pasadena is worth another look.

Thirty years ago, the Wisconsin Badgers returned to the Rose Bowl after a three-decade drought and three prior winless appearances. They clinched the bid after defeating Michigan State at the Coca-Cola Classic in Tokyo and securing a 9–1–1 record. In just four years, head coach **Barry Alvarez** had miraculously transformed the floundering program he inherited. There was just one thing left to do.

If you were too young to watch the 1994 Rose Bowl (like this author) or simply want to relive the glory, you can find a video on YouTube. Badger fans who invaded Pasadena coined the phrase "Camp Randall West" as they turned Rose Bowl Stadium into a sea of red — despite playing the UCLA Bruins on their home turf.

The video transports you back to the '90s: the less-than-high-definition footage; the players' comically large shoulder pads; the UW's starting quarterback, **Darrell Bevell '96,** also serving on special teams as the holder. But on the whole, the game action — grinding yet thrilling — wouldn't feel entirely out of place as a Big Ten slugfest today. (And welcome to the Big Ten, UCLA.)

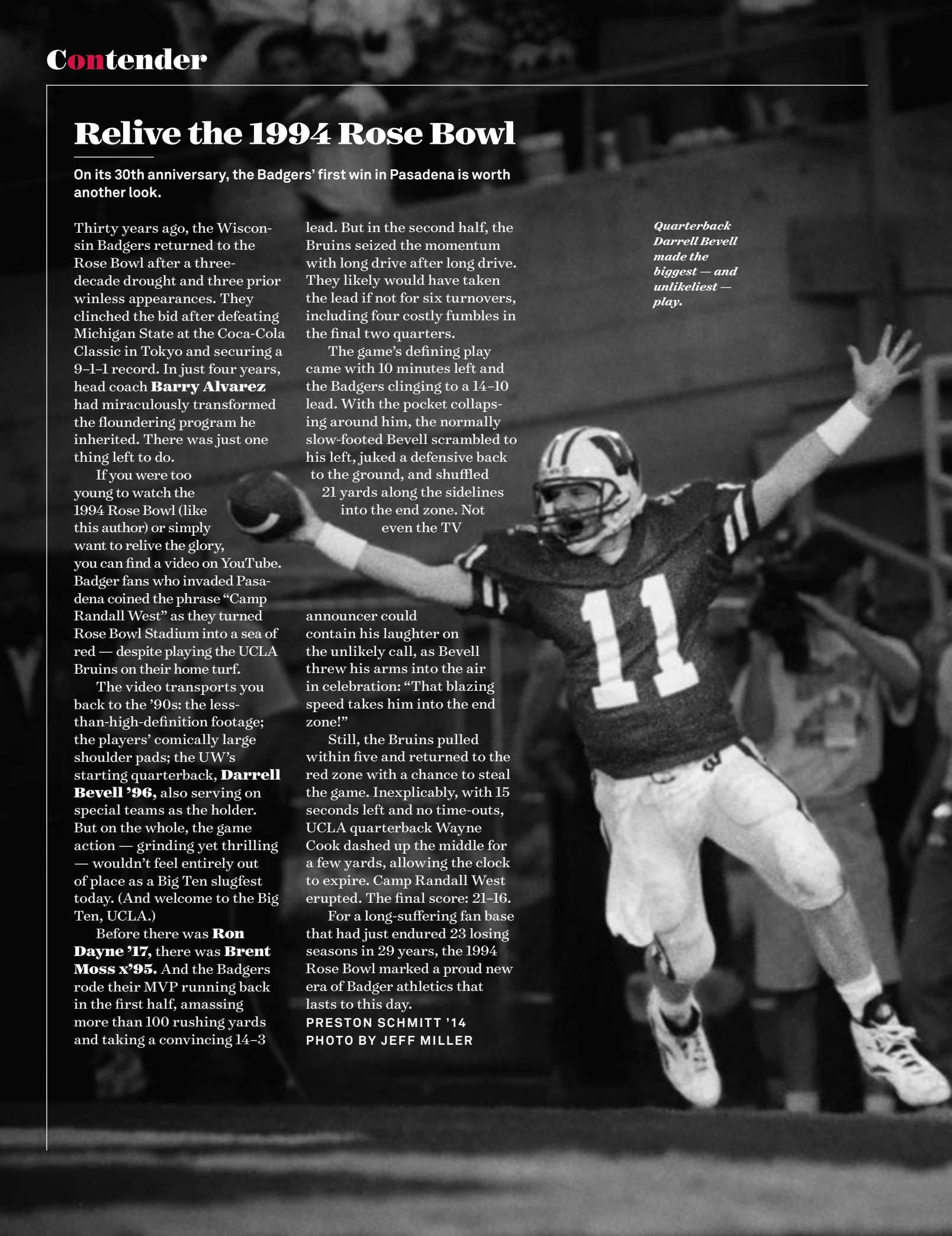
Before there was **Ron Dayne '17,** there was **Brent Moss x'95.** And the Badgers rode their MVP running back in the first half, amassing more than 100 rushing yards and taking a convincing 14–3 lead. But in the second half, the Bruins seized the momentum with long drive after long drive. They likely would have taken the lead if not for six turnovers, including four costly fumbles in the final two quarters.

The game's defining play came with 10 minutes left and the Badgers clinging to a 14–10 lead. With the pocket collapsing around him, the normally slow-footed Bevell scrambled to his left, juked a defensive back to the ground, and shuffled 21 yards along the sidelines into the end zone. Not even the TV announcer could contain his laughter on the unlikely call, as Bevell threw his arms into the air in celebration: "That blazing speed takes him into the end zone!"

Still, the Bruins pulled within five and returned to the red zone with a chance to steal the game. Inexplicably, with 15 seconds left and no time-outs, UCLA quarterback Wayne Cook dashed up the middle for a few yards, allowing the clock to expire. Camp Randall West erupted. The final score: 21–16.

For a long-suffering fan base that had just endured 23 losing seasons in 29 years, the 1994 Rose Bowl marked a proud new era of Badger athletics that lasts to this day.

PRESTON SCHMITT '14
PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER



Quarterback Darrell Bevell made the biggest — and unlikeliest — play.

Teaching Possibility

Professor Carlyn Mueller helps students with disabilities realize their potential.

Carlyn Mueller was always a good student. She excelled in her high school's advanced English and psychology classes, and she successfully navigated a learning disability in math through her special-education coursework — but she received noticeably more praise surrounding her accelerated classes (like honors English) than her assisted ones (like math). As an assistant professor of special education and disability studies in the UW's School of Education, she's trying to change that trend.

"In special education, we spend a lot of time pushing kids away from what makes them unique rather than acknowledging the ways that their disabilities inform every part of their lives in a really positive, powerful way."

Mueller studies disability-identity development in special education: how students understand their disability labels and how these attitudes influence their social and academic experiences in school. Her research suggests that having positive adult role models who live with disabilities is conducive to helping these students think about their futures and realize their full potential.

As part of her curriculum, Mueller brings in guest speakers with disabilities so her nondisabled students can get firsthand accounts of lived experiences they will inevitably encounter and, hopefully, be able to reflect in their classrooms. Her syllabus is reflected in this year's Go Big Read program, which engages members of the campus community and beyond in a shared, academically focused reading experience.

Chancellor **Jennifer L. Mnookin** selected *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body* by Rebekah Taussig as the 2024–25 Go Big Read book. Taussig is a disability advocate and educator who began sharing her experiences navigating life as a disabled person on her Instagram account, @sitting_pretty. Her memoir is a natural extension of the laid-bare storytelling she started on social media.

"This book is a wonderful opportunity for our community to engage in critical and timely dialogue around disability and accessibility," Mnookin said.

For Mueller, Taussig's book is also an invitation for members of the disabled community to feel seen and celebrated, and for those seeking an authentic understanding of life experiences they have yet to share.

"I think there's some power in vulnerability that's really beautiful and hard for people with disabilities," Mueller says. "The lengths that [Taussig] is willing to go, to be open about her experience, feel like such a beautiful gift for people with disabilities to feel some connection and for nondisabled people to feel like they have a connection to that experience, too."

To Mueller, reading Rebekah Taussig's book is one way that campus can engage in meaningful discussion and build community around the experiences of disabled people.

Your work centers disabled students as "experts of their own experiences." How might this framing improve students' experiences in special education?

We think about special ed as a place that you go because there's something "wrong" or because you need extra help, [but] there's just so much potential power in those spaces and potential sources for community and collective culture. I'm using some of my experience to say there's more we can learn from the individual lived experience of disability that sometimes gets ignored in the field.

Tell me about the importance of role models in your research.

There are lots of conversations around how we make pathways for people with disabilities to become teachers, because we know that when you have representation of all kinds, students get that mirrors-and-windows effect: you get to see yourself represented in the classroom, and then you get a window into what your life could be like if you keep on persisting and continuing on your own path. When students see people who can proudly wear their identity on their sleeve, it only benefits the kids who share that identity, and it expands the window into different experiences for kids who don't share that identity.

How does Taussig's work resonate with yours?

Some of the work I've done with adults has been using a qualitative method called "life history interviewing," where we talk through their experience in school related to developing disability identity. When you boil that down, it's storytelling, right? Taussig has done this in such a powerful way and has such clarity around her own emotional experience, [which] I think a lot of adults are still trying to sift through. She does it in a way that brings people into the messiness of it.

What are some potential outcomes of a campuswide reading of a memoir like this?

You learn so much in actual deep relationships with other people. I think this book provides one way of doing that because it's so open and it's so deep. It's one way for people who have never had the lived experience [of dis-

ability] to understand one person's experience, and it presents an opportunity to build some of that connection and some of that commitment to the disability community.

How can people engage with disability culture beyond reading this book?
At the end of all of my intro-to-disability courses, I always say the basic-level thing you can do is follow disabled creators on social media; get your news about disability from people with disabilities. There are so many ways that politics and health issues impact the disabled community, and you want to hear from people who are doing that work. Participation in community events also legitimizes disability as culture instead of treating it as a problem or something that we need to hide away or accommodate. It legitimizes disability as a way of being in the world that is powerful and creative and full of joy.

Interview by Megan Provost '20
Photo by Althea Dotzour

Every Stone Tells a Story

The museum staff pose with replicas of fossils.Clockwise from left: Dave Lovelace, a mast-odon, a pteranodon, Carrie Eaton, Rich Slaughter, and Brooke Norsted.

The staff of the UW's Geology Museum know that the value of a rock is in its narrative.

BY JOHN ALLEN
PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER

In a plastic bag in his office, Rich Slaughter keeps a collection of coins adding up to $5.89.

Arguably, it's not the most important gift that the UW's Geology Museum has ever received. Certainly, it isn't the biggest, either by volume or mass or financial value. But the story behind it makes it among the most *valued*, at least to Slaughter, who's been the museum's director since 2004. The bag of change is the only monetary gift he ever felt so strongly about that he decided the museum should preserve it.[1]

"It's from a kid who, this was their piggy bank, basically," he says, "and I always wanted to hold on to that. So when it came time to do the end-of-the-month accounting, I put in my own $5.89 so I could preserve this original money. It's very sweet."

Stones, we're told, are axiomatically unfeeling, but the Geology Museum — the UW's repository for and shrine to stones — is a sentimental place. It was born by decree of the UW Board of Regents on October 7, 1848, and for most of its 175 years, it had only one assigned staff member at a time. That person devoted himself or herself not only to the collection and study of rocks, but also to their interpretation: to discovering and sharing what those rocks mean. Since Slaughter took over the directorship, the museum staff has slowly grown to four full-time employees. Each new person has increased the museum's collection of treasures — and not just by adding literal gems, but by increasing its store of stories.

Rich Is Rich

When I met with Rich Slaughter in his office, it was March, and Slaughter was trying to solve a problem. The museum wanted to acquire a meteorite, and not just any meteorite: the first ever discovered in Dane County. Called the Vienna meteorite,[2] it weighs in at 110 pounds, the largest iron meteorite discovered in the United States since 1981. The museum wanted it — and wanted to have it in time to put it on display at a UW–Madison open house in early April. But the deal was not yet complete.

"Right now, we're about $30,000 short," Slaughter told me. That $30,000 is the equivalent of 5,094 piggy banks,[3] and with only a few weeks to go, the museum didn't have time for 5,094 piggy banks. It was taking a lot of special effort to land the meteorite.

"I'm optimistic," said Slaughter, "though I'm running on fumes at this point. The base work doesn't go away."

As director of the Geology Museum and Sherry Lesar Distinguished Chair of Geological Wonder, Slaughter has a wealth of base work. He oversees the staff and the collection, and he meets with donors — whether they're giving money or objects. He also manages the sales case in the museum's gift shop, and he examines rocks and stones and putative fossils from people who are curious to know what their objects are.

"There's a fountain in the courtyard. I wake it up in the spring, and I shut it down in the fall. All of the coins, I have them. … I keep track of the wishes."

"Every week we identify objects for the general public," says Slaughter. "In well over 90 percent of the cases, people think they have meteorites. They do not. Or they suspect they have dinosaur eggs. They do not."

Few of his duties are particularly remunerative, though some add to his collection of treasures.

"This is a secret," he says. "No one really knows I do it, but there's a fountain in the courtyard [of Weeks Hall for Geological Sciences]. I wake it up in the spring, and I shut it down in the fall. All of the coins, I have them. I keep track of all the pennies. I keep track of the wishes."

Slaughter keeps track of a lot more than that. His office is the repository of the mementos that the museum and its staff have amassed. He has a microscope that belonged to former UW president Charles Van Hise 1879, 1880, MS1882, PhD1892. He has cabinets full of index cards and bits of rock and mineral. And on a sheet of white foam, under a dish towel, he had the Vienna meteorite, waiting to become official UW property.

The Department of Geoscience is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Weeks Hall in October. Learn more at geoscience.wisc.edu/weeks50.

[1] It is not, however, the only monetary-ish gift he's saved. The museum also keeps a donation box, and Slaughter is responsible for emptying it. Most of what people drop into the box is U.S. currency — bills and coins, which Slaughter enters into the museum budget. But people also drop in foreign coins and buttons and things. These, he keeps in another Ziploc bag.

[2] It's nothing to do with Austria. You'll see.

[3] Or, approximately, an infinite number of buttons.

Slaughter holds up a letter that accompanied a donation from one of the museum's fans. Slaughter's office collection includes coins and other objects given by children and visitors.

In essence, Slaughter's office is a museum to the Geology Museum.

The museum's longest-tenured current employee, Slaughter came to the UW in 2001 to join legendary director Klaus Westphal, who had run the place for 34 years. Geology Museum staff, Slaughter says, "have longer tenures than most." And he's well aware of the rich history that lies in his charge.

The Geology Museum was created by order of the UW Regents at the board's very first meeting.[4] In its century and three-quarters, it's had six homes: North Hall, when that was the UW's only building; South Hall; University Hall; Old Science Hall, until it burned down in 1884, taking the museum collection with it; the current Science Hall, where it resided from 1888 until 1980; and Weeks Hall, where it has spent the last 44 years.

Last year, the museum topped 60,000 visitors: individuals and families wandering through, college students taking a class (Slaughter estimates that about a tenth of the undergraduates in any given year have a class session in the museum), and about 10,000 Wisconsin grade-schoolers on guided tours.

"They love the dinosaurs, the mastodon, the meteorites, and the glowing rocks," Slaughter says. "You can rest assured, if you're dealing with 50 second-graders from Madison, statistically speaking, some of those children have never been in the same room as a dinosaur. We're in the inspiration business."

And when May rolled around and this year's elementary school field trips began arriving, the Vienna meteorite was there to inspire them. Optimism paid off, as did more than half a dozen donors.

Slaughter's work is rich in labor, rich in variety, and rich in problems. And he wants to keep it all to himself.

"I don't want to speak too highly of the job because I don't want the competition," he says. "I've got a great thing going. I don't want to lose this sweet gig."

Brooke Makes Marvels

Brooke Norsted MS'03 likes to talk about rocks.

"It's the stories you can tell," she says. "That's what I still love about geology, that you could look at a road cut or at a mountain range, or at an individual rock, and there are clues that are telling us how different that place used to be."

Norsted is the museum's associate director, and she specializes in public outreach — in storytelling. She joined the team in 2004, right after she graduated.

"I approached Rich when he was just becoming the director, and I said, 'Do you know of any science outreach-y jobs in Madison? Any tips?' " she says. "And he was like, 'Well, I've got a few months of grant funding. Would you like a job here?' And that was 20 years ago. We squeezed a lot out of those few months."

Norsted has spent her life squeezing as much as she can out of opportunities. She grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, and attended a high school that offered her two years of geology classes. She earned a bachelor's at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota, but before she committed to graduate school, she spent a year teaching preschool.

"I love Montessori philosophy, but I learned preschool was not the level at which I wanted to teach. There's very little geology," she says. "Though kids love rocks."

While a grad student, she became a tour guide in the Geology Museum, where she spent her days talking to kids about volcanoes and dinosaurs. "It would fill my cup," she says, "[and] recharge me to get back into my research." And it helped point out

[4] At that first meeting, regent Horace Tenney offered to print up a circular, asking Wisconsinites to gather samples "of the various ores, rocks, fossils, &c., found within the state" and send them to Madison for inclusion in the "Geological and Mineralogical Cabinet." Slaughter suspects the regents picked Tenney "because he ran a newspaper and owned a printing press." Slaughter has a framed copy of that circular in his office.

that she wanted to be in the inspiration business: to marry geology with the chance to tell stories to children.

It also introduced her to a hero: Marvel Ings '38.

Ings also loved the Geology Museum, just several decades before Norsted came along. From 1939 to 1942, Ings served as director — and she changed the museum's direction.

Early on, the Geology Museum was the domain of the university's greatest thinkers: Roland Irving, who helped establish the practice of petrography (writing detailed descriptions of rocks); Gilbert Raasch '29, PhD'46, who was the state's preeminent paleontologist; Charles Van Hise, who earned the UW's first doctorate.[5]

But if those scientists brought academic weight, Ings offered pizzazz. She was determined that the museum should be popular, especially with children, in an age when museums were usually oriented toward adults. When she took the director job, her hiring did not receive universal acclaim.[6] Very few women ran natural history museums in the early 20th century, and of them, Ings was the only one who didn't have a degree in the sciences: her bachelor's was in journalism.

This meant Ings knew how to work the media. "Museum Stones Tell Stories Thanks to Woman Curator," wrote the *Milwaukee Journal*. She crafted her own children's book,[7] *Ram-for-inkus*. And she took the museum's collections out of their cases.

"She went to storefronts on State Street and asked if she could put exhibits in to help share information about geology with the public," says Norsted, who found Ings inspirational. Norsted created a museum story time for children, "a tip of the hat to Marvel," she says. The associate director even dressed as Ings for Halloween, though the costume must have required some explaining. [8]

"She was just a classy lady," says Norsted. "I admire her."

Norsted carries on Ings's work, training museum guides, engaging with visitors. Her current focus includes finding ways to convey the concept of "deep time" — the very long time spans that geology covers. She's been working on the best analogies to illustrate how old the world really is. She has kids stand up straight: their feet are the formation of Earth, 4.56 billion years ago; the top of their head is the present.

"I ask people when dinosaurs went extinct, and someone will say 65 million years ago," she says. "If there's one number people can pull out of the ether, it's 65 million years ago."

Then she asks: where on the bodily timeline did dinosaurs go extinct? People frequently point to their belly button. The right answer is an inch down from the top of their head.

"I get to gently mock people for their math skills," she says. "But everything that's a fossil — *T. rex* and trilobites and mammoths — they're all on the head. From chin to knee, the earth is a slime world."

The entire history of the museum itself, at a mere 175 years, wouldn't penetrate the hair. But then Norsted is pleased to be able to make the vast scope of her science more accessible.

"It's hard to wrap your head around 4.56 billion years," she says. "But I feel like that's something that in the arc of my career, I'm in a place now where I've had a lot of time to experiment, and where I get to really share what I've learned."

Norsted teaches museum visitors about concepts such as "deep time," the span of billions of years that stretch back to Earth's beginning.

[5] In geology, naturally. His dissertation is a seven-volume study of the Lake Superior region.

[6] Slaughter keeps a newspaper article that offers patronizing praise to Ings, the museum's "girl curator."

[7] And I mean crafted literally: she took old Golden Books as a base and pasted her own text and illustrations over the original pages. The title is phonetic; the dinosaur is *Ramphorynchus.*

[8] The same Halloween, Slaughter went as the Science Hall fire of 1884. I imagine that required even more explaining.

Above: As the museum scientist, Lovelace conducts research in the field and in front of museum patrons. Visitors can see into his lab as they walk through the museum.

Opposite: Dinosaur and mastodon fossils (top) are among the museum's most popular exhibits, as are the glowing rocks. (bottom).

Dave Digs Dinosaurs

Dave Lovelace PhD'12 wants you to know that he's not just a dinosaur guy.

"I study a lot of things," says the museum scientist. "I'd really frame it as, I'm a paleo-ecologist. I'm more of a generalist than I am a specialist, and that's because I like to blend what I can interpret from the rock record and the fossil record."

Like Norsted, he enjoys reading rocks: the cataclysms and crises, the rise and fall of different species. "It's like a novel," he says. "I am a glorified storyteller."

Still, Lovelace does study dinosaurs, and right now, he's eager to share the name of one that he and his students discovered in Wyoming. But he has to practice patience. To name his dinosaur, Lovelace must wait for official publication of a study he led. "Until it's published, the name isn't official," he says. "Remember the example of the S*upersaurus*."

The *Supersaurus* is a sauropod[9] that was prematurely unveiled in 1973 by paleontologists who used that name informally: *saurus* for dinosaur and *super* because the dinosaur was really large. But then a journal[10] picked up the story and ran the name, and once it was in print, the name stuck, taxonomists be damned. So Lovelace is discreet, even with *On Wisconsin*.

This won't be the first extinct creature he's helped name. Recently, he was part of the crew that uncovered a previously unknown reptile called *Beesiiwo cooowuse,* announced in April 2023. *B. cooowuse* is a species of rhynchosaur, its name coming from the Arapahoe language and translating as "big lizard from the Alcova area." The name was chosen by the members of Wyoming's Arapahoe community, making *B. cooowuse* the first taxonomic name in Western science developed by and derived from the people indigenous to that region.

But the new dinosaur is special in a different way.

"For decades and decades," says Slaughter, "people have thought dinosaurs originated in the Southern Hemisphere. [This discovery shows that] the Northern Hemisphere has dinosaurs that are basically the same age. And so the origin [of dinosaurs] is probably a little bit farther back in time. That'll be a big splash."

Lovelace is not splashing — he's keeping quiet, if excitedly quiet.

One of the reasons Lovelace loves the UW Geology Museum is that it encourages geologists to dream big, especially those who, like him, have traveled nontraditional paths.

"I've had a very circuitous career," he says. "All sorts of adventures."

Lovelace grew up in Wyoming, a place where geology is less a science and more of an environment.

"The geology slaps you in the face," he says. "It's so visible that something has happened — you have layers of rock that are tilted up. There are fossils of different ages all over the state."

But: circuitous. After graduating from high school, Lovelace became a diesel mechanic working in oil fields. The geologists he worked with convinced him to return to school, and he began

[9] Like the one Fred Flintstone operates in his job at Slate Rock and Gravel.

[10] The journal in question was *Reader's Digest.*

As curator, Eaton keeps track of the museum's quarter of a million rocks, minerals, and fossils, most of which are in storage.

earning degrees until he realized he wanted a doctorate. He came to the UW and became more and more interested in Triassic-age fossils, following in the path of another former Geology Museum staffer, Maurice Mehl,[11] who led "the last deep research [in Wyoming's Triassic period]," Lovelace says. "And that's been the focus of our research since really 2008."

As a research scientist, Lovelace's job is to lead expeditions that will add new material to the museum's collection, conduct and supervise research on museum specimens, and guide students as they learn to collect and clean and process new fossils, showing them how to use the tools at hand. The UW's Geology Museum is relatively small, and small museums make the most of what they can scrape together.

"Paleontology is one of the fun sciences in that it can be extremely primitive," he says. "A lot of tools are recycled and repurposed."

Some of these are high-tech but borrowed: CAT scans from the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research, 3-D-printed fossil replicas from the College of Engineering's Makerspace.

But a lot of the museum's tools are items that have been designed for different purposes. "We are using, literally, dental picks that dentists can no longer use and donate to us," Lovelace says. "We used our family's toothbrushes, and we recycle those when they're done with them."

He also tries to recycle the material that his lab discards — rock that doesn't contain fossils, stones that had core samples taken, stuff that they decide has no academic value. It all goes into a rock pile behind Weeks Hall, where amateur geology enthusiasts can come and search through it, taking what they want. "They keep it out of the landfill,"[12] Lovelace says.

As for what the museum keeps, Lovelace and his students publish articles about it. "Publication adds value," he says. "It's not a literal monetary value as much as it becomes a more beneficial asset to the museum and science in general." Then most of it will go into storage. A small amount of it will end up on display.

And a very small amount of it may, with good fortune, name a new dinosaur.

Carrie Carries the Weight

When most people say they have tons of work to do, they're being metaphorical. But Carrie Eaton MS'04, the Geology Museum's curator, does not say *tons* lightly.

"My job is a little like being a librarian," she says, "where every book weighs between 40 and 800 pounds."

Eaton joined the museum staff in 2009, and like Norsted, she was a museum guide when she was a graduate student, before being sucked in by the place's gravitational pull. She was hired to oversee and care for the museum's specimens and exhibits.

"There's a lot of moving rocks," she says. "And repairing specimens."

As curator, Eaton manages the collection, which includes more than a quarter of a million rocks, minerals, fossils, and bits of Earth.[13] When new materials come in, she receives and processes them.

"In February of this year, we just signed the dotted line on a new mineral donation," she says. "And these minerals are of spectacular museum-display quality, so we've been secretly working downstairs since everything was finalized."

The collection — which includes not only

[11] Mehl is best known for assembling the Geology Museum's mastodon in the early 20th century.

[12] An ironic concern, considering that this fill is, essentially, land.

[13] And, as the Vienna meteorite shows, bits of non-Earth, too.

minerals, but some rocks and fossils as well — is called the Hudak Collection, named for Thomas Hudak '67, MA'74, a retired linguistics professor at Arizona State University and lifelong mineral collector.

He gathered specimens that were geologically and aesthetically interesting "and over time just amassed this big collection," says Eaton. "It's really great. My students are loving to get to see this. It's like geology Christmas down there."

The Hudak Collection may be spectacular in its aesthetic quality, but it's typical in that it came from someone whose connection to the Geology Museum was weighted with emotion. In the regents' 1848 call for geological samples, they said, "every neighborhood can do something," and over time, the UW has acquired a great many significant, beautiful, or remarkable bits from donors like Hudak, adding to the pieces that the staff members have purchased or collected on their own.

"It's well over 100 tons of material," says Slaughter.

It's Eaton's job to keep track of all those tons. "I'm the museum's data manager," she says. "I migrated all of our digital data into a new collections management system, and I'm constantly cleaning and refining that to try to make all of this more findable, more accessible."

She's working on having digital images made of every item, and then on making sure that those images include the correct data.

"A collection that is 175 years old has 175 years' worth of problems," she says.

But it also has 175 years' worth of stories. To celebrate the museum's anniversary, Eaton and her colleagues decided to present one new exhibit each month between October 2023 and October 2024: the Pine River meteorite last October, a sparkly cluster of grape agate in November, a fossilized starfish in December, evidence of a 1.85 billion-year-old asteroid impact in January, the antlers of an extinct giant stag moose in February, a trio of trilobites in March, and in April, the Vienna meteorite.[14] That last item was discovered by Jim Koch in 2009, when his plow struck it. He and his spouse, Jan Shepel, decided to donate most of it to the museum.

"I love that it was found on a farm by Wisconsin farmers," says Eaton. "And I think it's important to maintain that connection with the public and show that anybody out there has the capacity or the ability to contribute something special to the museum."

After the meteorite went on display in April, Eaton and the museum staff celebrated and then turned to thinking about May's new exhibit, and June's, and on until October. Eaton and her student employees keep on shipping and receiving new material, polishing and preparing it, and cataloguing its stories.

"I would argue I'm the museum's biggest fan," she says. "But I'd probably fight for that status amongst my peers." ●

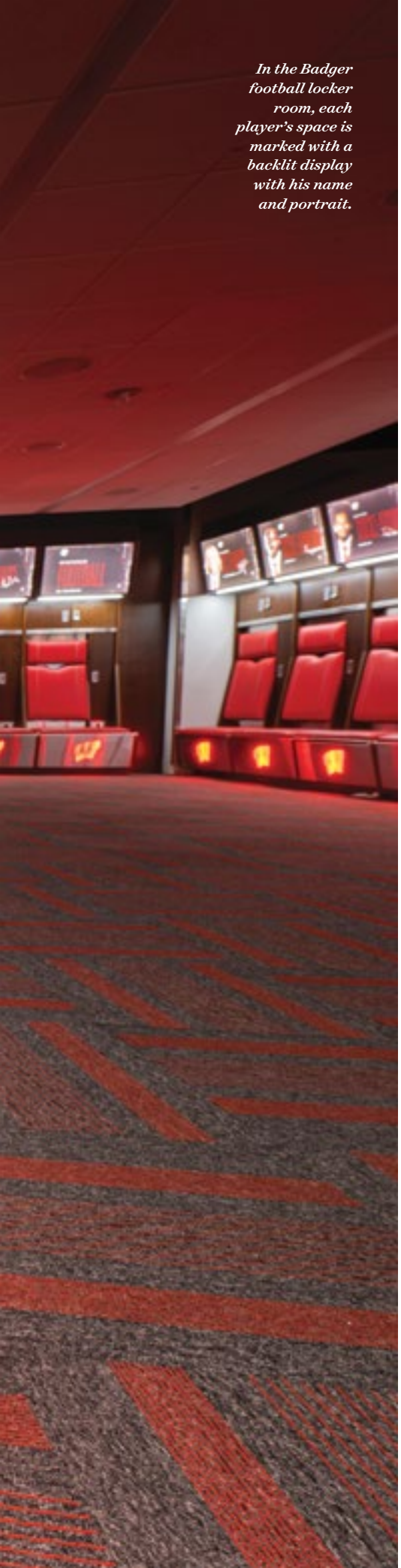
John Allen is associate publisher for On Wisconsin. *We don't know who he associates with.*

The Vienna meteorite, acquired earlier this year, is the first meteorite ever discovered in Dane County and the largest iron meteorite discovered since the 1980s.

[14] Meteorites are named after the closest post office to their place of discovery. This space rock is named for the post office in Vienna Township.

BY PRESTON SCHMITT ’14

PHOTOS BY BRYCE RICHTER



In the Badger football locker room, each player's space is marked with a backlit display with his name and portrait.

The VIP Campus Tour

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A peek at UW places only insiders get to see

It's easy to enter the UW–Madison campus. There aren't security gates or visitor badges. It's practically impossible to discern where the city ends and the campus begins. A hallmark of public universities is access, and the UW is as open as they come.

But there are some limits — even here — for safety and function. And it's those boundaries that inspired this story, an off-path tour of important UW places that most people don't get to see. It took me and photographer Bryce Richter to every corner of campus as we walked through the Badger football team's state-of-the-art locker room, observed the magical production of Babcock ice cream, and listened to a ringing rendition of "On, Wisconsin!" at the top of the Carillon Tower.

Join us for a trip behind the UW's closed doors.

A Sports Sanctuary

Aside from the Camp Randall playing field, there is no space more sacred to Badger football players than the locker room. It's where they mentally and physically prepare for action and recover afterward. The setting is also something of a social experiment for the 120 young men who cohabit the space and build a brotherhood.

But for our visit, it's empty. The team is enjoying a short summer recess.

As we enter the locker room, we see a large trophy case. The placement is motivation fuel. The Paul Bunyan Axe and Freedom Trophy are in their rightful places, reflecting last season's victories over Minnesota and Nebraska, respectively. The Heartland Trophy is in Iowa, leaving an empty display but a powerful message.

Nearby, a four square court is stitched into the carpet. The playground game was a popular bonding activity in the locker room prior to the safety protocols of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it hasn't made a comeback with recent rosters. (It's hard to compete with phone scrolling.)

The lockers are luxurious, nothing like the soulless row of steel you'd find in a gym. They were installed by the industry-leading Longhorn Lockers in 2019. The low-lit room glows Badger red, and each player's space is identified with a large, illuminated display with his name and portrait. The locker's surface is a three-foot-wide red, cushioned seat, which folds open to unveil ventilated storage components.

The lockers are randomly assigned, though veteran players can request

The ice-cream-making process at the Babcock Dairy Plant combines high-tech automation and old-fashioned manual labor.

the end units for a bit more comfort. Even in an empty locker room, you get a sense of the varied personalities. Some of the locker spaces are spotless to the point of looking unused, while others are littered with Gatorade bottles, granola bars, nail clippers, and rolls of athletic tape. A few lockers display photos from home along with other mementos. A large Hawaiian flag hangs in front of safety Kamo'i Latu x'25's locker.

The shared spaces feature modern amenities that range from functional to recreational: lounge chairs, TVs, a pool table, four-foot-deep recovery pools, a saltwater float tank, nap pods, a fully equipped barber station, and a nutrition room.

"Several guys will anchor in here for hours post-practice," says head equipment manager Jeremy Amundson '02. And it's easy to see why.

Sugar Central

Nearly all UW–Madison alumni share a taste for Babcock ice cream. Since opening in 1951, the Babcock Dairy Plant has produced the same recipe for its ice cream base, which includes fresh milk, real cane sugar, a gelatin stabilizer, and 12 percent butterfat. We wanted to see how it all comes together to create such an unforgettable first lick.

Visitors can follow along from an enclosed observation deck, but we're able to view the production up close. We don food-safety coveralls in the entryway. The concrete floor is painted yellow and flooded with soapy water for sanitation purposes, a scene that reminds me of a quarantine zone from the movies. But this place is no dystopia: it's the home of Union Utopia (vanilla with swirls of peanut butter, caramel, and fudge) and nearly two dozen other delicious flavors of Babcock ice cream.

This morning, Babcock is producing two of its bestsellers: vanilla and orange custard chocolate chip. We watch the final step of production as the base mixture, prepared at least 16 hours earlier to allow the ingredients to fully hydrate, is pumped through a specialized freezer and into packaging. The orange custard batch requires a couple of extra steps: adding the orange dye, flavoring, and egg custard base to a mixture tank and dumping chocolate chips into an ingredient feeder.

The plant received its first major renovation in 2023. A new high-flow ice cream maker with touchscreen monitors replaced original equipment, automating key parts of the production process. But we still observe manual labor: technician Joe Chamberlain positions each half-gallon container under the dispensers at a timed interval, and student workers add the lids, box the products, and send them off to the blast freezer to harden at –20 degrees. The next destination: a store or dipping cabinet near you.

I can attest to the process's results, as I can't help but request a scoop of orange custard chocolate chip

★

Performers sometimes have quirky requests, including the type of ice.

from the nearby Babcock Dairy Store after the tour. The ice cream somehow tastes even better after I've seen how it's made.

Behind the Curtain

Wisconsin Union Theater audiences are no strangers to star power. The UW could fill a hall of fame with the legendary public figures and performing artists who have taken the stage, from Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, and Eleanor Roosevelt to Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Harry Belafonte.

But few get to see the stars backstage before and after the big show. The green room and dressing room are the private areas where performers can comfortably put on and then shed their public masks.

With soprano sensation Renée Fleming on the 2021–22 schedule, the Wisconsin Union spruced up its green room with new carpeting and furniture and a fresh coat of paint. The space is a blend of casual lounge and minimalist kitchen. It's tidy and comfortable, with wall art tracing a century of classical music performances at the venue.

The backstage green room at the Wisconsin Union Theater is a blend of casual lounge and minimalist kitchen.

For more peeks behind the scenes at UW–Madison, plus a video tour of the Carillon Tower, see this article on our website, onwisconsin.uwalumni.com.

On the day of a show, the green room is stocked with standard catering as well as special requests. Common items include lemon, honey, and tea to soothe a singer's vocal cords; berries and nuts to provide a natural energy boost; and wine to wind down the night. Sometimes the contractual requests skew quirky, from wanting an on-call chiropractor to dictating the color of towels or type of ice (for example, chipped and presented in a wine glass).

The theater is home to eight dressing rooms, which allow a whole troupe to receive star treatment — even the band members backing a lead artist. "They'll see their names on the dressing room and put it on Instagram," says Kate Schwartz, the artist services manager.

But it's still the students who tend to impress visiting artists the most. Performers will often sit down with members of the Wisconsin Union Directorate and host a studio class for a smaller audience prior to the main show.

"It's almost like reverse celebrity, where they're

★

When acquiring a piece, the Chazen considers both how it will be displayed and how it will be stored.

The Chazen Museum of Art painstakingly preserves some 23,500 works that are not on exhibit.

so honored to meet the students who chose them to visit," Schwartz says. "Renée asked us, 'How come this isn't a model for every university?' "

The Most Spectacular Storage

The Chazen Museum of Art's permanent collection holds around 25,000 works. Even if you observe every piece on exhibit, you will have only seen a small fraction of its total treasures. Some 23,500 other artworks remain out of public view, painstakingly preserved in storage areas on- and off-site.

The first storage room we enter looks like an industrial warehouse. We're greeted by open shelves containing small sculptures that could serve as an exhibition of their own. Rows of floor-to-ceiling racks reveal carefully hung artworks, suggesting the cluttered walls of an old Victorian home.

The storage rooms are strictly controlled for both temperature (70 degrees) and humidity (50 percent). When acquiring a piece, the Chazen must consider not only how it will be displayed but also how it will be stored. This often requires a customized solution. While on display, Peter Gourfain's *Roundabout* is a monumental sculpture: a wooden wheel 22 feet in diameter, with 12 curving columns that rise from the base and display dozens of carved terracotta panels. But for storage, it's been deconstructed into dozens of puzzle pieces.

"It's a constant game of Tetris," says Kate Wanberg '10, the Chazen's exhibition and collections project manager. "We move things around and

Anderson's keyboard is connected by wires to the 56 carillon bells, ranging from 15 to 6,823 pounds.

consolidate to make more space."

Wanberg leads us to another room, this one with unframed works on paper. We can smell the ink as she opens a box with Japanese prints, each covered with protective glassine. Most artworks require the handler to wear gloves, but not these.

"You don't want to lose the ability to sense the edge of the paper and then cause a crease," Wanberg says. "We teach a really light touch, because you want to make sure you're not marking the paper or transferring oils."

If you feel like you're missing out, fear not: the Chazen's website features every piece in its permanent collection. And you can request an appointment to view any artwork that's off exhibit — so long as it's not stored in a hundred pieces.

A Keyboard on High

Lyle Anderson '68, MM'77, the UW's official carillonneur since 1986, laments that he can no longer give public tours of the Carillon Tower on Observatory Drive. An engineering survey a few years ago deemed that the steep, winding staircases are too risky for visitors. The carillon is played atop the tower to unseen passersby 85 feet below — just Anderson and his 56 bells, ranging in size from 15 to 6,823 pounds.

But today, we're an exception, allowed to join him for a trek up the tower and an impromptu concert. The tower was built in 1935 with just 25 bells, limiting the musical range to simple melodies. We see the large trapdoors on each floor that allowed new bells to be winched up until the carillon's completion in 1973.

The stairs are as advertised, especially an original section — basically a ladder — between the playing room and the bell chamber. The four-limbed climb is worth it when we see the bells in all their glory. Perfectly aligned rows of smaller bells hang in front of the bronze giants. Lightbulb-shaped clappers rest inside the bells, connected by wires to the keyboard and ready to strike.

Anderson serenades us with "On, Wisconsin!" It's mesmerizing to see each note mechanically register with the corresponding bell. For "Amazing Grace," he pushes down wooden batons with the sides of his fists while thrusting his feet at the levers.

"The newer generation plays a lot more with their fingers, almost like a piano," Anderson says.

The Dairy Cattle Center is the rare farm in the heart of a city, allowing cows to share the campus with students.

"My teacher from carillon school 40 years ago would have been absolutely appalled."

Anderson technically retired in 2016, but he still climbs the Carillon Tower every other Sunday for an hourlong concert. Where's the best place to listen?

"The courtyard out front or across the street," Anderson says. "If you get too far, buildings will block the sound, and traffic will make a lot of noise coming up the hill. But it's an outdoor, urban instrument, so that's just part of the show."

Where the Cows Come Home

You rarely see — or smell — a dairy farm in the heart of a metropolis. But at the flagship university in America's Dairyland, college students share the campus with cows. The Dairy Cattle Center on Linden Drive is hard to miss, its pair of silos piercing the city skyline and its farmstead odor detectable for blocks.

The UW's on-campus herd comprises 84 Holstein milking cows, split into two tie-stall barns. They're milked twice per day, at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. Local co-op Foremost Farms picks up the milk, occasionally delivering it to the nearby Babcock Dairy Plant for campus production of cheese and ice cream.

The herd's primary purposes, however, are for instruction and research. The Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and the School of Veterinary Medicine hold classes at the facility, where students learn how to interact with the cows and provide care. Research projects include animal welfare, food safety, and land stewardship.

Built in 1954, the Dairy Cattle Center has been renovated over the past decade to modernize its operations. Keeping the farm functioning requires four full-time staff members and a dozen or so students, including three managers who live on-site and conduct nightly rounds.

After putting on disposable shoe covers, Bryce and I enter the first barn and slowly approach the cows. It's not hard to sort the friendly ones from the shy ones. Some take a step back or shake their heads, a simple fear response that to us feels like stinging rejection. Others crane their necks toward us for attention, and we eagerly oblige. Stella takes a particular liking to Bryce, gently chomping his hand as if it were hay. When he points his camera for a close-up, she curiously smells the lens, covering it in snot and ending our photoshoot in memorable fashion.

The Inner Sanctum

"The chancellor is ready for you."

With that, we suddenly know what it feels like to meet with a very important person. And since we've fashioned this as a VIP tour, the most appropriate place to end it is at Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin's

★

In true Badger fashion, the chancellor balances the regal setting with playful touches.

The craftsmanship in Chancellor Mnookin's office harks back to Bascom Hall's 1850s construction.

office in Bascom Hall, where UW–Madison's most important decisions are made.

The grand space leaves you with little doubt of its standing. The high, ornamental ceiling sets the room's consequential tone. Classical moldings frame the arched windows and every wall, with craftsmanship harking back to Bascom Hall's 1850s construction. A marble fireplace with columned trim anchors the room.

The spacious office is split functionally into three sections. As you enter, there's a conference table for small-group meetings. The middle of the room can host more casual conversations, with a red velvet couch, coffee table, and upholstered chairs. (After laboring to move the chairs for a photo, we can confirm the furniture is made of real wood and is not from IKEA.) Mnookin's L-shaped workstation is at the far end, flanked by built-in bookshelves with a sizeable collection of law books, including her own works.

In true Badger fashion, Mnookin balances the regal setting with playful touches, including a mini Terrace chair, a foam pink flamingo, and a Bucky piggy bank. She doesn't hesitate when I ask whether she has a favorite object: "The photos of my family."

Mnookin's job takes her around the campus, the state, and sometimes the world, so there's no guarantee that she'll be at her desk on any given workday. When she is, the usual tasks include "answering emails, reading memos and documents, and thinking through both immediate needs and bigger-picture strategic questions," she says.

And yes, the chancellor has to hike up Bascom Hill, just like the rest of us.

"As long as it's not freezing cold," she says, "I appreciate earning a few steps at work." ●

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

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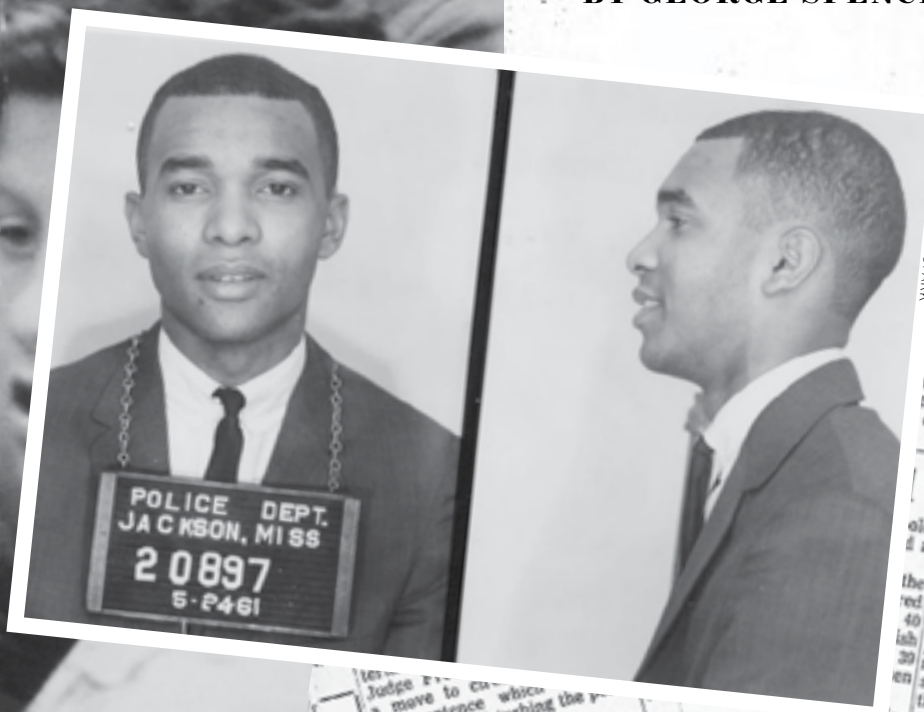
A Freedom Rider's Perilous Path

In between pickets and protests throughout the South, civil rights hero Dion Diamond x'64 did a stint at the UW.

BY GEORGE SPENCER



WASHINGTON AREA SPARK


Dion T. Diamond
(Continued From Page 1)
Judge LeBlanc said, "and the time has come for his sentence to be executed."
Answering an argument by Asst. Dist. Atty. Ralph Rey, Jones said he was not contending the sentence was illegal but asked Diamond be given credit for time served prior to his trial, which amounted to 57 days.
Jones told the court "abatement of the sentence is at the discretion of the judge" and argued "justice should be tempered with mercy."
LeBlanc noted he did not impose the maximum sentence provided by law under which Diamond was convicted.
"The court has no choice but to find these proceedings improper and irregular," the judge said. "The accused has no ground on which to demand an abatement or setting aside the sentence."
Jones said he was prepared to present an expert to testify regarding the health of Diamond. The defense attorney referred to Dr. Robert Coles, a psychiatrist and member of the Harvard University staff, who examined Diamond and reported confinement would impair his mental health.
"I cannot validate a proceeding by permitting testimony," the judge said. LeBlanc denied a defense contention that the sentence meted Diamond was "cruel or unusual." The 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits such punishment.
At the time of sentencing, Judge LeBlanc said he took into consideration the "gravity of the offense" on which Diamond was convicted.
"That wasn't an ordinary routine incident in which he

Diamond is accosted by a hostile mob at a 1960 drugstore sit-in.

JORDAN TOVIN

Diamond, pictured at home in Washington, DC, repeatedly risked his life to challenge segregation.

Dion Diamond x'64 had an unusual after-school pastime. Starting when he was 15 years old in 1956, he conducted what he called "private sit-ins" at drugstore soda fountains in his segregated hometown of Petersburg, Virginia.

"I would get joy out of sitting at the whites-only lunch counter," recalls Diamond, the son of a postal worker and president of his senior class. He typically waited until police came before running away. Other times, what he describes as his "very spontaneous and haphazard" protests included browsing the stacks of the whites-only library. As always, he took off only when officers arrived.

He never told his parents what he was doing. "It wasn't something I went home and bragged about," he says.

He also never got arrested. That would soon change.

"I don't know what motivated me in high school, except I just knew something was wrong," says Diamond, who transferred to the University of Wisconsin from Howard University in 1963.

Now 83 and living in Washington, DC, Diamond became a Freedom Rider, one of those brave activists, mostly college students, who rode interstate buses in the South, facing angry mobs and imprisonment to challenge segregation. Then, as a voter-registration coordinator for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), he risked his life in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Maryland.

Police handcuffed him more than 30 times. ("Please check with the FBI for dates and locations!" he says with a chuckle.) The Supreme Court heard two cases resulting from his arrests. He served about a year in prison on different occasions, including two months in solitary. He endured slurs, death threats, and attempts on his life.

"Dangerously fearless and dedicated" and armed with "a quick wit" is how SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael once described his friend. Diamond calls his activism "youthful exuberance."

"I hold Dion in awe," says Freedom Rider Henry Thomas. "The number of times they tried to kill him, the number of times he was shot at — I don't know all that he went through, but I know enough about it to say: how did you maintain your sanity?"

Today, Diamond, a retired human resources consultant, moves more slowly and sports a ready smile. Looking back on his activist days from the comfort of his desk chair in his home office, sunlight streaming in from wrap-around windows, he says, "I regret absolutely nothing that I have done. I have many regrets for what I have not done."

"YOU WANT TO DIE?"

In 1960, North Carolina college students electrified the nation with sit-ins at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro. The news inspired students at Washington, DC's Howard University, where Diamond, 19, was freshman class president and a physics major. "How can we be doing nothing?" he asked himself.

Soon, he and his classmates founded NAG, the Nonviolent Action Group. On the afternoon of June 9, a small group that included white members (to show broad support for the cause and get more publicity) held sit-ins at the Cherrydale Drug Fair and People's Drug Store in nearby Arlington, Virginia.

At People's, the manager closed the counter. When he refused to press charges, Dion and five others went to Drug Fair.

Police, having been tipped off, were waiting in riot gear. So were reporters and film crews. George Lincoln Rockwell, the head of the American Nazi Party, lived in Arlington. Soon he arrived with his followers — young toughs with ducktail haircuts and sideburns who wore brown shirts and swastika armbands.

Standing beside Diamond at the lunch counter, Rockwell asked, "Why do you go where people don't want you?"

When Diamond made no reply, Rockwell added, "You want to die?"

Again, Diamond said nothing. He kept his hands on the counter.

As a crowd of 300 gathered outside, Nazis put lit cigarettes on his seat and in a pocket of his pants. Thugs jabbed him with their elbows and tossed spitballs at him, according to Diamond's account to a newspaper reporter.

"He was steadfast," recalls Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, who sat beside him. "He got a cigarette or two put out on him, but he persevered and stayed nonviolent."

The protesters eventually fled to waiting cars in "a hail of epithets, bricks, and lighted cigarettes that seemed literally to set the night air alive with fire," according to divinity school student Laurence Henry, who took part in the sit-in.

The next day Diamond returned to Cherrydale — and at one point sat alone — to continue the protest.

"My training was strictly on the job," he recalls.

Less than two weeks later, almost all chain drugstores and department stores in Arlington and Fairfax counties and Alexandria announced they would serve Black customers.

STOP! GLEN ECHO IS SEGREGATED

Flush with victory and perhaps thinking another local success might come swiftly, NAG began daily picketing of the segregated Glen Echo amusement park just outside of DC that summer, sometimes with several hundred Black and white protesters.

"Glen Echo is almost something like a flower, something that blossomed, something that bloomed," Diamond said in a documentary about the protest, *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round*.

Counterdemonstrators, some of whom were Nazis, started a competing picket line. Irrepressible, Diamond on at least one occasion walked next to them, a moment a newspaper photographer captured. Smiling, his chin jauntily up, and wearing a long-sleeved shirt and a tie in the summer heat, Diamond holds a placard that reads, "STOP! GLEN ECHO IS SEGREGATED."

Police arrested protesters, some of whom were on the merry-go-round. Diamond was also taken into custody. It was not his first time in handcuffs. Earlier at a Howard Johnson's restaurant, police charged him with trespassing. The Supreme Court overturned that conviction.

Walking with Diamond that summer was a UW student who told the *Daily Cardinal* in 1964 that "Dion is sort of an agent, a provocateur."

He was a prankster, too. To drum up press coverage and highlight the absurdity of segregated facilities that admitted Africans but not African Americans, the picketers rented a black Cadillac limousine. Diamond, who had been in his high school drama club and won best-actor honors in his yearbook, donned a turban and dashiki. He sat in the back seat with a white female student who pretended to be his translator.

When the limo pulled up at the main gate, the elderly guard was "flabbergasted," according to Diamond. He blocked Diamond's path, but Dion commanded him in fractured high school French, "Je désire open the park maintenant." ("I want you to open the park now.")

"We didn't get in," says Diamond with a grin.

But once again NAG got results. In early 1961, Glen Echo announced it would open to everyone.

"It got nasty after that," Diamond recalls.

"HE SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE COWED"

As with the Greensboro sit-ins, he watched with outrage — and frustration at his own inaction — in 1961 when a mob in Alabama stopped the first bus of Freedom Riders. Someone threw a bomb. The bus roared with fire. Luckily, all on board escaped unharmed.

A call went out for more Freedom Riders. Diamond answered and joined a second group of buses in May 1961. "I thought it might be a long weekend, but it turned out to be two-and-a-half years," he says.

Things quickly got tense. A law enforcement helicopter flew above. Alabama police cars drove in front of and behind the bus. At the state line, Mississippi patrol cars replaced them.

National Guard troops rode the bus to deter mob violence. "We were so stupid we didn't realize the

"I regret absolutely nothing that I have done. I have many regrets for what I have not done."

guard were the same people who wore Ku Klux Klan outfits when they were not on the bus," Diamond says.

At Jackson, Mississippi, Freedom Riders were arrested and sent from jail to jail until they ended up at Parchman, the notorious state penitentiary. "We had no idea why they kept moving us, but the buses kept coming," says Diamond, who spent about two months behind bars in Mississippi. "We started something."

"I've been in situations where I've been frightened but didn't allow it to show."

That same summer, Diamond faced death at close quarters. While he was picketing a Nashville, Tennessee, grocery store with Carmichael, police deemed both men ringleaders, possibly because of Diamond's "irrepressible mouth. He simply would not be cowed," Carmichael wrote in his autobiography.

The men shared a city jail cell. At 2 a.m., an intoxicated white guard approached the bars wielding a pump-action shotgun, which he loaded as they watched. The guard pointed the barrel first at Carmichael and then at Diamond, who told him, "Come on, you cracker so-and-so. Pull the damn trigger. ... I'm ready to die."

Horrified at first, finally Carmichael taunted the guard, too. "Pull the trigger," he said.

The guard began trembling. He lowered the shotgun and slunk away.

The awestruck Carmichael concludes his story with an apt sobriquet for his cellmate. He dubs him "crazy-assed Dion Diamond."

"I've been in situations where I've been frightened but didn't allow it to show," says Diamond. "I masked my fear."

During the next three years, he would learn that, sometimes, even the best mask falls.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

After spending his spring semester behind bars, Diamond dropped out of college and joined SNCC, which sent him to Mississippi to organize voters. While in the town of McComb, he spent the night in a Black neighborhood by the railroad tracks.

While he was sleeping, a shotgun blast tore through the window by his bed, its pellets shredding the wall. When Diamond recounted that event in 2015 for a Library of Congress historian, he patted his belly and said, "If I'd had this girth then, a part of my body would have been shot off. That really made me realize the danger I was in."

January 1962 found him in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where police had used dogs and tear gas to disperse 2,000 students who walked out of classes at the all-Black Southern University. SNCC sent Diamond there to stage a second boycott.

The police had had enough. They arrested Diamond and charged him with multiple offenses, including disturbing the peace and criminal anarchy. "They said I was attempting to overthrow the State of Louisiana, and that's true," Diamond recalls. "If you get enough people to vote, you can change the Constitution."

A judge raised his bail from $7,000 to $13,000. After four days in the jail's general population, he was put in solitary confinement for about two months, presumably for his safety.

His cell measured six by eight feet. Lights blazed night and day.

From his "isolated dungeon," Diamond sent a letter that Howard University's newspaper ran under the headline "Diamond Was Still Cocky, Undefeated in 44th Day."

"Just as the little Dutch boy attempted to plug the dike, it seems as if all proponents of the 'old way of life' (or death to some) have been called forth to stem the raging tide of freedom," he wrote. "They realize that these tides are about to inundate the banks of the Southern way of life."

THE VOICE OF BLACK FOLKS

His NAACP attorneys appealed his conviction on the grounds that Louisiana's law against disturbing the peace was too vague. As his case wound its way to the Supreme Court, Diamond, now free on bail, continued his get-out-the-vote work in Mississippi.

Hoping to recruit white students from the North to volunteer in 1964 for Freedom Summer, an expansion of SNCC's efforts, Diamond in August 1963 attended the National Student Association Congress in Columbus, Ohio. His fellow Howard students were starting to graduate, and Diamond envied them.

By chance he found himself standing in a line next to a University of Wisconsin student who asked him about coming to Madison.

Knowing the UW was brimming with student activism, Diamond answered, "Hell, yes."

Three weeks later, he enrolled at the UW and switched his major from physics to history. "Because of my civil rights exposure, I wanted to find out why it took 100 years from the Emancipation Proclamation for there to be organized protests," he says.

Diamond remembers life in Madison as "very awkward" and like being in a "foreign country." It was the first time he socialized with whites. "The only people of color were football or basketball players. Everybody tried to force me to be the voice of Black folks," he says.

Soon he would remember his Wisconsin days with fondness.

"HIS FIGHT IS THE FIGHT OF ALL OF US"

Diamond lost his Supreme Court appeal. The court declined to hear his case, unanimously ruling that his writ of review had been "improvidently granted." The *New York Times* said, "Some observers read into the case a clear warning to racial demonstrators in the South that there is a limit to what they can do within the shelter of the Constitution."

Now required to return to Baton Rouge to complete his sentence, Diamond became well known on

the UW campus. Students raised $254 to pay his fine and travel expenses. A *Daily Cardinal* editorial called him "part of the vanguard of those fighting for dignity, for a set of rights, for a part of that way of life which we as a people have denied him. ... This student is one of a new breed; committed to a society where justice will be color blind. His fight is the fight of all of us."

At age 22, in March 1964, Diamond again found himself in the general population of Baton Rouge's city jail. He kept a diary about his two months behind bars that spans the spectrum of human emotion.

"Accused rapists, convicted thieves, and persons of every conceivable crime are my companions," he wrote. "The drunks and the murderers are my cellmates. The hopeful and the hopeless, the degenerate and the 'saved' are my sources of 'intellectual' stimulation."

Elsewhere in the diary, thinking of his adopted state's lakes, pastures, and rivers, he writes, "in the final analysis, however, I inevitably travel vicariously, of course, back to Wisconsin."

The diary concludes with an entry written near the end of his sentence. The bars no longer hold him. In his soul he is free.

"Dear Someone, Anyone, Everyone!" the passage begins. "Within the last five minutes, while perched in a window which had vertical and horizontal bars, I discovered the meaning and the feeling of a breath of spring. ... As the wind blew the drops through the open window, I stood there with the greatest most peaceful feeling. ... Perhaps my spirits are being lifted."

A GOOD RIDE

After serving his time, Diamond transferred to Harvard, where he completed his education. For most of his career, he served as a consultant to the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services. Married for 52 years, he has a son, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

With other Freedom Riders, he returned to Parchman on the 50th anniversary of his imprisonment and had his photo taken. It shows him defiantly standing in the open door of his cell. He has delivered lectures about his experiences to college students and military officers around the U.S. He recently volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

Diamond wonders if he has done enough. "I have a damn comfortable life," he says. "I feel like the stuff I was fighting against, I have become."

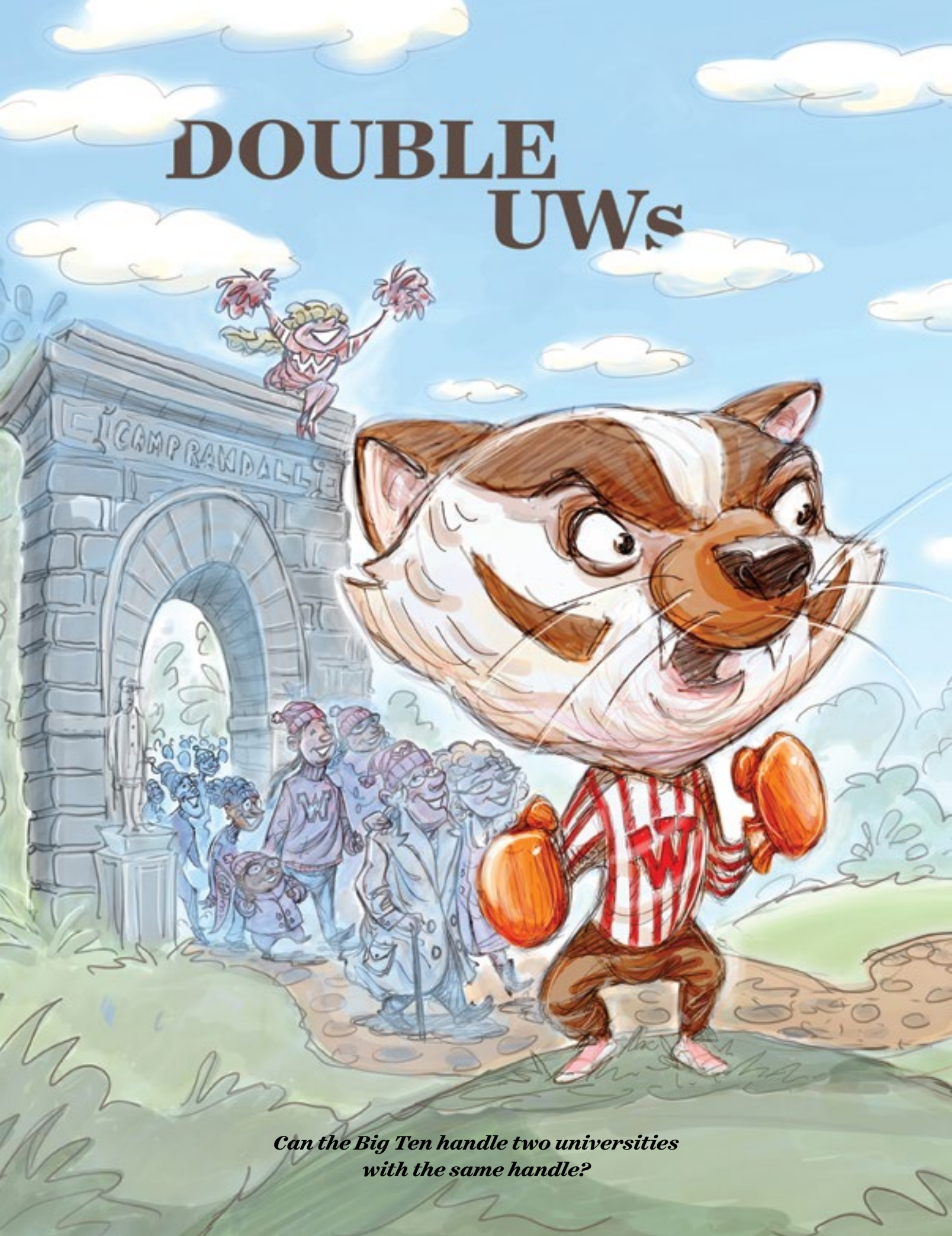
When reminded that his long-ago efforts helped a lot of people, he replies, "That was yesterday."

Then he adds, "When I was a kid and even much later, I never thought I'd reach this age. It's been a good ride." ●

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

Diamond is harassed during a sit-in at the Cherrydale Drug Fair in 1960 (top) and arrested (second from left) the same year. Background: The diary he kept in Baton Rouge's city jail.

DOUBLE UWs



Can the Big Ten handle two universities with the same handle?

BY JAC LA TOUR ’78

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIAN AJHAR

Not long after my wife and I moved to the Pacific Northwest in 2020, I overheard someone say "UW" and quickly realized they meant the University of Washington. Seriously. They acted like it was the only UW in the country!

Now it's the fall of 2024, and the Big Ten just got bigger. Seattle's UW has joined Madison's UW in the conference. So whenever our Badgers face their Huskies, it'll be a double UW matchup. What does that mean for the future of our favorite initials?

To find out, I launched an investigation into this touchy question: which is the legitimate UW?

Ask the Engineers

Dalton Brockett is a smart guy. Graduated valedictorian from high school. Double majoring in electrical and computer engineering at UW–Seattle. Did an internship with Boeing.

"Dalton," I ask him, "can the Big Ten handle two UWs?"

"Yes, they can," he says, quickly identifying key variables. "It's good for our students because it'll mean more money, but it won't be good for athletes because they'll have to travel farther to compete."

Nice analysis, Dalton.

"What about the impact on athletic competition?"

"It'll be confusing at first. How will they handle scoreboards and broadcasting during games? If they meet in the playoffs, it could turn into a real rivalry."

What's a Wisconsin engineer's take? Bruce Case '77, MS'83 managed UW–Madison's robotics lab. Not an athlete, but he did hardware development in sports medicine. Bruce is a smart guy, too.

"It's unfair to expect student-athletes to travel so far to compete," he replies. "The Big Ten should go to 20 schools with two conferences."

"What about the issue of two UWs?" I ask.

"Washington should change its name. In a fair fight, a Badger will always beat a Husky."

Who knew engineers were so feisty?

When a Badger Meets a Husky

The Big Ten is, in practice, the Big 18 now. That's weird. But each team only plays nine others during the regular season, and there's no double-UW game at Camp Randall or Husky Stadium this year. So, if you're itching for a Badger–Husky matchup, maybe swing by a cross-country meet.

Whenever the Badgers and Huskies do cross paths, people already have opinions about the outcome. "Their mascot is a house pet," says Sarah Schutt, executive director of the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA). "Ours is a ferocious feral animal."

When it comes to Big Ten Badgers battling Huskies, UW–Madison student Brielle Wallace x'25, a management and human resources major, sees only red. (Washington colors: purple and gold.)

"We became the first-ever Big Ten champions back in 1896 [in football]," Wallace says. "It's pretty clear that *W* stands for *winners*. So the University of Washington better be ready!"

Speaking of Alumni

Schutt, whose parents are Washington natives, was quick to mention that her Washington counterpart, Paul Rucker, is married to a Badger, Noy Saetia-Rucker '93. Ooh, this should be fun. He's all Husky. Two degrees from UW–Seattle. Been working there 20 years. And now he's vice president for alumni engagement. While Rucker looks forward to playing football in the snow at Camp Randall, he argues for the superiority of Husky Stadium, which is on the shores of Union Bay.

"Washington is the greatest setting in college football — the only one with water access," he said, conveniently forgetting about Madison's lakes.

So how do we settle this issue of Badger–Husky bragging rights? Let's ask an athlete: Kyle Luttinen, a 2023 UW–Seattle finance graduate who spent three years on the Husky basketball team.

"It's simple," Luttinen says. "Whoever wins the championship in football or basketball any given year gets rights to UW that year." Okay.

What If We Go by the Numbers?

Maybe we don't have to wait for this year's competition to see which is the legitimate UW. We can check some key numbers (Badgers red, Huskies purple):

2022–23 Athletics Budget	$167M	$150M
NCAA Division I Sports Teams	23	20
Stadium Seating	80,321	70,138
Football Conference Titles	14	18
Football National Titles	0	2
Rose Bowl Appearances	10	15
Rose Bowl Wins	3	7
Men's Basketball National Titles	1 (1941)	0
Men's Basketball Conference Titles	20	12
Men's Basketball Final Four Appearances	4	1 (1953)
Women's Basketball National Titles	0	1
Women's Basketball Conference Titles	0	5
Softball National Titles	0	0
Softball Conference Titles	0	4
Volleyball National Titles	1	1
Volleyball Conference Titles	9	7

Definitive? Not really. Especially when you look behind the numbers. Washington has no NCAA hockey teams. But in 1960, its football team beat Wisconsin 44–8 in the Rose Bowl. That hurts. And … this is hard to type … Wisconsin has no NCAA baseball team.

Graciously, UW–Seattle catcher Colton Bower doesn't mention this fact. "To be fair," he says, "we are the ones joining the Big Ten." Thanks, Colton. And I'll ignore the fact that when I first contacted you, you weren't sure who the other UW could even be.

When ranking the UWs, Kelcy McKenna, head coach for UW–Madison women's tennis, has an idea. "Being a Badger from the Pacific Northwest," she says, "it's infuriating to me that what comes up first on a UW Google search is always Washington. So if there is any way somebody could drop some dollars to Google to get us to number one, I think that is our first step."

Can We Be Serious for a Moment?

When the Big Ten announced Washington's move to the conference, UW–Madison chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin tweeted "a warm Wisconsin welcome to old friends and new colleagues in … Seattle." When I contact UW–Seattle's president, Ana Mari Cauce, she reciprocates. "We're looking forward to visiting the members of our new conference," she says, "and especially thrilled to welcome them to Seattle." Both leaders were quick to expand the conversation.

"I look forward to the … Huskies … joining our @BigTenAcademic [Alliance] as well," Mnookin tweeted. In an email, Cauce said she is "excited to be in a conference with so many academic and research powerhouses, including Wisconsin. … While we will compete hard on the field, we will do a lot more collaborating off the field."

This broader perspective turned up often during my investigation. WAA's Schutt cited the level of research being done at both schools. UW–Seattle's Rucker spoke of the two UWs' investments in and commitment to the public good. So I asked him what all this ultimately means for the Big Ten.

He paused for just a moment, then flashed a smile. "Here's what it means," he said. "The UW always wins!" ●

Jac La Tour '78 and his wife, Jackie, are happily retired in Poulsbo, Washington, a Norwegian village on the shore of Puget Sound that reminds them of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, where Jac got his first journalism job.

Los Angeles Poverty Department founder John Malpede (second from left) and other LAPD actors participate in a 2024 performance designed to honor individuals who support the Skid Row community.

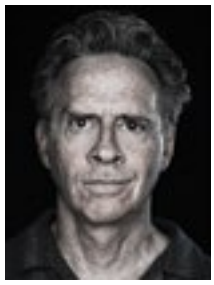
FINDING A HOME IN THEATER

John Malpede '68 has turned to the arts to provide community, confidence, and stability for the unhoused.

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

AUSTIN HINES

MONICA NOUWENS



ERIC SCHWABEL

A New Orleans–style marching band leads a group of performers through the streets of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. When they stop in front of a building on Crocker Street, several performers in eclectic costumes take their places at microphones set up on the sidewalk. This is the sixth stop for the theater troupe known as the Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD). It's LAPD's 2022 Walk the Talk parade to honor community members who've made contributions to the Skid Row neighborhood.

John Malpede '68, in a red-and-white-striped shirt, sunglasses, and a long white scarf draped around his neck, points across the street. "This building is going to be knocked down and turned into supportive housing," he tells the crowd assembled in the street. "They've got Crushow to make a mural on the building."

Crushow Herring, a former college basketball star and unhoused resident of Skid Row, still lives in the neighborhood, where his "portraits of freedom" murals have become widespread and well known. He's also a community organizer who helps people find jobs.

Three other men join Malpede in a quick performance, each speaking in the character of Crushow and telling his story. After a tryout with the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers, Crushow sold dope in Skid Row. He quit dealing when his son was born in 2004. A friend recruited him to play in a three-on-three basketball league in Skid Row, where one of the players challenged him to give back to the community. That got Crushow started on his murals. In the process, he found his purpose through art.

The performance provides a synopsis of what Malpede has done with the Los Angeles Poverty Department, which he started in 1985 as the first

AXEL KÖSTER

In its first year (1985), LAPD organized impromptu talent shows on the streets of Skid Row, acknowledging winners determined by audience applause.

performance group in the nation composed mainly of homeless and formerly homeless people. For almost 40 years, the performing artist has been giving residents of Skid Row a means to tell their stories through artistic expression — visual, performing, and multimedia.

Rooted in his fundamental belief that all people are multidimensional and creative, he's given a voice to the voiceless. In doing so, he's raised awareness about the lives and needs of the unhoused, given their art credibility, created community, and restored dignity and purpose to people often marginalized and adrift.

Birth of an "Artivist"

Homelessness in the United States has reached epic proportions because of a variety of factors, including rising rents, discrimination against subsidized housing applications, untreated mental illness, and persistent addiction. More than 600,000 people around the country are experiencing homelessness — the most since the federal government started tracking the number annually in 2007.

Malpede has situated himself at the heart of the problem. Los Angeles, long known as the "Homeless Capital of the World," had the nation's largest unhoused population in 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. And it's getting worse. In 2023, homelessness in Los Angeles County rose 9 percent, to an estimated 75,518 people. Within the city limits, it rose by 10 percent, based on a survey by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The majority of the city's unhoused population lives in Skid Row, a 50-block area downtown with the highest concentration of people experiencing homelessness of any neighborhood in the country.

All of which makes Malpede's work with LAPD more urgent and poignant.

This isn't the first time that our nation has seen an uptick in unhoused people. Like many others, Malpede began to notice a surge in the number of people sleeping on the streets around 1983, driven by policies such as deep cuts to federal housing assistance. At the time, Malpede was traveling between New York City, where he worked as a performance artist, and Los Angeles, where he was dating someone. His time at UW–Madison, as a philosophy major in the late '60s when the campus was charged with political debate and protests, had opened his eyes to community engagement.

"It was really a 24-hour education," he says. "For the first time in my life, I was paying more attention to and participating in the adult, civic world."

So, confronted by the wave of unhoused people a little more than a decade later, he felt driven to find a tangible response. He began work on a performance about homelessness commissioned by the nonprofit arts organization Creative Time to stage in New York City. While in Los Angeles writing the script, he attended hearings of the LA County Board of Supervisors. There he met and joined a group of Skid Row residents and advocates who were detailing the squalid conditions in county housing provided for unhoused welfare applicants. Malpede found the work compelling, and ultimately, he ended up in Los Angeles, where his lobbying effort led to a job as an advocate to make sure people were getting the welfare benefits due them under the law. He also continued his work as a performance artist. The possibilities of blending art and activism to improve the community inspired the creation of the Los Angeles Poverty Department and his work as an "artivist."

STEVE GUNTHER

Malpede (left) and Walter Fears act out attempts to defuse the emotions of an agitated individual in a performance called* I Fly! or How to Keep the Devil in the Hole, *which depicts community-generated public safety.

Kaleidoscope Community

During his early days in Los Angeles, the better Malpede got to know unhoused people, the greater the kinship he felt with them, and a mutual trust developed. Yet, where he saw a kaleidoscope of experiences and personalities, society at large wanted to flatten homeless people into a single dimension.

"Working in Skid Row, you open up to the infinite capacity of every single human being," he says. "Every individual has a million stories, and that's what's so beautiful."

Malpede wanted to give those individuals the chance to tell their stories and influence the decisions shaping their neighborhood. In 1985, he secured a grant from the California Arts Council to conduct theater workshops in the area, and LAPD was born. The name was meant to contrast the often negative perception of the police department, what the artists jokingly refer to as "the other LAPD."

"It's always been about making artworks and performances that connect the lived experience of people in Skid Row to the larger social policies impinging upon their life experience," he says.

During a phone interview, Malpede's thoughts

LAPD actors perform I Fly! *at Los Angeles's Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater in 2019.*

rambled in a raspy baritone, sometimes as disheveled as his wavy gray hair. Yet his passion for his life's work is never in question. And at 78, he shows no signs of slowing down. As LAPD's artistic director, he draws a modest salary from the nonprofit, which is funded primarily by grants. He's supplemented that income over the years with teaching stints and residencies at UCLA, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and the Amsterdam School for Advanced Research in Theater and Dance, among others. His work has garnered several honors, including the LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award and a Bessie award from New York's Dance Theater Workshop in the Choreographer/Creator category.

While he was teaching in Amsterdam, Malpede met theater and dance artist Henriëtte Brouwers, now LAPD's associate director. They've been married 23 years and have collaborated on a number of projects. When not collaborating on art, they hike in the mountains and bike to the beach. They have a small garden at their home in Mara Vista, and Malpede stays grounded doing tai chi.

The Power of Drama

Over the years, LAPD has staged myriad performances and exhibits throughout the city, hosted community conversations, and lobbied for the interests of Skid Row residents, blending art with activism to preserve and improve the community. That's rooted in the spirit of '76, when the neighborhood faced extinction — the city planned to bulldoze it amid a wave of urban renewal. A coalition of advocates, concerned that the low-income housing would never be replaced and Skid Row residents would be permanently displaced, successfully lobbied city officials to renovate existing housing and protect the area.

Since its inception in 1985, LAPD has used art and community engagement to circumvent continued efforts to develop the neighborhood. For example, in 2017, when city planners proposed to open all of Skid Row to market-rate development, Malpede and LAPD installed a nine-hole miniature golf course in its art space, the Skid Row History Museum & Archive, and then invited the entire department of city planning to play the course and attend a performance of *The Back 9: Golf and Zoning Policy in Los Angeles*.

The performance, written by Malpede and Skid Row performers and directed by Malpede and Brouwers, portrayed backroom development deals made on the golf course, away from public scrutiny. At one point during *The Back 9*, a developer named Tom Buildmore tells a city council member, "The most important thing is to stop any more housing or social services from coming to downtown" — thrusting a cigar to emphasize his point. Through that performance and community conversations, LAPD succeeded in getting the department's commissioners to change their plan.

They nixed the open-market development and committed to residents' requests for more green spaces and stoplight adjustments for people who needed additional time to cross streets. "We got them to come to our events and meet people from Skid Row and find out what people would want in their neighborhood, as opposed to earlier plans designed for someone else," Malpede says.

In 2013 Malpede spearheaded another LAPD community activism project involving a vacant storefront on Main Street, the western border of Skid Row. A nonprofit developer of housing for the formerly homeless planned to rent the retail space to the Department of Mental Health. But a for-profit developer who was converting vacant commercial

spaces into lofts obtained a zoning variance to open a bar and restaurant in the space that would cater to the upscale tenants he hoped to attract. Skid Row residents appealed the variance before the zoning commission, arguing that a mental health clinic would better serve their interests. "Surprisingly, the commissioners were moved, and they agreed with us," Malpede says.

He converted the transcript from the hearing into *What Fuels Development*, a performance that LAPD staged in conjunction with an exhibit at the Armory Center for the Arts. "It was an example where the show chronicled the impact we'd already had," he says.

Recovery is a recurring theme in LAPD works. While many Skid Row residents struggle with addiction, Malpede and others believe the police characterize the neighborhood as a free-for-all drug zone, playing up stereotypes and instilling fear among outsiders. "Even though there are people on the street selling and using drugs, there's also a highly sophisticated recovery community," he points out.

In response to a police crackdown in the neighborhood, LAPD staged *The Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere*, a performance and film series that transformed the police narrative about Skid Row. "Everybody talks about it as a recovery neighborhood now," Malpede says.

LAPD's latest project, *Welcome to the COVID Hotel*, which opened in March, has involved panel discussions on housing as health care, an exhibit, a publication, and a performance chronicling unexpected lessons about health care for the homeless that emerged from the COVID-19 crisis. For many experiencing homelessness during the pandemic, the county's efforts to house them temporarily in hotels — while seeking more permanent solutions — and provide free medical care marked the first time they'd received health care from caring individuals. The experience engendered trust that saved lives and led to housing solutions for some.

"Nothing Good Would Happen Without Naïveté"

Malpede is much more comfortable collaborating and performing than talking about his good works. Those include providing food, clothes, blankets, and an ear to those in need. "He's the welcome mat," says Stephanie Bell, a musical artist who's performed in 20 to 25 shows with LAPD since 1996. "The man is amazing. He helps you not just in your art but also if you have a problem or a situation. John Malpede is like my second dad."

Lee Maupin, a James Brown impersonator and Skid Row resident, had been dancing since he was three years old but knew nothing about acting until he met Malpede 12 years ago. Malpede, unconcerned by Maupin's lack of experience, welcomed him to perform with LAPD. That helped Maupin discover talent he didn't know he had.

"I never [knew] that I could be an actor, but John helped me to hone my craft," he says. "He's a good teacher. It's got to where a whole lot of people think I'm pretty good at this stuff."

Malpede had no idea where LAPD would go when he founded it. He has joked, "It's a harebrained idea that wouldn't die," poking fun at his unfounded optimism at the time.

"I don't want to minimize the virtue of naïveté," he says. "Nothing good would happen without naïveté."

David Blumenkrantz, a teacher at California State University–Northridge and photographer who's recently become involved with LAPD, points to Malpede's unassuming, low-key but efficient manner as an effective means to getting things done — from making unhoused people feel at home and valued to setting up cooling stations where people can take refuge in the heat of summer.

Rooted in his fundamental belief that all people are multidimensional and creative, he's given a voice to the voiceless.

In an Amazon synopsis of his book *Acting Like It Matters: John Malpede and the Los Angeles Poverty Department*, the author James McEnteer writes, "Malpede knows that residents of Skid Row, the most vulnerable among us, are the canaries in the coal-mine of our culture, harbingers of alienation and futility that now threaten middle-class stability and even survival. Malpede long ago recognized homelessness as a symptom of a society in trouble."

McEnteer makes the case that Malpede has returned theater to the mission envisioned by the ancient Greeks, who thought politics were too important to leave to the politicians and produced plays about topical issues important to the citizens of the day. He contrasts this to the escapism of much modern popular entertainment and quotes noted theater director Peter Sellars, who says that Malpede's work "will testify on the side of the angels."

In *The Real Deal*, a documentary about the theater group, Sellars says, "When they look back in 100 years, the only theater being done now which will matter will be the work John Malpede is doing with the LAPD." ●

John Rosengren is a Minneapolis freelance journalist and Pulitzer nominee. His latest book is The Greatest Summer in Baseball History: How the '73 Season Changed Us Forever.

On Alumni

News from Home and Abroad

Celebrating Outstanding Alumni

A new award salutes unprecedented contributions to UW–Madison.

CM HOWARD PHOTOGRAPHY

John and Tashia Morgridge, recipients of the university's first Distinguished Service Award, have transformed the campus through their visionary giving.

This year, UW–Madison's first Distinguished Service Award will be presented by the Office of the Chancellor with support from the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA). The new award celebrates individuals or couples whose unparalleled contributions to the university have significantly transformed UW–Madison's ability to carry out its mission. This year's inaugural honorees are **John '55** and **Tashia '55 Morgridge.**

The Morgridges epitomize the spirit of the Distinguished Service Award. By making the largest individual philanthropic gifts in UW–Madison history, they have upgraded nearly every aspect of campus, from the Morgridge Institute for Research to the university's ability to provide scholarships and retain world-class professors; from the Morgridge Center for Public Service to the new School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences.

The Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) is also recognizing three alumni with its longest-standing award, the Distinguished Alumni Award. This year's honorees are: **Susan Engeleiter '74, JD'81,** a former Wisconsin state senator who is now president and CEO of Data Recognition Corporation; **Pat Hanrahan '77, PhD'85,** who helped create new computer graphics software during his tenure at Pixar that transformed the film animation industry; and **Gary Wendt '65,** philanthropist and cofounder of Deerpath Capital Management.

In addition, WFAA named seven 2024 Luminary Award winners for serving as aspirational examples through accomplishments in their professions, in service, or in philanthropy.

They are: **Melissa Amundson '99,** oral and maxillofacial surgeon; **Victor Barnett '82,** founder and CEO, Running Rebels; **Ross Freedman '97,** cofounder, Origin; **Amed Khan '91,** president, Amed Khan Foundation; **Robin Wall Kimmerer MS'78, PhD'83,** author, professor, and director, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry; **Liz Lefkofsky '91,** president, Lefkofsky Family Foundation; and **Petar Ostojic MS'05,** CEO, Neptuno Pumps and executive director, Center of Innovation and Circular Economy.

Finally, WAA honored seven young alumni with 2024 Forward Awards for exemplifying the Wisconsin Idea through the ideals of progress, service, and discovery.

The honorees are: **Maggie Brickerman '08** and **Abby Kursel '14,** partners at Madison business accelerator Gener8tor; **Chelsea Cervantes De Blois '10, MA'13,** lead climate security analyst for the U.S. Department of State; **Adelaide Davis '13,** senior officer, Health Service Delivery and Operations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; **Jarell Skinner-Roy '11,** research fellow, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan; **Jeffrey Vinokur '12,** CEO of Generation Genius; and **Tara Yang '13,** chair of the Green Bay Equal Rights Commission.

To learn more about the 2024 award winners or to nominate someone for one of next year's awards, visit uwalumni.com/awards.

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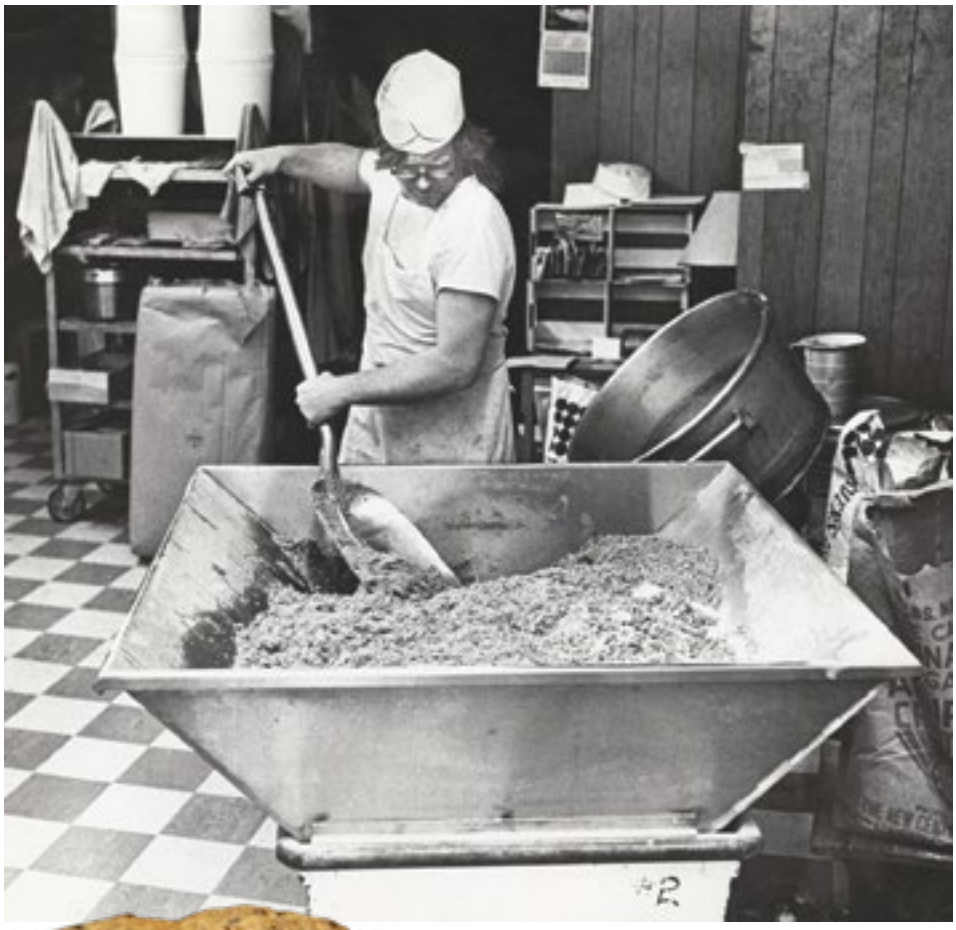
Number of years WAA has been honoring extraordinary alumni with awards

The Return of the Guerrilla Cookie

The health-food treat beloved by UW students for three decades is available again — with a twist.



UW ARCHIVES (JAMES KORGER); COOKIE DETAIL BY ANDY MANIS FOR *WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL*

Ted Odell stirs up a 250-pound batch of his cookie batter in this 1973 photo from the **Daily Cardinal.**

UW–Madison graduates from the 1960s to the early 1990s might remember a hefty, healthy snack available in local food co-ops called the Guerrilla Cookie. When its eccentric baker, **Ted Odell '64,** stopped making the treats around 1990 or 1991, zealous fans tried to re-create the recipe, which Odell kept a closely guarded secret. Most assumed he had taken it to his grave when he passed away in 2021.

Perhaps the most impassioned baker, **Karen McKim '75, MA'77,** dedicated a blog to the topic and tried more than 75 recipes. **Dave Denison '82,** a former employee of Odell's (and, full disclosure, this writer's brother), wrote a lengthy piece in the September 2023 *Baffler* magazine about the cookie, its creator, and a futile quest to find the recipe. Denison was surprised this past April to hear from someone who actually had the original recipe.

That someone was Steve Apfelbaum, president of the board of the Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy. SWLC manages the nonprofit Three Waters Reserve, a natural area and event center in Brodhead, Wisconsin, which hosts events such as corporate retreats, parties, and wedding receptions to support conservation efforts.

When Odell passed away, he bequeathed his land to the reserve, which had once been his family's farm before it was sold in 1925 and converted into a golf course. Odell's lifelong dream was to see the land returned to a more natural state. He helped SWLC buy the property and quietly gave the reserve his coveted recipe about a year before he died.

Fans can get their hands on Guerrilla Cookies by visiting or calling the Three Waters Reserve in Brodhead, Wisconsin.

"He wanted the cookies to go to a good cause," says Apfelbaum. "He was very mission-oriented, and he wanted them to go to a conservation/education mission."

The reserve's chef, John Marks, and his staff re-created the cookie, painstakingly determining the original brands of ingredients that Odell used. Three Waters began selling the original-recipe cookies, as well as some modernized variations, this past spring.

"We'd love to sell a lot of cookies, because it will finance a lot of happy birds and happy plants and happy butterflies," says Apfelbaum.

Inspired by the Guerrilla Cookie, Three Waters is also developing what it calls the Climate Cookie, which will use flour made from native grass seeds such as Virginia wild rye. The native perennial will not require tilling the soil, fertilizer, or pesticides, taking Odell's environmental ethos to the next level. A national chain will stock it, and a portion of sales will generate royalties for conservation. "Ted was so excited when he realized that the Climate Cookie could start a whole new line of foods derived from native ecosystems," Apfelbaum says.

In the *Baffler* article, Denison revealed that Odell's original intentions for his bakery involved a center that would provide nutritional education to children and donate its profits to worthy causes. Sadly, many of Odell's later years were spent in frustration because he couldn't find anyone who shared his dream.

No doubt he is resting peacefully now that his vision is fulfilled at last — and on a scale even greater than he imagined.

NIKI DENISON

50s–60s

Willard Smith '50, MA'51 of Naperville, Illinois, celebrated his 98th birthday in February. Smith grew up in Madison and graduated from West High School in 1943 before joining the U.S. Army, serving in the Pacific from 1944 to 1946. Upon his return, he taught art in elementary and junior high schools before joining the faculty of the College of DuPage as a professor of art, jewelry, and metals. Today, he says, "I am a 'nurse' to my 95-year-old wife and just 'aced' my driving test." Thanks for writing in, Willard!

Congratulations to **Sally Woock '54, MS'59** of Winter Park, Florida, on her retirement from her law practice. Woock was licensed in Illinois, Wisconsin, and federal courts — including the U.S. Supreme Court — since 1979. She served as a traffic judge in Florida for 13 years. While practicing law, the UW School of Pharmacy grad maintained her pharmacy license for 50 years.

If you saw a flash of red weaving down the black-diamond slopes of Wausau's Granite Peak Ski Resort during the U.S. Alpine Masters National Championship, you were likely watching **Mary Beth Kuester '60, MS'74** race her way to victory. Kuester won gold medals in all three events in which she competed in the 85-and-over age group. Kuester recently returned to skiing after a 30-year break from the sport.

Janja Lalich '67 of Walnut Creek, California, recently published *Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships*. The book is the third edition of her first book, *Captive Hearts, Captive Minds*, which was first published in 1994 and is the most-used book by former cult members and their loved ones to process cult experiences. Lalich is a professor emerita of sociology at California State University–Chico, where she founded the Center for Research on Influence and Control after her own experience in a group she later identified as a cult. She is also the founder and CEO of the Lalich Center on Cults and Coercion, a nonprofit dedicated to helping survivors of cults and other oppressive circumstances.

"If I had to list just one thing I'm most proud of, it's the fact that my teaching and training over the years have positively affected so many people, giving them the knowledge and confidence to excel in the green industry."
— Kurt Bartel '80

BOOK NEWS?
See page 64.

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS
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70s–80s

Jim Merrin '76, MS'79 of Thousand Oaks, California, retired as interim chief medical officer of the Klotz Student Health Center at California State University–Northridge. He had worked at the center since 2005.

After 50 years of beautifying Wisconsin with botanical touches, **Kurt Bartel '80** retired from landscape architecture. Bartel began his career as a horticulturist and park supervisor at the Milwaukee County Zoo. He later joined David J. Frank Landscaping, where he worked for 35 years as a horticulturist, plant pathologist, and vice president of maintenance. "If I had to list just one thing I'm most proud of, it's the fact that my teaching and training over the years have positively affected so many people, giving them the knowledge and confidence to excel in the green industry," Bartel said.

Landscape architect **Tim Garland '82**'s work has caught the eye of more than just the appreciative passersby. His company, Garland Alliance, Inc. (GAI), was a Gold Winner for Backyard Design in *MKE Lifestyle* magazine's Professional Landscape Design Contest. GAI was also recognized by industry publication *Landscape Architect and Specifier News* as a distinguished landscape architecture and design firm of the Upper Midwest. GAI partnered with fashion designer Ana Popa to create botanical accessories for the Milwaukee Art Museum's "Art in Bloom" Floral Fashion Party, where they placed third in their category.

Gefeliciteerd (congratulations) to **Geoffrey Koby MA'86, MA'89, PhD'92,** who was elected president of the American Translators Association (ATA), the world's largest national professional organization for interpreters and translators. Koby is an ATA-certified German-to-English and Dutch-to-English translator specializing in business, legal, financial, and patent translation and litigation. He serves on the ATA's Certification Committee and on the board of its nonprofit, the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation. Koby is a professor of translation studies and German at Kent State University.

Run, Dan, run! **Dan Bertler '89** of Oregon, Wisconsin, completed all six major world marathons — Boston, Chicago, London, Berlin, New York City, and Tokyo — to earn the Six Star Finisher Medal. He completed all but one of the races with his two brothers, who live in Florida and Illinois. Bertler took up running as a hobby 20 years ago and is now retired from marathons after this latest feat. He is the owner and president of contractor Supreme Structures.

90s

A Badger love story for the ages: **John '90, MBA'01** and **Pam '90, JD'02 Byce** both grew up in Madison, less than a mile apart. The 1990 graduates of the

Wisconsin School of Business shared college friends but still never crossed paths. They both returned to their alma mater 10 years later to earn their advanced degrees and still never met. John pursued his interest in corporate real estate and development at RBC Wealth Management, and Pam became an animal protection attorney and helped launch the Center for Animal Law Studies, the world's most comprehensive animal law program, where she now serves as the assistant dean and executive director. Nearly 20 years after they graduated from the UW for the second time, they met via mutual friends in 2021 and married in 2023 (photo below). The couple now lives in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Stephanie Farsht '92 of Chicago is helping consumers cut down on plastic with Small Wonder, a luxury hair care brand that sells powder-to-lather, salon-quality products. The new approach to hair care removes water from the purchased product, reducing the amount of plastic packaging and allowing for more efficient shipping. Farsht is the brand's cofounder and CEO, and fellow Badger **Jon Dussel '07** is their chief growth officer. Small Wonder's Signature Shampoo Refills won a 2024 Marie Claire Hair Award for Best Refillable Packaging.

COURTESY OF MYRETREAT, INC.

Chocolate Mindfulness

According to Melissa Mueller-Douglas MSW'11, if you want to make yourself be present, then get yourself some high-quality dessert.

Melissa Mueller-Douglas MSW'11 has a mantra: "Build teams with chocolate, not trust falls." That maxim has guided her into establishing MyRetreat, a successful business-consulting firm that relies on what she calls *chocolate mindfulness*.

The logic behind chocolate mindfulness is straightforward: when people eat high-quality chocolate, Mueller-Douglas reasons, they are engaging in mindful behavior. "We use all of our senses," she says, "from feeling the chocolate in the palm of your hand, noticing its weight, to listening to the sound of the wrapper, unwrapping all the way through to tasting the flavor, and smelling the aroma."

Mueller-Douglas then encourages her clients to apply that same attitude toward their interactions with colleagues.

But she didn't always intend to be a business consultant. She comes from a long line of social workers, and when she enrolled at the UW, it was her intention to pursue the family calling.

"At the Thanksgiving table there would always be conversations from the lens of social work, and I just wanted to know more," she says. "And seeing outside of the traditional therapy setting, where social work can take you, was intriguing enough that I decided to move forward and apply to the UW. And it was the only school that I applied to, the only one that I wanted to go to."

As a consultant, Mueller-Douglas draws on social-work skills but with offices as her clientele. "What we do for one-to-one or in a [small] group setting is the exact same thing," she says. "A treatment plan is the same as a business plan."

The principle of chocolate mindfulness grew out of a realization Mueller-Douglas had with an early retreat group. She fed her clients high-quality dessert, and they reported an emotional breakthrough.

"Everyone who came to that retreat said this is phenomenal," she says. " 'I was in the present moment. I wasn't worrying about the future or thinking about the past.' "

By working with corporate clients, Mueller-Douglas has brought chocolate mindfulness to thousands of people, and she hopes eventually to reach a million. "Who doesn't want to bring people together," she says, "and show them how to eat chocolate?"

JOHN ALLEN

Top-Shelf Tunes

Ken Brahmstedt '86 brings emerging talent to an unsung side of the music industry.

COURTESY OF KEN BRAHMSTEDT

If you've watched a television commercial within the last 25 years, you're probably familiar with the work of **Ken Brahmstedt '86** — even if you didn't know his name until now.

Brahmstedt is the founder and creative director of Black Label Music, a Minneapolis-based music publishing company that has provided iconic commercial tracks for products such as Lexus automobiles, Reese's peanut butter cups, Dove soap, Honey Nut Cheerios, Helzberg Diamonds, and more.

"We're in the business of chasing and creating trends," Brahmstedt says.

Black Label specializes in production music: tracks created with the intention of being licensed for commercial use. This line of work wasn't always trendy, but neither was Brahmstedt. The son of two classical musicians and graduates of the UW's Mead Witter School of Music, he came to the UW to study trumpet performance with the hopes of making it professionally in an orchestra or big band. He followed his entrepreneurial instincts elsewhere.

"I've been in one giant pivot my whole career, and it started at the UW," he says.

After creating music for film and television, writing original compositions, and working in independent production, Brahmstedt made a final pivot that landed him in his current music industry niche.

"It was [considered] a dirty business," he says. "The term 'sellout' was an insult hurled at anyone who would sell their music to commercial interest."

But after audio-sharing titan Napster turned the LP industry on its head and streaming services squandered once-viable sources of revenue, production music became more attractive for aspiring musicians.

"A kid coming out of college today would aim their music at a sync [licensing] company like Black Label," Brahmstedt says.

True to its name, what sets Black Label apart is the quality of its product. Unlike production-music behemoths whose million-track catalogs license for cheap, Black Label partners with musicians to record bespoke tracks that uniquely suit commercial interests, provide ambiance to film and television, and stand alone as streamable works of art.

"I made a conscious effort to concentrate on quality over quantity and to sink more money, resources, and energy into every production," Brahmstedt says. "Everything that we create has to sound genuine."

This commitment to authenticity is the catalyst behind his latest pivot: a record label. After inquiries regarding the public availability of Black Label tracks, Brahmstedt created Grey Label Records as a repository for music attributed to his arsenal of up-and-coming artists.

"I love trying new things," he says. "That's what fires the entrepreneur soul, in my opinion. You have to have a wacky desire to explore."

MEGAN PROVOST '20

The UW–Eau Claire College of Business welcomed **Jennifer Peck '92** as an instructional designer with its online programs. Peck was most recently a STEM education consultant with Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 and has taught science at the early childhood, elementary, and high school levels. She is also a master teacher trainer for Project Lead the Way, a nonprofit that develops K–12 STEM curricula.

According to **Martha James '93,** kids who move are kids who succeed. James shared this message during "For Brilliance's Sake, Let the Children Move!" a TEDx Talk she delivered at TEDxUStreetWomen. "Bodies are brilliant. Children are brilliant," she said. "It is our job as educators to give young people words and ways to express that brilliance, as well as cultivating new tools, including leveraging their body, to build new knowledge and make new meaning." James is an associate professor in the School of Education and Urban Studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

If you watch television or listen to popular music, you've probably come across the work of **John Winter '94.** The Los Angeles–based producer's impressive résumé includes commercials for Coca-Cola, Nike, Honda, and Samsung; television promotions for *The Bear*, *American Horror Story*, and *Fargo*; music videos and live performances by Madonna, Miley Cyrus, and Katy Perry; and feature films like Selena Gomez's *My Mind & Me* from Apple TV. Winter's latest project brought one of the biggest shows on the planet to theaters around the world: *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé*.

Lawrence Wong '94 was sworn in as the prime minister of Singapore in May. He is the country's fourth prime minister and the first to be born after Singapore's independence in

1965. He is also the minister of finance, a position he has held since 2021. Wong had served as deputy prime minister to former Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, a role he held since 2022. He's served in several ministries in Singapore's government and was lauded for his leadership in the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Christina Clark MA'91, PhD'95 is the new president of La Roche University in Pittsburgh. She is the eighth president in the university's history and only the second person who is not a member of the clergy to serve in the role. Clark was most recently a provost and professor at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Michael Dolan '95 of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, was appointed to the newly created role of senior director and head of enterprise privacy and data protection at Best Buy. He will oversee cybersecurity and data-handling operations and ensure that Best Buy and its corporate affiliates follow best practices for the collection, retention, and disclosure of personal and business information. Dolan spoke about the importance of the U.S. Cyber Trust Mark, a cybersecurity program introduced by the Biden administration, at the White House and at CES 2024, one of the biggest events in the tech world.

The Wisconsin School Attorneys Association (WSAA) presented **Jina Jonen '96, JD'99** of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, with the 2024 George Tipler Award for Distinguished Service in School Law. Jonen is the in-house counsel and director of human resources for the Oregon (Wisconsin) School District. She is the first in-house counsel for a school district to receive the award, which honors former Wisconsin Association of School Boards executive director George Tipler, who helped found the WSAA.

Festive nights at the fair are soaring through the U.S. Postal Service, thanks in part to Madison photographer **Timothy Hughes '97,** whose photograph is included in the *Carnival Nights* collection of Forever stamps. The new collection was unveiled at a Mississippi fair in June.

Katie Kennedy '97, president and CEO of Madison-based advertising agency KennedyC, received the 2024 Silver Medal Award from the American Advertising Federation–Madison. The award recognizes Kennedy's contributions to advertising over her 25-year career, which includes marketing and communications experience from Silicon Valley to Capitol Hill.

Northern Irish peace activist and 1976 Nobel laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire nominated **Maung Zarni PhD'98** for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. "Zarni has effectively combined his scholarship, writing, and organizing skills to spread concrete and nonviolent ideas as a way of advancing peace, harmony, and a deeply shared sense of fellowship among humans, irrespective of racial, ethnic, religious, or national identities and geographic boundaries," Maguire wrote in her nomination. Zarni is a longtime activist for human rights in his native Myanmar — specifically the rights of the Rohingya, a persecuted Muslim minority group.

00s

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) welcomed **Leah Hunter '05** of Washington, DC, as associate commissioner for external affairs. She will oversee agencywide communications regarding the FDA's public health and regulatory activities. Hunter was most recently a senior adviser for external affairs at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. She worked in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during both the Obama and Biden administrations and held senior communications positions on Capitol Hill with Senator **Tammy Baldwin JD'89** and former congressman Ron Kind.

Jake Zabkowicz '05 of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, joined global talent acquisition firm Hudson RPO as CEO. He comes to the role from organizational consulting firm Korn Ferry, where he served as senior vice president of global recruitment process outsourcing.

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

"Bodies are brilliant. Children are brilliant. It is our job as educators to give young people words and ways to express that brilliance, as well as cultivating new tools, including leveraging their body, to build new knowledge and make new meaning."

— Martha James '93

Lisa Jasinski MA'06 of San Antonio, Texas, was named president of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. She was previously the senior director for strategic initiatives for the president's office at the University of Texas–San Antonio (UTSA), where she helped design and implement the school's 10-year strategic plan. Prior to UTSA, she spent nearly 15 years at Trinity University, including a stint as a special assistant to the vice president for academic affairs. In 2022, she was selected by the U.S. Department of State to serve as a Fulbright Specialist at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland and at the Finnish Institute for Educational Research.

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 Professional Hockey Players' Association (PHPA) presented **Andrew Joudrey '07** of Middleton, Wisconsin, with the 2024 Executive Director's Honoring the Past Award.

Joudrey served on the PHPA executive committee from 2011 to 2014. As part of his recognition, he was invited to attend the PHPA Annual Meeting of Player Representatives to speak about his experience with the organization. Joudrey played for the Badgers from 2003 to 2007, helping to win the NCAA championship in 2006 and serving as captain the following year. He is now the president and CEO of the Madison Capitols.

In Business magazine named **William Cox MS'08, PhD'15,** founder of the nonprofit Inequity Agents of Change, one of Madison's "Forty under 40" for 2024. The organization develops scientifically proven methods, including Cox's bias habit-breaking training, for creating meaningful change and promoting inclusivity. Cox is also the cohost of the organization's podcast, *Diverse Joy*.

Film and television editor and producer **Bradinn French '08** of Gardena, California, has amassed an award-winning résumé. In 2022, he received a Primetime Emmy in Outstanding Picture Editing for Variety Programming for his work on *A Black Lady Sketch Show*. In 2023, the American Cinema Editors honored the same work with an Eddie award for Best Edited Variety Talk/Sketch Show or Special. French's work spans the entertainment industry from documentary and reality television — including *Project Runway, Keeping Up with the Kardashians,* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air Reunion* — to scripted shows like Netflix's *Medal of Honor* and FX's *American Horror Story*.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, documentary filmmaker **Danny Kim '08** of Seoul, South Korea, couldn't help but notice the increased use of disposable products as people tried to avoid the virus. In *Zero Waste*, Kim's feature-length directorial debut, he follows five individuals trying to find creative solutions to South Korea's plastic-waste problem. The documentary won the 2023 Emerging Filmmaker Award at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and the 2023 Green Award at the Terraviva Film Festival in Italy. Kim is the founder of documentary film studio Docu+.

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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 may submit full-length obituaries for online posting at **uwalumni.com/alumni-notes/submit.**

10s

In 1943, 25-year-old Wilhelm "Willi" Graf was executed for his involvement in the White Rose, a nonviolent student resistance group in Nazi Germany. Today, Graf is being considered for sainthood thanks in part to **Stephani Richards-Wilson PhD'13.** Richards-Wilson authored the only English-language dissertation on Graf, "Willi Graf: The Role of Bildung in His Decision to Resist National Socialism," which examines his involvement in the White Rose as an act of self-sacrifice. Her work caught the attention of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, and she was invited to present her research at an international symposium on Graf in Munich. Richards-Wilson is a professor of business at Alverno College in Milwaukee.

Eric Obscherning '15 of Washington, DC, joined technology advisory firm Access Partnership as director of health and life sciences. He advises senior leaders from government, academia, and the biopharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical technology industries on how to improve access to medicine. He comes to the role from Crowell & Morning International, a global government affairs and policy firm where he was associate director of global health and head of rare disease and advanced therapy.

Since 2021, **L. Malik Anderson '18** of New York City has been an associate producer on *All of It with Alison Stewart* on New York Public Radio. They were previously a producer for *The Morning Show* on the Ideas Network with Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) and produced WPR's *The Larry Meiller Show* during their time as an Emma Bowen Foundation Fellow. They are also a regular contributor to news outlet Madison365.

20s

The Steve Jobs Archive (SJA) isn't full of old-school tech — it's brimming with new-age talent. **Tom Mahota '21** of Minneapolis is one of nine members of the inaugural class of SJA Fellows. The fellowship is a part-time, nonresidential program that supports young people working at the intersection of technology and the liberal arts through funding and resources in personal and professional development. Mahota is an engineer and artist who combines his skills as a ceramicist with his technological know-how to develop innovative product designs. Mahota was previously a design intern with NASA's Convergent Aeronautics Solutions.

When Lily Gladstone, a nominee for Best Actress at the 2024 Academy Awards for her starring role in Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*, stepped onto the red carpet, she had a little bit of Badger with her. **Paige Skenandore '22,** an artist and member of the Oneida Nation, helped create the traditional quillwork designs that adorned the actress's Gucci gown. Gladstone was the first Indigenous person to be nominated in her category, and her dress's quillwork paid homage to her community. Skenandore is the founder of Moody NDN, an Indigenous artist collective that teaches and practices beadwork, quillwork, and other traditional arts and medicines.

Megan Provost '20 would like to thank her dog for writing this issue's Class Notes. You're a lifesaver, kid.

THE RED SHIRT, 17TH EDITION

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Show your UW pride with this collectible shirt featuring the university's fight song slogan – and everyone's favorite badger! Plus, 25% of proceeds support need-based scholarships through the Wisconsin Alumni Association®.

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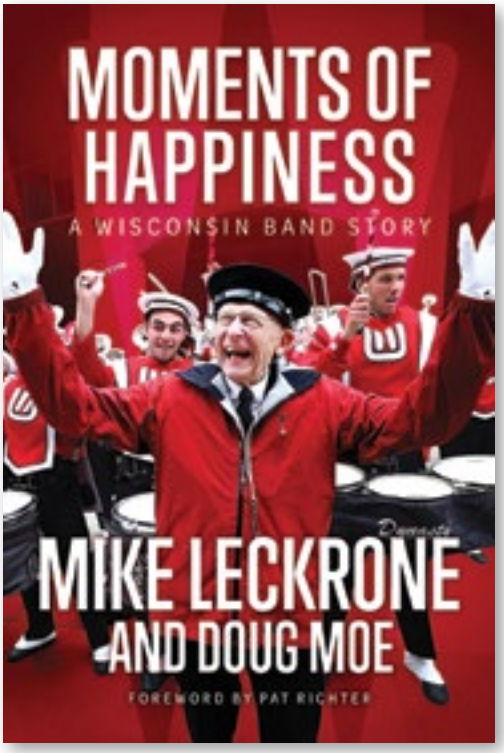


Join Leckrone and Moe at the Wisconsin Idea Spotlight: Moments of Happiness event at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison on December 10.

A Musical March Down Memory Lane

Doug Moe '79 joins former UW band director Mike Leckrone in recounting a sparkling career.

In music, the directive *D.C. al fine* instructs a musician to return to the beginning of a piece and play through it again. In *Moments of Happiness: A Wisconsin Band Story,* **Mike Leckrone** does the very same in reminiscing on his sequin-studded career.

For 50 years, Leckrone not only led the UW Marching Band — made legendary under his direction — but also helped generations of Badgers share their love for the UW through song. With the help of Madison journalist **Doug Moe '79,** Leckrone invites readers to open up the story behind the music that all Badgers know by heart.

From the moment he set foot on campus in 1969, Leckrone discovered an undeniable destiny at the UW. He transformed the band, bolstering its dwindling numbers and establishing its dynamic "stop at the top," high-stepping style. He invented the Fifth Quarter to infuse even more spirit into Badger football games, and he turned a lackluster spring band concert into the hottest ticket in town.

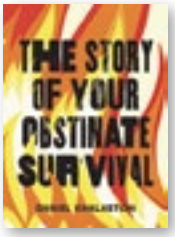
Leckrone was bold in pushing the limits of possibility in his performances — he made entrances on an airborne motorcycle and a live elephant — and he is honest about the hard work and hard-learned lessons that made these iconic moments possible.

Following the score of Leckrone's career from its inevitable missed notes through the magnum opus of his UW tenure, *Moments of Happiness* is "written with decided and joyful expectation that everything's gonna be all right," writes Broadway actor and fellow UW showman **André De Shields '70.** "With this memoir, I can share a moment of happiness anytime I want with Mike Leckrone."

Architect

ALISON THUMEL MFA'21

In her latest poetry collection, Thumel processes the grief of losing her brother in a tragic car accident through the language of architecture. "In a poetry workshop, someone asked if the brother in my poem was a metaphor," she writes. "I thought of the way I tell my students that metaphor is not just decoration for a poem, the way Frank Lloyd Wright once said, 'A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines.' " *Architect* was the winner of the 2024 Miller Williams Poetry Prize. Thumel is a health communications specialist with University Health Services.



The Story of Your Obstinate Survival

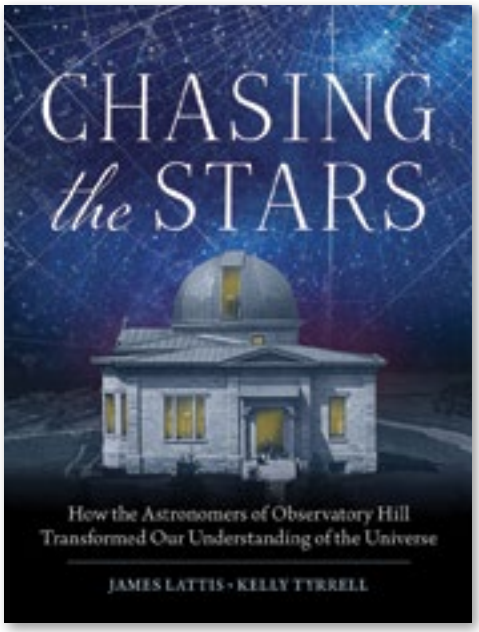
DANIEL KHALASTCHI '03

Khalastchi's fourth collection of poetry traverses a realm that is not quite reality and not quite a dream. His poems seek to make sense of chaos while also striving to survive it. Khalastchi is the director of the University of Iowa's Magid Center for Writing and is the cofounder and managing editor of Rescue Press.

Against Extraction: Indigenous Modernism in the Twin Cities

MATT HOOLEY MA'06, PHD'11

By tracing the Ojibwe tradition of invention in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota, from the mid-19th century to the present day, Hooley examines how Indigenous people create art to resist the violence of settler colonialism. He analyzes Indigenous visual art and literature in relation to histories of dispossession and displacement, Black life and enslavement, and environmental harm. Hooley is an assistant professor of Native American and Indigenous studies at Dartmouth College.



Chasing the Stars *reminds us why astronomy is a deeply human endeavor.*

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

The View from Observatory Hill

Kelly Tyrrell MS'11 and James Lattis MA'87, PhD'89 chronicle the astronomers who charted the universe from the UW campus.

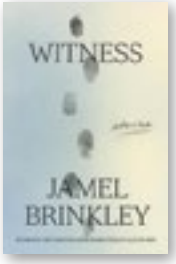
Overlooking the sprawling waterscape of Lake Mendota, Observatory Hill boasts one of the best views on the UW campus. Astronomers who frequented the hill and its namesake research facility throughout history would surely agree, though their gazes were turned up to the sky, looking lightyears beyond Madison.

In *Chasing the Stars: How the Astronomers of Observatory Hill Transformed Our Understanding of the Universe,* science writer **Kelly Tyrrell MS'11** and UW astronomy professor **Jim Lattis MA'87, PhD'89** chronicle the history of UW–Madison's Washburn Observatory and the discoveries that were made there.

The book begins with the earliest scientists to document the stars from these lakeshores: the Indigenous people of the Great Lakes region whose enduring drawings and burial mounds reflect constellations and celestial events. Centuries later, when UW president **John Bascom** resolved to turn the university into a progressive research institution, one of his first steps was to partner with former Wisconsin governor Cadwallader Washburn to build the Washburn Observatory. The facility enjoyed a prolific run as a destination for astronomy research, and Wisconsin honors its legacy by continuing to advance astronomical innovation.

"*Chasing the Stars* recounts for us how Wisconsin's astronomers came to be leaders in this field for more than a century and reminds us of why astronomy is a deeply human endeavor that appeals to professionals and nonprofessionals alike," writes astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Andrea Ghez.

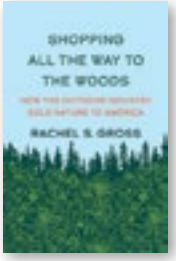
Tyrrell is the UW's assistant vice chancellor for content strategy and is an editor for science journalism nonprofit The Open Notebook. Lattis is the founder and director of the UW Space Place and manages the historic Washburn Observatory.



Witness: Stories

JAMEL BRINKLEY

Through 10 stories set in New York City, Brinkley explores what it means to bear witness to the world around us. He focuses on the moments in which we are called upon to act for one another and what happens when we do — or don't — answer that call. *Witness* was named a Best Book of the Year in 2023 and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. Brinkley was the 2016–17 Carol Houck Smith Fiction Fellow in the Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing.



Shopping All the Way to the Woods: How the Outdoor Industry Sold Nature to America

RACHEL GROSS MA'12, PHD'17

In America, even a walk in the woods can come with a hefty price tag. Gross, an assistant professor of history at the University of Colorado–Denver, traces the growth of the outdoor goods industry, which brings in billions of dollars a year on specialty clothes, gear, and other merchandise marketed as essential to enjoying the great outdoors. She argues that the industry succeeds in selling not only items but also an identity of the "right kind of person" in outdoor culture.

A Bite above the Rest

CHRISTINE VIRNIG '98, MD'02

In Samhain, Wisconsin, it's always Halloween. Costumes are everyday attire and decorations adorn the town all year long. When Caleb moves to Samhain, he's already an outcast for hating Halloween, but things get even stranger when he starts to suspect that some of the townsfolk are even spookier than they seem. Virnig is a physician-turned-librarian in Madison.

MEGAN PROVOST '20

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

The Modern Dorm Room

At the UW's newer residence halls, today's students have it better than old-timers.

When I was a freshman in 2010, I roomed in Sellery Hall, dined at Gordon Commons, and worked out at the SERF. The facilities were, in the kindest possible word, adequate. In the intervening years, UW–Madison has renovated Sellery Hall and knocked down the other facilities for state-of-the-art replacements. Am I a bit jealous? Perhaps.

I toured the new Gordon Dining & Event Center and the Nicholas Recreation Center when they opened in 2012 and 2020, respectively, and was blown away by their massive scale and modern amenities. But I had never been inside a newer dorm room to see if today's students truly are living in luxury.

To find out, I set up a tour of Leopold Residence Hall, which opened in 2013 and remains the university's newest residential facility.

Anyone who's lived in the UW's older dorms will recognize the practical, no-frills interior of Leopold Hall's rooms: concrete block walls, neutral colors, carpet tiles, lofted single beds, and small desks. And the quarters are still cozy, though the high ceilings make the space feel airier. The new standard layout includes a walk-in closet that sections the room into two and affords more privacy for changing. With the university's enrollment booming in recent years, these 167-square-foot rooms are serving as "triples" — housing three residents instead of the traditional two.

The rooms in Leopold Residence Hall feature high ceilings and walk-in closets.

The most enviable in-room amenity is the ability to individually control heat and air conditioning. But the shared spaces are what really shine. There are multiple "cluster-style" bathrooms on each floor, so only a handful of rooms have to share one rather than the entire floor. Each floor has access to a full-scale kitchen — with more counter space than in most homes — attached to the lounge. Built for sustainable living, Leopold Residence Hall also has a 1,000-square-foot greenhouse on its top floor.

Once again, I'm jealous. But hey, at least I didn't have to share my dorm room with two people.

PRESTON SCHMITT '14

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