

# MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL 2011

**The 2011  
Gopher Football  
Preview**

**Meet Gopher  
Football Coach  
Jerry Kill**

**Martin Luther  
King Jr.'s 1959  
Campus Visit**



## Happy to Be Back

**Alumnus Eric Kaler  
named 16th president of the  
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**COVER PHOTOGRAPH** University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler in front of Morrill Hall, photograph by Patrick O'Leary. This page, clockwise from top: Kim Heikkila, photograph by Gary Bistram; Juan Ramirez and a mentee, photograph by Josh Kohanek; illustration by Mark Matcho



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## President and CEO

# A Momentous Autumn

The return of students to campus each autumn is as predictable and reassuring as the changing colors of the leaves. Moving into the dorms, navigating campus, and taking on the challenge of another year of classes are among the perennial rituals of higher education.

This year at the University of Minnesota, we are celebrating two momentous rituals that happen far less frequently but with no less excitement: the inaugura-

tion of new University President Eric Kaler and the first season of Gopher football under new head coach Jerry Kill.

While President Kaler and Coach Kill are significantly past their first years of college, they will likely find themselves sharing some things in common with our newest students. Whether one is an 18-year-old freshman or not, new beginnings invariably bring with them a mixture of excitement, uncertainty, and



Phil Esten is president and chief executive officer of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

more than a little trepidation. Being new at a place like the University of Minnesota can be overwhelming. It can even be a bit intimidating. But it can also be inspirational and energizing.

The ritual of inaugurating a new president, with its ceremony, history, and pageantry, is one that we are lucky to witness, given that in the University's 160-year history, President Kaler is only our 16th president.

As our newest leaders, President Kaler and Coach Kill assume the helm at a particularly challenging point in our history—a point at which, frankly, we need some inspiration and energy. As I'm sure many of you know, the University of Minnesota has suffered a state budget cut of more than \$90 million over the next two years. I hope President Kaler's inauguration on September 22 will be a unique moment that can bring all of us together in the midst of the difficulties facing higher education.

Coach Kill's task is to restore Gopher football to excellence. Loyal Gopher fans are hungry to see that happen, and I hope they will fill TCF Bank Stadium this fall to rally Coach Kill and Gopher student athletes. Both President Kaler and Coach Kill have spent the first months of their tenures traveling the state, meeting you, our alumni, as well as numerous other key stakeholders. They have been listening and learning as well as sharing their visions. As I have heard them outline their plans for the future, it is evident to me that they are both deeply committed to openness, transparency, and honest dialogue.

I'm heartened by this. And I hope that you, our alumni and one of our most crucial constituencies, will be as well. There has never been a more vital time to be informed about the state of the University. At the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, we're committed to serving as a resource, providing you with relevant, interesting stories and as much information as possible about what's happening on campus. Speaking of relevant and interesting, I'm particularly excited about this month's features on President Kaler and Coach Kill. I know this will be just the first of many times we'll have news about them to share with you.

Enjoy Minnesota.

—Phil Esten (Ph.D. '03)



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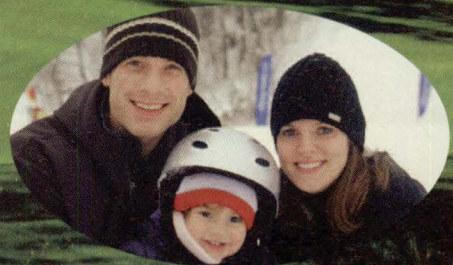
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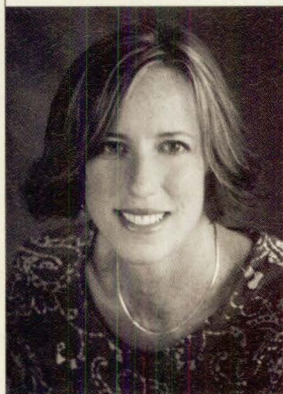
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## Editor's Note

### What's with 1959?

This might disappoint some *Minnesota* readers, but we don't publish theme issues. For example, you'll never pull the magazine from your mailbox and find that it's "The Bob Dylan Issue," in which every story turns on a connection to the famed musician, such as whether he skipped a class in that building, scrawled a lyric on that bathroom wall, or can be heard on University of Minnesota students' iPods today. We hope to offer something for everyone, and if some alumni aren't Dylan fans then they might not find anything of interest in the magazine and we just lost a reader.



Shelly Fling

But we were well into the preparation of this issue of *Minnesota* when I noticed a potential problem. I was looking over the lineup one day and felt a theme staring back at me. Oops. Here we were about to publish two unrelated historical stories revolving around noteworthy happenings on campus in the fall of 1959.

It was a coincidence but it looked like poor planning. I didn't want to alienate readers who really detest the year 1959, so I rifled through my idea file for a last-minute replacement story. I could dust off that article on Bob Dylan, I thought. But darn it if Dylan's brief stint as a U student wasn't *in the fall of 1959*. Or we could pull together a story on the Dalai Lama, who had visited campus this spring. But, come to think of it, the Dalai Lama's story of exile begins . . . *in 1959*.

I decided just to run with our two stories. The timing was perfect for each—one, a humorous reminiscence on the genesis of the core of the Gopher football team that would go on to win a national championship and a Rose Bowl (page 18), the other on the events surrounding Martin Luther King Jr.'s visit to campus to speak at a civil rights conference hosted by the U's Program in American Studies (page 38). If the stories' commonalities hadn't struck me the first three times I had read them, then maybe nobody else would notice either.

I began thinking about how, with the passage of time, every year begins to symbolize one major, important event. For most of us, 1963 is President John F. Kennedy's assassination; 1987 is the Twins' first World Series win; 2001 will forever mean 9/11. The year 1959 hadn't meant much to me but suddenly was popping up everywhere. I looked back to learn what else was going on in the world that year. Of course, that was when Castro overthrew Batista and Alaska and Hawaii became states. But I also learned that Princeton tested the first fallout shelter; the quiz-show scandal broke; the first telephone cable linked Europe and the United States; and the Hula Hoop craze appeared to be over.

I looked to the *Alumni News*, the name of this magazine at the time, to find out what was making headlines on campus that fall. For some U alumni, that year is perhaps remembered for the Minnesota State Legislature's record-breaking 49-day-long extra session followed by "the economy axe" it drove "right through the heart" of the U. For others, it may be remembered for the announcement that the U's expansion to the west bank of the Mississippi River was official. Perhaps others think fondly of the 17-ton, 60-foot-long Univac 1103 calculator changing the speed and accuracy of University research.

For many alumni, the year 2011 will one day symbolize the year they started at the U, watched campus begin to be transformed by light-rail transit, saw Coach Jerry Kill usher in a new era of Gopher football, or welcomed Eric Kaler as the new president. ■

Shelly Fling may be reached at [fling003@umn.edu](mailto:fling003@umn.edu). For more of *Minnesota*, go to [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Minnesota](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Minnesota)





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# Letters

## PRESERVATION AND PERSEVERANCE

This past February began the restoration of the visually and emotionally overwhelming Northrop Auditorium. My introduction and response to that imposing structure will remain vivid forever. I'd registered as a new graduate student in the summer of 1952. I wanted to reassure my mother that my off-campus accommodations, called "The Bastille," operated by Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, were entirely acceptable.

Eventually we proceeded to the impressive mall, designed by famed architect Cass Gilbert, and the noble, classically stylized Northrop Auditorium. Within sight of literally no other person, Mother and I scampered up the many steps to where heavy steel doors seemed to invite, then embrace us. We escorted ourselves into the three-floor-high lobby filled with statues, objets d'art, and exquisite amphora. The auditorium lay silent, dimly lit that day long ago. We slowly strolled down the long, sloping center aisle, approaching the magnificent stage and orchestra pit while craning necks toward those high ceilings.

As I reminisce, I try to picture Northrop during spring commencement in 1930, the building just two years old. Sharp eyes, possibly some teary, search for sons and daughters, kith and kin, seated on that stage. Some parents feel haunted by the previous year's calamity, October 29, 1929, when the stock market crashed, beginning the Great Depression. What *will* these kids' futures bring?

Today, parents wonder, "How will this current economic upheaval affect our young people, now proudly grasping fresh diplomas. How *can* they fare during their next 10 years?"

Somewhat like a semi-religious experience, Mother and I con-

templated unlimited implications for all these silent, empty seats. Truly imposing buildings do deliver powerful, profound messages for some fortunates.

Good luck and good fortune to our precious Minnesota icon, Northrop Auditorium, during and long after its revitalization!

**Earl Schreiber (M.A. '54)**  
Ceylon, Minnesota

## STUDY THE U'S DEGREE OFFERINGS

Recently the federal government issued new rules requiring for-profit colleges to demonstrate that they prepare students for gainful employment or lose federal student aid. That point made me consider that there are some degrees offered by the University of Minnesota with little or no employment opportunities.

I understand and appreciate the concept of providing a broad education. However, the thought of all the time and money that some students expend to obtain degrees in areas that do not provide employment opportunities makes me very uneasy. We should feel guilty about promoting/supporting this misuse of precious human capital. If we are looking to save money we should strongly consider eliminating some of our degree programs based on statistics similar to those being applied to the for-profit schools.

**Don Holmstrom (B.S. '80)**  
San Diego

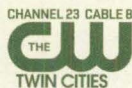
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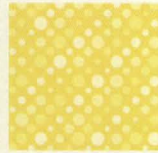
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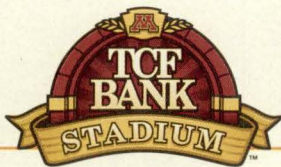
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## Campus Cornucopia

Summertime brings an abundance of fresh produce to campus as the Farmers Market springs to life every Wednesday on the Church Street pedestrian mall. Sponsored by the University Office of Human Resources' Wellness Program, the market starts in mid-July and runs through early October. It features local vendors—including Cornercopia, the student-managed organic farm on the St. Paul campus—which sells fresh berries, vegetables, and herbs. Pictured are members of the University community perusing the day's selection.



## \$51 Million Worth of Collaboration

The National Institutes of Health, the federal government's medical research agency, awarded a five-year, \$51 million grant to the University of Minnesota's Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) in June. It's the largest grant the U has ever received solely for its own use.

With the grant, called the Clinical and Translational Studies Award (CTSA), the U joins the CTSA Consortium, a national network of research institutions working to increase the speed with which the results of clinical trials translate into new treatments, cures, and improved health outcomes. A typical concept-to-market cycle can take up to a decade or more.

The grant will be used to create and expand the U's collaboration with other members of the consortium; such collaboration is considered key to the consortium meeting its goals. For example, a portion of the grant could go toward creating a database that multiple institutions could access and contribute research to on a particular disease. The grant will also enable the U to train a new generation of researchers to engage in collaborative efforts early in their careers.

"This award is about capitalizing on the most promising research and putting findings into practice to improve the health of our patients and communities," says Bruce Blazar, CTSI director and leader of the CTSA program at the University.



## Weisman Art Museum Reopens

The Weisman Art Museum, which has been closed for renovation since last fall, will welcome back the public with WAMdemonium, a grand reopening celebration on October 2 from 1 to 6 p.m. It's an opportunity to wander and explore the 8,100-square-foot expansion, which is dedicated to WAM's collection of ceramics, photography and prints, and American paintings and sculptures. WAMdemonium is free and will also offer entertainment for children and families. For more information, visit [www.weisman.umn.edu](http://www.weisman.umn.edu).



The Weisman Art Museum's expansion is at the far right in this photograph.

## Make Way for Green Space—Again

Wesbrook Hall, one of the U's oldest buildings, is no more. The 115-year-old former home to the medical and dental schools and the College of Continuing Education was demolished in August to make way for green space outside Northrop Auditorium. University officials had determined that upgrading Wesbrook was cost-prohibitive.

According to U historian Ann Pflaum, the new green space will replace green space that was lost when Northrop was built in 1928. Pflaum also notes that there is apparently no truth to the rumor that gold was hidden in Wesbrook's walls, a legend that took hold when the building housed the dental school in the early 20th century and dentists routinely used gold for fillings.







In this photograph from 1919, University of Minnesota plant pathology students and faculty study a fungus that has attacked a crop. The photo is part of the exhibit *Minnesota Roots of the Green Revolution: A Legacy of Greatness*.

## Minnesota Roots of the Green Revolution

In the mid-1930s Norman Borlaug (B.S. '37, M.S. '39, Ph.D. '42), then an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota, attended a lecture by U plant pathologist Professor E.C. Stakman titled "Those Shifty Little Enemies Who Destroy Our Cereal Crops." Borlaug would later recall it as the moment when he knew plant pathology was his calling. (See "Combating the 'Shifty Little Enemies'" in the winter 2011 issue of *Minnesota*.) Borlaug would go on to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in fomenting the Green Revolution, which helped feed millions of people around the world.

Under Stakman's leadership, the U's plant pathology department was the premier program of its time. Borlaug is its most well-known graduate, but he was just one of many brilliant

young scientists who passed through its doors. University Archives documents this story in its exhibit, *Minnesota Roots of the Green Revolution: A Legacy of Greatness*. It showcases the rare and unique agriculture records from the Archives' Green Revolution collections, including the Borlaug and Stakman papers. "The Minnesota roots of the Green Revolution is the University of Minnesota's greatest story never told—it was and remains our highest impact moment, but is unknown to most," says Richard Zeyen, professor emeritus of plant pathology.

The exhibit runs through October 21 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, on the University's West Bank. For more information, go to [special.lib.umn.edu/events](http://special.lib.umn.edu/events).

## Pedal Pushers Proliferate

The League of American Bicyclists named the Twin Cities campus a Bicycle Friendly University (BFU), one of 20 colleges and universities nationwide to receive the designation. What makes the U a BFU? Some of campus's pedal-friendly features are:

- ❖ 7,000 bike parking spaces
- ❖ One bike shop for every 2,500 students, faculty, or staff within 5 miles
- ❖ A new campus bike center inside the Oak Street Parking Ramp that offers 24/7 secure bike parking, a repair service, a retail outlet for bike accessories, and showers for bike commuters
- ❖ Access to Minneapolis's cycling infrastructure, which includes 127 miles of bikeways and the highest number of bike parking spaces per capita in the country. Four of the city's five streets most heavily used by bikers are on campus, including No. 1—the Washington Avenue Bridge, which carries an estimated 6,850 bikers per day.
- ❖ Participation in Nice Ride Minnesota, a low-cost public bike sharing program. Campus has 11 kiosks where riders can check out and return bikes.



One of Nice Ride Minnesota's bike racks on campus



## New Circumstances Mean No Pomp

Fall graduates of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) will no longer have their own commencement ceremony in December. CLA has long been the only University undergraduate college to host a fall ceremony, but the closure of Northrop Auditorium for renovation forced the cancellation of the event, according to CLA Dean James Parente. A committee explored alternatives to Northrop, but none were found to meet requirements for cost, accessibility, and acoustics. The college will instead host a celebration for graduates and guests. Fall graduates are also invited to participate in the spring ceremony.

## Overheard on Campus

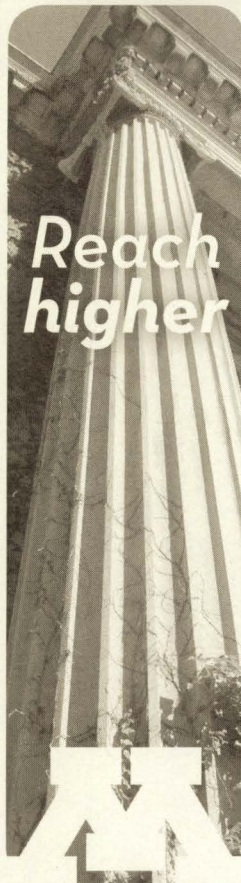
"I could sense a little, 'What the hell is this old guy doing in our class? Does he know where he is?' But it never bothered me."

—Mike Lawrence (B.A. '11), quoted in the *Minnesota Daily*. Lawrence graduated last spring at age 84 with a multidisciplinary degree in theater, music, and communications studies.

## State Cuts U by \$90 Million

On July 12, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton signed a higher education bill that sets the University's funding at \$545.3 million per year for 2012 and 2013, \$90 million less than the allocation for the last biennium. A separate capital investment bill included \$88.8 million for three U projects: \$51.3 for a new physics and nanotechnology building, \$12.5 million toward mitigating the effects of the Central Corridor transit way, and \$25 million in higher education asset preservation and restoration funding, which will be used to make code-required improvements to elevators and address water infiltration issues system-wide.

BIKE PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE ROEBUCK; GREEN REVOLUTION PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Northrop Auditorium column, East Bank campus

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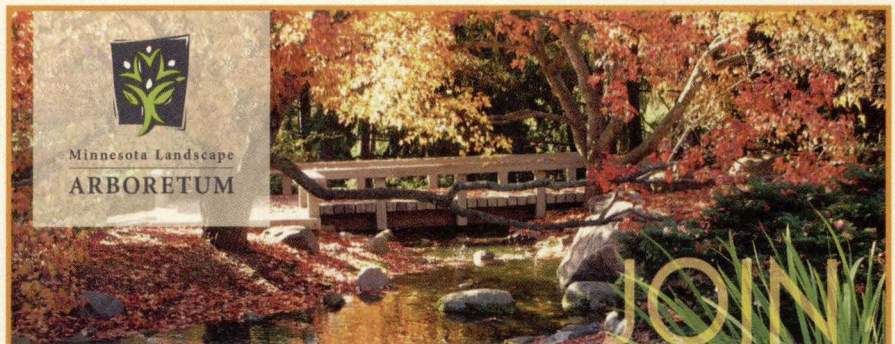
Upcoming courses include:

- **Emotional Intelligence for Administrative Professionals** (October 20, 2011)
- **Making Breakthrough Thinking and Innovation Habitual** (October 27, 2011)
- **Financial Intelligence: Basic Business by the Numbers** (November 3, 2011)
- **Leading Fearlessly** (November 10, 2011)

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## Poor Eating Habits Persist

Adolescents who adopt unhealthy eating habits will likely become adults with unhealthy eating habits, according to new research by Project Eating Activity in Teens and Young Adults (Project EAT) in the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health. School of Public Health Professor and Project EAT director Dianne Neumark-Sztainer led the study.

Unhealthy eating habits include binge eating and extreme weight control measures such as skipping meals, using diet pills, laxatives, and self-induced vomiting.

Researchers collected data on 1,030 young men and 1,257 young women during a 10-year longitudinal study that examined eating, activity, and weight-related variables. Participants were between 12 and 16 years old when the study began.

About half the females surveyed reported dieting in the past year, compared with about a fourth of the males. The prevalence of dieting remained fairly constant from adolescence through young adulthood for females. However, the study found that dieting significantly increased among males as they progressed from middle adolescence to middle young adulthood. Among older males, extreme weight control behaviors also increased.

The study was published in the July issue of the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*.

## Neighborliness Saves Lives

Seniors who interact with their neighbors and count on them for help have better odds of surviving a stroke than their peers who are less social, according to research at the University of Minnesota Medical School and Rush University in Chicago. Lead author of the study is Cari Jo Clark, assistant professor of medicine at the U.

Previous research has demonstrated that social isolation adversely impacts health. But this research is unique in focusing on the neighborhood level. Researchers interviewed 5,789 seniors living in three adjacent neighborhoods in Chicago to determine how frequently they interacted with or asked a favor of neighbors, how many of their neighbors they knew by name, and how frequently they saw neighbors interacting and taking care of each other. Accounting for other variables such as socioeconomic status, high blood pressure, smoking, physical inactivity, diabetes, and obesity, the study found that while stroke incidence didn't differ among neighborhoods, stroke survival was far better for seniors living in cohesive neighborhoods. However, the benefit was observed only among whites; why nonwhites, specifically African Americans, did not fare as well is unclear and warrants further study, researchers said.

The study was published in the April 14 issue of *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*.



## Boy, Stay Away from Smoke!

Exposure to secondhand smoke, even at extremely low levels, is associated with increased blood pressure in boys, according to research led by Jill Baumgartner, a research fellow at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

Previous studies have documented the adverse effects of secondhand smoke on blood pressure in adults, but this was the first study to examine this relationship in children. Researchers analyzed data on 6,421 youths gathered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1999 to 2006. Results showed that boys ages 8 to 17 years old who were exposed to secondhand smoke had significantly higher blood pressure than boys not exposed to tobacco smoke. While the study makes clear that the cardiovascular effects of tobacco smoke begin early in life, it is not known whether these effects are reversible if children are removed from smoke exposure.

The findings also showed that girls who were exposed to secondhand smoke had lower blood pressures than girls who were not exposed—a finding that supports previous studies suggesting that something about female physiology may provide protection from harmful vascular changes due to secondhand smoke exposure.

The research was presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting in May.



## Blown Coverage

Minnesota was one of 11 states to experience a decline of 10 percentage points or more in the number of residents covered by employer-sponsored health insurance (ESI) in the past decade, according to a report by the University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC). Eighty-one percent of state residents received ESI in 1999-2000, and 71 percent in 2008-2009, the most recent years for which data is available. Nationally, the decline is 8 percentage points. During the same period, the rate of non-elderly Minnesotans who had public health insurance nearly doubled, from 8 percent to 15 percent, and the number with no coverage increased from 7 percent to 9 percent.

The drop in ESI coverage disproportionately affected moderate- and low-income families. A decade ago, about 44 percent of families with a household income of \$44,000 received ESI, and today just over a third do.

School of Public Health professor and SHADAC director Lynn Blewett authored the report. It is available at [www.shadac.org](http://www.shadac.org).



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## A Down-to-Earth Discovery

Two University of Minnesota researchers have developed a process for tapping heat beneath the earth's surface that produces renewable electricity more efficiently than conventional geothermal systems and also helps reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

The established method for transforming Earth's heat into electricity involves extracting

hot water from rock formations several hundred feet from the Earth's surface at the world's few natural hot spots, then using the hot water to turn power-producing turbines. In contrast, the new approach, termed CO<sub>2</sub>-plume geothermal system (CPG), uses high-pressure CO<sub>2</sub> instead of water. Since CO<sub>2</sub> travels through porous rock more easily than water does, it extracts heat

more efficiently. Additionally, CPG can be used in regions where conventional geothermal electricity production is not possible. It also sequesters CO<sub>2</sub> deep underground, where it cannot contribute to climate change.

The researchers, Department of Earth Sciences assistant professor Martin Saar and graduate student Jimmy Randolph, have applied for a patent and plan to commercialize the new technology. Their research was published in *Geophysical Research Letters* 2011, volume 38.



## Risky Choices Tied to Poverty

People's socioeconomic status in childhood determines whether they are inclined to make risky financial choices in search of a quick windfall or avoid risky transactions to protect their future well-being, according to new research led by assistant professor of marketing Vidas Griskevicius at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

The research found that people who grow up resource-deprived are more likely to develop a "live fast and die young" ethic that prompts them to take risks for immediate rewards when they feel threatened. The study gave the example of a New York man who grew up in a poor neighborhood who responded to the September 11 attacks by spending his savings on lottery tickets. In contrast, subjects raised in a more predictable world, where they did not have to worry about their basic needs being met, responded to the same stressor by becoming more cautious.


Researchers say their study also suggests that attempts to motivate at-risk kids to stay in school or avoid risky behaviors by appealing to their future well-being might be ineffective. Rather, they say, what's needed is to instill a sense of predictability about the world.

The research was published in the June issue of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

## Wealth by Chance

All investors have an equal chance of success, but chance favors the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. That's the conclusion of a study led by Joseph Fargione, an adjunct professor of ecology, evolution, and behavior in the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences.

The researchers built a simplified model that isolates the effects of chance and found that it consistently pushes wealth into the hands of a few, ever-richer people. The reason: With compounding capital returns, some individuals will have a string of high returns and, over time, will accumulate an overwhelming share of the wealth. The model predicts that the rate at which wealth concentrates depends on the variation among individual return rates. For example, when variation is high, it would take only 100 years for the top 1 percent to increase their share of total wealth from 40 percent—near the current level in the United States—to 90 percent. Healthy economies support diverse entrepreneurial efforts, leading to high economic growth. But concentration of wealth reduces diversity, and with it the most likely growth rate for a country's economy, researchers said. As wealth concentrates with a few individuals, the growth of an economy will depend more and more on the returns of those few, making the economy less resilient to disruptions in their investments. The study was published in the July 20 issue of the journal *PLoS ONE*.

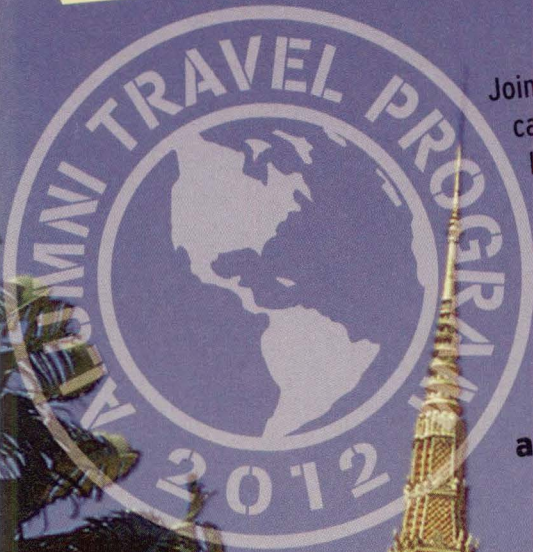
 Discoveries is edited by Cynthia Scott. University of Minnesota Alumni Association members may access many of the journals that published these studies through the Libraries Online member benefit. Go to [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Libraries](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Libraries).



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# A Human **Tackling Dummy**

## How I helped the Gophers go to the Rose Bowl

**IN THE FALL OF 1959**, even as the Gopher football team stumbled through another losing season, I was riding high. If I wasn't exactly scoring on other fronts—grades weren't the best, still a little shy with girls—I was well entrenched in the basement of Murphy Hall, having been named sports editor of the *Minnesota Daily* the spring before. I was no longer the football beat man, the reporter who covered the team from day to day, but better than that I had my own column, with all the perks. Which didn't necessarily entitle me to create a ruckus that not only made local headlines but enraged an entire college football team.

That incident was not on my mind almost 50 years

later when, researching a memoir that dealt in part with the ups and downs of circa 1960 Gopher football, I dialed a number on the west coast of Florida. I was more interested in what brought Judge Dickson (B.A. '62, J.D. '65), a sophomore back in '59, and two other black high school stars from Pennsylvania, Bill Munsey and the nonpareil Sandy Stephens, to a largely homegrown and 95 percent white Minnesota squad. I left a message on Dickson's voicemail and waited a day or two to hear from him. And waited a little longer. And then let it go for a time.

Among the best perks of my new *Daily* position in 1959 were the Friday night shindigs at the Pick-Nicollet Hotel—dinner and cocktails hosted by Otis (Oty) Dyp-

ESSAY BY DAVID BUTWIN >> ILLUSTRATION BY MARK MATCHO



wick (B.A. '33), the sweet, tall, balding U sports publicist who had the job from 1944 to 1976. The guests were visiting coaches and athletics directors and local and out-of-town football writers. I went out and bought a tweed jacket, wool slacks, and skinny paisley tie at Maurice L. Rothschild, a downtown St. Paul haberdashery, for the occasion. The slacks had a little wool belt in back, a brief fashion adornment of the era; I still have the jacket and tie.

I loved being in the company of these hale wordsmiths, men like Cooper Rollow and Wilfrid Smith of the *Chicago Tribune*, Bert McGrane of the *Des Moines Register*, and Arno Goethal of the Duluth papers. On Saturday, I'd climb to the press box at the top of Memorial Stadium carrying my slim Olivetti Lettera typewriter, a little Continental touch this college boy didn't mind affecting. The press box had a lower deck for the prime newspaper and wire service reporters and U publicity men and a second deck for outstate writers, us *Daily* staffers, and a few guests. I was a Saturday stringer for the *Chicago Tribune*, a gig that fell each autumn to the *Daily* sports editor, paying \$25 a game. My job was to write a running account of the action and feed sheets of copy to a Western Union operator seated in the front row who would dispatch my words to 435 North Michigan Avenue. (My mother wondered about my connection to the notoriously conservative, isolationist *Trib*, but I assured her the sports section was apolitical.)

In the stadium, the sound of 60,000 in full throat was deafening, but the long, glassed-in press box reduced the noisiest eruption to a raucous rumble. Within that charmed sanctum you could just make out the staccato delivery of the P.A. announcer, Julius Perlt—the very same voice my father had heard during the mid-'30s glory years. Fans of a certain age remember Perlt's backward announcement of an upset: "Here is a score from South Bend, Notre Dame 7 . . . Purdue 21!" This was always greeted by hysterical applause, but the line that got the biggest howl, in the corners of the big horseshoe where students nipped at flasks, was his pregame warning about the "wrongful use and consumption of intoxicating beverages."

At halftime, the poets of the press box would huddle on a rear catwalk for hot dogs, pop, and coffee. This was an all-male domain (other than the Western Union operators), an era decades before women cracked the sports pages and roamed freely through locker rooms. Drinking was rife in the business; some of the men packed flasks or bottles of booze. But otherwise it was all work, and I loved joining the chorus of two dozen men hammering their typewriters on deadline. There was the gifted Jim Klobuchar (B.A. '50), standing in the front row to deliver his game story over the phone to the Associated Press office, ad-libbing all the way, pausing only to glance at notes and sheets of statistics handed out by Dypwick's helpers.

When the game ended I'd write my lead in time to make the *Trib's* bulldog edition, even as Rollow or Smith tapped out the game story to replace mine in later editions. Then I'd snake-hip down the steps through the exiting crowd to the locker room for

postgame quotes. I was after *Daily* pearls but also, as a stringer for *Sports Illustrated* (\$35 a game), harvesting words of wisdom from the visiting coach. On Sunday morning I'd beat it down to Shinders on Hennepin Avenue to pick up the *Chicago Trib* and see how much of my copy had scraped through.

But even as I was riding high that fall, the Gophers were so starved for success that when they broke a long run or scored more than two touchdowns in a game, the normally unimpress- sionable barons of the press box took to whooping it up, my voice among them. In the midst of a 4-18 slump going back to the middle of the 1957 season, the Gophers hit rock bottom in

November after a lopsided loss to Iowa. The backs were plodding, the defense was porous, and, on November 12, a *Pioneer Press* headline blared: "Rumors Fly, But Warmath Answers 'No Comment.'" The story reported that a local cabal had pledged to buy up Gopher football coach Murray Warmath's contract, good through the 1961 season, and oust him from the job.

After the Iowa defeat, I let loose in my column. Reading it today makes me squirm, wishing for clearer logic and style. I decried the lack of speed and elusiveness in the Gophers' attack, offering that if you wanted to see a decent running back at Memorial Stadium you could go to the Twin City High School Championship Game that week and watch the tailback for St. Paul Harding. The next morning I turned to the *Pioneer Press* sports page and, under a banner headline, a story by Roger Rosenblum reported that Gopher players, "smarting under comments

about their performance last week at Iowa," were vowing to "take it out on Purdue." The story went on: "One article in the campus newspaper Tuesday had the players so incensed they pasted the author's name on two heavy punching bags in the locker room and took frequent swipes at it."

I felt like a victim of Nightmare Alice, the Al Capp character who stuck pins in her voodoo dolls. Over the next week or so the "author" made himself scarce around the Cooke Hall athletics offices at the open end of the stadium. Over in Murphy Hall, home to the J school, I could see that Jim Rogers (B.A. '61), a fullback and fellow journalism major, was avoiding me. I drove to school that fall in my '54 Chevrolet Powerglide, and one of my perks was a parking permit in the Cooke Hall lot, which I now used with caution. Late one afternoon, after laying out the sports page, I walked to my car, approaching like a cat burglar. There was a note on the windshield. The gist was: "Stay the hell away from here if you value your life." Beneath were scrawled the names of several varsity players. The next day when I told the story to friend Don Gahr, he burst out laughing. He and a buddy had planted the note.

Of course, Warmath survived the '59 season amid effigy hang- ings, won a national championship the next year, a Rose Bowl the year after, and stepped down after the 1971 season, something of a god, or at least a godfather, to many of his players, includ- ing several black stars who moved up to the varsity during that

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**Late one afternoon, after laying out the sports page, I walked to my car, approaching like a cat burglar. There was a note on the windshield. The gist was: "Stay the hell away from here if you value your life." Beneath were scrawled the names of several varsity players.**

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dismal '59 season. One of them, Judge Dickson, owed me a call. I decided to dial his number again.

The voice I heard was firm but gentle. I identified myself and was surprised to hear Dickson say, "I know who you are—I remember you."

Judge Dickson was not a name you could forget. I could see a rounded face lit up by a wide smile. He was a hard-running fullback who had helped lead Minnesota out of the late-'50s wilderness to two Big Ten championships and the Rose Bowl victory. Dickson, from the gritty steel town of Clairton, Pennsylvania, was a jumbo high jumper on the U track team who at 230 pounds once cleared 6 feet, 6 inches. I knew he was a retired lawyer and an active M Club member. The rest I hoped he'd tell me. We talked pleasantries for a few minutes, and then he said, "Can you call me back in 15 minutes? I'm expecting a call from Minneapolis."

Was this another jock trying to ditch a reporter? Was I being paranoid? I decided not to wait three months this time and called him back 30 minutes later. Judge Dickson was ready to talk. I asked him how it all started, what sent him to Minnesota.

Over the next 15 minutes he talked almost nonstop, setting down the details with the exactitude of the well-ordered lawyer: how he'd met and become friends with Sandy Stephens at a summer football camp in the mountains near Pittsburgh and, along with their brother in arms, Bill Munsey, made a pact to go to Minnesota because "they always had big strong linemen but they could use some better backs. . . . Sandy was the ring leader. We said, 'We'll upgrade that team, we'll win the Big Ten and go to the Rose Bowl, and we'll have three-fourths of the backfield after Muns gets there.'"

Dickson said he was wooed by 50 colleges; Stephens, recruited by Jim Marshall to Ohio State, backed away when he heard that coach Woody Hayes would not start a black player at quarterback. In the end, a geographic fluke steered the Pennsylvanians to Minnesota: The mayor of nearby McKeesport, Pennsylvania, had served in the Navy with John Mariucci, the colorful U of M hockey coach, and the mayor tipped off "Maroosh," who advised Warmath to get in the running. Around the same time, the Minneapolis *Tribune's* Carl Rowan (M.A. '48) was urging Warmath to

recruit more black players. In the fall of 1958, Dickson and Stephens entered the U, and Munsey came a year later.

Dickson the lawyer was summing up. And then he said something that almost knocked me out of my chair.

"So when you look back, we accomplished everything we wanted. Yes, we lost the first Rose Bowl, but we won a national championship, won the second Rose Bowl, and made up three-fourths of the backfield that year. But some people didn't believe in us along the way. We put his name up on a punching bag and beat the crap out of it."

"Are you talking about me?" I blurted.

"That's right—the name on the article, the name on the punching bag, was Dave Butwin. That's why I didn't call you back. You and others—talking about our 'heavy-footed' backfield, the effigy hangings—it all made us hang together even closer, Warmath included. When you wrote that article, it was like somebody came and just s--- on the whole team. I remember you came in the locker room and we said, 'Here's that [expletive] Butwin.' You didn't stay around long."

I let out a groan. But he wasn't finished. "We punched you and the article long and hard. And you know what? You helped us coalesce. Dave, you were walking into a room that day that was being rebuilt. I'm telling you, the article was so important. Yes, you are part of the history."

By now I was stunned into speechlessness, a rare condition for me. And then I heard Judge Dickson say:

"You know what—I was the one who pasted your article on the tackling dummy." ■

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*David Butwin (B.A. '61) has written widely on travel, sports, lifestyle, and humor for Esquire, Sports Illustrated, Travel & Leisure, and many other publications. A native of St. Paul, he lives in Leonia, New Jersey, and Owls Head, Maine. A version of this essay is part of a memoir he is finishing. Judge Dickson (B.A. '62, J.D. '65) is working on a documentary about Gopher football from 1958 through 1961 and the building of a championship team.*

*First Person essays may be written by University of Minnesota alumni, students, faculty, or staff. For writers' guidelines, go to [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/) firstperson.*

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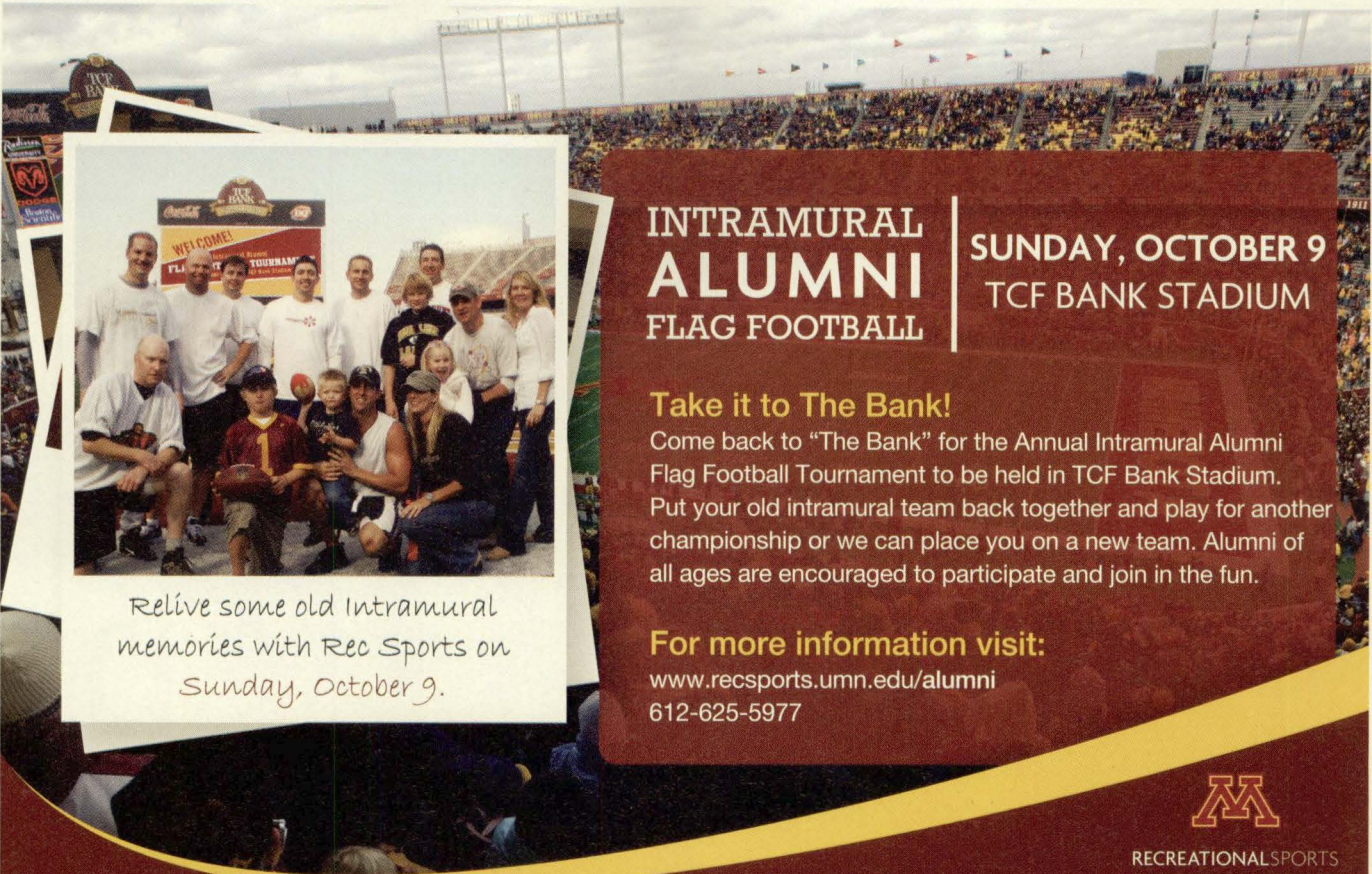


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# Happy to Be Back

Alumnus **Eric Kaler** (Ph.D. '82), named 16th president of the University of Minnesota, expects to remove barriers for qualified students to attend the U and for every college, school, and program to be among the best.

## or the first day in months,

Morrill Hall is hushed. The phones are quiet. The echo of lone footsteps fades down a vacant corridor. It's late in the afternoon prior to the start of the Fourth of July weekend, and just about everyone on campus has taken the day off. But not members of the University of Minnesota Marching Band, who trumpeted the arrival of Eric Kaler (Ph.D. '82) early that morning for his first day on the job as president of the University of Minnesota.

For the previous six months, president-designate Kaler had been visiting campus every few weeks from his New York base, meeting with faculty, students, and other stakeholders and reacquainting himself with his alma mater while outgoing president Bob Bruininks wrapped up his nine-year term. Now he's got perhaps the last quiet afternoon he'll have to himself in years, and he's using it to settle in. Freshly painted, his office is strewn with boxes, books, and a shocking number of chickens—metal, ceramic, stained glass—many of them blue. The blue hen is the mascot of the University of Delaware, where Kaler was a professor of chemical engi-

neering and eventually dean of the College of Engineering (1989–2000), and a flock of the hens followed him to Stony Brook University (New York), where he was most recently provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and now to Minnesota.

"Somebody went somewhere and brought back for me a blue hen and I was quite pleased with it," Kaler explains, gazing over his collection. "And then somebody else said, 'Oh, you like these things—I'll get you one.' It did sort of get out of hand."

Kaler walks around his office until he finds what he's looking for, a stuffed animal on the window ledge. "I'm clearly a little bit lean on gophers. I have only one."

That is about to change. Kaler tells everyone, from regents to reporters, that he is as happy as any human could possibly be to have been named 16th president of the University of Minnesota. His understated sense of humor will serve him well. The state of Minnesota faces ongoing budget challenges, and state funding of the University continues to decline.



By Shelly Fling // Photographs by Patrick O'Leary





**College of Design students Mari Mihai and Uriah Mendoza visit with President Eric Kaler on Northrop Mall. President Kaler loves to meet and talk with students, encouraging them to get out of their dorm rooms and take advantage of all the opportunities the University offers.**

Meanwhile, the University has a mission to fulfill, and President Kaler has a vision to guide it. Says Kaler: “We are going to move forward as quickly as we can because we can’t afford to wait.”

**E**ric William Kaler, who turns 55 this September, was born in Burlington, Vermont, into a military family and grew up in cities around the United States. “When I have to give a short answer to where I’m from I say New Mexico because I graduated from Alamogordo High School and lived there two times,” he says. “Half my young life was in Alamogordo.”

He may have been destined to become a scientist, remembering that he was always curious about how things worked. “I built models of everything.” He rolls up his left sleeve to reveal a long-healed wound. “This is my first woodcarving scar. That happened when I was 11 years old,” he says with pride. He came to love woodworking because of his father, who was mechanically inclined and always working on something. In Kaler’s public forum interview in November 2010, after the Board of Regents unanimously forwarded him as their only candidate from a pool

of 148, he called his father his hero. He grew emotional and stopped short of saying more. Today he adds a few words about his regard for his father. “He was self-educated. Throughout his life he was always learning, always reading, always doing. He had a great sense of humor, a very warm, fun person. A super human being.”

Kaler is an only child whose middle name honors his uncle, his mother’s brother, who died in a car accident shortly before Kaler was born. Most people can tell he’s an only child, he says. Indeed, only children are often high achievers and known to be conscientious and agreeable. “My wife is a middle child and is precisely a middle child. She builds consensus.”

**“I’m an engineer, so I like data. I also like to question assumptions,” Kaler says. “I expect to have a spirited discussion around data and assumptions. It’s a lot like the scientific method. You test assumptions. You make some measurements. And you move forward.”**



Karen Kaler, a graphic designer, says she knew that her husband would be named president as soon as he applied. The two met in 1979 at the University of Tennessee when he was doing summer research after completing his bachelor's degree from the California Institute of Technology. By then he was Minnesota bound for his graduate studies in chemical engineering. He proposed to her at Jax Café in northeast Minneapolis and they were married six months later. They have two adult sons (Charlie just earned a law degree from George Washington University and Sam is an undergraduate at Auburn University) and own two Spanish water dogs.

Kaler says his experience at the University of Minnesota, whose chemical engineering department was—and still is—one of the best in the nation, transformed his life. “It was the experience of being absolutely on the front lines of my research field. People from all around the world visited us. It was my first real, day-to-day experience with science at the highest level, and it was inspiring. It was an eye-opening experience.”

But Kaler never thought he'd stay in academia. “I absolutely, *absolutely* was going to be the youngest senior vice president at Exxon. That was my goal. I fully expected to go into industrial research and climb that ladder.” But then his adviser, Ted Davis, who later became dean of the Institute of Technology (now the College of Science and Engineering) at the U, asked Kaler if he could fill in and teach a class. “Talk about transformative,” he says, shaking his head. “I had a great connection and resonance with the students, and that changed my mind.”

From the University of Minnesota, Kaler moved on to the University of Washington, the University of Delaware, and Stony Brook. Today he misses the firsthand experience of teaching. “At the graduate level, taking fresh students, Ph.D. students, and watching them grow and mature as human beings and scientists and then turning them out and watching them have their own success—it's extremely rewarding,” he says. “It's just as rewarding as watching your children succeed.”

**I**f Kaler has one message for students, it's to encourage them to explore all that the University has to offer. “If you're spending eight hours a day playing Halo in your room, that's not a good thing,” he says. “Get to know a faculty member, get engaged in something that drives your passion. . . . A club or a sport or study abroad or a language if you're not majoring in it. Those kinds of things. Engage with the opportunities that are in front of you.”

Just as he does. On a stroll from Coffman Memorial Union across the Washington Avenue footbridge and past Kolthoff Hall, Kaler stops to marvel at a row of neon green bicycles lined up in a high-tech bike rack. His whirlwind tour of campus on a hot June day was just getting under way but was already threatening to fall behind. Kaler wanted to know everything. These bikes are located all around campus and the city, explained Kathleen O'Brien, vice president of University Services, and with the swipe of a credit card bicyclists can pedal between locations. He smiled his approval.

Inside the new Science Teaching and Student Services Build-

ing, Kaler stood in awe of the river view and heard stories of bald eagle sightings. He received an overview of the state-of-the-art classrooms and then bounded up to an unsuspecting student waiting at a student services counter. “Hello, I'm Eric Kaler,” he said, thrusting out his hand. “I'm the new president of the University.”

“Oh! Congratulations!” replied the young woman, shaking his hand.

“So, are you getting good service here?”

Excellent, she said. The president wanted to know what she was studying and what her career plans were, and she told him her story while he nodded and asked more questions. Then they wished each other goodbye and good luck; both were now running late.

Up Northrop Mall and down Church Street, Kaler's tour guides pointed out buildings that were being mothballed, others undergoing renovations, and one, the Mechanical Engineering and Aker-

**“There will be some things we find that we are not very good at, we're not very competitive, and if those are not central to our mission,” Kaler says, “then we're going to need to quit doing them. In this world we're in, there's no real middle ground.”**

man Hall complex, that had infrastructure improvements. “Can I take a look inside?” Kaler asked.

“Let's see what time it is,” replied Brian Swanson, budget officer in the U's Office of Budget and Finance, glancing at his watch. But Kaler was already up the stairs and through the door. Inside, Kaler found asset preservation in action and heard about new building plans to the east. And he couldn't resist the chance to meet and take the pulse of another student.

“Eric, look!” Karen Kaler said, drawing his and everyone's attention upward, where the light fixtures were works of art, changing colors against the cavernous ceiling. That's one of the public art projects that resulted from the capital improvement project, someone explained. A small percentage of state funds designated for capital projects by law must be used for public art.

Exiting Akerman to get the tour back on track, Kaler walked past the Wall of Discovery on the Scholars Walk, the path stretching from the McNamara Alumni Center to Northrop Mall that recognizes the achievements of University of Minnesota alumni and faculty in all disciplines. “I don't know whose idea this was,” he later said, “but it was a very, very nice addition to campus, exactly the kind of celebration of scholarship that you like to have.”

**A**fter completion of the University Recreation Center expansion, which is temporarily covering up part of the Scholars Walk, Kaler will be able to find his own name memorialized there as well. A world expert in surfactant molecules, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2010, an illustrious honor.

Kaler says that as a professor he's fully licensed to speak for 55 minutes without interruption. And that's nearly what he does when he begins describing surfactants, which propelled his academic career. In short, surfactants are used in countless industrial and commercial processes and applications to get disparate molecules to work together. A classic example is in pharmaceuti-



# The President's Perspective

President Kaler took time on his first day in office to address questions for *Minnesota* readers.

**Q: Campus has changed a lot since you were a graduate student here almost 30 years ago. What has impressed you about campus today?**

**A:** The physical infrastructure overall. It's a much nicer physical plant than it was when I was here before. Clearly a lot of investment and a lot of care have gone into that. . . . I think the investment in undergraduate education, the engagement in undergraduate education, now is much higher than when I was here before, both in terms of the physical infrastructure and the importance that we're putting on it.

**Q: You've spent about six months listening, observing, and meeting with stakeholders. What has surprised you?**

**A:** I guess the biggest surprise is—I'm trying to think of the right word—I guess it's *passion* that Minnesotans have around Gopher athletics. It really is a strong sense of ownership and a strong sense of pride in our sports teams—not just on campus but in the community as a whole. That's important. People really do care.

**Q: What role does athletics play in a public research institution?**

**A:** It's a window through which people observe the University and it's a door through which they come to take part in University activities. It's an important part of the "brand" of the University of Minnesota. It's an important part of our visibility. Having a good, comprehensive athletics program is completely consistent with being a good public research institution. Michigan is a good example. It's part of who we are, and we should celebrate that and enjoy what that brings to us.

**Q: You have spoken often about defending the liberal arts and have called the arts and humanities core to civilization. What do you mean by that?**

**A:** When you look around the world, the United States higher education system is still the jewel in the crown. And the reason is not because we teach calculus better than any other country. It's because we promote a broad-based understanding of life and the position of one's discipline within it, and we allow critical thinking and we allow questioning of authority and we allow individual exposition in speech in all of its manifestations. That's what we are. And a lot of that has its root in strength in the liberal arts.

**Q: You've noted that a priority of yours is to improve racial diversity at all levels and gender diversity among faculty. Could you describe your ideas?**

**A:** It all boils down to the search process for faculty. The search needs to be open. The search committee needs to aggressively look for applicants from underrepresented groups. I would like to see a stream of hires that accurately reflects the population in the pool from which we can draw those individuals. That's step one.

Step two is to increase the size of that pool and to help grow the number of underrepresented folks in that particular discipline. That's our job as a university to raise those numbers. Our



President Eric Kaler outside Northrop Auditorium

ability, again, to reach into underrepresented areas for potential graduate students has to involve an engagement with institutions where those students are already.

And then, finally, is earlier down the pipeline getting students from underrepresented groups interested in higher education and interested particularly in areas that are acutely underrepresented, which are science, technology, math—the so-called STEM areas. That again involves aggressive outreach.

So it's a big lift. It's a job for everyone. But it's critical to the country. We don't have a commanding lead in the world, and we certainly can't maintain it if we're only open to advancing the careers of white males.

**Q: If you believe the state economics experts, the funding gap in Minnesota will persist and grow as our population ages and the workforce declines—unless the state is innovative, creates new industries, and imports more young people. What role does the U play in this?**

**A:** The only way, the *only* way, that we'll have an economy that has the vibrancy that's needed to carry the burdens that it has is to have a fully engaged and highly effective public higher education organization in the state. We have to train people for particular jobs. We have to educate people to be creative. And we have to be a forum where people can be inventive and entrepreneurial. And if we do those things, then we produce a population that can tackle the challenges that are going to be in front of them. But if you step away now from public higher education and disinvest in public higher education, you're guaranteeing yourself failure 15, 20, 30 years from now. ■

*For an Access Minnesota interview with President Kaler at the State Fair, go to [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KalerFall2011](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KalerFall2011). For photos, videos, speeches, and more, go to [www.umn.edu/president](http://www.umn.edu/president).*





**President Eric Kaler and his wife, Karen, have become familiar figures on campus beginning in June. They will live at Eastcliff with their two Spanish water dogs. They have two adult sons, Charlie and Sam, who live out of state.**

## Tell President Kaler Your U Story

President Eric Kaler wants to hear stories from alumni about how their University of Minnesota education or experience made a difference in their life or career. Share your stories at [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KalerFall2011](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KalerFall2011).

cal formulations. "Often the pharmaceutical active ingredient is not able to be dissolved in water," he instructs. "And so in order to apply it to the body you need to disperse that highly insoluble molecule in water. And the way you do that is you use surfactants because they have a part that can be with water and a part that will carry that insoluble active ingredient." It doesn't have the sex appeal of some areas of science, he says, but it's a \$150 billion industry.

Kaler says he's a pragmatic manager and leader. "I'm an engineer, so I like data," he says. "I also like to question assumptions. And I expect to have a spirited discussion around data and assumptions. It's a lot like the scientific method. You test assumptions. You make some measurements. And you move forward. I don't take a lot of things on faith. I really do believe we can measure things."

Two key elements in higher education that are often discussed at the University are access and excellence. Kaler has a lot to say about both. A third of the U's students are from outside Minnesota, but providing access to qualified students from the state is a priority. "It's critically important that the barriers to students who do not have the financial means to come to the University be as low as possible," he says. "It won't be possible to get it to zero, but we can reduce it, and that's going to be a very high priority for me."

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is crucial. "That means that we need to take score, we need to keep track of where we are and how we change and how we get better, and frankly it also means that there will be some hard decisions," Kaler says. "There will be some things we find that we are not very good at, we're not very competitive, and if those are not central to our mission . . . then we're going to need to quit doing them. In this world we're in, there's no real middle ground."

Kaler the scientist views the value of what the U does in terms of an excellence-to-cost ratio. He will make cost-cutting decisions and develop new efficiencies. But the reality is that the cost to attend the University will continue to represent a significant slice of the funding pie. Says Kaler: "There will be a certain cost that a student needs to pay to the University, and we need to be sure that the excellence of the degree they're getting means that that ratio—that excellence-to-cost, the value of what we do—is in a place where it makes a difference, where students will decide this is a place to come to get the kind of education that's going to let them move forward in their career."

He adds that state leaders need to recognize that value and the importance of what the U does for the future of Minnesota. If what the U does is not perceived as valuable by the state, "then we need to discuss what happens if we quit doing this," Kaler says. "But if it's a situation in which we're providing a program or a service that does have value, then they should pay."

As the new school year approaches and President Kaler continues to learn, observe, and assess, he's well aware that not everything is scientifically measurable. "In my line of work, you get comfortable with making decisions based on some combination of

facts and more qualitative views of how you go forward," he says.

As his first day in office grows late and he considers where to store his blue hens before they roost, Kaler stands up and searches the cluttered tabletop for one in particular. It will stay. "The stone one," he says, picking up a small, abstract bird. "This one is from one of my Greek colleagues who brought it back from Delphi." He cradles the piece of art gently. "Whenever I have a really difficult moral question, I ask this oracle." ■

*Shelly Fling is editor of Minnesota.*

## Watch President Kaler's Inauguration

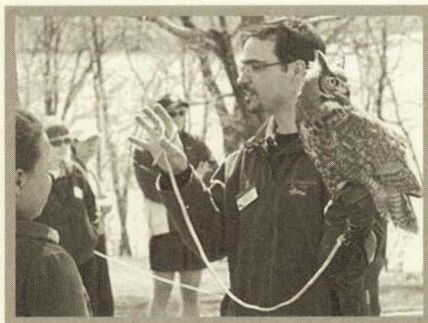
President Kaler will be inaugurated Thursday, September 22, at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the University's West Bank campus. Alumni and friends of the University are encouraged to watch via webcast and to participate in additional activities scheduled for September 19 through 24.

Inauguration week events include a breakfast and lunch with students, a farm visit, talks with bioscience community leaders, student theater performances, a spotlight on the Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center, and festivities during the Gopher football game. For more information, go to [www.umn.edu/president/inauguration](http://www.umn.edu/president/inauguration).

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# JERRY AND THE

By Cynthia Scott

# PLAYMAKERS

New Gopher coach Jerry Kill and a cadre of loyal assistants begin a new era at Minnesota.

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## 2011 GOPHER FOOTBALL. PREVIEW

four-year tenure, which ended with his firing midseason last year. Though the Gophers put together two impressive back-to-back upset wins under interim coach Jeff Horton in the final games of the season, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that Minnesota needed to hire a big-time winner who would purge the program of its chronic mediocrity and restore pride in Minnesota football.

The short, balding, bespectacled Kill was not the big name people envisioned. Eyebrows went up when Maturi journeyed to DeKalb, Illinois, and plucked Kill off the sidelines of Northern Illinois University, where he was preparing his Huskies—who had defeated the Gophers at TCF Bank Stadium earlier in the season—to play Fresno State in the Humanitarian Bowl. Who the heck, fans wondered, is Jerry Kill?

Like Kill himself, the answers to that question are straightforward. He's a family man whose face lights up at the mention of his wife of 25 years, Rebecca, and his two daughters, Krystal and Tasha. A survivor of kidney cancer who is grateful for every day he's alive. A devoted son to a widowed mom who attends every game of his she can. A 50-year-old guy who frequently draws on lessons learned from his parents while growing up in tiny Cheney, Kansas.

Most of all, Kill is an uncompromising coach who inspires uncommon loyalty. Don Weast, longtime sports information director at Emporia State, where Kill coached in 1999 and 2000, says of Kill, "He is the only coach I've ever worked with who I'd still run through a brick wall for." Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema, who coached with Kill on former Gopher coach Glen Mason's staff at Kansas in the 1990s, put it this way to a reporter after Kill was hired. "He is just a very true guy, and a very, very good football coach."

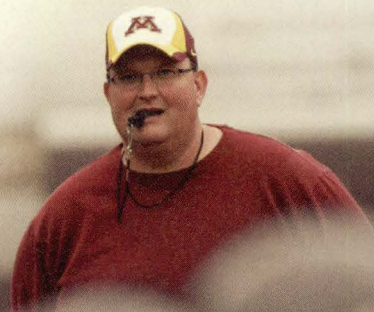
Kill is unfazed by the skepticism some fans expressed about his hire, because he's heard it before. "I've had people roll their eyes when I first got a job. It's happened everywhere I've been," he drawls. "But I am who I am. I'm a hard worker, and I've been able to win."

**J**erry Kill can be forgiven for delaying an interview in order to meet with a football player who's shown up in his office. "Sorry. Students come first," says the first-year Gopher football coach as he sits down. Polite to the point of disarming ("yes ma'am, this is still a good time"), affable, and at times downright funny, on this day Kill is in no mood for small talk. He's got a football program to build.

Kill refuses to offer easy reassurances about that task. He cautioned his boss, Athletics Director Joel Maturi, "You know what, we may take a step back before we go forward." He told hundreds of fans in Minnesota communities who turned out for his tour of the state: "I'd say we've taken infant steps toward getting better. Not baby steps. Infant steps." And he pulled no punches when he said, after meeting with the team only days after he was hired last December, that he was shocked by how inattentive, out of shape, and lax about academics players were. He reportedly fumed to an assistant, "I tell you what, I can't believe this! What the heck have we gotten ourselves into?"

No wonder people love the guy. The native Kansan's plain-spoken, no-hype, what-you-see-is-what-you-get demeanor is a refreshing departure from the overpromising and under-delivering that frustrated fans during coach Tim Brewster's

**Opposite page: head coach Jerry Kill.**  
**Right: defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys**





## 2011 GOPHER FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Kill's career record of 127-73 includes turning around a moribund program at Southern Illinois University (SIU), where he coached from 2001 to 2007. Kill arrived on the heels of 11 straight losing seasons to a program that was on the cusp of oblivion: It was so chronically inept that school officials were considering eliminating football altogether. The team went 1-10 in Kill's first year and 4-7 the next. And in Kill's third year the Salukis earned what would be the first of five consecutive conference championships and playoff appearances. Southern Illinois is still a perennial powerhouse among the 118 teams in the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision, and has a new multimillion-dollar stadium and training facility to show for it.

The reason for SIU's turnaround? "We changed the whole culture. We changed people's minds," Kill says, which he says is exactly what needs to happen at Minnesota.

"I'd say Southern is the toughest job I've ever taken over, and I'd say Minnesota is right in there with it," Kill says. "The better thing here is that we've already got the facilities. At SIU we had no facilities—our press box was a trailer—and we built the facilities by turning the program around. Here we've got the facilities, now we've got to get the people to go inside of them. Not only the players, but the workers too." That kind of deep change

requires time, Kill cautions. "It will take a couple of years to get it to where people understand what we want."

Kill achieved one monumental shift the moment he walked through the door at Bierman Hall: He arrived at Minnesota with a veteran coaching staff that has worked together for a long, long time. Wide receivers coach Pat Poore, defensive backs and special teams coach Jay Sawvel, head strength and conditioning coach Eric Klein, runningbacks coach Brian Anderson, and tight ends coach Rob Reeves have each been with Kill for 10 years; offensive coordinator Matt Limegrover for 12 years; and defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys for 16 years. Add defensive line coach Jeff Phelps's 3 years, and you have a core team that has worked together a total of 94 years. That kind of longevity is a radical departure from the revolving door that has ushered dozens of assistant coaches in and out of the Minnesota program in recent years.

"I think if you look at programs that turn around, you have to keep staff and they have to be loyal," Kill says. "I've associated myself with people who make up for the weaknesses that I have. And loyal people, people who would work their butt off and believe in what I was doing."

"Well, our coaching staff is sort of a package deal," chuckles Limegrover. "When we go and take over a new job, there's no getting-to-know-you period on the staff. That means we can hit the ground running. We probably got more done in the spring here at Minnesota than most new staffs would because we were already on the same page."

Senior running back Duane Bennett (B.A. '11) says the dynamic on the coaching staff made a dramatic difference in practices. "As a player, regardless of which coach you're talking to, you get the same message and the same expectations. It makes it so you don't have to worry about what you're supposed to do. When you get coaches on the same page, you know what direction you're supposed to be going in."

Part of the culture change Kill is aiming for is in the classroom. Kill was the first person in his family to graduate from college—his degree from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, is in education with a minor in biology—and he bristles at the idea that anyone would take education for granted. "I didn't have a big scholarship when I went to school. What frustrates me is when you're given opportunities like we have here at the University of Minnesota and you don't give 100 percent—not only our players, but the workers, too—I don't understand that, because it's not how I was raised."

Kill has been known to look in on classes himself to make sure his players are in attendance—a technique that resulted in Northern Illinois's rise to among the top 10 schools in the nation in its academic progress rate (a measurement the NCAA uses to assess academic improvement). He expects his assistants to enforce the same academic standards.

"One of the things Coach Kill talks about is that we're not here simply to coach kids on the football field and then cut them adrift and let them do their thing," Limegrover says. "The most important thing I do is take a group of kids and make

**Offensive coordinator Matt Limegrover**



# 2011 GOPHER FOOTBALL. PREVIEW



Coach Jerry Kill

sure that when they leave here they have a degree. Coach tells us we're the head coach of our position and that entails not just the football part of it, but helping those guys understand respect for people in authority, respect for women, how to handle situations they've never been in before, and academically making sure they have focus."

While continuity on the coaching staff is the reason Kill's staff has been able to produce winning teams, winning is not necessarily why he inspires such loyalty. Limegrover, who has a 6-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter, says his whole family has benefitted from Kill's perspective on what's important. "He's such a strong family guy that sometimes he's the one who says, 'Hey, get out of here, go tuck your kids into bed.' There are coaches on our staff who have had other opportunities, maybe more money, or more high profile, but the thing that everybody looks at is, what's my quality of life going to be in my job?"

Moreover, Claey's says, Kill is results-oriented and simply trusts his assistants to do their jobs. "If your kids are performing well and doing what they're supposed to do, he's going to leave you alone and let you do your job. He is demanding as hell. We've all had our butts chewed at some time for something. But here's the thing about Coach," he continues. "He doesn't want to be on a pedestal above everybody else. He doesn't demand any more of you than he demands of himself, and I think that's why kids play hard for him."

In a visible demonstration of his conviction that nothing is possible without loyal relationships, Kill made the unprec-

edented decision to invite the public and the media to attend the Gophers' spring practice. And they did, by the dozens, day after day. Kill sent every fan who attended a note thanking them for their support.

"I think probably the smartest thing we've done since we got here was opening up practice," Kill says. "I can tell you how we're going to do things and people will say, 'Well, it's the same old stuff we've been hearing for 400 years.' But if people get to see the coach and see what you're teaching, they identify with the program. They'll know I'm a normal person, I'm not perfect, I'm a human being, but I do things the right way, and the only way they can figure that out is to come to practice."

Jerry Kill may not be a big-time name—at least not yet. But Minnesota might yet discover that it did get the big-time winner fans hoped for. ■

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

## 2011 GOPHER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	Southern California	2:30 p.m.
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>New Mexico State</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sept. 17</b>	<b>Miami (Ohio)</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<b>North Dakota State</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
Oct. 1	Michigan	TBA
Oct. 8	Purdue	TBA
<b>Oct. 22</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 29</b>	<b>Iowa</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Nov. 5	Michigan State	TBA
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Nov. 19	Northwestern	TBA
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>TBA</b>

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## FOOTBALL INJURY Q & A WITH DR. J. P. SMITH OF TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS

*Twin Cities Orthopedics and Dr. J.P. Smith has been the official sports medicine provider for Gopher Football for the past 26 years.*

### Q: What are most common injuries in football?

**A:** The most common football injuries include those of the foot, ankle and knee. Knee injuries account for approximately 20% of our reported yearly injuries. The most common injuries are MCL, ACL and meniscus (cartilage) tears. Consequences of these injuries can include a loss of playing time and potential surgery.

Player position is a key factor in these types of injuries. Historically, knee injuries occur most frequent in defensive linemen, tight ends and offensive linemen, while knee surgeries are most common amongst running backs and linebackers.

### Q: Can these injuries be prevented?

**A:** Most Division I offensive linemen wear protective knee braces to help in preventing injuries. Candidates for Prophylactic knee braces include players in the high risk positions, including offensive linemen, defensive linemen, linebackers and tight ends. Braces can provide a mechanism for both prevention and a means of potentially decreasing severity of contact medial collateral injuries in the collegiate athlete, but may impede performance.

Parents of high school players often ask if wearing the braces will help in preventing injuries. Medical evidence does not support the routine use of bracing in high school football players. Brace usage is less important than strength training, conditioning, technique and flexibility.

### Q: Ankle injuries are common, but are all ankles sprains the same?

**A:** Unfortunately not! In football approximately 10-15% of our injuries involve the ankle. The simple inversion or "rolling inward of the ankle" is becoming less frequent and has been replaced by the "high ankle sprain." This has a different mechanism, which is an outward rotation of the ankle and can result in significantly greater time lost to injury, and potential long-term disability.

### Q: Can we prevent these injuries?

**A:** Prophylactic taping has been considered a mainstay of ankle injury prevention and is used at all levels of competitive football. A cost-effective alternative to this is a semi-rigid orthosis "i.e. brace," which in some studies has been shown to be more effective in preventing ankle injuries than taping.

Footwear or the playing surface, i.e., grass or field turf have not shown to have a statistical implication on injury rates.

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# TEAMWORK WELL-DONE

BY CYNTHIA SCOTT

**Nothing tests unity like adversity, and the Gophers had plenty of that in their tumultuous 2010 season. But adversity can strengthen a team if it has players with character and skill leading the way. Whatever the Gophers' other challenges in 2011, they are deep in team leadership. Meet three players whose steady presence makes a difference on and off the field.**

**Duane Bennett (B.A. '11) practically wears on his shirtsleeve a lesson he learned from Coach Jerry Kill.** "Football isn't won on the field, it's won off the field—in how you practice and think, the choices you make, and how you relate to other players," Bennett says. The lesson meshes perfectly with the charismatic senior's personality. A careful listener whose wide smile borders on impish, Bennett is devoted to his teammates and determined to finish his Gopher career on a winning note. "You have to work things out together on the field and off. You have to gain each other's trust. Listening to each other's stories is huge. When you get to know people, it makes you want to do your best for them," he says.

Bennett, who graduated in May with a degree in sociology, started his Big Ten career as one of the top young running backs in the conference. A season-ending knee injury the second game of 2008, his sophomore year, set back his on-the-field development. But it also contributed significantly to shaping him into the mature leader he is. "After I tore my ACL my sophomore year, I learned how little the individual matters. I just want to be the best senior role model I can be. The team is what matters," he says. He spent the summer working out

and mentoring his young teammates. "You hear about guys being so homesick they don't even want to go to class, and I can help by talking to them. It helps to talk."

This year Bennett is sure to be the same workhorse on the field that he's been since returning from his injury in 2009. With a career total of 1,506 yards and 14 rushing touchdowns, he is the Gophers most experienced back and has also contributed as a receiver and kick returner. Still feeling the momentum from the Gophers' upset wins over Illinois and Iowa in the final games of last season, Bennett is confident that the team's off-the-field preparation will pay off. After all, he knows that's where games are won.

**Mike Rallis is tired of losing.** Disappointed in himself for not living up to his own expectations last year, he decided during the off-season that it was time, he says, "to put up or shut up."

"I'm putting a lot of pressure on myself to live up to my expectations this year. I refuse, on every snap, to lose," he says.

The junior linebacker expects the same iron resolve of his teammates, and he takes it upon himself to demonstrate putting that ethic into action. "I really try first and foremost to lead by example.



Left to right: MarQueis Gray, Duane Bennett, and Mike Rallis

I do every little extra thing I can do, and I think the big thing this year is getting other people to come along with me. If you're the only guy working hard, it's kind of pointless. Every single guy matters."

Last year's anemic rushing defense finished 11th in the conference, and the scoring defense finished ninth. The defense's nine total sacks ranked last in the nation. Rallis, who started in six games after spending most of the 2009 season rehabbing a broken leg, led the team in interceptions with three. He is confident that a more experienced,





disciplined, and skilled defensive unit will take the field in 2011. “Last year, the first game of the year, we went in with 11 new starters. No matter how much talent you have, you can’t overstate how important experience is. We definitely learned from last year and won’t make the same stupid mistakes.”

Rallis, a marketing and entrepreneurial management major at the Carlson School of Management, exudes intensity. He knows that a fresh start under new coaches, while providing a framework for success, can only go so far.

“Coach Kill and his assistants have a plan, and it’s worked everywhere they’ve been. They’ll turn this program around, no doubt. But it’s really up to us how quick that happens.”

**MarQueis Gray’s number is finally up. Look for it, No. 5, on the back of the quarterback of the Golden Gophers.** The lithe, powerful junior came to Minnesota as one of the nation’s most promising running and throwing quarterbacks, but has seen scant action in that position. He appeared in all 12 games last season, but

primarily as a receiver—and a good one, tallying 42 catches for 587 yards and five touchdowns. But the graduation of five-year starter Adam Weber and a new coaching regime paved the way for Gray to shift to his preferred position.

“Coach Kill has done nothing but encourage me, and that gave me more confidence to play quarterback. So now in my head I am a quarterback, not a receiver,” Gray says.

*Continued on next page*



# 2011 GOPHER FOOTBALL PREVIEW



## KICK-OFF CONFIDENTIAL

The inside scoop for Gopher fans

### Catch the Airwaves

The new radio home for Golden Gopher football is KFAN 100.3 FM and KTLK 1130 AM in the Twin Cities. To find the Gopher Sports Network affiliate in your area, visit [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com) and click on audio/video.

ABC Sports will broadcast the Gopher homecoming game against Nebraska on October 22 at 2:30 p.m. CST.

**Quotebook** "It doesn't matter if we win or lose by 50 points, I go home and my kids think I'm the greatest. I'll know it's time to get out of football when Emma asks me, 'Daddy, why in the world did you run on third down?'"

—Gopher offensive coordinator Matt Limegrover

### Come to Campus Early

- The McNamara Alumni Center pregame party begins three hours before kickoff. Food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available for purchase.
- Tailgate lots open six hours before kickoff.
- The University of Minnesota Marching Band's traditional pregame show, a highlight of every home football game, begins on the field 20 minutes before kickoff.
- Allow time for detours and delays due to construction of the Central Corridor light rail transit line near TCF Bank Stadium.
- Consider using public transportation and/or a shuttle. For information visit [www.tcfbankstadium.com](http://www.tcfbankstadium.com)

### The New Big Ten

The Nebraska Huskers joined the Big Ten in July, bringing the number of teams in the conference to 12, leading to the creation of the Legends and Leaders divisions. The winner of each division will play for the Big Ten championship on December 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Nebraska, last year's Big 12 North champion, will debut at TCF Bank Stadium on October 22 for the Gopher Homecoming game.



#### Legends Division

Iowa  
Michigan  
Michigan State  
Minnesota  
Nebraska  
Northwestern

#### Leaders Division

Illinois  
Indiana  
Ohio State  
Penn State  
Purdue  
Wisconsin



Continued from previous page

Kill called Gray the most pleasant surprise of spring football. "For a young man

who hasn't played the quarterback position for almost four years, I think he's got a good grasp of the position. He has been doing all the things we've asked him to do," he says.

A successful quarterback is a successful team leader—and on that count, as on others, Gray has wholeheartedly accepted the challenge. He credits quarterback coach Jim Zebrowski with mentoring him to be an effective leader.

"In college you have to be more of a vocal leader, and I'm not used to that. I like to lead by example. But now that I'm in the

role of the quarterback, I've learned more about how to encourage the guys by being a positive person and helping them play to their full confidence level," he says.

Last year's upset wins over Illinois and Iowa gave Gray a taste of the kind of success he craves. He brushes aside prognostications that the Gophers will end up at the bottom of the heap in the Big 10. "Everyone's already got it in their minds that we're not going to be very good this year, so it's a great challenge to shock anyone who doubts us. I'm looking forward to the Gophers going out and showcasing our talents week after week." ■

**Senior Troy Stoudermire** has racked up a career total 2,929 yards returning kicks and needs just 189 more to tie the all-time NCAA record.

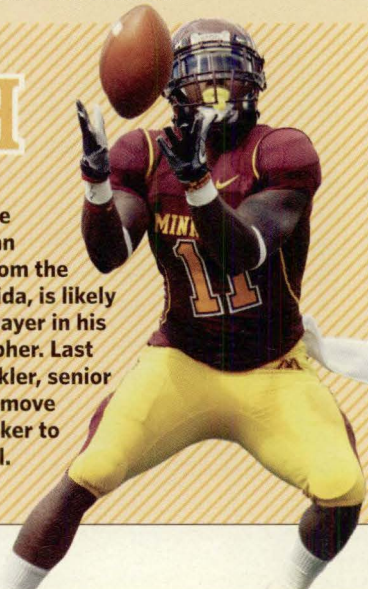
**Senior tight end Eric Lair** is one of 32 players nationwide on the 2011 John Mackey Award watch list. The award is given annually to the best collegiate tight end.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Senior wide receiver Da'Jon McKnight** is on pace to emerge as a star this year. He's one of 75 players on the watch list for the Fred Biletnikoff Award, presented annually to the nation's best college receiver.

**True freshman wide receiver Marcus Jones** has the kind of speed and quickness that can be game-changing. He and 6-foot-3-inch, 210-pound junior transfer Ge'Shun Harris add some much-needed talent to the receiving corps.

**Sophomore middle linebacker Brendan Beal**, a transfer from the University of Florida, is likely to be an impact player in his first year as a Gopher. Last year's leading tackler, senior Gary Tinsley, will move to outside linebacker to make way for Beal.







## It's Football Time!

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Be part of this year's action by visiting [coachoftheyear.com/save](http://coachoftheyear.com/save).



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# 2011 GOPHER FOOTBALL PREVIEW



## KICK-OFF

# CONFIDENTIAL

The inside scoop for Gopher fans

## Huskers v. Gophers Redux

The Gophers welcome the Big Ten's newest member, the Nebraska Huskers, to TCF Bank Stadium on Homecoming, October 22. It will be the 52nd time the two teams have met; Minnesota holds a 29-20-2 edge.

One hundred years ago the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* recapped the Gophers 21-3 win over Nebraska:

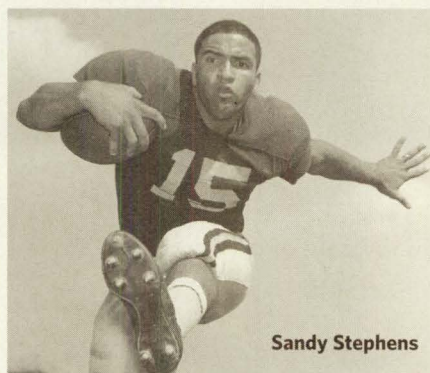
"Minnesota looked forward to the Nebraska game with anything but a sense of security. The records of the two teams up to the present date favored the visitors. They had a team of veterans and were fast and resourceful. They were clean-cut, heavy men and they looked fit for the game of their lives. But Minnesota has come a long way during the past two weeks and hardly a minute during the whole hour did Nebraska push the playing. The few times when Nebraska did get the ball she was unable to make distance consistently and though several times a forward pass or a long run brought the hearts of Minnesota rooters to their mouths, such gains were usually followed by tackles for a loss. . . . Minnesota has found herself and will look forward to the remaining games of the season with confidence that the team will give good account of itself."

## Sandy Stephens Elected to Hall of Fame

Sandy Stephens, the most accomplished quarterback in Gopher history, was posthumously elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in May.

Originally from Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Stephens chose Minnesota because he aspired to play in the Rose Bowl. He achieved that, and more, at the U, leading the Golden Gophers to the 1960 National Championship and to the 1961 and 1962 Rose Bowls. A consensus first-team All-American and the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player in 1961, he was the first African American in college football history ever to earn All-American status at the quarterback position. He is the 19th Golden Gopher to be inducted into the College of Football Hall of Fame and the first since Bobby Bell in 1991.

Stephens died at age 59 on June 7, 2000.



Sandy Stephens

## Homecoming: All That Glitters Is Gold

Homecoming Week, October 16-22, features several new events tailored especially for alumni under the theme "All That Glitters Is Gold."

**October 16, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.:** Thank U: One Community Building Common Unity. Kick off the week by thanking the greater community for all it does for the U. Join fellow alumni, their families, students, faculty, and staff in performing service projects. Food and entertainment will be provided. Register at [homecoming.umn.edu/thank-u](http://homecoming.umn.edu/thank-u).

### October 21: College Day

Twelve colleges and departments are organizing a rich variety of events for alumni to enjoy including reunions, a Mozart concert, author presentations, and faculty-led discussions.

**After College Day events, stay on campus to enjoy the homecoming parade at 7 p.m.** Then follow the Minnesota Marching Band into

TCF Bank Stadium for a rousing pepfest featuring the Spirit Squads, fireworks, and the coronation of homecoming royalty.

A concert featuring nationally recognized talent will follow. A limited number of discounted tickets for alumni will be available for \$17.50.

**October 22, 2:30 p.m.:** Cheer on the Gophers as they take on Nebraska at TCF Bank Stadium.

For details on these and other events, visit [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Homecoming](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Homecoming).



# GOPHER FOOTBALL TRIVIA

The cumulative weight of the 116 members of the Gopher football team is approximately equal to what?

- a. A campus connector bus
- b. An elephant
- c. 5,000 tackling dummies

A football helmet weighs how much?

- a. 6 pounds
- b. 3 pounds
- c. It varies according to the player's position

Taking into account the 18-minute pregame show and the 16-minute halftime show, the 300 members of the Minnesota Marching Band combined walk the equivalent of approximately what distance from TCF Bank Stadium during one football game?

- a. To Chicago, Illinois (407 miles)
- b. To Rochester, Minnesota (87 miles)
- c. To Farmington Hills, Michigan (525 miles)

Visit [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/FBTrivia](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/FBTrivia) for the answers.





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Abolitionist John Brown raided the federal armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in 1859 in an attempt to start an armed slave uprising. This engraving depicts U.S. Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee smashing the armory door, behind which Brown and his men were trapped.

## King's Speech

**One hundred years after the event that ignited the U.S. Civil War, rising civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. came to campus to address the quest for racial justice in America.**

**D**r. Martin Luther King's first visit to the University of Minnesota was prompted by an anniversary he had no interest in commemorating. The date was October 16, 1959; the occasion, a scholarly conference marking the centenary of John Brown's bloody assault on Harpers Ferry, Virginia. The conference, organized by the U's Program in American Studies, was intended to examine the nation's racial divide in fresh, multidisciplinary ways, and King had been engaged to deliver the keynote address.

Among the questions posed by the conference: Could the South, where segregation remained endemic despite hard-won legislative and judicial victories at the national level, be reformed through the nonviolent means employed by Dr. King and his followers? Could it reform itself? Or, as with the institution of slavery, would reform come only through a willingness to do battle? Would the civil rights movement ultimately require a figure like John Brown, the fierce

BY TIM BRADY



abolitionist who, as much as any other single individual, lit the fuse on the Civil War with his attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry?

On October 16, 1859, Brown led 21 men, including freed and fugitive slaves, in a raid of Harpers Ferry, at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. With the seized weapons, Brown hoped to incite a slave uprising. The raid left seven dead and 10 injured, and Brown's capture and execution for treason captivated the nation and escalated tensions between the North and South.

Harpers Ferry was the first of many Civil War-related events—from Fort Sumter to Ford's Theatre—whose centennials would draw attention over the next six years. The significance of these episodes was still subject to debate, and parsing their meaning often bore directly on modern-day discussions of civil rights. Was John Brown, for instance, simply a fanatical terrorist, as the South had always seen him? Or were he and his followers the first combatants in a just war against an institution the South was determined to preserve?

The American studies department waded eagerly into these historical and cultural waters. American studies itself was a fairly new field, and the U's program dated back to just 1945, when English professor Tremaine McDowell persuaded the College of Liberal Arts to organize a program similar to those established at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and the University of Pennsylvania in the 1930s. The idea was to expand the study of American history beyond politics and economics by bringing literary, artistic, and sociological works into the academic mix.

Initially, Minnesota offered bachelor's and master's degrees in American studies, adding a Ph.D. track in 1946. McDowell was named chair of the program, and he attracted distinguished faculty from a variety of departments, including history, journalism, English, and political science. The program's luster continued to grow in the 1950s as such campus notables as Mulford Q. Sibley, Clarke Chambers, and David Noble signed on.

In 1954, the Program in American Studies won a grant of \$107,000 from the Carnegie Corporation. McDowell used the money to bring talented academics from across the country to Minnesota and to fund a high-profile faculty research seminar that focused on the influence of science and technology on American culture. So astute was the scholarship generated from this seminar that, in the words of a department history, it "reverberated in American studies classes, seminars, and dissertations for years thereafter."

The last major project funded by the Carnegie grant was the Harpers Ferry conference on civil rights. Professor Bernard Bowron, who had recently replaced an ill McDowell as American studies program chair, organized the event. The plan was to invite a contingent of politicians and powerhouse intellectuals to a weekend symposium. On Bowron's wish list were former Presi-

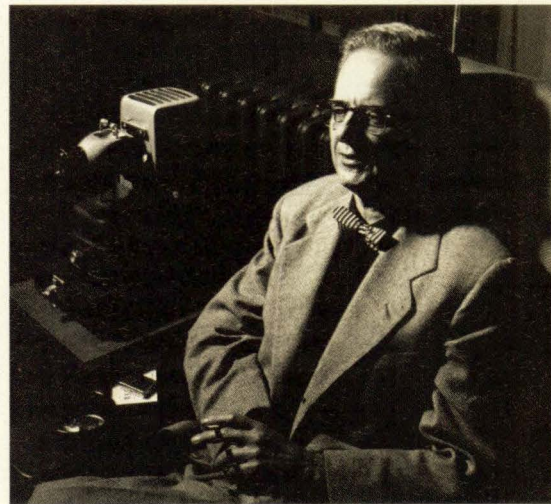
dent Harry Truman, Senator Hubert Humphrey (B.S. '39), and former Arkansas Congressman Brook Hays, who had battled his own governor, Orval Faubus, in the much-publicized fight to integrate public schools in Little Rock.

Scholars and literary figures whose names were bandied about for invitation included literary critic Edmund Wilson; Nobel laureate William Faulkner; Pulitzer Prize-winning author (and former U of M professor) Robert Penn Warren; Kenneth Milton Stamp, a historian from the University of California; poet Robert Frost; and Carey McWilliams, editor of *The Nation*.

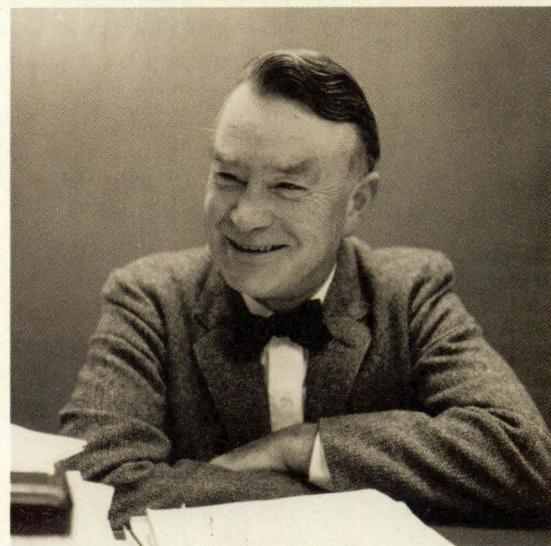
A keynote speaker would open the convocation on Friday, followed by evening talks on civil rights and the lasting import of Harpers Ferry. The U of M Law School planned a mock trial of John Brown for Friday afternoon. On the

docket for Saturday was a roundtable discussion of civil rights and the legacy of John Brown, moderated by Stamp and featuring Friday's speakers along with U of M American studies faculty

**In 1945, English professor Tremaine McDowell persuaded the College of Liberal Arts to establish a department in American studies at the University of Minnesota. It would become one of the strongest such programs in the nation.**



**Professor Bernard Bowron organized the conference that brought the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. to campus in 1959.**





members, including David Noble and Charles Foster.

Conference organizers consulted with the University of Minnesota Press about memorializing the conference proceedings in a book and approached educational television about broadcasting the “retrial” of John Brown, and they hoped that McWilliams’s presence would entice *The Nation* into extensive coverage of the event.

Some urgency was attached to all of this planning. The American studies department anticipated a spate of Civil War anniversaries in the coming years, and its January 1959 proposal for the conference suggested that “the University of Minnesota should lead the procession. So far as we know, no other institution has planned an event on the centenary of Brown’s Harpers Ferry Raid but we suppose that other institutions may make such plans soon. We feel, therefore, that speed is in order.”

**S**electing Dr. King as keynote speaker came early in the conference’s planning phase. Though not yet the household name he would soon become, King, at 30, was arguably the leading spiritual, organizational, and intellectual leader of the civil rights



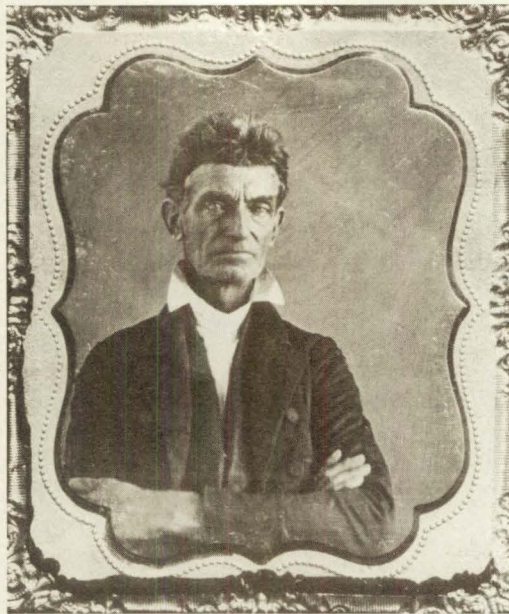
**Professor Charles Foster engaged in a war of words in his attempt to draw national figures to a conference on civil rights.**

movement. His work during the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, his presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, his writings and speeches—all elevated him to the heights of the cause. King’s national profile—he’d been on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1957—would give the conference a currency that a mere panel of scholars couldn’t provide. His presence would also prime the pump for appearances from other notables.

His work during the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, his presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, his writings and speeches—all elevated him to the heights of the cause. King’s national profile—he’d been on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1957—would give the conference a currency that a mere panel of scholars couldn’t provide. His presence would also prime the pump for appearances from other notables.

In February 1959, Bowron sent a letter of invitation to the Reverend King’s office at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. King happened to be touring in India at the time—he had been invited

by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and spent a month traveling the country to see firsthand the results of Gandhi’s campaign to use nonviolent means to end British rule. But upon his return, in April, he replied that he would indeed come to Minneapolis in



**Abolitionist John Brown (circa 1856) was a polarizing figure in pre-Civil War America—and, as University of Minnesota faculty members learned, continued to be 100 years after his death.**

political firmament, quickly agreed to attend, as did renowned Civil War historian Kenneth Stampp, but filling the other scholarly and literary seats at the table turned out to be problematic. Robert Frost was reluctant to commit because, as Bowron put it in a snarling letter to the director of University Relations, “[Frost] seems to think it unwise at this ‘delicate’ and ‘tragic’ point in the Republic’s history to so much as remind anyone that old Brown ever existed.” Bowron went on to say that “[Frost] implies that *maybe*, if Truman were willing to talk about anything so explosive as John Brown and civil rights, he himself just *might* change his mind. But even so, this prevents us using Frost as bait to get Truman.”

Bowron had further complaints. Robert Penn Warren, he wrote, “has managed to convince himself we are ‘celebrating’ Harpers Ferry, rather than using it as a point of departure.” Warren’s friend and fellow Southerner, then-U of M English faculty member Allen Tate, had a similar point of view, which led Professor Charles Foster, another conference planner, to refer to Warren and Tate jointly as the “Confederate High Command.” (Warren and Tate were among the 12 members of the Southern Agrarians, a group of writers who met at Vanderbilt University as faculty and students who bemoaned the loss of Southern culture to modernism and industrialization.) In a follow-up letter, Foster tried to reassure his friend Warren: “I trust you understand immediately that we are not planning an abolitionist session but are using the occasion of Brown’s raid as a point of departure. If you don’t like Brown any more than the general you are named for [Robert E. Lee], who captured him in ten minutes with the help of marines, that’s all right with us.”

Despite the reassurances, Warren declined, as did Frost. Invitations to William Faulkner and Edmund Wilson were never sent. Tate ultimately decided to take part in the gathering, despite his feelings that he was being set up. He was joined by Columbia University sociologist C. Wright Mills, along with Stampp, Hays, Foster, Noble, Dr. King, and a historical novelist named Truman Nelson, who was a devotee of John Brown. As department chair, Bowron would host the gathering.

October to keynote the U’s symposium.

Bowron had less luck with Hubert Humphrey, whose desire to run for president in 1960 was no secret, and whose political calendar, he told Bowron, simply couldn’t accommodate a weekend conference scheduled so far in advance. Even more disappointing was the response from Harry Truman. A well-known history buff, Truman was considered a dynamic and compelling potential participant. Unfortunately, he was so slow to respond that Bowron had to ask University President James Morrill to prod the ex-president for an answer. It turned out that Bess Truman was ill and her husband could not commit to the conference.

Brook Hays, a dimmer star in the political firmament, quickly agreed to attend, as did renowned Civil War historian Kenneth Stampp, but filling the other scholarly and literary seats at the table turned out to be problematic. Robert Frost was reluctant to commit because, as Bowron put it in a snarling letter to the director of University Relations, “[Frost] seems to



**A**t noon on Friday, October 16, 1959, about 3,000 people gathered at Northrop Auditorium to hear Martin Luther King's opening address for the American Studies Conference on Civil Rights. As a leader who preached nonviolence, King did not intend to dissect the legacy of John Brown for this or any audience. King was politically savvy; he knew that nothing he might say about the radical Brown could help his cause with either segregationists or integrationists. He'd made it clear to conference organizers that he would instead be offering a historical outline of American race relations, and that's just what he did, succinctly describing three discrete periods. First, he said, came the "era of slavery," which ran from 1619 to the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863; next, the period of "restricted emancipation," extending from 1863 to the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954; and then the current period, which he labeled "constructive integration," defined as "the period in which we seek to rise to the level of genuine intergroup and interpersonal living."

The struggle ahead, King said, would pit the forces of reaction in the South against "the determination of the Negro himself to gain freedom and equality." And here he came as close as he would in this speech to addressing the example of John Brown. Though there would no doubt be acts of violence in that struggle, King allowed, "[the Negro's] defense is to meet every act of violence toward an individual Negro with the fact that there are thousands of others who will present themselves in his place as potential victims. If the oppressors bomb the home of one Negro for his courage," he said, "then this must be met by the fact that they will be required to bomb the homes of hundreds and thousands of Negroes. If they deny bread and milk to Negro children whose parents want them to be free, then they must be required to deny these children every necessity of life—water and air itself. This dynamic unity, this amazing self-respect, this willingness to suffer, and this refusal to hit back will soon cause the oppressor to become ashamed of his own methods. He will be left glutted with his own barbarity. Forced to stand before the world and his God splattered with the blood and reeking with the stench of his Negro brother, he will call an end to his self-defeating massacre."

In time, the sound of a Martin Luther King speech—the drawn-out vowels, the rise and fall of that sonorous voice, the poetic cadences—would become as familiar to the American public as that of any figure in the nation's history, but it was all new to



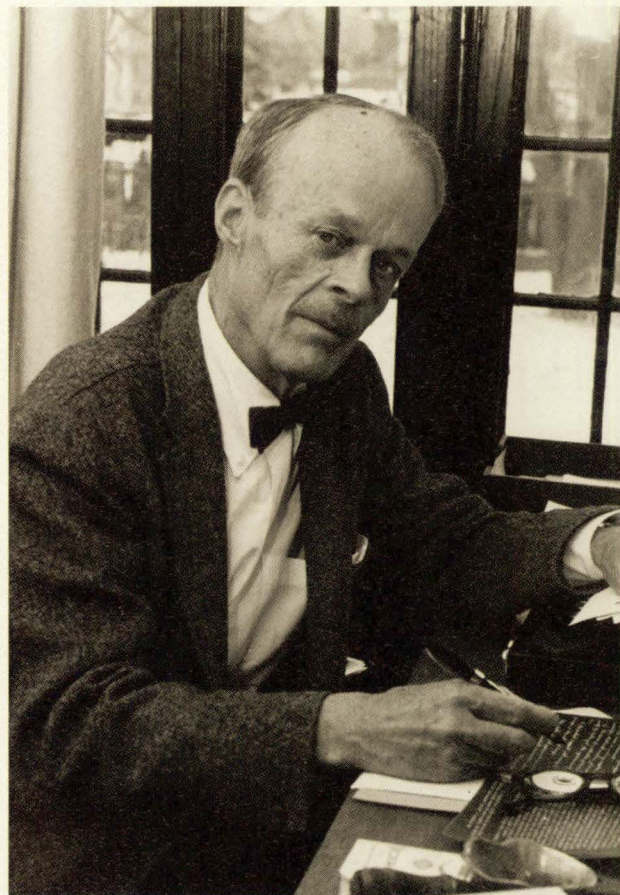
**After his campus appearance in 1959, Martin Luther King Jr. was interviewed by L. Howard Bennett, a local civil rights leader and the first African American judge in Minnesota, for local educational television. The video may be seen through MN Video Vault, a project of Twin Cities Public Television. Go to [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KingSpeech](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KingSpeech).**

the people at Northrop that day. Almost all of them sat rapt. There were no interruptions during the talk, but at its end the crowd erupted with such sustained applause that King had to return from his chair to the podium to acknowledge it.

Following his address, King stayed on campus long enough to tape a half-hour interview for broadcast on local educational television.

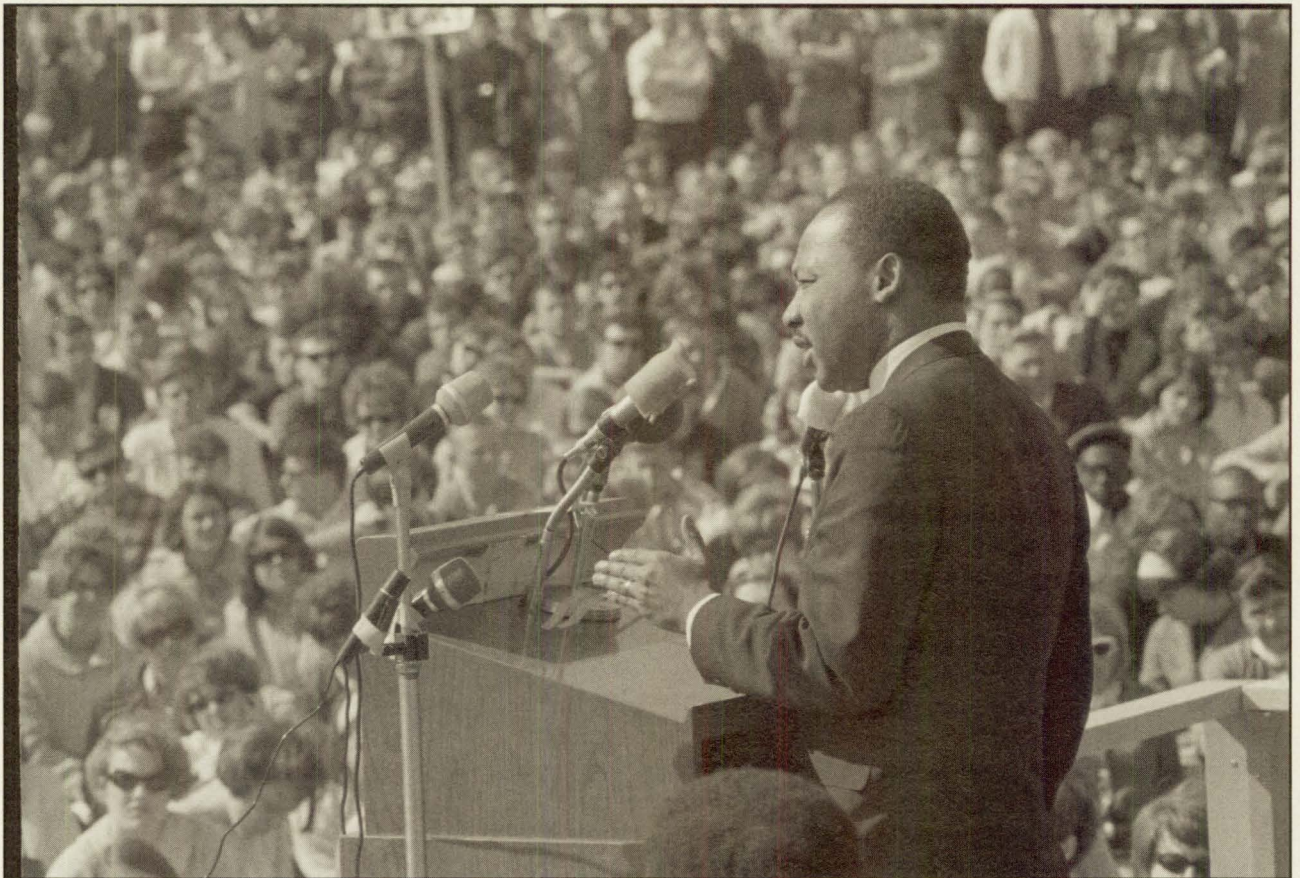
Then he quietly left for home in Montgomery. He had a sermon to deliver on Sunday.

**T**he Harpers Ferry conference was lively and worthwhile, but its reach exceeded its grasp. Truman Nelson, the John Brown scholar, lit most of the fireworks that did occur, attacking Southerners who treasured a "lost cause" narrative of the Civil War: "[They] should wake up to the brute fact that the golden age they hark back to and cherish was a slave-holding, slave-breeding, slave-driving, slave-hunting hell on earth based on the wild and tragic fantasy that man could hold property on man."



**Poet Allen Tate, then a professor of English at the University of Minnesota, brought a Southern perspective to how the Civil War would be remembered.**





Nearly 4,000 people filled the mall on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus on April 27, 1967, to hear Martin Luther King Jr. speak. It was his second and last appearance on campus.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Nelson's rhetoric riled both Allen Tate and Charles Foster. Foster took Nelson to task, saying, "Mr. Tate has retreated further from his grandfather, who fought with Pickett at Gettysburg, than Mr. Nelson has been able to move." Speaking for himself, Tate said he was doubtful that the centenary of John Brown's raid was a proper occasion for a discussion of civil rights, since Brown himself was anathema to the South.

Despite the presence of King and the scholarly heavyweights, the conference failed to achieve national significance. There was no mock trial of John Brown, no extensive coverage of the proceedings in *The Nation*. The University Press decided not to do a book, partly because a stenographer hired to record the Saturday morning session somehow omitted large portions of the meeting.

Even local newspaper coverage was lackluster. The NAACP chided the *Minneapolis Tribune* for its "superficial stories," and the *St. Paul Dispatch* didn't bother to name the keynote speaker in the headline of its story, in the apparent belief that his race was identifier enough. That headline, which ran above a column buried deep inside the paper, read, "U Hears Negro on Integration." Not until the second paragraph did readers learn that "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who led the successful boycott of segregated buses in his home city of Montgomery, Ala., was here for a two-day meeting of the American Studies Conference on Civil Rights."

Seven and half years later, on April 27, 1967, King stood on a wooden platform above the green mall of the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus and delivered a speech describing "a world in transition" to an enthusiastic audience of some 4,000 students and spectators. Much had transpired since his first visit to the Twin Cities. The civil rights movement had grown, evolved, and been bolstered by some of the same college students to whom he now spoke. Marches, voting drives, and "freedom riders," including busloads of students from the U of M, had spread throughout the South, deepening the nation's understanding of the problems of segregation. A quarter-million people had stood before the Lincoln Memorial in 1963 to hear Dr. King intone his magisterial "I have a dream"

speech; the U.S. Congress had finally passed a Civil Rights Act; and Dr. King's work had been acknowledged with the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.

But the South still harbored Ku Klux Klansmen, and racial rifts were now evident throughout the country. Urban neighborhoods from Watts to Washington had erupted in riots. The war in Vietnam had escalated precipitously and was now, as King put it that day, a subject that "divided our country [and] invited hatred, bigotry, and violence." The war, he added, had also "diverted attention from civil rights."

While legislation had ended legal segregation in schools, on buses, and at lunch counters in the South, de facto segregation, bred by poverty and reinforced through inequality, remained a plague upon the nation. "The Negro in a ghetto is on a reservation where he is robbed of economic opportunities and decent housing," King told his audience. "Our summers of riots are caused by our winters of delay."

Signs around him read "Make Love Not War" and "Go Go in Peace" (a play on

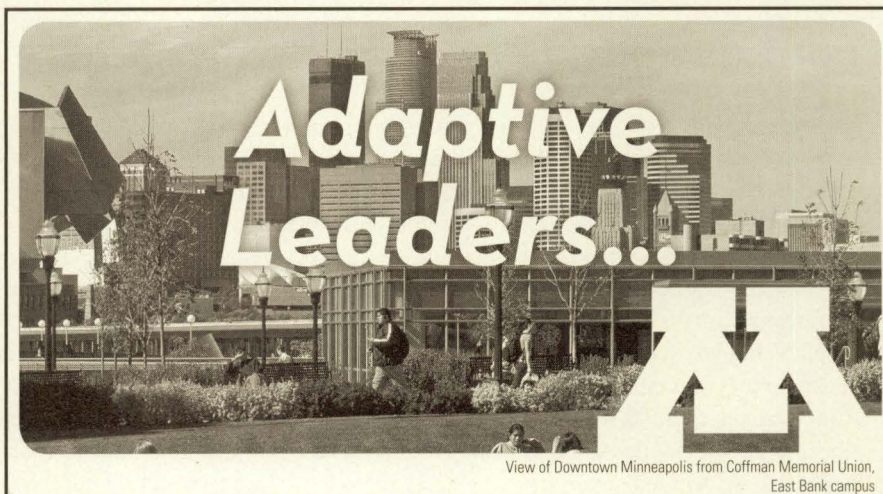
words mixing the familiar blessing with a reference to a catchphrase from television's *Laugh-In*). Though King had recently told an audience in Atlanta that he was not interested in the office, at least two other placards in St. Paul read "King for President '68."

By now, King had given hundreds of these speeches on campuses across the country. According to newspaper reports—and none slighted him this time—he spoke without notes, with his hands thrust casually in his pockets.

He spoke for about an hour. Afterward, an entourage whisked him away. Martin Luther King waved goodbye and ducked into a waiting car. It was his last visit to the University, and to Minnesota. He would be dead in Memphis in less than a year. ■

*Tim Brady is a regular contributor to Minnesota. His book Twelve Desperate Miles will be published by Random House in 2012.*

*To read Martin Luther King's 1959 speech and watch the interview of him for educational TV, go to [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KingSpeech](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/KingSpeech)*



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Juan Ramirez and two of his mentees at Risen Christ School

## Found in Translation

**T**his spring, over sheet cake and milk, school administrators, antsy eighth graders, and CEOs gathered at Risen Christ School in Minneapolis. Among them was Juan Ramirez (M.B.A. '74), founder of Twin Cities–based Grupo Avance and Marcelita's Cookies.

The party capped off the first year of Imagine the Possibilities, an innovative mentorship program that paired 11 CEOs with middle schoolers at the Catholic school, where 90 percent of the 317 students are at or below the poverty line. Mentors met with students once a month for five months. For Ramirez, the decision to become a mentor was a natural extension of how he—and society—have evolved.

The school paired its bilingual students with Ramirez, who was born in Orizaba, Mexico. Ramirez spoke just a few phrases of English when he came to the United States in 1971 on a scholarship to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. When he was growing up in the 1950s, learning English was discouraged because social scientists viewed bilingualism as damaging to the brain. Some even went so far as to insist that bilingual children had lower IQs.

Once in the United States, Ramirez found the language difficult and aggravating to learn. "I would just cringe when I had to stand in class and say something in English," Ramirez recalls. But he became fluent by the time he enrolled at the University of Minnesota in 1973. After graduation he went to work for IBM, where he stayed for 17 years before moving on to General Electric

and other companies. As Ramirez's career moved forward, he left his Spanish behind.

But around age 50, Ramirez had a midlife inkling that he might be able to put his extensive business experience to better use. Gradually, a stunning revelation came to him: He had fluent but rusty Spanish in his back pocket, he was dual-culture, and he had almost 30 years of sales and marketing expertise. "It was like the answer was in front of me all the time," says Ramirez. That year, in 2003, he founded Grupo Avance, a company that helps businesses expand into the Hispanic market. In 2008 he launched Marcelita's Cookies, a business inspired by his wife's chocolate-walnut-oatmeal-butterscotch chip delights. And throughout, he rediscovered the joy of speaking his mother tongue. "There was really something special about learning this lesson for myself and then being able to share it with these students," he says. As school starts and Imagine the Possibilities begins its second year, Ramirez is eager to help cultivate a fresh crop of eighth graders.

Earlier this year, research by a professor at York University in Toronto demonstrated that bilingualism is highly beneficial to the brain—and, as Ramirez tells his mentees, to business. "Juan told us to never ever feel embarrassed of our Spanish," Risen Christ student Arturo Diaz-Martinez says over his piece of cake. "He told us to use it, and to know that we'll always have an edge, so long as we keep our Spanish." —Alyssa Ford



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Author Kim Heikkila at the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in St. Paul

## Far from a Footnote

**K**im Heikkila (B.A. '90, Ph.D. '02) isn't a baby boomer. In fact, she was born about the time the 15 military nurses she profiles in *Sisterhood of War: Minnesota Women in Vietnam* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2011) were serving in-country. "There was a period after my undergrad [years] when I watched a lot of Oliver Stone movies," laughs Heikkila, an adjunct history instructor at St. Catherine University in St. Paul. *The Doors*, *Platoon*, and other films led to a passion for the 1960s that she pursued throughout her doctoral program in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. *Sisterhood of War*, rooted in her dissertation, is an account of a dramatic story that has been largely overlooked in the extensive literature of the '60s: the experiences of women who served as military nurses in the Vietnam War.

Heikkila uses oral history interviews of 15 military nurses with Minnesota connections, including two University alumnae, Mary Beth Crowley (B.S.N. '69) and Edythe (Edy) Johnson (B.A. '71) to tell the collective story of Vietnam nurse veterans. Writes Heikkila: "The twelve months they spent in the heat and humidity of a tropical war zone . . . immersed in the destruction of war, consumed by their responsibilities as nurses, transformed these women from (sometimes) naïve, often inexperienced, nurse-soldiers into . . . wise but weary war veterans."

Despite searing experiences—such as a patient who literally came apart in a nurse's hands on her first day in the ER when she tried to cut off his uniform—the nurses did not anticipate that the war would follow them home. Qualities of selflessness and sac-

rifice that made them committed military nurses made it more difficult to acknowledge that they, the healers, needed healing.

The incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military women is similar to men, Heikkila says, "but the origins were different. They were not in battle but saw the effects of battle. Many talked of the awesome responsibility and burden to take care of young men who looked like their little brothers." The nurses' average age was 24; soldiers' was 19.

As compelling as Heikkila found the women's wartime experiences, "what is really interesting to me is what they did after the war," she says. First, the Minnesota women battled Veterans Administration bureaucracy in the 1980s to create their own PTSD support group. An outgrowth of this healing community was the campaign to gain recognition for women's unique contributions, which resulted in the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 1993. Most of the Minnesota women in *Sisterhood of War* both participated in the PTSD group and contributed in some way to the memorial's establishment.

"Everyone knows the popular media story of the patriotic guy who goes to war, is disillusioned, comes home and is spit on, becomes a 'dangerous psycho,' and then is redeemed at the wall [the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C.]," Heikkila says. "Women had their own version of that; it's not just a man's story." She hopes *Sisterhood of War* will illuminate that, far from a footnote, "women are part and parcel of the war story itself."

—Laura Weber

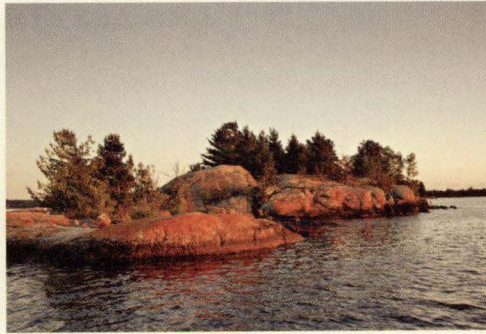


## Weather, Water, and Wonder

*Voyageur Skies: Weather and the Wilderness in Minnesota's National Park* captures the beauty of the state's only national park while educating readers about what continues to shape this remarkable natural resource. Located along the Minnesota-Canadian border, Voyageurs National Park covers more than 218,000 acres, nearly 84,000 of which are water.

Organized by the seasons of the year, *Voyageur Skies* (Afton Press, 2011) features more than 80 color images by photographer Don Breneman (M.A. '71), who grew up exploring this magnificent terrain. University of Minnesota meteorologist and climatologist Mark Seeley provides the text and the context. He discusses the forces at work behind the landscape, touching on the effects of the area's extreme weather conditions (freezing temperatures have been recorded in every month of the year) and the climate trends that threaten the park. For example, Voyageurs has had a one-inch annual increase in rainfall over the past two decades. Seeley explains how that trend affects lake levels, dams, and water resources.

*Voyageur Skies* is intended for general readers as well as for classroom use. —Stephanie Roebuck



Above left: Maple and aspen leaves float down Clyde Creek.

Above: An approaching thunderstorm blocks the evening sun.

Left: Orange lichens grow on northwest-facing rocks.

A large, ornate gold frame is centered in the image, containing a photograph of the Weisman Art Museum building. The building's facade is made of reflective, metallic panels that create a complex, geometric pattern. The background shows a cloudy sky.

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# Alumni Association Angle



**Hall of Fame** The era of students living on campus in residence halls began at the U in 1910. Sanford Hall, named after Professor of Rhetoric and Elocution Maria Sanford, opened that year as a residence for women but became coed in the 1970s. It is now home to 502 students. The U currently has eight residence halls and three apartment buildings that together provide housing for approximately 6,300 students. Pictured here are two Sanford Hall residents in 1941.

## INSIDE

Coffee at the Bell  
Executive Class at  
Carlson School  
Honoring  
Outstanding  
Undergrads  
Satisfy Goldy's  
Wanderlust

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



## A Day on the Links for Scholarships

The annual CFANS Golf Scramble, sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Science's Alumni Society, raised an all-time high \$27,000 at this year's event on July 8 at the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course. Held since 2003, proceeds from the Golf Scramble go toward scholarships for CFANS students. In its nine years, the Golf Scramble has raised \$146,000.



Pictured at left are Harold Paulson (left) and Don Kvasnicka in the golf cart. Norm Seiling is in the foreground. Above, Goldy eyes Graham Dee as he tees off.

## Coffee's on at the Bell



A woman picks coffee cherries in Sumatra.

It's the world's second most popular drink, after water, and the leading source of caffeine consumption in the United States. Coffee is undeniably a global commodity with universal appeal to people regardless of income, nationality, ethnicity, or religion. Though many are

familiar with the pleasures of daily java, few are acquainted with the history of coffee and how it has affected cultures, economies, and environments worldwide.

The combination of the familiar and the unexpected is what makes the Bell Museum of Natural History's fall exhibit *Coffee: The World in Your Cup* so interesting, according to exhibit coordinator Jennifer Menken (B.S. '94). "Most consumers don't think about the people and places

that bring coffee from the field to the roaster to the cup, but this exhibit offers visitors a chance to be more socially and environmentally aware of what they drink," Menken says.

*Coffee: The World in Your Cup* examines one of the world's most widely traded products through maps, photographs, artifacts, videos, hands-on demonstrations, and a display of more than 80 burlap coffee bags representing farmers from Guatemala to Kenya to Columbia to Brazil.

First Thursday evening events in October and November will feature coffee tastings and expert-led tours of the exhibit. Visitors can relax in a coffeehouse atmosphere, enjoy a cup of java, and peruse reading materials.

The exhibit runs through November 27 and is made possible in part by the Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation of St. Paul, Peace Coffee of Minneapolis, and Dunn Brothers of Minnesota. Admission to the Bell Museum is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and free for museum members and U students. Alumni Association members receive a \$5 savings on Bell Museum membership, which starts at \$30 annually. Learn more at [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Bell\\_Museum](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Bell_Museum). —Jennifer Benson



## Satisfy Goldy's Wanderlust

He's lightweight, eager to go, and a fun-loving travel companion. Remember to pack our favorite globetrotting mascot, Global Goldy, and snap a photo to share with U alumni whenever and wherever you go. He's pictured here in two of the many destinations he's visited this year: (top) cozying up to a bagpiper in Edinburgh, Scotland, and (bottom) hobnobbing with a troll in Geiranger, Norway. Show us where you take Goldy! Post photos through the Alumni Association website or Facebook page at [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/GlobalGoldy](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/GlobalGoldy).



GOLDY PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE LEE; REED PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSH KOHANEK

### National Board Chair

## See You on Campus

Everyone has a story about how he or she came to be a student at the University of Minnesota. Mine begins in the fall of 1973. I grew up in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, and was a peripatetic college student, attending two other universities before determining that neither was a good match for me. Perhaps the third time really is the charm. On a golden September day, I strolled through the falling leaves on the U of M campus to register as a transfer student. Before I had attended even one class, I knew this was where I would stay.

"This is it," I remember thinking. "This is home."

What was it that made me so certain? Well, the place was big, people were everywhere, and things were happening wherever I turned. The U had an urgency—a pulse—that many in my father's family had experienced decades earlier. I knew that the U would help me discover and realize my dreams.

At the time, I knew I'd stay to earn my undergraduate degree in speech pathology and hoped I'd be lucky enough to earn my M.D. from the U as well. But never did I guess that one day I'd be elected to the Board of Regents, serve a term as a University of Minnesota Foundation trustee, and sit on the Minnesota Medical Foundation board as well. Immersed in textbooks and friends, I didn't know that those entities even existed. And yet, almost 40 years later, I'm still happily in service to my alma mater—now as national board chair of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. It has been an honor to serve the University in so many capacities throughout my life.

Readers of this magazine know that the Alumni Association has recently completed extensive strategic planning. You may have even taken part in the process, in which thousands of alumni and stakeholders participated in surveys and focus groups and on task teams. The result was a new vision and mission.

That vision—to engage the University of Minnesota's global community to support and advance the University's excellence—is more important than ever. And the role that we alumni play is more important than ever. Now, on your behalf and with your help, the Alumni Association is putting the new plan into action. We'll engage alumni in novel ways throughout their lives, partner with various groups to strengthen relationships and the University, and advocate collaboratively and on new levels to help our University achieve its goals.

I've been fortunate to have so many opportunities to serve my alma mater, but I'm not unique in that respect. My "day job" is as executive director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, housed at Augsburg College, right across the street from the U of M campus. I visit campus nearly every day. And when I do I encounter dozens of fellow alumni who are also serving the U. Doing so is simply part of who they are, because they know that the University of Minnesota is vital to our state and all of our citizens.

So, next time you're at the Humphrey or the Carlson School, the St. Paul Gym or the ice arena, watch for me. Stop and say hello. Tell me what's important to you, and let me know how you'd like to be involved.

Until then, visit [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org) to learn more about our strategic plan and how you can connect with the U through your Alumni Association.



Maureen Reed

—Maureen Reed (B.A. '75, M.D. '79)



## A Health Club for the Mind



**John Harrigan** teaches the OLLI course **Brazil through Film**. Harrigan is a former foreign service officer who worked in Brazil and is a professor emeritus at Hamline University.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), with more than 300 courses, trips, and special interest activities per year—and no prerequisites or tests—is a health club for the mind.

OLLI is a Twin Cities membership-based community of older adults who share a love of learning. An affiliate program of the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education and a member of the national Osher Lifelong Learning Network of 119 institutes, OLLI hosts courses and activities at the University as well as at more than 20 sites throughout the Twin Cities area.

Members can flex their intellects taking fall classes that include *Biology of Autumn*, *The Music of Jazz Masters Duke Ellington and Miles Davis*, and *World War II Remembered*. In *Voices from Around the World*, University students and faculty will talk about their home countries, including China, India, and Moldova. Courses begin September 19 and run through mid-November.

Through a partnership with the public library in Plymouth, Minnesota, OLLI is introducing a new program this fall called *Where Were You When...?* After showing a video clip of a significant historical event, course leaders will share their firsthand experience related to the event and invite participants to contribute to the discussion.

OLLI invites members to stretch their imaginations through collaborations with more than 30 local theater, music, and arts organizations, as well as University of Minnesota colleges and departments. Members can participate in "bookend" courses where they meet for an introductory class, attend a play or musical performance, and then come back together as a class to continue the conversation and learning.

Steve Benson, OLLI executive director, says OLLI is based on peer learning. "Our courses are taught by volunteers who are current and retired U of M faculty, retired faculty from area colleges and universities, community activists, and other OLLI members," Benson says.

OLLI members are especially proud of OLLI Scholars, a unique program where outstanding U graduate students receive a paid fellowship to prepare and present a course as part of OLLI's regular curriculum. "It's our way of contributing directly to students and the mission of the University," says Benson.

Alumni Association members can join OLLI at a first-year fee of \$175—a \$20 savings off the regular annual fee of \$195. Learn more about OLLI at [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/OLLI](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/OLLI) or call the OLLI office at 612-624-7847.

—Jennifer Benson

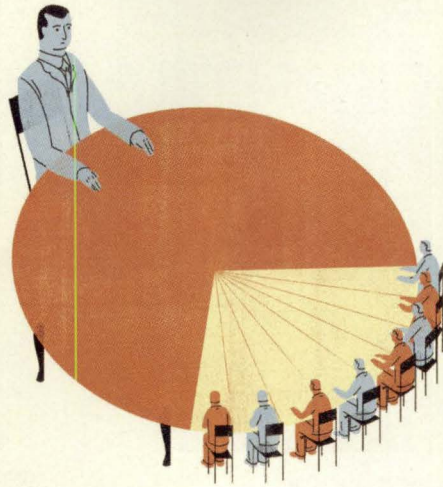


## Education for Working Executives

Employees looking to hone their professional skills and employers seeking to help develop their employees' talents will benefit from Carlson Executive Education at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. Assistant dean for Carlson Executive Education Mark Kizilos (B.A. '87) considers it the best-kept secret at the University.

"We are a resource that many people don't know about," Kizilos says. In a time when workplaces are rapidly changing and professional roles are evolving, Kizilos says the program attracts many people whose professional responsibilities are pushing them outside of their area of expertise.

Open to all individuals regardless of background and all organizations no matter their size, Carlson Executive Education's courses are led by Carlson School faculty and other experts. Courses vary in length from a half day to four weeks, with the majority running from two to three days. "People get the chance to learn from the real world topics that



are brought to the classroom and from a diverse set of participants that represent different organizations and industries," says Kizilos.

Organizations have the option of purchasing a membership in Carlson Executive Education to assist with their ongoing talent development. Members receive preferred rates on programming, consulting services, and the benefits of a long-term relationship with Carlson Executive Education. More than 250 companies now take advantage of this option.

Popular courses include those that cover core business principles, such as finance and accounting and leadership skills, Kizilos

says. Among the scheduled courses for fall are Finance for Non-Financial Managers (October 4-6), MBA Essentials (October 10-14), and Leading Effective Change (November 1-2).

Tuition varies from \$2,500 to \$4,000, depending on the program. Alumni Association members receive a 20 percent discount on all programs. For more information, visit [www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Carlson\\_Ex\\_Ed](http://www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Carlson_Ex_Ed). —Shannon Edholm



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## Alumni Association Honors Outstanding Undergrads

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association presented the annual Donald R. Zander Award for Outstanding Student Leadership on May 2 to Joel Livingood and Xiaoying Lou (B.S. '11). The Alumni Association presents the \$1,000 scholarship award annually to one male and one female student for their exceptional academic achievement, personal character, and outstanding leadership and service. The award is named after Donald R. Zander, who served as associate vice president in the Office of Student Affairs.



Xiaoying Lou

Lou graduated in May with a 3.9 GPA in biochemistry. In addition to carrying a full academic load of classes and conducting research on heart failure and health care policy, she created *Aspire*, an e-mentorship program between college and high school students. She was also president of the College of Biological Sciences (CBS) student board and served as a peer mentor in the CBS Dean's Scholars program. "My service experiences as a student leader have given me a better understanding of how societal disparities come to be. The small-scale contributions I have made at the U will set the foundation for the large-scale contributions I hope to make as a future agent of change," Lou says. She entered Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine this term and hopes to pursue a career in cardiothoracic surgery.



Joel Livingood

Livingood is a senior studying marketing at the Carlson School of Management. As president of the Student Unions and Activities Board of Governors his junior year, he provided leadership in moving toward resolution of longstanding controversies related to allocating office space for 700 student groups, ranging from the Black Student Union to fraternities and sororities. "The process had been reviewed numerous times in the past, dating

all the way back to the 1960s, and still there was controversy and conflict," Livingood says. "Faced with a problem that had existed for nearly 50 years was a little nerve-wracking." Livingood's commitment to seeking out all points of view laid the groundwork for constructive ongoing discussions. He is also involved in community service and fund-raising for the American Cancer Society through his fraternity, Beta Theta Pi.

The Alumni Association also presented the Student Leadership Award to eight undergraduates in recognition of their academic achievement, personal character, leadership, and contributions to the U community. Each award carries a \$500 scholarship. Recipients were Andrew Heairet, College of Science and Engineering; Bridget Rathsack, College of Liberal Arts (CLA); Dan Helvig, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; Joseph Lahti, College of Biological Sciences; Justin Carlson, Carlson School of Management (CSOM) and CLA; Kayla Kelsey, College of Education and Human Development and CLA; Whitney Weber, CLA; and Yongxi Wu, CSOM. —Cynthia Scott

## Network Over Breakfast



You're a working professional and your skills might need a little refreshing. Or maybe you're feeling a bit bored and just want a new challenge. The University of Minnesota's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) in the College of Continuing Education is the resource you're looking for.

CPE's offerings include dozens of single courses and certificate programs in business analysis, communication and personal development, human resources and leadership management, project management, and career development. Alumni Association members receive a 10 percent discount on course fees.

"It's usually a few years before alumni realize that their need for education didn't end with earning their degree," says Linda Halliburton, department director of professional development programs. CPE courses "provide bursts of knowledge and skills in as little as 90 minutes. An added benefit is the opportunity to network with other professionals."

A new series, *Breakfast with a Purpose*, is designed to provide a taste of the high quality, practical, and relevant courses CPE has to offer. It features 90-minute breakfast workshops led by CPE instructors that focus on key issues facing business leaders. Three sessions are scheduled for this fall: *Leadership Development Strategies for the Next Decade* on September 12; *Creative Communication with Impact* on October 5; and *Why Can't We Be Friends? Training and Organizational Development* on October 12. Attendees will receive a 50 percent discount on their first one-day open enrollment course offered through CPE.

Attendees will leave with new ideas they can apply that very day," Halliburton says.

Registration is \$15, which includes continental breakfast and parking. The sessions run from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and are held at the Continuing Education and Conference Center at 1890 Buford Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, visit [www.cce.umn.edu/Breakfast-Series](http://www.cce.umn.edu/Breakfast-Series).

—Cynthia Scott





# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## A special welcome to our newest life members.

(reflects January 15 - July 15, 2011)

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**A shopper at the Dairy Store on the St. Paul campus lights up at a freezer full of Golden Gopher Ice Cream on a hot July day. The store sells products that students and faculty make as part of their classroom work or research.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAYME HALBRITTER



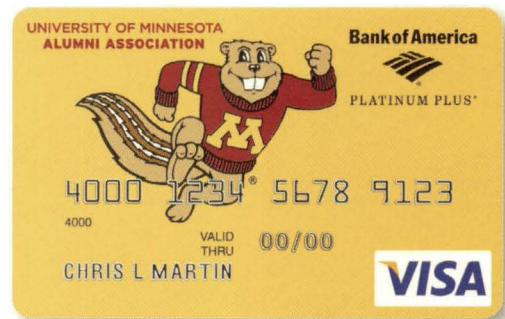


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