MINNESOTA

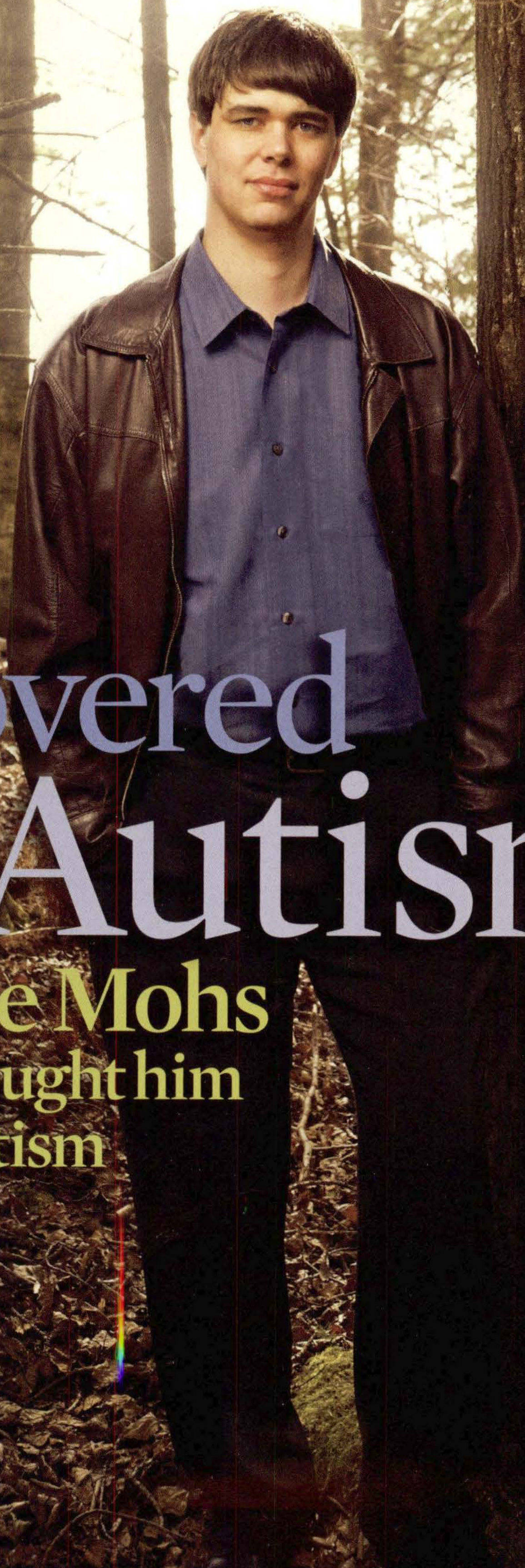
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2010

Meet the Fungus Detective

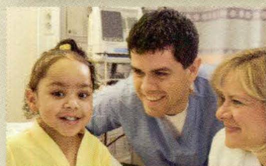
The Fiction Contest Winner

Katie Couric Visits Campus



I Recovered from Autism

Alumnus Joe Mohs tells what brought him back from autism



For nearly a century, children and families throughout our region and the world have benefited from the innovative thinking made possible by academic medicine. University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital is home to one of the nation's top 20 pediatric research programs. Our researchers, physicians and nurses not only deliver the latest innovations, they create them.

As Minnesota's first children's hospital, we've been breaking new ground in cures and care for mothers and children for nearly 100 years. And now, we're breaking ground once again—*this time in a whole new way.*

Opening in 2011, the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital will ensure that you and your children have access to leading health care and new thinking—all in a world-class, state-of-the-art hospital.

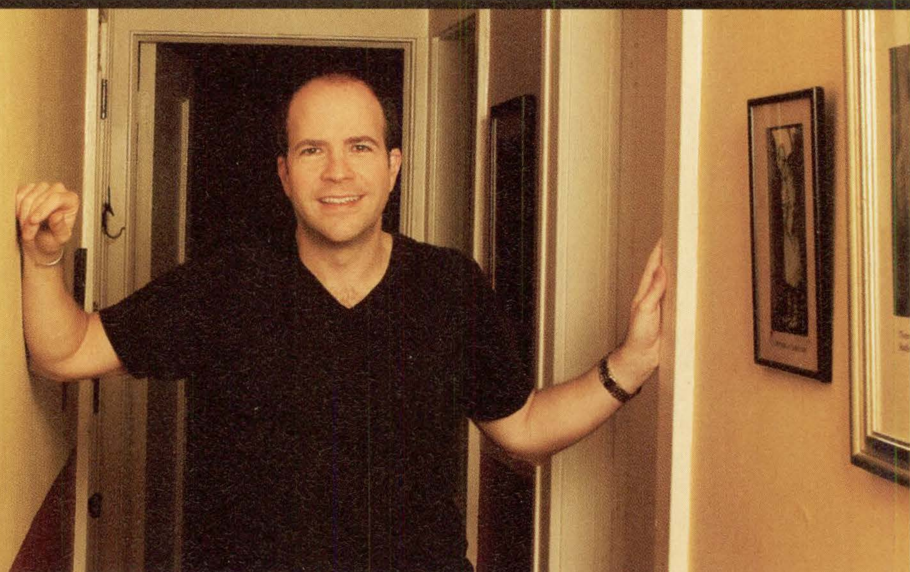
Learn more, and watch our progress, at *uofmchildrenshospital.org/newhospital.*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Amplatz Children's Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA

Volume 109 • Number 4 / Summer 2010



page 40

Columns and Departments

6 **Letters**

8 **About Campus**
Up close with Katie Couric, farm campus for a day, and wrestling with a new challenge

12 **Discoveries**
Clarity on obesity and stroke, how love makes a difference, and electrifying insights into cells

14 **First Person**
"Good-bye, Brother," an essay by Rich Broderick

page 14

38 **Gopher Sports**
Golden graduates Christine Tan and Barrett Moen

40 **Arts & Events**
Peter Rothstein directs *Triumph of Love* on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat.

42 **Off the Shelf**
Daughters of the Witching Hill, by Mary Sharratt

44 **Alumni Profile**
Eric Hanson helps bring back Vermont's loons.

Association Pages

49 **Alumni Association Angle**

51 **National President's Column**

Features

16 **Back from Autism**
Many autistic children overcome their symptoms after undergoing a form of behavioral therapy taught to U of M psychology students. Joe Mohs, diagnosed with autism 23 years ago, says he is living proof that the therapy works.
BY MELEAH MAYNARD

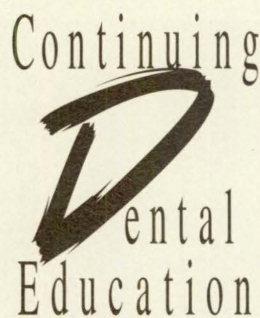
page 16

Even breaks from therapy become part of the therapy. Amy Dawson (left) joins Lovaas Institute program director Kristy Oldham in intensive Applied Behavior Analysis for her son, Malcolm Dawson-Moore.

26 **The Fungus Detective**
Robert Blanchette goes to extremes to solve microscopic mysteries and help preserve historic treasures.
BY EMILY STONE

32 **How to Win Friends**
The winning entry in *Minnesota* magazine's 11th annual fiction contest
BY EMILY BECK COGBURN

Cover photograph by Mark Luinenburg. This page, clockwise from top: photograph by Ann Marsden, photograph by Mark Luinenburg, and illustration by Christopher Silas Neal



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota Alumni Association/School of Dentistry Alumni Society members are eligible to receive a

10% Discount

for "lecture only" courses offered through the School of Dentistry.

July-December 2010 Continuing Dental Education course listings are now available online.

Access our website at www.dentalce.umn.edu or call 612-625-1418 or 800-685-1418 to register.

Where members are ambassadors

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will become the most influential organization in advancing the University's goal to be one of the top three public research institutions in the world.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Executive Committee

National President Archie Givens, '66, '68
President-elect Ertugrul Tuzcu, '78
First Vice President Maureen Reed, '75, '79
Vice President Susan Adams Loyd, '81
Vice President Mary McLeod, '66, '82
Vice President Kipling Thacker, '76, '84
Secretary/Treasurer Kent Horsager, '84
Past President Bruce Mooty, '77, '80
Vice President, University Relations Karen Himle
Chief Executive Officer Phil Esten, '03

At-Large Members Yvonne Cheung Ho, '76, Mary Lahammer, '95, Dan McDonald, '82, '85, Alison Page, '96, Beth Pinkney, '92, Robert Stein, '70, Sandra Ulsaker Wiese, '81, Todd Williams, '91, Ted Zwieg, '78

Geographic Representatives Jan McKenzie Anderson, '62, Marcia Carthaus, '73, Susan Johnson, '69, Bernadine Joselyn, '78, '01, Jane Wildung Lanphere, '75, Janice Meyer, '73, '74, '86, Patrick Schott, '97, Martin Schultz, '97, Paul Thompson, '82

Collegiate Alumni Society Representatives Judy Beniak, '82, Henry Blissenbach, '70, '74, Leah Brus, '06, John Cuningham, '62, Jim du Bois, '87, Lisa Finsness, '08, Gayle Hallin, '70, '77, Marshall Lichty, '02, Jim Mulder, '82, '88, Rich Newell, '75, Jo Ann Omlie, '71, '74, '80, Debra Peterson, '78, Lorna Reichl, '82, '88, Bonnie Welshons, '82

COLLEGIATE ALUMNI SOCIETIES AND AFFILIATES Allied Health (Medical Technology, Mortuary Science, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy); Biological Sciences; Dentistry; Design; Education and Human Development; Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences; Law; Liberal Arts (Band, Journalism and Mass Communication); Carlson School of Management; Medical; Nursing; Pharmacy; Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Public Health; Institute of Technology; Veterinary Medicine

CHAPTERS AND CONTACT AREAS

Minnesota Austin/Albert Lea, Fargo/Moorhead, Glacial Ridge (Willmar), Grand Rapids, Northern Dakota County, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Croix Valley, South Central, Southeast (Lanesboro), Southwest, West Central Lakes (Alexandria)

National Arizona (West Valley), Boston, Central Florida, Chicago, Columbus, Colorado, Dayton, Detroit, Eastern Nebraska, Gold Coast (Boca Raton/Fort Lauderdale/Palm Beach), Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Madison, Milwaukee, New Mexico (Albuquerque/Santa Fe), New York City, North Texas (Dallas), Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Puget Sound, St. Louis, San Antonio/Austin, San Diego, San Francisco Bay Area, Sarasota, Southwest Florida (Naples/Ft. Myers), South Willamette Valley, Suncoast (St. Petersburg/Clearwater/Tampa), Washington, D.C.

International Canada (Toronto, Winnipeg), China (Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tianjin, Xi'an), Costa Rica, Finland, Guam, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan (Tokyo), Korea (Seoul), Morocco, Norway, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Taiwan (Taipei)

MAKING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CONNECTION To join or renew, change your address, or obtain benefit information, contact the Alumni Association at McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040; 800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867), 612-624-9658; fax 612-626-8167; e-mail *umalumni@umn.edu;* Web *www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA GOVERNANCE
President Robert Bruininks

Board of Regents
Clyde Allen, chair
Richard Beeson, '76
John Frobenius, '69
Dean Johnson
Linda Cohen, '85, '86, vice chair
Dallas Bohnsack, '60
Venora Hung, '02
David Larson, '66
Anthony Baraga, '65
Maureen Ramirez
Steven Hunter, '73
Patricia Simmons

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, handicap, age, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Minnesota Smiles...

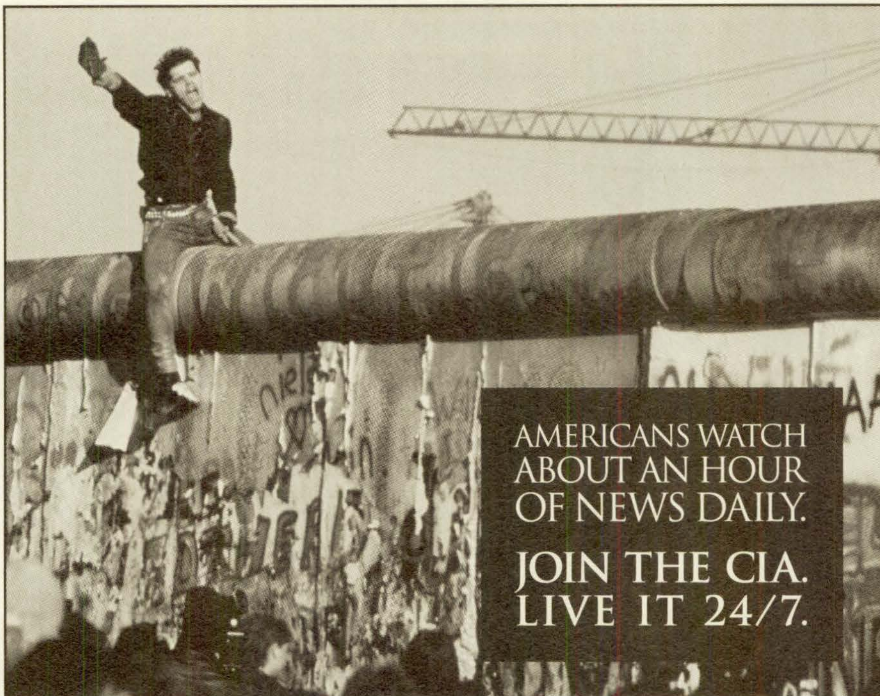
Dave Metzen
U.of M. B.A. 1964
Master's and Doctorate
Educational Administration

The **GORMAN CENTER**
for **FINE DENTISTRY**

Creating
Perfectly Natural
Smiles

Steve Gorman, DDS, AAACD
U.of M. B.S. 1979
U.of M. School of Dentistry - DDS 1981

Steven A. Gorman DDS - Call today to schedule your complimentary consultation.
651-483-5134 and visit our website - **www.drstevegorman.com**



NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE

Be a part of history in the making as a National Clandestine Service Officer.

This is no ordinary assignment. It is a mission of importance. It is how you make a difference for our nation.

Applicants must have US citizenship and the ability to successfully complete medical examinations and security procedures including a polygraph interview. *EOE*

For additional information and to apply, visit: **www.cia.gov**

THE WORK OF A NATION. THE CENTER OF INTELLIGENCE.

Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

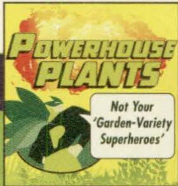
Summer in the Garden

World-class gardens, brilliant blooms, woodlands, wetlands and prairie, trails and walkways

Powerhouse Plants summer exhibition starts June 5--energy to fuel your body, life and imagination

Gala in the Gardens, June 16, 6 p..m., al fresco reception, dinner, live auction, starts at $175

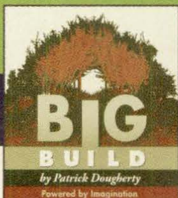
Toast & Taste in the Gardens, July 29, 6 p.m. Patron reception, 7 p.m. general admission, $75-$100



Alumni Assoc. members save $5

FREE admission all year
- Member Newsletter
- Savings at the SummerHouse & AppleHouse
- Discounts on class fees
- Gift Store discounts
- Special events, coupons
- Reciprocal admission at 200 gardens nationwide
- Memberships start at $45

BONUS! Join by June 15 and get a free 1 year subscription to *Better Homes & Gardens*



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBER BENEFIT

3675 Arboretum Drive Chaska, MN 55318
952-443-1400 • www.arboretum.umn.edu/join.aspx

Located 9 miles west of I-494 on State Highway 5 in Chanhassen.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA

PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SINCE 1901

Chief Executive Officer and Publisher
Phil Esten

Communications Director
Julie Shortridge

Editor
Shelly Fling

Managing Editor
Cynthia Scott

Copy Editor
Susan Maas

Contributing Writers
Rich Broderick,
Emily Beck Cogburn, Martha Coventry,
Allison Campbell Jensen, Bill Magnuson,
Meleah Maynard, Rick Moore,
Deane Morrison, Erin Peterson,
Katy Read, Emily Stone

Design
Barbara Koster Design

Editorial Advisory Board Members
John Adams, Jim du Bois,
Deb Hopp, John Foley,
Mary Koppel, Cathy Madison,
Dennis McGrath, Jean Ward

For advertising rates and information
contact Ketti Histon at 612-280-5144 or *histon@msn.com*

Minnesota (ISSN 0164-9450) is published four times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer) by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association for its members.

Copyright ©2010 by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association

McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040
612-624-9658, 800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867)
fax 612-626-8167
www.MinnesotaAlumni.org

To update your address, call 612-624-9658 or e-mail *alumnimembership@umn.edu*

Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and additional mailing offices.
Postmaster: Send address corrections to:
McNamara Alumni Center,
200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200,
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040.

WORLDCOLOR

660 Mayhew Lake Road NE
St Cloud, Minnesota 56304

FELDMANN
·IMPORTS·

The Number One Mercedes-Benz Dealer
in the five state area

The All New 2010 E-Class

Come see our newly redesigned showroom and boutique.

Sales · Leasing · Service · Savings · Satisfaction

Mercedes-Benz

4901 American Blvd, West Bloomington, MN 55437

952.837.6300

feldmannimports.com

A MARVEL WITH MANY SIDES

The article "The Dark Side of a Modern Marvel" [about University assistant art professor Andréa Stanislav's research, Spring 2010] is inaccurate. The United Arab Emirates labor law is very clear on the treatment of expatriate laborers, and the embassies of workers on large construction projects are diligent in ensuring adequate housing and fair and prompt pay for all. These workers come here voluntarily to earn a living better than they could, and the living conditions they enjoy in the UAE are far superior than in their home countries. Didn't she see the signage outside the construction site declaring the number of accident-free days on the site? The construction companies look after their staff, as poor living and working conditions mean lower productivity.

Stanislav stated that she went to "a city outside of Dubai called Mousafah." Mousafah (her spelling, it should be Musaffah) is part of the capital city, Abu Dhabi, not Dubai, more than 100 miles away. She should be more careful in her geography. If she got her geography wrong, how about the other "facts" in her article?

Mary C. Horns Corrado (B.S. '68)
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Editor's Note: Mousafah and Musaffah are both accepted spellings of the ghetto in the United Arab Emirates referenced in the article. However, the laborer camp is located outside of Abu Dhabi, not Dubai. The editors regret the error.

BOLD AND REVEALING CONTENT

Thank you so much for your painfully revealing Editor's Note in the Spring edition of *Minnesota* ["Welcome to the Neighborhood"]. Painful for you as you described finding that you assumed that white people like you were automatically the neighborhood welcomers. Painful for me as I recognized my own attitude of "generosity" in accepting the diverse cultures in a neighborhood where I am a relative newcomer. I'm sharing your cautionary tale with others who, like us, strive not to get wrapped up in the burden of white privilege.

The article on school resegregation in the same edition is a bold examination of how much needs to be done to provide all students with top-quality education in an environment of inclusion and diversity. I hope the discussion will be continued in future editions of *Minnesota*.

I look forward to receiving the magazine and read it from cover to cover. Another enlightening article in this edition were the examples of the projects supported by the Imagine Fund. Thanks to you and all who create this exciting publication.

Sieglinde Gassman (B.A. '84)
St. Paul

WORDS OF BEAUTY

When reading Mike Finley's essay ["When We Were Beautiful," Spring 2010], it was like taking a trip back in time. All of a sudden I was back at the U of M in the late '60s and early '70s. Great memories to be sure. Thanks to Mr. Finley for writing such a fabulous piece!

Randy Satre (B.A. '71)
Aiken, South Carolina

My wife and I very much enjoyed Mike Finley's wonderful essay in the spring issue. It is a beautiful thing!

Roy Martin (B.S. '87, D.V.M. '89)
Maple Grove, Minnesota

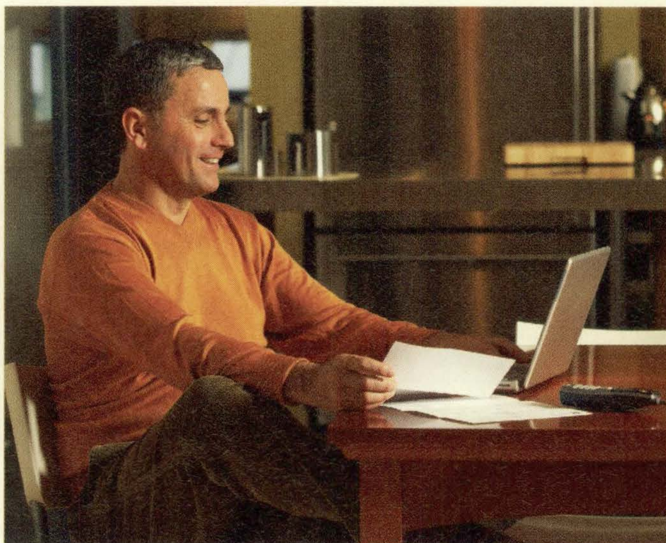
Please share your views with other Minnesota *readers. Submit a letter at* www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/opinion *or write to Letter to the Editor,* Minnesota *Magazine, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Letters may be edited for style, length, and clarity.*

spreading the
beautiful since 1885

BACHMAN'S

612-861-7311 • bachmans.com

We're here to serve your financial needs.



We were here during your years at the U of M and we're here for you now. Get the total customized financial service relationship you deserve. We offer:

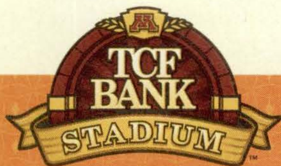
- Checking Accounts
- Savings Accounts
- Business Banking
- Consumer Loans
- Commercial Banking

For more information, stop by your neighborhood TCF Bank® branch, visit us online at www.tcfbank.com or call us at 612-TCF-BANK (823-2265) or 1-800-TCF-BANK today!

your convenience bank.SM

*Open 7 Days*SM

©2010 TCF National Bank. Member FDIC. www.tcfbank.com.



Official Stadium Title Sponsor

Meet the Anchor

Katie Couric, anchor and managing editor of *CBS Evening News with Katie Couric*, was the guest speaker at the Alumni Association Annual Celebration April 24. Beforehand, she spoke with *Minnesota* about journalism, advocacy, and grieving.

Katie Couric speaking at the Alumni Association Annual Celebration

Q: You're speaking at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association Annual Celebration about "The Power of Resilience." Why this topic?

A: I've had a lot of wonderful things happen in my life and I've also had many challenging and difficult things. Professionally, it's been a bumpy ride for me. I was a scrappy news reporter who worked very, very hard, and I had many, many naysayers along the way. Then I dealt with challenges on a personal level when my husband was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer at age 41 and I was 40. He died when he was 42. I had a similar loss with my sister. There are some life lessons in what I experienced and I took that experience and turned it into advocacy.

Q: What are the challenges of grieving while having a high public profile?

A: In some weird ways, [being so public] makes it a bit easier because you're able to compartmentalize. When I went back to work after Jay died, and even when I was working during the course of his illness, it gave me an escape valve and a place to go where I didn't feel like my heart was in a vise 24/7.

Q: You've become an advocate for cancer screening and research and, lately, for learning to grieve. Why take on that role?

A: Everybody should have a cause that's greater than themselves. I'm in an enviable position: I have a platform; I have a built-in bully pulpit. Why not use it to serve the greater good? For me to talk about the grieving process and help families and their children deal with death or to raise badly needed research dollars so that scientists can come up with better treatments and possibly even cures—why not? Shame on me if I didn't.

Q: You have been criticized for having either a left-wing or a right-wing bias. How do you respond to that?

A: People see things through their own particular prism, and if you don't agree with them then they think you're the opposition. I'm equally criticized by both the right wing and the left wing. When I covered the surge in Iraq and I said it seemed to be having an impact on bringing the level of violence down, I got eviscerated by the folks at *MoveOn.org* as being a sort of mouthpiece for the military. I just try to go and report what I see, report the facts as I understand them—that are then hopefully validated by other sources.

Watching newscasts or news shows that reflect your own views back at you, like a convection oven, is inherently dangerous to a democracy because it discourages any kind of civil discourse, which has become an oxymoron in our culture.

Q: What advice do you have for students in the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication?

A: It's such a hard time to give young, aspiring journalists advice because nobody quite knows where our business is going. [Yet] certain skills should remain constant: becoming a really good writer and learning to use language to capture a story, issue, or a person. Sometimes I'll read things in *The New Yorker* or *Newsweek* or *Time* or the *Times* and think, damn, they're such good writers. I think it's harder and harder to find, frankly. I'm not sure people really value the importance of being an exceptional writer.

Other skills are being able to synthesize complicated material and make it accessible and understandable. So, I always tell young journalists to be sure to study foreign policy and government and understand how local, state, and federal governments work. Be a sponge, read the paper, and if you see a word or an article and you don't know what it means, underline it and look it up. I mean, [the world is] a huge playground of knowledge, you just have to dive in and soak it all up.

—Allison Campbell Jensen

PHOTOGRAPH BY JANA NOONAN

Overheard on Campus

"Steven Spielberg is the same as Steve Jobs: Both produce things people love. Move further down the line and you have a Jack Welch creating the illusion that he operates a conservatively run company when in fact it's a hedge fund on steroids. Move further still, and you have a Bernie Madoff. It's not always clear at what point you want to stop honoring people for being creative and instead put them in jail."

—University of Minnesota professor of mathematics Andrew Odlyzko quoted on *Forbes.com* in an article about history's great economic bubbles

Farm Campus Redux

Northrop Mall took on a pastoral air April 20 as farm animals mingled with students, faculty, and staff during the first-ever Agricultural Awareness Day. The event was sponsored by students in the University of Minnesota Agricultural Education Club. "It was awesome," says organizer Jason Kaare. "It couldn't have gone any better for the first year." Agricultural producers who cosponsored the event provided the animals, which included two llamas, two beef cows, one dairy cow, two chickens, three sheep, and a pig. Kaare estimates that 3,500 people attended—"and that doesn't count the people who heard the cow all over campus," he says. Llamas had their say, too. In this photo, a llama reportedly told passersby about her species' increasing popularity as a fiber animal. *—Cynthia Scott*

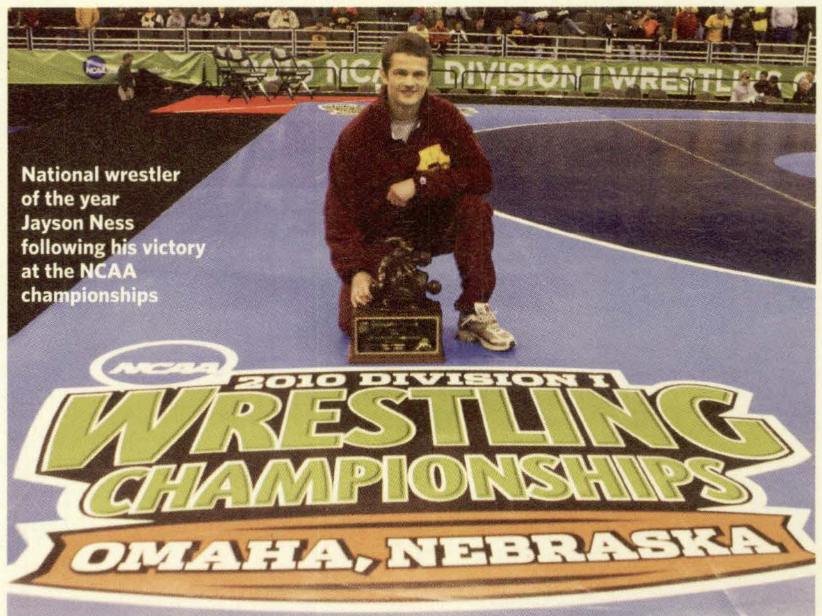
Teaching Champ

Golden Gopher wrestler Jayson Ness (B.S. '09) pulled off a thrilling last-second victory over rival Daniel Dennis of Iowa to win the national championship at 133 pounds in March. One week later, he was grappling with a whole new challenge: student teaching at Fridley High School. "I enjoyed that month headed into nationals a lot more than I did my first week of student teaching," says the Bloomington, Minnesota, native. "Now I'm in new territory, somewhere I've never been before. But I really like the students."

Ness knows a few things about being a successful student. During the championship match, he applied to perfection a lesson Coach J Robinson preached relentlessly: The match isn't over until it's over. Trailing 2-4 with just five seconds remaining, Ness maneuvered to land a takedown, earning a near fall call as the clock hit zeroes. "I came after him as hard as I could. Good things happen when you wrestle hard for a full seven minutes," Ness notes.

The championship completed a dazzling 32-0 season that catapulted Ness into the national spotlight. Already named Big Ten Wrestler of the Year and the national tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler, Ness also garnered national wrestler-of-the-year honors from both *InterMat* and *Wrestling Insider News Magazine*. He's the first Gopher wrestler since 1939 to win national wrestler-of-the-year honors.

Ness earned his B.S. in technology education with a 3.28 GPA, and at Fridley High he taught Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering course. "I'm just trying to put the same energy I put into wrestling into student teaching," he says. *—C.S.*



National wrestler of the year Jayson Ness following his victory at the NCAA championships

FARM CAMPUS PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLE HOLDORPH; JAYSON NESS BY JERRY LEE

Pay Cut Ahead

As the University of Minnesota continues to address its financial challenges, a new compensation plan will deliver a sting to staff. Under a proposal approved by the Faculty Senate in late March, all U employees will take the equivalent of a 1.15 percent cut in pay for fiscal year 2011.

The one-time pay reduction will vary according to employee group. Civil service and union-represented staff will take a mandatory three-day furlough during the last week of December, part of a weeklong shutdown of all campuses (essential facilities and services will remain operational). Faculty and professional and administrative employees will see an outright 1.15 percent reduction in pay (the equivalent of three days of work) with no reduction in assigned duties.

Senior administrators—a group that includes about 85 people—will take a 2.3 percent reduction in pay, the equivalent of six days' pay, while student employees, including graduate assistants and professionals-in-training, will not be subject to the reduction. All employees would be allowed to take up to an additional 10 voluntary furlough days. *—Rick Moore*

Food-borne Fortunes

Besides cold, what does the rest of the United States associate with Minnesota? Probably food, given the state's history of flour milling, grain shipping, and food processing.

But no one could say how many food companies call Minnesota home until this March, when the University's Food Industry Center issued a report. Center researchers Jean Kinsey and Koel Ghosh counted the food-related business and industrial units headquartered in Minnesota or that have a single location, excluding the state's 81,000-plus farms. Here's a sample of what they found:

- The state has 2,357 food companies, or about one for every 2,200 residents.
- Their total sales in 2008 were \$329.8 billion; that's more than the 2008 gross state product (\$262.9 billion). Sales outside the state boosted the figure.
- Eighteen companies had more than \$500 million in sales. Those companies employ almost 41 percent of the state's 162,000 food industry workers and generate more than 95 percent of all sales in this sector.

In 2008, a year after its popular Spam turned 70, Minnesota-based Hormel Foods had \$6.75 billion in sales and employed 20,000 people, 1,500 in Minnesota.

"The total number of food companies we found surprised me. We had guessed we would find about 400," Kinsey says, noting that the report counted many smaller food companies previously unknown to the center. "Part of our mission as a land grant institution is to provide services to the food sector, so you need to have a total picture of what you're dealing with. Now we have that," she says.

The report is available at *http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu.* *—Deane Morrison*

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Where members are ambassadors

A special welcome to our newest life members.

JEAN AKESSON
JOHAN A. AKESSON
LORRAINE B. ANDERSON
NATHAN W. ARNOLD
CHRISTINA L. ASKEW
KEITH R. BECKSTROM
JEFFREY D. BERGSTROM
JAY C. BLANCHETT
THOMAS W. BLANCK
BENJAMIN E. BOLEK
THOMAS D. BRIESE
HAROLD F. BRUNER
BRIAN E. BUDZYNSKI
IAN T. BUI
CAROL A. CADY
DEBORAH C. CARLSRUD
JOHN T. CARROLL
KARLA CARROLL
JANE H. CHAN
TIFFANY Y. CHAN
DONG M. CHEN
GEORGE B. CHESLEY
PAUL B. COUFAL
STACY A. COUFAL
DONALD H. CRAIGHEAD
SANDRA L. CRAIGHEAD
BONNIE K. CUMBERLAND
RITA B. DRONE
MARY S. DUNNAVAN
DANI ESTEN
PHIL L. ESTEN
G. EDWARD EVANS
JEFFREY A. EVANSON
RONALD R. EVENSON
MELISSA J. FITZSIMMONS
DOROTHY J. FOLEY
GARY P. FOLEY
ARLENE T. FORREST
BRADLEY A. FORREST
RODNEY D. FOSS
LOLA J. FREDRICKSON
FRED L. FREEMAN
PATRICIA M. FREEMAN
CALVIN O. FROEHLICH
STANLEY L. GENDLER
MICHAEL G. GOERGEN
SHARON A. GOERGEN
ANETT D. GRANT
PETER W. GRANT
SHERI J. GRAY
ROGER H. GROSS
BERNIE H. P. HANSON
MARGARET E. HANSON
STEPHANIE B. HARRIS-BENDA
DOUGLAS A. HEDIN
CORRINE I. HEIBERG
ELVIN F. HEIBERG
DANN K. HEILMAN
L. RAY HENDERSON
SUSANNE E. HERNANDEZ
KIMBALL J. HIGGINS
WENDY L. HIGGINS
SCOTT F. HOLM
MARGUERITE HORN
MAX T. HORN
DWIGHT R. HOVLAND
GARY C. JOHNSON
NANCY J. JOHNSTON
MARY L. JURISSON
DIANE M. KAMMERER
MICHAEL J. KARLSON
PHYLLIS E. KELSCH
DANIEL P. KENNEDY
WARREN C. KETTERLING
GIL F. KIEKENAPP
CHARLES T. KILLIAN
MARY V. KILLIAN
BRET A. KLAPPER
NEAL M. KLEIN
SARAH KNIGHT-NORENBERG KLEIN
JOHANNA KRUEGER
LUTHER J. KRUEGER
GARY Y. LARSEN
MARK C. LEAHY
SHARON L. LEHMANN
WU-SHYONG LI
MICHAEL G. LIVINGSTON
DARREN W. LOCHNER
DON J. LUNDBERG
KATHLEEN A. MADDEN
DARREN E. MASON
DANIEL J. MCGEACHIE
MARILEE A. MILLER
ALAN D. NETLAND
ROBERT E. NOLTE
CHRISTOPHER R. NORDSTROM
MARK E. NORMAN
BARBARA A. OTTE
MATTHEW R. OTTERSTATTER
ELIZABETH A. PASSI
ROBERT PASSI
DAWN K. PATTERSON
MATTHEW C. PATTERSON
ERIN PENROSE
EUGENE S. PERSHA
ROSEMARY S. PERSHA
TRUNG M. PHAM
JAMES M. PLASEK
MARY F. PLESE
ANNE M. RADOLINSKI
SUSAN L. RASMUSSEN
JAMES C. REIMER
JULIE L. REIMER
MATTHEW C. RICHARDSON
CHARLOTTE G. ROBERTS
CHARLES J. ROSENOW
KATHLEEN V. ROSENOW
JAMES L. ROSS
JUDITH A. ROSS
ERIC A. ROTH
WARREN P. RYAN
MARY E. SANTI
ROBERT M. SAUNDERS
ANN M. SCARBOROUGH
ROBERT Y. SCARBOROUGH
ELFRIEDE SCHAAF
VERNON K. SCHAAF
MARGARET M. SCHEID
JANELLE M. SCHNADT
ANNA J. SEIBERT
BRADLEY F. SHAMLA
MELANIE F. SHEPARD
JASON A. SMITH
NICOLE K. SMITH
RICHARD T. SMITH
MARY F. SPIEGELBERG
LORRAINE F. STOLEE
THOMAS A. STOLEE
DAVID G. SVENDSEN
KIYOMI K. TAKEKAWA
BETTY M. TATE
DAVID A. THERKELSEN
GARY B. THOMAS
ALYCE J. TIDBALL
GERALD C. TIMIAN
SYLVIA M. TIMIAN
KATIE H. TRAM PHAM
KATHLEEN A. TUNE
LESLIE A. TUNE
THOMAS P. UMHOEFER
BARBARA A. UMHOLTZ
VERNON F. UMHOLTZ
MARGARET M. WESENBERG
SKIP WIDTFELDT
MARY A. WILLIAMS
WILLIE WINSTON
JOHAN C. WOHLFAHRT
JAMES N. WOLF
ANN L. WOLVERTON
SKIP W. WOLVERTON
GUOPING WU
MELANIE A. ZENTNER

FELDMANN
·NISSAN·
College Graduate Program

2010 ROGUE

2010 ALTIMA

2010 VERSA

2010 SENTRA

2010 CUBE

Signature GRADUATE®

You did it. You made it through the hard times at college. Now, here's your reward... and unlike most things in life, it's pretty easy to obtain. Before your commencement ceremony, take a test drive in a new Nissan. Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation has a unique, *Signature*GRADUATE® Financing Program for qualified new college graduates. You'll either get a terrific, low rate on a purchase or a waived security deposit on a lease. Plus, qualified buyers who purchase may have their first payment deferred for 90 days**. All you need to do is confirm that you'll be a college graduate in the next six months or have graduated within the last 24 months and have proof of employment and you'll drive away in your very own, brand new Nissan. Consider it a graduation from excellence...to excellence.

$500 CASH BACK**

90DAY Deferred Payment**

WAIVED Security Deposit on a Lease

**Current college graduates will be eligible for the incentive award on each eligible vehicle sold or leased during the Program Period. A "current college graduate" must qualify as follows:B Must be a two-year or four-year graduate (AA/AS or BS/BA) from an accredited U.S. two-year or four-year college or graduate school (Masters/Doctorate) within the last twenty-four months or provide university confirmation of upcoming graduation within six months from the contract date. All current Graduate Students and graduates with Nursing degrees (LVN's, LPN's and RN's) also qualify. Verifiable proof of current employment or verifiable proof of a job offer and salary with employment beginning within 90 days of the contract date are required. Proof of insurance. Buyer must finance or lease through NMAC. Non-NMAC finance or lease contracts do not qualify.

Sales • Leasing • Service • Savings • Satisfaction

4901 American Blvd, West Bloomington, MN 55437

1.800.SAVE.NOW

feldmannnissan.com

Carbon Conundrum

Planting new forests and restoring prairies may be beneficial for aesthetic and ecological reasons, but not enough idle land is available for conversion to significantly offset carbon dioxide emissions, according to a multidisciplinary study by University of Minnesota researchers. Plants take up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to build leaf, stem, and root biomass, some of which is then transferred to soil, where it can reside for decades before eventually being broken down by soil organisms and returned to the atmosphere. Some policymakers and scientists view this process, known as carbon sequestration, as a possible way to combat global warming.

However, the U study found that the potential to offset substantial emissions is constrained by a lack of available land. For example, if 10 percent of current cropland in the Upper Midwest were converted into a combination of new forests and grasslands, less than 5 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions for the region would be offset. Rather than convert land, however, researchers recommended implementing land use policies that protect current carbon stores, such as peatlands and wetlands.

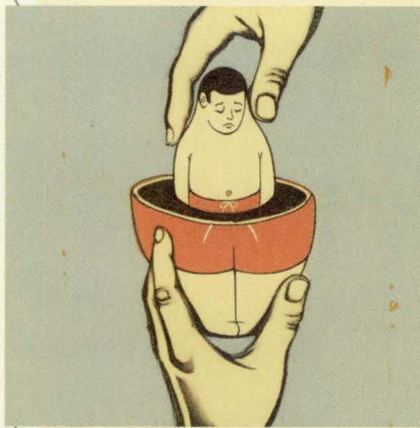
The study appeared online in the January issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment.*

Charging Forward

Researchers at the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences have created a molecular image of the process by which electricity moves through cells, an achievement that could provide insights to minimizing energy loss in a wide range of systems, from the human body to electrical power grids. The image, obtained by using x-ray crystallography, provides a unique view of the extraordinary chemical process that enables human beings to exist by channeling energy to create complex molecules such as protein and DNA. One researcher with the National Institutes of Health likened the advance to being behind the stage at a magic show and seeing for the first time how a trick is performed. The research was published in the March 12 issue of *Science*.

No Matter What, Obesity Raises Stroke Risk

The more obese a person is, the higher his or her risk of stroke, regardless of race or gender and irrespective of whether obesity is measured by body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, or hip-to-waist ratio. Those are key findings of a University of Minnesota Medical School study that followed 13,549 middle-aged black and white men and women in four U.S. communities from 1987 through 2005. The study also found that incidence of stroke differed substantially between blacks and whites. For example, black women were found to have three times higher incidence of stroke than white women in both the lowest and the highest weight categories.



Previously, researchers had not established a clear correlation between overweight and obesity and stroke, especially among blacks. Likewise, scientists were uncertain about which measure of excess weight was most closely associated with disease risk. The study appeared in the January 21 online edition and in the March print issue of *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association.*

Go Where Thou Wilt

The disease attacking your tomato plants this summer may have its origin in a fungus that migrated from a completely unrelated organism, according to a study by the University of Minnesota Department of Plant Pathology. The study, published in the March 18 online issue of *Nature,* found that fungi are more adaptable than previously thought and may "horizontally" transfer genes. The process, which was unknown prior to the study, is similar to the way bacteria quickly develop antibiotic resistance. Researchers made the discovery while studying three strains of *Fusarium*, a fungus that causes disease on various species of plants, including tomatoes. They found that *Fusarium oxysporum*, the strain that causes tomato wilt, is carried on special chromosomes that move easily between fungal strains. The process by which the chromosomes move is unknown.

CARBON CONUNDRUM ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN DAWSON/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES; OBESITY BY DANIEL BEJAR

Love Makes a Difference

Socially deprived children who were moved from orphanages to foster homes that provided quality caregiving made dramatic strides in growth and intelligence, according to a study by researchers at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Social deprivation, or lack of access to social and material resources, is known to be associated with low weight and height, along with cognitive and emotional difficulties.

Researchers studied 136 infants from six orphanages in Bucharest, Romania. Half were assigned to foster homes and half remained in the orphanage. Children assigned to foster care showed rapid increases in height and weight, so that within a year close to 100 percent of them were in normal ranges. Children whose height caught up to normal levels also appeared to improve their thinking, learning, and memory abilities. Caregiving qualities most closely associated with the children's progress were acceptance, respect, and warmth, including expressions of physical affection. Researchers said the findings show that psychosocial deprivation within any caregiving environment during early life is as detrimental as malnutrition and must be viewed with as much concern as any severely debilitating childhood disease.

The study will appear in the June issue of the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.*

Early Abuse Tied to Depression

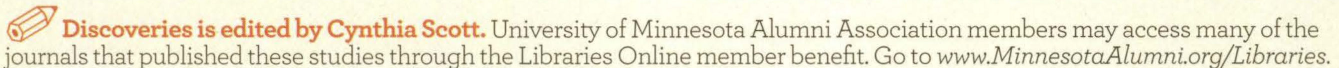
Abuse at any age can damage a child. But a professor of child development and psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, along with researchers at the University of Rochester, have found that physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect prior to age 5 may be particularly detrimental.

In a study of more than 500 low-income children ages 7 to 13, about half of whom had been abused or neglected, researchers found that high levels of depression were more frequent among children who were abused in the first five years of their lives than among maltreated children who weren't abused early in life or children who weren't maltreated at all. The study found that, among children who were abused early in life, the body's primary system for adapting to stress had become compromised due to the atypical regulation of cortisol, the hormone that the body produces in response to stress. Researchers said early abuse may be more damaging because it happens as the brain is rapidly developing and when children are most dependent on caregivers' protection.

The study appears in the January-February issue of *Child Development.*

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT DISCOVERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA?

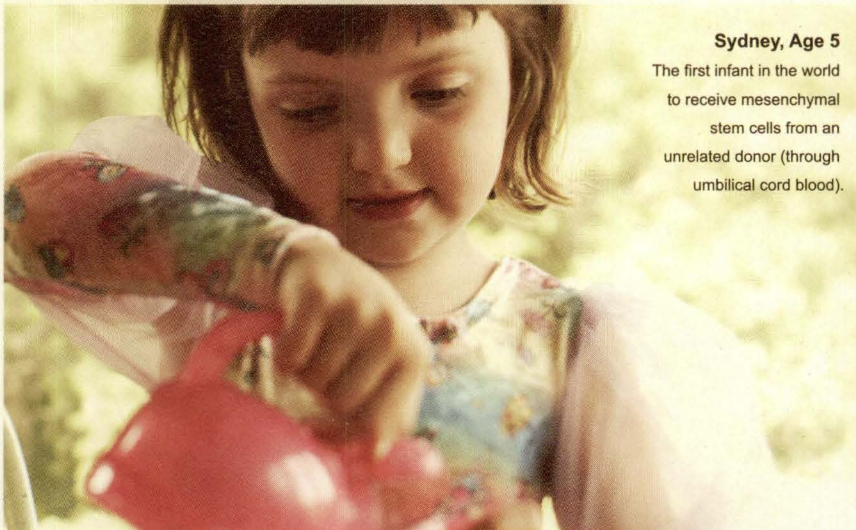
"Driven to Discover: The Research Series" is a new video feature from the University Office of Information Technology that takes viewers on an in-depth, up close tour of some of the University's most fascinating research endeavors. Go to *www.oit.umn.edu.*



Discoveries is edited by Cynthia Scott. University of Minnesota Alumni Association members may access many of the journals that published these studies through the Libraries Online member benefit. Go to *www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Libraries.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY CYNTHIA JOHNSON/GETTY IMAGES

This is what leadership in cancer research looks like.



Sydney, Age 5
The first infant in the world to receive mesenchymal stem cells from an unrelated donor (through umbilical cord blood).

Children's Cancer Research Fund plays a critical role at the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center by investing in **early research** that leads to **game-changing treatments** for children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

To learn more or to make a donation, please visit **ChildrensCancer.org**

Good-bye, Brother

Losing an irreplaceable connection to one's past

ESSAY BY RICH BRODERICK » ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SILAS NEAL

FIRST PERSON

When I picked up the phone three Septembers ago, I knew instantly who was on the line.

"Hey, Rich. What's goin' on?"

It was my younger brother Mike's weekly call, his familiar salutation delivered in the voice I remember from growing up with him, two siblings so close in age and appearance we were occasionally mistaken for each other. Often enough this was to my disadvantage, like the time I got blamed for a rock Mike threw through a neighbor's window.

During the call, Mike—who was living alone in Fort Pierce, Florida—complained about how there was nothing to do where he lived and I once again halfheartedly urged him to move to Minnesota, knowing that, if he did so, I would end up taking care of him. Once again, he promised to think about it, then launched into his litany of observations and queries. Make sure and watch the *Seinfeld* marathon scheduled to air this week, OK? How come I, his brother, aren't writing for *Playboy*? And, once again, he revealed his "new" idea for a surefire writing project that would make us both rich and famous.

"You know what you should do?" he asked. "Write my autobiography. Yeah—I even have a name for it. *The Autobiography of a Gentleman and a Lover: The Life and Times of Mike Broderick*. What do you think?"

As I had dozens of times before, I assured him that it sounded like a great idea but that, really, if anyone should write it, it ought to be him. After all, that's what the word *autobiography* means, doesn't it?

"Oh yeah," he conceded. "I guess you're right. But you still ought to do it."

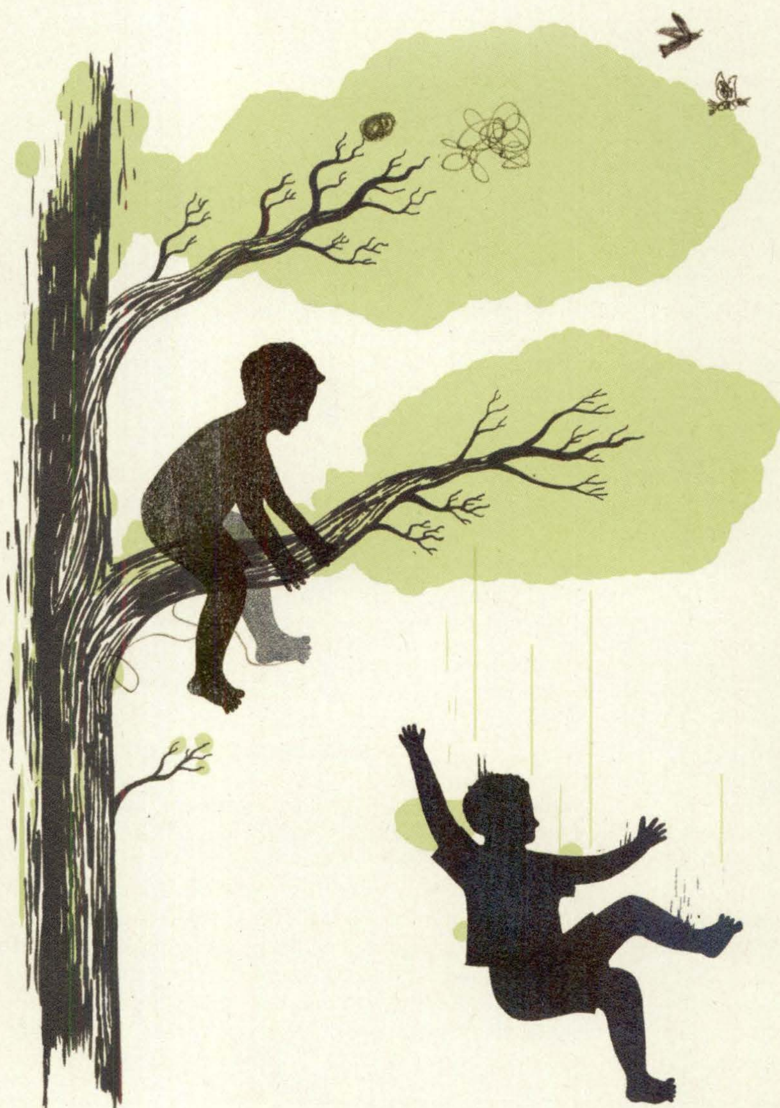
And then, just before signing off, Mike revealed for the first time something truly momentous.

"You know what?" he asked. "I think I'm finally getting over what happened to Dad."

"That's good, Mike. It's been a long time."

"Yeah. A long time."

That was the last time we ever spoke.



When I watch home movies now, it's clear that Mike had ADD or ADHD, maybe something else. I'll never know; we came of age before any such diagnoses existed.

In frame after frame, he cannot stand still, skittering about, making faces, collapsing in a heap, jumping from foot to foot. At night—we shared a bedroom for 13 years—he would lie on his back in the bed next to mine with one leg crossed over the other and kick. Sometimes I'd wake up hours later and discover him still kicking in his sleep.

On more than one occasion, Mike's uncontrollable energy led to life-threatening mishaps. There was, for example, the incident on his third birthday. Overcome with excitement, he raced around the house, leapt over a footstool, and came down wrong. At the hospital, the x-ray technician trying to get him to lie still unwittingly slipped the fractured vertebrae back into alignment. A fraction of an inch in another direction and Mike might have ended up quadriplegic—or dead. As it was, he had to spend six months wearing a neck brace.

Or there was the fall he took over on the Point, a spit of land across a small inlet from our house. That was the summer he was 12. He and a neighbor boy, Artie Frank, climbed up into a tree house where Mike ended up plummeting 50 feet through a dry slurry of leaves and branches. Dying of cancer at the time, our father had been sitting in the backyard and could do nothing but watch helplessly as his youngest son plunged Icarus-like from the sky. I witnessed the event, too, but with less alarm, knowing somehow that Mike would survive and angry at him for upsetting Dad again at a time when he had no strength to spare.

Ultimately, though, it wasn't physical injuries that caused Mike the most harm. For his first five years, he'd been the baby of the family, the center of Dad's attention. Then Maureen came along, the first girl after four boys, with inevitable results. Over the years, Mike acted out his resentment toward this interloper with emotional and physical abuse. Maureen's birth also marked a change in my relationship with Mike, as I began to step in to try to protect my little sister from his wrath.

Then there was our father's death at 49. Volatile and physically powerful, he was the sun that held our family's solar system together. In the wake of Dad's passing, Mike became involved in vandalism, petty theft, and a general delinquency that more than once landed him in juvenile lockup.

Perhaps inevitably, Mike began drinking and using marijuana and then, in his last year of high school, speed and psychedelics. By now, I was in college in Colorado, glad to have some distance from my family's ongoing turmoil. On one visit home that year, I remember Mike bragging about the contest he'd won to see who could drop acid the most times in a month. The next time I came home, he hadn't bathed in weeks and alternately proclaimed that he was speaking directly to Jesus or that he *was* Jesus.

The next 20 years Mike was in and out of psych wards and prison cells. The diagnoses covered the waterfront: He was bipolar, paranoid, and/or schizophrenic; he suffered from severe personality disorders; he suffered from all of the above and more.

In 1991, soon after his 40th birthday, Mike came within a whisker of dying from liver and pancreatic failure and the sudden onset of type 1 diabetes—a system collapse caused by years of alcohol and drug abuse coupled with the cumulative effect of anti-psychotic medications. For the next 15 years, Mike scratched by on 100 percent disability payments from Social Security, whiling away his time in a squalid one-room apartment in Fort Pierce, where he'd ended up because our mother—who subsequently died in 2000—had moved after retiring.

But even though Mike's life might sound unrelentingly dreary, that's not the whole story. He was also a gifted guitarist and less-gifted songwriter who harbored dreams of making it big. He had, despite all, a phenomenal memory and lots of time on his hands to dwell on the past. Whenever I had a question about some event from our past, I could turn to Mike, the archivist of our childhood, to provide details.

On October 1, 2006, an unseasonably warm day in St. Paul, I went for a stroll.

The message from the Fort Pierce police was waiting when I got home. A neighbor, realizing she hadn't seen Mike for some time, looked in on him. He had been dead for three or four days.

I knew that Mike had long been living on borrowed time and that even if he had moved to Minnesota after Mom died, nothing likely would have changed the outcome of his life. But, still, part of me had managed to deny this. Part of me believed that Mike would go on beating the odds and that I could go on leaning on him to recall things from childhood that I'd forgotten.

It was with a mixture, then, of disbelief and sorrow that, six months later, I accepted delivery of the bronze box bearing his ashes; today, that box sits on a shelf in my bedroom where Mike rests peacefully at last. On the first anniversary of his death, I took some of his ashes back home to New Jersey and sprinkled them in the lake. And as I did so, I recited a poem about that moment when Mike had come to my home to stay:

> Good-bye, brother. And hello. Our childhood
> died with you in that sealed Florida room
> where you exiled yourself, the shades
> drawn, your swollen heart burst at last,
> nothing in the refrigerator, the TV on.
> Now there's no one to ask
> the name of the neighbor boy's cousin
> who fell through the ice on Mirror Lake
> and drowned, or of the candy store
> out on the highway, or where we were the day
> we drank homemade root beer, then played
> pirate ship with other kids in a dusty barn.
> All I have of you now is this bronze box
> filled with ashes (not even a proper urn),
> the sweepings of your life. What would I find
> if I pried it open and peeked inside?
> Some powdery substance, gritty and fine,
> like the beach we used to play on, the sand
> so hot in the midday sun that even
> in the time it took us to run to the lake
> the soles of our feet would burn.

Rich Broderick (B.A. '76) is a writer living in St. Paul. His poem is reprinted by permission of Poetry East.

Back from Autism

Many children with autism make tremendous improvements after undergoing intensive training with behavioral therapists. It's a form of treatment that University of Minnesota psychology students working with autistic children are learning. And Duluth campus graduate **Joe Mohs says he is living proof that the therapy works.**

At 25, it still upsets Joe Mohs (B.A. '08 UMD) to see home movies of himself as a sad-eyed toddler staring blankly at the family Christmas tree, barely noticing his big sister sitting next to him, or looking vacant and frightened at a party, where all around him kids are smiling and laughing. Joe was 15 months old when his mother, Kay, began tiptoeing up behind her blue-eyed little boy as he watched cartoons to bang two pan lids together and gauge his reaction. Crash! Nothing. Joe wasn't startled; he didn't even turn around. ¶ Though he walked before his first birthday, Joe babbled only a short time before becoming nearly silent. Unlike his sister, Mary Kay, about two years older, Joe didn't like to be touched or cuddled. He walked on his toes and stared off at nothing in particular. He didn't play with much besides a wooden toy hammer to pound pegs through holes in a board.

Anxiously wondering why their son seemed to be slipping away, Kay and her husband, Bob (B.A. '71, B.S. '73, D.D.S. '75), took their son to his pediatrician, a family friend who told them to be patient, that "all kids develop at different rates." But Joe's condition got worse. He abandoned the toy pegs altogether, preferring to wave the hammer back and forth for hours at a time.

While Bob worked at his dental practice in Alexandria, Minnesota, where the family lived, Kay stayed home with the children, trying to find ways to draw out her youngest. Finally, in 1986, when Joe was 22 months old, Minneapolis Children's Hospital diagnosed him with infantile autism. Bob will never forget the advice one psychiatrist gave them. "He warned us not to get too attached to Joe because he would probably have to be institutionalized before he was a teenager."

He was wrong, however, and it's important to Joe that people know that. Although he's nervous about revealing publicly that he was once diagnosed with autism, Joe is telling anyone who will listen about the intensive behavior therapy that helped him. That same therapy is being taught to psychology students by professors Gail Peterson and Eric Larsson at the University of Minnesota and is available in the Twin Cities. Joe hopes that by talking openly about his experiences he can help others get the assistance they need.

BY MELEAH MAYNARD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK LUINENBURG

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

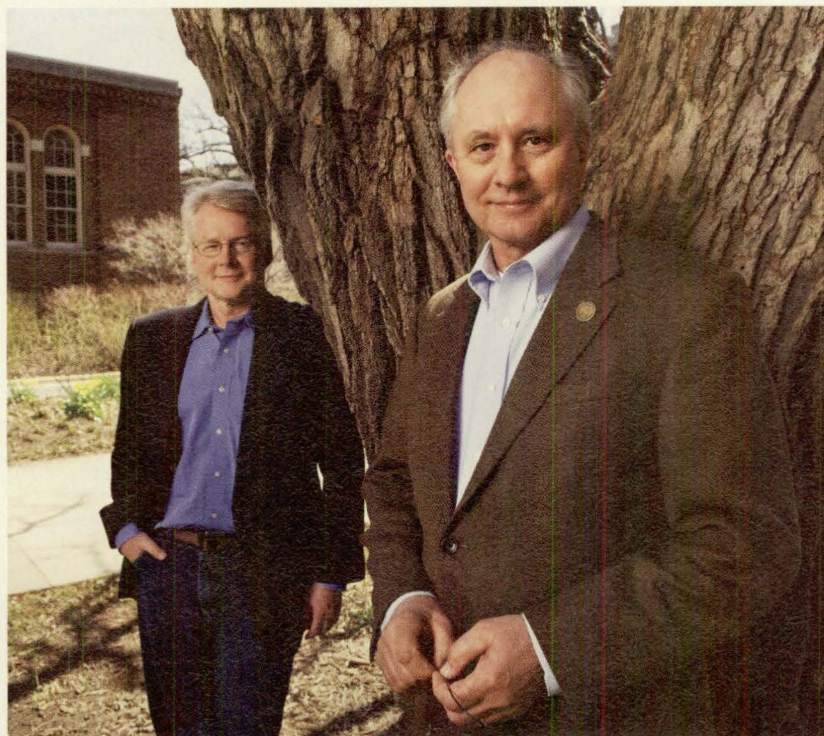
Referred to as part of a group of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) that includes Asperger's syndrome and pervasive development disorder, autism is a developmental disorder, and every person who has it suffers from varying difficulties with language, communication, and social skills. Boys are more likely to be autistic than girls; this, scientists believe, may be the result of exposure to high levels of testosterone when in the uterus. In most cases, symptoms appear between the ages of 1 and 3 and usually develop gradually, though in cases of "regressive" autism, symptoms appear suddenly, with children losing skills they had previously attained, like speech, within days or weeks.

Joe Mohs and his father, Bob, are spreading the word about the intensive behavior training that helped Joe overcome autism.

Autism literally means "self-focused," and children with the disorder are often described as retreating into their own worlds. To varying degrees, they may suffer any number of problems, including an inability to talk or understand language; heightened

sensitivity to sound, taste, and light; a lack of interest in interacting with others; outbursts over disruption in routines; a tendency toward repetitive behaviors like lining up toys; and self-stimulatory behaviors like hand-flapping, excessive eye blinking, and rocking.

It was Johns Hopkins University psychiatrist Leo Kanner who first used the term *early infantile autism* to describe the behavior of 11 socially withdrawn children in his 1943 paper, "Autistic Disturbances of Affective Contact." Though some professionals assumed these children, and children with similar symptoms, were mentally deficient, Kanner observed that they all appeared to be quite intelligent and had excellent memories. Kanner also pointed out that while a few of the children had been diagnosed with some form of schizophrenia, he questioned that diagnosis. He believed these children had been born without the ability to connect with others and the world around them.



Adjunct professor Eric Larsson, left, and associate professor of psychology Gail Peterson teach Applied Behavior Analysis courses to U students who want to work with autistic children.

But it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's theory—that autism was caused by "refrigerator mothers," emotionally cold women who drove their children to develop strange behaviors and an inability to communicate—that became widely accepted. First described in the late 1960s, the "refrigerator mother" theory prevailed through the 1970s and into the '80s, with some Freudian psychologists still supporting it today.

Children were sometimes placed in hospital-based programs where they were cared for by adults whose job it was to give them love and attention. Others were institutionalized. Doctors routinely prescribed medications for anxiety, depression, psychosis, and mood disorders—and continue to do so today.

In the 1960s, O. Ivar Lovaas, a young psychologist at the University of California, Los Angeles made headlines by essentially ignoring the reasons for the condition. Instead, he focused on changing the behaviors associated with it. He rewarded desirable behavior (like speaking and responding to requests) with favorite foods, toys, and hugs and deterred undesirable behavior (tantrums and self-harm, such as head-banging) by yelling, shaking, slapping, and, in a few cases, giving mild electric shock.

In a 1965 interview with *Life* magazine for the article "Screams, Slaps & Love: A Surprising, Shocking Treatment Helps Far-Gone Mental Cripples," Lovaas explained his therapy, which was lauded for helping autistic children improve. "You have to put the fire out first before you worry how it started," he said. But readers thought his methods were unnecessarily harsh. And although Lovaas later refined his therapy, eliminating the use of shock and physical punishments to develop what is now known as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)—the treatment that helped Joe Mohs—his reputation was irreparably damaged by the article, which critics of ABA still cite when decrying the treatment as cruel.

CAUSES AND TREATMENTS DISPUTED

In the 1980s, an estimated 1 to 2 in 10,000 children in the United States were affected by ASDs. In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that number to be an average of 1 in 110. Theories about the reasons for the increase and the causes of autism vary widely, but most credible researchers agree that environmental pollutants, specifically toxins that impair children's immune systems and could damage developing brains, may play a role.

Others say autism's rise may be exaggerated because checklists, developed in the 1990s, have made it easier to diagnose autism and related disorders. Eric Larsson, an adjunct psychology professor at the University, is in the former camp. "Visit any school and it's obvious that there are many more children these days with major language disorders and severe impairments than there used to be," he says. "I believe that compares directly with the rise in pollution."

The theory that childhood vaccines cause autism was born in 1998 when Andrew Wakefield, a British surgeon, published the results of a study suggesting a possible link between the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine and the onset of autism. Though Wakefield wrote that research had not proven there was a connection between the two, the paper did discuss parents' assertions of behavioral changes in their children following immunization. He advised that, to be safe, the vaccines should be separated.

After years of controversy, in February of this year the medical journal *The Lancet*, where Wakefield's study had originally appeared, retracted his paper and the British General Medical Council ruled that Wakefield's study was flawed. But the vaccine theory lives on.

Others wonder whether thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative used in vaccines, might cause autism. Though studies have found no causal link between autism and thimerosal, the FDA began working with manufacturers in 2001 to create thimerosal-free vaccines. Perhaps, Larsson and others say, children who are genetically predisposed to autism or have already been exposed

to too much mercury are "pushed over the edge" neurologically when mercury enters their system. Bob Mohs believes this may have been the case with Joe, since he seemed to become more withdrawn after his vaccinations.

ABA itself is often misunderstood too. Lovaas was well-versed in the work of B.F. Skinner (the father of behavior analysis and a professor at the U of M in the 1930s and '40s) when he began work on what would become his Applied Behavior Analysis treatment model. His work was inspired in part by Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher, who made tremendous strides with her unsociable deaf, blind, and mute pupil using behavior modification techniques. Lovaas wondered whether that could work with autistic children too.

Today, ABA is the treatment for autism most solidly backed by scientific data. Yet the treatment remains plagued by attacks from critics who contend it's wrong to make demands on autistic children and "force" them to become different. And disagreement persists between supporters of a behavioral approach to treating autism, like ABA, and those who believe in psychoanalytic treatments focused on understanding and analyzing the origins of the disorder.

All debates aside, say Larsson and Peterson, Applied Behavior Analysis's biggest obstacle is misunderstanding over how it works. All ABA programs are not equal. While studies show 45 percent to 50 percent of autistic children who receive ABA therapy overcome their symptoms sufficiently to function independently in school, this level of benefit is greater for children who receive ABA services in the intensive way Lovaas intended. Parents of autistic children are routinely informed of ABA programs in public schools, but most schools lack the staff, training, and funding to provide ABA at the intended level of intensity.

Instead, they offer what they can, Larsson explains: part-time classroom aides, weekly home visits, special education classes using behavioral therapy principles. Because these programs are often unsuccessful, many parents and educators believe ABA doesn't work. "We get special education directors telling horror stories about how bad ABA is because what they've seen is poorly trained staff doing their best to blunder through the treatments in too little time," Larsson says.

LEARNING ABOUT LOVAAS

ABA was just emerging when Bob Mohs happened to hear about it one evening while watching TV. It was 1987, and by that time he and Kay had crisscrossed the country to help Joe with speech and occupational therapy, special diets, vitamins, and sensory integration therapy. Nothing had worked. And then the answer came into their living room. "I remember Dan Rather saying how, in a moment, they were going to talk about a new program at UCLA that was helping children recover from autism," says Bob, who quickly popped a tape in the VCR to record it.

The story explained how psychologist Lovaas had just released the findings of his study of 19 children with autism who participated in an intensive behavior therapy program. Nine of the children had "recovered," meaning they were able to enter school and function as any other child their age. The rest had improved to varying degrees, but not as significantly. The report made clear that children treated as early as possible had the best chance of getting better. Bob immediately called Lovaas's clinic in Los Angeles and scheduled Joe for an evaluation.

Soon he and Kay were watching 3-year-old Joe through a two-way mirror as he sat across the table from two psychology students in a UCLA lab. Joe responded immediately, and in 10 minutes he was stacking blocks in patterns and matching colors, "things we had no idea he could do," says Bob. The Lovaas team agreed to work with Joe, but the family would have to relocate to Los Angeles for two years of intensive, eight-hours-a-day treatment. Kay packed Joe and Mary Kay, 5, and moved a few months later, accompanied by Cathy Mattheisen, a family friend and teacher who took a leave of absence from work to help out. Bob stayed behind in Minnesota to work but visited his family on weekends. At last the Mohses felt there might be some hope for their son.

Tammy and Jeff Meyer (B.A. '82), of Minneapolis, were not so lucky when they were trying to get help for their son Max in the mid-1990s. Tammy remembers the second of their three children as a model baby who was off the charts physically and mentally. He was active and happy and loved to be cuddled. Looking back later, though, she realized there were signs that something was wrong. He didn't talk and

STAY CONNECTED℠

Radisson

The Radisson University Hotel is proud to welcome Golden Gopher Football fans to campus!
At the Radisson University Hotel, you'll be closer to Golden Gopher sporting events than anywhere else. As the only full service hotel on campus, the Radisson University Hotel is just 1 block from the new TCF Bank Stadium.

Alumni Association members receive:

- **Discounted room rates**
- **10% discount on food & beverages in the University Lounge**

Be sure to stop into the Radisson's classic University Lounge this season for your pre or post game celebrations! So the next time you come home to your alma mater, come home to the Radisson University Hotel and stay connected!

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBER BENEFIT

RADISSON UNIVERSITY HOTEL
615 Washington Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-379-8888
1-800-333-3333
www.radisson.com/univ_minneapolis

increasingly began going off by himself. "It seemed like the joy had gone out of him," Tammy recalls. And then came the moment that seemed to push Max to a place where he became unreachable.

He was about 18 months old and had recently gotten his MMR vaccines. Tammy's sister was babysitting and called, frantic, saying something was wrong with Max. Tammy rushed over and found her son covered in a red rash. Doctors diagnosed a yeast infection and prescribed an antibiotic. "That's when he started really slipping away," says Tammy. "He became a different child. His personality changed, and little by little the sparkle just went out of his eyes."

Desperate for help, they took Max to Park Nicollet Clinic in St. Louis Park but got no answers. Tammy began researching his symptoms and was horrified to realize that her son seemed to have many of the classic signs of autism. She called Fraser, a Minnesota nonprofit that provides autism services, to schedule an evaluation, and in 1994, just after his second birthday, Max was diagnosed with autism. Like Joe's parents almost a decade earlier, Tammy and Jeff were told there was little hope for their son and that speech and occupational therapy were among the few treatment options available.

Kristy Oldham (B.S. '98), left, a program director at the Lovaas Institute Midwest, and U psychology student Nadhia Fuentes work with Malcolm Dawson-Moore in his home using Applied Behavior Analysis.

They tried both, along with special diets and sensory integration, just as the Mohs family had. Nothing helped until Tammy met a woman whose son also had recently been diagnosed with autism. Hoping to find answers, the two women went to hear a lecture by Bernard Rimland, the psychologist credited with overturning the theory that bad parenting was the cause of autism. There, Tammy heard about Eric Larsson and ABA therapy. Max was now 4 years old, already past the window of time when treatment was likely to be most effective.

IMITATE, REWARD, REPEAT

In addition to co-teaching University of Minnesota courses on ABA therapy with Peterson, Larsson is also the executive director of the Minneapolis-based Lovaas Institute Midwest. Unlike the many treatment centers around the country operated by the Los Angeles-based Lovaas Institute, the Lovaas Institute Midwest is a separate entity. Opened in 2003 with help from Lovaas, with whom Larsson collaborates regularly, it provides in-home early intensive ABA therapy to children with autism.

University psychology majors interested in working with autistic children often work at the institute as behavior therapists after completing Larsson and Peterson's courses, some taking a semester-long internship working directly with autistic children and their families in their homes. "The work is not for everybody, because with these children you have to be very explicit," Peterson explains. "If a child doesn't touch people, you reach out and take his hand and touch it and praise that, and you might spend weeks doing one thing." Peterson has taught psychology at the U since 1973 and has been involved for 20 years with local and national organizations that serve autistic children and their families, including a stint on the board of Families for Effective Autism Treatment (now the Minnesota Autism Center).

Before working on long-term goals like helping children learn to communicate and interact, most parents want help with things that would make life immediately easier for everyone, like potty training or getting kids to dress themselves. From the outset, therapists also work to stop autistic children from having the "meltdowns" that commonly accompany the disorder.

"Because these kids can't talk, they cry, throw things, or scream when they want a toy or a treat, and their parents rush to get them what they want," says Larsson. Changing this pattern involves some training of the parents, and it's one of the toughest parts of the therapy. Kids with autism learn that doing the wrong thing gets them what they want. "It's hard because we have to get parents to stop responding to crying," Larsson continues. "If their child wants a French onion potato chip because that's their favorite food, they need to give them some only when they aren't crying so eventually the child learns how to get what they want in an acceptable way."

It's a matter of figuring out the motivation behind a behavior and then finding ways to change it, says Kristy Oldham (B.S. '98), who first worked as a behavioral therapist at the Lovaas Institute Midwest before becoming a program director there. Oldham has worked with many children over the years and they are all motivated by something. "Our job is to help them get back to their parents and siblings and stop sitting and staring at the mini blinds. We have to find ways to transfer their motivation away from the blinds and get them to engage with us."

How? By rewarding desirable behavior in order to promote more of it. Children with autism seldom learn by watching others. That's why therapists use imitation to get kids to understand how to do just about everything, including play. First the therapist claps, then the child claps and is rewarded with a bit of food, a hug, or a few minutes

McNAMARA ALUMNI CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

(612) 624-9831 • www.alumnicenter.umn.edu • 200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Three New Rooms Available Beginning September 2010

Alumni Association Life Members receive up to 20% off room rental and 15% off catering minimums. Call today for a tour or visit our website for sample floorplans.

www.alumnicenter.umn.edu

University Hall*—stunning space for wedding receptions up to 150 people. All 2010 and 2011 dates available!* ▲

with a favorite toy. The therapist touches her nose then tries to get the child to touch his nose. Success earns another reward. Heads are patted, tummies are rubbed, mouths are formed into smiles and frowns, and, eventually, something clicks and the learning process moves forward, sometimes smoothly, but often accompanied by frustration, outbursts, and tears—especially in the beginning.

But in this tightly controlled environment, autistic children are able to learn in ways they can't in the loose settings other children thrive in. It is painstaking and exhausting. In a typical eight-hour-day of treatment, two to three therapists will work with a child in shifts.

was in tears all the time too."

"It was pure and unfiltered desperation all the time," she says. "Unless you're a parent with a critically ill child, you don't know what it feels like to feel desperate for someone to tell you what's wrong, desperate for information and answers, and desperate for your child to be able to tell you how they're feeling. It was all-consuming. Nothing else mattered."

Though Joe Mohs was not symptom-free when his mother brought everyone home after only one year in Los Angeles, Kay and Mattheisen had learned so much during their training at the Lovaas Institute, therapists there felt they could continue

Max Meyer, 18, didn't begin Applied Behavior Analysis until he was 4, past the age that treatment was likely to be most effective. Still, he overcame many of his autism symptoms and continues to work on his social skills.

Teaching an autistic child to speak takes time and almost unimaginable patience. Some children, particularly those who don't speak at all, can't make sense of the words being said around them or incorporate them into speech like other kids do. For reasons that are not understood, many children with autism hear only sounds that are unconnected to meaning, so before they can learn to talk, they must understand what they're hearing. Again, this begins with rewards. Long before a child learns to say, "Daddy, I love you," a therapist teaches how to imitate the smacking of lips and then to make sounds (blowing out a match makes a sound like who). Once words are learned, therapists attach meaning to them so that a picture of a ball doesn't elicit a cry of "banana" or "cow." It may take thousands of trials, but this is how children with autism learn to talk.

Tammy Meyer remembers this time in Max's treatment well. "The only words he understood were *nook, mom, dad,* and *juice,*" she says, adding that she spent weeks just getting Max to sit in a chair and pay attention to her for three seconds, then five seconds. Recalls Jeff: "He cried and screamed, it was terrible, and Tammy

Joe's treatment back in Minnesota. Supported by regular phone conversations with staff at the UCLA clinic, Kay and Mattheisen trained special education instructors at a local school and others they hired to work with Joe over the next year and a half. Therapy ended just before kindergarten and Joe, who was 6, joined his classmates unassisted.

It wasn't long before teachers were telling Kay and Bob that he was the best reader in his class. But that didn't stop the Mohses from worrying and watching Joe constantly. "We were overprotective," Bob says. "But we were so afraid he would revert back to swinging that little hammer."

PRICELESS PROGRESS

One of the requirements of ABA therapy is that a parent or other caregiver must always be present during therapy. Consistency is critical to success, so treatment doesn't stop when the therapists go home. That means family members have to know how to keep the intensive training going seven days a week, even in subtle ways that children may not even be aware of. Sessions are heart-wrenching for parents, particularly early on when children are enraged over being forced to sit and do things they've never been asked to do before.

As a clinical supervisor at the Lovaas Institute Midwest, Adrienne Turzynski (B.S. '03), who studied ABA at the University, listens to parents talk about how hard it is to watch what's going on. "People don't like the idea of behavior modification," she says. "They don't like the way that sounds, but when you work with kids with autism you have to do things in a very precise way." Turzynski has heard critics claim that the therapy's rigorous exactitude turns children into "robots." But she doesn't see it that way. For her and others who have seen the changes ABA can bring about, the therapy is a way to give children back the normalcy that the disorder has taken from them.

Take an aggressive boy who bangs his head on the television to get attention from his mom, she says. A therapist watching closely for a few minutes will see that every time he does it, mom yells his name and asks him to stop. So they set up a system where the mom comes in and hugs, kisses, or praises him when he isn't hitting his head. "It's unbelievable how fast this works," she says. "We definitely can't claim to recover every child we work with, but I've been here nine years and I've never seen a case where we didn't make some progress."

Researchers continue to explore why ABA therapy is more successful with some children than others. But it appears that the reason children who get treatment early have the best outcomes may be found in research into the genetic underpinnings of autism, says Travis Thompson (B.A. '58, M.S. '61, Ph.D. '61), a psychologist at the University of Minnesota and author of several books on autism.

Although some people with autism consider themselves to have recovered from the disorder, Thompson opposes using the term *recovery*, calling it controversial in professional circles. Most people with autism will always struggle with social and coping skills, he says, adding that he believes the term is misleading to parents and a disservice to people with autism. "I don't believe that many of these kids won't feel lonely and need some support in their lives," he says. "They need to know it's quite normal and quite OK that they need this."

Numerous genetic defects have already been associated with autism, but a paper published in the journal *Science* in 2008

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

In an enchanting atmosphere of exploration, cruise beyond the confluence of the Rio Ucayali and Rio Maranon—the legendary inception of the Amazon River. From your ship, expert naturalists will lead you through the rainforests to see rare species and guide you down the Amazon's tributaries aboard special excursion boats. Travelers can choose to spend one night in a tented camp in the heart of the Peruvian jungle. A post-tour to Machu Picchu is available. From approximately $3,695 per person, plus airfare

AMAZON RIVER EXPEDITION

February 4-13, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFIT

Visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/travel to request a brochure or contact cmj@umn.edu

experience. learning*life*

Curiosity Camp 2010

Daylong learning adventures for adults

Spend the day learning about an intriguing topic. Outstanding speakers, field trips, and hands-on activities.

cce.umn.edu/curiosity2010

612-624-4000

2010 Camps include:

A Geology Tour of the Twin Cities • June 10

Cheese, Glorious Cheese! • June 29

A Life in the Theatre • June 30

Finding Creativity and Meaning Through Mindfulness • July 13

China's Art Treasures—Past and Present • July 21

Subterranean Twin Cities and Beyond: Caves, Mines, and Underground Spaces • July 28

and more!

For a complete list, visit our Web site. Camps are $125, with special discounts for multiple Camps or early registration.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. ©2010 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

by researchers at Children's Hospital Boston and members of the Boston-based Autism Consortium identified five new autism-related gene defects that have helped researchers discover some common patterns. Essentially, Thompson explains, the newly identified defects seem to play a role in learning by disrupting the development of synaptic pathways in the brain. This means the genes for building synapses simply don't "turn on" like they should, says Thompson, who has been working with autistic children since the early 1960s. If this is the case, he continues, early intervention therapy based on Applied Behavior Analysis may work because the intensive instruction in speech and social behavior literally puts cells in "overdrive," causing them to produce the proteins needed to make the synapses needed for learning.

As Tammy and Jeff Meyer watch Max enter adulthood, they can't help thinking that their handsome 18-year-old son might have overcome far more of his symptoms had they been able to start ABA treatment sooner. Even after they talked with Larsson, who was an independent psychologist at the time, they soon discovered their insurance wouldn't cover the cost of ABA therapy, which can run as much as $60,000 per year. (Scientific evidence confirming ABA's results and lobbying by families and advocates have led to mandated coverage in several states, as well as payment by Medicaid, but many families still can't get adequate financial help.)

So the Meyers hired Larsson, whose services insurance would pay for, to train them to provide the therapy themselves. Once trained, they hired and trained college students, neighbors, anyone who was willing to help them provide the intensive hours of treatment Max needed. Still in diapers at age 4 and unresponsive, Max began making progress almost immediately.

"Dr. Larsson told us there were no guarantees and I had to remind myself of that all the time because the therapy was painfully difficult," she says. "But then after one month Max was out of diapers and then he started making eye contact. He learned how to write his name, and then he called me mom. So even though we used up all of our financial and emotional resources, it made it all worth it."

After being home-schooled for most of his education, Max is now in high school at a St. Paul charter school where he does well and has made a few friends, though he doesn't see them outside of class. At home, Max prefers to spend time alone, so Tammy and Jeff prompt him many times a day to come upstairs and be with the family. When Max graduates in June, he may take some community college courses in addition to working his part-time job at a local bakery.

When people ask Tammy about Max's future, she isn't sure how to answer. A talented artist, Max has retained the remarkable visual memory he displayed as a child that enables him to do things like watch a complicated karate move and then replicate it without further instruction, or use sheet music once to play an unfamiliar song on the guitar and never need to see the music again. Tammy is teaching him to drive, though the abstract thinking driving requires has her worried about his safety.

"He's always worked so hard," she says. "When other kids were outside playing in the summer, he was inside learning how to have a conversation. He's working even when he isn't aware of it."

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Where members are ambassadors

2010 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

THANK YOU!

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association says "Hats Off!" to the sponsors of our 2010 Annual Celebration that featured Katie Couric on April 24th.

WCCO TELEVISION

Mortenson construction

A SECOND RECOVERY

By the time Joe Mohs entered high school, his autism symptoms were practically a distant memory. Surrounded by friends, he enjoyed the attention he got as a championship swimmer on his school's team. Kay continued to be his biggest supporter, including when he sometimes struggled with understanding social cues like facial expressions and body language, especially from girls.

Then, in February 1999, Kay was diagnosed with breast cancer and died 15 months later, in May 2000. The entire community reached out to support Joe and Bob in their grief, but it wasn't enough to save Joe from becoming depressed and belligerent. "Something happened when she died," Joe recalls. "I was devastated and something changed inside of me."

To cope with his grief, Joe tried marijuana and it became a habit he couldn't break. Promises to quit stretched into years of drug treatment before things got so bad Joe began having psychotic episodes and had to be admitted for a short time to a state hospital. Bob remembers thinking how he and Kay had worked so hard to keep their son from being institutionalized and somehow he'd ended up there anyway.

After his hospitalization, however, Joe made a commitment to work hard to reclaim the life his parents had fought so hard for him to grab hold of as a child. He describes his family's struggle to help him overcome his autism in "Autism Is Treatable," a short video posted on YouTube (see it at *www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/autism*). Joe and his dad made the video last year with Gail Peterson, introduced to the Mohses by Larsson in 2009. Peterson had long been interested in finding new ways to raise awareness about autism treatment, and the University had just announced a new Imagine Fund grant through which Peterson was able to finance the bulk of the cost to produce the video.

"Autism is such a traumatic experience for most families who go through it, they just want to move on once their children have improved to the point where they don't need special attention anymore," says Peterson. "I thought it was remarkable that Joe wanted to do this."

A college graduate working as an auditor for a Duluth company, Joe was feeling grateful and optimistic about his future when he decided to call Peterson. He hoped that by talking about his treatment, he might be able to help others get better too.

Today, when he isn't working, Joe likes to play video games at home in his apartment or watch videos with his roommate. He spends a lot of time with his dad, and last year the two of them started a new web-based project together, *www.joeslivingproof.com*. Designed by Joe, who has a degree in graphic design, the site tells the story of how he is proof that autism treatment works. Father and son are hoping that through the site, and by sharing their story at speaking engagements, they can help strengthen and inspire others to seek answers and treatment for autism and other challenges, like addiction.

But mostly, Joe says, he wants to do something for Kay. "Honoring my mom was the motivation for the video and the stories I'm telling about my life," he says. "I've come so far and I couldn't have done that without her. She would be so proud of me." ■

Meleah Maynard (B.A. '91) is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

In a field as hot as technology, one degree can make all the difference.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Turbocharge your technology career – and your company's future – with a world-renowned graduate program combining the business of technology with global leadership training.

Meet with faculty and admissions staff to find out more about this prestigious Master's program. Attend a free information session soon and learn more.

In just 21 months, while you continue to work, our Management of Technology Master's Degree Program offers you a set of powerful management tools, including:

- Strategic technology innovation and management
- Technology product development and market launch
- Global competition and collaboration strategies
- Technology foresight and forecasting
- Plus much more

TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover℠

Master of Science in Management of Technology

TO REGISTER FOR A FREE INFORMATION SESSION

email mot@umn.edu
or call 612-624-8826

June 2
June 10
July 7

Start time 5:30 p.m.

1300 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis

Only a few spots left – register today!

STRATEGY • INNOVATION • EXCELLENCE

www.tli.umn.edu

The Fungus Detective

Robert Blanchette goes to extremes to solve microscopic mysteries.

By Emily Stone ~ Photographs by Sher Stoneman

On an overcast summer day in 2006, Robert Blanchette sat on the sharp, black volcanic rock of Cape Royds, Antarctica, methodically placing slivers of wood into sterile bags. "It's going to be a bonanza of interesting fungi," Blanchette recalls saying. The professor of plant pathology at the University of Minnesota and renowned expert in the fungal degradation of historic wood was there to collect fragments off a hut built in 1907 by Ernest Shackleton during the explorer's failed attempt to reach the South Pole. The hut and the supplies inside were being ravaged by fungi, and Blanchette's job was to help preservationists figure out how to save the historic structure.

Standing in his University laboratory four years later, Blanchette reflects on the significance of his work on Antarctica. "Studies on the biodiversity of fungi in different environments will help us understand key organisms that are essential to ecosystem functioning," he says. But, he observes, it's hard to get people interested in that. "All they seem to care about is the booze!"

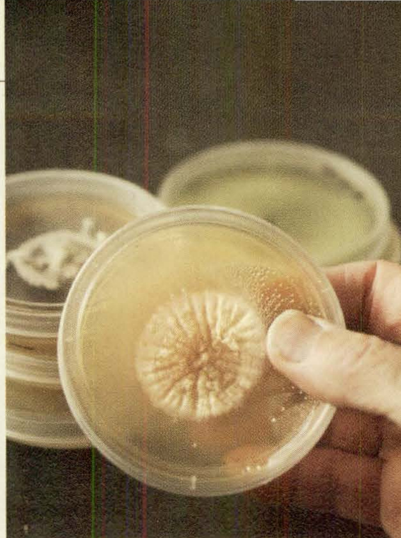
Blanchette is referring to Shackleton's whiskey. A century ago, the explorer left several crates of it beneath his hut, where it languished until conservators discovered it while trying to find ways to reduce moisture underneath the hut and solve the puzzle of the fungus. Earlier this year, amid great fanfare and media attention, the whiskey was excavated and placed in storage. But frankly, Blanchette doesn't care much about that. What he cares about is fungi.

Blanchette is a fungus detective. As one of only a handful of scientists worldwide who studies how fungi degrade archaeological wood, he's frequently sought after by preservationists and archaeologists. The fungal kingdom is vast—it contains more than a million species, only 200,000 of which have been studied enough to be named. People have used fungi

Right: Robert Blanchette worked with preservationists from the Antarctic Heritage Trust to identify and control the fungi that were destroying the century-old hut of explorer Ernest Shackleton. In this photo from 2006 Blanchette is pictured standing in the hut.

Facing page: Blanchette is one of only a few scientists worldwide who studies how fungi degrade historic wood. These are some of the dozens of wood samples that adorn his office on the St. Paul campus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEL JURGENS



These petri dishes contain fungi whose existence was unknown until Blanchette discovered them. He found them in a whaler's station on Deception Island off the Antarctic Peninsula.

The freezer in Blanchette's lab contains DNA samples from fungi he's isolated on all seven continents.

Blanchette developed a method to cultivate agarwood using the kit pictured here. Agarwood is a valuable resin produced by the *Aquilaria* tree, which grows throughout southeast Asia. Using the kit, farmers drill a hole in the tree and use hollow rods to introduce a fungus; the tree produces the resin as a barrier to the fungal invasion. Cultivated agarwood holds promise for creating new markets for some of the world's poorest farmers.

medicinally and in religious ceremonies for thousands of years, and some fungi, such as yeast or mold, are quite common. Fungi also cause massive decay in crops, forests, urban shade trees, and in buildings, costing trillions of dollars in damage each year.

Fungi go after any species of wood—think of a fallen tree in the forest that will begin to decay immediately—but wood can last for millennia in extreme environments such as Antarctica, where only a few hardy fungi eke out an existence. Blanchette has conducted research in most of these environments and collected thousands of wood chips that are stashed in more than a dozen freezers on the University's St. Paul campus: millimeter-long slivers off a Turkish tomb from about 700 B.C. that might have belonged to King Midas, chips off 150-year-old Arctic forts built by doomed explorers, and a baseball-sized chunk from a sunken Civil War battleship found off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Blanchette approaches each project like the sleuth he is. "We have an incomplete understanding of the microorganisms that function in extreme environments such as Antarctica. Knowing more about how these organisms function will help to find better control methods to stop the destructive decay fungi found in trees and wood products, including historic woods," he says. "It can also lead to new biotechnological uses of their enzymes and other products they produced."

Blanchette delves into each mystery with as much enthusiasm as he does the workings of microorganisms. Sitting in his office cluttered with cross sections and sculpture-like pieces of fungal-degraded wood, he repeatedly jumps up to grab a chunk of petrified polar fungus or to point out a photo of Blackfeet Indian chiefs in robes decorated with fungus beads, exclaiming each time, "There's a good story there!" His zeal for his work is so apparent that it's difficult to end a conversation with him without feeling foolish for having overlooked the amazing world of fungi.

Antarctica

"Oh, geez, isn't that beautiful," Blanchette says, admiring what look like rolls of closely packed toilet paper pocked with holes that are swaying into each other. He's looking at images of rotted wood cells that a graduate student has magnified up to 8,000 times on an electron microscope. The cells were taken from the Antarctic huts, and the pictures will help determine what kind of fungus is attacking them. The explorers' food, clothes, and gear left inside are speckled with black spores.

Blanchette and his team have traveled to Antarctica almost every year for most of the past decade, ever since the Antarctic Heritage Trust, a New Zealand group that oversees the hut's conservation, first enlisted him and the National Science Foundation provided support. The team uses scalpels, pocket knives, and their fingers to remove inconspicuous bits of wood from the weathered and weak walls. Back in the lab, they try to grow whatever fungi are on that wood in plastic petri dishes. Something grows from just about every sample.

Blanchette spreads out a dozen dishes with fungi growing inside. Some are dark and fuzzy, resembling the unappetizing stuff that shows up in the refrigerator. One dish holds what looks like four beige droplets of pancake batter. Another reveals a multihued green blob with pink specks around the edges. The researchers isolate a single species in a petri dish before placing it back on a piece of wood similar to the one it degraded. Then they examine that sample under a microscope to see if it has the same pattern of decay as the historic wood. If so, they also extract DNA from the fungus to compare it to known species.

With the Antarctic wood, Blanchette had assumed the fungi arrived on the ships with the explorers. It seemed unlikely that Antarctica, a continent that hasn't supported trees in at least 200 million years, would be home to wood-eating fungi. But that's exactly what Blanchette's team found: fungi that are native to Antarctica. "Lo and behold, when we worked on these huts we found the fungi were endemic," he says. "They're very adaptable and use any carbon source that comes along." Blanchette thinks the Antarctic fungi likely lived off penguin guano, moss, and lichen until humans provided a veritable fungus feast by dropping off the first wood the fungi had encountered in millennia.

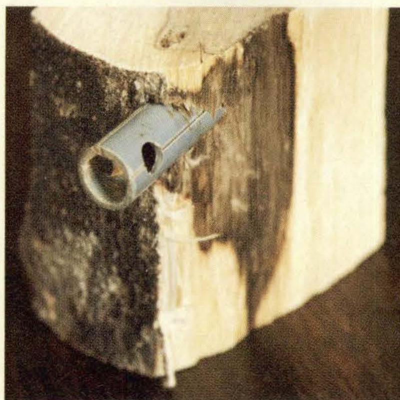
A paper being published in the journal *Microbial Ecology* this summer details the discovery of what they believe are several more unique fungal species. The discovery is important beyond its value for preservationists. "Microbes govern the ecosystem. It's essential that we learn more about how. We're helping the conservators, but we also want to help understand more about biodiversity on Antarctica," Blanchette says.

Paul Chaplin formerly ran the Antarctic Heritage Trust and is now in Norway as the secretary general of the International Polar

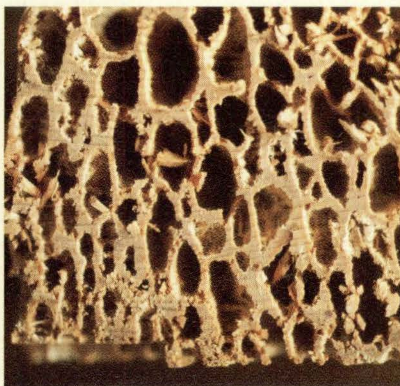
Heritage Committee. He says Blanchette's research is critical to protecting these buildings. "There is no question that people in the conservation field are watching his work with great interest," Chaplin says. "He is helping to bring that knowledge to a wider range of people involved in polar conservation than would have been the case if he had just stayed with his head down in Minnesota."

Turkey

Blanchette, 58, did not begin his career studying old wood. His Ph.D. from Washington State University and his first eight years as a professor at the University of Minnesota, where he arrived in 1980, were devoted to studying fungi that attack forest and shade trees. But a small project he worked on while earning his Ph.D. changed the course of his career. A colleague asked him to analyze wood from an excavated Native American village along the Washington coast. He completed the analysis and didn't think much about that type of work again until eight years later, when one of his collaborators from that project organized an international conference on archaeological wood and asked Blanchette to speak about fungal decay. Several people approached him after the talk for help analyzing their historic wood.



A piece of *Aquilaria* wood with a hole drilled into it that is being held open by a plastic rod.



A piece of wood riddled by fungus.

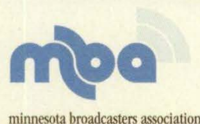
Elizabeth Simpson, now a professor at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts in New York City, was among them. "I thought he was one of the most interesting speakers I'd ever heard. I knew right away that he was the one I wanted to work with," says Simpson, who was attempting to restore wooden furniture from a 2,700-year-old tomb near Ankara, Turkey, that's believed to belong to either King Midas or his father, King Gordias. (Midas is popularly recognized as a mythic figure, but an actual King Midas, upon whom the myth is based, ruled what is now central Turkey.)

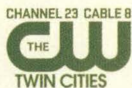
The collection of ancient wooden furniture, the world's largest, was in thousands of pieces so fragile that they crumbled in Simpson's hand due to fungal degradation. The fungi that had damaged the wood had died by the time it was discovered, but it had wreaked extensive damage to the wood. Through testing, Blanchette was able to determine how to strengthen the slivers chemically. That allowed Simpson to reassemble what Blanchette describes as "spectacular furniture that really shows off the life

ACCESS MINNESOTA

Access Minnesota brings you University of Minnesota faculty experts, the state's political leaders and other notable newsmakers for an in-depth look at timely issues. From the Capitol in Washington to the Capitol in St. Paul — from the economy, energy, the environment, international affairs to neighborhood concerns— Access Minnesota keeps you well informed. Access Minnesota airs monthly on TV and weekly on radio.

Access Minnesota ... Issues that Matter to You.

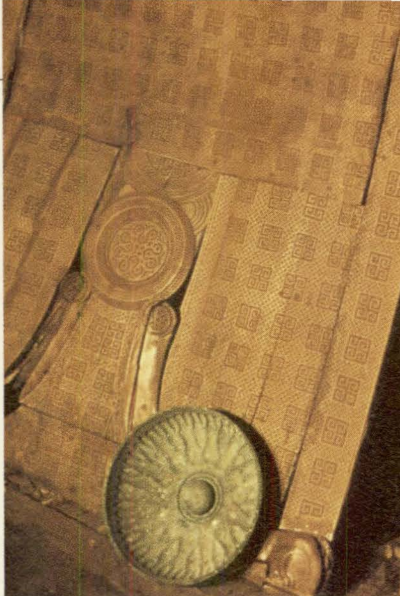




www.accessminnesotaonline.com for stations and broadcast times

of the royalty." It includes a magnificent boxwood table with intricate juniper inlay and two serving stands made of boxwood, juniper, and walnut with inlaid geometric patterns that are on display in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara.

Two decades later, Simpson is still completing the restoration with Blanchette's help—and Blanchette continues to probe the mystery of the fungus from the tomb. "In each environment we find very unique organisms," he says. "It's hard to determine if the fungus in the tomb migrated from the king, or if it came into the tomb in modern times. We have recently obtained new samples deep within the tomb's timbers to isolate the DNA of the fungus so we can identify it."



Robert Blanchette's expertise helped preserve a collection of 2,700-year-old furniture discovered in Turkey. Pictured is "serving stand A," made of boxwood and walnut with juniper inlay, as found in Tumulus MM in 1957, now on display in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara.

SERVING STAND PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE GORDION EXCAVATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Agarwood

In most of Blanchette's work he is trying to fight fungi. But a sustainable agriculture project that began in Vietnam relies on a technology he and a colleague developed that intentionally produces fungi in *Aquilaria*, an endangered old-growth tree. The technology—packaged as a simple kit with a plastic bag and bottle—holds enormous promise for creating a new economy for some of Asia's poorest farmers. Blanchette exudes compassion at that prospect. "We are talking very, very poor people who live in the remotest areas imaginable—in some cases it takes two to three weeks by boat to get there. We have to get this in the hands of more poor farmers," Blanchette says.

In *Aquilaria*, fungal infection spurs the production of agarwood, a fragrant and valuable resin that sells for thousands of dollars a pound. The resin, as well as an oil that can be extracted from it, are burned as incense or used in perfume. The incense has been prized in Asia and the Middle East for thousands of years for its pleasant, earthy smell and is used in Buddhist and Muslim ceremonies. Blanchette began working on producing agarwood in 1993 after being recruited by Henry Heuveling van Beek, a Dutchman who at the time was working at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and had become interested in cultivating agarwood as a sustainable agriculture project.

The little scientific research that existed on the wood indicated that the trees produce the resin as a defense against a microbial invasion. The trick is that the resin forms inside the tree and can't be seen until the tree is cut apart. And it forms in only about one in every thousand *Aquilaria* trees because it requires just the right type of wound and natural conditions. Even though international treaties are in place to protect the trees, the

INTRAMURAL ALUMNI FLAG FOOTBALL
Coming this fall to TCF BANK STADIUM

Take it to The Bank!

Come back to "The Bank" for the Inaugural Intramural Alumni Flag Football Tournament to be held in TCF Bank Stadium. Put your old intramural team back together and play for another championship or we can place you on a new team. Alumni of all ages are encouraged to participate and join in the fun.

For more information visit:
www.recsports.umn.edu/alumni
612-625-5977

Relive some old Intramural memories with Rec Sports. Coming this Fall!

RECREATIONALSPORTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI

resin is so valuable that the trees continue to be harvested illegally, laying to waste thousands of them. The agarwood is sold on the black market, further devastating the *Aquilaria* population through a wide swath of Southeast Asia from northern India to Papua, New Guinea.

Heuveling van Beek, who is now in Vietnam as the director of the Rainforest Project Foundation, wanted to figure out a way to teach people to produce the resin on tree farms. He asked a colleague at the Smithsonian to recommend a fungal expert and she pointed him to Blanchette. It took the two men a decade to perfect the process of stimulating the resin—not a particularly long period of time in Blanchette's world. "How the resin was formed was a mystery for centuries, so I don't think 10 years is an unreasonable amount of time," he says.

Propagating *Aquilaria*, Blanchette discovered, is a race against time: the seeds are viable for only a few weeks, which means they have to be collected, transported to the planting site, and planted within that time frame. Once the trees are 5 years old, agarwood cultivation begins. A drill is used to wound the tree, and farmers have to make sure the wound stays open and aerated. The wound is treated with a compound that attracts native microorganisms to attack the tree, which produces the resin as a barrier against the invasion. Two years later, the trees can be harvested for the resin. By contrast, in forests it can take 100 years for the resin to appear.

The University of Minnesota patented Blanchette's process and licensed it to Cultivated Agarwood, a subsidiary of the Rainforest Project. And its use is spreading: Farmers in parts of Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Laos are producing and selling the resin, including to customers in the United States. But Blanchette's sense of urgency about getting it into the hands of more people is palpable. During spring break this year he traveled to Myanmar to meet with colleagues about promoting the technology there. "Regional and countrywide programs are now needed to move this forward so that large numbers of people can benefit. Training of international scientists and students is also essential," Blanchette says.

The problem, he says, is lack of money. "There are so many needs. We had an exploratory project going, and then the tsunami hit and most funds were diverted to that emergency. For international funds we have to compete with a lot of other projects and needs." Lack of funding is, Blanchette believes, the only thing inhibiting the vast potential of the field. He views the cultivated agarwood project as but a tiny slice of the possible applications of fungal research, including biofuel production, pharmaceuticals, and understanding ecosystems—not to mention historic preservation. "We have only scratched the surface. There is a great deal to do still." ■

Emily Stone is a freelance writer based in Chicago.

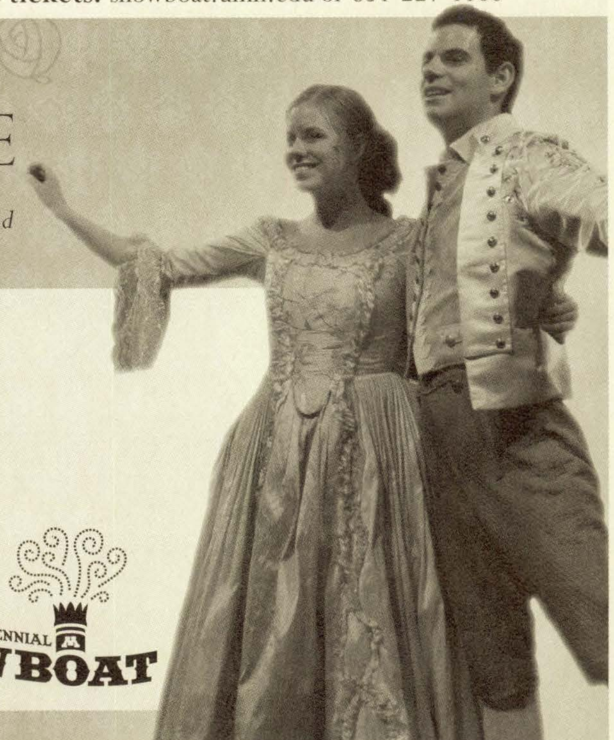
The Blanchette Endowment

Robert Blanchette has established an endowment through the University of Minnesota Foundation to support research in forest pathology, wood microbiology, forest mycology, and international conservation work. For more information, contact the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences development office at 612-625-4285, or visit *http://www.forestpathology.cfans.umn.edu.*

ALUMNI, YOU'RE INVITED!
Join the SHOWBOAT PLAYERS for Alumni Association members-only events
THURSDAY, JUNE 24 & TUESDAY, JULY 13
8:00pm performance & dessert reception with the cast
More info/reserve tickets: showboat.umn.edu or 651-227-1100

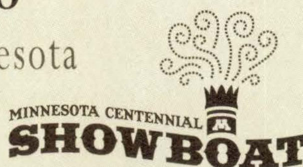
TRIUMPH of LOVE

A comedic adventure of concealed identities, cunning schemes, and one confusing love triangle!



BY PIERRE MARIVAUX
TRANSLATED BY JAMES MAGRUDER
DIRECTED BY PETER ROTHSTEIN
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY DENISE PROSEK

JUNE 18 – AUGUST 28, 2010
Harriet Island, Saint Paul, Minnesota
showboat.umn.edu
651-227-1100



The winning story in *Minnesota* magazine's 11th annual fiction contest

By Emily Beck Cogburn

Illustration by James O'Brien

How to Win Friends

I fed buns and hamburger patties into the massive broiler. I wouldn't need many since the lunch rush was almost over. Moving over to the deep fryers, I poured frozen fries into a basket and submerged it in the bubbling grease.

The restaurant manager, a short, balding man who called himself "Mr. Ted," stood by the fryers "keeping the troops in line."

"It's easy to get what you want out of life, Mr. Jerry," the manager said as I filled another fry basket with frozen chicken patties.

Since he was watching I used tongs—blue plastic tongs for frozen food.

He put a stubby finger to his chin. "Every morning when you wake up, think about how you can get closer to your goal. Then do it."

I shuffled to the other end of the broiler and sorted the buns and patties. Little Humdinger Jrs., big Humdingers, and a couple of oblong buns for chicken sandwiches. Pushing the bill of my greasy Royal Burger cap back further on my crew cut, I read the green-on-black code filling the smudged computer screen. "2 CHK FLT 2 MFF/ 2 HAM 1 CHZ 2 MFF/ 1 FISH 1LFF 1HDR 1 LFF/ 2HJR 1 SFF."

Great, I had no cooked fish. I reached into the freezer under the

Mr.
Ted
James

counter and came up with four breaded filets. Mr. Ted was looking at the ceiling for inspiration, so he didn't see me toss the pressed-together fish crap into the basket with my bare hands.

"When I was a teenager working at RB, I thought every day about how I could become a manager." Mr. Ted pulled the basket of fries from the grease and waved the saltshaker over them. "I arrived early for every shift and volunteered to work when someone was sick. I learned every job in the store from drive-thru to cleaning the shake machine. In five years I was shift leader, seven years later assistant manager, and in 10 more years, I made store manager."

Tipping the basket of cooked chicken into the warmer, I grabbed two oblong buns and slathered them with mayonnaise. I sprinkled on some shredded lettuce, added the hot patties, and cut the sandwiches. I slid the finished creations down the chicken chute to one of the greasy-haired teenagers working front counter. He gave an exaggerated yawn.

"I learned this from my dad. When I was 10 I wanted a bike and he told me I'd have to save for it. Every time I wanted candy or to go to the movies I thought about the bike and put money in a coffee can. In three years I had my very own Schwinn." Mr. Ted looked past me, out the front window at the cars speeding by. "The old man taught me the value of hard work."

came in after the lunch rush. He wagged his eyebrows at me before ducking into the bathroom. He sometimes joked about his habit of changing clothes before his shift. "I go in as mild-mannered Tupelo Jones and come out as Superburgerman! Able to make tasteless sandwiches in the blink of an eye! Strong enough to tackle the toughest munchies!" Part of what made it funny was his lack of anything close to a superhero physique. Despite eating constantly, Tupelo was a gangly, red-headed scarecrow.

Business was slow; it was that time between lunch and dinner I called the infinite void because the dull afternoon hours made time seem to stop. When Tupelo was working, though, we amused ourselves by making fun of customers and talking about school or his latest date.

Tupelo kneeled to count the pies in the cooler. He acted serious while Mr. Ted was still in the store—checking inventory, making sure we had enough bags of fries up front for the dinner rush, sending a teenager to straighten the dining room.

Satisfied that everything was under control, Mr. Ted said, "Guys, I'd like you both to come to dinner at my house Friday night to talk about getting you started on the RB manager program. You're almost done with college so it's time you thought about the future."

"Sure, Mr. Ted," Tupelo said, waiting until the manager turned around before pretending to throw a hamburger at his head.

Hefting two garbage sacks over his shoulder, Mr. Ted disappeared out the back door. I immediately relaxed. The dinner rush was less busy than lunch. Tupelo, two lackadaisical teenage boys with skater haircuts, and I ran the store easily. On drive-thru, Tupelo could take orders, banter with customers, hand out bags, and make change without breaking a sweat while I made food and the teenagers handled counter business. The boys both left at 7:30, and after that I could have watched a sitcom between customers if the TV in the back only had an antenna. Instead, I caught up on dishes. Tupelo restocked cups, napkins, and straws and finished taking inventory.

At eleven, the dining room closed; drive-thru stayed open until

midnight. Since there wasn't any business, we cleaned and got ready to shut down for the night.

"My dad thinks I should go to grad school," Tupelo said as he tossed chairs onto tabletops. His parents were both high school teachers and Tupelo said he felt stifled by their expectations. For college, he'd purposely avoided the closer Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota for the Minneapolis–St. Paul campus.

"But if I went to manager school, I could be making thirty grand in no time. Getting a Ph.D. takes at least five years! Besides, I'd have to move away and Kristi won't leave Minnesota." He put up the last chair and jumped onto the front counter, long legs dangling.

I thought Tupelo was only considering or pretending to consider becoming an RB manager to antagonize his parents. As for his girlfriend, Kristi was cute, but dumb. She was going to college for the Mrs. degree and I doubted Tupelo would really give it to her. Just another rebellion.

"You don't really want to be like Mr. Ted, do you?" I asked, pushing the gray rope mop around a table.

"No, I don't want to spend the rest of my life covered in fry grease. It's a sure thing, though. Easy money."

I shrugged. I didn't hate fast food as much as I'd expected. As long as I had the night shift and worked with Tupelo, it wasn't bad. But I wouldn't want to be doing it at 50.

"You see, Mr. Jerry," Tupelo said, hopping down from the counter and pacing across the floor, "you have to make goals in life. Every morning make a goal for that day. Today I'm gonna wash my socks and learn to clean the deep fryer. Don't ever put socks in the deep fryer. I cleaned the fryer for five years, then I learned to clean the shake machine. Two years as shake machine manager and I moved up to front counter manager. Goals.

"RB is not just about money. We have an important job. What does everyone in the world need? Food. Greasy shit at a fair price. That's all the customer wants. Lots of lard for his money. And a friendly smile. Never underestimate the power of the smile. A smile can make the difference between a customer thinking you're grumpy or a freak for enjoying your crappy job. We want a happy customer because a happy customer is a satisfied customer and a satisfied customer comes back for more greasy shit." Tupelo pointed at the other fast food restaurants on the strip. "Look out that window. What do you see? McDonald's and KFC. They sell greasy shit too. Why should the customer buy our greasy shit? Service. It's all about service. And smiles. And grease." He climbed back onto the counter, took a pack of Camels from his pocket, and lit one.

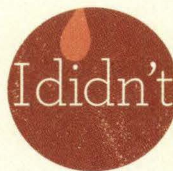
"See, you can't take this crap seriously. You'd hate being the big manager," I said.

"I probably would." He stretched out on his side like a skinny pinup girl and blew a smoke ring toward the ceiling. "Okay, I'll do the grad school thing if you will."

"I'm going to see Dr. Edwards tomorrow."

"I guess you've already decided then."

"Guess I have." I wheeled the mop bucket behind the counter and emptied the gray water into a drain.



I didn't have to look at the house number to find Mr. Ted's place. Tupelo's beat-up Honda with its "Visualize whirled peas" bumper sticker was parked in the driveway. The beige ranch-style was nearly identical to the other ones on the block. A one-story with a sloping roof, the house featured a brick façade and fake shutters. Though modest, Mr. Ted's residence had been well maintained, exactly as I would have expected from him.

I walked up to the spotlessly clean white door and rang the bell. A large, awkward man with most of his weight in his hips and thighs appeared, gaped at me, then called over his shoulder, "Ted, there's a man at the door. A man, Ted!"

"Yes, Jimmy, let him in please," Mr. Ted's voice said from inside the house.

Jimmy grinned and stepped out of the way. The house was warm and steamy, a rain forest that smelled like chicken stew. I stepped into a living room decorated with thick brown carpet and worn beige furniture. Jimmy sat down on the couch, his jaw slack as he stared at the TV. Whatever he was watching had a relentless laugh track.

I went into the kitchen where Mr. Ted tossed chunks of chicken suspiciously like the ones we used for salads at RB into a pot of soup.

"Looks great," I said.

"Old family recipe," Mr. Ted answered. I couldn't tell if he was joking.

The kitchen was 20-year-outdated country chic. Worn linoleum imitated stone tiles. All the appliances were harvest gold, a color I'd thought had gone the way of avocado green. Near the wall-mounted telephone hung a rack of tiny spoons from different countries. I hoped it had belonged to Mr. Ted's deceased mother. The idea of the manager collecting spoons was just too weird. Maybe he didn't notice the rack anymore since the vegetable-printed wallpaper had to be at least 30 years old. Decorating clearly wasn't his forte.

From the kitchen table, Tupelo gave me a look combining incredulity with nervousness. I knew what he was thinking. Our manager had mentioned his brother before and we had gathered he was mentally handicapped, but we hadn't known Mr. Ted took

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

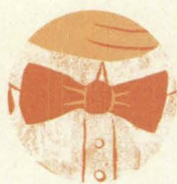
Author Charles Baxter, professor of creative writing at the University of Minnesota, judged the finalists in *Minnesota* magazine's 11th annual fiction contest. He had this to say about winning entry "How to Win Friends," by Emily Beck Cogburn:

"This story does what good fiction should do, which is to bring us the news about a part of life we may not have known or thought about. The milieu that 'How to Win Friends' dramatizes is the almost-invisible one of minimum-wage work in a fast-food restaurant. What happens to the people who work in such places? Here, for an answer, is one instance.

"In the story's background are the ambitions of generations of readers of Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, a book that is still very much alive for one of the characters in this story. The dialogue of this story is beautifully attuned to the speech of real people, and its small cast of characters comes completely to life on the page. Indeed, the manager of the restaurant, who seems at first to be a one-dimensional boss, turns out to be a complex human being with real and surprising problems of his own.

"This is a remarkable story, and the breath of life (with a slight odor of hamburger grease) flows straight through it."

Cogburn's winning story won a cash prize of $2,000. Thanks to all who entered this year's contest—we received 84 entries. For information on next year's contest, go to *www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/fiction*.



"When I was about your age, my manager at RB gave me Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and it set my course for life. I wouldn't have made it nearly as far as I have without that book."

care of him. We'd both assumed he lived in a group home.

"So I was just telling Tupelo here about the great benefits you can get as a full-time RB manager," Mr. Ted said, taking out a wooden spoon to stir the soup.

As I calculated how to sound polite but not too interested, Jimmy yelled from the living room, above the noise of the TV, "Ted, Ted, we need some shoes. At Save-Mart. I want shoes, Ted."

"No, Jimmy, you don't need any shoes," Mr. Ted called back. He lowered his voice. "Commercials. He always thinks we need whatever the ads say. Our mother died a few years back. Left me with this house. And him. Daddy passed when we were kids, so I've taken care of him since I was 12, while Mom worked. Now he goes to adult day care when I'm at RB." He sprinkled salt into his concoction.

"Since he's my dependent, he can be on my health insurance. Insurance is getting more expensive, as I'm sure you boys know, but RB takes care of its employees. They haven't raised the portion we pay even though it's costing them more and more."

Jimmy called out again, "Ted, Ted, we need some diapers. Don't we need Pampers, Ted?"

"No, Jimmy, we don't need diapers." Mr. Ted turned toward us. He was wearing a faded pink apron with ruffles on the arms. "I've also got life insurance. Life insurance is important. You boys are so young, you might not think so, but if you have a wife or kids, someone depending on you, you'd better have it. I don't want Jimmy out on the street if I die. He works 10 hours a week at the recycling plant, but that's more to make him feel useful. The company gets some kind of tax write-off. He doesn't know that what he makes hardly buys lunch for the day."

Jimmy lumbered into the kitchen, his heavy footsteps rattling the dishes in the cabinets. "Ted, we need some High Life. Can't we get some High Life, Ted?"

"No, we don't need beer, Jimmy. Please set the silverware out. Four people."

I could have used a beer. Or three. But somehow I knew that the harvest gold refrigerator held only pop.

"Four." Jimmy pointed at each of us, counting. "One. Two. Three. Four. Four, Ted." He opened a drawer with so much force that I thought he would completely yank it out.

"Good counting, Jimmy," Mr. Ted said.

"Yeah, that was great," I said, feeling like an idiot.

"Two weeks vacation to start. After you've worked with the company seven years you get another week. At 15 years another and at 25 another. That's the max: five," Mr. Ted continued.

"Four!" Jimmy said, clutching silverware in each hand.

"OK. Set the table now," Mr. Ted said.

"I'm almost at five weeks. Jimmy likes to go to Disneyland." Mr. Ted lowered his voice on the last word. He watched Jimmy retreat into the dining room, singing and rattling the spoons.

"I bet you've got dental and the whole works, too," Tupelo said, sounding completely serious.

"Just got my fillings replaced this year," Mr. Ted said. I hoped he wouldn't open his mouth and show us. "Would've cost me a mint without RB."

Jimmy appeared in the doorway. "Ted, I want to eat. Ted, we need to eat."

"Say please, Jimmy." Mr. Ted put on a mitt that matched his apron, reached into the oven and pulled out a cookie sheet of RB hamburger bun halves brushed with margarine. He transferred them to a plate and handed it to Jimmy. "Put this on the table while I serve the soup."

Mr. Ted gave each of us a bowl of soup on a plate and took off his apron. Thank God. When he was growing up, his mother must have worn the pink apron as she served him on these dishes in this same house with this same brother. The whole thing was creepy and sad.

Tupelo and I walked into the dining room together, trying to act relaxed. Framed next to the china cabinet was the cross-stitched

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emily Beck Cogburn (B.A. '96) grew up in North St. Paul and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at the University of Minnesota. She went on to earn a master's in philosophy at Ohio State University and later a master's in library and information science from Louisiana State University.

Cogburn's fiction has appeared in *Phantasmagoria, Tom's Voice Magazine, Gris Gris Rouge,* and *Jubilee Anthology.* In 2008, she was one of the winners of the *Country Roads Magazine* fiction contest.

"The inspiration for 'How to Win Friends' came from my own fast-food experience and my husband's stories about his retail adventures," she says. "The piece began as part of a novel, but eventually I decided that it didn't fit there and would work better as a short story. It's been rewritten more times than I can count."

Currently Cogburn is shopping a young adult novel titled *Escape from High School* and is working on a novel called *The Breaking of Things,* about the decline and fall of an alcoholic philosophy professor in Katrina-era New Orleans.

Cogburn lives in Baton Rouge with her husband and their two children. When she's not writing, according to her Web site (*www.emilycogburn.com*), she enjoys playing bass guitar in a local swamp punk band and cooking with lots of butter.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JON COGBURN

homily: "Home is where the heart is." A worn, lacy tablecloth covered the table. The centerpiece was a dusty arrangement of dried flowers, probably also dating from before Mother's death.

When Mr. Ted and Jimmy were seated, Tupelo picked up his spoon. I shot him a look and he quickly set it down.

"Let's bow our heads and thank our Creator for this bounty," Mr. Ted said. "Jimmy?"

"God is great, God is good, so we thank him for our food, amen," Jimmy recited and took a huge bite from his bun half.

"Thanks, Jimmy."

After we'd eaten the bland soup for a while, Mr. Ted broke the silence. "You know, I really don't want to be in corporate. I like being around the day-to-day operations of the store. Making sure our guests receive quality service for a reasonable price. That's my mission. Of course, we couldn't do it without corporate, but I'm a hands-on kind of guy."

Tupelo and I exchanged glances. We both knew Mr. Ted wasn't climbing any corporate ladders, whether he wanted to or not.

Jimmy ate quickly, slurping. "Ted. Mom made pea soup. Green pea soup."

"Yes, Jimmy," Mr. Ted said. "But she's gone now."

"Gone, yes, dead."

"So what do we have to do to become full-time managers?" Tupelo asked, a note of desperation in his voice.

"Well, there's a nine-week training session, paid of course. You have to take written tests and learn some laws and regulations. Then they put you right in there. See if you can handle it. If you can, you're in. Of course, you'll always have more experienced managers on hand to guide you along."

"And how much would we start at?"

"Twenty-five. But you're eligible for a raise after six months and there's always a chance for one at your yearly performance evaluation. And of course, you'll want to work your way up. You get a raise when you're promoted."

"Dessert, Ted," Jimmy said. "We need some dessert."

While we ate bowls of melting vanilla ice cream, Mr. Ted produced two hardcover copies of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. I recognized the book from the paperback version Tupelo's girlfriend carried around. Whenever she quoted from it, I wondered how he got through their dates with a straight face.

Mr. Ted handed us each a book as if they were confirmation Bibles. "When I was about your age, my manager at RB gave me Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and it set my course for life. I wouldn't have made it nearly as far as I have without that book. This one here's a little more up-to-date. Here, read it; study it. I read a paragraph every night before bed and every morning before dropping Jimmy off. You boys can do anything you want if you put your mind to it. You could even make it up to corporate . . . your whole life is ahead of you."

tossed his *7 Habits* into the Honda. Hitting the passenger seat, it bounced and landed on a dog-eared copy of *The Metaphysics of Morals*. He turned to face me, leaning on the open door of the car. "How're we going to tell him we won't be his protégés? I mean, I feel kind of bad about it now."

I couldn't think of an answer. All I knew was that I didn't want to work at RB anymore. ■

I'm a life member.
I'm an ambassador.

I'm an ambassador for the University of Minnesota because the contributions the U makes to the business community, the nonprofit community, and the importing of talent to the state is felt every day. The University is the intellectual base of Minnesota's economy, and as a member I'm part of that.

Become a life member and help the Alumni Association support the University as it strives to become one of the world's premier public research universities. Visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/life or call 612-624-9658.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Where members are ambassadors

Marshall Lichty, JD '02
Law School

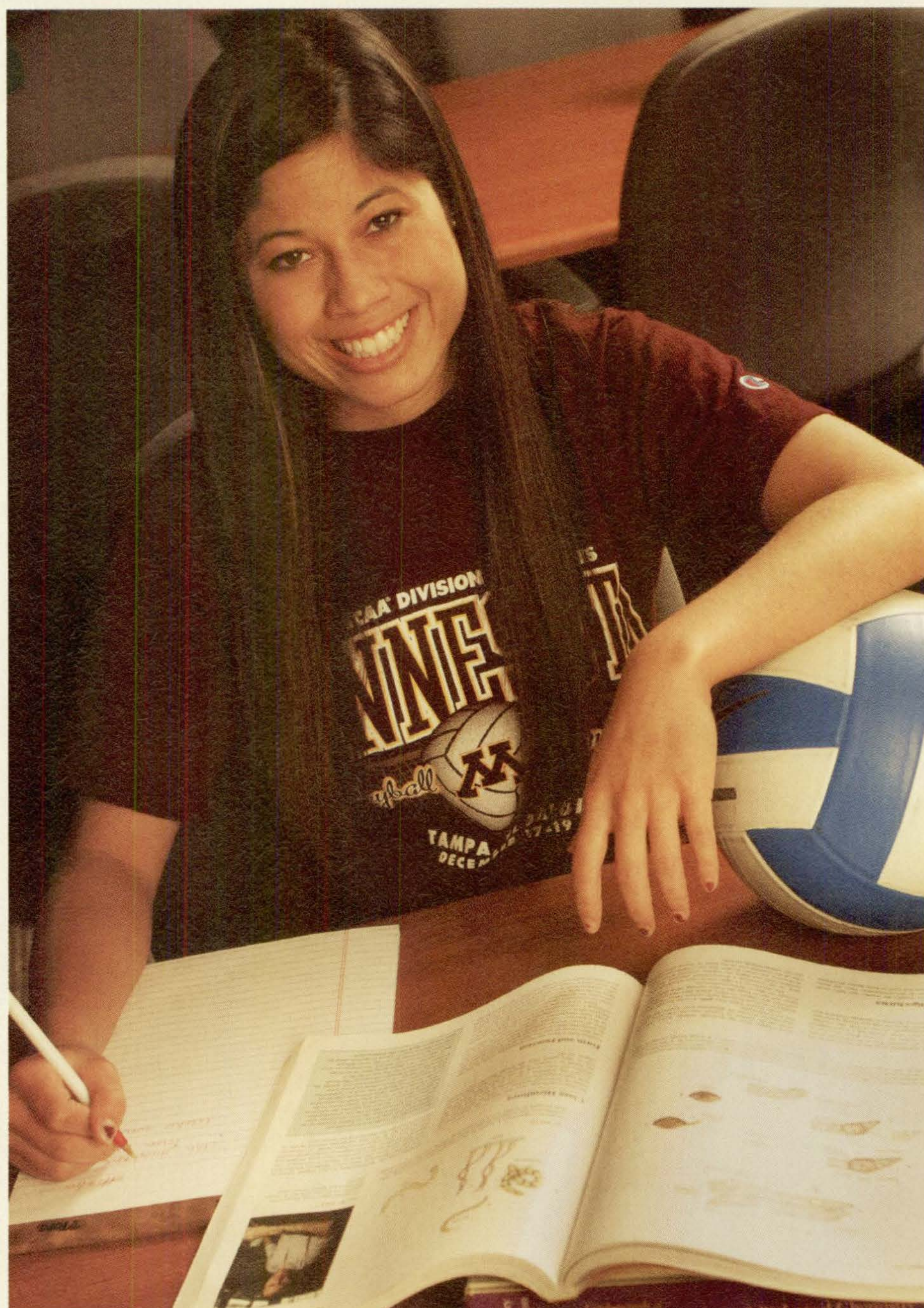
Golden Student Athletes

Meet Christine Tan and Barrett Moen, student athletes who have achieved excellence in and out of the classroom.

DOUBLY DEDICATED

Every Friday morning from January through May, Christine Tan (B.S. '10) boarded a plane at Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport for a six-hour flight to Caguas, Puerto Rico. Tan, a standout on the Gopher volleyball team who graduated this spring, wasn't bingeing on weekend getaways south of the border. She was launching her professional volleyball career—and getting back to campus in time for her Tuesday lab to boot.

"It's a long flight. But it works," says Tan, who graduated in May with a 3.24 cumulative grade point average with a biology and physiology double major. She first donned the uniform of her new team, the Caguas Criollas, a scant three weeks after helping lead her Gopher team to the national semifinal game, held in Tampa, Florida, a stone's throw away from her hometown, Palm Harbor. "Individual honors are great, but being able to bring my team to Tampa and end where I began was the highlight of my career at Minnesota," says Tan.



Christine Tan

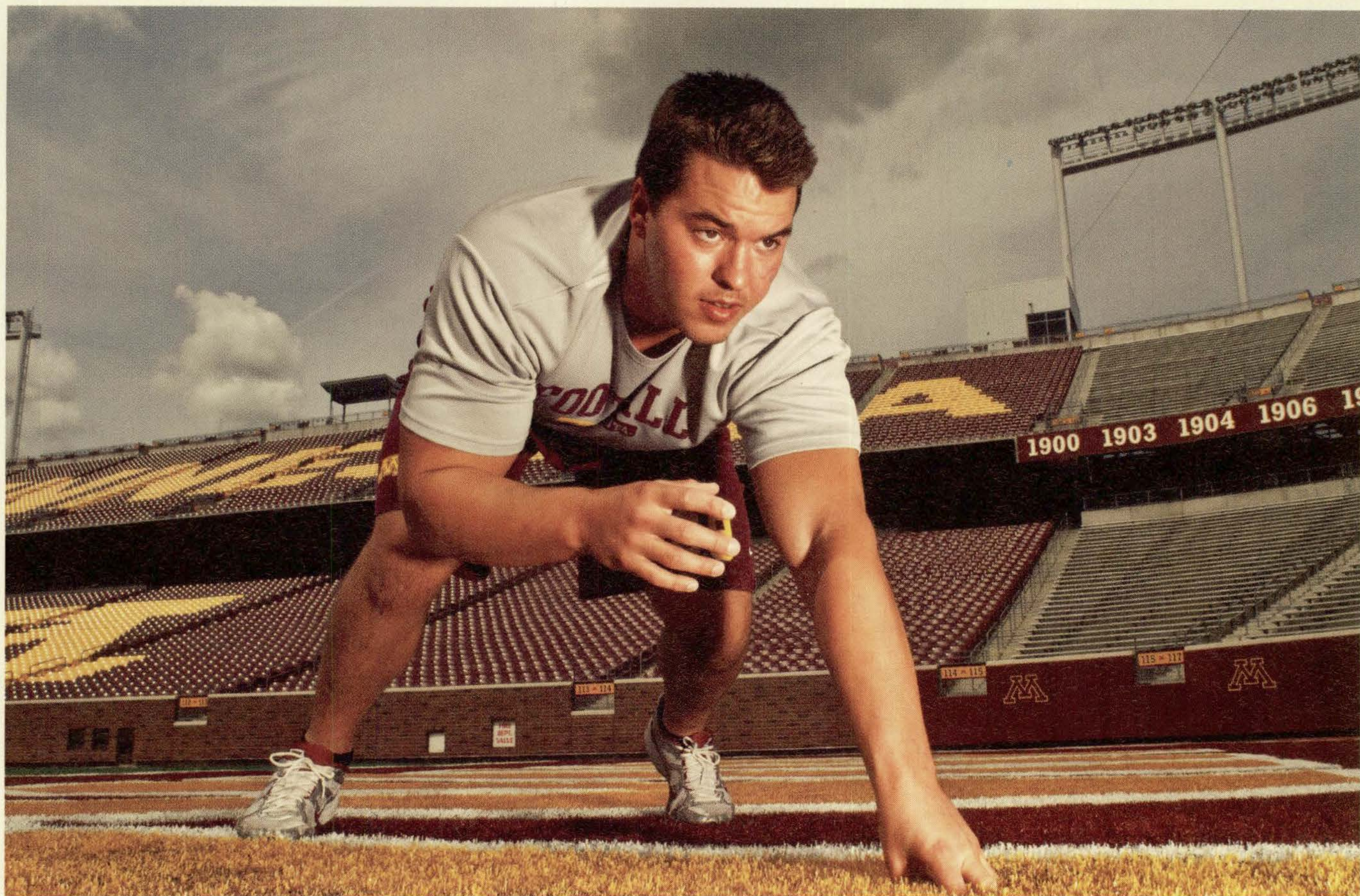
A defensive standout for Minnesota, Tan knows a few things about individual honors. She is second on the Gopher career list in digs, with 1,927, and was the team's most valuable player her sophomore and junior years. This past season she was named first-team All-Region and honorable mention All–Big Ten and All-American in addition to being named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week three times. In her junior year she won first team All–Big Ten, Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year, and honorable mention All-American.

Tan arrived at the U with 30 college credits under her belt, thanks to taking Advanced Placement courses in high school. That stash of credits allowed her to strike a balance between her work in the classroom and on the court throughout her Gopher career. By the time the final semester of her senior season rolled around, she needed only one class to complete her degree, allowing her to seize the opportunity to play professionally in Puerto Rico.

Originally a neuroscience major who aspired to be a doctor Tan decided early on in her studies that medicine was not for her and switched to a pre-pharmacy track. She likes the versatility that pharmacy offers. "I can go into different areas such as industrial, public, or hospital pharmacy. I know I will be working with the public and working one-on-one with those who need advice on the drugs they are taking," she says.

Volleyball is in Tan's genes. Her mother, Ivonne, played for the University of Puerto Rico and in the same league where Christine

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAN MARSHALL



Barrett Moen

now plays—the Liga de Voleibol Superior Femenino (The Women's Professional Volleyball League). Tan plans to play for a year before applying to pharmacy school at the U and in Florida. She relishes the prospect of continuing her education at Minnesota. "When I started at Minnesota I was truly scared of leaving my family," Tan says. "But after my first year here I knew I'd made the right decision."

ENGINEERING SUCCESS

It's hard to imagine anyone could be less impressed with Barrett Moen (B.S. '10) than Barrett Moen himself. Earn an electrical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota with a 3.4 grade point average? No big deal. Begin a Golden Gopher football career as a walk-on and end up on scholarship with regular playing time? No big deal. "I always try to do the best I can," says the understated Moen, whose modesty is as immediately striking as his intellect.

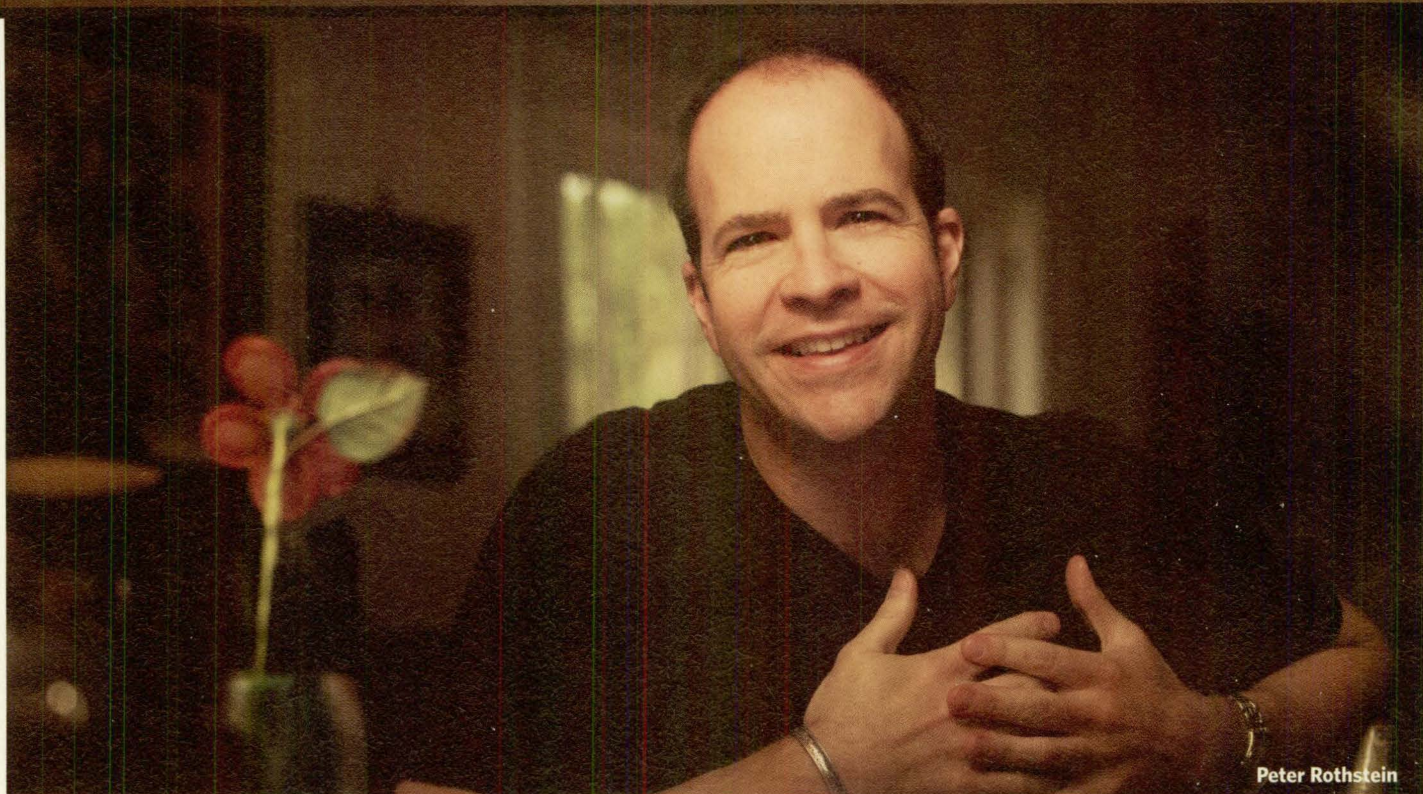
Moen, a graduate of Bloomington (Minnesota) Jefferson High School, entered the University of Minnesota in 2005 and decided to try out for the football team as a walk-on—"an *uninvited* walk-on," he emphasizes. He decided his best shot at making the team was to learn as many positions as he could—offense, defense, and special teams—so he redshirted his first year (that is, skipped a year of play without losing eligibility) and spent the season honing his skills. "Being a quick learner gets you to the front of the line, and the quickest way to the front is through the weight room," he says.

Indeed, Moen weighed in his first year at 236 pounds and began his senior year at 281. The versatility he acquired through diligent practice paid off: He earned playing time on the offensive line beginning his sophomore year and in the course of the season made a successful transition to defensive tackle. By his junior year he was seeing action in every game as a reserve defensive lineman, and in his senior season he had earned a starting spot at defensive end. Through it all, Moen retained his focus on his studies, achieving Academic All–Big Ten honors his sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Moen's unwavering determination comes in part from his family, who year in and year out have formed their own cheering section at his games. "My family is definitely the most important thing to me," he says. His brother, Hunter, a student at the U, sister, Alex (B.S. '08), parents Aimee and Barrett along with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins attended all of his games. His uncle Brad Moen was a high school standout whose Golden Gopher career was cut short by a knee injury. Another uncle, Matt Herkenhoff, played for the Gophers in the early 1970s and went on to play for the Kansas City Chiefs for 10 years.

Eventually Moen would like to work for a technology company. But his immediate post-graduate ambition is to take a shot at making the roster of an NFL team. He is confident that he can will his way onto a team by taking the familiar path of being a walk-on. "Getting into the NFL isn't an exact science," says the engineering grad. Impressive, yes, but for Moen, no big deal.

—Cynthia Scott (M.A. '89)


Peter Rothstein

All the River's a Stage

Peter Rothstein has tackled his share of difficult tasks as a director. But this summer, he'll be asked to do it on water. Rothstein will guide a group of University of Minnesota theater and BFA acting students through a 10-week run of *Triumph of Love* on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat. "The unique venue itself was a huge draw for me. I've never worked on a showboat before," Rothstein says.

Rothstein might not have worked on a boat before, but he has excelled at theater's highest levels. A founder and artistic director of Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis, Rothstein is among the most respected names in Twin Cities theater. The *Star Tribune* named him one of Minnesota's artists of the year in 2007, and *City Pages* named him best director in 2006. This spring he directed *M. Butterfly* at the Guthrie Theater and has been a guiding force behind other Guthrie Productions and at the Children's Theatre Company. When Shelly Wagner-Henry, then managing director for University Theater and Dance and the Minnesota Centennial Showboat, asked him to direct the Showboat's summer offering he couldn't resist. "I love working with young actors who are passionate and hungry," he says. "I immediately said yes."

Rothstein chose *Triumph of Love* as the Showboat's 52nd summertime production. The play is a comedy about a princess trying to win the love of Agis, a scholar who mistrusts and loathes women. The plot gets interesting when the only way the princess can get close to the object of her affection is to disguise herself as a man. The production, based on the 17th-century play by Pierre de Marivaux, contains elements of broad physical humor drawn from the Italian commedia dell'arte tradition, as well as the sophisticated language found in French drama. Rothstein also added vaudeville-style musical numbers that are the Showboat's signature element. "The play is a really interesting hybrid of dramatic forms," says Rothstein. "There are a lot of ways to address the varying ideas this play has about love—from the heart, from the head, and from the groin."

The Showboat is an intimate, 225-seat theater located in a paddle wheeler docked off Harriet Island on St. Paul's riverfront. While the small theater poses some logistical challenges—for instance, there isn't enough space to wire actors to fly—the space also offers creative opportunities. Set designers, who created a French manicured garden on stage, used the Showboat's permanent architectural elements as inspiration for their design.

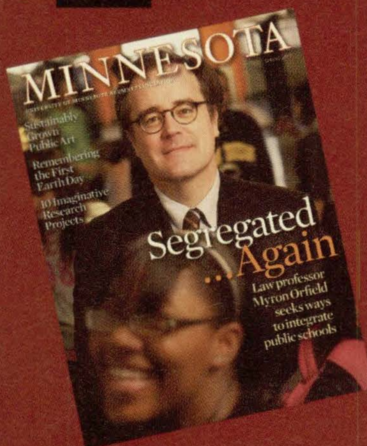
For students, the play provides a glimpse of life as a professional actor. Unlike most University productions, which run two or three weeks, *Triumph of Love* will have eight performances a week throughout the summer. "One of the unique challenges of being a professional actor is how you keep a performance immediate, surprising, and alive after not just eight performances, but a hundred," says Rothstein. "How do you sustain performances over the long run?" Indeed, nearly everyone involved in the production will get a taste of what theater is like beyond campus. With the exception of Rothstein and the play's musical director, Denise Prosek, everyone in the production is a student, from the costume, lighting, and sound designers to the house management and ushers.

But for Rothstein, the joy in the production isn't just about giving students an opportunity to perform at a higher level—it's about creating the perfect warm-weather event. "It's a funny, lighthearted play by a playwright who is just now seeing a resurgence," he says. "It's a great summer affair." —*Erin Peterson*

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANN MARSDEN

We've launched something new!

www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/minnesota



See *Minnesota* magazine extras

News From the U with the latest video and audio downloads, photos, news headlines, upcoming events and more.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Where members are ambassadors

Mary Sharratt at Marsh Lake in Bloomington, Minnesota

When They Hung Witches

Alumna author Mary Sharratt's historical novel explores witch persecutions in 1612 England.

Witches and magic fill the pages of author Mary Sharratt's new novel, but this is no fairy tale. It's a fictionalized account of a horrifying historical episode, part of a wave of atrocities that swept Europe several hundred years ago during the witch persecutions.

A Minnesota native, Sharratt (B.A. '88) now lives in Lancashire, England, in a house overlooking the rugged moorland that is the setting for *Daughters of the Witching Hill* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010). Her characters are based on the real Pendle Witches, seven women and two men who were accused of witchcraft and hanged in 1612. They were among hundreds of thousands of people, mostly women, executed between about 1450 and 1700 (compare that to the 20 killed in Salem in 1692).

More than just a tragic tale, *Daughters* vividly portrays the harsh conditions of the early 17th century, including the severe religious demands, medical ignorance, and hopeless poverty. Sharratt, author of several other historical novels featuring strong women, conducted extensive historical research to recreate the day's language and physical details and her cast of sharply drawn heroines.

Daughters is told mostly from the point of view of Mother Demdike, an old widow who ekes out a living as a "cunning woman"—a folk healer who performs beneficial magic for her neighbors—until she, along with a handful of relatives and neighbors, is accused of practicing harmful magic. Though politically and economically powerless, Demdike stands fearless:

> *Slashes of air hit my face as he brandishes his whip, seeking to strike fear into us, but it's his terror I taste as I let go of Alizon's guiding hand and step forward, firm and square on my rag-bundled feet. We've only come to claim what is ours by right.*
>
> *"Whores and witches," he taunts again, yelling with such bile that his spit sprays me. "I will burn the one of you and hang the other."*
>
> *. . . I take another step forward, forcing him to back away. The man's a-fright that I'll so much as breathe on him. "I care not for you," I tell him. "Hang yourself."*

During a book tour that brought her to Minnesota, Sharratt discussed her new novel.

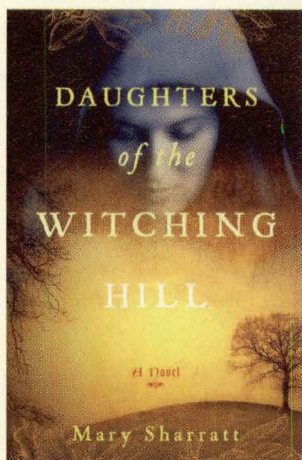
PHOTOGRAPH BY SARA RUBINSTEIN

Q: How did you become interested in the Pendle Witches?

A: Everywhere you go in the region you see images of witches on houses, pubs. There's a whole fleet of buses with witches on broomsticks flying against the backdrop of a full moon. I assumed it was all folklore. And then I realized that the Pendle Witches were real people.

I actually sat down and read the history. I read the trial transcripts and went to the local library and read everything I could find. I started taking history classes through the Lancaster University continuing education program and learning as much as I could about this period of history.

I was particularly intrigued by the most notorious of the accused witches, Mother Demdike, who supposedly initiated all the others into witchcraft. She died in prison before she could come to trial. But the transcripts of the trial go on and on about how wicked and notorious and scary she was, this 80-year-old woman. And I thought, she must have been a really strong character if they devoted all these pages to her after she was dead.



Daughters of the Witching Hill
By Mary Sharratt (B.A. '88)
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010

Q: What kind of person was most likely to be charged as a witch?

A: It's significant that most of the people accused of witchcraft were poor, older women, because they became a burden on society and often these women would beg. And if you didn't give them something they would grumble at you. And if you believed that they had powers and that they would turn against you for denying them charity, then you would hold them in greater fear and awe. And then if something bad happened, well, "It's because I didn't give Goodwife so-and-so that egg she wanted, and now my chicken has died. Oh, she's a witch!"

Q: What led to the Pendle Witch persecutions?

A: The persecutions in England were probably very different from [those elsewhere in Europe]. For example, the legal system in England protected individuals a lot more. It wasn't the same sort of system that they had in Germany or France, where you could get some rich widow's property if you called her a witch.

Witch persecutions had been relatively rare in England. But then in 1603 King James I came to the throne. He was from Scotland, which had a more continental view of witchcraft. He was obsessed with the occult, and he wrote a book called *Daemonology*, which is a witch-hunter's handbook. It was an alarmist work, saying that there was a vast conspiracy of satanic witches threatening to undermine the nation.

Q: Your characters perform magic that modern readers wouldn't believe. How did you decide to write the story that way?

A: To be authentic to the characters, I had to bring that across, because they lived in an era when they believed magic was real. Mother Demdike believed she had these powers; she was very blunt about saying in her interrogation that she was a cunning woman. She did this her whole life as her profession. If she denied it after arrest it would have been like saying, "Hello, I'm a fraud!"

Q: What are you working on next?

A: The new novel is about Hildegard von Bingen. She's a 12th century mystic nun. But she was also a composer, she healed with herbs and crystals, she wrote scientific books and works of theology, she had prophetic visions, and she wrote very bluntly about human sexuality. She describes the female orgasm in great detail, which is interesting for a nun [laughs]. So she's just a really exciting character. She was one of the most original voices of her age.

—Katy Read

Have a "Nose to Beak" Experience!

at the Raptor Center

Visit The Raptor Center at the U of M and have an up-close experience with live raptors.

Alumni Association members receive discounted pricing on the Raptors in Minnesota public program.

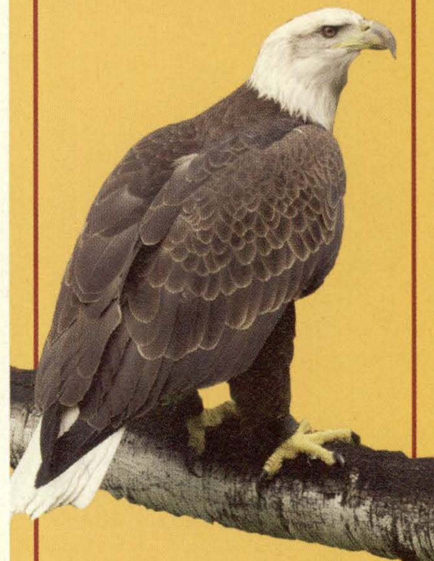
$5 for adults
$4 for students/seniors

1-2 p.m. every Saturday & Sunday
Includes a tour of The Raptor Center and outdoor housing area - home of 30 education raptors

Learn more about The Raptor Center:
www.TheRaptorCenter.org
612.624.4745
raptor@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE RAPTOR CENTER



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBER BENEFIT

Eric Hanson, with his companion Willow, places a loon raft on Hardwick Lake.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CALEB KENNA

Bringing Back Vermont's Loons

In 1987 the future looked grim for Vermont's loons. The number of breeding pairs had dropped to only seven and the bird was on the state's endangered species list. What caused the population decline remains a mystery, though experts suspect a combination of fluctuating lake levels due to hydroelectric demands, increased boating and fishing, and shoreline development.

Today the state has 66 breeding pairs on its 200 lakes. The loons are coming back thanks largely to Eric Hanson's 13-year-long effort to save them. Hanson (M.A. '96) is director of the nonprofit Vermont Loon Recovery Project (VLRP), established in 1978 as a joint program of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. He grew up in Rochester, Minnesota, and his appreciation for loons began in childhood during canoe trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

"We have people we admire, and some of us have wild things we admire," says Hanson. "Loons carry a really strong, yet graceful presence. I always go away from encounters with them awed by life."

Minnesota has the nation's most robust loon population, with over 12,000. A Native American symbol of power, the loon has a haunting tremolo that carries across lakes and woods on summer nights all over the northland. This great diving bird has been evolving for 100 million years, yet it is no match for humans who mess with its habitat.

For his conservation biology thesis, Hanson coordinated 500 volunteers to monitor Minnesota's loons for the DNR. These days, much of his time is again spent with volunteers helping loons to nest and successfully rear their young.

Built on the water's edge, a loon nest consists only of some gathered vegetation or a slight depression in the ground. It holds one or two vulnerable eggs. Loons have two nesting habitats, marshy land and islands—the former is in short supply in Vermont, and the latter have become desirable cabin locations. If loons are having a hard time finding a suitable nesting site, Hanson devises small rafts that mimic islands, and the loons nest on them.

Hanson can do little about some threats to loons, like oil spills and mercury in the fish and crayfish they eat. But he can educate landowners about wise shoreline development and work with hydroelectric companies to keep water levels steady during nesting season. He works to persuade boaters to give loons a wide berth and fishermen to stop using lead sinkers, a major cause of loon mortality.

"Hopefully the steps we take to protect loons will reduce our negative impacts to the entire lake ecosystem," says Hanson.

Loons are making a comeback in Vermont, but half of its loons remain dependent on VLRP's intervention. A healthy, self-sustaining loon population on all the state's lakes will be a continual challenge, but the loon's current success may hold a key to the bird's ongoing recovery.

"Vermonters, like Minnesotans, want to protect loons and now that the numbers are increasing, people are paying more attention to conservation," says Hanson. "That's where I believe I've made the biggest difference." —*Martha Coventry (B.A. '74)*

TRAVEL PROGRAM 2011

We are pleased to present these fascinating alumni tours for 2011. You are invited to experience the comfort and camaraderie of alumni group travel. We hope you'll plan to explore a new destination and unique culture in the company of other alumni and friends!

Please note that date and price information is subject to change. All prices are per person, double occupancy. Visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or email cmj@umn.edu to request detailed trip brochures, which are available approximately nine months prior to the departure date.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard in 2011!

LEGENDS OF THE NILE

Experience the unique cultural heritage of Egypt and its wealth of historic treasures. Explore fascinating, fast-paced Cairo. Relax on a cruise up the mighty Nile. Its fabled shores reveal the legendary ruins of Luxor, the hieroglyphic tombs in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, magnificent temples, peaceful Aswan and amazing Abu Simbel.

January 4-15; from $3,995 (plus airfare)

WONDERS OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Cruise aboard the fully equipped expedition vessel M.V. Santa Cruz on this nine-day journey to Ecuador. In the company of expert naturalists, experience close encounters with exotic wildlife, from tropical penguins to giant tortoises and blue-footed boobies.

January 21-29; from approximately $3,695 per person (plus airfare)

AMAZON RIVER

Venture into a world of remote jungles and backwater rivers where lush rainforests and secretive tributaries are home to some of earth's most stunning beauty and exotic wildlife. Explore Peru's historic capital, Lima, and continue your journey with the special post-program option to legendary Machu Picchu.

February 4-13; from approximately $3,695 per person (plus airfare)

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

This spectacular 14-day journey captures the essence of Australia and New Zealand highlighted by a three-night Great Barrier Reef cruise aboard the intimate Coral Princess. Cruise Milford Sound and visit Queenstown and Christchurch. Stay in Sydney, renowned for its harbor setting; learn about Aborigines; and visit the famous Sydney Opera House.

February 20 – March 5; from $4,195 per person (plus airfare)

CRUISE THE WINDWARD AND LEEWARD ISLANDS

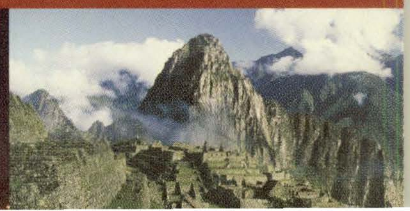
This seven-night cruise is aboard the six-star, all-suite M.V. Silver Whisper. Sail from Bridgetown, Barbados, with calls at Soufriere and Castries, St. Lucia; Gustavia, St. Barts; St. John's, Antigua; Marigot, St. Martin; Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. A Barbados pre-cruise option is available.

March 4-11; from $2,798 per person (including airfare)

MONUMENTAL ROME

Explore the historic wonders of incredible Rome with its wealth of ancient monuments, magnificent treasures, renowned shops, and great food. The 'Eternal City' will thrill and enchant you!

March 5-12; from $2,849 per person (including airfare)



MYSTERIES OF THE MEKONG RIVER: ANGKOR WAT TO SAIGON

This 11-night journey to Vietnam and Cambodia features a seven-night deluxe Mekong River cruise. Visit Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Kampong Chnang, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Highlights include: a lecture at former U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge's residence, Angkor Wat, trishaw ride, local arts and crafts workshops, and exquisite Asian cuisine. Hanoi and Bangkok program options available.
March 23-April 5; from $3,695 per person (plus airfare)

HISTORIC REFLECTIONS

Follow in the wake of great explorers as you navigate across the sapphire seas of the Mediterranean on the elegant Oceania Cruises' Insignia. Ports of call on the shores of France, Monaco, Italy, Greece, and Turkey will provide a kaleidoscope of unforgettable experiences.
April 2-13; from $3,499 per person (including airfare)

MYSTERIES OF THE FAR EAST

Explore Shanghai, then cruise the Far East for eight nights to Incheon, South Korea, with port calls at Qingdao, Yantai, and Tianjin (Beijing), China. In Beijing, tour the legendary Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace and two event venues designed for the 2008 Summer Olympics.
April 4-16; from $4,995 per person (plus airfare)

TREASURES OF CHINA & YANGTZE RIVER

Experience China, a land of tradition, ancient treasures and infinite variety. Discover the timeless beauty of the Yangtze on a river cruise, and visit Beijing, China's capital, historic Xi'an, expansive Chongqing, and vibrant Shanghai. Enjoy an optional extension to mythical Yellow Mountain.
April 11-21; from $4,749 per person (including airfare)

CRADLE OF HISTORY

Follow the echoes of ancient empires and holy lands on the stately and elegant Oceania Cruises' Nautica. Fascinating ports of call in Greece, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, and Turkey will take you up close and personal with history, legends, and landmarks that are nearly as old as time itself.
May 9-22; from $4,299 per person (Including airfare)

DORDOGNE

Stay in the heart of France's Dordogne River Valley in the family-owned Plaza Madeleine. Discover the cave art of three UNESCO World Heritage sites and follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims in Rocamadour. This unique itinerary also features cultural enrichments, including fascinating lectures and an exclusive "Village Forum." A pre-program to Bordeaux is also available.
May 19-27; from approximately $3,095 per person (plus airfare)

PASSAGE OF LEWIS AND CLARK

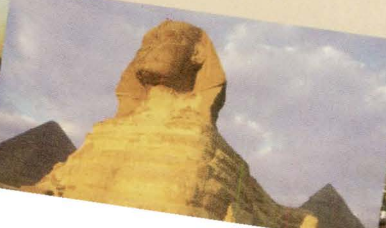
From the historic heart of Portland, embark the Spirit of '98 and sail the spectacular waters of the Willamette, Columbia and Snake rivers. Explore Willamette Valley, the rolling heart of Oregon wine country; discover the ethereal majesty of the Cascade Mountains and Multnomah Falls; delight in Pendleton, Hells Canyon, and Astoria.
June 3-11; from $3,695 per person (plus airfare)

BALTIC TREASURES

The best of Northern Europe is revealed on this magical voyage aboard Oceania Cruises' newest ship Marina. Discover distant monarchies, Baroque palaces, and stunning harbors as you cruise to captivating ports in Germany, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, and Finland.
June 10-21; from $3,699 per person (including airfare)

PASSAGE TO THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS

Explore Scandinavia's most captivating ports while cruising on the luxurious Oceania Cruises' Insignia. Discover cities brimming with color, culture, and history, along with unforgettable natural scenery, while sailing the shores of Scotland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.
June 10-23; from $4,499 per person (including airfare)



DALMATIAN COAST

Explore the Adriatic Sea's island-dappled Dalmatian Coast aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe M.S. L'Austral on this seven-night cruise featuring attractively priced shore excursions in Split, Korˇcula, Montenegro, Dubrovnik, Hvar and Pula. Enjoy specially arranged lectures, an exclusive "Village Forum" with local residents and a folk music performance. Two-night Venice pre-cruise option available.

June 20-28; from approximately $2,995 per person (plus airfare)

TREASURES OF PERU

Begin in Lima with a city tour, then fly to Cuzco–the archaeological hub of the Americas. Tour the beautiful Sacred Valley, the Indian market at Pisac and the extensive ruins at Ollantaytambo. An overnight stay at Machu Picchu allows you to take advantage of early morning, quiet viewing opportunities. This amazing journey concludes in Lake Titicaca, including the Floating Islands and Taquile Island.

July 11-21; $3,695 per person (including airfare)

VIKINGS, KINGS, & CASTLES

Explore the rich history and dramatic scenery of Northern Europe while cruising on the grand and elegant Marina, Oceania Cruises' newest ship. Interludes in England, Scotland, Norway, Ireland, the Isle of Man, and Wales offer delightful insights into ancient customs and traditions.

July 14-29; from $5,299 per person (including airfare)

BONNIE SCOTLAND

Breathtaking Highland scenery awaits you in beautiful Scotland on this nine-day journey. From Glasgow, follow the "Bonnie Banks" of Loch Lomond and stay overnight on the romantic Isle of Skye. On the way to Inverness, visit a whisky distillery and picturesque Braemar, then travel to St. Andrews to hit a few golf balls. Finally, explore historic Edinburgh.

August 4-12; $1,420 per person (plus airfare)

ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Embrace Alaska's rugged beauty while cruising on the elegant Oceania Cruises' Regatta. Sail the Seymour Narrows to the magnificent Hubbard Glacier, stopping in the charming Alaskan ports of Wrangell, Skagway, Kodiak, Sitka, and Ketchikan.

August 18-28; price to be announced

DUBAI

Witness the Persian Gulf's remarkable mix of desert beaches and glitzy high-rises in the dazzling metropolis of Dubai. The city's ultra-modern attractions blended with its traditional markets will excite even the most seasoned traveler.

September 9-16; $3,999 per person (including airfare)

TREASURES OF EAST AFRICA

This once-in-a-lifetime adventure visits the best national parks in Tanzania and Kenya. You'll stay in the finest lodge accommodations, watching zebra walking along grass-filled plains; cheetahs searching for prey; colorful birds soaring to the sky; and lions stretching lazily in the sun. Track the magnificent "Big Five" wildlife in custom safari vehicles!

September 12-25; $5,495 per person (plus airfare)

DANUBE RIVER: VENICE TO ISTANBUL

This unique 11-day journey to seven countries features five UNESCO World Heritage sites. Cruise aboard one of the chartered, deluxe vessels of the Amadeus Premium Fleet from imperial Vienna to medieval Belgrade, stay overnight in elegant Bucharest and spend two nights in Istanbul. A special two-night Vienna pre-program option and a Cappadocia post-program option are available.

September 16-26; from approximately $3,295 per person (plus airfare)

VILLAGE LIFE IN THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

La dolce vita–the true essence of northern Italy's fabled Lake District–is best experienced on this nine-day soggiorno. Experience the traditions and daily rhythms of Cernobbio, Como, Varenna, Bellagio and Stresa. Enjoy private cruises on Lakes Como and Maggiore, the exclusive "Village Forum' with local residents and tasting–even cooking–Lombardy's acclaimed cuisine.

September 17-25; from approximately $2,995 per person (plus airfare)

GREEK ISLES ODYSSEY

The best of the eastern Mediterranean is yours to discover on this sea-swept odyssey aboard the elegant Oceania Cruises' Nautica. Explore the fabled shores and stunningly beautiful islands of Greece and Turkey during this leisurely adventure across the Aegean Sea.

September 18-October 1; from $4,499 per person (including airfare)

ANCIENT GREECE AND TURKEY

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe M.S. L'Austral from Istanbul to Athens, with attractively priced shore excursions in Troy and Ephesus and on Santorini, Pátmos, Rhodes and Delos. Led by a culinary expert, the exclusive "C'est Bon! Culinary Traditions" program celebrates the region's local cuisines and wines. Pre-cruise option in Istanbul or Cappadocia and post-cruise option in Athens available.

September 26 to October 4; from $2,795 per person (plus airfare)

CANADA & NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE

Discover the vibrant fall colors of New England and Canada while cruising on the elegant Oceania Cruises' Regatta. Colorful landscapes and historic attractions are revealed in the fascinating ports of Newport, Boston, Halifax, Charlottetown, Quebec City, and others.

September 30-October 12; estimated from $4,299 per person (including airfare)

LONDON & EDINBURGH

Discover two of Britain's most regal capital cities: London, a friendly, cosmopolitan city that offers a feast of history, culture, and pageantry; and Edinburgh, Scotland's picturesque capital, rich with legendary treasures.

October 7-15; $2,949 per person (including airfare)

LEGENDARY TURKEY: FROM ISTANBUL TO THE TURQUOISE COAST

Exotic sights, scents and sounds reign in the fascinating land where Europe and Asia meet. From Istanbul, magnificent "Empress of the World," to ancient ruins, stunning landscapes, and the dramatic Turquoise Coast aboard a privately chartered yacht, Turkey charms and beguiles. Post-tour extension to Cappadocia and Ankara available.

October 8-22; approximately $3,500 per person (including airfare)

PARADORES & POUSADAS: HISTORIC LODGINGS OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL

A journey through the Iberian Peninsula to the intimate lodgings of Spain's paradores and Portugal's pousadas: medieval monasteries, historic fortresses, and stately palaces, each reflecting the spirit of its region. Explore Lisbon, Portugal; Merida, Spain; the Andalusia region; Cordoba; Seville; Toledo; and Madrid.

October 13-27; $3,695 per person (including airfare)

HEARTLAND OF EUROPE

On this nine-day cruise along Germany's Main, Rhine and Mosel rivers, gain a unique perspective of the landscape aboard the deluxe M.S. Amalyra, a state-of-the-art vessel. Meet residents during visits to quaint villages surrounded by terraced vineyards and during the exclusive "Village Forum." A Prague pre-cruise option and a Paris post-cruise option are also available.

October 15-23; from approximately $2,895 per person (plus airfare)

FRENCH ALPS AND PROVENCE

Experience the joie de vivre in provincial France on this unique 10-day journey from the gem of the French Alps through the timeless allure of Burgundy and Provence. Enjoy three nights in charming Annecy and cruise for five nights along the Rhône River to Lyon, Avignon and Arles. Two-night Aix-en-Provence post-program option is offered.

October 20-29; from approximately $3,595 per person (plus airfare)

CHURCHILL POLAR BEAR EXPEDITION BY PRIVATE JET

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the migration of the polar bears. The northern seaport of Churchill, in the Canadian province of Manitoba, occupies a spit of land that proves the fastest access onto the ice. Fly on an all business class private jet directly to Churchill, where 60% of the entire polar bear population resides.

October 21-24; approximately $3,500 per person (including airfare)

JEWELS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN & GREEK ISLES

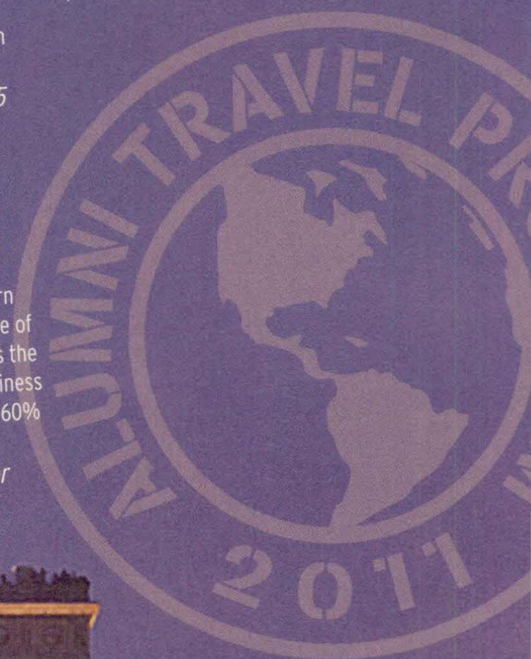
Follow the development of great civilizations as you navigate across the sapphire seas of the Mediterranean on the luxurious Oceania Cruises' Nautica. Ports of call on the shores of Monaco, Italy, Greece, and Turkey offer a colorful collage of cultural delights.

October 24-November 4; from $3,499 per person (including airfare)

PARIS HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the elegance and romance of Paris with its vast array of world famous sites. Explore the beaches of Normandy, historic Versailles, and the magnificent chateaus of the Loire Valley.

October 30-November 8; $2,949 per person (including airfare)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Hail to the Chief The University of Minnesota's fruit breeding program began in 1878, when most Minnesotans lived on farms with orchards that provided fresh fruit to eat and preserve for the long winter. The program is renowned for its apples, grapes, and berries that are cultivated and used worldwide. This photo from July 1930, taken at the fruit breeding farm, depicts the christening of the raspberry variety Chief. Chief was in production until the 1950s, but Latham, its parent, is still planted extensively throughout North America and Europe.

INSIDE

A Look Back at the Annual Celebration

New Member Benefit: Children's Theatre Company

Honoring Distinguished Teachers

A Conversation with CEO Phil Esten

Alumni Association Honors Top Teachers

The director of the University of Minnesota Center for Medieval Studies, a neuroscientist who teaches veterinary students, and a computer science and engineering professor dedicated to recruiting more diverse faculty and students were among the 14 outstanding teachers honored at the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony on April 26 at the McNamara Alumni Center. Six teachers received the Horace T. Morse–University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education, and eight were honored for outstanding contributions to postbaccalaureate, graduate, and professional education. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association, the University's Office of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy cosponsor the annual awards.

Recipients are pictured below as follows (they are from the Twin Cities campus unless otherwise noted). Back row, from left: Ruth Mazo Karras, director, Center for Medieval Studies; Paul Siciliano, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics; Robert Sorenson, Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development; Scott Abernathy, Department of Political Science; Alvin Beitz, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences; Gwen Rudney, Division of Education, University of Minnesota, Morris; Joseph Konstan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering; and Kang Ling James, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Second row, from left: J. Ilja Siepmann, Department of Chemistry; David Blank, Department of Chemistry; Julie Schumacher, Department of English and Creative Writing; Kent Kirkby, Department of Geology and Geophysics; Linda Holm Bearinger, director of the Center for Adolescent Nursing; and Rory Remmel, Department of Medicinal Chemistry.

Students or faculty colleagues on all five University campuses submit nominations, and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy selects the recipients. The awards include an annual salary augmentation of $3,000 to recipients for as long as they serve as U faculty and a five-year award of $1,500 each year to the recipient's department for use in professional development activities.

Recipients of the Horace T. Morse-University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award and the Award for Contributions to Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Education were honored on April 26 at the McNamara Alumni Center. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association, the University's Office of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy cosponsor the annual awards.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK O'LEARY

Signed First Edition Club Debuts

Book lovers and collectors have the opportunity to buy signed first printings of new books through the Signed First Edition Club, a unique new program through the University of Minnesota Bookstores. Alumni Association members receive a 10 percent discount on the books.

Titles, both fiction and nonfiction, are selected for literary merit and potential collectability. "We look for proven best sellers that we know our readers will want to collect, as well as upcoming regional favorites for the club," says Terry Labandz, general books manager at the University Bookstores. "We were especially delighted to be able to offer signed first editions of Louise Erdrich's latest work, *Shadow Tag*." Other titles include Seth Grahame-Smith's *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*, Anne Tyler's *Noah's Compass*, Nell Irvin Painter's *The History of White People*, and Elizabeth Kostova's *The Swan Thieves*.

Labandz, who has been selecting titles for the U Bookstores for more than 30 years, says the process is "a combination of experience, instinct, and luck that we hope will connect readers with the authors they love."

Membership in the First Edition Club is free, and books may be purchased online or at the bookstore in Coffman Union. For more information go to *www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/author.* —*Bill Magnuson*

National President

Chapters Advocate with Passion

In my tenure as president of your national board of directors, I've become aware of the pride in and passion for the University displayed by our chapters throughout the nation. I witnessed that enthusiasm firsthand this year as I traveled to Naples, Florida, for the MinneCollege; to Tempe, Arizona, for the Insight Bowl; to Milwaukee for the NCAA men's basketball tournament; and in the Twin Cities at our Alumni Awards Celebration, where the Dakota County Chapter won Outstanding Alumni Chapter of the Year.

Archie Givens at the Elmer L. Andersen Library on campus

In Naples, nearly 200 alumni gathered to hear U experts discuss many topics, including faculty from the School of Public Health (my college) on the impact of health care reform legislation. At every presentation and gathering surrounding the MinneCollege, alumni wanted to learn more about the changes at the U, especially the prospect of a new president next year.

A large number of alumni from several states turned out in Tempe for the Insight Bowl. The enthusiasm was palpable during a two-day pep fest featuring University President Bob Bruininks, the Minnesota Marching Band, and others.

At the NCAA tournament in Milwaukee, the amount of maroon and gold displayed at the Alumni Association's 'Sota Social made me feel more like I was at the McNamara Alumni Center at a pregame party than in Badger country. The Milwaukee Chapter dominated the festivities, and there was an obvious interest from alumni wanting to remain involved and active with the U.

At the Alumni Awards Celebration, I was honored to recognize the Dakota County Chapter as the Outstanding Alumni Chapter of the Year. The Dakota County Chapter—formed just six years ago—has evolved into one of the Alumni Association's most active groups, hosting an annual legislative briefing, sponsoring an annual lecture series, and bringing alumni and friends to campus for University cultural and sporting events.

It has been an honor for me to serve the University as president of the Alumni Association. No matter where I went—whether to a chapter event in another state or to a grocery store, coffee shop, or restaurant in Minneapolis—people told me how proud and appreciative they are to have attended the U. To be in a position to have people approach me and share this pride and passion has been very special and rewarding.

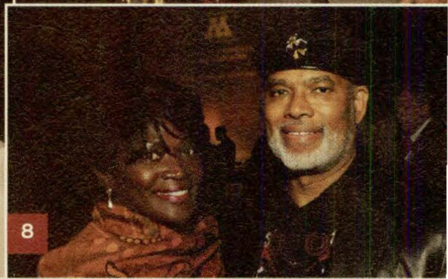
On July 1, I will turn the mantle of board president over to Ertugrul Tuzcu (M.S. '78). Ertugrul was born and raised in Turkey and received his master's degree in industrial engineering from the Institute of Technology. He worked his way up at Dayton's, Marshall Fields, and Macy's to become an executive vice president and is currently president and chief operating officer of Lifetouch School Studios. Ertugrul has served on the board since 2004 and has given brilliant leadership to our finances, communications, and marketing. Ertugrul also served on the search committee for our new CEO and helped ensure a smooth transition.

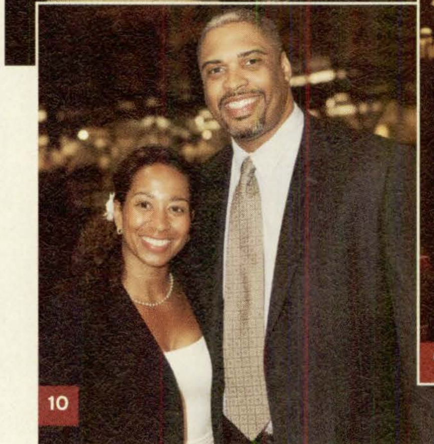
Speaking of which, I hope you all have a chance to meet new Alumni Association CEO Phil Esten (Ph.D. '03). He's a wonderful choice and strong leader. He'll bring new ideas and a fresh perspective. As he begins gathering alumni views and insights for a new strategic plan to guide the Association forward, Phil would like to hear from you. Tell him what you think, want, and care about. Contact him at *esten@umn.edu*, 612-624-6142, or 800-862-5867. —*Archie Givens (B.A. '66, M.H.A. '68)*

GIVENS PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUINENBURG

Katie Couric Headlines Annual Celebration

Close to 2,000 alumni and friends gathered at Mariucci Arena on April 24 for the Alumni Association Annual Celebration featuring socializing, dinner, and a keynote address by Katie Couric, anchor and managing editor of *CBS Evening News with Katie Couric*. Couric's engaging address recounted the peaks and valleys of her broadcasting career as well as the challenges she has faced in her personal life. In lieu of accepting a speaking fee, Couric asked that the Alumni Association make a donation to the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance, which she co-founded following the death of her husband, Jay Monahan, from colorectal cancer in 1998. (For more on Couric, see *Minnesota's* interview with her on page 8 of this issue.)





1. National board president Archie Givens, left, passes the gavel to Etugrul Tuzcu. Tuzcu assumes the presidency in July.

2. Katie Couric warms up the crowd with a show of maroon-and-gold spirit.

3. Alumni Band members, from left, Paul Wigley, Tim Nelson, and Owen Wigley

4. From left, University of Minnesota Foundation President and CEO Steve Goldstein; WCCO TV general manager and Alumni Association board member Susan Adams Loyd; University of Minnesota Regent Patricia Simmons; and former University vice president Tom Swain

5. Guests Jane Thompson, left, and Mary Ann McLeod

6. Couric greets a guest at the reception.

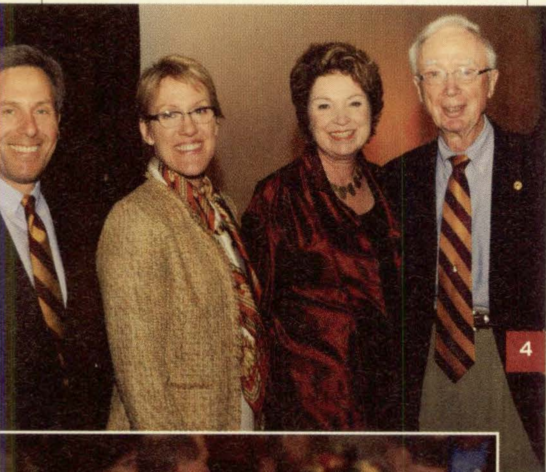
7. Archie Givens with his mother, Phebe Givens, and his daughter, Sunny Givens-Harvey

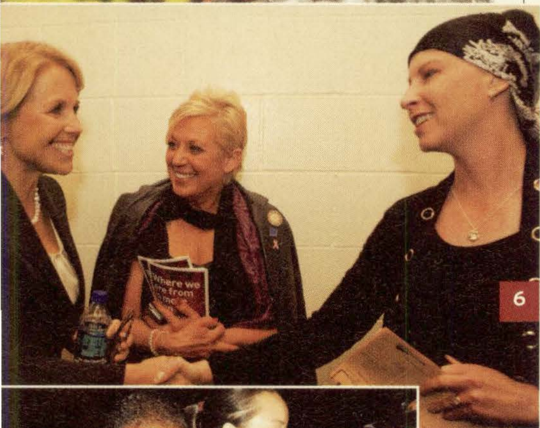
8. Serena and John Wright. Serena is events coordinator for the College of Education and Human Development, and John is a professor of African American and African studies at the U.

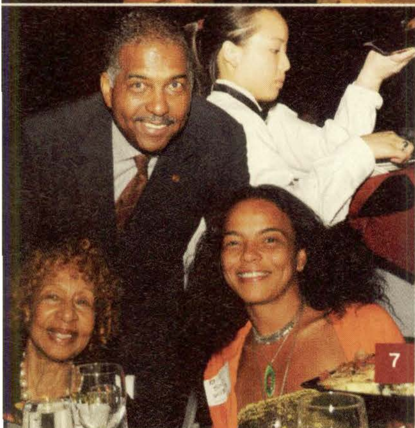
9. College of Design Dean Tom Fisher, left, with students Shengyin Xu and Joe Messier and major gifts officer Peter Rouza

10. Todd and Anna Williams. Todd is an Alumni Association board member.

11. From left, Colleen Breen, Alumni Association board member Mary McLeod, Margaret Shulman, and Kathy Hagen

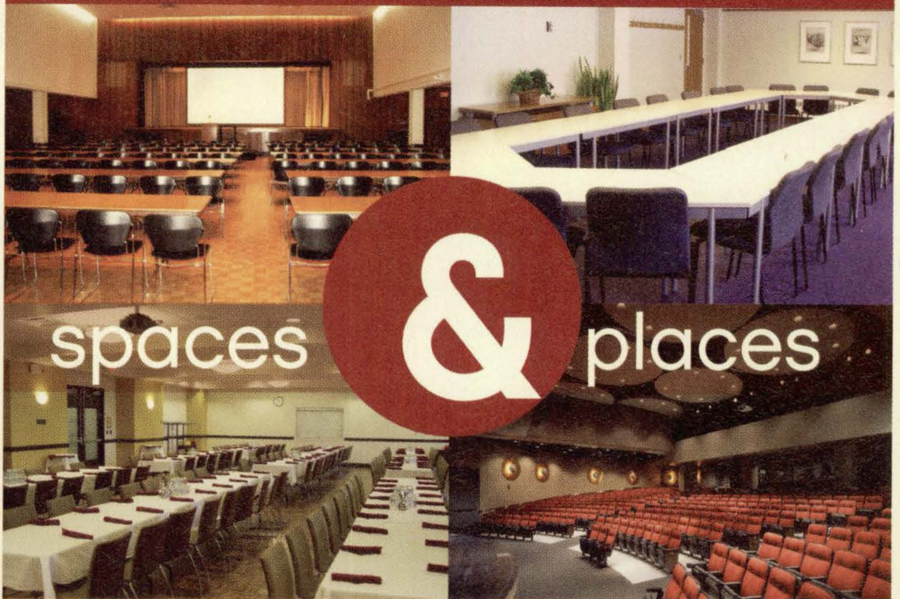




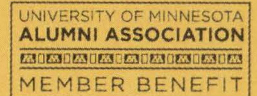


PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANA NOONAN

Events & Conferences at Student Unions & Activities



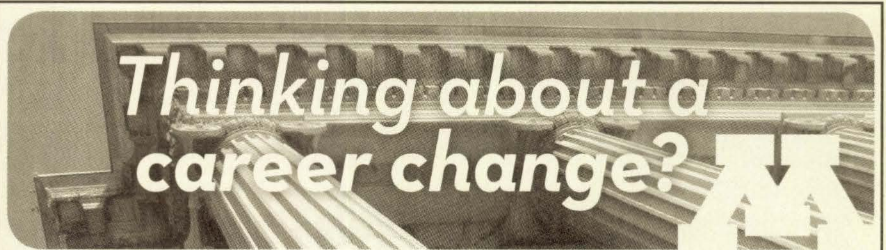
Alumni Association members receive a 10% discount off the "University Guest" room rental rates at Coffman Memorial Union & the St. Paul Student Center



Student Unions & Activities

www.sua.umn.edu/reservations

University of Minnesota
Driven to Discover



Northrop Auditorium, East Bank campus

Career and Lifework Planning Services can help.

We offer career planning services including individual consultations with a lifework consultant, assessments, and online career and lifework resources. Financial aid is available.

One-hour consultations:
$100 (general public)
$80 (U of M Alumni Association members)

www.cce.umn.edu/CareerPlan

612-624-4000

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Offer code: 2199

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
© 2010 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

Zen and the Power of Art

Participants in one of last year's Split Rock Arts Program painting workshops, held at the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center

If art "washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life," as Pablo Picasso proclaimed, most of us could use a good cleansing now and again. This summer, consider the popular Split Rock Arts Program. Now in its 27th season, Split Rock offers 28 ways to embrace your inner artist over the course of an intensive, highly creative week in June or July. The program features 16 workshops on the Twin Cities campus and 12 retreats at the U's bucolic Cloquet Forestry Center, two hours north of the Cities. Alumni Association members receive a discount of $50 on noncredit Split Rock workshops.

The offerings are as intriguing as they are eclectic, with topics like "Quiet Revolution: Knitting and the Political Landscape" and "Courage Revisited: Drawing for the Once Terrified." Expose your hidden Diablo Cody (in the creative writing sense) at "The Art of Screenwriting: An Introduction" with Matthew Specktor June 27–July 2. Sample the world of artist Cheng-Khee Chee—whose painting *Koi No. 1* adorns the Split Rock catalog cover—in his "Watercolor" workshop July 11–16. Or explore "Zen and the Art of Photography" with Doug Beasley, also July 11–16.

No matter your medium, prepare to be inspired *and* challenged, as past participants point out in a promotional video on the Split Rock website. "Split Rock is not a place for sissies," says one, throwing down the gauntlet for those who like a challenge. Adds another: "Split Rock is a week in my life I'll never forget."

For more information go to *www.cce.umn.edu/arts.* —*Rick Moore*

New Benefit: Children's Theatre Company

The Children's Theatre Company (CTC) in Minneapolis is one of the leading professional theaters for young people in North America. Alumni Association members now receive a 10 percent discount to CTC's regular 2010–11 season featuring *Annie, Babe the Sheep Pig, Robin Hood, Lord of the Flies, Bario Grrl!,* and Dr. Seuss's *500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins.* Take advantage of this new member benefit by attending a special performance of *Disney's Mulan, Jr.* on June 12 at 11 a.m. In addition to the performance, members will receive a backstage tour, including of costume shops, rehearsal spaces, a recording studio, green rooms, and underneath the stage. Admission for members is $20 for children and $25 for adults. For more information visit *www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/ctc.*

continued from page 56

so much in setting the course of their lives. But we also need to engage younger alumni, so I'm excited about looking at how we can deliver the business of the Alumni Association to a much broader audience.

Q: What is the business of the Alumni Association?

A: That's a key question that we need to continue to ask ourselves. I believe the Alumni Association is in the business of providing the best service possible to alumni, while at the same time advancing the University's core mission. But I think we have to spend some time examining who our key stakeholders are—that is, who ultimately benefits from the great work of the Alumni Association. How can we best serve them? University President Bob Bruininks has said that public higher education faces a "new normal" and our own university has an opportunity to serve as a model for others across the country.

Now more than ever, our 400,000 alumni need to be informed and engaged advocates of maintaining excellence at our alma mater. We can't be afraid to challenge the traditional model of alumni participation and involvement, and then we have to have the courage to activate whatever we uncover through this process.

Q: What are your goals for the year?

A: Stakeholder-centered leadership and participatory decision-making are important to me. In the next year, I want to get out and visit as many chapters as I can; I want to meet with all of the college deans at the University; I want to connect with as many alumni and volunteers as possible so I can better understand why the University is important to them. Students will also play a key role in shaping our goals and priorities as we define the future of alumni engagement at the University of Minnesota.

These conversations will inform a strategic planning process that we'll begin in a few months, creating our blueprint for the next five years.

Lastly, let's have fun. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES BOYD-BRENT

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bell Museum of Natural History
membership discounts 612-624-0089
Entertainment Discounts Nationwide
movies, shows, parks, etc. 800-565-3712
Great Conversations Lecture Series
ticket discounts 612-624-2345
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
membership discounts 952-443-1400
Northrop Auditorium
ticket discounts 612-624-2345
U of M School of Music
ticket discounts 612-624-2345
University Theatre/MN Centennial Showboat
special offers 612-624-2345
Weisman Art Museum
membership discounts 612-626-5302

EDUCATION & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

U of M Center for Spirituality and Healing
wellness program discounts 612-624-9459
Compleat Scholar Courses
course discounts 612-624-4000
Curiosity Camps
registration discounts 612-624-4000
Libraries Publications Online
access online publications 612-624-9658
U of M School of Dentistry
continuing education discounts 800-685-1418
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
first-year membership discount 612-624-7847
Professional Development Courses
continuing education discounts 612-624-4000
Split Rock Arts Program
workshop discounts 612-625-1976

CAMPUS EVENTS AND DISCOUNTS

D'Amico & Sons McNamara Alumni Center
dining discounts 612-626-9659
Campus Club
membership discounts 612-625-1442
U of M Golf Course
season pass/alumni rates 612-627-4000
Gopher Athletics
special offers 612-624-8080
U of M Libraries
library borrowing discounts 612-624-9339
McNamara Alumni Center
rental discounts for life members 612-625-8876
Radisson University Hotel - Minneapolis
alumni room rates and food discounts 612-379-8888
The Raptor Center
program discounts 612-624-4745
Student Unions & Activities
space rental discounts 612-625-7200

CAREER RESOURCES & NETWORKING

U of M Career & Lifework Planning
workshop/consultation discounts 612-624-4000
U of M Counseling & Consulting Services
career assessment discounts 612-624-3323
U of M Vocational Assessment Clinic
assessment package discounts 612-625-1519

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Affinity Credit Card Issued by Bank of America
Call Bank of America at 800-932-2775; priority code UABA5Z
Auto and Home Insurance
alumni rates 800-225-8281
Life & Medical Insurance
alumni rates 888-560-2586

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Where members are ambassadors

Member Benefits

TRAVEL AND LEISURE

Alumni Travel Program
www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/travel
Car Rentals/Hotel Discounts
800-625-8664
Personal Vacation Club
umaa.virtuocard.com

COMMUNICATION

***Minnesota* magazine**
complimentary subscription
Alumni Association e-mail updates
monthly benefit e-mails 800-862-5867

GOPHER APPAREL AND GIFTS

University Bookstore
merchandise discount 800-551-8636
Gold Country/Goldy's Locker Room
merchandise discounts 612-331-3354

JOIN TODAY! www.MinnesotaAlumni.org • 612-624-9658

Phil and Dani Esten at home with their sons Lucas (left) and Cooper

Esten Aims to Reach More Alumni

On March 15, Phil Esten began his duties as CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. Esten (Ph.D. '03) comes to the Alumni Association from the University of Minnesota Department of Athletics, where he was an associate athletics director. He is also an adjunct professor of a graduate level course, Foundations of Sports Management. Phil sat down with Alumni Association director of communications Julie Shortridge to discuss some of his thoughts after a few months on the job.

Q: Why do you want to lead the Alumni Association?

A: When I was first approached about the opportunity I was immersed in the opening of the TCF Bank Stadium and I was not in the frame of mind to be thinking of other employment. [Esten was the athletics department liaison for the design, construction, operations, and management of the $288.5 million TCF Bank Stadium project.] However, once the stadium opened and I really considered what the Alumni Association does and its tremendous impact on advancing the University's mission, I saw this for the great opportunity that it is. I think it's a natural fit and will be a lot of fun.

Q: You say it feels like a natural fit. How so?

A: What I loved about my previous work is how athletics brings people together as a common point of pride and spirit for the University while also playing an important role in student development. Both of those things—pride and student development—live in the Alumni Association in a broader way. I'm most inspired by the student development aspect of my work, helping students grow as professionals and as individuals, and I feel I can bring that forward at the Alumni Association in a new way.

Students should feel the importance, impact, and value of the Alumni Association from the minute they become part of this campus community, perhaps from the moment they are accepted as students. The Alumni Association has done a nice job of interacting with a more mature alumni base. That's important, since these alumni are more established in their careers and are looking for ways to re-engage with their alma mater, and possibly to give back to the institution that meant

continued on page 54

Phillip Logeman Esten, Jr. (Logeman is his paternal grandmother's maiden name.)

Raised: La Crosse, Wisconsin, the oldest of three boys. Brother Andy is graduating from Tulane Medical School and will be a resident at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, and Chad lives in San Diego, where he works for the city park and recreation department.

Parents: His mother, Mary, and his father, Phil, worked for the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse. His mother worked in the Curriculum Resource Center while also supervising student teachers; his dad was the head cross country coach and assistant track coach and taught in the kinesiology and sport management programs. They are retired and still live in La Crosse.

Education: B.A. in corporate fitness/business from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul; M.A. in sport management from Ohio State University; and Ph.D. in kinesiology with an emphasis in sport management from the University of Minnesota.

Family: Lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Dani, who works in marketing and communications for Allina Hospitals and Clinics, and their two sons, Lucas, 3, and Cooper, 1.

Interests outside of work: Spending time with family, golf, and playing guitar.

The path not followed: "I've always been interested in architecture, mostly residential. After working with the stadium project, I became interested in both design and structural architecture more broadly. If I hadn't pursued a career in higher education I could definitely see myself at a drafting table."

Nickname: PJ, for Phil, Jr. "Often people outgrow or try to run from a nickname, but I actually still like that friends and family call me PJ because it reminds me of home."

Phil Esten can be reached at esten@umn.edu, 612-624-6142, or 800-862-5867.

Reward yourself.

24-HOUR SERVICE | SECURITY PROTECTION | ONLINE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Get something back for your everyday purchases. Use your University of Minnesota Alumni Association Platinum Plus® MasterCard® credit card with WorldPoints® rewards, and you'll earn points you can redeem for cash, travel, merchandise, even unique adventures.♦ Rewards for the things you buy anyway. You also have the chance to show your support for the University of Minnesota Alumni Association every time you present your card.

To apply, call toll-free 1.866.438.6262

Mention Priority Code VAAHXR.

You can also visit www.newcardonline.com and enter Priority Code VAAHXR.

Bank of America

For information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of this card, or to apply, call the toll free number above, visit the Web site listed above or write to P.O. Box 15020, Wilmington, DE 19850.

♦ Terms apply to program features and Credit Card account benefits. For more information about the program, visit www.bankofamerica.com/worldpoints. Details accompany new account materials.

This credit card program is issued and administered by FIA Card Services, N.A. The WorldPoints program is managed in part by independent third parties, including a travel agency registered to do business in California (Reg. No. 2036509-50); Ohio (Reg. No. 87890286); Washington (6011237430) and other states, as required. MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated, and is used by the issuer pursuant to license. WorldPoints, the WorldPoints design and Platinum Plus are registered trademarks of FIA Card Services, N.A. Bank of America and the Bank of America logo are registered trademarks of Bank of America Corporation. All other company product names and logos are the property of others and their use does not imply endorsement of, or an association with, the WorldPoints program. WP.MCV.1209

©2010 Bank of America Corporation AR96989-111009 BAD-03-10-12492

FEB2010

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Roots

Because no matter who you are, it's important to remember where it all starts.

Born in Breckenridge, MN

The Davis family of companies (Davisco, Cambria and Northern Plains/New Sweden Dairies) values connections — with our partners, our customers and our community.

Support of the TCF Bank Stadium
Cambria's natural quartz countertops and flooring are featured throughout the University of Minnesota Stadium. This philanthropic support has placed natural quartz surfaces throughout the new, state-owned TCF Bank Stadium.

Northern Plains/New Sweden Dairies Partnership
U of M veterinary students get hands-on experience at two commercial, educational and demonstration Davis-owned dairies near St. Peter, MN. Through an intimate public/private partnership with the University of Minnesota Veterinary School, the University now has a dormitory, research laboratories and classrooms on site within the Davis' recently built, state-of-the-art, 3000 milking cow dairy farm.

Scholarships via Sobriety High and The College of Agriculture
Cambria/Davisco awards full-time scholarships to Sobriety High high school graduates and College of Agriculture students each school year. Cambria/Davisco scholarship recipients receive full tuition and room/board reimbursement.

Learn more about us at CambriaUSA.com

FAMILY OWNED
American Made

CAMBRIA®