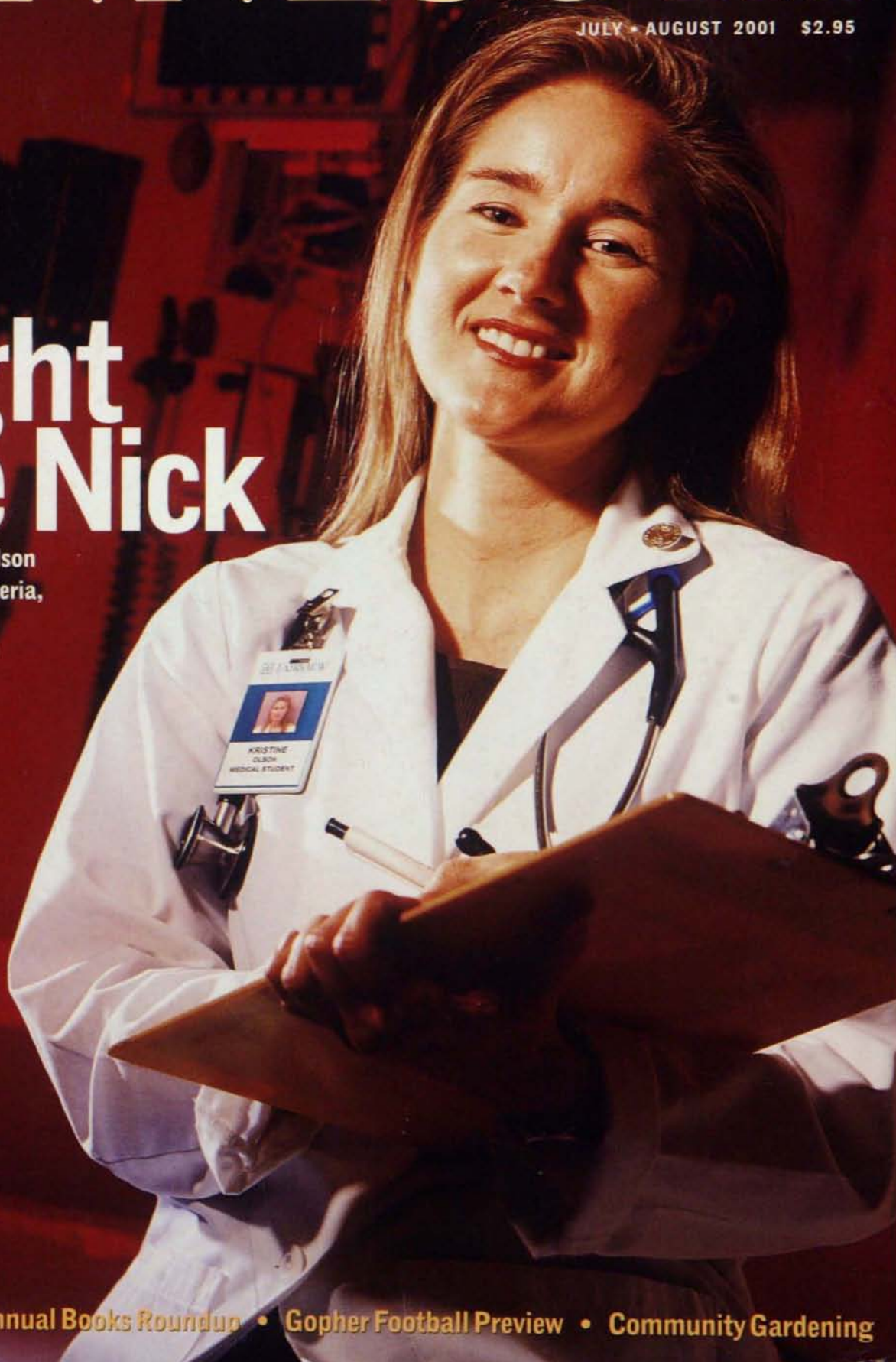


# MINNESOTA

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Edgar Degas, *Three Dancers in Yellow Skirts*, about 1891. UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

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# MINNESOTA

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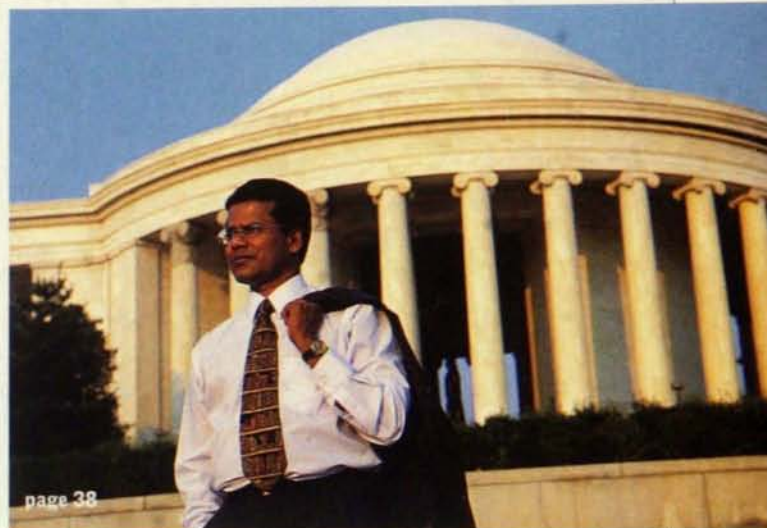
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*Cover photograph by Kay Chernush*



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# MINNESOTA

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Saturday, August 4

### RE-UNIONIZE Dinner

Celebrate our 28 charter members and our tremendous growth to 400 TCSU alumni members.  
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## In Focus

### Books That Sell Ideas

Douglas Armato has been in the publishing business since 1978, but when he moved here three years ago from Johns Hopkins University he had never seen anything like it—Minnesotans and their love for books. The director of the University of Minnesota Press is also amazed by the dedication of our faculty members who sit on review boards, critically and academically evaluating whether, as Armato says, a manuscript “is worthy of the name Minnesota on the spine.”

Armato recently cleared up several misconceptions about university presses, such as “Don’t they publish only dry academic works?” It turns out that 60 percent of what the University Press publishes is scholarly but appeals to a general audience. It has to, because



Tom Garrison

the University Press is expected to be self-sustaining, with only 2.2 percent of its budget coming from the University. That’s why last year 60 percent of its 110 titles sold in bookstores. (It also sells psychological tests, including the world’s most widely used personality profile, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, not to mention three journals.)

The subjects are varied and interesting: cyber culture, foot binding in China, shirts worn by Plains Indians, a history of tragedy at sea, and my favorite, the cultural influences of art, beer, advertising, dance, sport, shopping, the Web, and media.

Founded in 1925 to prove that scholarship here in the Midwest was as good as any in the Ivy League, the University Press today has a national reputation for being on the cutting edge in cultural and literary theory. For many, the press serves as an academic bellwether of what’s hot and what’s not. “A lot of [university] presses watch us,” says Armato. “Sometimes we guess wrong, but we try to always be moving on to fresher things” ahead of the pack.

It may surprise you to learn that University Press authors aren’t just from Minnesota. There are professors from other schools, like Northwestern, Vermont, and—heaven forbid—Macalester and St. Thomas! University presses specialize, so if you want to print a scholarly book on folklore, go to Indiana University. If you want the best in urban sociology and post-Colonial history, it is right here at Minnesota. The University Press also has strong regional titles on everything from Minnesota’s geology to its roadside attractions.

While university presses often publish on topics and ideas that commercial publishers won’t touch, the Association of American University Presses says that other than during the Great Depression, “it would be difficult to conceive a period more challenging to survival” of collegiate presses than right now. Industry observers say that, in terms of leading-edge scholarship, the United States has four great university presses, but only one of them is at a public institution: Minnesota.

In the future the University Press wants to build more local and cultural partnerships and to be a resource for Minnesota citizens. Armato notes that right now there is no definitive history of the Twin Cities, a book he would very much like to publish.

As you can tell, we love books too. This edition of *Minnesota* magazine marks the ninth consecutive year of our summer books selections. Editor Shelly Fling has done a fabulous job of pulling excerpts of interesting pieces. This year’s roundup includes two novels set in the Minneapolis and St. Paul of yesteryear, and the most inspiring memoir I’ve read in a long time, by alumnus and former governor Elmer L. Andersen. Enjoy.

—The Executive Editor  
garri009@tc.umn.edu



# WOULD HE HAVE INVENTED GORE-TEX IF HE HAD GONE TO SCHOOL IN, SAY, ARIZONA?

"It was very interesting to me, having never been to Minnesota," recalls Robert W. Gore. "I went to the football game in late September and it snowed!"



Inspired by the natural and academic climate at the University of Minnesota, Gore's graduate

research in Chemical Engineering led to his invention of the GORE-TEX® fabric that keeps millions warm and dry around the world.

What brought Gore from the more temperate climate of Delaware? "The U has been a top technology school for a number of years," said Gore. The Chemical Engineering program is ranked number one in the nation. And an impressive number of U grads are now leading

faculty members at other top engineering schools such as Princeton, MIT, Michigan, Stanford and more.

"The greatest years in my life were at the University because we had the basic freedom to explore," Gore stated. "There was a free give-and-take of ideas. To a high degree,

we formed the Gore corporate culture based on the environment I experienced at the U of M."

Gore still stays connected to the University in many ways. His company actively recruits U graduates. And, as a member of the U of M Alumni Association, he's



Had Robert Gore, Class of '61, not gone to the U of M, our world might be a soggier place.

helping uphold the University's long-standing tradition of excellence. The Alumni Association is a vigilant advocate, working to continually enhance the U experience by nurturing freshmen, recognizing outstanding teachers, developing student leaders, strengthening mentor programs and more.

Join Robert and the thousands of other graduates and friends of the U who make up the Alumni

Association. Your membership will help the University better prepare tomorrow's leaders. And the next time you zip on a waterproof jacket, be grateful that Gore decided to pursue his dreams in Minnesota. To join, visit [www.umaa.umn.edu](http://www.umaa.umn.edu) or call 1-800-UM-ALUMS.

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# Campus Digest

## Borealis Races Down **Route 66**

**O**n July 15, the University's solar vehicle team was at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, preparing for the longest solar car race ever: the American Solar Challenge. Perhaps the 19-member team took a moment to consider the Model T in the museum's automobile gallery and marvel at how technology has evolved over the past century. The University's solar vehicle project has evolved as well—over the past decade. Borealis, a new and improved solar car, is the team's best bet for taking on an international field of 37 other solar cars in the grueling, 10-day, 2,300-mile race along Route 66 from Chicago to Claremont, California.

A solar car transforms light photons into electricity that charges batteries, the motor's power source. Borealis has more than 300,000 solar cells that collect electricity and sports a rectangular body that is 200 pounds lighter than any of the program's previous vehicles. Students spent two years building Borealis, which can run 55 miles per hour on the power of a hairdryer and travel more than 120 miles without any sun.

"It just blows my mind," says project manager and graduate student Lisa Mauer. "It's absolutely amazing to see we could create something like this."

During the race, Borealis will cross five states, including the mountainous terrain of the San Gabriel Mountains. The car's light weight will work to its advantage. But weather is probably the biggest factor in the race. "The vehicle not only has to perform very reliably, which is always difficult when it runs many hours without maintenance,

but you have to manage the speeds according to what the weather conditions are," says Dr. Patrick Starr, faculty adviser and professor of mechanical engineering at the University.

On sunny days, the cars can travel at the posted speed limit. Solar cells collect energy while the car is driving, keeping the battery charged. If the following day is cloudy the car must rely only on battery power with little or no chance to recharge the battery. Races are won on teams' strategy and ability to predict the weather as much as they are on speed and efficiency.

Although the University has yet to garner first place in a solar race, the team has forged a competitive track record rivaling teams from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University. Established in 1992, the University's team has built and raced five vehicles, the first four based on variations of one car: the Aurora model. Aurora II won second place in Sunrayce 95, and set an average daily speed record of 50.4 miles per hour.

**Cedar Vandergon, a senior in mechanical engineering, works on Borealis, which is covered with 300,000 solar cells. The cells convert light photons into electricity that charges the car's battery.**

While the University team has high hopes for Borealis this year, the car had yet to show what it could do leading up to the American Solar Car Challenge. At a qualifying race in Topeka, Kansas, this spring, where cars were required to cover 125 miles in each of three days around a two-mile track, Borealis encountered major motor failure. "We thought we were through that day," Starr says.

Thanks to good sportsmanship and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Indiana) team, which lent a spare motor to Borealis, the University did not have to forfeit the qualifying race and finished 17th.

"All the quirks are out now," Mauer says. "I think this team is really ready."

For American Solar Challenge race results, visit <http://www1.umn.edu/umnsvp/events.html>.  
—Katheryn Howard



### Did You Know?

According to the U.S. Department of Education, women are surpassing men in college enrollment at four-year institutions. In 2000, women made up 56 percent of undergraduate enrollment in the United States. At the University of Minnesota, women make up 52.5 percent of the undergraduate student body.



# Curves Don't Determine Gender

Despite folklore, it appears that a woman's body shape does not predict the gender of her children. Some cultures believe that a curvy body shape in mothers is more likely to lead to the birth of girls, and a more androgynous body shape boys. A study at the University of Minnesota and the University of Newcastle in England measured the waist and hips in women planning to have children, then tracked their subsequent offspring. No significant correlation was discovered in the 458 women studied. Previous studies have suggested a link, but they typically measured the waist-hip ratio after childbirth and then compared it with the genders of existing children. Those findings may be explained by changes in the body caused by carrying more male children, who are normally larger and heavier. The new study was published in the May 22, 2001, issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London* ([www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/proc\\_bio/proc\\_bio.html](http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/proc_bio/proc_bio.html)).



## Faculty Research

A look at recent University of Minnesota studies, research, discoveries, and rankings

### Standardized Tests Pass

Despite controversy over the use of standardized college admissions tests, University of Minnesota analyses of two of the most popular measures, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the Graduate Records Examination (GRE), show them to be generally strong predictors of college success. Colleges widely employ the SAT in reviewing undergraduate admissions applications. The GRE comprises both a standard test and several subject tests used for graduate school admissions. Both studies analyzed more than 1,500 previously published reviews of the tests, with the GRE study involving more than 82,000 students and the SAT study more than 1 million.

The SAT analysis looked at various sizes and types of colleges and found that test scores are a strong predictor of first-year grades: The higher the SAT score, the better the grades. That influence continues in subsequent years and extends to success in completing a degree. The study also found that the correlation to first-year grades remains consistent for different gender and racial groups. The research was presented at an April meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and may be submitted for publication in fall. The study was funded by the College Board, a consortium of colleges that administers the SAT and offers other college entrance services, in order to get a definitive answer on their validity.

The GRE study found a correlation between GRE scores and grad-school grades, faculty ratings, success in getting the graduate degree, research success, and other measures. One area the GRE did not measure well was how long it took to finish an advanced degree. The study's lead author, psychology doctoral student Nathan Kuncel, who also was part of the SAT analysis, said undergraduate faculty ratings and personal history are more likely to accurately predict timely degree completion. The GRE research is published in the January 2001 issue of the *Psychological Bulletin* ([www.apa.org/journals/bul.html](http://www.apa.org/journals/bul.html)).

Kuncel undertook the GRE study with the intention of helping ensure that "admission standards are valid and unbiased," he said. He hopes eventually to use other evaluation methods to measure more subjective qualities, such as personality types and life experiences, to come up with the best overall ways to predict student success. "I think it's very important that schools get as many good pieces of information as possible [about applicants]. Standardized tests are one of them, but obviously there are more than that."

### Purifying Plants

Add the ability to absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide and nitrogen (two substances linked to global climate changes) to the list of reasons to preserve biodiversity. A study led by University of Minnesota forest resources professor Peter Reich has found that a prairie ecosystem with a wide array of plants can better use carbon dioxide and nitrogen than one with relatively few plant species. Yet human activity (through croplands, lawns and gardens, and commercial tree stands, for example) is shaping ecosystems to contain fewer species of plants at a time when levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and nitrogen are on the rise. The study, conducted at the University's Cedar Creek Natural History Area north of the Twin Cities, involved setting up 296 open-air plots with one, four, nine, or 16 prairie plant species. Some plots were grown with extra carbon dioxide and some with both more carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Those with more diversity of species were consistently better at absorbing the elements as measured by increases in biomass, which is about half carbon. In areas with added carbon dioxide, 16-plant plots added biomass at three times the rate of single-species plots when compared with control plots. With combined carbon dioxide and nitrogen, the advantage was about double. Reich theorizes that diverse mixes of plants are likely to contain species with a range of ways to utilize the nutrients and are more likely to contain species that help each other's synthesis. The work was published in the April 12 issue of *Nature* ([www.nature.com/nature](http://www.nature.com/nature)).



## Students Face a Housing Crisis

Rising rents, poor housing conditions, and doubts that those circumstances will improve soon are common topics of conversation among students. "My rent is going up, but I don't understand why," says Katie Fitzsimmons, a University sophomore. "We pay utilities and it's not as if our landlords do anything." Fitzsimmons and her four roommates share a house in the Como neighborhood, and their rent recently increased \$200. They now pay \$2,000 a month for the two-bedroom, one-bathroom house. "It's like this everywhere around here, and I think we have a pretty good deal," she says.

The Minneapolis housing shortage has existed for more than a decade, but as University enrollment increases, the market for housing only gets tighter. Because it is a seller's market, developers are not tempted to build affordable housing. Instead, they choose to construct more profitable high-end ventures, such as Grand Marc at Seven Corners, where the average rent is approximately \$823 per bedroom, or Dinnaken Apartments on Washington Avenue, where an average two-bedroom apartment costs \$1,400 a month.

"Most of the rental properties without government subsidies are high-end. Moderately priced rental properties are rather nonexistent," says Jan Morlock, director of Community Relations at the University.

With dorms at full capacity, more students must find housing off campus. The University has housed freshman in the Days Inn near campus at the beginning of each of the last five years, and the same will be true this fall. Even with Frontier and Middlebrook hall additions, which will add 331 beds this fall, the University plans to house about 100 students at the Days Inn.

Mannix Clark, assistant department director of housing at the University, attributes the increase of Days Inn residents to the larger number of incoming students and the high retention rate of students.

Betsey Kukowski, a liberal arts major, was evicted last winter because her landlord lost his license. The landlord knew he was under investigation but did not disclose this fact when Kukowski and her two roommates signed a lease in September 2000. The women were able to find new housing, but are suing the landlord for \$6,000—including for unreturned rent checks and damage. "We were thrown out in the middle of January, and it was freezing cold," Kukowski says. "It was something that should not have happened."

Bill Dane, an attorney with the University's Student Legal Services, is representing the women. He says approximately 40 percent of Student Legal Services' 1,200 cases a year involve landlord-tenant conflicts.

Expanding on-campus housing will alleviate some of the strain on the off-campus market. With the completion of Riverbend Commons (along East River Road behind Coffman Union) in fall 2002, the University will add 424 beds. This year the University also offered its first housing fair where students could gather information about local landlords, renting procedures, and available properties.

"When students are looking for housing this summer, I hope they're arming themselves with every piece of information they can," Morlock says, stressing that students should know renters' rights. To help prevent housing problems from inhibiting learning, the Housing and Residential Life office has recently stepped up its commitment to help students find suitable housing. Morlock and others are working with neighboring communities to amend housing problems, such as student parties, high rents, and substandard, sometimes unsafe, housing. The office recently published a renting booklet for students and hosted an on-line workshop for parents.

"It's always likely to be a high market in terms of cost [in the University area]," Morlock says. "[But] I think there is a lot of good stuff that's going on to help build student capacity."

—Katheryn Howard



## The Dalai Lama Stops—and Yaks

While the sight of livestock on the St. Paul campus is commonplace, yaks corralled on the Northrop Auditorium Plaza is unheard of—unless the Dalai Lama is expected. In May, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama spoke to faculty and students as part of the Distinguished Carlson Lecture Series at Northrop Auditorium. He also addressed a crowd at Williams Arena. A farmer from northern Minnesota trucked the yaks, which are revered in Tibetan culture, to campus to show his own brand of hospitality for the U's honored guest.

In Tibet, the Dalai Lama is one of the most esteemed of holy men and considered to be the reincarnation of the Buddha. The Twin Cities is home to the second largest Tibetan population (more than 1,000) in the United States, and many of them came to campus to see the spiritual leader. But so did thousands of non-Buddhists who normally subscribe to Western philosophies and religions.



Followers of the Dalai Lama gathered and awaited his arrival outside Williams Arena.

## Overheard on Campus

"All we're asking for is equal treatment. When Tiger Woods is on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, naked, holding a golf ball with the Nike swoosh in front of his genitals, then we'll stop our complaints."

—Professor Mary Jo Kane, director of the University's Tucker Center for the Study of Girls and Women in Sport, in a *San Francisco Chronicle* column on the growing use of sex appeal to sell women's sports.





The Twin Cities is home to the second largest Tibetan population in the United States. Many came to campus in May to see the Dalai Lama, considered to be the reincarnation of the Buddha. The Dalai Lama also drew non-Buddhists interested in his teachings, as well as a few protesters who opposed his visit.

His message of peace drew many. "Human intelligence guided by a warm heart," the Dalai Lama said, referring to solving global conflict. "Knowledge alone could be constructive or destructive; having a warm heart alone is limiting."

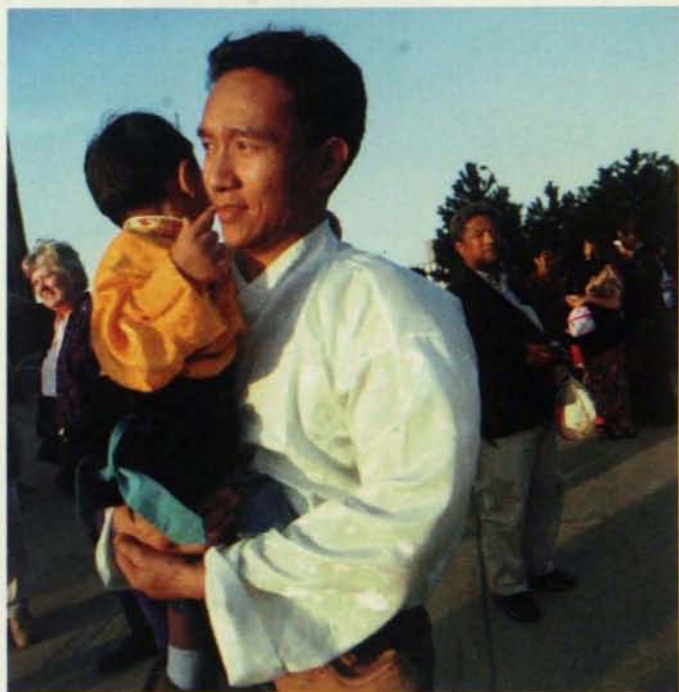
Even so, some see the Dalai Lama as a threat. Since China invaded Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama has lived in exile in India. Now in his 60s, he is perceived to be the symbol of autonomy to Tibetans and of freedom to many around the world. He remains a diplomatic problem for the Chinese government, which urged local lawmakers, including Governor Jesse Ventura, not to welcome the Dalai Lama during his Twin Cities visit—as did a state legislator who felt the Dalai Lama's views were "incompatible with Christian principles." (Local officials, including the governor and Minneapolis mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, did ultimately welcome the Dalai Lama.)

Judging by the polite crowd that calmly filled Northrop Auditorium to hear his lecture, "Developing Peaceful Solutions to International Conflicts," kinder minds prevailed that day. After a pre-lecture tribute, which included traditional Tibetan songs and dancing performances, the Dalai Lama walked onto the stage and did not disappoint.

For all the fuss surrounding him, the Dalai Lama is an unassuming man who dresses in simple robes, beams an infectious smile, and breaks into disarming laughs. During the his address, two large video screens in the auditorium often caught His Holiness absentmindedly scratching beneath his arms. Although the Dalai Lama struggled with the word *Minneapolis*—he explained that it sounded too similar to a Buddhist mantra said in prayer—he rarely needed the aid of his onstage interpreter, speaking eloquently about his visions for world peace and the merits of simple living and compassion. He applauded the United States for its history of democracy, and chastened it only for its nuclear weapons.

At the end of his presentation, the Dalai Lama answered questions written by audience members. One asked what the Dalai Lama felt was the biggest problem in the world today. His response was overpopulation and offered a solution: that the world needs more monks and nuns.

A portion of ticket sales went toward the establishment of a Twin Cities Tibetan Cultural Center. —Christina Schmitt





# Campus Arts and Events



## At the Bell

"Animal Eyes" uses hands-on exhibits to explore questions about how various animals see, at the Bell Museum through September 2.



## At the Weisman

*Aphrodite in Byerly's*, 1999, oil on canvas, by Andree Tracey, part of "Minnesota Art with a Twist," at the Weisman July 21–October 21.



*Ring of Fire*, 2000, mixed media, by Judy Onofrio, part of "Minnesota Art with a Twist," at the Weisman July 21–October 21.



On Northrop Plaza

Rokia Traoré sings cool, modern songs mainly in her native Bamanan language on Northrop Plaza, August 13 at 8 p.m.

## At the Goldstein

Marimekko cloth with a tree and flower motif, part of "Finland Forward," an exhibition featuring the work of Finnish textile and clothing company Marimekko, at the Goldstein through August 26.



## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

### BELL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, 612-624-7083. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

#### Animal Eyes

This award-winning traveling exhibit explores the quest to understand what animals see. Divided into five hands-on areas, it answers questions about whether dogs and cats see as humans do, why some animals have good night vision, how a starfish sees, and how the location of an animal's eyes can help it to survive. Through September 2.

### FREDERICK R. WEISMAN ART MUSEUM

333 East River Road, Minneapolis, 612-625-9494. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is free.

#### Minnesota Art with a Twist

More than 20 Minnesota artists who approach their work with wit, humor, or irony come together for this show. The artists represent a wide range of ages, media, and intentions, with some works commenting on social issues, while others are whimsical, fantastical, surreal, or disturbing. July 21–October 21.

#### Malcolm Myers: The Don Quixote Series

The Weisman showcases a new series of paintings by one of Minnesota's most beloved elder artists: Malcolm Myers. A faculty member in the art department for more than 50 years, Myers established the printmaking program at the University. August 11–October 14.

### GOLDSTEIN GALLERY

244 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, 612-624-7434. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1:30–4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

#### Finland Forward

Part of a University-wide celebration of Finnish culture, this exhibition features the work of textile and clothing company Marimekko. In addition to apparel, the company's innovative approach to design and its business acumen are highlighted. Through August 26.

## MUSIC

### SUMMER AT NORTHROP OUTDOOR CONCERTS

Northrop Auditorium Plaza, 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, 612-624-2345, www.northrop.umn.edu. All concerts are free and take place from noon to 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted. In case of rain, events will be moved inside.

A tradition on the Minneapolis campus since 1954, outdoor concerts continue into August and feature eclectic musical performances on the newly renovated Northrop Auditorium Plaza.

**July 23:** Axis Mundi, innovative world-beat jazz guitar trio

**July 24:** Boys of America, old-time Finnish brass band

**July 26:** Triplicate, modern jazz trio

**July 27:** Tim Sparks Trio, multicultural guitar with Gary Raynor and Jay Epstein

**August 1:** Prague-24, traditional klezmer instrumentals

**August 13, 8 p.m.:** Rokia Traoré, from Mali, is surrounded by traditional African instruments and sings cool, modern songs mainly in her native Bamanan language about such topics as respect for women, seizing the moment, gratitude, and true love. Bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating.

## READINGS AND SPEAKERS

### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRESENTATIONS

Sponsored by the Children's Literature Research Collections and the University Summer Sessions, national children's literature experts visit the Elmer L. Andersen Library for annual summer forums. On **August 2**, Minneapolis author Kate DiCamillo speaks on "Why We Write: Right Reasons and Wrong Reasons." DiCamillo recently won the Newbery Award for her book *Because of Winn Dixie*. On **August 9**, Keiko Hori, a doctoral student in Japan who received media attention when she discovered striking similarities between a popular Japanese book and an English-language story published earlier. She discusses her findings. Presentations take place at 2:15 p.m. in room 120 of the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-624-4817.

### FIRST TUESDAY LECTURE SERIES

The Carlson School of Management presents lunch and a top-level executive as the keynote speaker the first Tuesday of every month. The **August 7** speaker is Thomas Staggs, senior executive vice president and chief financial officer of the Walt Disney Companies. The **September 4** speaker is Steve Sanger, chairman and CEO of General Mills. The **October 2** speaker is Barbara Mawry, former chairwoman and CEO of Requisite Technologies. The August 7 event takes place at the Holiday Inn Metrodome on the West Bank. All others take place at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome on the East Bank. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is at 11:45 a.m.; the event concludes at 1 p.m. The cost, which includes lunch and parking, is \$18 until the Thursday before the event and \$23 after that day. Call 612-626-9634.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MAROON AND GOLD DAY AT THE STATE FAIR

The University's long-standing association with the Minnesota State Fair is celebrated August 26 at the fairgrounds. Two stages in Carousel Park will feature "edutainment" from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with University experts. At 2 p.m., the 300-piece University marching band leads a parade. And at 3 p.m., Gopher cheerleaders and athletes lead a pep rally. Fairgoers are encouraged to wear maroon and gold that day and to stop by the University building on Dan Patch Avenue.



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



# in Brief

**T**he University of Minnesota will receive \$110.6 million in new state money for the 2002–04 biennium. The amount includes \$90.7 million in new state general funds and \$19.9 million from tobacco-settlement proceeds for a new Academic Health Center endowment.

**Regents were to vote July 12 on a two-year budget** with a total of \$174 million in new spending. Tuition and fees would increase more than 13 percent in each year under the plan, presented by University President Mark Yudof to the Board of Regents in June. The budget also calls for \$30 million in central administration cuts. The majority of the budget increase, about \$110 million, would go to increase faculty pay an average of 5.5 percent and staff salaries by 3 percent. Other priorities include hiring faculty to expand freshman seminars, improving student advising, and covering maintenance costs associated with opening new and renovated buildings.

**Maureen Reed was elected chair** of the University's Board of Regents and Robert Bergland vice chair for a two-year term beginning July 1. Reed, who has served four years on the board, is a physician and executive with Health Partners. Bergland, who was elected to the board in 1997, is a former U.S. secretary of agriculture and member of Congress.

**The state legislature adjourned its special session June 30 without selecting regents for five seats.** By statute, Governor Jesse Ventura will now select regents for the Fifth Congressional District seat, three at-large positions, and the student regent. Ventura has said he will likely select new regents in late July or early August. Although the terms of the current regents expired on June 30, they will continue serving until replacements are named.

**The Board of Regents reported on President Yudof's annual performance review,** noting accomplishments in academic leadership, administrative management, fiscal management, planning, fund raising, and relationship building with internal and external constituencies. The board encouraged Yudof to develop a plan to demonstrate the University's accountability.

**The Board of Regents approved a new set of health plans for University nonbargaining unit employees** beginning January 1, 2002. The Interim Health Benefits Committee (IHBC), consisting of academic and professional staff, civil service staff, and faculty, recommended the new plans. IHBC and the President's Administrative Working Group concluded that the University objectives for greater control are better met in a University-managed system than the state-administered plan in which the University had previously participated. "If we self-insure, we can add and remove benefits based on [recommendations from] a permanent employee health benefits committee," said Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences. By working more closely with employ-

ee groups, "we can design plans that better meet their needs." Details on plan design and cost are not yet available, as contract negotiations with the four plans are under way.

**The regents approved an additional \$20,890,000 for the Coffman Union** renovation project. The original \$50 million budget allocation proved insufficient following a January 2001 reprogramming and

redesign. The project consists of remodeling about 338,000 square feet and adding, among other things, new food service and a central University Bookstore. "Not having Coffman for two years has deeply impacted student involvement," said Venora Hung, student representative to the Board of Regents.

**Fund-raising efforts are under way for the Gateway Plaza,** featuring a monument at the corner of Oak Street and Washington Avenue. The regents approved schematic plans for the \$3 million plaza March 9 and approved design of the monument on June 7. The monument, which will cast light on the plaza, consists of two towers—91 feet and 71 feet—about six feet apart. The plaza and its monument will be built with private donations. The plaza should be finished before winter, but "it would take three to four years before we can erect the [monument]," said University Gateway Corporation CEO Larry Laukka.

**The University received a \$4.7 million grant to map the U.S. population.** Minnesota Population Center researchers will use the National Science Foundation grant to electronically compile census-related data from 1790 to the present. Currently, most historic census data only exist on paper and in obsolete computer formats. The project will take five years to complete.

**The youngest-ever Minnesota recipient of a cochlear implant underwent the procedure June 8.** University Medical School otolaryngologist Frank Rimell performed the surgery on 12-month-old Zachary Revenig, whose hearing impairment was discovered when he was two days old. The procedure involves surgically implanting a device consisting of a microphone, signal processor, external transmitter, and receiver under the skin above and behind the ear.

**Dave Winfield received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the University** June 9 before a Minnesota Twins game. Winfield, who played basketball and baseball at the University and is the first Gopher student-athlete to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, was cited for being a gifted athlete, philanthropist, humanitarian, and role model.

**Brenda Oldfield was hired as Gopher women's basketball coach June 8.** Oldfield replaces Cheryl Littlejohn, who was fired May 14. Oldfield was head coach at Ball State and a former assistant at Iowa State. Littlejohn was fired following a University investigation that revealed NCAA rules violations in three categories: improper offers, inducements, or impermissible benefits; interference in a prior investigation; and practice time and evaluation of prospects. The University has taken corrective actions, imposed limits on recruiting, and turned the investigation over to the NCAA enforcement office. ■

*Pauline Oo is a writer in the Office of University Relations.*



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Our third-annual fiction contest is open to all University of Minnesota alumni.

### How to enter:

- Submit a double-spaced, typed manuscript, 2,500 words or less. Submissions must not have been previously published.
- Include a cover sheet that bears your name, year of graduation (or years of attending the University), phone number, and story title.
- To ensure anonymity, please do not put your name on the manuscript itself.

Each manuscript and its accompanying letter will be coded and separated before manuscripts are judged.

- If you would like notification that your submission has been received, please include your address on your cover sheet. If you would like your manuscript returned, please also include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The winner will receive a cash prize, and the winning story will be published in the March–April 2002 issue of *Minnesota* magazine.

### Send submissions by December 3, 2001, to:

Minnesota Magazine Fiction Contest, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE., Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

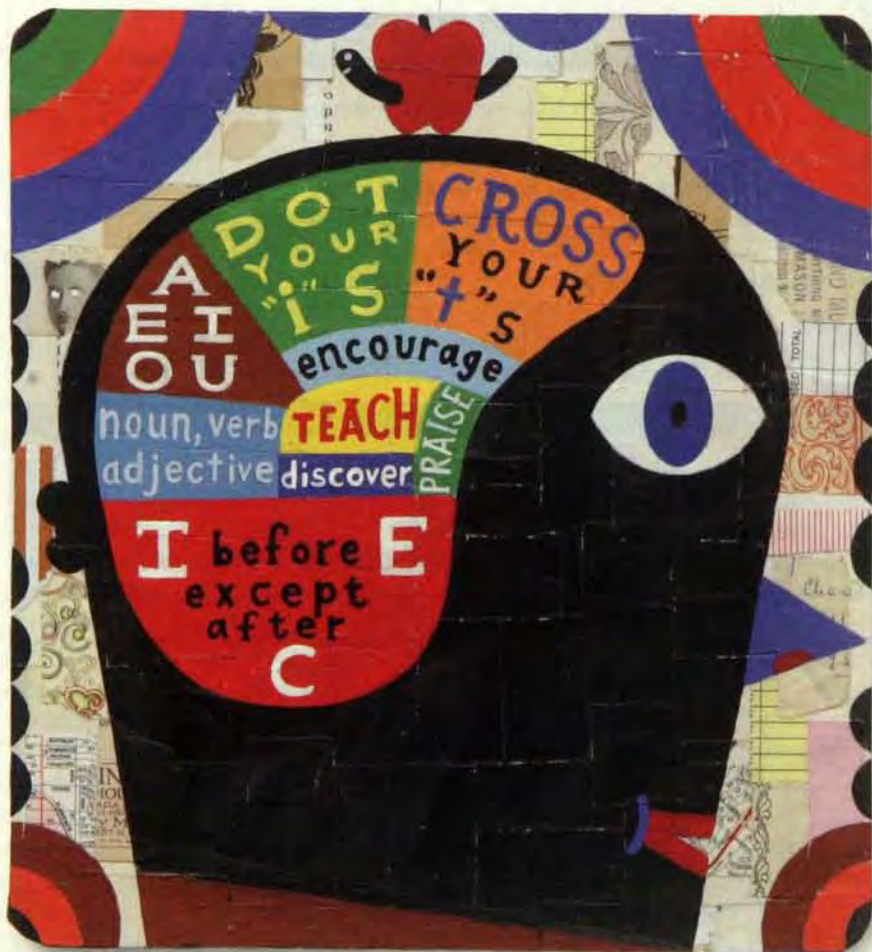
No phone calls, please.



# Telling Tales out of School

Stranger-than-fiction moments in magazine-writing class.

By Paul Froiland



I've taught magazine writing to University of Minnesota undergraduates for the past 20 years, 18 of them as an adjunct lecturer in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. As second jobs go, you couldn't ask for anything better.

There's something about people interested in writing for magazines. Overall, they are a reflective, sensitive lot, taking a long look at situations before they write about

them and pleasantly lacking the hair-trigger sense of urgency that sometimes characterizes daily newspaper reporters.

I've been privy to all kinds of intimate revelations by students in the stories they submit for class, and it has been a thrill to see people I have taught go on to become staffers for *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*, get articles published in *Glamour*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Woman's World*, and *Cosmo* ("How to Lose Weight by Writing Poetry")—and these are just the ones who reported back to me or whose bylines I happened to see. I've had a student who wrote comedy for Joan Rivers and one who just last year got her first novel published; students who estab-

lished their own successful businesses or who went on to become professors; and one who died in her twenties and had a wing of a building named after her.

As memorable as the great ones have been, it is oddly the unusual ones who stand out in my mind, especially the ones who provided strange or comical moments in class.

When I first started teaching, a lot of my students were classified as "adult specials," which meant that they were not in a degree program but wanted to be writers. One of the first classes I taught had a bar owner in it whose neck was as big as his head. He fancied himself a Mickey Spillane kind of writer and turned in chapters of a projected novel that were so dreadful I didn't know how to break it to him. I tried to tell him in a kind and honest way that his potential as a writer was rather severely limited.

When I handed him back Chapter 1, "A Guy Gets Offed," at the beginning of the third class, I noticed that as he read my comments his face developed a look of horror and betrayal, as if he were reading a "Dear John" letter. During my lecture, I would glance at him from time to time and could see that he had wadded up his assignment into a ball in his fist, and an angry shade of red was creeping up his neck. I continued to lecture under his penetrating glare, my throat constricting apace and my voice climbing into the high alto range while I pretended to act cool and professorial.

At the break, he came up to me with a crumpled ball of paper that looked like a cartoon of W.H. Auden's face. He handed it to me and said, "What's the matter with THIS?"

I gave a nervous laugh and uncrinkled the paper, thinking I would point out the most obvious mistakes first. "Well, there are a lot of errors," I said. "For one thing,



the spelling is really bad. Right here in the first line, for example, *pursue* is spelled p-e-r-s-u-e."

He glared at me with the dim self-righteousness of the invincibly stupid. "That's the way I SPELL *pursue*," he said indignantly.

After that experience, I incorporated a new lecture into the course about the paralyzing effects of ego on one's ability to write effectively.

The next year I had a class that consisted of only women students. It was a small and congenial group, and we ended up sitting with our chairs in a circle to discuss individuals' articles. Except there was one woman who always formed her own second row by herself. She wore dark glasses all during class and a bomber jacket that she never removed or even unzipped. I thought maybe she was a member of the academic accreditation board in deep cover, or perhaps an electrical engineering major sent in to infiltrate the class and report back to her group about what these journalistic types actually

“

**It never occurred to me that my response was not a good one to make to a convicted first-degree murderer. When he sent his rewrite back, he included a letter that referred to me icily in the third person.”**

talked about, since they didn't produce anything useful.

But she turned out to be a late-blooming radical. She had dispensed with the niceties of social pretense and made abrupt and stinging comments in class about other students' stories. This led to a rule I implemented the next quarter attempting to eliminate slashing critiques, and I began to challenge remarks that I thought were purely negative or petty, such as "This makes me want to vomit" and "You think you're a *writer*?"

Besides her scathing commentary, this woman would sprinkle swear words into her sentences—I suppose to sound more intimidating. But it was obvious that she had only recently learned to swear, because she did it all wrong. The comment I remember most vividly was, "I don't give a hell what the rest of you think."

The most unusual student I ever had was an inmate at a maximum security prison who wanted to take the class

through correspondence. He had committed a heinous and spectacular crime that he almost seemed perversely proud of, claiming that after his conviction he had granted an interview *exclusively* to Barbara Walters. He wanted to write all of his articles for the class about the crime.

He was a pretty good writer, and I thought it would be interesting to hear an intelligent criminal discuss his motivation for murdering someone. Besides, he told me, Tina Brown, who was then editor of *The New Yorker*, had expressed a keen interest in publishing his story, so he wanted to refine it as much as possible before submitting it. There would be three articles.

The first installment proved to be a long, self-pitying narrative about what a rotten childhood he had had, how he got smacked a lot, and how his dad called him a nickname he hated.

The second installment explained how he'd gone to college and fallen into a hole and broken his ankle and gotten secretly married and how his wife's parents were mean to him and kept perpetuating the hated nickname and made him watch the homecoming game on his crutches from

the opposite sideline. It carried on in the same whining tone as the first.

At this point, I realized he was never going to get to the crime, which had been tortuously planned, and that even if he did, his incessant self-pity would strongly militate against Tina Brown—or any other editor—being willing to publish it. I gave him a B+ for the quality of his writing on the second article, but I wrote that, unless he stopped feeling so incredibly sorry for himself, he wouldn't sell a thing.

It never occurred to me that my response was not a good one to make to a convicted first-degree murderer. When he sent his rewrite back, he included a letter that referred to me icily in the third person, and the only changes of mine he had incorporated into the rewrite were punctuation corrections. I imagined a caricature of myself scrawled onto his cell wall with a pencil stub, with the words "Die! Die! Die!" underneath.

After that, I realized that I had seri-

ously underestimated his ability. This man was going to get a straight A even if he wrote everything in three-word declarative sentences. I imagined my critiques bubbling effusively about how he had nailed every sentence perfectly: subject, verb, object; subject, verb, object: "I killed him. They arrested me. They were dopes. I was right. I got screwed. People are mean. Life is unfair. I hate teachers."

I looked up his prison sentence and found that he still had a couple centuries of time to go. I was slightly relieved, but there was always the possibility of a jail break. I blithely gave him an A for the course. I never did see his serialized opus, probably titled "I was wronged," in *The New Yorker*, but maybe Tina took it with her to *Talk*.

Most other funny episodes from my teaching experiences are just brief moments. I had one student who never smiled once the entire quarter; I thought he hated me. Then he wrote me a glorious evaluation at the end of the quarter, and during our conference praised me in worshipful tones to the degree that I thought he was putting me on.

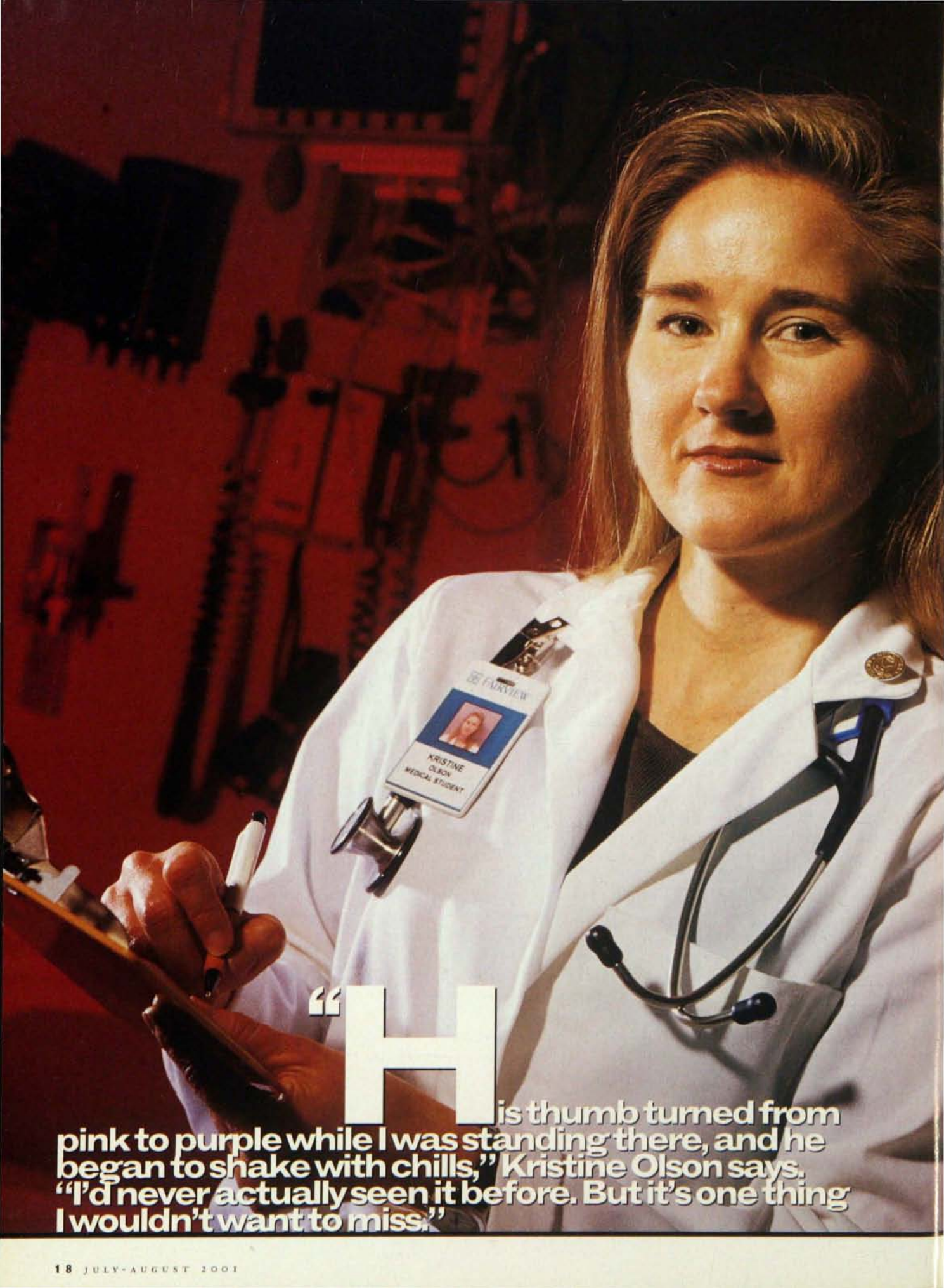
I had one student who was dyslexic and asked me if he could get special consideration in my grading, which I gave him. I had another student who made so many spelling errors that I thought she was dyslexic, too, and offered her the same deal, at which she was highly insulted and told me about her lengthy experience as a copy editor.

But through it all, it's the earnestness, passion, and idealism that these students have that is always bracing. Every time someone turns in an assignment, I don't know what I'm going to get, but it's usually deeply felt, sometimes brilliant, and always fun to read. ■

*Paul Froidland (M.A. '79) is a Twin Cities editor and writer.*

FIRST PERSON features personal essays written by alumni, faculty, students, or anyone with a University connection. To request writers' guidelines for First Person, write to Shelly Fling, Editor, Minnesota Magazine, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Or e-mail fling003@tc.umn.edu.





“**H**is thumb turned from pink to purple while I was standing there, and he began to shake with chills,” Kristine Olson says. “I’d never actually seen it before. But it’s one thing I wouldn’t want to miss.”



# Caught in the Nick

**When a medical student examined Lee Wattenberg's infected hand, she suspected the worst. Thanks to her fast action—and the expertise of the University medical staff—the renowned cancer researcher survived a life-threatening encounter with flesh-eating bacteria.**

By Peggy Rinard | Photograph by Dan Marshall

**I**t all started with a tiny crack in the skin on his right thumb, probably caused by the cold, dry January air, or perhaps it was a paper cut. Lee Wattenberg (M.D. '50), the University of Minnesota Medical School professor well-known for discovering that eating broccoli helps prevent cancer, studied the cut briefly, decided it wasn't worthy of a Band-Aid, and headed off to meet a friend for a game of tennis.

By the time he arrived at the tennis court, however, the cut hurt more than it should have. Wattenberg's thumb began to swell and he felt some flu symptoms coming on, so he forfeited the game and returned home, where he sat at his dining-room table until his wife arrived home that evening. As he sat, Wattenberg felt his energy fade with the late winter afternoon light, and his thoughts scatter like pieces of a puzzle.

"When my wife came home, I told her, 'I've got to get organized because my thumb really hurts,'" Wattenberg recalls. "Then I wondered what I was talking about."

Esther Wattenberg, a professor in the School of Social Work, knew immediately something was very wrong when she saw how weak and confused her husband was, but the only apparent problem was an infected cut on his thumb. At age 79, Lee Wattenberg continues to conduct research and remains physically and mentally vigorous. Esther called her daughter, Betsy Wattenberg, an associate professor in the School of Public Health, and together they talked Lee into a trip to Fairview-University Medical Center, just a few minutes from the Wattenbergs' home.

The family arrived at the emergency room at about 8 p.m., and a doctor diagnosed Wattenberg with cellulitis, an inflammation of subcutaneous tissue that isn't uncommon. The physician on duty prescribed antibiotics, then, as a precaution, decided to keep Wattenberg in the hospital overnight for observation to make sure he responded to therapy.

As the night wore on, Wattenberg's condition worsened. Months later he says he doesn't remember much of what happened after he was admitted to the hospital, but he does remember that shortly after he was settled in his room, a medical student named "Miss Olson" came in to get his medical history and examine his hand.

"She seemed very mature and knowledgeable for a medical student," Wattenberg says. "I was very impressed with her."

Wattenberg's intuition was right. Kristine Olson, a third-year medical student who happened to be interning at Fairview-University Medical Center that night, has an impressive background. As an undergraduate, she worked in the laboratory of Ashley Haase, Regents Professor and head of the Medical School's microbiology department. After grad-



Dr. Lee Wattenberg





Hand surgeon George Landis operated on Lee Wattenberg's hand, draining fluid and removing infected tissue. Wattenberg's thumb was saved by grafting

it to his abdomen and treating it with medicinal leeches.

uation, Olson spent a couple of years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, where she taught science and math to 10th graders. When she finishes medical school, Olson plans to apply for a joint residency in internal medicine and pediatrics and pursue further specialization in infectious diseases.

When Olson was asked to see Wattenberg, she knew he was a University researcher but had no idea he was a cancer researcher of some distinction. Wattenberg is widely known for discovering the antioxidant and cancer-preventive properties of broccoli and other vegetables. She didn't learn that until later in the evening when she spoke with his wife and daughter.

Wattenberg didn't appear very ill when Olson

**“Whenever a leech fell asleep, we would groan, especially if it was during the middle of the night,” Lee Wattenberg says. “Then we would try to wake the leech up by poking it.”**

first saw him in the ER—just under the weather, she says. But when she visited him in his hospital room less than a half hour later, Wattenberg was sleepy and looked sicker.

“His thumb turned from pink to purple while I was standing there, and he began to shake with chills,” Olson says. The fact that he was getting worse so quickly made her think it might be necrotizing fasciitis, or “flesh-eating” strep disease, and possibly streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS), which has serious systemic effects.

“I’d never actually seen it before. But it’s one thing I wouldn’t want to miss,” she says. The disease moves so rapidly and has such a high mortality rate that even a brief delay in treating it can mean the difference between life and death. Olson went to get Peter Melchert (M.D. ’98), the resident on duty. By the time they returned, Wattenberg’s thumb was deep purple and he had become more confused, a symptom of STSS. As Olson and Melchert examined him, his thumb turned blackish and the skin began to blister.

Olson and Melchert quickly put Wattenberg on intravenous antibiotics, then alerted Paul Bohjanen, the on-call expert in infectious diseases, and hand surgeon George Landis. They knew that, by this time, the stealthy strep bacteria would be progressing up through the tendon sheath in Wattenberg’s arm and out of reach of antibiotics in the bloodstream. Treating the infection would require surgery to drain fluids and remove infected tissue.

When Bohjanen arrived on the scene, Wattenberg was very sick, with a fever of 104 or 105. Because Wattenberg is allergic to penicillin, the preferable antibiotic for invasive strep disease, Bohjanen selected a broad spectrum of alternate antibiotics to do the same work.

“He had a very classic, very severe case of necrotizing fasciitis with systemic toxic shock, perhaps the most classic case I’ve seen,” Bohjanen says. “There’s a very high mortality rate with severe disease, and given his age, he’s very lucky to be alive. If he hadn’t been in a setting where the progress of the disease could be observed, he may well have died. The outcome depends on what happens during the first 12 to 24 hours.” Bohjanen adds that Wattenberg’s own good health also had a lot to do with his survival. “He’s an unusually healthy man. I mean, he’s nearly 80 years old and he was on his way to play tennis a few hours before he checked

into the hospital.”

Later that night, Wattenberg was wheeled into the operating room, where Landis drained fluid and removed infected tissue. Called debridement, it’s a tricky procedure because it’s difficult to tell where the advancing edge of the infection stops. Landis had to take care to remove a large enough margin of tissue to make sure that no infection remained.

Then the wait began to learn if Wattenberg would survive. The first 24 hours after the surgery were the most critical. Although doctors controlled the local infection, Wattenberg’s body continued to struggle with its systemic effects. His fate was unclear for the next several days as he remained unconscious. He remembers waking up and being surprised when he saw his hand. “It’s really hard to describe how terrible it looked,” he says. “I barely recognized it. The skin and much of the underlying tissue were gone.”

The tissue was so damaged that Landis considered amputating the thumb and was unsure whether Wattenberg would regain use of his hand. But Wattenberg, who is right-handed and needs the use of his hand for working, not to mention playing tennis, was willing to try anything. And as it turned out, Landis’s creativity as a reconstructive surgeon was fully put to use.

The first skin graft failed, so the next time Landis sutured Wattenberg’s thumb to his abdomen for two weeks so healthy blood vessels could feed the graft. This time the graft took, but to

strengthen it Landis wrote an unusual prescription—for medicinal leeches to stimulate circulation. Used many years ago for medicinal bloodletting, leeches have recently made a comeback in the clinic, primarily to support skin grafts on burn patients and reattach severed fingers and toes.

Placed on the skin, the leeches promote the growth of capillaries by sucking blood through tissue. Landis says he uses them a couple of times a year for reattaching fingers but had never before used them for this purpose. Wattenberg was skeptical, but Landis assured him that these were not just any old leeches scooped up out of a nearby pond—they are cultured in a laboratory to meet Food and Drug Administration standards and available by prescription only.

Although he didn’t enjoy the experience at the time, Wattenberg now finds some humor in it. Applied four times a day, the leeches, which are prone to sleeping on the job, required professional supervision. If they were hungry and alert, the treatment would go quickly; if not, it would drag on.

“Whenever a leech fell asleep, we would groan, especially if it was during the middle of the night,” Wattenberg says. “Then we would try to wake the leech up by poking it.” One nurse was particularly good at spotting the energetic ones and screening out the laggards. The leeches also needed to be monitored because when they are full, they detach and may wander off. Wattenberg was told that there have been cases in double rooms where leeches have been placed on one patient and later turned up on another.

After five weeks in the hospital, Wattenberg finally returned home. One of the first things he did when he felt better was track down Kristine Olson so that he could personally thank her. She had stopped in a couple of times during his long hospitalization, and he regretted that he hadn’t gotten her full name and address so that he could contact her.

“It’s very reassuring to me that there are students like Miss Olson to carry on the legacy that my colleagues and I have worked long and hard to establish,” he says.

Although he feels particularly touched by the role Olson played, Wattenberg also attributes his survival to “a series of virtuoso performances” by George Landis, Paul Bohjanen, his hand therapists, whom he calls the “uncompromising perfectionists,” and everyone else involved in his care.

And while he might be pressing his luck, he adds, he’s still hoping to grip a tennis racquet again and reschedule that game he forfeited back in January. ■

*Peggy Rinard is publications manager at the University’s Academic Health Center.*

## The facts about “flesh-eating” strep

Patrick Schlievert, professor of microbiology at the University of Minnesota, first described necrotizing fasciitis, or “flesh-eating” strep disease, with Larry Cohn in a 1987 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The information below was provided by Schlievert and the Minnesota Department of Health.

### What is it?

Flesh-eating strep disease is a serious, invasive infection caused by Group A streptococcus, the same bug that causes strep throat and impetigo. There are 80 known strains of Group A strep, but only a few are deadly. Even so, they are harmless unless they get into the bloodstream through a cut or other opening such as a chicken pox lesion—a serious threat in children. Deadly strains of strep disappear and reappear in cycles of about 35 to 50 years. They caused serious infections such as scarlet fever and rheumatic fever between 1900 and 1950, disappeared, then reappeared in the mid-1980s because the population was no longer immune to them.

### What does it do?

Once in the body, virulent strep bacteria settle in a spot where circulation is sluggish, such as a bruise, where they multiply and produce deadly toxins. The toxins kill surrounding cells, turning them into liquid “food” to fuel their destructive spree—hence the name “flesh-eating.” The toxins may also cause streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS), a massive inflammatory response that causes low blood pressure, shock, and injury to internal organs. Lee Wattenberg had both conditions.

### How common is it?

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, there were nine cases of necrotizing fasciitis in Minnesota in 2000 and 17 cases in 1999. The state had eight reported cases of STSS in 2000 and four in 1999. And there were only two reported cases of people with both conditions in 2000, none in 1999.

### How often is it fatal?

Either necrotizing fasciitis or septic shock can be deadly. When they are combined, the fatality rate is about 70 percent. A treatment developed by Schlievert, giving immunoglobulin intravenously, helps to neutralize the toxins and save lives. If the infection goes beyond the subcutaneous tissue into muscle, it is almost always fatal. That’s why early treatment is so important.

### What are the symptoms of necrotizing fasciitis and STSS?

Early symptoms of necrotizing fasciitis include fever and severe pain, swelling, and redness at the wound site. Early symptoms of STSS include fever, dizziness, confusion, a diffuse red rash, and abdominal pain. Anyone with these symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

### Is there any way to protect yourself?

The spread of all Group A strep infections, whether strep throat or necrotizing fasciitis, may be reduced by good hand washing. All wounds should be kept clean and watched for possible signs of infection, which include redness, swelling, drainage, and pain. Schlievert is working on a vaccine to provide protection against strep toxins and expects it to be tested in humans within the next year.



EDITED BY SHELLY FLING

Minnesota magazine proudly recognizes the literary contributions of University alumni and faculty in its annual books roundup. The following pages include passages from five select books published in the past year: *Memory Boy*, a novel for young adults by Will Weaver; *A Man's Reach*, a memoir by former Minnesota governor Elmer L. Andersen; *Summit Avenue*, a first novel by Mary Sharratt; *Revenge of Underwater Man and Other Stories*, a collection of short stories by Jarda Cervenka; and *The Pact*, another first novel, by Walter Roers. These excerpts are followed by a list of several other titles.



# Memory Boy

BY WILL WEAVER, B.A. '72  
HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2001

Will Weaver, who teaches English and creative writing at Bemidji State University in Minnesota, has written several books for young adults. In his latest work, worldwide disaster strikes in 2006 when cataclysmic volcanic eruptions spew clouds of ash into the atmosphere, blocking the sun for several years. Food becomes rationed, gasoline reserved for emergency vehicles, and looting and murder common. The Newells flee Minneapolis to wait out the crisis at their cabin in northern Minnesota, relying on the instincts and skills of 16-year-old Miles Newell for survival. Miles also relies on lessons learned years earlier from a friend in a nursing home.

The oral-history project continued for six weeks. Six times I visited Mr. Kurz. Mainly we worked on things. Sometimes he talked, sometimes he didn't. Unlike most of the other ninth graders, I didn't bother with a tape recorder. I didn't even take notes. I could remember what I needed to. And anyway, most of it was rambling, useless stuff.

Berries. A man should know his berries. Best ones are blueberries. If they can escape a late frost in June, you're lucky. But they're hardy plants. They don't need a lot of sunlight, plus they grow best where there are pine trees and the soil is sandy. Blueberries like pine needles for some reason. Makes the soil sour, is my theory. You want to find blueberries, look for pines, rocks, and sand. But they don't last long. If the bears don't get them, by the end of July, they're done.

Wild grapes last a little longer. Look for them along riverbanks and swamps. The vines use other trees to climb up and get better light. They depend on other trees. Kind of like most people depend on the government. Parasites. I call them. But wild grapes are mighty tasty. Most times you got to look

high up and climb for them, but they're worth it.

High-bush cranberries last the longest—again, if the birds or bears don't get them. They come in red clusters. You'll see them in September, where it's swampy, hanging from bushes a tall man high. Sometimes you can smell cranberries before you see them—kind of a rank, sweet odor. They're good all fall and into the winter, even if they freeze. Once when I was trapping in January, I saw some bushes red with them. Those berries were as hard and clear as agates. I picked them, but I had nothing to carry them in except my hat, which I had to put back on my head 'cause it was cold. When I got home, the heat of my skull had thawed the berries and red juice was running down my neck. I looked like I'd been in a fight with a bear. I made jelly that night. Whole cabin smelled of it, hot and tangy.

Okay, fine. I could do something with the bear part. Maybe make up that the bear had broken into his cabin. Hand-to-hand combat. Who was going to know? Plus I'd heard that Litzke graded mainly on volume. Some kids said he had a scale and weighed the final project: The heavier the interview, the more the pages, the better the grade.

My brothers, my whole family, they always thought I was crazy. Just because I lived alone and saved my money. Not like them, with credit cards and house payments and fancy cars. I told them, when you pay interest, you're working for the bank. Banks are like prisons—you just can't see the walls. They said I was nuts. Just because I never had a credit card in my life, and no house payment, either. Nuts, they called me. But that's how I could live so cheap—I never paid any interest to nobody. But you live like a hermit, they told me. Maybe so, but I'll bet I got more money put away than you do, I told them. Which was a mistake. You never want to tell anybody—not even your own family—what you got. Because once you tell, you're a marked man.

Mr. Litzke took great pleasure in asking me how Mr. Kurz and I were getting along.

"Fine," I told him.

Once he dropped by Mr. Kurz's room to check on us. Luckily I managed to hide my tools.

"Well, are you two getting a lot of work, done?" he asked loudly.

"A lot," I said. So far Mr. Kurz and I had repaired four skateboards, and I had cleared a total of eighty bucks reselling them.

Mr. Kurz stared suspiciously at Litzke. We were all silent. "Carry on, then," Litzke said.

After he left, Mr. Kurz muttered, "Who was that guy?"

"He works for the government," I whispered.

"That's what I thought," Mr. Kurz said.



# A Man's Reach

books



The Andersen campaign truck offered refreshments for supporters.





Governor Andersen and his top aide, Tom Swain, eat ice-cream cones during a mild spell in February 1961, striking a blow for Minnesota tourism.



Elmer and Eleanor Andersen on their wedding day, September 1, 1932.

BY ELMER L. ANDERSEN, B.A. '31, PH.D. '83 (HON.)  
 EDITED BY LORI STURDEVANT  
 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS, 2000

Titled after a line in a Robert Browning poem—"A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's heaven for?"—Elmer L. Andersen's memoir recounts his rich life in business, politics, and public service and the inspirations and theories that guided him. Born in 1909, Andersen describes being raised in poverty in a broken home and the lifelong effects of polio. He tells of his love of hard work that began with hawking newspapers and vegetables on the street and led to his building the adhesives business H.B. Fuller Company into a world leader. He recalls his achievements in politics as a Minnesota state senator and governor, as well as the heartbreak of losing his bid for reelection in the 1962 gubernatorial race after a vote recount that lasted four months. He explains, often with great humor, how he prevailed in times of adversity, his commitment to public service, the joy and responsibility of giving, and how he met Eleanor Johnson (B.A. '37), who would become his wife. The book includes 48 pages of photographs.

**When I went to the University to register,** I stopped at the YMCA on the corner of Fifteenth and University Avenues to ask whether there were any Lutheran churches near the campus. There were two: Grace Church and Hope Church. Hope was predominantly Norwegian, while Grace was more Swedish. The people at the YMCA took my name and phone number. That very evening, I got a call from Pastor C.A. Wendell. He called to say that the young people of his church, Grace University Lutheran Church, were having a welcoming party for new students, and he invited me to join them. I thought that would be fun, so I went for the first time to the brick church at Harvard and Delaware Streets. Early in the evening, I noticed a beautiful blonde girl in a blue polka-dot dress. I can still see her. I was just smitten. She was not a sophisticated, enhanced beauty. She had a

pristine, natural Scandinavian beauty. It was almost as if a vision had come true.

I kept my eye on that girl all night. I wondered what was going to happen to her, who she was with, what her situation was. I waited around till the party was over, and learned that she was a member of the church. She was on the party committee. She was out in the kitchen, washing dishes. In a flash, I was in the kitchen, wiping dishes.

That was how we met, washing and wiping dishes. I did not ask her out right away. I do not remember that we talked much. I just wanted to be with her, to observe her, to drink in my first impressions of her. I do not remember how she got home that night, but I know it was not with me. I learned right away that first evening that she was reserved and deliberate. I knew it was



going to take me quite a while to attract her interest.

But I found out that she loved music, and that gave me an idea. I called her a few days later and invited her to go to a Minneapolis Symphony series with me. Now, I had always enjoyed classical music, but the main reason I extended that particular invitation was that a symphony series involved about twelve concerts. I was asking her not just for one date but for twelve dates over a period of time.

... Eleanor and I had a wonderful time planning our wedding with Pastor Wendell. We had become close friends. He and I liked to have lunch together and then go to Crist's Book Shop in St. Paul. He shared my love for books and book collecting. Our private euphemism for buying books in those days, when our budgets were tight, was "sinning." He would sometimes whisper to me as he greeted me on Sunday morning, "I've been sinning this week, Elmer." I used to wonder what other parishioners thought, if they overheard us!

... After a reception at the Johnsons' home, we went to our new home, a pleasant house on Hendon Avenue in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood in St. Paul. We always called it the Hendon House. It was a house Eleanor's folks had built, subject to a small mortgage, which we assumed. We had taken some care not to be the victims of any kind of shivaree. The wedding of one of Eleanor's friends was marred by hijinks that I thought were disrespectful. I went so far as to talk to Grandpa Johnson about asking a plain-clothes policeman to be in attendance at the reception to keep things orderly, just in case. But I trusted my brother Arnold. I told him of our plans to spend our first night at the Hendon House and then leave the next day for our honeymoon. We had reserved a room at the Basin Harbor Lodge in Vergennes, Vermont, on Lake Champlain. Our bags were already packed before the ceremony.

I trusted Arnold too well. Somehow, he got into the house before us and put a large amount of rice in our suitcases. On our entire trip, every time we opened one of our bags, rice spilled out. It was a dead giveaway that we were newlyweds.

# Summit AVENUE

BY MARY SHARRATT, B.A. '88

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS, 2000

Set between 1911 and 1918, Mary Sharratt's first novel is the story of Kathrin, a German immigrant who sews flour bags in a Minneapolis mill until a college professor's widow hires her to translate German fairy tales. Kathrin is bewitched by Violet Waverly, her rich employer, and senses that she harbors a painful past. Kathrin accepts Mrs. Waverly's invitation to take a room in her mansion on St. Paul's Summit Avenue and the two quickly become friends. The fairy tales Kathrin translates, however, begin to mirror her own life as she struggles with betrayal, love, marriage, and longing.

"If you'll come up to my study," said the lady, "we can have a look at the manuscripts." I followed her up the curving staircase, through a labyrinth of paneled hallways. The memory will stay with me forever. I weave it into every story I tell my little girl. The splendid house with the oak door carved in a pattern of thornless roses in perpetual full bloom.

She led me into a room that looked like a slightly smaller version of Jelinek's bookstore, except it had an elaborately molded ceiling and a parquet floor covered in Persian rugs the color of pomegranates. One end of the room was taken up by an immense mahogany desk piled with papers, drawings, and books. On the other end, tucked into an alcove by the bay window, were two chintz armchairs and a low lace-covered table.

"Please have a seat," said Mrs. Waverly, and I lowered myself into one of the armchairs, sinking so far down I thought I would never be able to stand up again. She sat opposite me, her hands folded in her white muslin lap. "So tell me about yourself, Miss Albrecht. Have you been in this country long?"

"I have lived here just over two years, ma'am." I tried to hide my worn shoes beneath the hem of the green taffeta dress I had borrowed from Lotte for the interview. I clamped my forearms to my sides, so the dark patches of sweat wouldn't show.

"You must have been very young when you came over."

"I was sixteen."

"Did you come over with your parents?"

"No, ma'am." I lowered my eyes. "My parents have passed away." In my English class I had learned to say *pass away*, never *die* or *dead*. Americans think it's rude to say *dead*.

The lady reddened. "I'm very sorry to hear that. Are you here all alone, then?"

"I live with my cousin."

"Your English is good."

"I studied it for two years at night school, ma'am." I showed my certificate with the golden star.







"Very impressive," she said before handing it back to me. "Well, I suppose I'd better tell you a bit about myself. I'm working on a collection of fairy tales from different countries. I inherited this project from my husband, who was a professor of ethnography. He recorded these stories firsthand from peasants all over Europe. You see, he was quite gifted with languages. It took him years to collect these tales, but then he died unexpectedly before the anthology could be finished. He translated most of the tales before his death, except for the Russian ones, which I can handle myself, as I've studied that language, and the German tales, which I still need to have translated."

She left her chair and went to her desk, shifting through piles of papers until she found a thick, watermarked notebook. Leafing through, she opened to a page in the middle. "Take a look at this, Miss Albrecht." She placed the notebook in my hands. "Can you make any sense of it?"

I squinted down at the handwriting running across the wrinkled page. The inked letters were cramped, spiderlike, barely legible. She expected me to decipher this? If it were a translator she wanted, surely she could find someone much more qualified at the university. I felt my face heating up like a brick in a hearth.

"Miss Albrecht?" I had expected her to be cross, but her voice was gentle, almost maternal. "Miss Albrecht, there's no need to be nervous. Just read the story and try to tell me in your own words what it's about."

My eyes settled back on the notebook. The garbled marks gradually formed themselves into letters and words, my mother tongue, and the hard knots in my stomach began to unclench. It was a familiar story, one I had heard many times at home, the kind of thing my mother used to tell me when I was still small enough to fit in her lap. "This is the story of a man who loves a Waldfee." Then I faltered. "I do not know the English word for Waldfee."

"Fay. Fairy. It's the same in English."

"A wood fairy," I said, looking up from the notebook.

"Very good. Now tell me the story."

# Revenge of Underwater Man and Other Stories

BY JARDA CERVENKA

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME PRESS, 2000

Jarda Cervenka, a professor of medical genetics at the University of Minnesota, was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, but came to Minnesota in 1968. He has lived in Kenya, Japan, and Nigeria and has traveled extensively on five continents. The stories in his collection are set in locales around the globe, including a monastery in Kyoto, an Inuit village on the Hudson Bay, a brothel in Brussels, and the outskirts of Nairobi.

From "Romancing 'Platino'"

He crouched in the bathtub, splashing water on his torso with interruptions that allowed the water to evaporate after each splash. That way it took only about twenty minutes to cool down using that tepid, rusty fluid. (In the thousand square miles of lowland tropical forest around the town Jjoro, the word "cold" could be applied only to the contents of two refrigerators: One belonging to the "rich man" and the other to the priest, both men of ominous reputation and both the size of refrigerators.) Bushek felt good. The bath rid his skin of its boiled-lobster hue, took the mad red glaze off his eyeballs, and retracted his tongue to where it belonged.

He put on his boxer shorts with the pictures of fawn-colored boxers on them, and made a cup of Nescafé with his coil heater, boiling the water for a few minutes in the self-delusion that the boiling would kill all waterborne pathogens. It was a matter of discipline to him. He had learned to be cautious about these things in the tropics, since even a runny nose presented a problem, with no long sleeves to wipe the nose. He took his cup and cigarette onto the balcony of his "hotel" room and settled there next to the giant wasps' nest.

The wasps liked him. They were coming in now with the breeze from the river. Down on the shore, the washerwomen were just finishing their toil, taking the laundry from the brown, muddy stream spotlessly snow-white. He wondered how it was possible and marveled again about the physical perfection of these athletes, enhanced by the wetness of their "ropas," or old-fashioned underwear, worn for this laborious occasion.

The rain forest across the river turned to a dark silhouette with the sun-down, and the silhouette threw a sharp shadow on the river, on half of the





river. It divided the stream in two: one pure black, and parallel to it a silver stream that shivered as if alive. Bushek got his flat flask, added a shot of Ron Viejo to the coffee cup, and toasted the sunset. "To the pancake," he said aloud—and the sun was gone. All of a sudden a black velvet curtain had fallen over that theatrical stage, over the Atrato river, over the jungle behind her, and over the washerwomen. It was the curtain-down of an equatorial dusk-without-dusk, the night. It was time to yield the balcony to the night-biting mosquitoes with their miniature malaria-filled

syringes. It was time to eat one mango, two bananas, one quabana, and a piece of melted chocolate bar: dinner. Then to a bar near Calle Kennedy to shorten the evening, to forget about "chocoa," and to see the faces of people.

**B**ushek Ruzicka, Ph.D., was a biologist searching for a frog. The local Indian name for this two-inch-long creature is "chocoa," and it is well known and prized by the Cholo Indians for the poison it sweats from glands in its skin when impaled alive on a stick and held over a fire. The tips of split bamboo arrows for a blow-gun, cerbatan, are rolled over the skin of the unfortunate creature and thus coated with the poison. The poison is prized for its usefulness, because it is so immensely potent that a scratch with the tip of such an arrow will kill a man in a few short minutes.

Bushek's task was to collect a few of the blue and yellow frogs for experiments at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He had been sent to Colombia because of his experience in surviving

the hardships of the jungle and for his proficiency in Spanish. Being forty years of age, unmarried, and childless also made him a good candidate as an eventual sacrificial lamb. He knew about the reasoning of his superiors; therefore, he had never revealed his love for the adventurous tropics, which might, somehow, disqualify him. On the contrary, he often loudly exaggerated the dangers and hardships anticipated in such a solo expedition. Now in Jjoro, he was secretly content, almost happy at times, because everything around him was interesting.



# The Pact

BY WALTER ROERS, B.A. '66  
NEW RIVERS PRESS, 2000

Walter Roers's first novel, a coming-of-age story set in a Minneapolis neighborhood in the late 1940s, depicts happy and innocent times following World War II. Michael Dougherty, 8 years old at the story's opening, fills his days with exploration and adventure, hardly aware of the growing dysfunction in his family. He befriends a boy who lives across the street and whom Michael discovers has family secrets of his own. The two boys struggle to make sense of the problems of the adults in their lives and make spoken, and unspoken, vows to protect each other's secrets.

**My father was the only one to exit the yawning doors.** He wore a light blue bathrobe and slippers, and the moment I saw him I was overcome with guilt.

Now, walking toward me, thin and pale and sober, was the man I had prayed would cease to exist. But this was not the raging drunk who had terrorized my mother and haunted my dreams. This was not the man who stole his son's paper route money and tried to destroy his family's home. And yet, it *was* him. It was my father.

My mother went to him. They stood close and held hands, but they didn't kiss. She whispered something to him and he nodded. They parted, put their arms around each other's backs, and walked side by side toward Ron and me.

Ron and I stood as they approached, and in my shame I couldn't look up at him.

"Thanks for coming to see me, boys," he said.

"Sure," Ron said.

I mumbled something incoherent.

"How have you boys been? Ron?"

"Good. Everything's okay."

"Michael? I've missed you. Are you being good for your mom?"

"Sure," I managed to get out, but still I couldn't look at him.

"Well, maybe we could all sit down here and talk a little. You boys can tell me how your summer is going."

He stepped away to retrieve chair, and Mom took the opportunity to whisper to Ron and me. "Tell him it's good to see him, and that you've missed him."

"It isn't true," Ron said, but low enough so that our mom couldn't hear him.

He returned, sliding a chair toward the couch to form a conversation nook. He sat down and leaned forward, resting his elbows just above his knees. Mom sat on the couch near him, then Ron, and finally me. "So," he said, groping for words, "you all look so good. I've missed you. And Katy, how's little Katy?"

"Oh, she's just great, Pat," my mother said. "The O'Neils are taking care of her today." She spoke quickly, her words rushed



and full of anxiety. "We've all missed you. We'll all be so glad when things are . . . when you're home again."

"Yeah," he said slowly and looked at the floor. He reached into a pocket of his robe and took out a lighter and a crumpled pack of Camels. He leaned back to light his cigarette and for the first time I noticed that his hands were shaking. The flame of the lighter flickered and jumped as he tried to steady it with both hands.

"Would you like me to help you light that, Pat?" my mother said.

"I'm fine," he snarled. Then, more gently, "Sorry, no, I'm fine. I'll get it here in a second. Afraid I'm not too steady these days." He forced a mild laugh.

I looked at his face. I don't think I'd ever heard him apologize to my mother before, or ever heard him joke about his own ineptitude. And when I looked at him, the most remarkable thing happened. Our eyes met—just his and mine—and for a moment there was no one else in that lounge. Ron and Mom were as distant as the faintest star in the heavens. No one whispered in the far corners of the room, and there was no painting staring down at me from the wall. There was only my dad's face, and those pale eyes so full of pain and remorse. I was sure he was going to say something to me, but he only smiled weakly and looked at me. Then it happened, that haunting, fleeting instant when tears gathered to his eyes, and he looked away. He set his cigarette in an ashtray next to his chair and wiped his face with both hands. He cleared his throat twice and began to talk of when he would come home and how his job on the road would still be there for him.

But, I had seen it. In his eyes, in that transitory speck of time I had seen what he couldn't bring himself to say. And I understood, because at that precise moment I had wanted to say the same thing myself. I had wanted to ask of him what his eyes cried out—"Forgive me!"



# more books

A short list of books by University alumni and faculty published in the past year.

## ART AND ARCHITECTURE

### The City Is My Canvas: Richard Haas

With 198 photographs and illustrations, this coffee-table book documents the architectural projects of contemporary trompe l'oeil muralist Richard Haas over the past 25 years. Haas, who earned his M.F.A. at the University, also wrote the introduction.

## CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### Children of the Orphan Trains and Children of the Indian Boarding Schools

By Holly Littlefield, B.A. '85, M.A. '94, Ph.D. '99  
Carolianda Books, 2001

The author uses historical photographs and prints, as well as words, to describe slices of U.S. history as seen through the eyes of children.

### Death Valley: A Day in the Desert

By Nancy Smiler Levinson, B.A. '60  
Holiday House, 2001

For beginning readers, *Death Valley* tells with words and pictures about the varied plants and animals in one of the hottest places on earth.

### Eleanor Roosevelt

By Mary Winget, B.A. '73, M.A. '79  
Lerner Publications, 2001

A biography of one of the United States' most-beloved first ladies details Eleanor Roosevelt's privileged beginnings through her years in the White House and working tirelessly against discrimination, poverty, and oppression.

## ESSAY

### Along Life's Way: 100 Mini-Reflections

By J. Vernon Jensen, M.A. '48, Ph.D. '59  
Vantage Press, 2001

A retired professor of speech communications at the University reflects on a hundred topics—such as criticism, strangers, perfection, and silence—looking at many sides of a subject, including the lighter side.

### Swedes in the Twin Cities: Immigrant Life and Minnesota's Urban Frontier

Edited by Phillip J. Anderson  
and Dag Blanck  
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001

Two dozen scholars from the United States and Sweden—including history professor Rudolph Vecoli, director of the Immigration History Research Center, and former University president Nils Hasselmo and his late wife, Pat—investigate various facets of Swedish life and culture in the Twin Cities.

## FICTION

### Dark Coulee

By Mary Logue, B.A. '75  
Walker & Company, 2000

In this murder mystery, Claire Watkins moves to Fort St. Antoine, Wisconsin, from the Twin Cities after the death of her husband. Formerly a big-city cop, Claire enjoys the slow pace of working as a deputy sheriff until a quiet and respected citizen is stabbed at a street dance.

### The Ordeal of Riley McReynolds

By Michael O'Rourke, B.A. '67, J.D. '70  
North Star Press, 2000

With humor and searing social commentary, the author portrays life in a St. Paul financial services corporation where massive layoffs are commonplace, as are political gamesmanship, big egos, and, Riley McReynolds would learn, money laundering.

## HISTORY

### Captain Ahab Had a Wife

By Lisa Norling  
University of North Carolina Press, 2000

With letters, diaries, shipowners' records, and other documents, the associate professor of history reconstructs the lives of "Cape Horn widows," the New England women whose husbands sailed to distant seas for the whaling industry.

### Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales and Oral Histories

Edited by Anton Treuer, M.A. '94,  
Ph.D. '97  
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001

To preserve the Ojibwe language, the editor collected stories from 10 Anishinaabe elders living on reservations in Minnesota and compiled them in a bilingual anthology.

### My Day: The Best of Eleanor Roosevelt's Acclaimed Newspaper Columns, 1936-1962

Edited by David Emblidge, Ph.D. '73  
Da Capo Press, 2001

This collection brings together the hugely popular syndicated column Eleanor Roosevelt wrote for more than 25 years. She expressed her perspectives on national and international issues with wit, elegance, and insight.

### The University of Minnesota, 1945-2000

By Stanford Lehmborg  
and Ann Pflaum, Ph.D. '75  
University of Minnesota Press, 2001

The story of the University after World War II is told through recollections by celebrated alumni; interviews with students, faculty, and administrators; and reports of campus life from the *Minnesota Daily* and other publications.

## MEMOIR

### One Good Story: A Mississippi Kayak Journey

By Ron Severs, B.S. '90, M.A. '96  
Nodin Press, 2000

A forester and land manager for the University's College of Natural Resources recounts his 2,552-mile journey in a kayak from the Mississippi headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico.

## NONFICTION

### It Takes a Dog to Raise a Village

By Ruth Gordon  
Willow Creek Press, 2000

The associate professor emerita in nursing tells the true stories of nine extraordinary dogs, including Boozer, who had his own bank account in the town of Marine-on-St.-Croix, and Lampo, who rode the rails of Italy but always returned to the same station.

### Living Terrors

By Michael Osterholm, M.S. '78,  
M.A. '80, Ph.D. '80, and John Schwarz  
Delacorte Press, 2000

The former Minnesota state epidemiologist gives startling information about "what America needs to know to survive the coming bio-terrorist catastrophe."

### A Union against Unions

By William Millikan, B.A. '84  
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001

The Minneapolis Citizens Alliance, which existed from 1903 until 1947, organized local employers with the goal of protecting member businesses from demands made by organized labor. This book offers a detailed portrait of the alliance, which used blacklisting, spies, and a private army to crush labor unions.

## POETRY

### Coming Back to the Body

By Joyce Sutphen, B.A. '82, M.A. '93,  
Ph.D. '96  
Holy Cow! Press, 2000

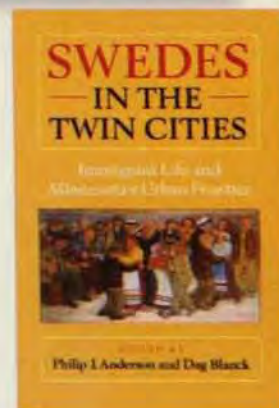
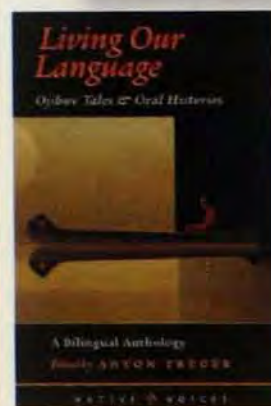
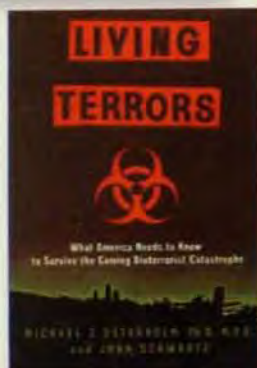
Familiar subjects—love, family, death, disappointment, and memory—are explored by the author with charm, compassion, and an exact eye.

### Turtle Pictures

By Ray Gonzalez  
University of Arizona Press, 2000

The associate professor of English's latest collection of poems utilizes the image of the primeval turtle—representing ancient blood that rushes through the veins of Chicanos today—to describe Chicanos moving north to change the politics, culture, and spirit of the United States. ■

*Shelly Fling is editor of Minnesota.*





# the power of gardening

Community gardens yield more than tomatoes, beans, and perennials. They also have been known to produce higher property values, lower crime rates, improved quality of life, and a sense of democracy among diverse groups.

by camille lefevre  
photograph by doug knutson

**"T**here should be a community garden in every neighborhood," says Anna Wasescha (B.A. '73, M.A. '85, Ph.D. '96), one of the community-gardening movement's most ardent advocates in the Twin Cities.

Beginning in the 1970s, the community-gardening movement took hold and flourished in the Twin Cities as neighborhood, school, church, even guerrilla groups transformed vacant lots into gardening and gathering spaces. Today, community gardens are not only recognized as places that build and beautify neighborhoods, but are also associated with such hot-button, quality-of-life issues as clean water and air, food safety and security, open and green space, New Urbanism, and livable communities.

In other words, "community gardens generate social capital," says Wasescha, a master gardener with degrees in English literature, higher education, and educational policy from the University of Minnesota who has organized several community gardens in St. Paul.

*Social capital* is one of the latest terms used in discussions about the woes of urban living: loss of community, loss of open space, loss of sense of place, loss of safety, loss of civic engagement. According to the World Bank Group, which provides financial assistance to developing countries, social capital "refers to the



Clockwise from upper left: Batalo, Emily, Abdulahi, Sinying, Hagdu, Farhan, Nbntu, Khalid, Bridgette, and Anna Wasescha (center) at Dunning Field







## the Power of Gardening

institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interaction. Social capital is not just the sum of the institutions which underpin a society—it is the glue that holds them together.”

Citizens bent on improving the social capital of their communities might do so by hosting a neighborhood barbecue, coaching a Little League team, serving on a town committee, or—an activity that for years has quietly and forcefully embodied the notion of “growing community”—organize a community garden.

A grass-roots activity in which a neighborhood turns a vacant lot into a verdant oasis of fruit, vegetables, flowers, trees, and social activity, community gardening is a force of nature. Urban community gardens now number more than 4,000 in the United States, according to a 1998 survey by the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) in Philadelphia. More than 150 of those gardens are in the Twin Cities and its inner-ring suburbs,

an increase from 25 gardens in 1991, adds Mary Morse, community-garden research and outreach coordinator at Sustainable Resources Center in Minneapolis.

Across the country and the Twin Cities, community gardens vary widely in age, size, location, and style. The commonalities between gardens, however, are striking. Community gardens uniformly include people of different ages, classes, ethnic backgrounds, and physical ability who learn gardening techniques from each other, share what they grow, and work together in maintaining the garden. Gardeners supplement their food supply with produce harvested in the garden. And the community garden beautifies its neighborhood by transforming a derelict lot into a carefully tended green space. Some community gardens, their neighbors claim, have even increased property values and reduced crime.

Wasescha is teaching a Compleat Scholar course titled “Growing Community through Community Gardening” at the University this fall. She’s also on the board of directors of the ACGA and Farm in the City, a community-gardening program in St. Paul; has active roles with Green St. Paul, a coalition of community gardeners and others committed to improving urban quality of life; and is a fellow at the Society for Values in Higher Education, American Association for Higher Education.

When asked about the impact of community gardening, Wasescha is quick to lament the movement’s lack of hard research, but points out that landscape architects, sociologists, and urban planners are analyzing community gardening’s effects. The movement, she emphasizes, “has to be fueled by scholarship” if community-garden organizers are to retain existing gardens and establish new ones. Garden permanency is a serious issue, because community gardens are often seen as merely an interim use of land. Only a few Twin Cities public gardens, such as the St. Anthony Park Community Garden in St. Paul, are owned by their neighborhoods.

Anecdotal evidence on community gardening’s benefits, however, is easy to find. Just visit Web sites on community gardening, read articles published on the topic, or wander through your local community garden, listening to gardeners. For the individual, Wasescha summarizes, gardening offers good exercise, reconnects the gardener with the elemental process of growing food, and can be done by nearly anyone, given the ergonomic tools available these days.

More important, community gardening joins a diverse array of people, even those who can’t speak English, in a common activity. “It’s inclusive,” Wasescha explains. “Community gardening brings people out of their houses and into a public area where they interface with each other, connect with place, and foster security.

“And community gardening makes people feel good because we always have surplus when we garden,” she continues. “So you share, and the exchange knits together people. It’s a quality-of-life experience and it’s my mission to do something about the quality of life in the city. The outdoor urban environment is my issue. And my mission is bettering and diversifying the urban environment through community gardens.”

### Tips for Starting a Community Garden

- **Talk to your neighbors.** Find out if anyone else is interested in starting a community garden. Discuss what kind of garden you’d like (vegetables, flowers, organic). Discuss whom the garden might benefit and who else might participate.
- **Form a planning committee.** Choose a well-organized person to be the garden coordinator. Form committees to tackle specific tasks, such as resource development (donations of compost, mulch, materials for fencing, and so forth), funding, garden design, construction, and signage.
- **Choose a site.** Consider the size of the area (and how many plots you can carve out of the site), amount of sun the area receives, availability of water, and condition of the site: Is it full of construction debris? What are the soil toxicity levels? Is it accessible to the neighborhood?
- **Secure the site.** Schools, religious organizations, local corporations, parks and recreation departments, and area businesses are possible sponsors for the site. Or begin raising funds to purchase the site.
- **Prepare and develop the site.** Organize work crews to test the soil; clear away debris; add compost; plow; set up water lines and faucets; construct fences, gates and signage; and design and lay out the plots.
- **Decide on rules and put them in writing.** On a protected, rain-proof bulletin board or in a community-garden mailbox, list the rules: Is it an organic only garden or are some pesticides allowed? Where are the tools and who can use them? Who handles garden maintenance such as mowing and tool sharpening?
- **Keep gardeners in touch with one another.** Assign a team leader for specific sections of the garden who can organize the gardeners. Ask a master gardener to conduct learning sessions for beginning gardeners. Publish a newsletter for community gardeners. Schedule maintenance parties, harvest dinners, and clean-up work days.

Source: Adapted from the American Community Gardening Association’s guidelines.



**W**asescha grew up gardening. She remembers, as a child, planting asparagus in a boulevard garden—a tough job in St. Louis’s hot climate and clay soil. She also recalls spending nearly all of her free time outdoors. “We basically checked in for meals and bedtime,” she says of herself and her siblings. “We were always outside. I’m totally convinced that experience outdoors is an integral part of an education and intelligence.

“Being outside and gardening is also about being connected to your own body, because growing the food we eat is another kind of intelligence and to be abstracted from it is not a good thing,” she continues. For instance, Wasescha elaborates, when adults recall their childhoods, do the memories include feeling a connection to land either through natural areas or gardening? “If today’s urban children had that feeling about the public spaces in their neighborhood,” she argues, “we’d end up with a happier, healthier society.”

A seminal experience set Wasescha on her current course. In 1992, she lived for three and half months in Beijing with her husband, who teaches Asian history at Hamline University (where Wasescha also taught for 12 years), and their then-3-year-old daughter. “The whole time we were there, I never saw blue sky. There were days when I couldn’t see across the street,” she recalls. “It was so incredibly polluted. Among the human rights we ought to have is the right to breathe clean air.”

She returned to Minnesota “feeling I needed to do something that would improve the environment,” she says. “I think community gardening does. I got to community gardens by wanting to create a place in my community that’s welcoming to all people and makes a difference in the urban environment and in my neighbors’ lives.”

That place is a community garden at Dunning Field, on the east edge of the Concordia University campus in St. Paul. The impetus for the garden began in 1995. Long active on the Lexington-Hamline Community Council, which represents the St. Paul neighborhood in which she lives, Wasescha joined a task force that had a grant to investigate health and nutrition as it relates to children and the natural world. The group decided to organize a community garden at Concordia, where Wasescha teaches.

At about the same time, Wasescha heard about a learning project with Concordia students that involved environmental sampling at Dunning Field. Eventually, the two projects dovetailed. The sampling confirmed that no wildlife habitat or biological diversity existed at Dunning Field. Meanwhile, Wasescha found a graduate student in horticulture at the University of Minnesota, Gillian Lay, to teach 65 young people ages 7 to 12 about gardening at Dunning Field’s new community garden through the Farm in the City program.

Today, Dunning Field is abuzz with birds and bees that visit the community garden. Farm in the City has expanded to include neighborhood residents of all ages. Concordia has a community



**Top to bottom:** North of the capitol, Hmong gardeners use found objects (string, neckties, sticks) to fence off plots. Founded by the Community Design Center in St. Paul, the Dayton’s Bluff Children’s Garden is tended by kids who also operate a farmers’ market. Founded in 1992, the Garden of Good Hearts on St. Paul’s west side is maintained by the Riverview Garden Club and includes benches, paths, and an entrance arbor. The Fort Mason Community Garden in San Francisco is divided into raised beds.





## the Power of Gardening

garden that's part of a teaching program and available to residents living in an adjacent high-rise. In addition, Wasescha has overseen the installation of several other public gardens on Concordia's campus: a meditation garden with wildflowers and a bench, and a Minoan labyrinth.

After the successes at Dunning Field, Wasescha felt she had more to learn. In 1997, a Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods grant from the St. Paul Companies allowed Wasescha to travel throughout the United States, Canada, England, France, and Italy, studying how community gardens grow healthy neighborhoods. During her travels, Wasescha discovered that "community gardens are infinitely robust strategies for community cohesion," she says. "Tremendous altruism and generosity runs through the subculture of community gardeners. Sharing is the norm. There is tolerance and patience, which is how community gardens stay alive and well."

During her interviews with gardeners, Wasescha unearthed their motivations for community gardening, which included: controlling one's food source, saving money by growing food, access to organic food, and producing food to donate to the hungry; reclaiming urban land; relaxation, therapy, and stress relief; a sense of self-sufficiency; and to re-create the food-based cultural patterns of one's family of origin.

Wasescha also acquired a historical context for today's community garden, which is modeled after the English "allotment garden." Established in cities during the Industrial Revolution, allotment gardens enabled workers displaced from rural areas to urban ones to grow their own food. Similarly, in France, Wasescha explains, the Catholic Church organized community gardens for urban workers making the transition from an agrarian lifestyle to a mercantile one as a way of promoting family health, cohesion, and self-sufficiency.

In the United States, government-sanctioned "victory gardens" were encouraged during World War II in response to President Franklin Roosevelt's call for families to supplement rationed food supplies. Nearly 20 million Americans participated and produced

40 percent of all the food consumed at the time, according to a victory garden Web site ([www.victoryseeds.com](http://www.victoryseeds.com)), which adds: "Emphasis was placed on making gardening a family or community effort—not a drudgery, but a pastime and a national duty."

The Twin Cities' oldest community garden, located at the edge of Dowling School in south Minneapolis, was established as a victory garden. While Dowling Garden continued to be productive following the war, most other victory gardens were abandoned or developed. During the 1970s and '80s, however, "urban pioneers," people committed to living and bettering life in the city, began reclaiming other urban lands for community gardens.

**"T**he major challenge of the next century is defining community," Wasescha says. "It was easy to define community in Minnesota when everyone was white. Those days are long gone." The community garden, she asserts, is a public place where people from different cultures can safely express their ideas of beauty and value through the vegetables they grow, the way they plant and tend their garden plots, and the structures they build.

To illustrate her point, Wasescha refers to Thomas Jefferson's "lawn" at the University of Virginia campus, an idea also manifested in the University of Minnesota's malls in St. Paul and on the East Bank in Minneapolis, and the quadrangles found on other campuses.

"Jefferson brought this concept to higher education as a way of designing into the built environment of a campus a place where the intellectual, social, and political would be fused, and importantly, fused in the outdoors," she explains. "Jefferson saw that learning bounced around, was unpredictable and boundless and, it goes without saying, he directly connected education with democracy. Community gardens are equivalent places."

Located on small urban parcels that are increasingly scarce and hence valuable, community gardens are fast becoming an amenity neighborhoods must fight to acquire and retain. Communities that set aside land for a community garden, Wasescha says, make "a public statement about the importance of everyone getting together and doing any one of a number of activities . . . gardening for food, talking about life, exchanging ideas, sharing cultural values, learning."

"Jefferson understood that the built environment telegraphs potent messages about the value system of a society. Community gardens do the same thing in this century," she concludes. "To have all sorts of people—bus drivers, faculty members, store clerks, young people, old people, and so on—together in the garden is a great equalizing experience."

"Community gardens are green, open places where democracy happens naturally. There are so many issues associated with community gardening. It's robust. I love it." ■

*Camille LeFevre (B.A. '81) is a St. Paul writer and was active in her neighborhood's purchase of the St. Anthony Park Community Garden.*

### Community Gardening Resources

#### Sustainable Resources Center

612-872-3291

#### Farm in the City

651-641-8831

[www.farminthecity.org](http://www.farminthecity.org)

#### American Community Gardening Association

215-922-2104

[www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)

#### Victory Gardens

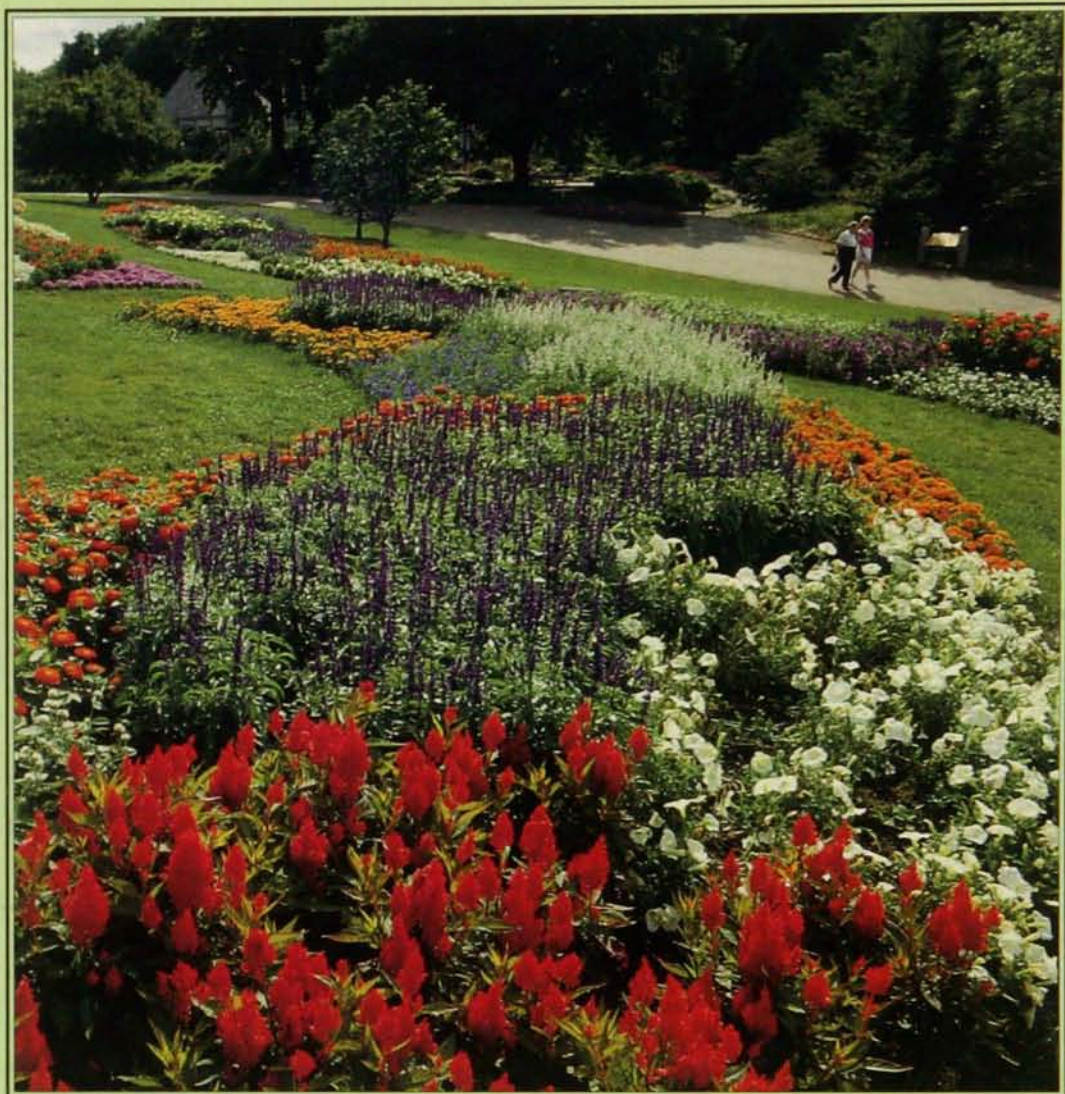
[www.victoryseeds.com](http://www.victoryseeds.com)

#### Creating Community Gardens

By Dorothy Johnson and Rick Bonlender

(Minnesota Green, 1755 Prior Ave. N., Falcon Heights, MN 55113; 800-676-MSHS)





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**Alumnus Patrick Mendis** (M.S. '85, Ph.D. '89), born and raised in a remote village in Sri Lanka, has lived and worked around the world. But he says his roots are in northern Minnesota.

# A Scholar and a Diplomat

Someone once said to me, "Patrick, you are a Sri Lankan-born, American-trained scholar-diplomat." I believe that summarizes what I have now become. I was taught in Sri Lanka that the best public servants are the intellectuals, the well-educated. This is actually a Confucian notion. All of my role models back home and in this country are scholars and diplomats. When I was young, that's what I really wanted to be. And I am now, but in a different country.

Right now I am a foreign-affairs officer in the U.S. State Department, working on science and technology issues as they relate to intellectual property rights and sustainable development. And I teach M.B.A. courses on-line as an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of the University of Maryland's University College.

When you are a public servant you hardly see your impact, but I have faith that we are making a difference, making the world a better place to live. When you are an academic and a teacher, however, you know you are making a difference one student at a time. I want to make a difference as my journey continues because, on my way, a lot of people came into my life like angels. They would show up unexpectedly and make a difference in my life and then move on.

I was born in 1960 and raised by my grandparents because I was extremely sick as a baby. I wasn't showing any sign of recovery, so my mother, who was a Buddhist traditionalist Sinhalese, went to a scholarly Buddhist monk and looked at my horoscope. The monk told her two ways to get rid of the bad spell: have me raised outside my family or donate me to the

Buddhist order, otherwise I would die before my first birthday. My father, who was Catholic, evidently didn't like the second option, so he asked his parents—my paternal grandparents—to raise me.

With my grandparents I was no longer sick. I grew up in a rural village where we had three acres of rice, 11 water buffalo, a milking cow, about 10 pigs, 20 some chickens, and a goat. It was a Catholic home in a Buddhist society. A Catholic priest stayed at my house on weekends to say Mass, so my house was kind of a sacred place. I had a Catholic influence on the weekend, and then during the week I walked to the Buddhist public school.

During that time I was exposed to a few outside people. Two 4-H exchange students, from Iowa and New Hampshire, stayed with us for two weeks. I was 8 or 9 and remember touching their skin because it was such a novelty—I had never seen a white person. We had Peace Corps volunteers, too, in the late

'60s. They were hosted by my family because my grandparents were considered to be village leaders.

I became a Boy Scout and then joined the police cadets corps as a soldier, moving up through the ranks to sergeant. At the age of 16, I was also recruited to be a sergeant of the army cadets corps and became the best commander of the army cadets in Sri Lanka. In 1978 I saw an ad in a Sinhalese newspaper for an American Field Service (AFS) exchange program scholarship. I had dreamed of going to America, so I applied. It was a national examination and I was one of the finalists. I was 18 years old and it was the first time I had ever gone to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. Look-

ing at the double-decker buses and cars and trains—it was such an excitement. I had only ever seen the motorcycle that the Catholic priest rode to my house.

Someone on the interview board was a former best commander of the army cadets and could not believe that somebody from a rural area could become a best commander and compete for this very prestigious scholarship. He advocated that the AFS send me to America as an experiment, because I didn't speak English.

My parents would have to sign papers allowing me to leave the country, so my grandparents finally had to tell me who my real parents were—that the people I called my uncle and aunt





were my biological parents. It was three months before I was leaving the country and I was learning that I had different parents and that I was the oldest boy in the family. It was a shock because I had been told up until that time that I was left as a baby under a banyan tree, which is a humongous fig tree, and that one of my uncles found me and gave me to the people I would know as my mother and father. But when I left, my real parents signed the papers.

I went first to Stanford University for orientation where I learned how to use a fork and a spoon and all kinds of manners. From there I flew to Chicago and took a bus to Fargo.

I met my American host family in Perham, Minnesota. The AFS exchange program wanted to find a place I'd be comfortable, which they thought would be with a farm family. It was a computer match-up. But it was a shock. I came from three acres of rice and suddenly I was on 50,000 acres of alfalfa, corn, barley, oats, and wheat. This was a German family, and they ate lots of mashed potatoes and gravy and beef and I got terribly sick.

Finally, the AFS director moved me to a Scandinavian family, Bill and Dorothy Johnson's home in town. She happened to be a country nurse, and the AFS director thought she could take care of my sickness. I became very close to the Johnsons. They have two grown daughters I call my sisters.

I went to Perham High School for the 1978-79 school year. I was kind of a star in the town because I was the first foreign-exchange student they ever had. I joined the track team and was the fastest runner in the school and they called me the "black bullet." The entire community rallied around me; they changed my life. I still go there and visit every family I know. I stay with the Johnsons—I am part of that family. I have now lived in and traveled to more than 60 countries, but my roots are in northern Minnesota.

In 1979 I took a bus trip from Minnesota to Washington, D.C., and met then-Senator Rudy Boschwitz and Walter Mondale (B.A. '51, J.D. '56), then the vice president. From there I flew home to Colombo. I got my undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura in Sri Lanka and was finishing up my senior year in 1983 when ethnic violence broke out. Through a visiting Fulbright professor from New Hampshire I got to know people in the American embassy in Colombo and became friends with the political affairs officer. He called my family and friends in Minnesota and told them that the violence had started and that Patrick must leave Sri Lanka.

The Johnsons and many other families got all the churches and the Lions Club and Rotary Club and Jaycees together and raised money. They had a pancake breakfast in the Lutheran church and some people washed cars. Twenty-three families got together for that event. They sent me a ticket and said the next available flight you must come back to Minnesota.

So in 1983 I went back to Minnesota, to my family. They told me I needed to go to graduate school, so I went to Fergus Falls Community College to brush up on my English. My student adviser suggested I do an internship at the Minnesota legislature. The local representative in the state House, Rep. Jim Evans, said, "I'll take Patrick," so I worked for him. From there I met my mentor, the Honorable Edward Burdick, chief clerk of the state House of Representatives and the longest-

serving public servant in the nation. Ed found me interesting for some reason—because I asked a lot of questions, I think.

I was planning to go to Vermont to go to graduate school that fall, but Ed thought I should stay in Minnesota. He talked to John Brandl, who was a legislator and a University professor, and Brandl talked to Harlan Cleveland, the founding dean of the Humphrey Institute, about recruiting me. I took the GRE and got a scholarship to go to the Humphrey Institute that fall. I lived in Ed's home and he provided all my clothes and food. My family in northern Minnesota was very grateful to him.

I stayed with Ed from 1984 until 1988, when I met my wife and got married. It was a sad departure, and we cried. But he was at the wedding, as was Harlan Cleveland, who was a matchmaker of sorts.

I met Cheryl Pattison (B.A. '92, M.A. '97), a Scandinavian woman from Willmar, Minnesota, at the Humphrey Institute when she and I took Harlan Cleveland's graduate seminar. It was funny because the title of the class was "Management of Peace: Tying the Global Village Together." She was a former AFS exchange student, from Minnesota to Japan, and has a rural background also. We married and now have two wonderful children. My son, Gamini, is 11, and my daughter, Samantha, is 9. Gamini was an honorary page in the Minnesota legislature's special session this spring and went to work with "Uncle Ed" Burdick.

I was finishing up my master's in international development and foreign affairs in late 1985 when I was given the opportunity to work with Senator Boschwitz, who was chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia. I wrote background papers on the Sri Lankan conflict and Indian, South Asian, and refugee issues for his staff.

The president of Sri Lanka, who also came from a very poor family, learned from the president of my university in Sri Lanka that I was doing a lot of writing on Sri Lankan issues. He appointed me to the United Nations to represent Sri Lanka as a diplomat for the U.N. International Year of the Youth in 1985. It was a short assignment at the general assembly.

When I came back to Minnesota, I talked to my mentor Harlan Cleveland and asked what he thought I should do next. He told me I should talk to geography professor John Adams and applied economics professor Vernon Ruttan at the University. John said, "Oh, Patrick, you know that with public policy you need to have geography!" So I got my Ph.D. in geography in 1989, specializing in agriculture and applied economics.

After I got my Ph.D., I was a visiting scholar in applied economics and a lecturer in international relations at the University. I received the first Hubert H. Humphrey Leadership Award and a President's Leadership and Service Award.

I became a U.S. citizen in 1996. I had been a permanent resident since I got married. Then my wife and children thought it was time for me to become a U.S. citizen so that we could be a real American family and I could truly serve my adopted country. It was not a hard decision for me since I always believed in the idealism of the Constitution and the democratic foundation laid by our founding fathers. When I took the oath in Minneapolis, it was a remarkable transformation in my life—a dream come true, a rural village boy becomes a naturalized citizen.





**People could not understand** how I could be assistant to this ambassador because I looked foreign. When they talked to me they criticized America. The funny thing was, at the end of my term there, one who had burned an American flag said, "How can I go to America?"

As an educator, I thought I must learn by experiencing a wide variety of things that are indeed related to everything else. Compartmentalized education doesn't help us solve societal problems that are interdisciplinary in nature. Therefore, I ventured into other areas as opportunities guided me. I chaired the St. Paul Foundation's Asian Pacific Endowment for Community Development, taught Russian entrepreneurs and former KGB officers about Western economics in Leningrad, and attended the World Food Summit in Rome. While there, because of my Buddhist and Christian background, I met with Vatican leaders on the Pontifical Council on Interreligious Dialogue. Currently, I am a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, a life member of the Society for International Development, a member of the American Committee on Foreign Relations, a science and diplomacy fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Socrates fellow of the Aspen Institute.

In between my teaching and research positions at Harvard, Yale, and Columbia universities, I served as special assistant to NATO ambassador Harlan Cleveland on his Asian tour to develop the Asian Division of the World Academy of Art and Science in 1995 and his tour in the Middle East to participate in the U.N. Leadership Academy in Amman, Jordan, in 1997.

On the Middle East tour, I had the honor of meeting a wide range of leaders, including the late King Hussein and Queen Noor, Yasser Arafat, and Shimon Peres. This was a unique opportunity for me to learn about and work with their complex and historical issues. I learned to appreciate the privilege we enjoy in America while staying compassionate for those who struggle every day for peace in the Middle East.

The people in some of these places could not understand how I could be assistant to this ambassador because I looked foreign; I did not look American. When they talked to me they criticized

America, all the bad things about America. The funny thing was, at the end of my term there, one who had burned an American flag said, "How can I go to America?"

I joined the University of Maryland graduate faculty in 1997. I taught masters in public administration and business administration courses to senior military officers in the NATO command and received the Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award. The University of Maryland University College was contracted by the U.S. Defense Department, and I taught in England, Germany, Spain, Turkey, and Italy and then transferred to the Pacific command and taught undergrad courses in economics and government in Japan, South Korea, and China. Then I told the university that my family was getting tired of traveling—we had traveled to over 40 countries and wanted to settle down.

Last fall, I joined the U.S. State Department's Office of Science and Technology Cooperation as a science and diplomacy fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. I recently had the

opportunity to work with former University president Nils Hasselmo, president of the Association of American Universities. Nils asked my assistance to get Secretary of State Colin Powell to address the first convocation of more than 60 U.S. university presidents and more than 50 international presidents, rectors, and chancellors from five continents. At this global gathering of distinguished educational leaders, Secretary Powell referred to the University of Minnesota and its collaboration with America's Promise: the Alliance for Youth. To my delight, University President Mark Yudof stood next to me and loudly said, "Minnesota is here." For my work, I was honored with the U.S. State Department's Meritorious Honor Award.

I always want to look forward where I can be making a bigger and better contribution. The way I look at it, it's a time for me to give back. In 1993, I endowed two scholarships for leadership and management studies at my alma mater in Sri Lanka with royalties from books and awards. Last year I endowed a third scholarship, in honor of Harlan Cleveland, at the Arthur C. Clarke Center for Science and Technologies at Moraturwa University in Sri Lanka. And I mentor a wide range of students, but I especially search out African American students who need support or encouragement in their struggle.

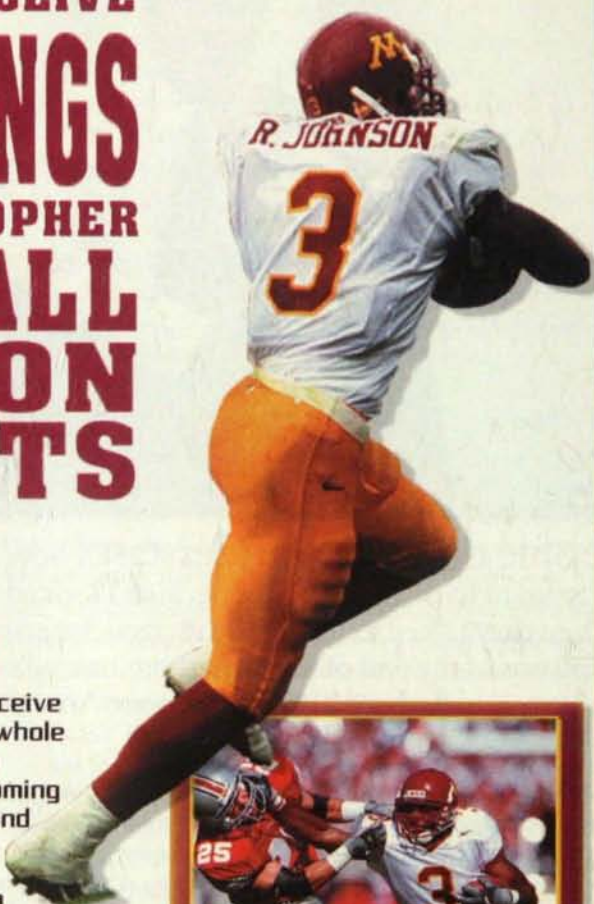
Always we can do better. We can make a bigger impact if opportunities are given. If we look at life as a journey, we have an entire lifetime to accomplish everything we want to accomplish. I do one thing at a time, like what Buddha said, "Do one thing at a time and live in that moment. And when the next thing comes, go to the next moment and do that thing next." I do the best I can, balancing my time between my family and public service, and let other things happen as they are destined to happen. ■

*Shelly Fling is editor of Minnesota.*





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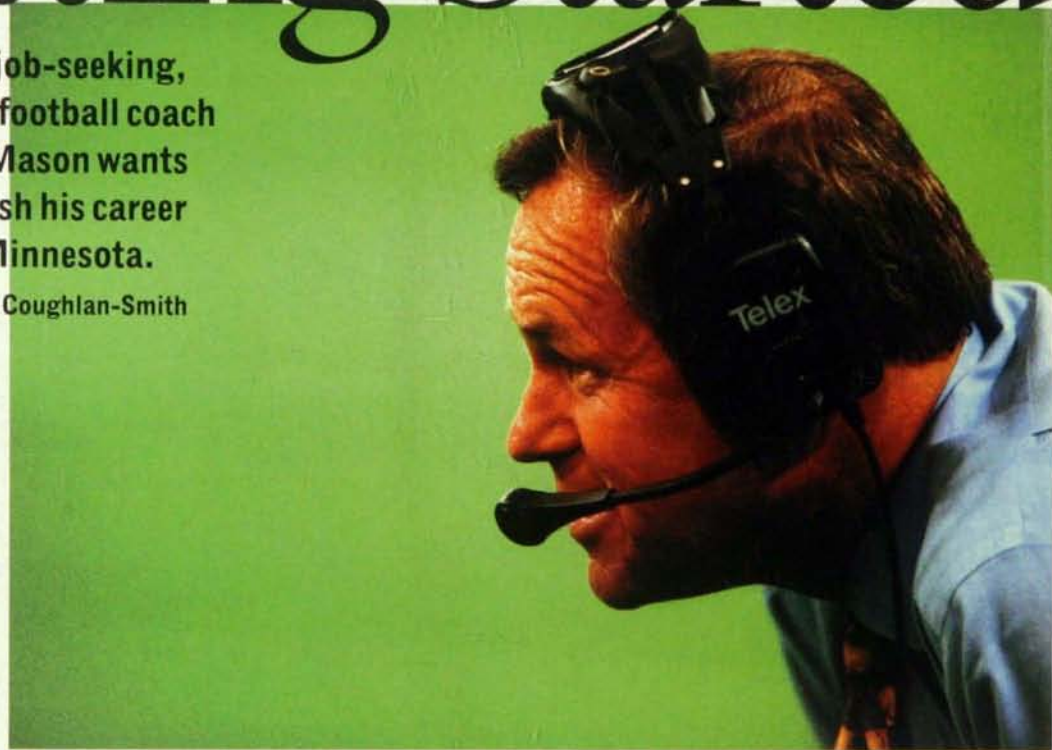
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# Just Getting Started

**Done job-seeking,  
Gopher football coach  
Glen Mason wants  
to finish his career  
in Minnesota.**

By Chris Coughlan-Smith



The first thing you should know about Gopher football coach Glen Mason is that he won't say something just because it sounds good. Straightforward to a fault, Mason was honest about pursuing the head coaching job at Ohio State in January. A year earlier, he had also told the truth—that he had entertained but rejected offers from Michigan State and Louisiana State University. “I lead with my chin,” is how he describes his style. “What you see is what you get.”

So when Glen Mason flatly states that he is “done interviewing for jobs,” that he intends to end his 29-year coaching career by building a consistent winner at Minnesota, you can believe he means it. “That’s what we’re planning on doing,” he says of staying at Minnesota. “I hope so anyway. The only reason I say ‘hope’ is because more and more guys seem to get fired every year.”

Mason is far from being fired. In 1997, he took over a team that had not won more than four games in a season since 1990. By 1999 he had the Gophers nationally ranked, won

eight games, and went to the Sun Bowl. Last season he coached the team to the Micronpc.com Bowl. He has also maintained a focus on academics and graduation. He has created a climate that not only demands the best effort from everyone—from clerical workers to players to the head coach—but also appreciates and encourages those who respond. Students who don't, because of grades or attitude or other problems, are allowed to transfer or remain in school quietly, without embarrassment.

His boss, Tom Moe, director of men's athletics, is unwavering in his praise for Mason—and what it will take to keep him at Minnesota. “I’ve felt from the very first day he was hired that the future of Minnesota football is excellent as long



as he remains involved," Moe says. "The burden is on the school, the employer, to create the kind of situation, with the kind of support required, that would encourage the coach to stay right where he is. . . . As long as Glen feels the program is moving forward and the program has the support it needs, I look for him to be here for a long, long time."

Minnesota's is the third program Mason, 51, has turned around. At Kent State he led the team to its first winning record in a decade in just his second season. That kind of success at a small school doesn't go unnoticed, and Kansas hired him in 1988. He inherited a program in disarray and won just one game that first year. Five years later the Jayhawks were playing in the Aloha Bowl. They reached 10 wins in 1995 and



**Hired as Gopher football head coach in 1997, Glen Mason took over a losing program and led it to two bowl games in four years. He announced last winter that he plans to finish his career in Minnesota.**

bigger programs again courted Mason. After a couple of years of rejecting offers, he finally accepted Minnesota's head coaching job. Word in the media was that he had left some hard feelings behind in Kansas, although some of his on-and-off job searching was due to turmoil in his personal life.

So in early 2000, after the Sun Bowl, Twin Cities sports commentators got nervous when the athletic directors began calling. Fifteen years ago Lou Holtz had left the Gophers for Notre Dame, so there was a "here we go again" feeling among many. But until last June, Mason was working without a contract at Minnesota. Once a seven-year deal was finalized, he was not interested in hearing from other schools—until John Cooper was fired and the job at Ohio State, one of the perennial top 10 programs in the business, came open.

Mason has never hidden his love for the Buckeyes. He played under the legendary Woody Hayes, then coached under Hayes and Earle Bruce. "I made no bones about it: I've

got a great amount of affection for Ohio State. I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for Ohio State," said Mason shortly after finding out Jim Tressel of Youngstown State would be the Buckeyes' new coach. "Did I dream about being the head coach there? Sure I did."

At a hastily arranged press conference the day after finding out he would not get the Ohio State job, Mason patiently answered questions about his commitment to Minnesota. "People don't have to agree with the action I took the last couple of weeks, but I hope they will look and say, 'Hey, I understand where he's coming from. He was up front with it,'" he said. "I hope they feel like they had the right guy at the University of Minnesota before this, and I hope they feel like that afterwards and for years to come. . . . I'll tell you something: This guy is done interviewing for jobs," he continued. "I guess I'll let my actions speak for themselves and let time judge."

Minnesotans were ready to understand that day. "I had 226 e-mails today," he said at the press conference. "About six had nothing to do with this, and the other 220 were all positive. . . . Minnesota people are very compassionate. They said, 'We're sorry if you're disappointed, but we're delighted to have you stay.'"

Six months later, Mason sounds both all-business about the current season and content that his legacy will be to turn his third reclamation project into a consistent winner. "Some guys are born on third base and think they hit a triple," he says. "That hasn't been my career. It's hard; it's a fistfight every day, but it's very rewarding."

He adds that he has no hard feelings toward Ohio State. "I'm bigger than that," he says. "I love Ohio State. I wish them all the success in the world. I hope they win every game every year except one—the one they play against us."

Mason admits he was initially disappointed with not being offered the Ohio State job, but adds that the following morning he "woke up excited, maybe in some ways reenergized. Why? Because I was going to a job that I love," he says. "I'm excited about the direction our program is going in. We weren't born on third base and we're not on third base yet, but sooner or later we're going to get there."

Minnesotans continue to back their coach and to let him know they do. "There isn't a day that goes by that someone doesn't go out of their way to say, 'Coach, we're glad that you're still here.' I hear that from alumni, from parents, from my players. It's very rewarding and humbling." ■





Senior Ron Johnson caught at least one pass in each of his 35 games last year and holds the University's touchdown record.

# The Gopher Football Forecast

Although the 2001 team's outlook is the opposite of last year's, Coach Glen Mason hopes for even better results.

**G**opher football prognosticators are not sure what to make of the 2001 season outlook. The team's profile is the reverse image of last year's lineup, which consisted of an inexperienced offense and a seasoned, promising defense. But the 2000 offense, with little experience at critical positions, ended up setting a school record for yardage with more than 429 per game. And the defense, returning most of the starters from a strong 1999 lineup, ended up a letdown, especially late in games. In four Big Ten losses, opponents scored 69 points in the fourth quarter. Still, the Gophers were strong enough to earn a second consecutive bowl berth.

As the 2001 team seeks a third consecutive bowl game for the first time in team history, the situation is reversed: a fresh defense and a seasoned offense. But head coach Glen Mason, starting his fifth season with the Gophers, hopes this year's story only twists halfway, that the offense will be as dangerous as it appears and the defense will be tight. "We do have question marks on defense, but I felt a lot better about the

defense coming out of spring practice than going in," Mason says, referring to the three weeks in April he is allowed to work with returning players. "We had more enthusiasm and played with a lot more emotion than any time in the five years I've been here. I felt a lot better about my whole football team coming out of spring practice." The offense "didn't miss a beat," he adds. "We picked up right where we left off and were able to expand on what we can do."

A tougher schedule awaits in 2001, with Michigan and Michigan State replacing last year's non-bowl teams Indiana and Penn State on the Big Ten schedule. The season opener is also daunting. Although seeing Toledo on the schedule doesn't strike fear into many, perhaps it should. In 2000, the Rockets were 10-1 and beat Penn State 24-6 in the opener. Among Toledo's 16 returning starters are an all-conference quarterback and running back. "The first game is so important," Mason says. "You prepare for weeks, months really, for that game." How will he make sure his team won't take the Rockets lightly? "I'll just show them [Toledo's] opening game with Penn State."



## A loaded offense

For the first time in several years, the Gopher offense is the team's strength. With two starting quarterbacks, a receiver of all-American caliber, and a running back coming off the third-best season in team history, the Gophers are loaded with talent. They also bring back four experienced offensive linemen and a receiving corps as deep as any in the Big Ten.

Senior Ron Johnson of Detroit—a big, fast, and sure-handed wide receiver—has already been compared with the Vikings' Cris Carter, a certain NFL Hall of Famer. Johnson has caught at least one pass in each of his 35 games, holds the school touchdown record, and should top the yardage and receptions lists by mid-season. Behind the all-American candidate are several more dangerous receivers. One of Mason's goals for the season is to develop more "big play" potential. With those receivers, Mason says he feels good about the progress there.

At quarterback, the tag-team play of senior Travis Cole of Lake Oswego, Oregon, and sophomore Asad Abdul-Khaliq of Elizabeth, New Jersey, will continue. The two bring different skills to the offense: Cole has the stronger arm while Abdul-Khaliq is the more dangerous runner. The fact that defenses must prepare to play against both styles of quarterback is "an indirect benefit," Mason says. "The real reason they'll both play is that they both have performed and both deserve to play."

Junior Tellis Redmon of Grapevine, Texas, returns from a breakout season at running back, where he gained 1,368 yards and scored 10 touchdowns despite not securing the starting spot until the fifth game of the season. Highly talented sophomore Thomas Tapeh of St. Paul is hoping to recover enough from an ankle injury to provide a second running threat.

Another of Mason's goals, improving scoring from inside the 20-yard line, will hinge on the enormous front line—the Gophers have two of the biggest tackles in the country, each at about 6-7 and 340 pounds—learning to play as a unit.

Mason has done some shifting to help make up for the loss of all-American Ben Hamilton. Senior Derek Burns of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, a two-year starter at guard, moves to center. The other anchor will be three-year starter Ryan Roth, a senior from Kansas City, Missouri.

## An untested defense

With only two starters returning on defense, Mason hopes his fast and talented unit can continue to pick up the schemes of new defensive coordinator Moe Ankeny, who began working with the defense in spring. That should help them match up better against the speedy offenses that beat them last year. The defense will be faster, Mason says, although not nearly as big. "But if you asked me which I'd rather have on defense, I would rather have the ability to run."

The coaches are also working together well. "I was very pleased with the new additions to our coaching staff," Mason says of Ankeny, his three defensive assistants, and two other new coaches. "You expect the players to work together and it's impossible to do that if the coaching staff doesn't work together. We've got the right chemistry there."

The secondary could be a strength this year, with junior Mike Lehan of Hopkins, Minnesota, returning at corner and converted wide receiver Jack Brewer, a senior from Grapevine, Texas, showing such talent at safety that he could be one of the year's big surprises. Sophomore Eli Ward of Akron, Ohio, developed into a key player late last year at safety, and there are several more talented backups.

A small defensive middle got bigger this spring when senior defensive end Greg White of Newark, New Jersey, got moved to linebacker, where he will provide strong pass-rush support when called on to blitz. He'll join 1999 starter Astein Osei, a senior from Bolingbrook, Illinois, who sat out last year with an injury.

Newcomers will dot the defensive line, as sophomore Dan Kwapinski of Fort Ransom, North Dakota, is the only return-

**2**  
Junior running back Tellis Redmon gained 1,368 yards and scored 10 touchdowns in 2000.





ing player. Redshirt freshmen Brandon Harston, a 300-pounder from Fort Worth, Texas, and 290-pound Timothy Ward of Milwaukee, will see time in the middle of the line. The ends may be played by two converted offensive players: senior Zach Vevea of Elk River, Minnesota, who played tight end last year, and sophomore Eric Stenzel of Mankato, Minnesota, who played fullback in 2000.

### Seasoned special teams

With every key player returning, the Gophers can look for improved kicking and a good return game. Junior punter Preston Gruening of Schofield, Wisconsin, is a preseason all-American. He'll again hold for junior kicker Dan Nystrom of New Hope, Minnesota, who had an off year in 2000. Long snapper Peter Prudden, a sophomore from Wayzata, Minnesota, also returns. Mason says he counts on those three working well together and it showed in spring, with Nystrom hitting five of six field goals in the spring game.

### Keys to postseason play

For the Gophers to return to a bowl game, they will probably need to beat Toledo on opening day. Although they bounced back from a loss to Ohio University in 2000, an opening defeat to a small-conference foe could deal a blow to the confidence of the young defense. The defense will need to contain and slow down opposing offenses so the Gophers can get their own talented offense on the field. "We're going to have to

play together awfully well as a unit [on defense]," Mason says. "There won't be that all-American [Tyrone Carter in 1999] or first-round draft pick [Willie Middlebrooks in 2000] to fall back on." In the early '90s, the Gophers came out on the wrong end of a lot of games with scores like 49-42. If the defense can develop that teamwork to go along with its talent and enthusiasm, the Gophers should come out on the right end of enough of those scores in 2001 to gain another bowl bid. ■

*Chris Coughlan-Smith is associate editor of Minnesota.*

### 2001 Gopher Football Schedule

August 30	at University of Toledo, 6 p.m.
September 8	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
September 15	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, 7 p.m.
September 29	PURDUE UNIVERSITY
October 6	at University of Illinois
October 13	at Northwestern University
October 20	MICHIGAN STATE (homecoming)
November 3	OHIO STATE
November 10	at University of Michigan
November 17	at University of Iowa
November 24	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Home games are played in the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Most game times will be announced the week before the game. For tickets, call 612-624-8080 or 800-GOPHER. For more information on football and other Gopher sports programs, visit [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com).

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# I am a member

Tracy Fallon ('96), has been a University of Minnesota Alumni Association member and volunteer since she was a student. Now she is active in the University Legislative Network. Started and managed by the UMAA, the network supports the U's legislative request at the state capitol.

"I am proud to advocate for the U of M through the Legislative Network," she says. "The University has served me well and I want it to remain a world-class institution for students and for Minnesota."

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## Building lifelong connections





# Gateway Plaza Plans Take Shape



The east bank of the Minneapolis campus is getting a breath of fresh air as a square of green space takes shape on the better part of a block. The cracked and crumbling asphalt of the parking lot south of the McNamara Alumni Center is now being transformed into the Gateway Plaza, a multi-use open square bounded by Oak Street, Washington Avenue, Walnut Street, and the McNamara Alumni Center. Construction should be well under way by fall and could be finished before winter.

Although in July the primary work consisted of tearing up asphalt and moving piles of dirt, soon the plaza area will begin to take shape with trees, grass, granite-paved spaces, a tiered pool of water, fiber-optic lines set into the ground for night lighting, and perhaps a landmark monument. Alumni center architect Antoine Predock, who is working with Minnesota firm LHB Engineering on the plaza design, envisions

**Private funds will be raised for a 90-foot-tall tower of granite, copper, and glass on the corner of Oak Street and Washington Avenue. A light atop the Gateway Plaza monument will be a symbolic "beacon bright and clear," as sung in "Hail! Minnesota," and provide a spotlight for a granite stage.**

slightly shorter tower of copper. Between will be shards of glass that will reflect and distribute light. A light at the top would be a symbolic "beacon bright and clear"—as sung in "Hail! Minnesota"—and provide a spotlight for a granite stage. The tower's foundation will be built into the plaza this year, although the monument itself may

be several years from completion.

"This will be a complement to the alumni center in that it will be a connector between the University and the community," says Larry Laukka, volunteer CEO of the University Gateway Corporation, which is raising money and paying for the plaza. "It is a chance to open our doors and let the community and passers-by get a glimpse into campus."

Bill Morrish, former director of the University's Design Center for the American Urban Landscape, agrees. "This is not only about enhancing the University, but also the interaction with the community around it," he says. "It says both 'you're welcome to be here,' and that you are arriving on campus. It creates a space where the two worlds come together."

Although the University owns the land, all the funds for building the plaza are coming from private sources. The alumni involvement is meaningful, Morrish says. "Alumni are the long-term citizenry of the University," he points out. "They are not just leaving behind a column or a statue. They are leaving behind an open door, and that is a very powerful statement."

## Report

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Plan Ahead!

#### HOMECOMING WEEKEND IS OCTOBER 19-20

When the Golden Gopher football team takes on the Michigan State Spartans October 20, the game will be more than a battle for Big Ten bowl position, it's also the University of Minnesota's homecoming. Homecoming weekend includes alumni gatherings and, of course, the homecoming parade. Times and details are not set, but visit [www.umaa.umn.edu](http://www.umaa.umn.edu) or call 612-624-2323 or 1-800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867) for the latest as it becomes available.



## >> Legislators Heard from 15,000 U Supporters

The good news is that it appears the estimated 15,000 phone calls, letters, e-mails, and visits made by University supporters helped convince state legislators to almost double the governor's proposed increase for the University over the next two years. Unfortunately, the increase was less than half of the \$221.5 million University President Mark Yudof argued was absolutely vital to solidify the University's base and to build strategic programs. In a special session in June, state legislators approved \$110.6 million in new state funding: \$90.7 million in general funds and another \$19.9 million from the tobacco endowment that will go to long-term funding for the University's Academic Health Center.

While Yudof and regents must wrestle with serious budget questions, the outpouring of public support heartens the president. "The silver lining to all this is the way alumni and friends responded to our calls for assistance," he says. "It proves to me that people around the state understand what a vital and precious resource this University is. They see and feel it working in our economy and in our quality of life."

At a reception for legislative volunteers, Yudof also pointed out that the University's appropriation is likely to be among the highest percentage increases for any state agency and that volunteers helped "raise the profile of higher education issues at the state level. . . . Let's face it, 15,000 phone calls are hard to ignore."

For several weeks in winter and spring, the UMAA organized hundreds of alumni volunteers to call members around the state, encouraging them to contact legislators. "We stepped up our efforts this year because we saw the fight we had on our hands,"

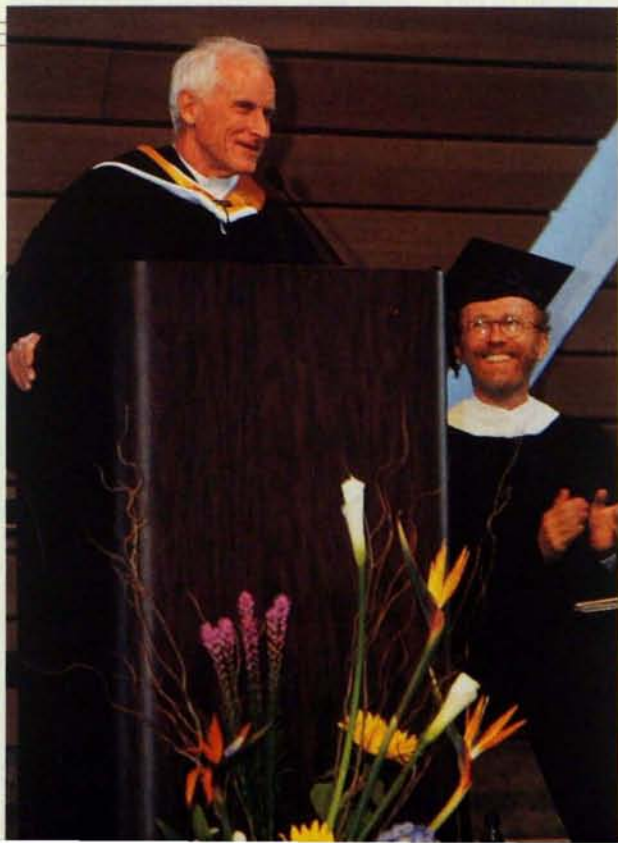


says UMAA executive director Margaret Carlson. The UMAA-organized Legislative Network ordinarily sends e-mails and letters to its volunteers to encourage them to contact their legislators. This time, the Legislative Network volunteers not only contacted their legislators, they also called thousands of other alumni to ask them to do the same. "I believe this outpouring will convince the governor and legislators in coming years that there is significant public support for higher education," Carlson says.

The University must now contend with how to mix budget cuts and tuition increases with program improvements. Employee health-care premiums and a 3 percent faculty raise alone could cost \$120 million during the next two years. Yudof has announced he will slice \$30 million from administrative budgets on top of \$33 million in cuts already accomplished. A new health-insurance plan will reduce the percentage of premium costs the University pays. Still, the regents will vote on double-digit tuition increases—approximately 27 percent over two years—in July.

Yudof has spoken about the need to find where the University fits in the continuum between the low-tuition and low-financial-aid approach that has traditionally been the standard for public universities and the high-tuition, high-aid model that has been embraced by private colleges. Some public universities, like Michigan and Penn State, have been moving toward the high-tuition, high-aid approach. "The questions are, how much can we really cut in the next two years? . . . What should tuition be and how much do we want to scale back our expectations?" Yudof told regents in June.

For the latest on legislative funding, visit [www.umn.edu/govrel](http://www.umn.edu/govrel).



## << An Honor and an Award

Antoine Predock, the architect who designed the McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota Gateway, received an honorary degree from the University's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) in May. The degree, the Doctor of Humane Letters, is the highest honor conferred by the University and is intended to distinguish Predock as one of the leading thinkers and practitioners in the discipline of architecture. In his designs, Predock considers a building's geographical and cultural setting and incorporates shapes and materials that recall the site's geological history. Aspects of the McNamara Alumni Center, where the commencement ceremony took place, represent Split Rock, the Iron Range, and the north woods of Minnesota. Predock also gave the commencement address to the CALA graduates. Seated next to the podium is CALA dean Tom Fisher.

In June, the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design selected the McNamara Alumni Center as one of the winners of its 2001 American Architecture Awards. Forty-five awards for buildings around the world were bestowed to U.S. architecture firms from among nearly 300 entries. The winning projects may be viewed at [www.chi-atbenaeum.org](http://www.chi-atbenaeum.org).





## Member Spotlight | Phil Skeie

**P**hil Skeie, a proud alumnus of the University of Minnesota Marching Band, does all he can to make perpetrators of health insurance fraud face the music.

As an account manager for Ingenix in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, one of the nation's largest health-care information and research companies, Skeie, 31, teams up with health-insurance companies across the country to investigate cases of possible fraud or abusive billing.

Ingenix belongs to the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (NHCAA) in Washington, D.C., an association composed of private, public, and law-enforcement entities involved in investigating health-care fraud. The NHCAA estimates that 3 percent to 5 percent of the nation's total health-care billing of \$1.1 trillion per year may be fraudulent or abusive.

"We do a lot of data analysis for our clients to identify health-care providers who may be using questionable or suspect billing practices," says Skeie, who earned a business degree from the Carlson School of Management in 1992. "Although we also offer recovery services, we try to conduct our investigations before our clients pay their claims to prevent the money from going out the door inappropriately in the first place."

Although only a small number of health-care providers commit fraud or abuse, the cost to the general public is significant. "Every dollar that goes out the door for an inappropriate, incorrect, or false bill could have been used to pay legitimate health-care costs, and that's going to increase premiums for everybody," says Skeie.

Health-care fraud is no laughing matter, but Skeie can't help but chuckle when recalling one rather extreme case. "In



Phil Skeie

**"Every dollar that goes out the door for false bills could have been used to pay legitimate health-care costs."**

reviewing this doctor's billing records and adding up his bill time," says Skeie, "he was apparently working 70 hours per day. He once billed for seeing 187 patients in one day, with 131 of those billed as house calls. He also billed for 32 people that were dead. Federal investigators actually raided his office prior to our investigation. He's answering to the government now."

Skeie credits the Carlson School of Management with

raising his awareness of the increasing role that technology plays in business today. "Technology really helps us see the big picture," he says. "At Ingenix, we use data analysis tools that help us identify complex schemes as well as individuals who may be in collusion with one another. That just wouldn't be possible without recent advances in technology."

Skeie, who graduated from Tartan High School in Oakdale, Minnesota, chose the University of Minnesota because it was one of the few institutions of learning where he could pursue his twin passions of business and music.

"I played alto saxophone in the U of M Marching Band all four years I was there," says Skeie, who now plays in the alumni band. "That's what I recall most about my college experience, probably because of all the time that was involved. We'd get to school two weeks before the start of the year and practice music and marching 12 hours a day!"

Skeie, who maintains affiliations with both the Carlson School and the School of Music, benefited greatly from both. "My time at the school of business really did a good job of preparing me for what I was going to have to do when I got into the real world," he says. "And my time in band has given me friends that I'll have for the rest of my life."

—Phil Bolsta

## National President

# The U Will Prevail

**I**t's been a wonderful privilege to serve as president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association this past year—and what a year it has been!

While every stretch of time is bound to have ups and downs, it seems to me that 2000–01 was especially marked by some historical highs and lows that deserve remembering.

First, the high points. What a glorious year we've had celebrating the University's sesquicentennial, a 150th birthday party that seemed to touch all Minnesotans in some way. The festivities began last summer with Opera on the Farm in Lanesboro, Minnesota, and culminated in the grand finale extravaganza featuring the Minnesota Orchestra in Northrop Auditorium and fireworks over the Mississippi River. In between were birthday parties at local businesses, a president's conference series, art exhibits, concerts, and a reenactment of the charter signing at the state capitol.



Jean Fountain, M.B.A. '74

These events celebrated a university where progress is visible and remarkable: a campus that is beautiful and bursting with renovation; a university where state-of-the-art systems have made a once-formidable institution easy to navigate; a place with smaller classes, satisfied freshmen (94 percent of whom said last spring that they'd choose the University again if they had to do it over), and a retention rate well above the national average.

Some of the most memorable moments for me were in the small things: seeing the eager young faces of future students as they donned Gopher visors along the parade route for U of M Day at the State Fair; feeling pride swell in me as I marched in the academic processional during Founders' Week; laughing (and sometimes tearing up) as I listened to stories about the U's history told by John S. Pillsbury, brought to life by actor J.B. Eckert.; and witnessing an unprecedented, superlative grass-roots lobbying effort by dedicated University alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

That leads to what has turned out to be the year's most disappointing moment. Despite literally thousands of calls, letters, e-mails, and faxes to state legislators from constituents who care as much about the University as I do, we will receive less than half of the requested \$221.5 million in increased funding for the biennium. This leaves our University with the enormous challenge of redefining how we will chart our course toward first-class excellence.

This is disappointing because without money to improve and compete, the University will lose its momentum a leader in public education. By raising tuition, the U may become too expensive for many of our sons and daughters. And if we must cut programs, the University's rich and engaging curriculum will suffer. Most frustrating is that the state of Minnesota is in good shape financially and even has a budget surplus; our governor and legislators could have supported the University's budget request.

This letdown is one of the memories that will stay with me long after I leave my post. Even so, I will not remain discouraged. I am heartened by the widespread support of the U, as evidenced by the many editorials, op-ed pieces, and letters to the editor in virtually every newspaper in the state. I am encouraged by the most vigorous, grassroots lobbying effort in the U's history. I believe that most Minnesotans still have the lofty ambition for our University that its founders had 150 years ago, when they looked at the riverfront and envisioned a center of intellectual greatness. And I know that the alumni association remains firm in its resolve of advocacy for the University. Our goal is a pro-education legislature in a pro-education state.

These convictions—along with all the obvious reasons to celebrate the University—make me proud to be an alumna of this great institution and honored to have served it as alumni association president. Thanks to all of my fellow alumni for a wonderful year. ■

## So Long, Seniors >>

**M**ore than 400 students from the class of 2001 gathered in Memorial Hall in the McNamara Alumni Center for the first-ever Senior SendOff on May 2. Students took a welcome break from studying for finals to enjoy free food, music, and the eager anticipation of a raffle. Those looking for an opportunity to goof off before getting serious about their postcollege endeavors wrestled in inflated sumo suits, raced in a bungee-running event, and battled their classmates with padded, gladiatorlike jousting sticks.

The Senior SendOff is a new alumni association–planned event that the University hopes will become a tradition, as did New Student Convocation. In 1997, University President Mark Yudof spoke before members of the class of 2001 in Northrop Auditorium at the beginning of their University careers; he returned four years later to bid them farewell.







## Member Spotlight | Matt Ruble

Most people recognize the immediate benefits of the University's unprecedented recent construction wave, but few spend much time contemplating the larger role such projects play in shaping the future. Matt Ruble (B.S. '95) has thought about it quite a lot.

"As a native Minnesotan and a student at the University, I've seen the University's positive influence locally and globally," says Ruble, whose degree is in civil engineering. "The infrastructure we provide at the University impacts how thousands of people learn. The better people learn, the greater the benefit to the world."

As project manager for Minneapolis engineering firm Braun Intertec Corporation, Ruble has been involved in numerous University construction projects on the Twin Cities campus, overseeing rock and soil analyses of sites' foundations and quality-control testing of construction materials.

"I'm intensely motivated by University projects because of what they mean to me, my alumni friends, current students, employees, and all those who will be there in the future—including maybe my kids," says Ruble, who lives in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. "To keep the caliber of the University high, you need quality infrastructure. Quality infrastructure helps attract quality faculty, which, in turn, helps draw quality students.

"That's why I like University projects," he continues. "They're not being built just for today, but also for tomorrow. . . . There's a sense that future generations will see our efforts as responsible for molding what the University becomes."

Ruble has had a hand in the construction of Roy Wilkins Hall, the softball and soccer complexes, the addition to Walter F. Mondale Hall, the Ford and Murphy hall renovations, and Riverbend Commons. He has also worked on several other projects in the Twin Cities, including the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport expansion, where he serves as Braun's primary engineer.

Ruble's association with Braun Intertec began during his



Matt Ruble

**"When you walk around campus you really sense the history of the place—you can almost feel it emanating from the buildings."**

senior year, when he was chosen for one of two internships from 200 applicants. Later he applied for a full-time position and was selected from a pool of 100.

Grateful for the guidance he received as a student and young professional, Ruble now gives aspiring engineers his attention.

As chairman of the scholarship committee of the Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota, Ruble oversees interviews of scholarship finalists. Through his membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers, he assists students with creating their résumés.

While his work often brings Ruble to campus, he still can't seem to get enough of the place. He has been a men's basketball season-ticket holder since 1992 and recently bought Gopher football season tickets as well.

"When you walk around campus you really sense the history of the place—you can almost feel the history emanating from the buildings—which is what makes the University such a wonderful place to be. It feels good to know that [alumni] in 40 or 50 years may walk by one of my projects and reflect back on its impact on them, on the University, and even on the world."

—Anne Rawland Gabriel



# UMAA Calendar

## July

28 Bay Area Chapter Habitat for Humanity project, 8 a.m., Redwood City, California; contact Mark Allen

## August

3 Milwaukee Chapter hosts U of M freshman send-off, time and location TBA; contact Mark Allen

4 Madison Chapter hosts U of M freshman send-off, time and location TBA; contact Mark Allen

4 Puget Sound Chapter annual potluck-on-the-lake, 11:30 a.m., at a member's home on Lake Washington; contact Mark Allen

6 Dentistry Alumni Society golf tournament, 8 a.m., Les Bolstadt U of M Golf Course; contact Hope Thill

6-14 Alumni College in Norway; contact Jessica Almle

18 Bay Area Chapter Moffett Field tour, time TBA; contact Mark Allen

24 Fourth annual Carlson School Alumni Society day at the races, 6 p.m., Canterbury Downs in Shakopee, Minnesota; contact Hope Thill

26 U of M Day at the Minnesota State Fair, all day; contact Karla Hoff

## September

1-8 Hidden Fjords and Glaciers of Alaska's Inside Passage; contact Jessica Almle

5-12 Great Lakes Odyssey tour; contact Jessica Almle

12 Rochester Chapter at Women's Volleyball Border Battle III (U of M vs. Northern Iowa), time TBA, Rochester (Minnesota) Century High School; contact Chad Kono

14 Alumni Day at the Dome, Gophers vs. Baylor Bears; time TBA, Metrodome; contact Karla Hoff

14 UMAA National Volunteer Awards, time TBA, McNamara Alumni Center; contact Karla Hoff

15 Bay Area Chapter hike, time TBA, Muir Woods; contact Mark Allen

18- Wings over the Nile tour; Oct. 2 contact Jessica Almle

18- China's Cultural Triangle Oct. 4 contact Jessica Almle

25- Islands of the Gods Oct. 3 (Aegean Sea); contact Jessica Almle

28- Biological Sciences Alumni Weekend at Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station; contact Hope Thill

28 Dentistry Alumni Day and Minnesota vs. Purdue football game, times TBA, Pillsbury Auditorium and Metrodome; contact Hope Thill

becoming alumni association events on campus and around the country. For more information, visit [www.uma.umn.edu](http://www.uma.umn.edu) or call 612-624-8323 or 1-800-UM-LUMS (862-5867) and ask to speak to the UMAA staff person listed after the event.

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## Executive Director

# One Graduate at a Time

One of the best parts of my job is hearing the remarkable stories of University of Minnesota alumni. The most powerful accounts are those of seemingly ordinary people who end up accomplishing extraordinary feats—thanks, in part, to the University of Minnesota.



Margaret Sughrue Carlson,  
Ph.D. '83

Consider Endesha Ida Mae Holland (B.A. '79, M.A. '84, Ph.D. '86). Before becoming an award-winning playwright, Holland triumphed over her poor and turbulent childhood in Mississippi to become a recognized civil rights organizer. After her mother was killed in a firebombing, Holland came to the University, where she earned three liberal arts degrees and her sensitive writing moved classmates to tears. Today, she is a professor at the University of Southern California and has written several acclaimed plays, includ-

ing the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *From the Mississippi Delta*.

Then there's Robert Gore (M.S. '61, Ph.D. '63), a Delaware native whose earliest experience in Minnesota was a late September snowfall. Besides our formidable natural environment, it's fair to say he also found inspiration in the academic climate. Gore's graduate studies in chemical engineering led to the development of Gore-Tex, the water-resistant fabric that keeps millions warm and dry around the world. Not surprisingly, Gore says the University's supportive atmosphere continues to influence his firm's corporate culture.

Another graduate with a great story is Michele Brekke (B.S. '75, M.S. '77), whose name was Michele Hank while at the University. As an aerospace engineering student, she diligently worked in Helmut Heinrich's wind-tunnel lab. Today, as NASA's first female flight director, Brekke oversees the launch of multibillion-dollar satellites, and no payloads fly on a space shuttle without her approval.

Each of these stories perfectly illustrates the powerful influence of the University of Minnesota on its students. These anecdotes also make me think how lucky we are that these three chose the University of Minnesota. But they are only a few examples. Each year, tens of thousands of students come here to begin their own journeys and build their own stories. Some arrive despite setbacks and obstacles. Some are eager but without direction. And some come with advantages and purpose. But by the power of education, and through the acts of caring people across the campuses, the University of Minnesota changes their lives. What's more, the University also changes the lives of all those people who come into contact with our alumni. The impact is staggering. Simply

put, we change the lives of our students when they are on campus, and as a result, they go on and change the world.

Using that theme, "Changing the World One Graduate at a Time," the alumni association recently launched its first advertising campaign in 16 years. Through a series of print advertisements, the campaign celebrates the many ways alumni make a difference in today's world. As our staff began collecting and considering the stories of hundreds of alumni, those of Endesha Holland, Robert Gore, and Michele Brekke rose to the top. Their names may not be as familiar as the famous alumni featured in our previous ad campaigns, including Hubert H. Humphrey (B.A. '39), Roy Wilkins (B.A. '23), and Eric Sevareid (B.A. '35), but we found their stories equally compelling.

So did the Minneapolis advertising agency Gabriel Diericks Razidlo. Thanks to the agency's pro bono creative leadership on this campaign, coupled with the energetic efforts of Tom Garrison, the alumni association's associate executive director for communications, I'm certain the ads have hit the mark. See for yourself on page 7 of this magazine. And watch future issues of *Minnesota* for ads in our "Changing the World" campaign.

The stories in these three advertisements are only the tip of the iceberg. As the University of Minnesota Alumni Association expands beyond 52,500 members, the potential for sharing fascinating stories seems limitless. And as we approach the centennial anniversary of our association in 2004, you can expect to see and hear a lot more of our graduates' stories—in these pages and elsewhere—in the coming months and years.

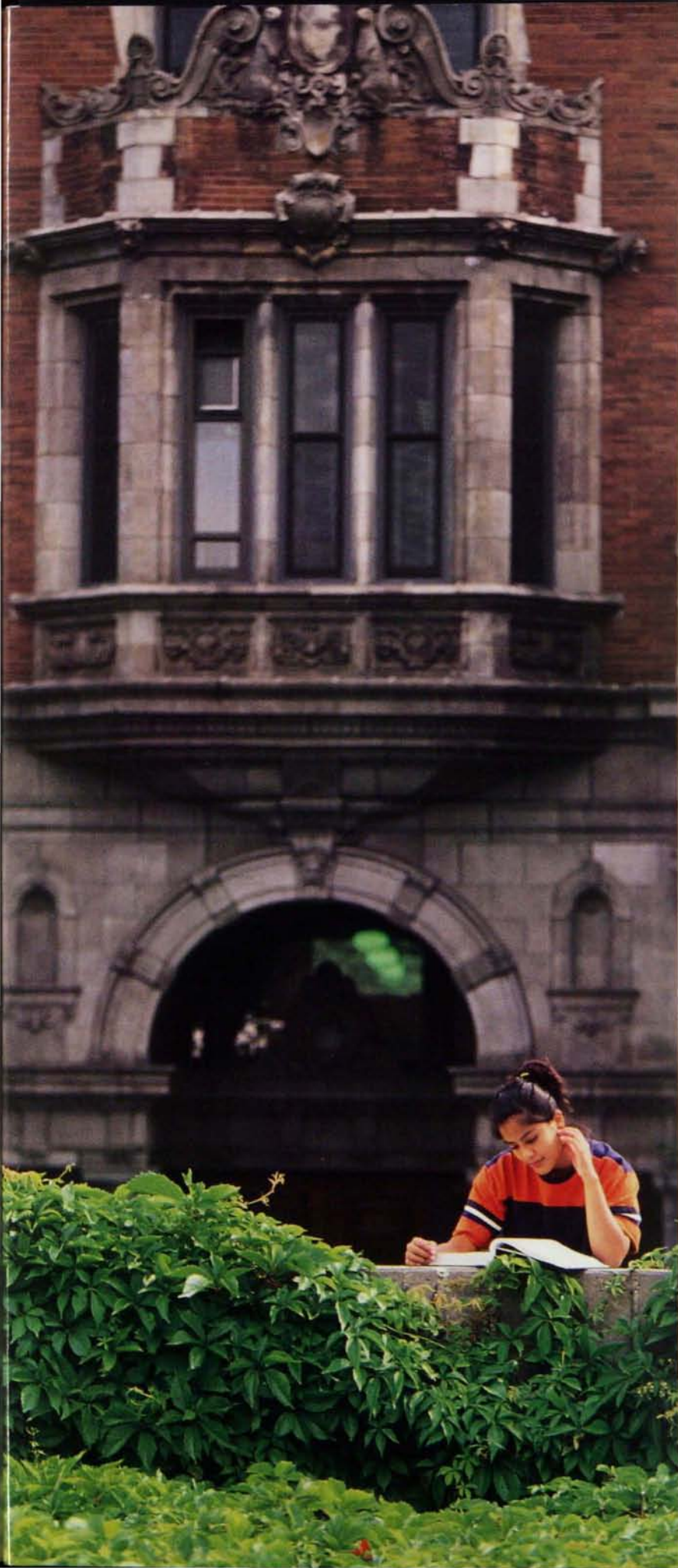
As an alumna or alumnus, take a minute to consider what your story is, thanks to the University. What have you accomplished that you can credit to the University of Minnesota? How has your alma mater helped you change the world?

But don't stop there. We hope you also will connect and reconnect with your alma mater for a lifetime. Consider returning to campus for a reunion where you can share your story with former classmates. Speak up for the University. If you hear a group of people talking about the U, tell them how it helped you achieve your goals. Show your colors. Wear the traditional maroon-and-gold Gopher gear and prominently display your U of M diploma. And finally, become an advocate. Encourage other alumni to join the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, and help us recruit the best and brightest students as well. A vocal and growing group of supporters can have a tremendous impact on the future and strength of the U.

Nearly every day, I'm fortunate enough to hear several success stories that are powerful endorsements for our alma mater. Let's all become storytellers for this world-class institution. Sharing our testimonials will truly help the University of Minnesota change the world, one graduate at a time.

**Simply put, we change the lives of our students when they are on campus, and as a result, they go on and change the world.**





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