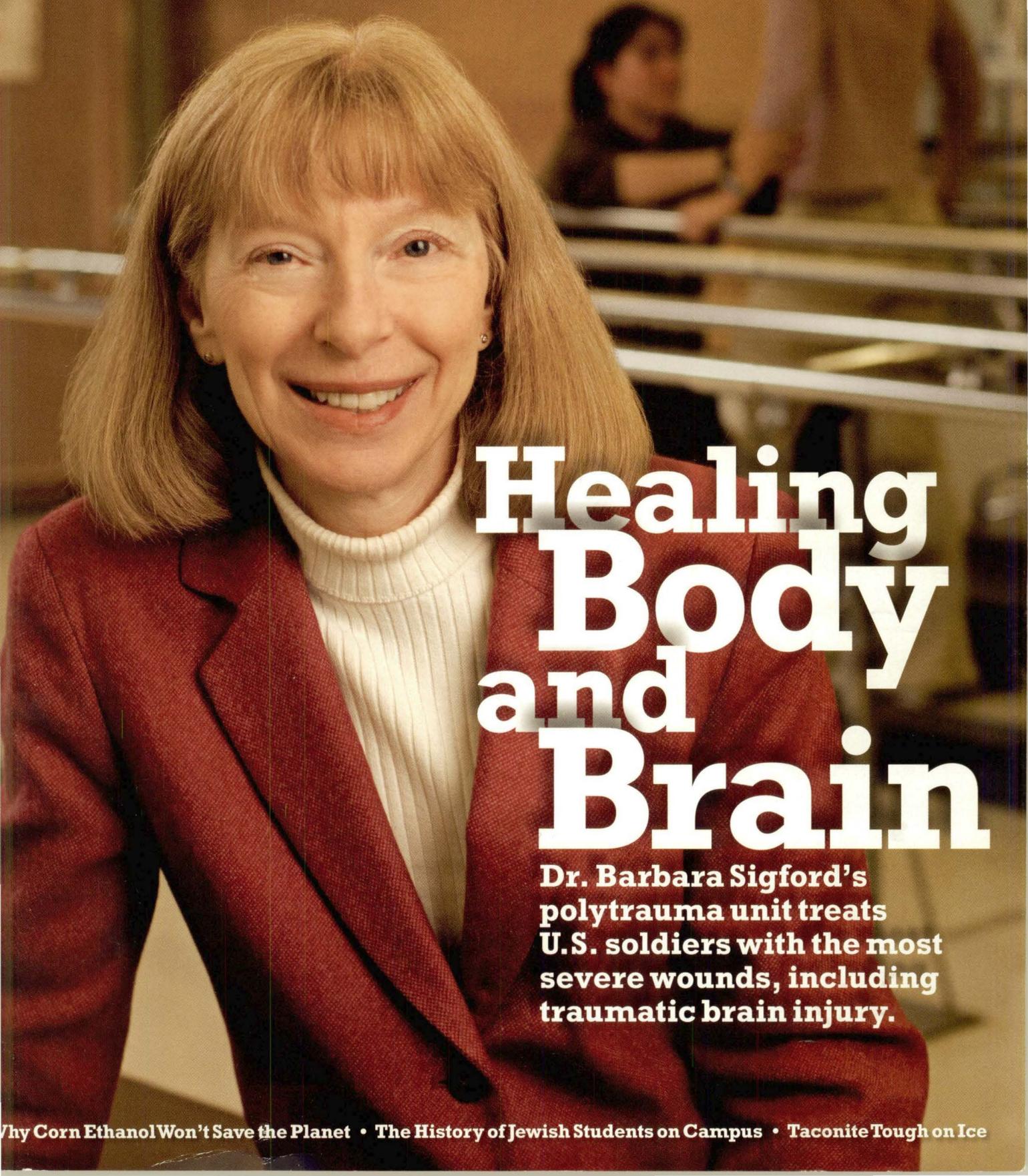


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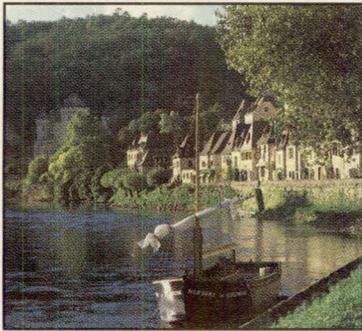
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by Mark Luinenburg

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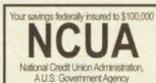
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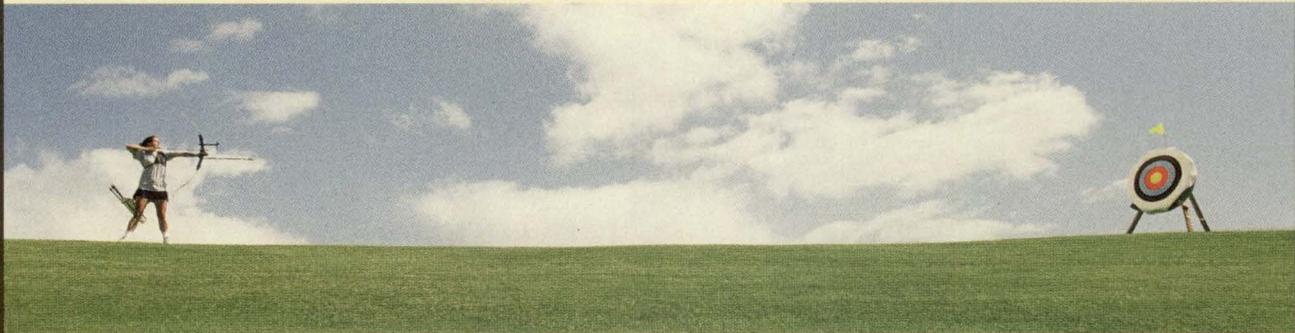
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Deliberate Dialogue

Returning to the office one chilly afternoon, my fingers wrapped around a cup of steaming coffee, I reflected on this ritual I'd adopted over the years. To get away from the computer screen and its gush of e-mail, to be alone with my thoughts for a few minutes and not have to talk to anyone, I wander to a campus coffee shop and order a Cubano con leche or a mocha java. Refueled, I mosey back to my desk, settle in, and return the messages I'd missed—to people who were probably now out finding a quiet coffee themselves. I do this once or twice a week—delaying my retirement in \$3 increments, sure, but enriching my peace of mind, I figure.

That particular day, waiting my turn in line and becoming transported by the hiss of the espresso machine, my mind drifted back to Spain, where I'd traveled several years earlier. We were touring the Andalusian region, and one day our guide, Isabel, led us to a cafe in the center of town for lunch. The place was lively with customers. They must have all been regulars because everyone seemed to be talking to everyone else and laughing and arguing and carrying on. I wondered if we weren't intruding on a private party.



Shelly Fling

But a table was waiting for us in the back. We were on a schedule, however, and would have to eat fast. When we stood to brush the crumbs from our laps and head to the bus, I asked Isabel how I could order a coffee to go.

"What do you mean?" she asked. Isabel's English was perfect, but she didn't seem to grasp my meaning.

"I was wondering if I could buy a cup of coffee and take it with me—in a paper cup," I explained.

"We don't have coffee to go," she replied. "In Spain, you have coffee to see your neighbors and to sit and talk and discuss things." I followed her to the bus, without my caffeine but wired with a new concept: deliberate dialogue.

Back in the United States, cruising down the interstate at 60 miles per hour, I glimpsed a man on an overpass holding an American flag. It was post-9/11 and I got his message. But what was one to do in response? Would a honk be an affirmative rejoinder or taken as a note of disapproval? Did he even want a response? In any case, I was a half-mile past him before I completed the thought.

Since that trip to Spain, I've noticed that roadways are the most popular spots in America for sharing impassioned ideas. Political pleas are painted on bed sheets and tied to walk bridges. Bumper stickers asserting opinions swerve in and out of range. Neighborhoods in my corner of the city sport more yard signs than all the Burma Shave campaigns combined. What would happen if I stopped the car, knocked on a door, and tried to carry on a conversation with the homeowner about his or her sign?

My instinct tells me that I wouldn't be welcome—that people prefer impassioned, one-way conversations. They aren't inviting dialogue and certainly don't want to convey that they're open to changing their mind. I get that. No amount of hammering will loosen my hold on many of the beliefs I hold dear. Still, I believe in wrestling with uncomfortable ideas, testing opinions and their various shades, following trails of logic and lines of thinking. I believe it's why we have minds.

Issuing a magazine sometimes feels like a one-way conversation. We frame ideas, pull together stories, design and illustrate, then hope the package grabs attention or causes someone to pause and think. Nothing is more disappointing if the reaction to this work is silence. And nothing is more rewarding than reaching into my mailbox and retrieving a letter from someone who wishes to carry the discussion a bit further. ■

Shelly Fling can be reached at fling003@umn.edu.

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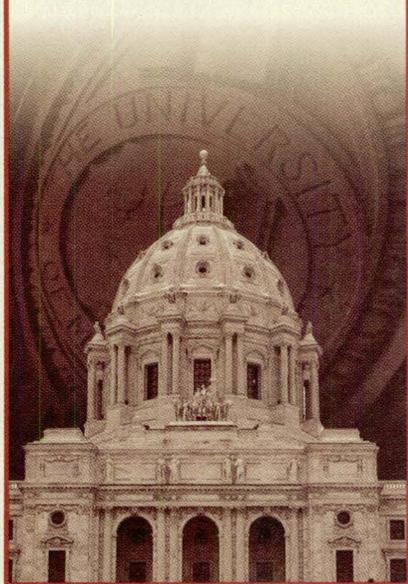
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Letters

EQUAL TIME IS UNBALANCED

Koreen Wallis Bowers is apparently the new conservative voice that helps the alumni association indicate balanced coverage in the alumni magazine [Letters, May–June 2005, May–June 2006, and November–December 2006]. At what point does balanced coverage override the need for objective assessment of opinions?

Minnesota magazine may very well be reporting on global warming more than other relevant topics. However, no other issue in history has likely been studied and scrutinized on a consensus basis as much as the science on global warming. Scientifically, detractors are approaching the realm of those who believe, but can't produce evidence, that the earth is 6,000 years old. However, the media insists on giving equal time to the small minority, which tells the wrong story to the public.

Bowers mixes uncited research and politics, taken as fact, and would do well to read <http://gristmill.grist.org/skeptics> [an independent environmental journalism Web site] on how to talk to climate change skeptics.

Mike Taylor (M.S. '02)
Mount Rainier, Maryland

RAG PARADE?

Regarding "Hip Parade" [November–December 2006]: Isn't it difficult enough to finance attendance at the U without paying real money for clothes that look like they escaped from a rag bag?

Ethel Demaree (B.S. '52)
Robbinsdale, Minnesota

BOOKS, NOT JOCKS

The ad for the University Bookstore on page 6 [November–December 2006] sums up what is horribly wrong with the U of M these days. Remember when bookstores sold books, not jock memorabilia?! We are shown a mindless cheerleader. A bookstore is not a cheerleader. A university is not dumb jocks and fashion plates. Academics are not a part of the University; they are the *real* University.

D.L. Owen
Glenwood, Minnesota

BAD SCIENCE, BAD PUBLIC POLICY

I have read Margaret Sughrue Carlson's appeal to U alumni to support state funding for the Biomedical Sciences Research Facilities Authority [September–October and November–December 2006]. I am writing to let you know that I do not support this funding, I will urge my legislators to vote against it, and I will urge my family and friends to

do the same.

Human embryonic stem cells have yet to produce a cure for anything, and Dr. Meri Firpo admits as much on <http://buzz.smm.org> [a Science Museum of Minnesota forum].

The primary reason I oppose this research is that it destroys human lives. Dr. Firpo and Dr. Catherine Verfaillie, indeed anyone well-versed in biology or medicine, should know that each one of us has retained our individual identity even from the time we were single cells. Dr. Jerome Lejeune, Nobelist in genetics, noted that a single cell contains enough information to fill 40 sets (not volumes, sets) of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. This is not religious dogma but scientific fact.

I see no excuse for this research. It's bad science, so it's bad public policy, and I can't in good conscience support it.

Robert G. Wirth (B.A. '70)
Minneapolis

ATHLETICS COMPETES WITH ACADEMICS

In Denny Schulstad's and Margaret Carlson's columns [November–December 2006], they ask alumni to contact their state legislators to support the creation of a Biomedical Sciences Research Facilities Authority. Two years ago, the University asked us to help it reverse a 30-year trend of declining state appropriations. Along with many other alumni, I wrote letters to state legislators and met with them in their offices. We achieved our objective.

Last year, having barely turned the corner on increasing appropriations for its academic programs, the University went to the legislature seeking half of the \$248 million cost to build a football stadium. At the same time, the University submitted a proposal for \$206 million in bonds for its academic facilities. The University also submitted a separate proposal to authorize a \$300 million bond fund for a biomedical facilities authority.

The scoreboard for the University at the conclusion of the "stadium session" showed that a football program with an abysmal graduation rate was a clear winner at the legislature. The state approved \$137 million in bonding for the stadium that will be retired at the rate of more than \$10 million per year for 25 years. The loser was the capital request for academic facilities. The legislature slashed the request from \$206 million to \$116 million. The separate proposal for the biomedical facilities authority never made it out of committee. [The capital request that was approved did include \$40 million for one biomedical building.]

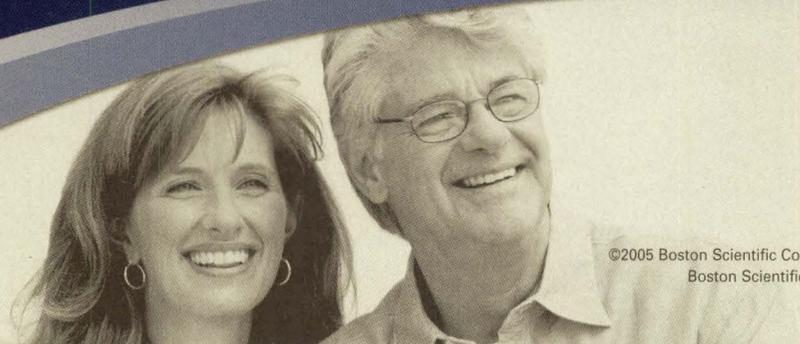
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It was clear early in the session that the capital request for academic facilities was in jeopardy. Yet the University devoted much of its time and effort to secure approval of bonds for a stadium. A year after recruiting alumni to support the academic mission of the University, the Board of Regents squandered the good will created by the personal efforts of those alumni.

The regents never bothered to consult with parents—the people who bear the burden of the huge tuition increases that are the consequence of the no-new-taxes shell game played at the legislature during the past four years. If you asked parents whether they would want hundreds of millions of dollars spent on (1) academic facilities, where their children would prepare for their futures, or (2) a football stadium, where their children might watch six games each year, their answer should be painfully obvious.

There is something more toxic in the stadium issue than the land the University dumped on the state. It is the example we are giving to our children of the priorities in life.

If the regents agree that a biomedical facilities authority would play a crucial role in the future well-being of our state, then they should request the legislature to direct that the \$250 million that the state will pay to retire the stadium debt should be used instead for biomedical facilities. The *raison d'être* for the University is the dissemination and the advancement of knowledge. Let us now resolve that the big business of major college sports will no longer be allowed to interfere with those objectives.

Michael W. McNabb (B.A. '71, J.D. '74)
Burnsville, Minnesota

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In the November–December 2006 U News, *Minnesota* reported an inaccuracy about the structure of the University's new Institute on the Environment. The institute is interdisciplinary and is not located within a particular college but reports to the provost.

Also in U News, an item noted that the Law School's class of 2009 is the most diverse in the school's history. That statement was intended to include the students' diverse geographic origins, educational backgrounds, and other distinctions, not just their gender breakdown and racial or ethnic identities.

The editors regret any confusion.

Please write to: Letters to the Editor, *Minnesota* Magazine, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Or e-mail: fling003@umn.edu. Letters will be edited for length, style, and clarity.



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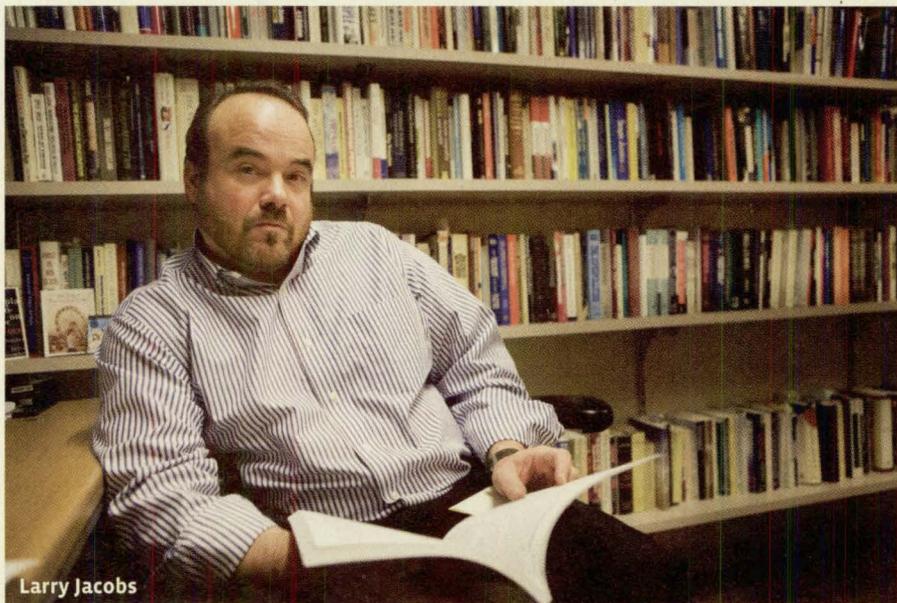
Politics and the Professor

Lawrence Jacobs has never run for political office, but in the months leading up to last fall's elections, he seemed to get as much press coverage as any candidate. The director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and a self-confessed political junkie, Jacobs was ubiquitous in the media, sizing up the mood of the electorate based on the center's research and polling data.

"I'm always surprised when [media] people call—and call me regularly—because there are lots of smart people out there," admits Jacobs. "I value it and it's a sign to me that people are getting something from the relationship." What Jacobs hopes they're getting is clear, unbiased research and information packaged in a way that is easily understandable. That concept has been at the heart of the center since it was founded in 2005 to connect academic political science with real-world politics.

While the academic aspect of his work plainly thrills Jacobs, he wants to be able to translate his work in a way that matters to people like those back in his hometown. He grew up in the pastoral Croton-on-Hudson, a small town south of Poughkeepsie, New York, the son of a stenographer and a registered nurse. Jacobs recalls a community where the children of doctors and lawyers mingled easily with the children of factory and railroad workers. "There were real differences in the two politically and religiously, but there was always a premium on being able to talk with different folks," he recalls.

It was a skill honed at the family dinner table as well. During the Vietnam War and throughout the 1970s, he debated issues with his father. Even when they disagreed, his father never told him what to think, Jacobs says. "The thing he valued—still values—is honesty and integrity and *why* you believe



Larry Jacobs

something. It was always the why question, and I think what keeps me really engaged is thinking of that."

An undergraduate English and history major, Jacobs was surprised to find out that his passion for politics could lead to a career. These days, that includes finding new and sometimes unorthodox ways to bring more people into the political discussion. In November 2005, the center sponsored a talk by artist Stephen Mumford, who had been embedded with U.S. troops in Iraq, that attracted an audience filled with faces new to the Humphrey Institute. Last fall, Jacobs engaged Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder in a special public dialogue on issues related to creating a good society.

When it comes to traditional politics, the center's work has focused primarily on Minnesota and the Midwest, but that will be changing. Jacobs sees the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul as an opportunity to take the next leap. "We're planning what I think will be an extraordinary set of programs with top political people in the country," Jacobs says.

—J. Trout Lowen

WEB HIT: THE U IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The University of Minnesota has expanded its outreach to the business community with the launch of the Academic and Corporate Relations Center, billed as the "front door" to the U for businesses worldwide. The Web site (www.business.umn.edu) is a comprehensive guide to the center's services, which include a "concierge service" that is staffed Monday through Friday and is designed to rapidly connect users to the informa-

tion and resources they need. Center staff assist companies of all sizes, as well as trade associations and nonprofits. The service will help employers access U students and graduates and will offer a variety of workshops and events pertaining to current research at the University. The center emerged out of discussions with businesses, which reported they wanted easy access to continuing education, faculty expertise, and graduates.



TUMBLING DOWN

The \$4.6 million demolition of several Con-Agra grain elevators near the site of the new on-campus football stadium began in December. The elevators' removal enables the widening and rerouting of streets that will run next to TCF Bank Stadium and near what is envisioned as the new medical biosciences corridor. Demolition is slated for completion in March of this year and kickoff in the new stadium is planned for fall 2009.

When Louis Mendoza arrived at the University of Minnesota as head of the Chicano Studies Department, he found two pressing problems. First, Minnesota's institutions of higher education had very few Latinos. Second, those few worked in isolation from one another, making it difficult to identify common problems or create common solutions. What was needed, Mendoza believed, was to organize.

LATINO NETWORK LAUNCHED

"Advocacy for change was taking place only sporadically against overwhelming odds," Mendoza

says. While organizing was not necessarily a novel idea—some Latinos in higher education in Minnesota had organized the Minnesota Hispanic Education Partnership in the late 1980s—Mendoza's previous experience with the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education provided a new vision for an organization that would include faculty, staff, and students.

Thus was born the idea for the Minnesota Network of Latinos in Higher Education, which held its initial meeting at the Humphrey Institute in December. Eighty Latino faculty, staff, and

students in higher education from the University and colleges and universities around the state attended. A \$171,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation aided the Chicano Studies Department in organizing the network.

Its mission is to advocate for Latino success and advancement in higher education. Key issues include access in the face of rising tuition; increased recruitment and retention of Latino students, faculty, and staff; and creating campus climates that are inclusive of Latino educational needs. A related endeavor, the Minnesotano Media Empowerment Project, held its first meeting on campus the day after the network was launched. The goal of that project, also organized by Chicano Studies, is to train Latinos to use the media to tell their own stories and to provide journalists with in-depth information about issues that affect the Latino community.

Mendoza believes that the new network can provide much-needed leadership on integrating Latinos into higher education. "The scarcity of U.S. Latinos in the higher education system in Minnesota is readily apparent," he says. "This must change as the demographics of the state change."

For more information, go to www.chicano.umn.edu/network.

—Cynthia Scott

OVERHEARD ON CAMPUS

"When pants don't fit, women take it personally."

—Ellen McKinney, University doctoral student in the College of Design, who says designers don't consider body shape when creating clothes patterns. She is studying how 3-D digital measurements of women's bodies can be applied to 2-D patterns to create jeans for specific body shapes.

MAKE WAY FOR THE EAST GATEWAY DISTRICT

The largest expansion of campus since the addition of the West Bank in the 1960s is envisioned for a 75-acre area surrounding the new Gopher football stadium. An initial sketch of the planned East Gateway District was presented to a Board of Regents committee in December. The District will include the new TCF Bank Stadium, which will be situated on 10 acres adjacent to Mariucci and Williams arenas, as well as new medical biosciences facilities near the McGuire Translational Research Lab. It will also have connections to the proposed Central Corridor of the Twin Cities light rail transit line (projected to open in 2013), added campus parking, and connections to adjacent neighborhoods. Pending approval of funding by the state legislature, construction of the district is projected for completion in 2015.

Celestial Dust-Up

University of Minnesota astrophysicists led an international team that discovered the presence of cosmic dust where it had never been found before. Using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, the team found dust deep within a pack of stars that is probably 12.5 billion years old, dating back to the early days of the Milky Way galaxy. The discovery suggests that the deaths of smaller, humbler stars—rather than the violent explosions of giant stars—may have supplied the early dust that seeded myriad stars like the sun. Identifying sources of dust not only helps researchers draw a picture of how the solar system formed, but can help in searches of the cosmos for events that may lead to the formation of new stars and planets. Researchers say the ancient stars that contained the dust may be models of what the first stars in the universe were like.

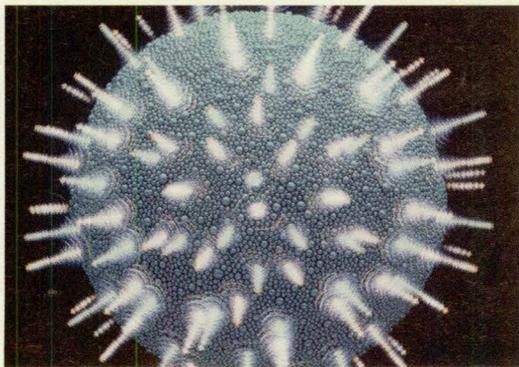


CHILD CANCER SURVIVORS AT RISK

Survivors of childhood cancers who underwent radiation treatment are more likely than others to have brain and spinal column tumors later in life, according to U research. Researchers said the findings underscore the critical importance of prolonged medical follow-up for all childhood cancer survivors.

Researchers reviewed information from more than 14,300 five-year survivors of childhood cancer who are participating in the U's Childhood Cancer Survivor Study and found that 116 of them developed subsequent tumors of the brain and central nervous system. The extent of the risk of developing secondary cancer depended on the site of the original cancer, age at diagnosis, and the primary treatment given.

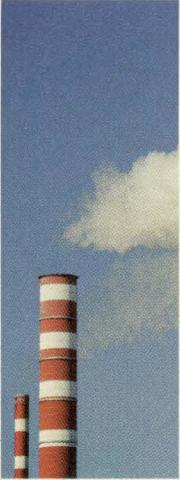
Radiation treatment was linked to a higher risk for developing both malignant and benign brain tumors later in life. The risk of a second tumor increased as the dose of radiation used to treat the first cancer increased. Children under age 5 had an especially high incidence of secondary brain tumors, leading researchers to conclude that the developing brain of a young child is particularly susceptible to the effects of radiation.



TARGETING HIV

Researchers at the University of Minnesota have identified a protein that enables viruses such as the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, to infect cells and spread through the body. The discovery lays the groundwork for the development of new drugs that can stop the virus from spreading. HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, does not have enough proteins of its own to complete its life cycle; thus, it feeds on proteins in the cells that it infects. Currently, the only drugs that are available to fight HIV act on proteins that the virus itself produces. Since the virus constantly changes, the drugs eventually become ineffective.

The World Health Organization reports that in 2005, 40.3 million people worldwide lived with HIV infection. In that same year, 3.1 million people died of HIV/AIDS, and there were 4.9 million new cases.



SERVICE ECONOMY NO FIX FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The findings of a study by a University of Minnesota researcher challenge the accepted view that the shift toward a service-based economy will automatically result in a reduction of greenhouse gases in the air. Using a life-cycle assessment approach to quantify the environmental effects of products and services, the research analyzed 44 emissions generated by service industries such as hospitals, real estate, and banking. It found that while such industries directly create only about 5 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions, they consume large quantities of electricity, natural gas, transportation, building installations and manufactured goods, all of which generate greenhouse gases. Additionally, as the service industry expands the total volume of greenhouse gases produced in the U.S. economy could go up. The study noted that mitigation of climate change requires the actual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in absolute terms, and that this cannot be achieved if the service sector is dependent on products that create such emissions.

FAST FUEL

A University scientist has discovered a process that could be the first step toward creating usable fuels from biomass—plant wastes like sawdust, cornstalks, yard clippings, or trees. The process, called flash volatilization, generates a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide gases from soy oil and sugar by exposing them to extreme heat in only one-hundredth of a second. It works 10 to 100 times faster than current technologies and could be done in facilities about 10 times smaller than today. Currently, soy oil can be modified to make biodiesel, but the process requires the addition of methanol, a fossil fuel derived from natural gas. Likewise, the current technology that transforms sugars into ethanol or other fuels is time-intensive and requires special enzymes.



DENTAL CARE OK FOR EXPECTANT MOMS

Expectant mothers need not worry about harming their fetus by receiving dental care for gum disease, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Researchers found that pregnant women who have gum disease are not at increased risk of giving birth prematurely, a finding that goes counter to past research, which associated maternal periodontal disease with an increased risk of preterm birth, low birth weight, infant mortality, and long-term health problems for the child.

Scientists suspected that bacteria from infected gums could enter the bloodstream and cause the immune system to provoke changes in tissues and organs elsewhere in the body, leading to premature labor. But research at the U concluded that treatment for gum disease during pregnancy is safe, effective, and does not significantly change rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, or problems with fetal growth. The research is important because it demonstrates that expectant mothers can maintain oral health without fear of risking the health of their fetus.

Periodontal disease is not caused by pregnancy, but pregnant women often experience bleeding gums, a condition thought to be caused by increased levels of female hormones that favor the growth of certain oral bacteria.

A BREATH OF HOPE

For the first time ever, researchers have taken stem cells from umbilical cord blood and coaxed them into becoming lung cells. University of Minnesota researchers say the procedure is a step toward understanding lung development and disease. The cord blood cells changed into a type of lung cell called type II alveolar cells, which play a crucial role in allowing air to move in and out of the lungs and in helping repair airways after an injury. Fetuses develop type II alveolar cells late, which is why some premature babies are born with underdeveloped lungs. The cells and air sacs in the lungs continue to mature and develop through a child's first few years of life. By helping scientists understand how lung disease evolves, the cells could lead to the development of new treatments for babies who are born with cystic fibrosis and other lung conditions.



MORE GIRLS TURN TO DIET PILLS

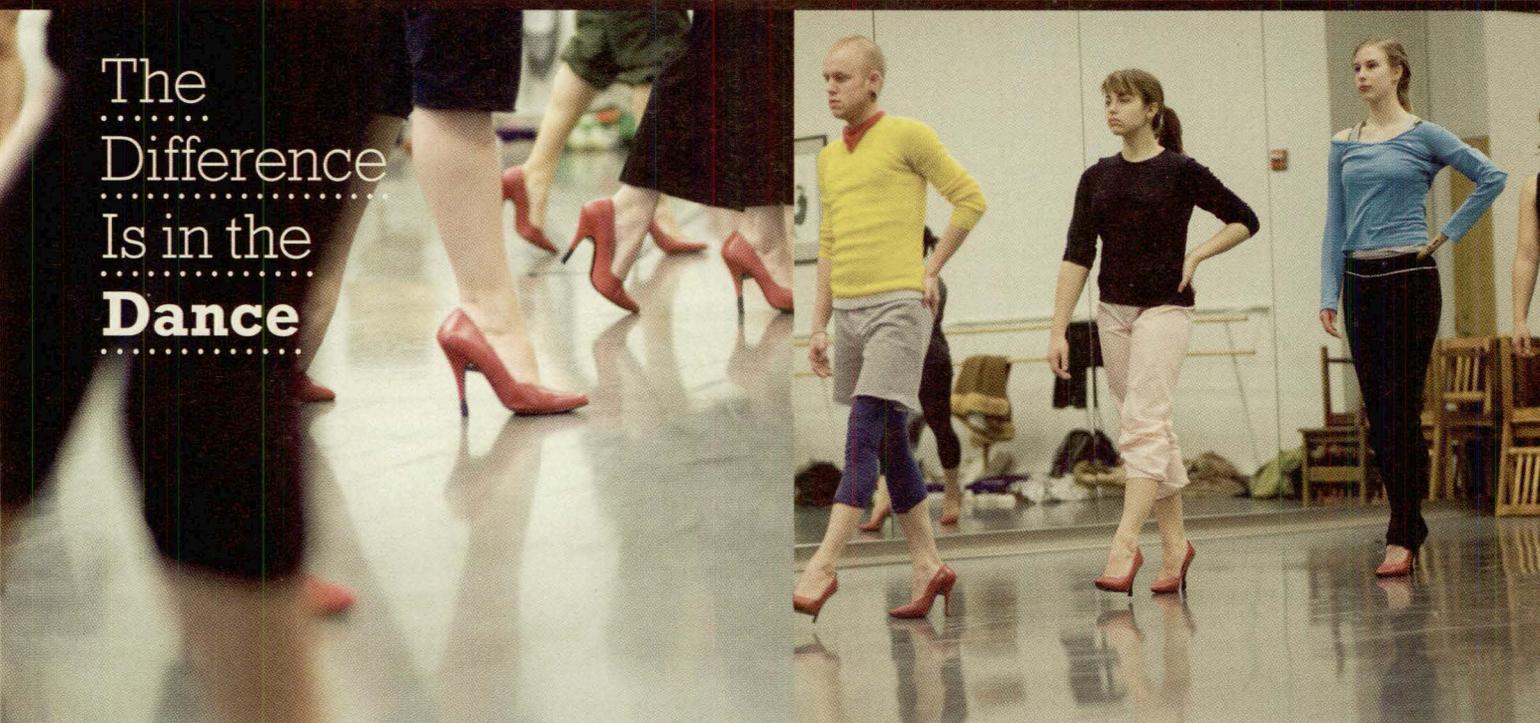
High school-aged girls' use of diet pills nearly doubled in a five-year period and continued to increase as they entered their 20s, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota who studied the eating and related habits of 2,500 teenage girls. In early adolescence, 3.5 percent of the girls reported using diet pills. By middle adolescence, that number had risen to 14.2 percent. Further, girls' physical activity was found to drop dramatically, to less than four hours per week, whereas boys in the same age group spent about six hours a week in physical activity.

The study found that teenaged boys were half as likely as girls to adopt unhealthy weight control behaviors, including diet pills, laxatives, vomiting, and skipping meals. Researchers said they found that teenage girls who diet and use unhealthy weight control behaviors are three times more likely than their peers to be overweight, whereas teens who feel good about their bodies eat better and have less risk of being overweight.

Researchers called the findings "startling." They identified several possible reasons for the increase in diet pill use, including pressure to be thin and the promise of fast results from diet pills; greater availability of over-the-counter weight-loss drugs and herbal supplements; and increased advertising of such products, particularly over the Internet. Researchers also underscored the key role that parents can play in helping their children build a positive body image and engage in healthy eating and physical activities.

—Edited by Cynthia Scott

The Difference Is in the Dance



Women—and men—wearing short black skirts and red spike heels slowly strut across the stage in Pat Graney's dance piece, *Faith*. Phalanxes of dancers, propelled by spring-loaded spins, lunges, stretches, and twists, hurl themselves through space with forceful intensity in Ananya Chatterjea's *Khonj*. Uri Sands' *Happy* features a quartet performing in lively aerobic unison as their arms sway, legs kick out, heads bob, and torsos pulse in joyous rhythm to the music. And in Anna Sokolow's 1950's classic, *Rooms*, dancers reveal the inner, isolated worlds of their characters with quiet theatricality and expressive movement.

These four dance works, which make up this year's University Dance Theater concert February 2 through 4, showcase how the dance program's professional training produces dancers with tremendous technical ability and artistic versatility. The show, aptly titled "Dance Revolutions: Dance that Embraces Difference," also exemplifies the ways in which the dance program's educational approach promotes and accomplishes such learning.

First of all, each faculty member in the dance department choreographs and/or performs with his or her own dance company (a rarity among university dance programs) with a distinctive movement vocabulary and style. As faculty, they teach their choreographic styles to students during technique classes; they also impart to students the knowledge they acquire as directors of dance companies—their research pursuits—to broaden the students' understanding of the creative process.

Associate professor Ananya Chatterjea, for instance, who is also artistic director of the all-female Ananya Dance Theatre,



taught the University Dance Theater performers her singular choreographic blend of yoga, the classical Indian dance form Odissi, and the martial art Chau before making *Khonj* with the students' input. Dance theater rehearsal director Toni Pierce-Sands teaches the fluid, expressive Horton dance technique. She's also co-artistic director of TU Dance with her husband, Uri Sands, and helped him teach *Happy* to the students.

"Within our program, we have a broad range of styles and techniques," says Pierce-Sands. "We already expect our student dancers to transition from style to style, and that prepares them to take on diverse repertory." That repertory is generated largely through the Sage Cowles Land Grant Chair Guest Artist Program, now in its 20th year. Through this program, the dance department expands on its in-house versatility by inviting an array of dance artists, scholars, and teachers from around the country to work with students every year.

Selection criteria include a dance artist's reputation, work quality, and teaching ability, as well as the variety of experience they'll be able to offer the students. In making its annual Cowles selections, the department also seeks to include emerging choreographers; dance artists of diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds, sexual identities, and physical abilities; and choreographers practicing and working in a range of dance forms. During their residencies, the guest artists also teach students the unique movement styles they practice, along with a dance work to perform during the annual concert.

"The dance program is actively pursuing a strategy of embracing difference by bringing in guest teachers and artists who introduce the students to multiple perspectives on

aesthetic and socio-political issues,” explains dance-department director Carl Flink (B.A. '90). He also teaches a dance-technique class centered on the highly physical movement style performed by his company, Black Label Movement.

The four choreographers with works in this concert, three of them Cowles artists, Flink adds, “exemplify high-quality aesthetics and the importance of difference as an engine for artistry. Three of the works are by women. Two are by people of color. One choreographer is openly gay. And two are social activists. This is the kind of range and thinking we want our students exposed to.”

Seattle-based, lesbian choreographer Pat Graney, for example, taught students the red-shoes piece, which is an excerpt from her longer work, *Keeping the Faith*. Choreographed in 1990, *Keeping the Faith* led to an arts-education project for incarcerated women and girls that Graney and her dance company continue to offer around the country. As a Cowles guest artist, Graney’s residency included lectures, performances, and work with gay youth from a Minneapolis community center.

St. Paul-based choreographer Sands, who has received numerous awards and accolades since he and Pierce-Sands debuted TU Dance, has created an accessible choreographic style that blends African dance, ballet, jazz, modern dance, social dance, and everyday movement. His residency included talking with students about his creative process and teaching technique classes on his choreographic style along with *Happy*. “I was amazed at how open, receptive, and responsive the students were,” Sands says. “They were willing to try almost anything.”

Anna Sokolow’s 1955 masterwork *Rooms* was taught to the students by Lorry May, a former dancer who performed the piece and is executive director of the Sokolow Dance Foundation in New York City. A classic modern-dance work set to a jazz score, *Rooms* exemplifies Sokolow’s stature as a visionary choreographer whose work stands the test of time in its powerful portrayals of hope, loneliness, and the vitality of the human spirit. The students performed the work in October at the Southern

Theater in Minneapolis.

“What’s exciting to me is how this dance program brings a global world of dance to the University of Minnesota,” Chatterjea says. “Today the students work with me, tomorrow with Uri, then on a challenging feminine piece like Pat’s, and then do a classic like *Rooms*. Each work makes very different demands on each student. But they’re able to adjust because they know the principles of good movement. Such different repertory fits easily on the dancers’ bodies.”

ers’ bodies.”

As a result, during this concert, Chatterjea adds, “Audiences will see a range of what dance is and means.”

The University Dance Theatre’s “Dance Revolutions: Dance that Embraces Difference” will be performed February 2 through 4 at the Rarig Center, 330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, in the West Bank Arts Quarter of the University of Minnesota. For tickets, call 612-624-2345. Visit www.theatre.umn.edu for more information. —Camille LeFevre



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Children's Cancer Research Fund

The University of Minnesota Libraries have purchased the manuscripts, correspondence, and personal papers of acclaimed American poet Robert Bly for \$775,000. The Bly archive includes more than 80,000 pages of handwritten manuscripts, a journal spanning nearly 50 years, notebooks of Bly's "morning poems," drafts of translations, and his extensive correspondence with other writers. Funds came from private gifts and University support.

A Minnesota native, Bly is known as the father of and scribe for what he has called "the expressive men's movement." One of the most provocative and respected American artists of the past half century, his work includes *Iron John*, *My Sentence Was a Thousand Years of Joy*, *Eating the Honey of Words*, and *The Man in the Black Coat Turns*, among many others.

The archive will be housed in the Archives and Special Collections department of the Elmer L. Andersen Library and will be available to the public for research and study.

Allen Levine (M.S. '73, Ph.D. '77) has been named the first dean of the newly created College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. At the time of his appointment, Levine was professor and head of the department of food science and nutrition at the University, where he had been a member of the faculty since 1981. He holds joint appointments in the departments of surgery, psychiatry, and medicine. He is also director of the Minnesota Obesity Center and was deputy chief of staff for research at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis for more than 17 years.

The University of Minnesota-Rochester (UMR) was designated an official campus of the University system by President Bob Bruininks at a presentation to the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee in November. As an official campus, UMR will have greater control over its resources and programs. A new chancellor position has been created, and Bruininks expects to present a finalist to the Board of Regents in the next several months.

Several enhancements to the Rochester campus are under way, including new and expanded academic programs and research partnerships, plans to create 10 to 20 full-time core faculty positions, and a new corporate relations center designed to serve as a "front door" to the University for businesses and other organizations in Rochester and southeastern Minnesota.

UMR will establish its own physical campus in Rochester at a site to be determined. The University is undertaking a collaborative planning process with the city of Rochester, Olmsted County, health care providers, businesses, and the community to determine long-term facility needs. A master plan is expected to be approved by the Board of Regents in 2008, with the first permanent campus facility to be completed by about 2012.

Tobacco use among students has dropped, according to the results of the 2006 Core Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Survey, which explored use of those substances among



Say "Ahhhh!"

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry dedicated its newly expanded and enhanced Center for Contemporary Dentistry in November. The educational facility is equipped with the most current advances in dental innovations and technologies, digital radiography, the latest infection control equipment, and some of the most comfortable dental chairs available. Patients at the center may watch a variety of educational videos about treatments ranging from root canals to removal of wisdom teeth. In addition, patient records will be stored in state-of-the-art electronic formats. A partnership between the U's School of Dentistry (the only dental school in the state) and Patterson Dental Supply, Inc., of St. Paul, the center will also be available for use by practicing dental professionals who attend the School of Dentistry Continuing Dental Education programs.

students at 12 Minnesota colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota. Since 1998, the daily tobacco use rate has decreased from 9.8 percent to 4.6 percent. Current use (defined as any use in the past 30 days) also dropped, from 41.8 percent in 1998 to 26.4 percent in 2006. The results showed that the use of alcohol among students has remained stable at 2005 rates. However, rates of high-risk, or binge, drinking among students remains high, according to Dr. Ed Ehlinger, director of Boynton Health Service. Ehlinger called high-risk drinking an "intractable problem" that requires broad-based community solutions.

In spring 2007, the University of Minnesota Law School will launch a one-of-a-kind program for international lawyers in Beijing, China. In partnership with the China University of Political Science and Law, the Law School will become one of the first in the nation to open a master of laws program at a university abroad. The 18-month program will equip students with tools to deal with Western lawyers, conduct business with multinational corporations, heighten understanding of other legal systems, and improve English language skills. The new program, combined with the existing summer program for J.D. students, will allow international and American students to learn together in the same classroom.

The Board of Regents approved a \$123.4 million biennial budget request from the state of Minnesota as part of a \$192.3 million investment plan. The budget provides \$23 million through internal reallocations and generates the remaining \$45.9 million through a 4.5 percent tuition increase for each of the next two years, one of the most modest tuition increases in recent history.

—Cynthia Scott

Search

Can we end our dependence on foreign oil?



Off the Shelf

Stories that Hit the Sweet Spot

If you've spent time in the rural Midwest, where Will Weaver's short stories are set, you've seen his characters around, though you might not have paid them much attention.

The white-haired woman frowning at the produce prices in the grocery store. The farmer sitting alone with a burger and beer in a crowded tavern. The retired couple traveling across the country in a mobile home. They're average folks, not glamorous or charismatic, the kind of people who tend to fade into the background. People whose everyday experiences, in our celebrity-obsessed society, may seem ordinary, even dull.

That is, until you meet them in a Will Weaver (B.A. '72) story. In *Sweet Land*, Weaver's new collection of 12 short stories, these unsung lives become dramatic and suspenseful, touching and poignant.

Weaver, who lives in Bemidji, Minnesota, knows these people, likes them, respects them, finds their feelings and activities worthy of attention. They're the farmers, hunters, school kids, car salesmen, and retirees who occupy small towns, not just in the Midwest but across the country, and who are trying to adjust as change—economic, technological, cultural, personal—erodes their familiar surroundings.

Several of these stories are new, but most are selected from Weaver's prize-winning 1989 collection, *A Gravestone Made of Wheat*, the title story of which was made into a recent movie titled *Sweet Land*. In that story, a grieving farmer wonders how to honor his deceased wife's last wishes, as he looks back upon their years together on a prairie farm: "She lay down beside him in the hay and when her hair fell across his face and neck he knew he could not be dreaming. He also knew that few dreams could ever be better than this. And in his long life with Inge, none were."

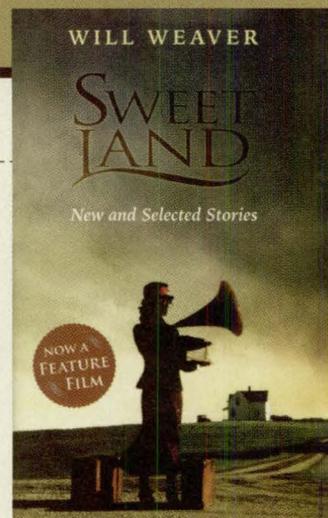
Most of the stories are similarly low-key, yet infused with their own quiet drama. A farmer gets a great deal on a mower at auction, then has to face the neighbor whose foreclosure made the deal possible. A woman living in a cheap prefab house sees her disappointment reflected in her favorite TV program, *This Old House*. A man takes his 10-year-old grandson to hang out with old-timers at his former local barber shop, savoring the chance to show the boy a bit of his past.

In the hands of a skilled storyteller, these unremarkable moments hold unseen depths of emotion: tension, disenchantment, gratitude, guilt, sorrow, love. In fact, the few stories that are more dramatic in the conventional sense—one involving a young con artist, another a hunting trip gone awry—are less successful than the stories about more everyday events. It's as if ordinariness itself, once Weaver has peeled it back to reveal the feelings beneath it, is what makes these stories so moving.

Who knew that a farmer's nervous watch on the sky, his years of saving and planning all dependent on rain holding

off for a few more days, could be so suspenseful? Who knew that a creepy car salesman wooing the high-school crush he doesn't realize is now married could be so heartbreaking? Who knew that a retired couple—she in her 60s, he in his 70s—making unplanned midday love in an ice-fishing shack could be so, well, sexy?

—Katy Read



Sweet Land
Minnesota Historical Society
Press, 2006
By Will Weaver (B.A. '72)

Bookmarks

Minnesotans in the Movies

By Rolf Canton (B.A. '69)
Nodin Press (2007)

An A-to-Z reference book of Minnesotans—those born in the state or who stayed awhile—who enjoyed time on the silver screen. Canton describes the careers of 94 film stars, including Tippi Hedren, brothers James Arness and Peter Graves, Jessica Lange, Vince Vaughn, and Kimberly Elise.

Secret Keeping

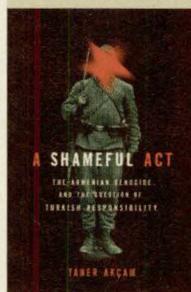
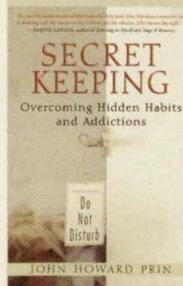
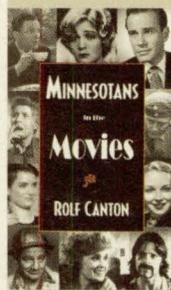
By John Prin (B.A. '68)
New World Library (2006)

According to Prin, 1 in 15 people lives a secret life, hiding their addictions to gambling, shopping, pornography, drugs, or food or other habits from family and friends. Prin, an alcohol and drug counselor and recovering addict, profiles secret keepers, describes unhealthy secrets, and explains how to come clean.

A Shameful Act

By Taner Akcam
Metropolitan Books (2006)

Akcam, an associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is one of the few Turkish historians to acknowledge the Armenian genocide and one of the first scholars to uncover evidence of the mass killings. He tells the full story of what the Ottoman Turks planned and carried out against their Armenian citizens beginning in 1915.



Search Results Power to the prairie.



U of M ecology professor David Tilman has found that growing many species of plants and flowers together can yield much more energy than growing a single fuel-source crop. This biodiversity happens naturally in Minnesota prairies without replanting and without fertilizer. Looks like locally grown prairie plants could really fuel change. So the search continues. **Learn more and submit your single greatest question at umn.edu.**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

A Prayer for Jane

Two lives cross paths on the treacherous Kopka River.

drops more than 300 feet in five breathtaking waterfalls and rapids into deep, cliff-sided pools below, plunging toward Lake Nipigon.

Jane, an Outward Bound instructor, and her husband, Gary, a nature writer, had recently completed a whitewater skills course in Ontario and decided to practice on the Kopka. They started below the first section of falls, which has navigable rapids for those with some whitewater experience. The Kopka then pours into the northeast end of Obonga Lake. Just past the southeast corner, a mile away, the river snakes quietly from the lake, turns a corner, and surges through a narrow rock chasm. You can see the river veering sharply south, but there are no clues, not even an echo of the water's roar, to warn of the waterfall.

We heard about the accident from the outfitter who gave Jane and Gary river information before they departed. He

warned us about the falls several times, pointing out the portage on our map and writing "Do Not Run" next to the river channel. We were starting a 16-day trip through Wabakimi Wilderness, down the Kopka, and into Lake Nipigon. I was preoccupied with Jane's death for the 14 days it took us to canoe to Obonga Lake and I knew, even then, I would think of her all summer.

I've been canoeing all my life, learning to j-stroke and feather when most paddles were taller than me. In the clear waters of northern Minnesota, Mom or Dad instructed me patiently as the boat turned in circles.

I learned to fear water,

to understand its power, while guiding four teenage girls on a 30-day wilderness canoe trip in 2003. I made a poor choice of rivers to paddle. The Little Jackfish River was more turbulent than I expected: the rapids large, fast, and overwhelming. We began calling it "the hell-roaring river of scary death," which may have been bad karma. The three girls in the second canoe flipped just upstream from a large rapid while trying to ferry across the river. Two swam to safety, but the third floated from sight. As I ran down shore with a rescue rope in hand, with what seemed like her life *and* mine flashing before my eyes, she



I am haunted by a woman I never met. Jane Ferguson was 50 years old when she drowned in the Kopka River, just a few weeks before I paddled it with a group of friends.

The Kopka skirts the southern edge of Wabakimi Wilderness Park in north-central Ontario, where pristine boreal forest composed of black spruce and carpets of green moss surround the remote river. Jane's death occurred along a section we call the "Kopka Puddles," where the river

ESSAY BY ERIN ALTEMUS // ILLUSTRATION BY MICHELLE CHANG

emerged from the river. No one was hurt, but we were shaken; suddenly life felt precarious.

We kept going, despite having lost our maps, some food, and our passports in the river. Our route took us down the Kopka and into Obonga Lake. As we neared the river's outlet, we encountered an elderly couple fishing in their motorboat, where the current meandered toward the bend.

"You girls looking for the portage?" they asked.

I didn't know what we were looking for, but I said sure.

"There's a big falls downstream, eh? You'll want to take the portage," the man said, pointing to the sandy landing where the trail began. Then they motored off.

As the girls and I prepared to portage, the wind began blowing the canoes from our shoulders. The sky began oscillating blue and black clouds, so we gathered in the woods behind a huge, dead tree to wait out the storm. Seconds later, the sound of splintering wood filled the air. We dove from the tree's path before it crashed down where we'd been standing. One girl sprained her ankle, and because she couldn't walk, we decided to paddle back across Obonga Lake to a road that crossed the river upstream.

The storm subsided and twilight approached. We needed to hurry. Almost back across Obonga, the light waning to gray, I noticed the girls' hair standing straight up. I thought, *that's what happens when lightning is going to strike*. An intricate web of electricity filled the sky and thunder reverberated down my spine.

I've often contemplated the improbability of so many near-death experiences in one trip, and it wasn't until I returned two years later that I realized the couple's warning about the falls saved us from another tragedy. I began to wonder if they were angels.

Jane and her husband must have been alone on Obonga Lake that day in May 2005. Maybe they listened to the rolling waves lapping against the shore and the calls of sparrows and wrens, arriving from places south to find mates. I still don't know how the accident happened; a local outfitter said they couldn't find the portage so they tried to run the falls and swamped. Another person told us they were just walking along the shore, but Jane slipped and fell in. Maybe they assumed they could pull over but couldn't stop in time. In May, the water was icy cold and flooding up into the brush and along the tree trunks; a slip of the foot and sudden plunge into cold water would have been paralyzing, the current so powerful it would have overtaken her.

I find myself trying to recreate the exact events, as if then I could avoid the same mistake. Yet I know that how it happened doesn't matter. Jane took the same risks I did, and the outcome was beyond her control. What I do know is that Gary, having smashed his leg, used his paddle as a crutch to hike through the woods for help; he couldn't find his wife.

Three weeks later, my friends and I paddled straight to the portage. I noted the dead tree, still lying where it fell two years earlier. The portage leads up a steep hill and down the

other side, ending where the falls empties into a pool. Matt and Josh each hoisted a canoe onto their shoulders, disappearing up the hill. John and I shouldered two large portage packs, clutching paddles and fishing poles in our hands. I struggled over tree after fallen tree, first sitting on the log, swinging one leg over at a time, while untangling my fishing poles from the branches. Sometimes the trees were piled so thick, I had to shove the pack through a space between the limbs and then crawl through after it, tearing my pants and scratching my arms. Finally, I reached the bottom. At the water's edge, Jane's abandoned canoe floated eerily, as if she could be back for it any time.

The canoe was an Old Town Tripper, good for running whitewater, with its tough plastic hull and shape that allows quick turns. Though half full of rainwater, the canoe appeared unscathed. I knew I was intruding, but I couldn't help looking in the canoe and picking up their Nalgene bottles, still full of water. I thought of Jane taking a sip before nearing the falls. I opened the dry bag marked with her name and found extra clothes, packed in case the weather changed. There was a pair of binoculars and two netted bug-shirts, just like the one I wore. Part of me thought I would like these things, but I quickly re-packed the bag, pushing it from my mind.

As a favor to the outfitter who needed to retrieve the canoe, we decided to pull it to the nearest road, towing it around the next set of rapids and across Kopka Lake. Before leaving, we paddled around the pool at the bottom of the falls to see if anything else had washed ashore. I believe we were the first people there since Search and Rescue pulled out Jane's body. We paddled without speaking, all four of us caught by the still air, imagining what had happened.

If I had been there a month earlier, I might have sat basking in the beauty of falling water or taken pictures. Instead I thought of Jane's life ending in this place, how my own life would go on from there, the rivers I would paddle that she would not, how our two lives had intersected in this vortex from which only I would emerge.

I looked back toward the falls as we paddled away. A bald eagle perched in a dead tree at the bottom of the cascade. There is a native belief that the eagle is closer to the Creator than any other being on Earth, and so the eagle is given the honor of carrying the prayers of people between the World of Earth and the World of the Spirit, where the Creator and ancestors reside.

I remembered eagles circling overhead at a drumming ceremony I attended as a child and at a memorial service held for a friend. Maybe the eagle carried the prayers I thought for Jane that day; maybe it carried Jane's prayers as she left this world. All of this seems far-fetched now, but that day, I felt close to a woman I never knew and comforted in the presence of a bird. I felt its eyes on my back as I paddled away. ■

Erin Altemus is studying creative nonfiction in the M.F.A. program at the University of Minnesota. She spends summers canoeing and writing about wilderness rivers in Canada.

HEALING BODY AND BRAIN

Soldiers at war in Iraq and Afghanistan are surviving wounds—including traumatic brain injury—that would have killed them in earlier wars.

Dr. Barbara Sigford's polytrauma unit is treating some of the most severe cases, helping patients regain as much of their former lives as possible.

By Suzanne Miller | Photograph by Mark Luinenburg

Until a few years ago, most of Dr. Barbara Sigford's patients at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center were aging veterans contending with strokes, car accidents, or falls. Sigford (M.D. '87) and her rehabilitation team worked to help them recover and get back to pursuits such as fishing, wood-

working, and enjoying retirement.

Today, the population in her unit is much younger. These service members want to be able to shoot hoops again or play other sports. They want to continue their careers in military or civilian life. But these patients—primarily service members who were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan—arrive with multiple catastrophic injuries, including traumatic brain injury (TBI). "We've treated people with amputations and brain injuries from previous wars, but these new combinations are different," says Sigford, national program director for physical medicine and rehabilitation for the VA who is based at the Minneapolis VA medical center.

In the polytrauma unit, one floor up from Sigford's office,

Sergeant Steven Nesmith, 101st Army Airborne Division, walks with a cane up and down the hallway with his right arm extended to help him keep his balance. Flags from each branch of the military and pictures of robust, athletic men engaged in outdoor sports line the corridor. Nesmith, 24 years old and thinner than he was before his brain injury, could not walk or respond to pictures when he arrived here four weeks earlier.

"My son didn't even know who his mother was," says Tom Nesmith. "He was just a body that would look through you and stare at the wall. Nothing there."

Like most U.S. soldiers who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan and come to this facility, Nesmith has a brain injury in combination with other severe wounds (his injury, however, happened back in the United States, between tours of duty). To regain as much function as possible, he's in a recovery program that coordinates medical care and rehabilitation for all of his injuries at the same time. When he leaves, he will need ongoing specialized treatment from his local VA hospital as an outpatient. His family may also need specialized help, to



Dr. Barbara Sigford

attend to his medical needs and adjust to the family stresses a brain injury can cause.

The specialized polytrauma care developed by the VA medical system did not exist just a few years ago. It is being created in response to the new pattern of injuries coming from the theater in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sigford identifies the need for new programs and then develops and implements them for the national VA system. "I help develop systems not only for polytrauma patients, but for rehabilitation in general," Sigford says. "We've been able to get a number of initiatives started, so I'm seeing more rehabilitation beds opening for us across the country."

More services are needed because today's soldiers are surviving injuries that would have killed them in earlier wars. Troops protected by heavy ceramic body armor and Kevlar helmets are less likely to receive a fatal penetrating wound to vital organs or to the back or side of the head. Better emergency medical treatment in the field and rapid evacuation methods are saving more lives. And a chain of treatment that emphasizes stabilization of patients in hospitals abroad and definitive treatment in U.S. hospitals is improving survival rates.

The bad news is that armor doesn't protect everything, and arms, legs, necks, and faces are being severely injured. Blasts and explosions, such as from roadside bombs, have wounded more U.S. soldiers than any other hostile cause during the war in Iraq.

According to U.S. Department of Defense figures, as of early December 2006 nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of service people wounded in action in Iraq were injured by blasts from artillery, mortar, rockets, bombs, grenades, or other explosive devices. More than half of the U.S. soldiers killed in action in this conflict died as a result of one of these types of explosions. According to Sigford, 40 percent of troops injured by blasts and evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., are diagnosed with a brain injury.

"Someone in the past with injuries this grievous probably would not have survived," Sigford says. "The lethality of this war is the lowest in United States history, but the rehabilitation task has become greater."

COMPLEX NEEDS

In the Veterans' Health Improvement Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress mandated the creation of centers to treat "complex multi-trauma associated with combat injuries." In February 2005, four VA hospitals, including the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, were selected to develop specialized polytrauma units. The other three are in Palo Alto, California; Tampa, Florida; and Richmond, Virginia. As of early December 2006, the centers had treated more than 260 patients, more than 60 of them in Minneapolis.

Wounded soldiers arriving at a polytrauma unit have already been through a chain of military facilities. When injured, they are treated in the field or at a treatment station only as long as necessary to stabilize them for transportation—to a support hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, and then a medical facility

“Someone in the past with injuries this grievous probably would not have survived,” Sigford says. “The lethality of this war is the lowest in United States history, but the rehabilitation task has become greater.”

in the United States, most often either National Naval Medical Center, in Bethesda, Maryland, or Walter Reed. There, they receive acute medical treatment such as amputation, surgery, infection control, or management of complex fractures.

Most patients with TBI severe enough to require inpatient rehabilitation then go to one of the four polytrauma units. “We coordinate the rehabilitation effort and account for all the impairments as we move through the rehabilitation process,” Sigford explains. “For example, to use a new prosthesis, you must have a certain amount of learning ability just to get it on or off. The brain injury may determine when we fit a prosthesis, the type we use, and how we train the patient to use it.”

THE RIGHT SETTING

Understanding how obstacles to learning can block other types of development has been a focus of interest for Sigford since early in her career. For her Ph.D. in educational psychology from Berkeley, she wrote her dissertation on language and cognitive development in deaf people. At a school in Reedley, California, working with children with both learning disabilities and medical problems, she became intrigued by how medical interventions could help people learn and become functional members of their communities.

The turning point came during her research work with Bob Bruininks at the University of Minnesota in the late 1970s and early '80s. Now president of the University, Bruininks joined the U in 1968 as an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Psychology.

Sigford co-authored numerous journal articles on deinstitutionalization with Bruininks. “It was the time in history when we were trying to move people out of institutions, people with developmental disability, into the community,” she says. “It was part of a large-scale survey of their characteristics, the kinds of facilities they were going to, and barriers in the community. Looking back, there were a lot of parallels to working with people with brain injury and trauma, getting them into the right settings and finding the right levels of services for vocational reentry or school.”

Working on a daily basis with medical staff brought Sigford back to the road she had not taken. In her teens, she had an interest in medicine. Two decades later, in her mid-30s with a husband, two children, and a full-time job, she entered the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Sigford went to work at the Minneapolis VA medical center in 1991. When the VA was charged with creating polytrauma centers more than a decade later, it already had four traumatic brain injury lead sites in its hospital system. Sigford had led the Traumatic Brain Injury Program at the Minneapolis VA medical center and was its director from 1991 to 2004. She also set up the national referral system that directs patients to TBI centers. In 2004, she worked with VA leadership in Washington, D.C., to demonstrate how the VA could use the TBI skills and experience it already had to create its new

polytrauma system.

“Since 90 percent of patients who need a polytrauma center have brain injury, it was logical that TBI lead sites move into treating polytrauma patients,” Sigford says. “It’s really the traumatic brain injury that is driving the care.”

To retool the Minneapolis center for its new role, Sigford increased its bed capacity and staff, who were trained to treat a variety of injury combinations. To make families more comfortable, she added a lounge where they can warm up a meal, use the Internet, and play. The center also acquired a furnished apartment where patients relearn daily living skills and family members practice taking care of them.

SURVIVING IT

Last September, Sergeant Nesmith completed his second tour of Iraq. He had served on patrols, been in combat, and maintained the electrical systems of Black Hawk helicopters. Back in the United States, he was heading home to Wichita, Kansas, for several months of leave before starting his third tour. Driving home from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he crashed head-on into a semitruck on a hillside curve.

He arrived at St. John’s hospital in Springfield, Missouri, with cracked ribs; a bruised lung; glass fragments in his abdomen, hands, and feet; and a severe brain injury with hemorrhaging. For three weeks he lay in a coma.

“The first few days they worked on saving his life,” says Tom Nesmith. “Then he ended up with pneumonia, and then he ended up with a staph infection, and he survived it all.”

When his son roused from his coma, Nesmith says no one saw a response from him until shortly before he was transferred to the Minneapolis polytrauma unit. Steven’s friends from the 101st Airborne, just arrived stateside from Iraq, looked in the door of his hospital room.

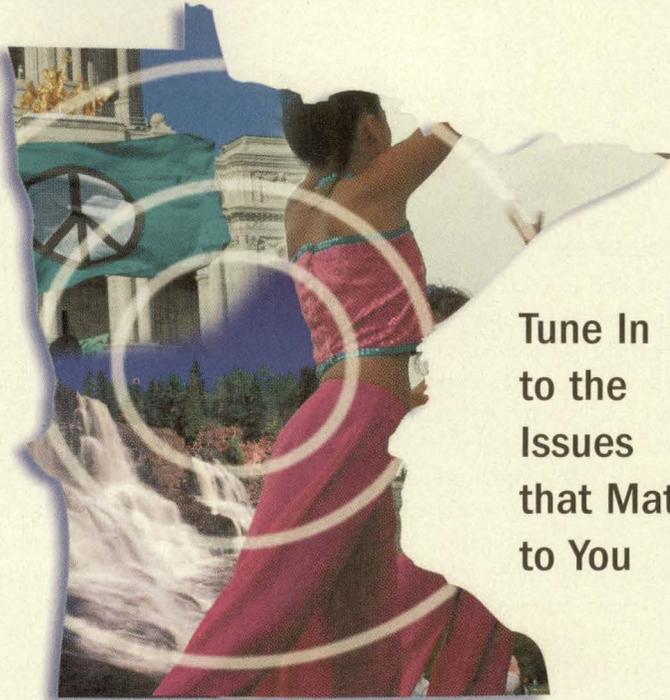
“He saw them and he leaned up on his left arm and he grinned from ear to ear,” says Tom Nesmith. “It was the first time we had seen him make any expression at all, and it made me, and Mom, and the nurse all cry.”

“He needed his family,” adds Julie Nesmith, Steven’s mother. “But he also needed his buddies.”

RELEARNING EVERYTHING

When patients arrive at the Minneapolis polytrauma unit, therapists begin working with them as soon as patients can tolerate it. “Most of these guys will have some sort of response,” says Michelle Peterson, Nesmith’s physical therapist. “Maybe it’s an eye blink. But they’re responding in some manner.”

Therapists begin moving limbs to maintain range of motion and stretch them to prevent contractures. They sit patients up in wheelchairs to build tolerance for supporting weight. In the



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physical therapy clinic, they are put on a tilt table to retrain their bodies to bear their weight. And therapists work at getting them to react to stimulation.

“We look at how they’re responding to different senses,” Peterson says. “Can they hear? Do they then look over at that sight? Can they smell and understand what that means? Can you present them with a ball and they grasp it? Can they start answering yes or no questions, even using a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down?”

Peterson says that once patients become more responsive, they work on speech and simple movements used in daily activities, such as brushing teeth. The various therapy specialists also coordinate their work in what Peterson calls “co-treating,” in which the goals for a patient overlap and reinforce each other. For example, the physical therapist might work with a patient on sitting balance and head control while the occupational therapist, working on fine motor skills, helps the patient use that ability to relearn to wash his face with a washcloth.

“The atmosphere down here is basically that it’s therapy 24/7,” says Tom Nesmith. “They’re working to bring him back into the real world.”

In physical therapy, Steven Nesmith is relearning to balance and walk. In occupational therapy, he works on relearning how to live within a budget and interacting with people in routine situations. In speech therapy, he works on multitasking, such as answering questions while writing.

He also sees a recreational therapist. “They go to the Mall of America, or sometimes they’ll take everybody in the unit and go watch a movie together. He is learning the camaraderie of it again, how to interact with other people,” Julie Nesmith says.

“These kids are basically being raised again because the brain injuries are so

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KMNV 1400 AM Minneapolis	KWOA 730 AM Worthington

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significant," says Tom Nesmith. "In about four weeks now, they have taken my son from basically a vegetable back to my son again. . . . They've brought my son back."

MORE TO LEARN

Patients stay at the polytrauma unit from two weeks to more than five months, depending on how severely they're injured. Sigford says data collection is in its early stages, but anecdotal evidence shows that today's wounded soldiers are showing longer recovery curves than soldiers of past wars. There is surprisingly little evidence on what works best to rehabilitate people with brain injuries, Sigford notes. And everyone responding to the wounded of this war, from medical teams to government leaders, needs more information about the problem.

To remedy this, the four polytrauma centers are pooling their patient data to begin developing evidence-based best practices as part of a project called the Polytrauma Blast Related Injury QUERI, which Sigford co-directs. One goal of the QUERI (an acronym for Quality Enhancement Research Initiative) is to put procedures in place so that troops sustaining blast injuries will be screened for problems that might not be immediately obvious. This is important because an unknown number of soldiers are returning to their communities with undiagnosed brain injuries. Sigford calls this one of the little-known facts about the war.

A soldier may be exposed to a blast, experience only a momentary loss of consciousness, and show no obvious head injury or changes in thinking. But when he returns home, "things just don't go quite right," Sigford says. "Oftentimes it isn't recognized that they've had a brain injury or multiple brain injuries. We could be helping them if we recognize it, but if we don't, they will often lose jobs, lose homes, get divorces, or become estranged from their families."

Sigford stresses that in these cases a little intervention may be all that's needed, as the brain will recover in cases of mild injury. "A lot of these people just think they're going crazy. So having a diagnosis, an explanation, some reassurance and tools at their disposal can go a long way."

Most patients who are treated at the polytrauma center (77 percent) go directly home. Fourteen percent return to a military treatment facility for follow-up or additional procedures before going home. That leaves 9 percent who go to another VA facility or a long-term care facility. A few will ultimately return home, but some will require 24-hour lifelong care.

How the VA will provide such specialized care for a small number of patients poses a new challenge. "These people want to be close to home and go on with their lives, but many live in rural areas with limited resources and it takes a critical mass to develop a program," Sigford says. "So that's one of the things we are grappling with at the moment. We may have to find a way to help every facility develop a special niche for taking care of a patient like this. We know the type of care we want to provide, but providing it close to home can be difficult."

"These kids are basically being raised again because the brain injuries are so significant," says Tom Nesmith. "In about four weeks now, they have taken my son from basically a vegetable back to my son again. . . . They've brought my son back."

Meanwhile, to meet the need for continuing specialized outpatient polytrauma care closer to veterans' homes, the VA, under Sigford's leadership, is in the final phase of preparing 21 facilities nationwide to provide this care. She is also organizing a conference to develop a program that will allow patients in the four polytrauma centers to transition to independent living.

In addition, the VA is continuing to learn more about the stress put on families of the severely wounded. Sigford has identified the work of Pauline Boss, professor emerita of family social science at the University of Minnesota, as a resource for helping families cope with permanent changes in their wounded relative. Boss, author of *Loss, Trauma, and Resilience*, is the principal theorist on a concept she has named "ambiguous loss." This body of work examines the challenge of families whose loved ones have been lost to them, physically or psychologically, in a way that is incomplete—through disappearance, addiction, or pathologies such as Alzheimer's disease or brain injury—and provides therapeutic approaches.

Sigford believes that a program incorporating this knowledge can help families cope with soldiers whose wounds have permanently changed them. This past December, Sigford arranged for VA leadership in Washington, D.C., to meet with Boss and plan how her work will be used in VA programs.

GETTING HIM BACK

Steven Nesmith's parents have been told he may be able to leave the polytrauma center by late December. His father believes that, with time, he will resume a normal life, although his ability to continue a career with the military is uncertain. His mother's expectation is more measured.

"He's going to be 90 to 95 percent back. There was so much damage to his brain that there's going to be a little bit that's not going to be there. The hope is that the brain will rewire itself, they tell us. Things will come back even though there will be some things that are not perfect or quite the same."

"He walks with a cane," Tom Nesmith concedes. "But the main thing is that his personality—the heart and soul of this kid—is there. . . . We wanted our same son back, and he's back. He accepts what he's got right now. He's pretty happy, actually."

"I think a lot of that is just the nurses, the therapists, and everybody—you know, they're fun. He's a fun-loving kid," Julie Nesmith says, "and they joke with him and he jokes and laughs and he teases them."

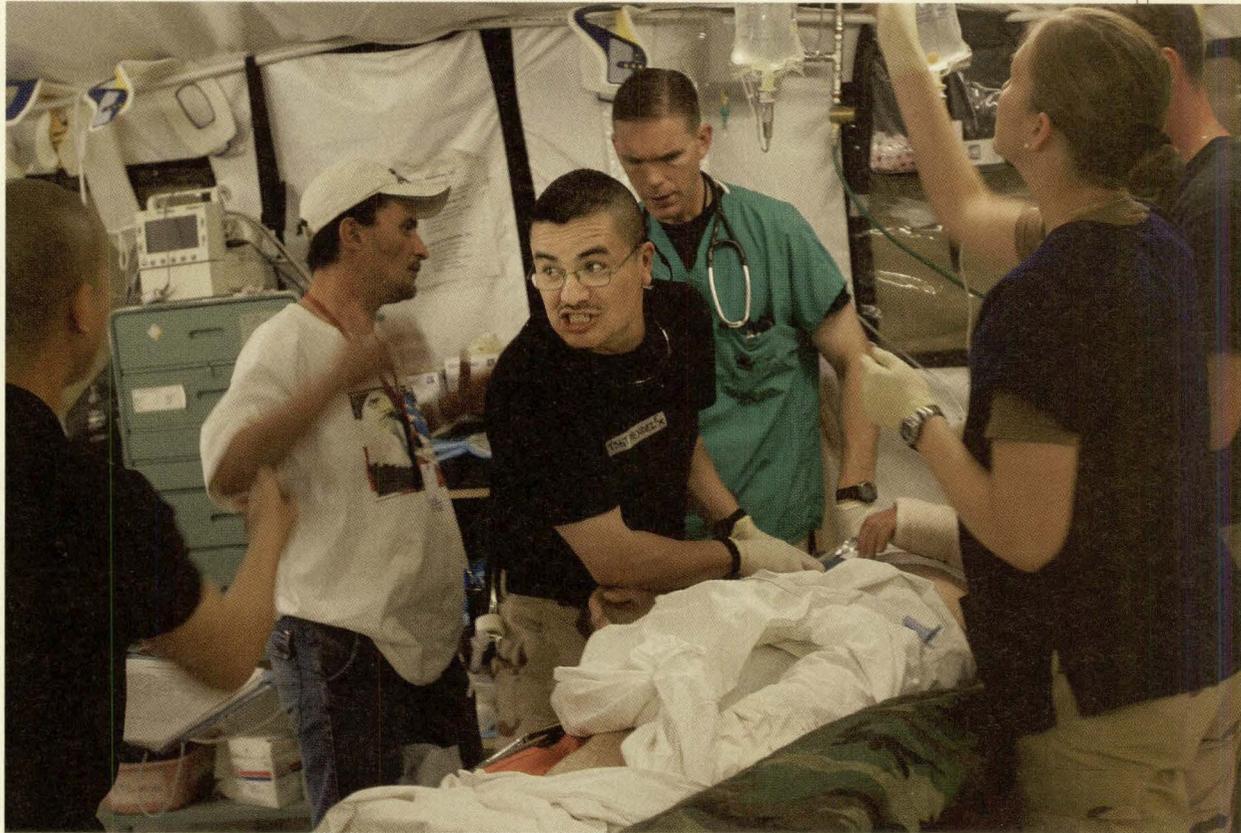
"Charmer," Tom says.

Julie laughs. "Yeah, he's Mr. Charmer." ■

Suzanne Miller is a freelance medical writer based in Bloomington, Minnesota.

INSIDE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Emergency medical workers in Balad Air Force Theater Hospital, the busiest military hospital in Iraq, tend to hundreds of patients a month. Nearly two-thirds of service people wounded in action in Iraq are injured by blasts from explosive devices, and many of those suffer traumatic brain injury in addition to other injuries.



Between January 2003 and the end of October 2006, slightly over half of the troops treated for traumatic brain injury (TBI) at three military medical centers, the four polytrauma centers, and one private facility (1,652 patients) were categorized as having moderate to severe brain injuries, according to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. The rest—just under half—were considered to be mild.

Explosions damage the brain in a variety of ways. The victim may be thrown in the air, striking his or her head on impact. The blast may hurl objects against and into the victim's skull, causing dirty, penetrating wounds requiring surgery to remove debris and control infection. Fumes from the explosion may deprive the brain of oxygen or be toxic. Anyone standing close to the blast experiences a sudden wave of high air pressure that can fracture the skull and bruise the brain, causing it to bleed and swell. Brain injury may occur without a skull fracture or any visible damage: 90 percent of 692 patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center between January 2003 and April 2006 had non-penetrating brain injuries.

To keep pressure from extra fluid around the brain (edema) from further damaging it, a doctor may install a shunt. If brain

swelling is extreme, doctors may temporarily remove a portion of the skull, a procedure called craniectomy, to give the brain more room to expand. Swelling can cause a coma, in which the central cortex of the brain shuts down, leaving only the brain stem functioning.

A closed-head blast injury can cause any of the following symptoms: decreased memory and attention or concentration, headaches, slower thinking, irritability, and depression. After acute medical care, appropriate rehabilitation is important. "The curve of recovery is greatest in the first three to six months after injury," says Dr. Larisa Kusar, a staff physician in the Minneapolis polytrauma unit. "If you provide a very stimulating, enriched therapeutic environment for patients, that can enhance the outcome."

Kusar says many patients with a severe TBI, particularly those with a closed-head injury, recover well and have a good quality of life, but some may always have a degree of distractibility, short attention span, or short-term memory loss.

Most patients with mild TBI recover completely, she says. An individual with mild TBI may initially appear to be unaffected, but, until recovered, may be more irritable, forget things, or be less able to fulfill job responsibilities. —S.M.



Five Reasons Corn Ethanol Won't Save the Planet

**And the alternative
biofuels University of
Minnesota researchers
believe just might.**

BY GREG BREINING

LISTEN TO THE HYPE ABOUT CORN-BASED ETHANOL and it's easy to get the wrong impression.

"The world's demand for energy will never stop," intones the narrator of a television ad by Illinois-based Archer Daniels Midland Company, the largest fuel ethanol producer in the United States, "which is why a farmer is growing corn . . . and why ADM is turning these crops into biofuels." Read ADM's fuel brochure, and you'd learn that "ethanol not only extends gasoline supplies—it also provides an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels."

OR check out the South Dakota-based American Coalition for Ethanol, an ethanol industry lobbying group, which contends that ethanol production "moves our nation toward energy independence."

OR click on the Minnesota Department of Commerce Web site: "Minnesota's ethanol mandate helps reduce our reliance on imported petroleum. Nearly all gasoline sold in Minnesota is blended with 10 percent ethanol, which allows us to offset our demand for gasoline by 10 percent."

OR listen to Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.S. '83, J.D. '86), who has promoted legislation doubling the amount of ethanol in gasoline to 20 percent by 2012. The self-proclaimed "most pro-ethanol governor in the country" argues that Minnesota can become the "Saudi Arabia of renewable fuels." The state government has subsidized the construction of 16 ethanol plants, with another on the way. These plants convert 148 million bushels of corn, 12 percent of the state's crop, into 550 million gallons of ethanol annually.

LISTENING to these endorsements, you'd think turning corn into motor fuel is a good thing, a formula for protecting the environment and weaning the nation from foreign oil. **BUT YOU'D BE WRONG.**

"The effect on foreign energy independence is minimal," contends Jason Hill (Ph.D. '04), an applied economics researcher at the University of Minnesota. "It can have only a minimal effect on our energy consumption." Hill is the lead author of a University study published in summer 2006 on the environmental, economic, and energy costs of corn ethanol and soy-based biodiesel.

"Why should we take two very limiting factors for human quality of life—food and energy—and convert one into the other?" asks Regents professor David Tilman, a world-renowned University ecologist and lead author of a new study about prairie grasses as a biofuel source.

According to the University studies, the environmental benefits of corn-derived ethanol are limited and are offset by serious environmental drawbacks. And ethanol, as currently produced, won't make us energy independent—unless we expand the Corn Belt to every state in the union.

Here are five reasons why ethanol fails to live up to the hype:

[1] Ethanol production requires almost as much energy as it yields.

A moonshiner, or anyone who has spotted steam billowing from a Minnesota ethanol plant, can tell you it takes a lot of energy to distill fermented corn into nearly pure alcohol. What's more, a tremendous amount of energy resources are used simply to grow corn; the biggest agricultural input is nitrogen fertilizer, made from natural gas.

In the U study published last summer, in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers tried to account for all the energy inputs of the process, from growing corn (even the energy use of farm households) to energy burned in transportation and the construction of processing plants. They found that corn-derived ethanol yields only 25 percent more energy than is required to make it. (Studies by researchers at Cornell and Berkeley even contend that ethanol actually produces less energy than goes into its production, though U of M researchers dispute those findings.)

Burning fossil fuels to make ethanol can be justified,



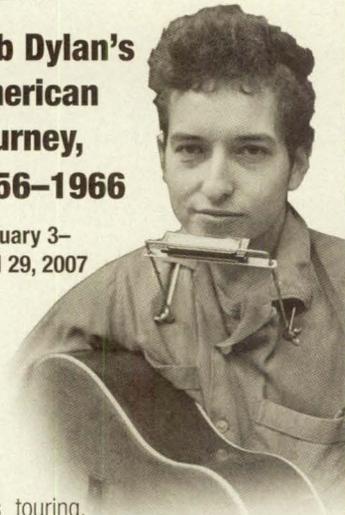
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"There are many technologies out there that can produce transportation fuels," says University researcher Jason Hill. "Ethanol is just one of them."

to some extent. Not all fuels are created equal, explains Douglas Tiffany (B.S. '74, M.S. '77), study co-author and research fellow in the University's Department of Applied Economics. "Some of them are much more valuable to us." Ethanol is a much more convenient and versatile fuel than coal, for example. You can't run a car on wood

or coal, but you can on gas and ethanol. "We pay a price to have it in a convenient form," Tiffany says. And that price is burning fossil fuels. If energy savings is your goal, you're off to a bad start if you burn nearly as much in fossil fuels as you gain in biofuels.

[2] It isn't easy being "green" when growing corn.

Corn hungers for high-nitrogen fertilizers. It thirsts for water, including from ancient aquifers. And it's addicted to chemicals. None of these conditions are good for the environment.

Corn requires heavy doses of fertilizer—an average of 135 pounds of nitrogen spread on every acre—as well as phosphorus and phosphate. Corn accounts for nearly half of the crop nutrient use in the nation; nothing else comes close. Corn also requires heavy applications of herbicides and insecticides; corn makes up approximately a quarter of the acres of crops planted in the United States but accounts for nearly two-thirds of total herbicide use.

Trouble is, these chemicals don't stay put. Excess nitrogen leaches into the groundwater, posing potentially fatal hazards to infants. Pesticides pollute nearby lakes and streams, killing fish such as smallmouth bass. Runoff of soil and phosphorus causes algae blooms in nearby lakes. Nitrogen and phosphorus from the Midwest Farm Belt flow down the Mississippi River, feeding algae growth and decomposition that create "hypoxia"—an oxygen-depleted "dead zone" roughly the size of New Jersey in the Gulf of Mexico.

[3] Corn crowds out wildlife.

During the last half-century, agricultural fields have become bigger, obliterating the wetlands and biodiverse landscape

that once characterized rural areas. As all but the rockiest, steepest, or wettest land was cultivated, 99 percent of our native prairie disappeared and all but a fraction of our original wetlands were drained. Many prairie species, especially birds, became rare or endangered. In Illinois, for example, seven species of grassland birds,

including upland sandpipers, meadowlarks, and several species of sparrows, declined more than 90 percent between the late 1950s and the mid-1980s. Game species, such as ducks and pheasants, have also suffered.

In recent decades, the federal government has rented land from farmers across the United States, especially highly erodible land, through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). These set-aside acres are planted with native grasses and trees and slowly restored. Since the program began, CRP lands have showed impressive increases in grassland birds such as bobolink and dickcissel. In one study in Iowa, the number of pheasants increased 13-fold on CRP lands.

But as a burgeoning ethanol program boosts demand for corn, crop prices are predicted to rise. As they do, Tiffany says, farmers will be tempted to pull their acres out of CRP and put them back into production. In fact, the National Grain and Feed Association recently asked a U.S. House Agriculture Committee to alter CRP to free up more farmland to raise crops for a burgeoning biofuels industry.

Loss of CRP lands means a net loss for wildlife.

[4] Corn ethanol doesn't cut enough greenhouse gases.

Ethanol indeed reduces air pollution—in small doses. Ethanol has become a much-needed replacement for the gasoline additive MBTE (a possible carcinogen and pervasive groundwater pollutant) to help gasoline burn cleaner. Blending a small amount of ethanol with gasoline reduces carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulates.

But when you look at the entire life-cycle of ethanol—from growing to harvest to processing to combustion—

burning E85 (85 percent ethanol) as fuel actually produces more carbon monoxide, volatile organics, particulates, and oxides of sulfur and nitrogen than an energy-equivalent amount of gasoline, according to the University's study.

And ethanol doesn't do much to address the big issue: global warming. "We found corn ethanol as currently produced saves about 12 percent greenhouse gases from gasoline," Hill says. And that's if the corn is grown on existing fields. "If you take land out of CRP you may have a net greenhouse gas release." That would actually *exacerbate* global warming.

[5] We can't grow enough corn.

Twelve percent of the U.S. corn crop is converted to ethanol, which replaces less than 2 percent of U.S. gasoline usage. Diverting all our corn to ethanol production (which would mean no more corn flakes, marbled beef, fructose-sweetened soda, or any other corn product), would reduce gasoline consumption by only 12 percent.

But, according to Hill's study, even that dismal statistic is overly sanguine. Because so much fossil fuel is burned just to make ethanol, turning our entire corn crop to ethanol production would reduce our fossil fuel use by just 2.4 percent.

So why do governments subsidize corn-based ethanol production? "If the energy source is environmentally benign, especially compared to alternatives, then a subsidy can be justified," explains Stephen Polasky, University professor of applied economics and co-author of the study. "What we found for corn ethanol is there really isn't much basis to justify a subsidy on environmental grounds."

But what about ethanol's contribution to local economies? "I don't think ethanol is a job engine," says C. Ford Runge, professor of applied economics and law at the University. "It's not going to have an appreciable impact on rural employment opportunities."

Once a plant is built, its operation requires only a few people. And while corn farmers benefit from a better market, livestock producers worry that competition for corn from ethanol plants will drive

up prices and make their products less competitive. "There's enormous anxiety in the surrounding countryside that the ethanol plant is going to suck all the corn out of the local economy," Runge says.

Meanwhile, the subsidies to support corn growing and ethanol production are funneled from a broad base of taxpayers and consumers to a small number of beneficiaries—mainly investors in ethanol plants. These include not only local farmer cooperatives, but also giant agriculture processors like Archer Daniels Midland.

If corn isn't the answer, what is?

Ethanol isn't the only biofuel in town. Minnesota—as does much of the rest of the nation—also produces biodiesel from soybeans. According to Hill's study, soy diesel trumps ethanol by almost any measure:

- Biodiesel yields 93 percent more energy than is required to produce it.

- Compared with corn, soy uses 1 percent of the nitrogen, 8 percent of the phosphorus, and 13 percent of the pesticides—and less toxic chemicals too.

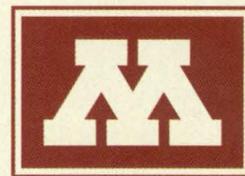
- Soy produces less air pollution. Whereas E85 over its life-cycle actually pollutes more than gasoline, biodiesel containing 20 percent soy burns cleaner than the diesel it replaces. Particulate matter is reduced by 31 percent, carbon monoxide by 21 percent, and total hydrocarbons by 47 percent. It produces 41 percent fewer greenhouse gases than diesel.

"Biodiesel provides sufficient environmental advantages to merit subsidy," states the report.

A second way to improve the efficiency of biofuels is to find alternative sources of heat to distill it. For example,

says Tiffany, corn stalks and husks contain enough energy to distill ethanol. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, part of the U.S. Department of Energy, 85 percent of the stalks and other plant material rots on the ground, releasing carbon dioxide. The rest is incorporated into the soil. By collecting and burning a portion, "we could certainly get some excellent energy balances," Tiffany says.

"Why should we take two very limiting factors for human quality of life—food and energy—and convert one into the other?" asks Regents professor David Tilman.



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The third—and possibly the real hope—for making a viable biofuel lies in making ethanol and the energy to process it, not from cultivated crops, but from the cellulose in native perennials.

The prairie proposition

“We have a vision of restoring a lot of prairie throughout the Midwest, and having something that will be mowed every year for hay and then either pelletized and burned, or converted into ethanol,” says Tilman, who has conducted prairie grass research at the U’s Cedar Creek Natural History Area for 12 years.

“There’s enormous anxiety in the surrounding countryside that the ethanol plant is going to suck all the corn out of the local economy,” says professor C. Ford Runge.



According to a study by Tilman, Hill, and University research associate Clarence Lehman (B.A. '67, M.S. '92, Ph.D. '00), published in December 2006 in the journal *Science*, producing “cellulosic” ethanol from diverse plots of perennial grasses promises several advantages over corn-grain ethanol: greater yields, more ethanol, less pollution, and fewer greenhouse gases. And all that without diverting a food source.

According to Tilman’s study:

■ Perennial biomass such as native grasses would need little in the way of chemicals, energy, or even work—just mow it once a year. It wouldn’t even need to be planted. “What we’ve seen is that we can get a lot of biomass produced in plots with no input of fertilizer, no irrigation, no input of pesticides, almost no energy input at all,” says Tilman. With low energy inputs, cellulosic ethanol might produce *four times* more energy than the fossil fuel it consumes.

■ With little need for fertilizer or pesticides, native grass production produces little polluted runoff. Since the soil is never bare or plowed, little erosion occurs. According to University of Minnesota soil scientist Gyles Randall (B.S. '63, M.S. '72), nitrogen losses from land planted with perennial grasses are only 2 to 3 percent of the losses from corn and soybean fields. Loss of phosphorus and sediment are similarly low.

■ Diverse grasslands, such as native prairie, produce 51 percent more energy per acre than corn, even though corn grain produces more ethanol per weight. After 10 years, diverse plots produced 238 percent more energy than monocultures, such as switchgrass. Multispecies plots are more resilient too.

And Tilman’s past research has shown that diverse grasslands outproduce monocultures during drought.

■ Prairie grasses’ massive root systems sequester carbon, actually reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Raising prairie grasses for biofuels would not only produce less greenhouse gas than burning fossil fuels, it would actually remove and store 1.2 to 1.8 tons of carbon dioxide per acre per year over the course of a century.

■ The researchers estimate that growing mixed prairie grasses on all of the world’s degraded land would produce enough bioenergy to replace 13 percent of global petroleum consumption and 19 percent of global electricity consumption.

Ultimately, says Hill, biomass could produce many fuels to power vehicles. Grasses or woody plants could be burned for electricity, such as to charge electric cars, or converted to synthetic fuels. “There are many technologies out there that can produce transportation fuels,” he says. “Ethanol is just one of them.”

Several cellulosic ethanol research plants already operate in the United States. Canada’s Iogen runs a demonstration-scale plant in Ottawa to make cellulosic ethanol from wheat, oat, and barely straw. Ontario-based SunOpta is working with Abener Energia of Seville, Spain, to build a commercial demonstration plant in Spain that is scheduled to begin converting wheat stalks to ethanol in 2007. SunOpta has also supplied the technology for a similar sized plant in Jennings, Louisiana, to produce ethanol from the crushed fiber of sugar cane stalks. Xethanol, a U.S. company, is building a plant in Georgia to brew cellulosic ethanol from various industrial wastes, including waste wood products.

The National Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides several incentives to encourage cellulosic ethanol production, including grants, loan guarantees, research, and “credits” that give preference to production of cellulosic ethanol in meeting renewable energy targets, Tiffany explains. “Maybe that’s enough for now, until the technology moves along,” he says.

At the University of Minnesota, much of that research is being conducted under the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment and has been instrumental in funding research, such as the biofuels study, on alternative energy sources. “We have to explore many different avenues for doing this,” Hill says. “That would benefit our state, our nation, and not just the pockets of large energy companies.”

Ultimately, it could benefit our environment. By generating fuel from prairies, says Hill, “you could both take off the biomass and have minimal disturbance to wildlife. . . . It could be that we could actually increase the wild habitat in our states. We would have something that would serve the aesthetic value, the sportsman, and the biofuels.” ■

Greg Breining, St. Paul, writes about nature and the environment for several publications, including the New York Times, National Geographic Traveler, and Wildlife Conservation.



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at the U of M

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Call (612) 625-8100 or visit www.cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts/shorts.html.

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Bell Museum of Natural History

These popular weeklong day camps are packed with hands-on projects that encourage kids to explore the fields of science, art, and technology. Each camp includes field trips, a swim at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center, and the use of several other University facilities. Camps are scheduled in June, July, and August. Grades K-6. Call (612) 626-9660 or visit www.bellmuseum.org.

Sports Camps

- **Minnesota Boys and Girls Track and Field Camps**

These camps for children grades 4 through 12 are designed to teach the fundamentals of track and field. Children will be taught skills and techniques that will help them better themselves as athletes on and off the track. Camps run July 8-12. Email minnesotatrackcamp@hotmail.com or visit www.minnesotatrackcamp.com.

- **Gopher Baseball Camps**

See ad in this section

Weeklong day or overnight camps for ages 7 through 18. Camps are June 11-14, June 22-26, July 22-26, and July 29-August 2. Call (612) 201-3446 or visit www.gopherbaseballcamps.com.

- **Boys Basketball**

No information was available on boys basketball camps through Gopher Athletics.

- **Girls Basketball**

Camps for the youngest players up through grade 12 run from June 11-July 28. Both day camps and overnight camps available. Call (612) 626-1668, email at info@bortoncamps.com or visit www.bortoncamps.com.

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Summer Camps

at the U of M

Sports Camps (continued)

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• University of Minnesota Golf Camp

See ad in this section

All camps and schools conducted at the University of Minnesota Golf Course and Learning Center. Camps for adults and juniors ages 8-18 are June 8-29. Call (612) 251-5840 or visit bradjamesgolf.com and gophergolfcamps.com.

• Don Lucia Hockey Camps

Men's Model Camp: June 11-16

Youth Day Camps (PeeWee and Squirt):
June 18-22

Women's Model Camp: TBD
www.luciacamps.com

• Minnesota Soccer Camp

Camps for girls entering grades 1 through 12 (612) 269-1908,
info@minnesotasoccercamps.com, or
www.minnesotasoccercamps.com.

• North Country Softball Camps

Day or overnight camps for players grades 5 through 12. 2007 Elite Summer Camp: June 10-14 and July 15-19, Fundamental Camp: July 8-12
Call (612) 270-2534 or visit
www.northcountrysoftball.com.

• Minnesota Swim Camps

Training Camp (ages 11-17): June 10-21, 2007
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Minneapolis, MN 55414
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• Twin City Divers

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E-mail: twincitydivers@aol.com
www.twincitydivers.com

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Day or overnight camps for boys and girls ages 9 through 18. Camps are June 10-15, June 17-22, and June 24-29. Visit www.ussportscamps.com.

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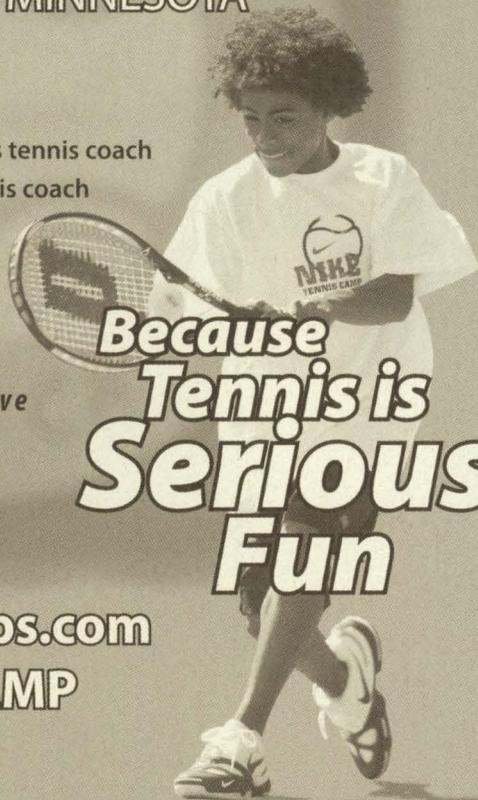
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See ad in this section

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Gopher Dairy Camp

Overnight camp for boys and girls ages 12-17. June 7-9. Activities include dairy workshops, dairy showmanship, the Gopher Gold Auction, and dairy judging. Sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Sciences. Call (612) 625-9294, email hein0106@umn.edu or visit www.ansci.umn.edu/gopherdairycamp.

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A career camp for students going into grades 10 through 12. Day camp runs June 18-19. Sponsored by the Third District Nurses Association, Fairview University Medical Center, and U of M School of Nursing. Call (925) 920-9860 or visit www.nursesce.org www.nursesce.org.

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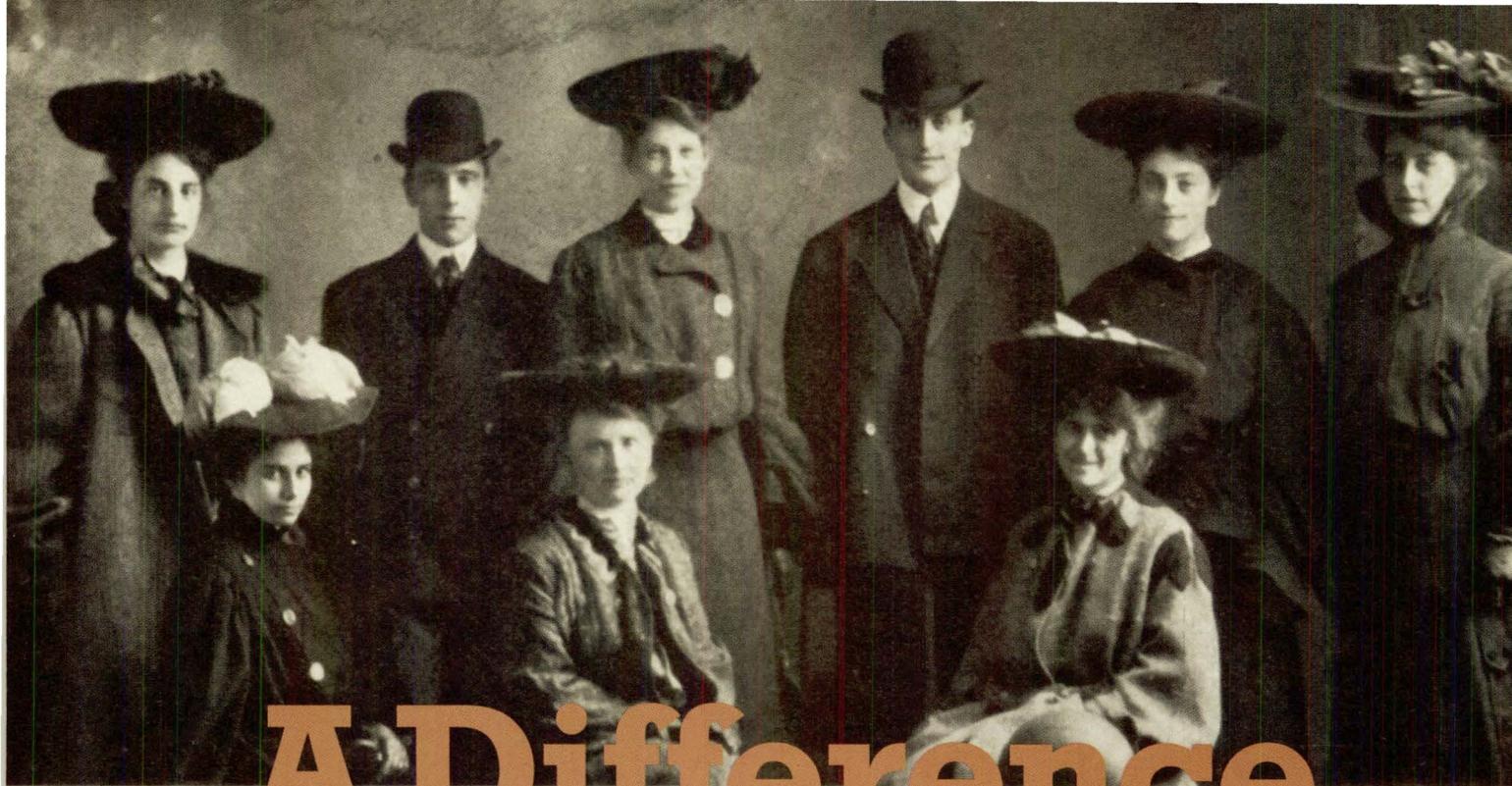
In addition to performance classes held by faculty, master classes by guest artists—who have included Abbey Simon, Janos Starker, Fredell Lack, Yair Kless and Anthony Ross—enhance an already exciting environment.

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A Difference in Tone

Around the turn of the 20th century, the University of Minnesota enjoyed a reputation in the Jewish community as a civil, tolerant institution, and the number of Jewish students on campus rose dramatically. Anti-Semitic storms were gathering, however, overseas and at home.

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A TWO-PART HISTORY.

In the early years of the 20th century, the University of Minnesota maintained a reputation for civility and open-mindedness within the Jewish community that would continue through World War I and into the 1920s. In contrast to the growing anti-Semitism that emerged later, particularly in Minneapolis, there was, in the words of one faculty member, a “striking difference between the attitude of the University of Minnesota and the city in which it was located. The lack of prejudice, the fairmindedness, the really democratic spirit of the university are so outstanding as to merit special recognition.”

That isn't to say that Jews were always welcomed at the University with warmth and consideration; nor is it to say

that prejudice and exclusion did not exist. But in the years surrounding 1900, the number of Jewish students at the University was small enough to make them a nonthreatening group on campus.

As their numbers grew in the 1920s, this dynamic would change and the U would be accused of placing subtle restrictions on the Jewish population of the campus, most often in the form of quotas. At the same time, Jewish students formed a stronger, more confident and assertive presence at the U.

In the earliest years of the University, Jews and Jewish matters were often viewed as foreign concerns: issues that had more to do with Europe and Russia than

Sylvia Frank was captain of the women's basketball team at the University in the early 1900s. She is seated at the far left in a picture with her teammates in the 1906 Gopher annual.

BY TIM BRADY

Minnesota or its state university. An 1891 essay titled "Jews in Russia," published in the campus journal the *Ariel*, captures a sense of how gentile students at the U thought about Jewish issues. "I say Russia has no right to persecute the Jews!" thunders Effie Ames Rochford. But after this bold statement of liberal support, she then gives credence to grotesque Jewish stereotypes: "It is claimed the Jews are rapacious and mean; they make cheap goods, undersell the Russian peasant and by trickery and fraud quickly become rich. . . . These accusations may all be true but Russia herself is to blame for this condition."

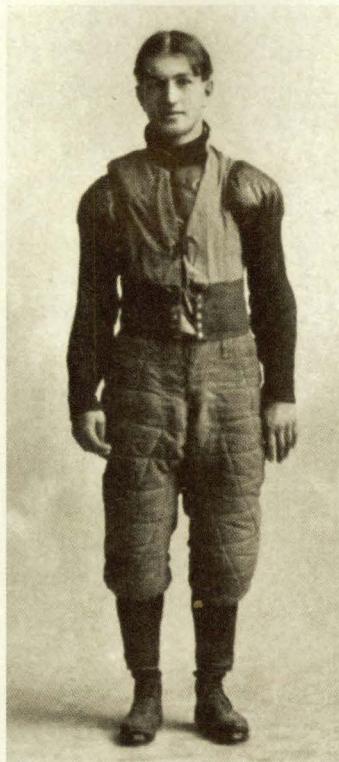
A more open-minded attitude existed as well. "Justice for the Jew," written by Estelle Sinsheimer in the *Ariel* in 1892, was eloquent in describing Judaism to the many Christians who often misinterpreted it: "There is an entire ignorance or misunderstanding of the Jewish religion," wrote Sinsheimer, "it is supposed to be tribal while it is in truth the most liberal of all faiths; it is supposed to be material while its very foundation is a belief so spiritual that its followers are in the minority; it is supposed to be formal while in its essence it is the most simple of faiths."

The history of Jewish students at the University of Minnesota stretches back at least into the 1880s. Just who the first Jewish graduate of the U of M might have been, no one can say with certainty. What is known is that the number of Jewish students at the U grew dramatically after the turn of the 20th century, from around 10 or 12, to nearly 500 by the late 1920s.

The growth coincided with a general increase of the Jewish population in the state of Minnesota and the nation as a whole. While Jews were present, particularly in the Twin Cities, from the earliest days of the territory, the greatest boost in population came between the 1880s and 1920. During those years, Jews from Russia and nations within its pale became subject to persecution and immigrated in dense waves to the United States.

The Jewish population in the Twin Cities increased from hundreds, early in that span, to nearly 10,000 at the turn of the 20th century. Similarly, the numbers of Jewish students at the University began to rise. A 1907 history of the Jewish communities of St. Paul and Minneapolis took pride in noting the increasing numbers of Jews on campus and highlighted standout Jewish students from the area. It also profiled two Jewish faculty members, both of whom were themselves graduates of the U.

Sylvia Frank, a Minneapolis Central High grad, was a three-year starting guard and captain of the University of Minnesota women's basketball team. Jacob Wilk was an outstanding drama student, and Robert Weiskoff was a gifted student of oratory. Nathan Cohen was in engineering and a member



Sigmund Harris, an outstanding football halfback, was pictured in the 1905 Gopher annual.

of the engineering fraternity, Sigma Xi. He would later become a patent lawyer.

Sigmund Harris was without doubt the most well-known Jewish figure on campus. A halfback for the powerful football teams of Dr. Henry Williams in 1902, '03, and '04, Harris was a plucky 145-pound blocking back who received some all-Western Conference attention as a junior and a senior. He also played a critical role in the famed Little Brown Jug game between Minnesota and Michigan in 1903. Harris keyed on Michigan's all-American running back Willie Heston, making a number of crucial tackles through the course of the game, which ended in a 6-6 tie.

"Sigy" Harris would subsequently become a fixture around the Gopher football program deep into the 20th century. He even served as a substitute head coach for a game in 1922 when Coach Williams suddenly took ill. Harris also was called upon by Coach Bernie Bierman to give locker room pep talks to the Golden Gophers before Michigan games during the 1930s, reminding the boys of the importance of the Little Brown Jug.

Fanny Fligelman arrived in Minneapolis from Romania at 3 months old in 1884. She graduated from South High and became a stellar student at the University, earning a Phi Beta Kappa key along with a second-place prize in the Pillsbury contest for an essay on anti-Semitism in Russia, titled "Russian Bureaucracy and the Jews." She became Fanny Fligelman Brin after her marriage to local businessman Arthur Brin and, as Fanny Brin, she would become one of the most powerful and well-known Jewish women in the country.



Fanny Fligelman, pictured in the 1906 Gopher annual, would one day become president of the National Council of Jewish Women.

In the early 1920s, Brin joined the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and, in short order, was elected president of its Minneapolis section. She would serve as national president from 1932 to 1938. After the horrors of World War I, Brin had developed an interest in promoting world peace. Her position at the NCJW offered a platform for that cause and, through it, she supported national and international efforts at making a permanent peace in the world, including a League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which was a mutual agreement between the United States and France to work toward outlawing war.

During the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, this once-impo- verished immigrant from Romania rubbed elbows and swapped ideas with the doyennes of American feminism, including Carrie Chapman Catt and Eleanor Roosevelt.

As for the faculty members listed in that 1907 history: Lillian Cohen, a graduate of Central High in Minneapolis, was another brilliant student at the U, who, like Fligelman Brin, graduated Phi Beta Kappa in chemistry in 1900. She took a master's degree ('01), and then her Ph.D. ('13) at the

University, with studies at Bryn Mawr and in Zurich, Switzerland, in between. Cohen wound up as an associate professor at the U, teaching in the chemistry department for more than 40 years.

Faculty member Robert Kolliner was certainly one of the earliest Jewish graduates of the University of Minnesota. A native of Baraboo, Wisconsin, he took a degree from the U's department of law in 1890 and joined the College of Law faculty in 1896. He served there for many years, as well as maintaining a Minneapolis law practice, Hall & Kolliner.



Robert Kolliner, pictured on the cover of a 1910 *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*, was one of the first Jewish graduates of the University. He also served on the faculty, joining the law school in 1896.

The law school at the U of M was quick to open its doors to Jewish students (as it did to African American students in the same era). A St. Paul attorney named Hiram Frankel graduated from the U law school in 1905, after receiving his bachelor's degree from the U a couple of years earlier.

Frankel also happened to be the author of the St. Paul section of the 1907 history of Twin Cities Jews. In it, he lists a number of Jewish lawyers practicing in St. Paul with a U of M law degree, including his brother, Louis Frankel, who was the first Jew to serve as city attorney in St. Paul, Benjamin Calmenson, and Gustavous Loevinger.

Hiram Frankel was very active in St. Paul civic and cultural affairs in the first 25 years of the century, and was also one of the outstanding leaders in the early history of the University's General Alumni Association (GAA). Frankel served as the president of the Law School Alumni Association and as a member of the board of directors for the GAA.

Other Jewish members of the student body in this era include Leah Fligelman (Fanny's sister), Harry Davis of Duluth, and Moses Barron. Barron would eventually get his medical degree from the University and serve for many years on the medical school faculty at the U. He also wound up marrying Leah Fligelman.

While these pioneering Jewish students undoubtedly faced moments of anti-Semitic exclusion and prejudice, the particulars of those incidents remain unrecorded in University archives. No doubt Jewish students were often made to feel out of place and alien. Even a popular campus figure like Sigy

Harris was singled out in the caption next to his football photo in the 1905 *Gopher* annual. "Harris has overcome his religious scruples enough to mix up with the insidious pigskin," read the copy. (The same writer called the lone African American member of the team, star end Bobby Marshall, a "lank-limbed child of sunny Ethiopia.")

As the numbers of Jewish students and faculty increased on campus, they began to form associations. Leah and Fannie Fligelman, Harry Davis, Moses Barron, and Jacob Wilk were the founding members of the 1904 Jewish Literary Society, which was the first Jewish cultural organization on campus. The Literary Society was the forerunner to the Menorah Society, established seven years later, and instantly became the largest and most central Jewish organization on campus, a post it would hold until the advent of Hillel in the 1940s.

Menorah societies were created with the idea of advancing Jewish culture and ideals among college students at universities across the country, and groups were formed at the City College of New York, Brown University, Hunter College, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Manitoba, and Northwestern University, as well as the University of Minnesota.

At Minnesota, the Menorah Society held meetings twice a month, at which papers were read and discussions were held on topics of the day. There were also three big social events held annually: a fall welcome to the campus, a winter dance, and a picnic each spring. A photograph of the 1912 members of the Menorah Society marks the first image of a Jewish organization ever found in a *Gopher* annual.

In 1914, about half of the Jewish students on campus were members of the Society—50 out of about 100. "The attitude toward the Minnesota Menorah Society of the governing

The history of Jewish students at the University of Minnesota stretches back at least into the 1880s. The number of Jewish students grew dramatically after the turn of the 20th century, from around 10 or 12, to nearly 500 by the late 1920s.

officers of the University and of the non-Jewish members of the faculty is strongly encouraging," read a Society report of the day. Regarding the rest of the university, it added: "The non-Jewish men are either ignorant of the existence of the Society or they are entirely indifferent."

The U of M Menorah Society had grown to such strength by 1916 that it was chosen to host a national convention of Menorah societies in Minneapolis. Nor was it any longer the sole Jewish organization on campus: two Jewish fraternities, Sigma Alpha Mu and Phi Epsilon Pi, were now affiliated at the U; and a group for women called the Scroll & Key was also organized. Jewish graduates of the University had similarly formed their own club called the Gymal Doled (named after two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, in Greek style), which would one day become the Standard Club, a long-run-



A photograph of the Menorah Society in 1913 was the first time an image of a Jewish organization appeared in a *Gopher* annual.

ning Jewish social and service club in Minneapolis.

By the mid- to late 1920s, Jewish students were found in virtually every campus activity. The Menorah Society noted the presence of Jews in extracurricular forensic and dramatic clubs; on athletic teams, including men's football, cross-country, track, boxing, and tennis; and in women's field hockey, basketball, volleyball, and golf. Two Jewish sororities, Beta Iota Alpha and Alpha Sigma, were established in the mid-1920s. There were Jewish students on the staff of the *Minnesota Daily*, *Ski-U-Mab*, and the *Minnesota Law Review*; as well as in the University band. While Jews were rarely invited to join gentile-dominated Greek fraternities and sororities, they were members of a number of professional organizations, including law, journalism, and engineering fraternities.

But even as Jewish students became a stronger and more obvious presence on campus, there were signs of growing anti-Semitism, both at the U and, of course, in the wider world. Dangerous reactionary forces were gathering in Europe. They found expression in the United States in the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and nativist sentiment that led, among other things, to the closing of immigration to East Europeans Jews.

At the University of Minnesota, anti-Semitism came in subtler forms. In the 1959 book *The Jews in Minnesota: The First 75 Years*, by Gunther Plaut, Dr. Moses Barron would later recall that there was little discrimination at the U of M through World War I. However, he reported, "a peculiar numerus clausus developed at the Medical School. Many Jewish boys would apply but only a portion would be admitted. We discussed this with the administration; and some of them admitted quite frankly to the practice and gave a number of rationalizations. . . . But up to about 1921 the situation was very good." The U was also accused of maintaining similar quota systems in regard to its housing policies in the 1920s and in its hiring practices at the Mayo Foundation.

Still, in contrast to the growing anti-Semitism faced by Jews outside the academy, the University remained a relatively safe

harbor for Jewish community and expression. Jewish students at the U had reached a level of proud and somewhat defiant comfort as members of the University. Irene Levine expressed the feeling in a poem, "From Jew to Gentile," published in the 1927 Menorah Society annual:

I used to fear you, how I feared you then!
 You with your rose-leaf skin and azure eye—
 I loved the flaxen lightness of your hair,
 And dropped my darker lids when you went by.
 I copied every gesture, every gown,
 I trembled in the shadow of your frown,
 My spirit groveled in the dust you trod—
 Although I walked erect, and cold, and proud,
 And passed it by—your condescending nod.

But a change comes over Levine:

Now it is different. You are you to me,
 And I am I, and we are nothing more . . .

Our difference seems to be
 Not in the melody but in the tone . . .

As the 1920s shifted into the 1930s, the condescension felt by Levine was about to change into far more virulent forms of anti-Semitism. New challenges awaited the Jewish student body at the University of Minnesota, as the open and ugly anti-Semitism of Nazi Germany found local adherents and apologists. It was in the era to come that journalist Carey McWilliams would find enough anti-Jewish sentiment in the area to famously label Minneapolis "the capital of anti-Semitism in the United States." The University of Minnesota was not left untouched by those sentiments. ■

Tim Brady is a frequent contributor to Minnesota. The second part of this history will appear in the March–April issue. Sources for this article include: The Jews in Minnesota: The First 75 Years by Gunther Plaut (American Jewish Historical Society, 1959), Jews in Minnesota by Hyman Berman and Linda Mack Schloff (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2002), and the 1927 Menorah Society annual. Additional research was conducted through the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota Archives.



Taconite Tough

Scrappy and hardworking,
Gopher hockey's Andrea Nichols
is the pride of the Iron Range.

BY SHEILA MULROONEY ELDRED



Andrea Nichols is easy to spot during warm-ups on the ice at Ridder Arena: She's the one with the leggings bunching up around her short legs. She's the one joshing with head coach Laura Halldorson, bumping teammates, stealing the puck, and flipping it into the air. But when practice starts, she's all business. A teammate falls, and Nichols sidesteps her to get to the puck. Another loses her stick as Nichols grapples for the puck.

Nichols grew up in Mountain Iron, on the Iron Range, a rugged region of northern Minnesota renowned for mining, long winters, and hockey. Iron Rangers proudly lay claim to being tough, hardworking, hard-playing people who earn whatever they get in life. And Nichols embodies that ethic. She led the state in scoring for three seasons and became the darling of the Iron Range in 2003 when she was named Ms. Hockey Minnesota, the first non-metro player ever to earn that prestigious honor. Stores in downtown Hibbing hung Nichols' picture on their walls. No one has been allowed to wear No. 4 since Nichols graduated, and there's talk of retiring her jersey.

At barely 5-foot-1, Nichols has a tenacity that has prompted some to liken her to a pit bull. Nichols says that growing up on the Iron Range solidified her style of play. "I use my size to my advantage," says Nichols, a forward. "I'm lower to the ground, so I don't get knocked over as much."

"She sacrifices her body. She doesn't let taller players intimidate her," head coach Laura Halldorson says. Case in point: In her first three seasons, Nichols racked up 53 penalties, ranking eighth in the Gopher record books before starting her senior season this year. "She's so sturdy on her skates and physically strong, I don't think her size slows her down. She does a great job of playing bigger than her size," Halldorson says.

Halldorson calls her senior captain a "diehard in every sense of the word when it comes to Gophers women's hockey." That was clear in early November, when Nichols led the Gophers to a two-game sweep of previously undefeated University of Minnesota-Duluth. Nichols scored the only goal of the second game, getting the puck down the left wing in the second period, speeding wide and pressuring UMD's defense. The puck bounced off the goalie's glove into the net.

"We didn't know it was in for a while," Halldorson says. "Somehow it found its way to the back of the net. That was a huge goal; it gave us a lot of energy and momentum and it got the crowd going." That pair of victories meant a lot to a team that graduated five players from its 2006 national runner-up finish.

Like many kids in Minnesota, Nichols skated from a young age. But when she insisted on wearing hockey skates to her figure skating performances at age 5, her parents looked at each other. There weren't any girls' youth hockey teams,

so they signed her up with the boys. The boys accepted her immediately—and stood up for her on rare occasions when other teams commented on their female player. Nichols' high school, Hibbing, was the first non-metro team to add girls' hockey, for the 1995–96 season, and Nichols helped solidify the hold of girls' hockey on the area. Her team went to the state championship three of her four years.

Nichols chose Minnesota over other programs, including rival UMD, because she felt so comfortable with the team. Moving to Minneapolis, however, required some adjustments. She no longer runs to the window every time she hears a siren and she's figured out how to avoid rush hour, but she hasn't lost the hardworking values she learned in Mountain Iron. Indeed, that's what has led to her success, she says. "Growing up, everybody would go to outdoor rinks all the time," she says. "There would always be a handful of kids to play pickup. We'd come home from school, grab a snack, and head to the rink. It was hard to get us home sometimes."

Jake Nichols, Andrea's father, eventually found a way to lure the kids home. Every winter, he builds a rink in the backyard. The family also has a new tradition—traveling to Gopher games. And Nichols' younger twin brothers, who idolize their sister, look forward to the Frozen Four almost as much as Nichols herself.

Last year, the Gophers finished the season as national runners-up, losing to Wisconsin in the championship game at Mariucci Arena. Most deemed the season a huge success in what many expected to be a time of rebuilding. But Nichols was devastated. "To get there was a big accomplishment, but not to come out with the goal was the heart-crusher," Nichols says. "I just hate the end of any season."

Nichols plans to use her degree in sports studies to stay close to hockey, but she knows that the end of this season, her last at the most competitive level of women's hockey, will be the hardest. "When I put her in figure skating when she was 4, I never thought she'd end up playing hockey," says Diane Nichols, Andrea's mother. "Now, I love it. I hate the thought that she's going to be done."

So does Coach Halldorson. "It's going to be a sad day when she hangs up that jersey for the last time." ■

Sheila Mulrooney Eldred is a freelance writer based in Minneapolis.

Sports Notebook

Gopher sports news and notes

BY CYNTHIA SCOTT

The UMAA Web site has a link to the live webcam that overlooks the construction site for TCF Bank Stadium. You can keep an eye on demolition of grain elevators and other changes to the stadium site landscape by going to www.alumni.umn.edu/stadium.

Minnesota sophomore Chris Rombough became the first Gopher in 35 years to win conference medalist honors when he took the crown at the Big Ten Men's cross country championships in October.

The volleyball Gophers narrowly missed making their third Final Four appearance in four years as they dropped a five-game match to No. 1 Nebraska in the NCAA Regional Finals in December. They finished the season with a 25-7 record, second in the Big Ten. Senior Malama Peniata was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Coach Mike Hebert earned Regional Coach of the Year honors for the third time since he has been at Minnesota.

Five Gopher men's hockey players were named to the 2007 U.S. Junior National Team: center Mike Carmen, forward Ryan Stoa, goaltender Jeff Frazee, defenseman Erik Johnson, and center Kyle Okposo. The team represented the United States in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championships in Sweden. No other institution had as many players named to the team as Minnesota.

Gopher football's Matt Spaeth was named first-team all-American and the 2006 recipient of the John Mackey Award, given annually to the nation's top college tight end. This past season Spaeth, a senior, became the school's all-time leader in career receptions and receiving yards by a tight end. Also this season, quarterback Bryan Cupito (B.S. '06) became Minnesota's all-time leader in career passing yards.

The day after his team suffered its fifth straight loss—a humiliating 90-68 shelling at home by Clemson—Gopher men's basketball coach Dan Monson resigned, accepting a \$1.3 million contract buyout. Assistant coach Jim Molinari took over as interim head coach for the remainder of this season.

Monson, who was in his eighth year at the U, was hired in the wake of the academic fraud scandal during the Clem Haskins era. That scandal resulted in severe recruiting and scholarship restrictions from the NCAA that were lifted only last October.

During his seven-plus seasons at Minnesota, Monson compiled a 118-106 record overall and 44-68 in the Big Ten. His tenure was marked by a previously unknown phenomenon to Minnesota fans: games at Williams Arena went from standing-room-only to sitting-space-aplenty. Attendance in Monson's first season averaged 13,767 but fell to 10,567 in 2004-05 before rebounding to about 11,000 last season. Filling seats is a must in a revenue producing sport like basketball, and the fact that Monson's squads fell short on that count undoubtedly contributed to his departure.

Athletics director Joel Maturi told *Minnesota* that he wants a program that excels both on and off the court. "I will do my best to hire a coach that will best represent the University of Minnesota. We want to win a Big Ten Championship! We want to do it without compromising our values and it is important for our student athletes to leave the University with a degree."

Two Gopher men's basketball games will be broadcast nationally this season. ESPN2 will air the Illinois game on January 17, and CBS will broadcast the Ohio State game on February 18. Both will be played at Williams Arena. ■

Cynthia Scott (M.A. '89) is managing editor of Minnesota.

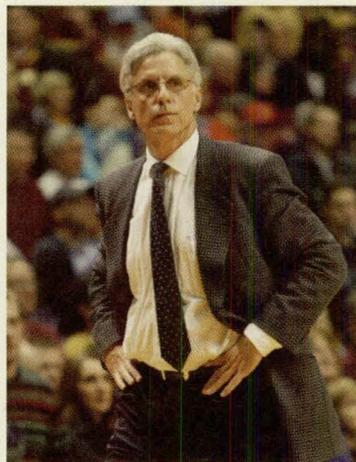


All-American Matt Spaeth, the nation's top college tight end

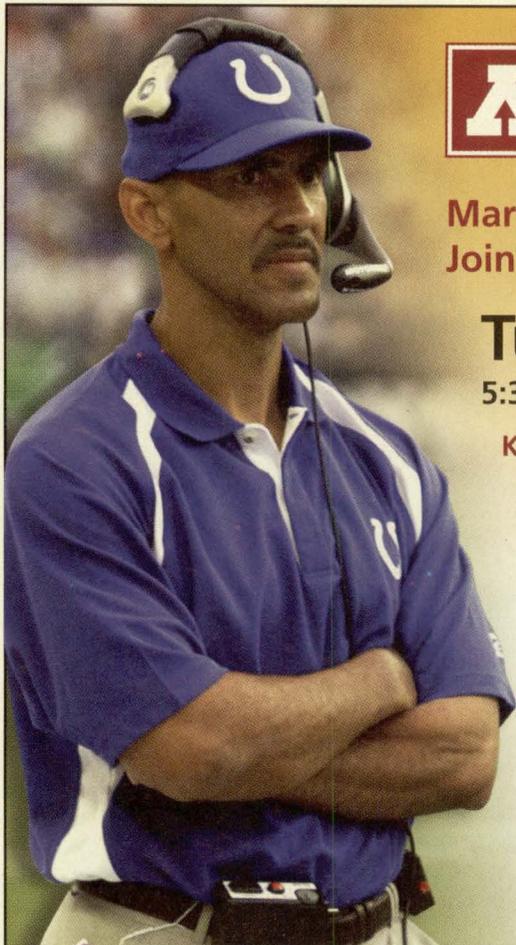
QUOTEBOOK

"Iowans won't get tickets anymore."

—Regent David Metzen responding to another regent, who wondered how the 50,000-seat TCF Bank Stadium will accommodate fans for the Iowa game, which drew 60,000 fans this year.



Jim Molinari, Gopher men's basketball interim head coach



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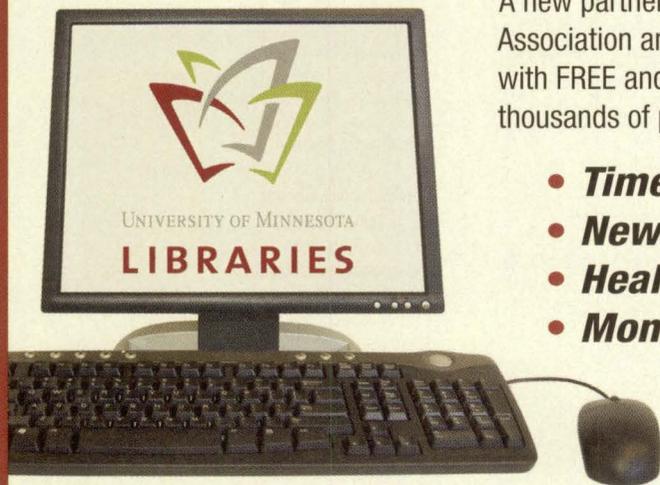
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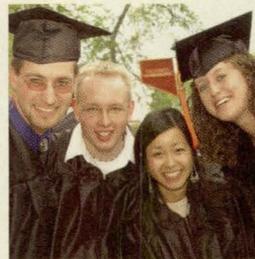
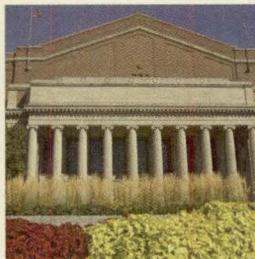
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Nature Captured in Art

Immerse yourself in nature this winter at the Bell Museum of Natural History. Seventeen artists explore changes in the Midwest's environment caused by weather, climate, and human activity in "Project Art for Nature: Presence, Essence, Absence," opening February 10.

Working in teams of two and three, the artists focused on locations ranging from Wisconsin's Kinnickinnic River and Crex Meadows Wildlife Area to the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis and Mankato's Kasota Prairie. In order to observe subtle changes in habitat, artists visited their chosen sites many times over the course of several years. The result is more than 120 paintings, pastels, collages, fiber art, books, and sculptures that offer an intimate view of the region's fragile ecosystem.

"Project Art for Nature" runs February 10 through May 27 at the Bell Museum, located at University and 17th avenues southeast on the East Bank.

Admission to the exhibit is free with Bell Museum membership, and UMAA members receive 25 percent off on membership (www.bellmuseum.org).



Hand-painted fish windsocks by Judy Fairbrother, part of "Project Art for Nature" at the Bell Museum.

Celebrate on May 8

The 2007 UMAA Annual Celebration, set for May 8, features keynote speaker Tony Dungy (B.S. '78), head coach of the Indianapolis Colts and former Gopher quarterback; special guest Stan Freese (B.S. '67), talent casting and booking director for Walt Disney Company; and performances by members of the Minnesota Marching Band. Held in Mariucci Arena, across from the site of the new Gopher football stadium, the evening includes a reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and program at 8 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in mid-February. Watch for details at www.alumni.umn.edu.

Watch for details at www.alumni.umn.edu.



Above: Former Gopher quarterback Tony Dungy is now head coach of the Indianapolis Colts.

Right: Stan Freese has shared his talent with Walt Disney Company for 35 years.



Hearty Cuisine at the Arboretum

Cooking can be a potent means of nurturing stewards of the environment. The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum brings that philosophy to the table with its Heartland Cooking Series, which offers an innovative approach to the Arboretum's mission of helping connect people, plants, and the earth.

The series features chef Jenny Breen and guest chefs whose focus is on teaching participants ways to use fresh, regional ingredients in cooking throughout the seasons. Learn new, healthful twists on the tried-and-true Minnesota hot dish; create new traditions using corn, beans, squash, and other early American staples; explore the season's first produce in combination with winter roots and tubers; and more.

Classes begin February 8 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, located southwest of the Twin Cities in Chaska. The cost is \$45 per class for Arboretum members and \$55 for nonmembers. UMAA members receive a discount on Arboretum membership (www.arboretum.umn.edu).



The Heartland Cooking Series at the Arboretum features fresh, regional ingredients.

WINDSOCKS COURTESY OF THE BELL MUSEUM; VEGETABLES COURTESY OF THE LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM



{ Member Spotlight } Marian Hersrud



Marian Hersrud

Easy Writer

“Old ladies aren’t supposed to know anything about sex, drugs, rock ‘n’ roll, and motorcycles,” says 84-year-old Marian “Mattie” Hersrud (B.A. ’44). With a delighted laugh, she points out that the two romantic suspense novels she has written—*Sweet Thunder* and *Spirits in Black Leather*—prove otherwise. “I had a friend who refused to read my first book,” Hersrud says. “I said, ‘Oh, Mae. I’m sorry. What’s the matter?’ And she said: ‘Well, the language is so terrible!’ And I said: ‘Well, Mae, if you’re hit by a motorcycle, you don’t say, ‘Oh, darn!’”

Hersrud began writing *Sweet Thunder* at age 76 and self-published it four years later. *Spirits in Black Leather* followed in 2006. Both take place at an annual motorcycle rally in the fictional town of Sweet Thunder, South Dakota. In real life, Hersrud and her husband, Morry (B.A. ’43), have lived in Sturgis, South Dakota, home of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, since the mid-1980s. The rally is legendary; last year, its 67th, drew nearly a half-million bikers and their “hogs”—an affectionate term for Harley Davidson motorcycles—to the city of 6,500 nestled at the foot of the Black Hills.

“I didn’t like the rally at first,” Hersrud says. “It was noisy. I couldn’t get to the grocery store. I didn’t like the people who came. But after I stayed awhile and talked to the people, I realized that it was wonderful—a real potpourri of everybody

under the sun.” Even better, Hersrud realized that the Sturgis Rally was great fodder for a first novel.

Hersrud, a Twin Cities native, met Morry at the University of Minnesota. After graduation they moved to South Dakota, where Hersrud raised their four children and volunteered on state educational and cultural boards. She did a bit of freelance writing, but mostly she wrote for friends and acquaintances. “People would say, ‘Oh, Joe is having a birthday party. Why don’t you write a skit? It’s so *easy* for you!’”

The Hersruds winter in Naples, Florida, where they are active in the UMAA chapter there. Hersrud belongs to the Southwest Florida Romance Writers, and she rises at 6 a.m. every day to write. “I do my best writing then,” she says. “I lose complete track of time; it’s exhilarating! It’s a wonderful feeling to be able to do it—and then you go back and read it, and some of it is pretty good, and some of it is terrible! Writing is rewriting. Rewrite. Rewrite. Rewrite.”

She’s now writing a murder mystery set in Maine and a cookbook. She recently sent *Spirits in Black Leather* to Jay Leno, a Sturgis Rally regular, and he called to thank her personally. Next summer will find her back at the rally, where she’ll be signing books at a nearby campground, a bookstore, and maybe some Harley-Davidson dealerships.

“Last year I made a big sign that said, ‘Yes, Virginia, hogs can read,’” she says. “That was fun!”

—Patricia Kelly

UMAA Calendar

Upcoming alumni events on campus and around the country. For more information, visit www.alumni.umn.edu or call 612-624-2323 or 800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867) and ask to speak to the UMAA staff person listed after the event.

JANUARY

- 17 Puget Sound Chapter young alum get-together, 5 p.m., Ivar's Salmon House on Lake Union; contact Mark Allen
- 20 Puget Sound Chapter trip to Olympic Hotel in Centralia, time TBD; contact Mark Allen
- 21 Glacial Ridge Chapter (Willmar area) bus-in for women's basketball game, time and location TBD; contact Chad Kono
- 24 St. Croix Valley Chapter Lecture Series: Donna Gabaccia on immigration reform and immigration restriction, 7 p.m., Boutwell's Landing, Oak Park Heights; contact Chad Kono
- 27 Southwest Florida Chapter Great Conversations in Naples with Middle East expert professor Michael Barnett, 11:30 a.m., Kensington Country Club; contact Chad Kono
- 28 Suncoast Chapter (Florida) Great Conversations with Middle East expert professor Michael Barnett, 1:30 p.m., the Palms of Largo; contact Chad Kono

FEBRUARY

- 1 South Central Minnesota Chapter bus-in for women's basketball game, 12 p.m., Williams Arena; contact Chad Kono
- 8 St. Croix Valley Chapter outing to women's basketball game, 5:30 p.m., location TBD; contact Chad Kono
- 8 Northern Dakota County Chapter outing to women's basketball game, 5:30 p.m., location TBD; contact Chad Kono
- 11 South Central Minnesota Chapter outing to women's basketball game, time and location TBD; contact Chad Kono
- 12 Puget Sound Chapter alumni and friends social, 5:30 p.m., Pyramid Alehouse; contact Mark Allen
- 11 Puget Sound Chapter Bellevue Art Museum tour, 10 a.m., Bellevue Art Museum; contact Mark Allen
- 21 Puget Sound Chapter young alum get-together, 5 p.m., Ivar's Salmon House on Lake Union; contact Mark Allen
- 26 Southwest Florida Chapter luncheon, time TBD, Imperial Golf Club, Naples; contact Chad Kono

MARCH

- 1 Arizona West Valley Chapter dinner theater outing, time and location TBD; contact Chad Kono
- 12 Puget Sound Chapter alumni and friends social, 5:30 p.m., Pyramid Alehouse; contact Mark Allen
- 18 Southwest Florida Chapter annual dinner, children's book drive, and entertainment featuring humorists Fred & Lee Tobias; time TBD, Country Club of Naples; contact Chad Kono

National President

Two Brilliant Stars, One Special Night

This is the time of year when we purchase new calendars and begin penciling in important events we don't want to miss. Tuesday, May 8, is a date you should circle in ink. That's the evening of the 2007 Alumni Association Annual Celebration, and I know you'll want to be there.

Every year, the UMAA national president plays a major role in planning the program for the annual meeting. Last year, my predecessor, Bob Stein (B.S. '60, J.D. '61), invited his friend Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to speak to 4,200 alumni and friends in Northrop Auditorium. It was a memorable evening. For the 2007 annual meeting, my goals were to feature University of Minnesota alumni as headliners and to celebrate the construction of a new on-campus stadium.

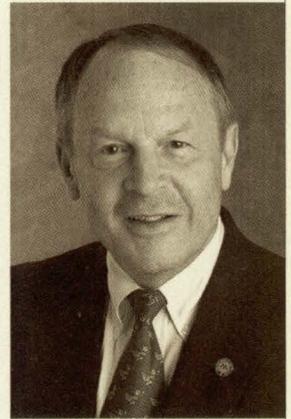
Who among our alumni better epitomizes everything good about college athletics and has achieved greater football fame than Tony Dungy (B.S. '78)? He was the starting quarterback for the Gophers (1973-76) and was selected as the team's most valuable player twice. After graduating from the University, his professional football career included a Super Bowl win playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He has been an assistant coach for both the Gophers and the Vikings, and as a highly respected and successful professional head coach—first with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and now the Indianapolis Colts—he has the second-best regular season winning record of any current NFL coach. When we needed a final push at the Minnesota State Legislature to approve the stadium, it was Tony Dungy who returned home, stood on the capitol steps, and articulated the value of being connected to our campus. Tony is a popular and compelling speaker and has graciously agreed to be the keynote speaker at our annual celebration.

Since the football stadium will also be home to our magnificent marching band, I wanted our annual celebration to include a star graduate of the School of Music too. My wife, Pam, suggested Stan Freese (B.S. '67).

Have you ever heard a performance of the "Flight of the Bumblebee"? It's a fast and difficult piece to play on any musical instrument and nearly impossible on the tuba. I will always remember Stan doing just that when we were students at the University and he was in the concert band. Many considered him to be the best tuba soloist in the nation (some would say in the world). When the University of Minnesota Concert Band was invited to tour the Soviet Union in 1969, during the Cold War, Stan had already graduated but was invited along as the featured soloist, and they made headlines throughout the U.S.S.R.

Upon returning home, Stan joined the Walt Disney Company and, in the past 35 years, has served as director of bands, musical show director, and talent booking and casting director—his current role. Music runs in the Freese family. One of his sons plays drums with Sting, the other plays keyboards with Green Day, and both of Stan's parents taught music in the Twin Cities. Who better to represent our band than Stan Freese? Stan will speak about his music education and career and perform with members of the University of Minnesota Marching Band at the annual celebration.

This year, the annual celebration dinner and program will be held in Mariucci Arena, right across from the football stadium site. For event details and ticket information, watch *Minnesota* magazine, visit www.alumni.umn.edu, or call 612-624-2323. In the meantime, mark your calendar now. Save May 8, 2007, and plan on a very special evening. ■



Dennis Schulstad, B.A. '66



{ Member Spotlight } Valerie Jo Oliver



Valerie Jo Oliver

Strings Attached

Like most kids who pick up a yo-yo, Valerie Jo Oliver (B.S. '81) learned a few classic tricks: walk the dog, rock the baby, around the world. But unlike most kids, she didn't stop there. Oliver was a state champion yo-yo player before she finished high school and for more than a decade has used her yo-yo skills to build two successful businesses.

Growing up in Edina, Minnesota, Oliver was introduced to the toy when she was 5 years old by a yo-yo salesman who traveled around to drugstores to sell his wares. She and her older brother followed him from store to store, watching his presentations and trying to learn his tricks. "It's a self-motivating toy," Oliver says. "You can carry it around in your pocket, and with just a little instruction you can succeed fairly quickly."

Oliver put the yo-yo down after a few years, but picked it up again in high school when the toy skyrocketed in popularity. Oliver won top honor at Minnesota's state yo-yo competition in 1972 before setting the yo-yo down again.

When the toy's popularity rebounded once again, in the mid-1990s, Oliver used her yo-yo skills to develop a presentation for schools called "The Science of Spin." Using toys like yo-yos, spinning tops, Frisbees, and gyroscopes, she teaches math and science concepts to elementary- and middle-school kids while also entertaining them. She has found eager audiences in classrooms as far away as Australia; indeed, science teachers loved the program for introducing kids to complex

physics principles, and physical education teachers were able to incorporate the activity into their gym classes to teach hand-eye coordination and catching skills. "It's a way to build confidence and show the benefits of practice," Oliver explains.

She points out that it's also an affordable hobby, even for a demographic whose primary income is a weekly allowance. While some of the more sophisticated yo-yos (ball-bearing, rim-weighted, or aluminum) cost more than \$100, a perfectly serviceable yo-yo costs about \$6.

It's been more than a decade since Oliver began offering Science of Spin presentations, and she attributes a measure of her success to the business degree she earned from the University of Minnesota.

"There are a lot of people who can yo-yo, but you've also got to manage the business," she says. "You've got to get contacts, call schools, make bookings, do the accounts receivable. There are so many hats."

While performing shows, she connected with Dale Oliver, another presenter, who later became her husband. Together, they started Spintastics, a business that makes and sells yo-yos and other spinning toys. "The Science of Spin" is now a program of Spintastics, and Valerie Jo is vice president of the company, which is based in Euless, Texas.

With business booming and her spin presentations a hot ticket, what's next for Oliver? Whirled domination may be a safe bet.

—Erin Peterson

Get Up to Speed on the U's Needs

Mark your calendar for the 2007
Legislative Briefing on January 24.

The briefing affords alumni, students, and friends of the University the opportunity to hear from University president Bob Bruininks about the U's \$123.4 million legislative request and the proposed Biomedical Sciences Research Facilities Authority. The evening also includes short training sessions on building personal relationships with legislators, effective media advocacy, and using personal storytelling as advocacy.

More than 400 supporters of the University attended last year's Legislative Briefing. Grassroots advocacy by people who are committed to the University is a vital component of achieving passage of this request, which is part of a \$192.3 million total investment plan. Money will be used to help sustain the U's quality and competitiveness and also support the goal of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the world.

Come and learn what you can do as an advocate and network with others who share your dedication to the U. The briefing takes place January 24, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Minneapolis. A light dinner buffet is included. Admission is free, but registration is required. Please register by 5 p.m. on January 18 at www.SupportTheU.umn.edu or call 612-626-1417.



Alumni Tours

UMAA group travel is a benefit of membership. UMAA Travel welcomes all alumni and friends of the University—and their friends and family—on our tours.

March 22-29	Peru, featuring Machu Picchu
March 24-31	Cruising the Mighty Mississippi
April 12-20	Village Life of Holland and Belgium
April 13-21	Paris to London on the Eurostar
April 13-24	Sardinia and Corsica
April 27-May 6	Sensational Spain
April 29-May 7	Chianti in a Tuscan Villa
May 4-14	Greek Isles Cruise and Venice
May 6-17	French Riviera
May 19-30	Ireland—Ennis and Kilkenny

For more information, call Christine Howard at 612-625-9427 or visit www.alumni.umn.edu/travel.



GREAT 2007 CONVERSATIONS

This unique series pairs prominent U of M faculty with their distinguished guests from around the world for stimulating discussions of timely issues. This year's speakers and topics include:

The Obesity Epidemic February 20
Dr. Allen Levine & Dr. David Kessler

Global Immigration Issues May 8
Donna Gabaccia & Ruben Martinez

International Human Rights April 24
Kathryn Sikkink & Juan Mendez

The Purposeful Life June 5
Richard Leider & Richard Bolles

All events take place at the Ted Mann Concert Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Single tickets: \$28.50
(UMAA members \$23.50)

For further information, call 612-624-4000
or visit www.cce.umn.edu/conversations

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Les Ballets Africains

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World Saxophone Quartet plays Jimi Hendrix

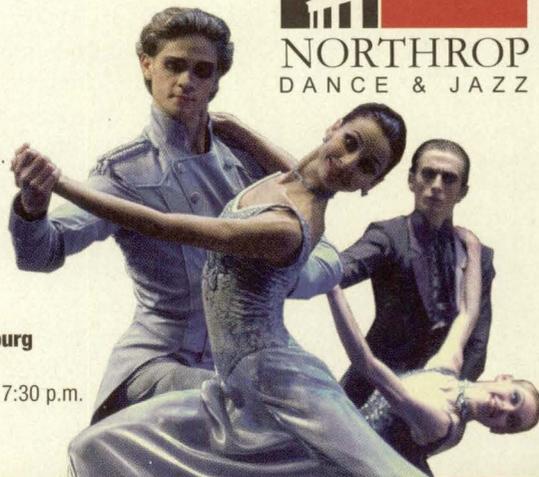
Sat., March 10 – 7 & 9:30 p.m.
Walker Art Center

American Ballet Theatre

Tue., March 13 – 7:30 p.m.
Northrop Auditorium

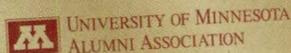
Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg performs Anna Karenina

Tue. & Wed., March 20 & 21 – 7:30 p.m.
Northrop Auditorium



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(reflects September 16 – November 15, 2006)

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Kenneth L. Anderson	Paul A. Lindberg
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Julie K. Augustin	Leslie A. Machos
Karen M. Booker	Rachelle L. Marvin
Judith J. Burichin	Lance R. Miller
Pamela R. Burkley	Kent D. Molde
Debra E. Cathcart	Peter J. Neff
William B. Chambers	Bonnie C. Nelson
Avery J. Christianson	Charles J. Newman
Charles E. Drake	Dorothea J. Ofstedal
Ethel M. Dzubyay	Ronald R. Palmateer
Cynthia M. Eells	Sharon L. Parsons
Christopher J. Effering	Richard A. Parsons
Thomas A. Giorgi	Gretchen S. Perkins
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Michael G. Gray	Stephen D. Schasker
Carter B. Green	Angela S. Schasker
Stephanie L. Haack	Carl L. Schmider
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Chief Executive Officer

Alumni for a Lifetime

Lifetime commitment.” It’s an expression commonly associated with romantic relationships or personal goals like staying fit. Increasingly, membership organizations—including the University of Minnesota Alumni Association—are embracing this concept as well. Our goal is to increase UMAA life members by 5 percent by this June, and we need your help.

Why is this such an important goal? Life membership ensures a constant and continuing connection to the University. It’s an emphatic declaration of loyalty, pride, and support. The more life members we have, the more influence we have advocating for the University.



Margaret Sughrue Carlson
(Ph.D. '83)

Life memberships are especially important because those dues are invested in an endowment whose dividends provide a stable source of support for key initiatives such as legislative advocacy, mentoring, collegiate support, geographic programs, and alumni, faculty, and student recognition.

Life members never have to worry about annual dues, dues reminders, or dues increases ever again. They receive the same benefits as annual members, plus a unique gift and special recognition in *Minnesota* magazine and on our Web site.

Perhaps you’ve considered becoming a life member but the lump sum payment and the installment plan aren’t feasible. We’re now offering a new method of payment: electronic funds transfer. You may already use automatic transfers from your bank account to pay your mortgage or

monthly bills. Under this payment method, a single life membership costs \$20 for 29 months (\$25.50 for a joint membership). If you’re 65 or older, a single life membership costs \$18.50 for 20 months (\$21 for a joint membership).

I asked a handful of UMAA life members why they stepped up and made a lifetime commitment. Here’s what they said:

Marcia Carthaus (Ed.D. '73), a retired Edina special education director, adjunct professor, and “snowbird” in Florida: “Carrying the gold UMAA life membership card gives me a sense of commitment, because I believe in the UMAA’s mission, and a sense of joy, because it reminds me of the outstanding education that I received at the U and the fulfilling career that it brought me.”

Matt Clark (B.S. '01), who works in the Twin Cities banking industry: “I want to help ensure that many more generations of U students have the opportunities that I’ve had, and life membership makes my long-term commitment to this possible and easy.”

Joel Bergstrom (B.A. '96), a fundraiser for diabetes research at the U: “I became a life member because I wanted to ensure that I would always be in touch with the University. At the time I joined, I lived in New York and valued the very real connection to the University and Minnesota that the UMAA provided through *Minnesota* magazine, the New York alumni chapter, and other important programs.”

And Bob Calmenson (B.S. '71, M.S. '73), a California human resources consultant: “The University made an indelible, positive impression on my life, and I take great pride in supporting such a premier school.”

If you already are one of the UMAA’s nearly 13,000 life members, I sincerely thank you. If not, I ask that you consider making this commitment. Visit www.alumni.umn.edu/life to see how easy, affordable, and satisfying a life membership is. You are alumni of this eminent university for a lifetime, so why not make a lifetime commitment to its greatness?

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From an architect.



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