


THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA

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A portrait of jazz composer and alumna Maria Schneider. She has long, wavy, reddish-blonde hair and is wearing a blue denim jacket. She is leaning forward with her arms crossed, resting her chin on her hands. The background is dark with several out-of-focus, warm-toned lights, suggesting an indoor setting like a stage or a concert hall.

Jazz composer and
alumna Maria Schneider

Knowing When to Improvise

Keys to Cures • The Story behind Fairy Tales • Med Students in India • A Fearsome Force on the Ice

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Honoring outstanding alumni and scholarly achievements.

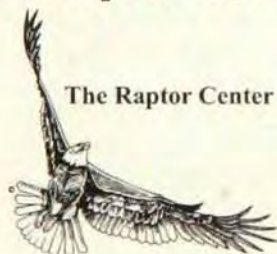
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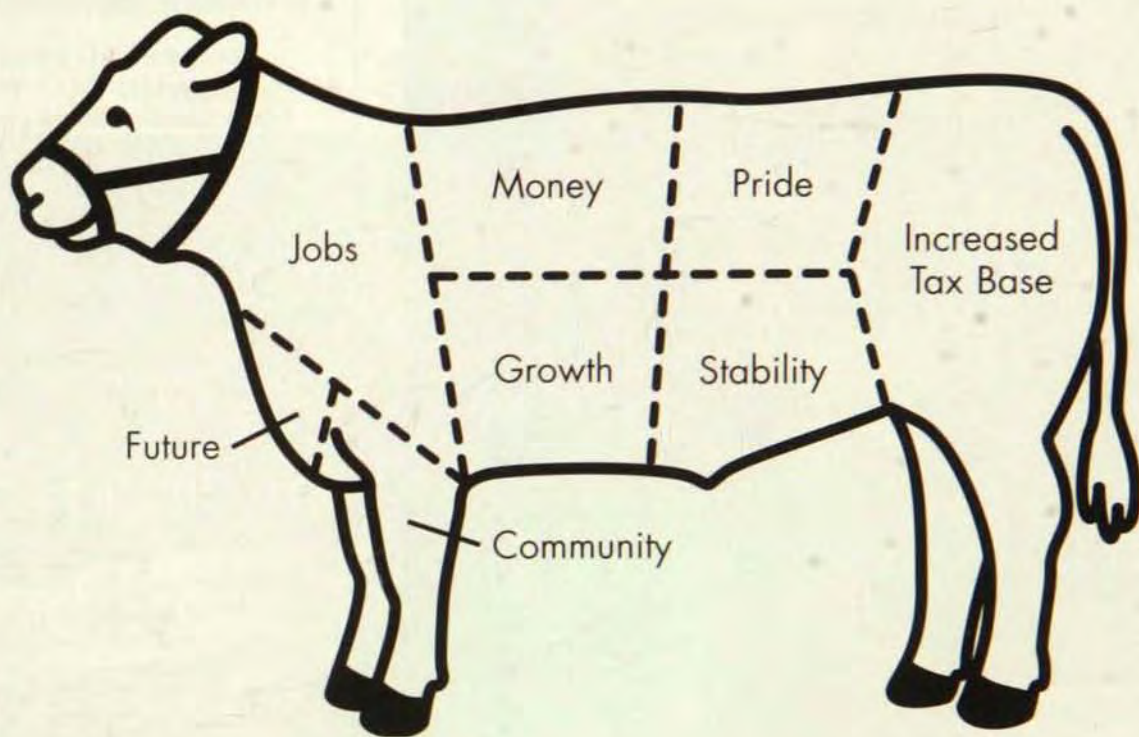
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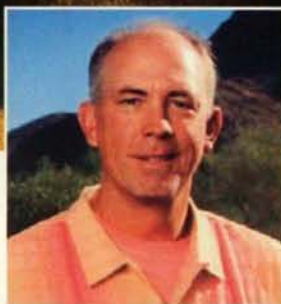
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Tom Lehman, B.S. '82
Professional Golfer

Golfer Tom Lehman never planned on attending the U of M. "I had been accepted at St. John's in Collegeville," says Lehman. "But at the eleventh hour I got a call from the U golf coach inviting me to join the team." Lehman received scholarships for three years and turned pro after graduating. And he still finds time for the U, including speaking on behalf of

scholarships and contributing to an endowed scholarship fund created in his name. You can ensure that students are at the top of their game by contributing to the U of M Scholarship Drive, the goal of which is to increase the number of students we assist by 50 percent. And now you can double the impact of an endowment gift. Call 612-624-3333 or visit www.giving.umn.edu



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Editor's Note

Civics and Civility

Somewhere between Epidaurus and Agamemnon's tomb, our Greek guide at the front of the tour bus picked up a microphone and filled the travel time by reading a list of English words with Greek origins: "alphabet, athlete, philanthropy, sympathy, diarrhea, democracy. . . ." Democracy. I smiled at that one.

A few days earlier, I had awakened to the airplane pilot announcing our approach into Frankfurt. It was an early November morning, and the day before I had stood in line at my polling place to choose the next U.S. president before hastening to the airport. Since then, I'd heard no election returns and wasn't the only one eager to learn the results.

The cabin hushed as the pilot spoke, and I strained to pick out a familiar word from the tumult of German. I deciphered "United States" and "president." And then the pilot finished his announcement with "George Bush." Eruptions of applause and groans rippled through the cabin as passengers spread the news.



Shelly Fling

Waiting for the connecting flight to Athens, our group of about two dozen alumni gathered before a television. An image of Florida, where it was around 2 a.m., came on the screen, and we learned that the pilot's proclamation was premature. Most in our group were still strangers to each other, but we began sidling up to one another, foregoing the usual niceties, desperate to discuss what was happening back home.

It was the last television we would see for a week. From then on our days would be filled with touring ancient Greece. Evenings, however, we sat on the patio, sipping local wine, eating pistachios, and discussing bits of election news reported

in the *International Herald Tribune*. We talked about a presidential race that seemed to have no conclusion while relishing a holiday we hoped would never end.

But we soon returned home, where we wouldn't learn who would be named president for three more weeks. Almost four years later, election day 2004 is just days away as I write this. But this column isn't about the election outcomes or whether we'll have to wait a day or a month to know the results.

I long for the respectful, open exchanges that members of our tour group sustained that week four years ago. Our conversations were fretful but friendly. I didn't always know the political stripe of my fellow travelers, but that didn't matter. I garnered insight from their opinions and perspectives, and we fell silent when someone coaxed our new Greek friends into telling us what they thought about U.S. politics and policy.

Today, nearly any topic of conversation—from what kind of vehicle to drive to what equates free speech—divides us. Everyone wants to be heard and no one wants to listen. Vitriol and self-righteousness have usurped reason and conciliation. This is true even on a university campus, where one would hope academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas could flow unfettered.

Two things give me hope, however. This year arguably more U.S. citizens have been engaged in the election process than ever before. Some of our nation's greatest writers and thinkers are expressing their ideas and opinions in all forums. And the less eloquent of us discuss their words and thoughts and with a click of the mouse add our own and send them around the country, widening and multiplying the discourse.

And this fall I came across a quote from a University student in a local daily newspaper. He attended a campus-sponsored event where a U professor discussed a contentious election-year topic with a national figure who held an opposing view. The student said his beliefs aligned with the guest, but he at turns applauded one speaker and then the other throughout the debate. A reporter asked him about this.

"It's important that we approach the issue openly and honestly and have forums where we push back and forth," the student explained, "because if we don't, we become more polarized."

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

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Letters



Defending the Green Revolution

The assertion that the Green Revolution has had "awesome negative consequences" should not go unchallenged (Letters, March–April).

Norman Borlaug (B.S. '37, M.S. '39, Ph.D. '42) and scores of like-minded scientists worldwide contend that without the Green Revolution's agricultural advances in developing nations, not only would hundreds of millions of lives have been lost, the negative environmental impact would have been significantly greater. If less efficient farming methods had been employed in these countries, much more land, forest area, wildlife, and plant life would have been sacrificed in futile attempts to avert massive starvation.

Borlaug and others do not completely disagree with critics who urge the use of organic fertilizers, only with their claim that this approach alone will produce sufficient food in developing nations. They also note the unfortunate irony that use of nonorganic fertilizer is much greater in the West than in those areas of the globe most closely linked with the Green Revolution.

There are many notable stewards of the environment in the National Academy of Sciences, National Science Foundation, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. In recent years, each of

these distinguished bodies has recognized Norman Borlaug with its most prestigious honors for scientific contributions to the public good, as have other prominent scientific organizations internationally.

Hardly what one would expect for someone whose life's work is claimed by some to have been so detrimental.

DON HENRY (B.A. '65, PH.D. '71)
St. Paul

Develop Alternative Energy

The investigation of alternative energy sources is one of the most important current areas of science and engineering. Lloyd Halverson's prescription of "a big dose of realism" should include a measure for his advocacy of nuclear power (Letters, July–August).

It is widely recognized that existing nuclear power plants are prime targets for terrorist attacks. Until the threats from terrorist groups have been brought under control it would be most imprudent to provide such groups with more targets.

The short-term response to the growing concern about energy availability and costs is conservation. That approach served well in response to the Arab oil embargo of 1973–74, allowing U.S. economic activity to increase while net energy use declined. We could follow this course again if we could muster the required political leadership.

In the long term, the effort of investigators to seek out and develop a variety of alternative energy sources should be vigorously supported by both private and government research programs.

WARREN IBELE (M.S. '47, PH.D. '53)
Minneapolis

Diversity Is Varied

Your article "Defending Diversity" (September–October) provided a beautiful illustration of the benefits of diversity by highlighting the work of ethnomusicologist Lester Monts.

Unfortunately, the story was mistitled in a dangerous way. Rather than presenting arguments for "diversity on college campuses," the article was limited to a discus-

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tion of racial diversity on campus. Defining diversity so narrowly has the effect of discounting other dimensions of diversity such as gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic background.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year to allow race as a criterion for admission to the University of Michigan, it was on the same grounds that Professor Monts, an administrator there, espoused: The need for student diversity is compelling, not for redress of past wrongs, but to create a diverse environment for the benefit of all students. The court may well have ruled differently if it were not convinced that race was but one of many dimensions for which diversity must be encouraged.

JIM HAGEN (M.S. '87)
Ithaca, New York

Arts Appreciation

Thank you for the fine arts coverage (September–October). As a 55-year-old alum and a parent of a recent graduate, the Arts Quarter brings me back to campus more than any other U of M activity.

RICHARD HAHN (M.A. '79)
Forest Lake, Minnesota

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Campus Digest

A compendium of news, research, events, happenings, and developments from around the University.

* Edited by Chris Coughlan-Smith

[STUDENT PROFILE] Pakou Hang

As a sixth-grader, Pakou Hang witnessed a teenage gas station attendant ridicule her father, Wang Ger Hang, for his limited, heavily accented English. It was a frustrating and humiliating moment. But Hang has come to believe that politics can empower people, new immigrants in particular. "That incident for me is what politics is about," Hang says. "It's about giving someone like my father a face and having people respect him."

Now a 28-year-old Yale University graduate and an award-winning political science doctoral student at the University of Minnesota, Hang has already put that determination into practice. In a brown cotton blouse, khaki trousers, and black flip-flops, her hair pulled back in a bun, Hang appears relaxed and casual, but she is the powerhouse organizer behind the successful campaign of state senator Mee Moua (J.D. '97, DFL-St. Paul), her cousin.

Hang's family moved to the United States in 1976, just 15 days after she was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand. The family lived in Georgia, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin before moving to St. Paul when Hang was entering the fifth grade. Like many Hmong immigrants, the family struggled to make a living, picking cucumbers in Wisconsin and raising produce to sell at the St. Paul Farmers' Market.

Managing Moua's political campaign in 2002 gave Hang her first hands-on experience in engaging immigrants in the political process. "We learned that people had the interest but didn't have the basic knowledge of the tools to get involved—for instance, they didn't understand the difference between a primary and the general election," Hang says. Radio was a powerful educational tool in Hmong, Somali, and Latino communities, where English literacy rates are low. At the same time, Hang worked on the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone's campaign. Since many Hmong immigrants use audiotapes to record messages for relatives in refugee camps, Hang's Hmong steering committee created tapes of Wellstone reading parts of his autobiography, *The Conscience of a Liberal*, on one side, with a Hmong translation on the other. "We distributed them at Hmong grocery stores, laundromats, theaters, all over," Hang says.

Because of this work, Hang joined the company of Minnesota political heavyweights Elmer L. Andersen (B.A. '31, hon. Ph.D. '83) and Walter Mondale (B.A. '51, J.D. '56) as a recipient of the 2003 Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award, which honors contributions to the common good through service. "That was an acknowledgement that something happened to awaken the immigrant community to its own power," Hang says. "It was



Political science doctoral student Pakou Hang's personal experiences drive her work.

so humbling to be given that award with those other people."

Last spring, Hang was one of 30 students nationally to receive the prestigious Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, which provides a grant of \$20,000 plus half of her tuition costs. In August, she traveled to Thailand to investigate Hmong social networks. She found differences between Hmong refugees from Laos and Hmong whose families have lived and worked in Thailand for generations. Hang hopes to return for more study and eventually to apply what she learns to helping Hmong immigrants become more politically engaged in the United States.

Given the recent large influx of Hmong refugees to Minnesota, Hang's skill and expertise in empowering them no doubt will be needed. Her father, who drives a school bus and still maintains a booth at the St. Paul Farmers' Market, has helped out with campaign efforts. "The struggle my family went through as immigrants is not new since this is a country of immigrants," Hang says. "But for some reason we as a nation seem to have to constantly relearn it. I think each generation is beholden to do this."

—Sara Aase

U Enrollment Up, Down, and Up Again



Students who attended the University's Twin Cities campus in the late 1970s and early '80s will recall that they were among more than 60,000 students on campus each year. And in October 1979, *Minnesota* magazine reported that the Twin Cities campus was officially the world's largest single university with 63,223 students.

But apparently those figures were unintentionally inflated. According to Peter Zetterberg, director of the U's Office of Institutional Research and Reporting, until the late 1980s the University double-counted thousands of day students who took evening classes through what is now the College of Continuing Education.

A better way of measuring enrollment is to look at full-year equivalent (FYE) students, a measure that weights part-time students according to their credit load. According to Zetterberg, U enrollment by this measure peaked in 1981-82 at 50,966 FYE. Undergraduate numbers have moved up and down since, largely in response to Minnesota high school demographics and a conscious decision to limit enrollment in order to improve the undergraduate climate on campus. FYE bottomed out in 1999-2000 at 40,471. But with climbing high school graduation numbers and a new emphasis on students taking full course loads, FYE was up to 47,496 last year.

Now a fall 2004 count of total enrollment (which is higher than FYE) puts the U's Twin Cities campus at number two in the nation, up one spot from last year. Ohio State University at Columbus is first with 50,995 students, while the U is right behind with 50,954 (1,420 more than fall 2003). The University of Texas-Austin, with 50,403, had been second last year but has begun working to reduce its total enrollment.

Despite a shrinking number of transfer students, Minnesota's enrollment rose because of a 3 percent increase in graduate students and an unexpectedly large 7.8 percent increase in first-year students. The U had already admitted more freshmen than usual, but in an ordinary year about 12 percent of admitted freshmen change their minds. This fall only about 10 percent did.

Discoveries

U research findings

Mealtimes Matter

Young people who regularly eat meals with their families are emotionally healthier, do better in school, and engage in fewer risky behaviors, a large University study has determined. Almost 5,000 students at 31 Twin Cities-area junior high and high schools were surveyed about their attitudes and their mealtimes and behaviors over the past week. In some behaviors, the differences are stark: Girls who didn't eat with their family at least once a week were almost three times more likely to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol and four times more likely to smoke marijuana than those who ate at least seven meals with the family. The differences were less marked but still significant for boys. Researchers also found better grade-point averages and fewer symptoms of depression or suicidal thoughts among the frequent family meal group. Each additional family meal per week had a positive impact, researchers found. They theorize that the opportunity for routine communication afforded by family meals both keeps parents informed and makes young people feel more comfortable in talking to parents. The study was published in the August issue of *The Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.



A Link to Lupus

University researchers have identified the first genetic variation known to correlate to systemic lupus erythematosus. The common gene variation, PTPN22, is found in about one in six healthy caucasians in the United States but is almost twice as common in those suffering from lupus. PTPN22 is also associated with type-1 diabetes and other diseases. Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks several of the body's otherwise healthy organs. It is believed that multiple gene variations are responsible for lupus, so identifying those associated with the disease is a first step in developing better diagnosis and treatments. The study was published in the September issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

All the Presidents' Personalities

Successful U.S. presidents are intelligent, assertive, and energetic, but not especially straightforward, according to a University psychologist. Deniz Ones, an international expert in personality measurement in employment, worked with the authors of the new book *Personality, Character, and Leadership in the White House: Psychologists Assess the Presidents* (Brassey's, 2004). The authors analyzed all U.S. presidents and rated them on numerous traits. Successful presidents, Ones found, are intelligent, achievement oriented, assertive, optimistic and enthusiastic, active, and tender minded or empathetic. They rate low in straightforwardness and vulnerability. The traits predict not only successful job performance in office but also historic greatness. The authors found that Theodore Roosevelt was highest in their typical success factors. They also found there has been a distinct personality shift from the early presidents to our contemporary leaders; presidents today are more extroverted, less intellectually curious, and lower in character. Jimmy Carter is the only modern president to resemble early leaders like Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. Franklin Roosevelt appears to be the template for today's leaders, with researchers rating him similarly to John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, and Ronald Reagan.

A Tour of Ethnic Markets



One of the greatest delights of traveling abroad is sampling local dishes made with exotic ingredients and traditional methods. One of the greatest disappointments of returning home with a souvenir cookbook is trying to locate, say, powdered shrimp or lotus root on a grocery store shelf. Or knowing whether Canadian bacon can be substituted for Hungarian bacon. Or what one could substitute for tiger lily buds or African pigeon peas.

Staff members at the University's office for International Student and Scholar Services know where to find the answers to such cooking quandaries. They recently compiled a guide to 72 ethnic food markets in the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs, many of them

personal favorites.

Markets listed include Lebanese, Indian, Middle Eastern, Greek, Korean, Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Mexican, Latin American, Jamaican, West Indian, Italian, Greek, Turkish, East African, Central European, Eastern European, Russian, and Scandinavian (including Finnish and Icelandic). The guide also notes co-ops and markets that sell kosher, halal, and pareve foods.

"International Specialty and Grocery Markets in the Twin Cities" can be found at www.iss.tnm.edu (click on "Useful Links"). Those who enjoy eating but not cooking might be interested to learn that several of these shops also house delis or sell ready-to-eat fare.

Web Hit: Dislocate

A regularly published literary journal can be the perfect complement to a university's writing program, and students in the University of Minnesota's creative writing M.F.A. program hope *Dislocate* (www.dislocate.org) will be just that. *Dislocate* "provides students the chance to build a literary magazine of national reputation and to be involved in all aspects of the publishing process, from fund-raising to editorial work," says Rachel Moritz, an M.F.A. candidate and co-editor of *Dislocate*. "And for the department, *Dislocate* can be a valuable asset to attract future students and allows the University a chance to have more of a voice in the national literary scene."

The fall 2004 online issue features work from renowned California poet Juan Felipe Herrera, who read as part of the U's Poetry Festival last fall, and Anna Cypra Oliver (M.F.A. '97), who recently published a memoir, *Assembling My Father: A Daughter's Detective*

Story. It also features work from students, alumni, and others in poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction, as well as a lengthy interview with Herrera.

Dislocate took its name from the idea of challenging preconceived positions—in short, dislocating them. It was first published online in 2001 and for three years was maintained and occasionally updated by Neil Kozlowicz (M.F.A. '02). Recognizing what a national literary journal can mean to a creative writing program, Moritz and fellow M.F.A. students Shana Youngdahl and Jen Johnson took up *Dislocate* and revitalized it. Although currently only an online journal, fund-raising is under way for a print edition in spring. And, Moritz says, the editors are getting first-year M.F.A. students involved in *Dislocate* and working toward establishing it as a tradition for students in the program.

Overheard on Campus

"Every time I hear about one of these reporters going in to speak about their sources, my stomach drops to my shoes. We're in a crisis on this. I'm absolutely terrified about how this is going to turn out for media credibility."

—Jane Kirtley, professor of media ethics and law at the University, quoted in the *New York Times* about journalists being questioned in the investigation to find who disclosed to journalists the identity of covert CIA agent Valerie Plame.

"Of the 28 states that have Indian gaming operations contributing to the \$16.7 billion national [gaming revenue] figure, Minnesota is small fry compared to the larger and wealthier markets in southern California, Connecticut and Florida. In fact, all of Minnesota's casinos together would fit inside just one of the Indian casinos in Connecticut."

—Kevin Washburn, law professor at the University and former federal gaming regulator, in a *Star Tribune* editorial about his belief that \$10 billion in Indian gaming revenues in Minnesota is an inflated number.

"Any one of those health problems doesn't sound very dramatic. But the women had an average of six of these symptoms."

—Patricia McGovern, associate professor in the University's School of Public Health, on her study of new mothers who return to work six weeks after giving birth and suffer from fatigue, headaches, backaches, constipation, hemorrhoids, and other postpartum ailments.

"Religious denominations should be free to refuse to recognize marriages that contradict their moral precepts, as they do now. But as a legal matter, no person's marriage has ever required religious approval to be valid."

—Dale Carpenter, associate professor of law at the University of Minnesota, in a *Star Tribune* editorial about same-sex marriage.

"Everyone wants a free T-shirt. But then when you end up with five credit cards and lots of debt, who cares about the T-shirts?"

—Jennifer Klecker, University principal collections representative, in a *Minnesota Daily* article on a new University online class, "Cash or Credit: You Need to Know."

Sick from Birthdays

In one Twin Cities household, an otherwise healthy boy with a late September birthday suffered numerous ear infections every winter, twice undergoing surgery to implant tiny tubes in his eardrums to aid in fluid drainage. Yet his younger sister, with a mid-March birthday, often made it through an entire winter without a single such infection. While this may be a coincidence, public health researchers have noted that in places with cold winters, children born in early fall appear to have an unusually high number of ear infections, while those born in spring have significantly fewer. University professor Chap Le and his colleagues from the School of Public Health shed light on the matter in a 2003 study published in the journal *Statistics in Medicine*.

Examining umbilical cord blood samples from 611 Twin Cities infants, researchers found that those born in spring had more than twice as many pneumococcal antibodies as those born in fall.

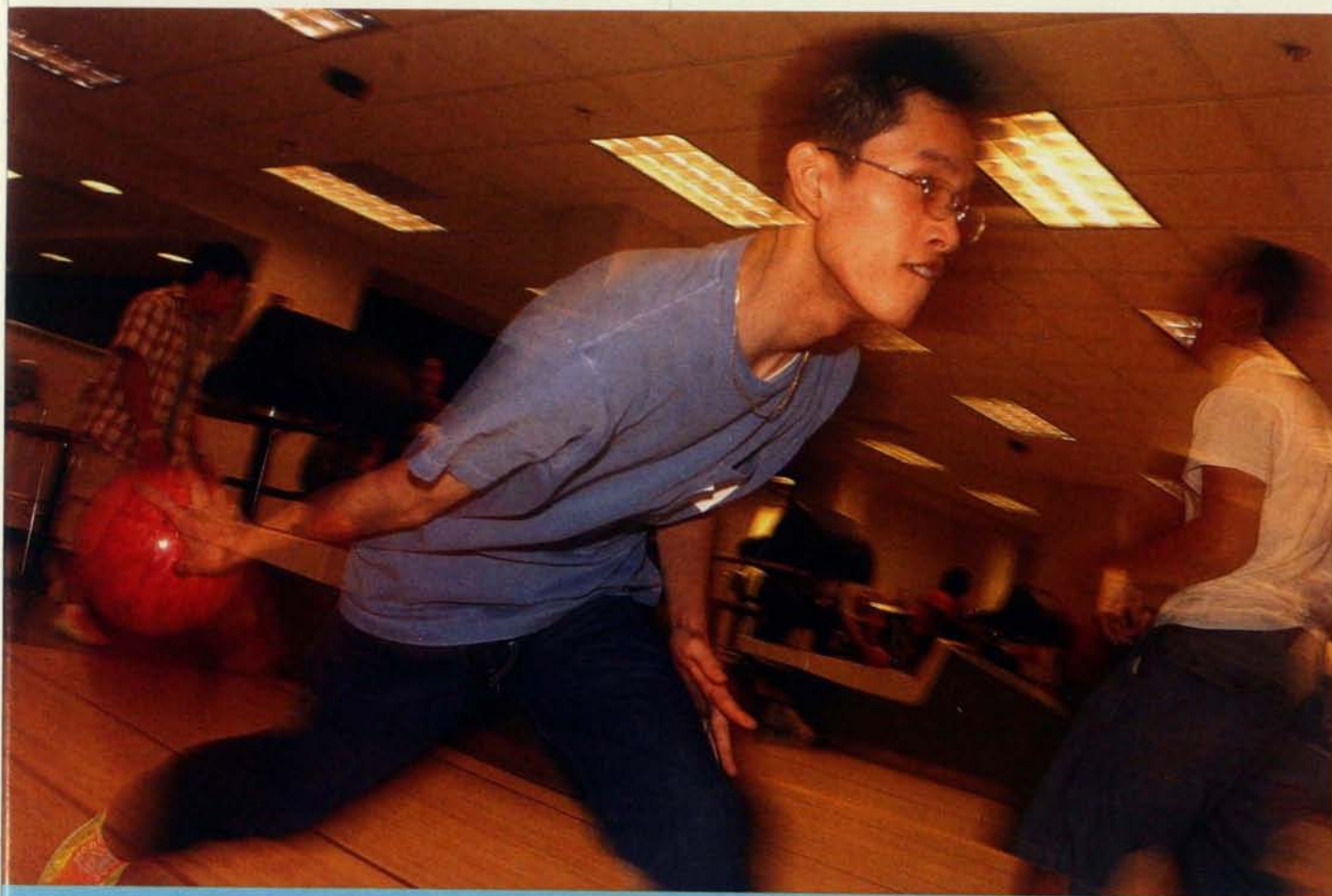


Pneumococcal bacteria can lead to a host of diseases, among them ear infections.

Researchers theorize that in harsher climates, an expectant mother is likely to spend a lot of time in a sealed house through the winter, exposing herself to indoor air pollutants such as pneumococcus. She builds up antibodies and transfers them to her unborn child through the placenta. Thus, babies born in spring have the benefit

of a high level of antibodies and are less apt to get sick. In the study, antibody levels in newborns reached their lowest on September 30 and their highest on April 1.

While researcher don't suggest prospective parents ought to aim for spring babies, Le, an expert in health statistics, believes these findings and knowledge of infant antibody levels might be applied in explaining other perplexing public health phenomena.



Bowling for Scholars

Bowling was on the agenda at Multicultural Kick-Off Days just before the start of fall semester. About 250 incoming students of color, including Quang-Thang Cao of St. Paul, and their parents stayed in residence halls and gathered for two days of activities that included seminars on academics and U resources, interspersed with a little fun.

Dear Clarence Darrow...

As the University of Minnesota Law Library closed in on acquiring its millionth volume—and becoming only the eighth law library in the nation to reach that milestone—the search began for an appropriately momentous holding to mark the occasion.

“We watched what was coming up for sale, things like Blackstone [1700s-era *Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England*] and copies of the Magna Carta,” says law professor and library director Joan Howland (M.B.A. ’97). “Well, we already have those.”

Instead, the U’s law library settled on a much rarer find. With the purchase of *The Papers of Clarence Darrow*, which includes 900 original letters and other documents, the library—already one of the top research and teaching libraries of its kind—immediately became the world’s leading resource on one of America’s most famous trial attorneys. Darrow is best known for successfully arguing against the death penalty in the Leopold and Loeb case in 1924 and defending academic freedom in the Scopes Monkey Trial in 1925.

Howland, rare books curator Katherine Hedin (M.L.S. ’79), and others worked with the Darrow family to purchase the collection, which had been found in boxes in their Illinois home a few years earlier. The family agreed to sell to the U for far less than what the letters could have brought on the open market, in large part because

Darrow argued against the death penalty in the Leopold and Loeb case in 1924 and defended academic freedom in the Scopes Monkey Trial in 1925.

of how the library plans to handle and archive the papers and its vow to keep the collection together. The library, located in Mondale Hall on the West Bank, is raising private funds to cover the cost of the letters (more than \$100,000) and to expand its Darrow holdings. In October, Hedin acquired Darrow’s original Scopes trial transcript that includes his notations.

Darrow’s papers include letters from early 20th-century luminaries Helen Keller, Henry Ford, and presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. Librarians are just beginning to transcribe the papers and hope to have an index ready next year; they may create a full-text online database after that. Thus far, Hedin, who led the search for the millionth volume, has been one of the few to skim the letters. “One thing that really struck me is how his compassion comes through in the letters,” she says. “The other thing is his wit. Some of his letters back and forth with Sinclair Lewis are very witty.”

The Darrow papers will be surrounded by other momentous holdings in the law library. The 999,999th volume acquired was one of the first printings of *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine’s revolutionary 1776 tract on freedom of expression. And for number 1,000,001, the library looked toward the future: an electronic database of all cases and law articles that cite Clarence Darrow and his cases.



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Minnesota Visits the Goldstein

A small, white-gloved hand traces 11 narrow parallel lines of topstitching and points out the buttonholes edged with strips of fabric fastened by exquisite, hidden hand-stitching. The weight of a thin gold chain sewn into the hem helps the jacket hang just right, no matter how frenzied the action at Sotheby's. With its squint-inducing needlework and unique seaming, this suit is designed to fit and flatter not any size 4, but this Chanel suit's original owner exclusively.

This 1950s couture Chanel suit is part of the Goldstein Museum of Design's permanent collection. Kathleen Campbell, the petite and precise assistant curator, deftly compares the couture Chanel suit with a ready-to-wear Chanel suit. "It's fabric, workmanship, and service that differentiate couture from ready-to-wear," Campbell explains. "While this ready-to-wear could be purchased at a Chanel boutique for perhaps \$3,000, the couture suit would be much, much more. In [today's] dollars, this suit would cost \$20,000."

But this garment is not for sale. It resides in the climate-controlled Goldstein Research Center and Library in McNeal Hall on the St. Paul campus. Bright and airy, the room temporarily holds items for research, selections for a class, and pieces prepared for exhibit in the Goldstein Gallery downstairs. Adjacent storerooms provide permanent storage for the collection. There, clothing and shoes are labeled, swathed in tissue paper, and draped with sheets. These have transcended mere attire and become museum pieces.

That explains the box of white gloves at the entrance. "Skin oils can damage fabric," explains Campbell. "These pieces will never be worn again."

The Goldstein Museum of Design was established in 1976 around the collection of the Goldstein sisters, Vetta and Harriet, University faculty members whose 1925 book *Art in Everyday Life* was a standard design text for decades. In just 28 years the Goldstein has amassed more than 20,000 pieces in four main collections: costume, textiles, decorative arts like furniture and ceramics, and a small but growing collection of graphic arts. Most items are representative of life in the United States and Europe from the 19th century to present.



A 1960s wool coat, on display at the Goldstein

However, the Goldstein does collect ethnic dress and textiles, and street wear from the 1970s is as valuable to the museum as couture pieces from the 1920s.

The Goldstein is part of the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel in the College of Human Ecology, and its collection is used for teaching, research, and enjoyment.

The Goldstein acquires very little through outright purchase. Individuals,

designers, and retailers donate most items. But limited storage space requires that accessioning be a rigorous process. A committee of design experts meets twice a year to review submitted items. Criteria include condition, duplication within the collection, and how representative the item is of a particular period or design movement.

Another important factor is the story that goes with the item. One donor brought in a gown her mother had worn to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's inaugural ball. She also supplied a photograph of her mother wearing the gown—which established how the garment fit and the wearer's hairstyle, shoes, and accessories—as well as the invitation, and menu, and program of the evening's entertainment.

That kind of ancillary information is especially crucial for curating exhibits at the Goldstein Gallery. The current exhibit, "Seeing Color: Color across the Collections" runs through January 9, 2005, and explores the cultural and historical use of color in the museum's specialties. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays) and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on weekends.

Pleats of sapphire blue, tweeds of happiest pink, and yards of filmy celadon—the challenge in winnowing candidates for such an exhibit is apparent. Emerald green sandals perched atop curvy, six-inch wooden platforms conjure up visions of polyester jumpsuits and a disco beat. A visitor can only point in admiration.

Campbell smiles: "Yes. 1930s. Beautiful, aren't they?"

—Sarah Barker

Exhibits on Campus

BIRDS IN ART

An exhibit of artwork from the world's most prestigious avian art competition includes 60 paintings, drawings, mixed-media works, and sculptures. December 5–February 6, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, 612-624-7083.

www.bellmuseum.org. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 12–5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 3–16 and seniors; and free for members, children under 3, U students, faculty, and staff, and on Sundays.



Small Treasures, acrylic on canvas (2004), by Sherry Loehr

CHICANO VISIONS: AMERICAN PAINTERS ON THE VERGE

Twenty-six artists are showcased in a comprehensive survey of the Chicano art movement, which developed in the 1970s in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and cities in south Texas. The exhibit includes 96 paintings, most from the collection of actor Cheech Marin. Through January 2, at the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Road, Minneapolis, 612-625-9494, www.weisman.umn.edu. 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.



Room on the Verge, acrylic on canvas (1993), by Patssi Valdez

A "50-50 partnership" with the state highlights University of Minnesota President Bob Bruininks' legislative request, presented to the Board of Regents on October 8. The biennial budget proposal for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 calls for \$84 million in new state funding to the University over the two-year period. In return, the University would generate \$84 million of new funding through tuition increases of 5.5 percent each year (generating \$27 million per year) and internal reallocations of \$30 million. A final version of this recommendation was to go before the board for approval at its November meeting.

The regents approved a new four-year contract for President Bruininks through June 30, 2008. It includes a 2.5 percent salary increase (bringing his base salary to \$348,500) and \$200,000 over four years in new contributions to his deferred compensation plan. As an incentive to stay at the University, \$200,000 of the total deferred compensation is contingent on him serving for the duration of the contract. "This contract reflects both the board's confidence in him and our desire to ensure the institution has stable leadership," said Regent Chair David Metzen (B.S. '64, Ed.D. '73). "Bob has successfully managed historic state budget reductions while maintaining a clear focus on the University's core mission and academic quality." The new contract extends Bruininks' term three years beyond the previous contract, which would have expired in June 2005. The 2.5 percent salary increase is the same as that budgeted for faculty and staff compensation increases.

The student body on the University's Twin Cities campus is increasingly more academically prepared and comprises more women, according to a report made to the Board of Regents in September. Since 1990, the average high school rank of entering freshmen on the Twin Cities campus has increased from about the 71st percentile to the 80th percentile, and more than 70 percent are in the top quartile. Applications to the University have increased by 61 percent over the past decade, while the number of high school graduates has grown just 26 percent. And more female students are attending the University. In fall 2004, 56 percent of entering freshmen are female, up from 49 percent in 1994.

A record number of University freshmen are living on campus this year. Of the estimated 5,375 first-year students, about 4,400—nearly 82 percent—chose to live in residence halls. In 1992, 59 percent of new freshmen lived on campus; in fall 2003, that number rose to nearly 78 percent.

The Minnesota Population Center in the College of Liberal Arts received a \$5 million grant to develop the world's most comprehensive population database. The new database, which would integrate 500 million records from 150 censuses in 44 countries, will

allow researchers to analyze global change over the past four decades on topics ranging from migration to fertility.

Researchers at the new National Hypersonics Research Center based at the University want to help prevent tragedies like the loss of space shuttle *Columbia*. In addition to studying new designs to build safer spacecraft, they are using mathematical simulations and conducting experiments in wind tunnels to find new ways for astronauts to diagnose damage while their spacecraft is in flight. The

Columbia accident was apparently caused by a piece of foam insulation that popped off the shuttle's external fuel tank and damaged the spacecraft's left wing. The center is a partnership between the University's Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics and the Calspan-University at Buffalo Research Center in New York.

The number of alumni making gifts to the University is up 6 percent, helping the U reach a record number of donors in fiscal year 2004. According to the University of Minnesota Foundation, 81,979 donors—the largest number of individual donors in the U's history—made gifts or pledges totaling \$145 million in the fiscal year ending June 30. The 42,379 alumni donors make up 52 percent of all University donors.

A main component of fund-raising at the University since the close of its successful capital campaign a year ago has been a \$150 million, multiyear drive to increase by 50 percent the number of students receiving privately funded scholarships. More than 15,000 alumni and friends gave \$34 million to the drive in its first year. For more, visit www.giving.umn.edu.

Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo gave President Bruininks a Distinguished Alumni Award in October for achieving "a high level of success in [his] respective profession." Bruininks earned a bachelor's degree in education from WMU in 1964. ■



Leave the Light on

The U Light Up the Night Block Party brought University students together with permanent residents of the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood north and west of Dinkytown on September 2. About 200 people, including Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, enjoyed free food and music from the U's Radio K and received safety information from several University and community organizations. The event not only helped neighbors meet each other, but also kicked off a yearlong effort by U sororities to improve lighting and safety in the neighborhood.

WAM!

(Weisman Art Museum)



Now Showing: *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge*, through January 2, 2005

Coming Soon: *Alfred Maurer: The First American Modern*, February 4 through April 6.

The Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis campus
www.weisman.umn.edu • (612) 625-9494



Minnesota Magazine Fiction Contest

Our sixth-annual fiction contest is open to all U of M alumni.

How to enter:

- Submit a double-spaced, typed manuscript, 2,500 words or fewer. Submissions must not have been previously published. Past winners of this contest must wait two years before entering again.
- Include a cover sheet that bears your name, year of graduation (or years of attending the University), phone number, address, story title, and word count of the manuscript. 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 your manuscript returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Manuscripts whose envelopes do not bear proper postage will not be returned.

The winner will receive a cash prize, and the winning story will be published in the March–April 2005 issue of *Minnesota* magazine.

Send submissions by December 6, 2004, to:

Minnesota Magazine Fiction Contest, U of M Alumni Association, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040. No phone calls, please.

Off the Shelf

Reviews and views of books with a University of Minnesota connection.

Two Tales of Growing Up

Alison McGhee and Julie Schumacher, two authors best known for their adult fiction, recently published novels for young readers that bear so many similarities you might imagine that they sprang from a single assignment in the same writing class.

"Follow a spunky 11-year-old girl through a small-town summer full of worry and change," I envision a writing instructor telling the two authors. "Show how she learns to use inner resources to navigate stressful situations."

That's the basic outline of both books, McGhee's *Snap* and Schumacher's *Grass Angel*. And the parallels don't stop there: Both novels are quiet meditations on the sometimes painful complexities of growing up. Both feature a wise and quirky older relative as well as an assortment of more or

less sympathetic but not always helpful adults. Both examine the comforts and occasional clashes of a best friendship. Even their covers are similar, with softly tinted black-and-white photographs on the front and glowing endorsements by Newbery Medal-winning local author Kate DiCamillo on the back.

But just as classmates given the same assignment do not produce identical works, McGhee (B.S. '88, M.A. '93) and Schumacher, an associate professor of English at the University, shape these raw materials into stories that reflect their individual imaginations.

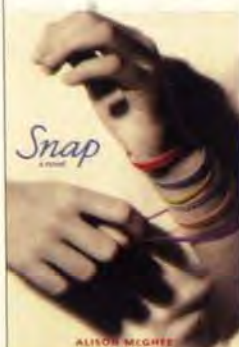
McGhee's Edwina (Eddie) Beckey attempts to impose order on the world around her by making lists (foods eaten on a camp-

ing trip, best friend Sally's hair ornaments). To control her inner world, she wears colored rubber bands on her wrist, snapping them as a reminder to change bad habits (tipping back in chairs, covering her mouth when she laughs).

But neither lists nor rubber bands would appear to be much help in managing the crisis that arises one summer. Sally's beloved grandmother Willie, who regularly treats the girls to doughnuts and helps them set up camp in an abandoned shack, is dying. Eddie's emotions flicker between her own sadness over the impending loss and worry about Sally, who lives with Willie. Who will take care of the girl? Who will braid her beautiful hair? In the midst of these fears, Sally, struggling to cope with her grief, lashes out at Eddie, angrily refusing to acknowledge their shared history. Eddie must find a way through her own confusion and pain to console her friend. That's when, oddly enough, those rubber bands become useful in an unexpected way.

Snap takes place in the same town in the Adirondack Mountains where McGhee's books for adults are set, and it reintroduces some characters familiar from those other novels. Though the tale is simple and direct, her prose does not condescend to young readers; as in her previous books, the writing is full of subtle metaphors and striking images.

In *Grass Angel*, Schumacher (who in her acknowledgments thanks McGhee as one of her "first and best readers") tells a story about how we learn to recognize hidden strengths in other people and ourselves. Frances Cressen is looking forward to enjoying



SNAP
By Alison McGhee
(B.S. '88, M.A. '93)
Candlewick Press, 2004



GRASS ANGEL
Julie Schumacher
Delacorte Press,
2004

Bookmarks

BEHIND WORK AND LEISURE: THE COMMON GROUND OF TWO SEPARATE WORLDS

By Robert Stebbins (M.A. '62, Ph.D. '64)
Transaction Publishers, 2004

While sociology professor Stebbins' new book may have particular interest to scholars of labor studies, the author speaks to all who are interested in the quality of their own lives. The author discusses "occupational devotion"—a strong and positive attachment to self-enhancing work—and examines the types of work that devotees pursue, the values they strive to achieve, and whether the line between work and leisure can be erased.

A GUIDE TO F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S ST. PAUL

By John Koblas (A.A. '64)
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004

The life and stories of Fitzgerald, one of 20th-century America's most important

writers, are interwoven with the city of St. Paul. This guide describes 35 landmarks, including schools and homes, along the path of the author's life and names more than 100 places associated with the city's most famous literary figure. Two maps and 45 black-and-white photographs are included.

BUY THE BEST OF IRELAND

By Mary Jean Jecklin (M.A. '81)
and Kelley V. Rea
Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 2004

Almost 450 Irish crafters, companies, galleries, and more are profiled and reviewed in *Buy the Best of Ireland*. Backed by many in-person interviews and visits to workshops and stores, Jecklin and Rea describe in detail the attributes of various weavers, potters, crystal makers, traditional sculptors, and artisans of numerous other media. They also include fascinating histories of various Irish crafts.

LIFE AND DEATH IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TOWN: MEMORIES OF SHUBUTA, MISSISSIPPI

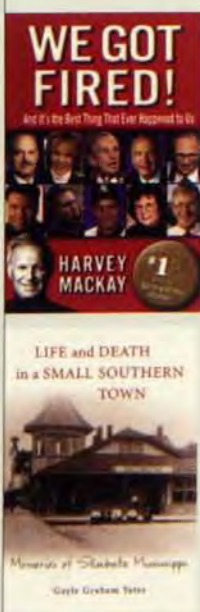
By Gayle Graham Yates (Ph.D. '73)
Louisiana State University Press, 2004

Yates, professor emerita of American Studies at the University, chronicles her return to her hometown in the deep South and recalls its both rich and troubled past. She visits the Hanging Bridge, where black townspeople were lynched, and a bank that did not fail during the Great Depression. And Yates reflects not only on how the town has evolved through racial, social, economic, and political changes, but on where her own journey has brought her.

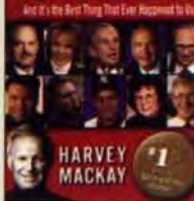
SIX FEET UNDER: A GRAVEYARD GUIDE TO MINNESOTA

By Stew Thornley (B.S. '81)
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004

Thornley locates the final resting places of 375 notable figures in Minnesota.



WE GOT FIRED!
And It's the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Us



**LIFE and DEATH
in a SMALL SOUTHERN
TOWN**

Memories of Shubuta, Mississippi
Gayle Graham Yates

summer at home in Whitman, Ohio, hanging out with her best friend, Agnes. When she is told that her mother and little brother will be traveling to a spiritual retreat in Oregon, leaving Frances back in Whitman in the care of reclusive Aunt Blue, she is filled with worry and resentment.

As the summer unfolds, Frances's anxieties set her imagination careening: Could the retreat be some sort of cult? Is the move to Oregon permanent? Will her carefully organized mother decide to leave the moody and often clumsy Frances behind?

As the summer progresses, Frances learns that people are more complicated than they at first appear. She discovers the depths of wisdom beneath Aunt Blue's apparent awkwardness. She realizes that the support of Agnes is too valuable to take for granted. And as she takes charge of cleaning and painting Aunt Blue's messy house, she finds powers within herself that she deploys when, toward the end, a genuinely troubling situation develops. Though not otherwise filled with dramatic fireworks, *Grass Angel* is engaging, gracefully written, and often poignant.

Despite their similarities, *Snap* and *Grass Angel* are different enough to justify including both in the library of a sensitive and thoughtful young reader.

—Katy Read

Included are Coya Knutson, the first woman from the state to be elected to Congress; Nobel Prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis; local children's television stars Casey Jones and Roundhouse Rodney; and Dan Patch, the world's greatest pacer. The author gives historical facts and tells little-known stories about the famous and infamous who lie at rest in Minnesota.

WE GOT FIRED! . . . AND IT'S THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO US

By Harvey Mackay (B.A. '54)
Bollantine, 2004

Best-selling author and businessman Mackay tells the inspiring stories of famous and successful Americans who bounced back from having been fired to become richer for the experience. *We Got Fired* is filled out with short essays, motivational sayings, and an interview with Donald Trump. Among the entrepreneurs, politicians, coaches, and others profiled in the book are Jesse Ventura, Larry King, Lou Holtz, and Billie Jean King.



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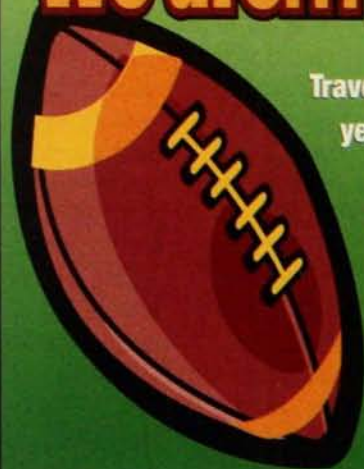


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Out of the Lab, into the World

Through a new academic initiative and state-of-the-art research facility, the University hopes to accelerate the development of cures for the world's most devastating diseases. **By Rich Broderick**

Christopher Reeves died waiting for a practical miracle. ■ Injured in a

1995 horse-riding accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down, the star of the *Superman* movies was an outspoken advocate for stem cell research. Reeves hoped that scientists would find the key to repairing damaged nerve tissue and make it possible for him and other victims of spinal cord injuries to walk and breathe on their own again. ■ That breakthrough, if and when it happens, will come too late for Reeves. But researchers and clinicians tirelessly continue to seek ways to transform discoveries made in the lab into treatments in the clinic for a wide array of devastating diseases and disorders. ■ This search for practical clinical applications for discoveries made in the lab is called translational research, and the process from bench to bedside can take decades. It requires retaining top scientists, acquiring sophisticated equipment, and long-term investment and commitment.

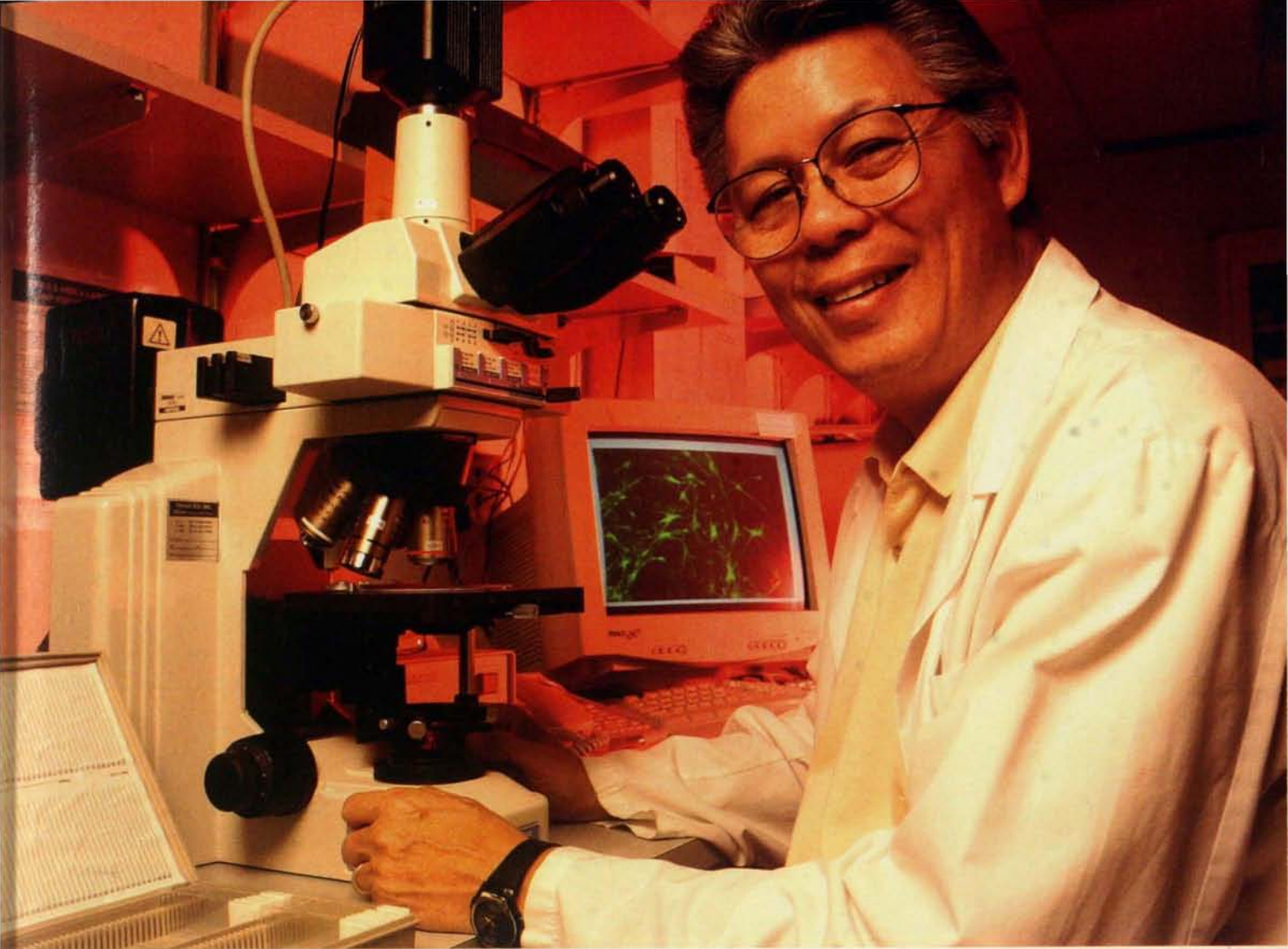
With breakthroughs in transplant surgery, open-heart surgery, and bone and blood marrow transplantation, translational research has long been a strong suit at the University of Minnesota. But now translational research is stepping into the limelight. University of Minnesota President Bob Bruininks has identified Translational Research in Human Health as one of eight interdisciplinary academic priorities for the University. And a translational research facility, which could accelerate the transfer of lab findings to clinical treatments, is slated to open its doors on the Twin Cities campus in June 2005. (Another element of the initiative is

a partnership between the University and the Mayo Clinic formed to bring together researchers to develop biomedical inventions and create biotechnology companies.)

"We need a major investment in two things: faculty and facilities," says Dr. Frank Cerra, senior vice president of the University's Academic Health Center. "These reflect the two elements needed for translational research to succeed by connecting basic research to a disease and then performing the clinical studies that can turn an idea into a new drug, therapy, or medical device."

Minnesota is the obvious place for this kind of research, says Cerra. "We are only one of four universities in the entire nation that has all the health professional leadership schools located in

Photographs by Dan Marshall



one place, all collaborating in research and education," he says. "Medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, public health, and veterinary medicine are all part of one Academic Health Center."

The interdisciplinary nature of the translational research initiative—and the physical environment in which clinicians and scientists in various professions will work in close proximity, learning from each other and finding creative solutions—means the time it takes to develop treatments and new technologies should be shortened. And the University's ability to play a leading role in the health sciences should be strengthened.

Meanwhile, physicians and scientists at the University continue to make advances in finding treatments for the world's most troubling diseases.

Decoding muscular dystrophy

"There's oftentimes a confusion about the term *translational*," says John Day (M.D. '77), professor of neurology at the University. "The simple view is that basic scientists sit in the lab and come up with a new gene and then gives it to clinicians who stick it into patients and it makes them better."

"These results proved to us that the grafted cells can differentiate and migrate to the site of injury and then go on to restore neurologic function. . . . Ultimately, we would like to take this into the clinic and try it on patients who have not been able to recover the use of limbs or speech."

—Walter Low

But translational research is not a one-way street, from research scientist to physician. "For translational research to work it takes a lot of back and forth between the clinic and the lab," Day continues. "You begin with a clinical observation and try to come up with the basic science to explain it and then go back to the clinic where people are suffering and see if the basic science really makes sense in that setting and so on and so forth."

As director of the University's Muscular Dystrophy Clinic and the Muscular Dystrophy Center, Day has a foot in both worlds—the clinic and the lab. Muscular dystrophy actually is not a single disease but a closely related family of diseases that share certain similarities, most notably a degeneration of muscle fiber. Together, Day and Laura Ranum (Ph.D. '89), a professor of genetics, cell biology, and development who serves as research director of the Muscular Dystrophy Center, have made breakthrough studies in



the genetic origins and disease process of this vexing disorder.

"Translational research is what John and I specialize in," says Ranum. "Bringing [discoveries] from the clinic to the lab and developing tools to understand how genes work so we can bring it back to the clinic."

Day's and Ranum's work stems from clinical observations made more than a dozen years ago when a predecessor of Day's at the Muscular Dystrophy Clinic diagnosed several members of a Minnesota family with a form of the disease known as myotonic muscular dystrophy (MMD), which has an incidence of approximately 1 case in every 10,000 people. Though other forms of muscular dystrophy are more common in children, MMD is most common in adults.

At first, scientists believed a single genetic mutation was the cause of all forms of MMD and thus held out promise of a cure based upon simple gene therapy. But when Day tested the Minnesota family, the results proved negative for the presence of the mutation. "By anybody's clinical definition, this family had MMD," Day recalls, "but they didn't have the genetic change that had been identified as the cause of the disease."

The genetic change discovered in the family was an abnormal repetition of the

four nucleotides, or letters, of the genetic code in a portion of the gene known as an "intron," which is usually thought of as "silent"—that is, not implicated directly in turning on or turning off a gene or altering the protein that is produced. Until then, mutations that were known to affect human health were located in places where they either turned off a gene—as in cystic fibrosis, whose victims suffer from the lack of a protein essential to proper cell formation in the lungs—or that altered a protein, as in the case of sickle cell anemia.

It took almost 10 years of work in the lab and the clinic—during which Day and Ranum and Dr. Kenneth Rickert, a collaborator from Germany who had collected two hundred families with the same disease, pooled their clinical observations—while Ranum and members of her lab sifted through the patient DNA to identify the mutation.

It turned out that, rather than altering the production of proteins, the genetic mutation they'd identified altered the production of RNA, the intermediary molecule that forms the link between DNA and its genetic expression in the production of proteins. The fact that the mutation did not directly change proteins explains why MMD presents such a complex clinical picture with a wide range of symptoms affecting different kinds of tissue located throughout the body. For example, because of their work, it's now understood that type-2 diabetes, a common symptom of MMD, is caused by changes in the RNA responsible for translating the DNA code into the creation of insulin receptors.

With further research, this progress could lead to ways to treat, if not cure, MMD. For example, Ranum is working to genetically "cure" muscular dystrophy in a mouse model by switching off the genetic mutation that causes MMD. In the meantime, says Day, "If we can identify downstream genes that are abnormally regulated by the affected RNA, as with the insulin receptor gene, those could be potential targets for treatment even before we come up with an overall treatment for the disease."

Day says the new translational research facility will greatly improve the understanding of diseases and the development of treatments for them. "The priority the president has given to the Muscular Dystrophy Center has allowed us to attract the local, regional, national, and international resources and collaborations necessary for us to create and administer effective treatments and ultimately cures for fatal diseases," says Day.

Striking back at stroke

While cancer, AIDS, and heart disease may receive more press, a silent killer—stroke—is the number one cause of death in the

"Translational research is what we specialize in. Bringing [discoveries] from the clinic to the lab and developing tools to understand how genes work so we can bring it back to the clinic."

—Laura Ranum

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world. While strides have been made in reducing the risk of stroke in some patients, there is no cure for the debilitating effects of stroke on its victims. But that may change in the next few years, in large part because of the work of Dr. Walter Low, a professor in the University's Department of Neurosurgery.

About 18 months ago, Low acquired stem cells developed at the University's Stem Cell Institute by a team working under the Institute's director, Dr. Catherine Verfaillie. Low wanted these particular stem cells because they had developed in unexpected ways. Stem cells are unspecialized cells that develop into specific cells, such as for a particular organ or for blood cells, as assigned.

"When the institute was trying to make bone cells [from stem cells], it turned out that their morphology resembled neurons. They were not self-contained, like bone cells, but had elaborated processes similar to axials and dendrites [parts of the nervous system]," Low explains.

Low knew that, in the wake of stroke, stem cells in the brain begin to divide and migrate to the site of the injury but don't multiply in sufficient numbers to completely repair the damage. This explains the degree of spontaneous recovery stroke victims tend to exhibit in the weeks after a cerebral incident. But what would happen, he wondered, if those stem cells he'd acquired were injected into the brains of laboratory animals that had suffered strokes, not at the actual site of the cerebral injury, but nearby?

In a study involving stem cells injected near the site of a stroke, Low discovered that the animals regained the use of their limbs as well as sensation in their forepaws. When he examined the brain

tissue, Low discovered that not only had the stem cells survived, they had begun to take on the form of the three main kinds of neural cells found in the brain.

"These results proved to us that the grafted cells can differentiate and migrate to the site of injury and then go on to restore neurologic function," he says. "All of the animals recovered to some degree and all have recovered beyond what would occur without intervention."

At the same time, Low found that the number of surviving stem cells injected into the brain was not as great as he'd expected, and so the dramatic recovery displayed by the mice must involve some other mechanism—a "rewiring" of the brain itself. In newer experiments, transplanted cells have been injected along with a tracer dye on the opposite side of the brain from where a stroke has been induced. The result of those experiments show that the stem cells not only help replace cells at the site of the injury but also stimulate an upsurge in the density of nerve fibers elsewhere in the brain—part of the process by which the brain reappropriates functions previously governed by the injured part of the organ.

"Ultimately, we would like to take this into the clinic and try it on patients who have not been able to recover the use of limbs or speech," he says.

"Most of the clinical trials have been done on patients years after the injury. Now some patients are being given stem cells within days of a heart attack and that also has a positive effect. It appears that recovery is the result of the growth of new blood vessels."

—Doris Taylor

Encouraged by his work with stroke, Low has now turned his attention to using stem cell therapy for the treatment of Parkinson's disease. By exposing stem cells to chemicals released naturally by the body during the development of the nervous system, he is "pushing" these cells to grow into forms resembling the neurons that produce dopamine. Now he is trying to produce enough of these dopamine-producing nerve cells to transplant them into animals with Parkinson's.

Regenerative medicine, such as using stem cells to treat diseases like Parkinson's, is one of promising areas targeted by the U's initiative on translational research.

"Translational research is designed to get therapies into the clinic," Low says. "This kind of research can occur at several different levels. Some of what we do here is close to basic research—studying brain cells and their mechanisms—and some of it is done with the clear idea in mind of getting therapies into the clinic."

Growing new heart cells

As a post-doctoral fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, Dr. Doris Taylor was in the midst of studying the genetic differences between the muscle tissues in the heart and the skeletal system when she recalled her mentor pointing out that human beings are born with all the heart cells they are ever going to possess. Heart cells grow and expand, but the body doesn't make new heart cells throughout life. Unlike skeletal muscle, which is capable of repairing or replacing damaged cells, once the heart is injured with, for example, a myocardial infarction, no new cells develop to replace those cells that have died as a result of the injury.

A few years later, while Taylor was working at Duke University, this distinction led to a flash of insight. "It occurred to me that if skeletal muscle contains cells—which are called myoblasts—that can repair damaged tissue, maybe we could use those cells to get heart muscle to repair itself too."

In 1991, Taylor decided to find out, removing myoblasts from the skeletal muscle of rabbits and injecting them into the hearts of rabbits that had been damaged by myocardial infarctions. The results of her groundbreaking research were startling. By 1998, she was able to demonstrate

that the hearts that had received transplanted myoblasts showed a 20 percent improvement in functioning, far better than the post-trauma improvement displayed by the hearts of rabbits that did not receive the cells.

"As you can imagine, that made a big splash," says Taylor, who was appointed Medtronic-Bakken professor of medicine and physiology and director of the University's Center for Cardiovascular Repair. With nearly 5 million Americans suffering from heart failure at an annual treatment cost of \$40 billion, Taylor's work holds out

hope for a nonsurgical cure for this debilitating and often fatal condition.

Initially, Taylor's findings prompted a certain amount of skepticism, but that has long since faded away. "People said, 'If it's so easy, then why hasn't it been done before?'" she recalls. "But it's remarkable how well it *bas* worked. Patients treated with these cells improve." Clinical trials of cell replacement therapy in human patients began in Europe in 2000 and a year later in the United States. This summer, Minnesota-based Medtronic announced a joint venture with Massa-

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chusetts-based Genzyme Corporation to develop a commercially available cell therapy. Another company, Florida-based Bioheart, with which Taylor has had a consulting relationship, is in the final stages of testing a cell therapy that it says will be released in Europe next year and in the United States as early as 2006.

Meanwhile, Taylor and her team of researchers are also studying the effects of transplanting stem cells along with myoblasts into damaged hearts. The results from this work appear to be even more promising than her earlier discovery.

"We figured that if you were going to put myoblasts into a scarred area of the heart, they would need 'food,'" Taylor says. Stem cells, she observes, seem especially suited for growing new blood vessels, and combining the two kinds of cells has yielded results that are truly dramatic. The improvement in heart function of 15 to 20 percent with myoblasts alone has jumped to 30 or 40 percent with myoblasts and stem cells. "What that says is that if you want to repair damage to an injured heart, you have to get the cells there and feed them well."

New research focuses on the effects of cell therapy begun shortly after the original heart trauma, before the cascading effect that leads to chronic heart failure. "Most of the clinical trials have been done on patients years after the injury," Taylor explains. "Now some patients are being given stem cells within days of a heart attack and that also has a positive effect. It appears that recovery is the result of re-perfusion—the growth of new blood vessels.

"The future is finding the right cell for the right patient at the right time," she continues. "Fortunately, one of our strengths

here at the University is in the treatment of heart failure. We are moving forward and designing clinical trials for patients who may have received a VAD [ventricular assist device] but are on the heart transplant list. We have the opportunity to actually study hearts that are being treated.

"On the other hand," she says, "if patients improve so much because of our treatment that they don't need a new heart, I can live with that."

The University has a long and proud history of translational research in health care. But to maintain that tradition—and to provide the citizens of Minnesota and the world with the treatments and cures for deadly and debilitating diseases—major new investments are needed. President Bruininks naming translational research as one of the eight top priorities at the University is one step in that process. So is the construction of the translational research facility. But that's not the end of the story for getting cures out of the lab and into the world, according to Dr. Frank Cerra of the Academic Health Center.

"At the University we have made major investments in basic research," says Cerra. "Now we need to implement a major investment into clinical science. This means hiring and retaining faculty members who practice medicine, perform clinical trials, and produce scholarly work that disseminates new knowledge and new practices into the community for all practitioners to use." ■

Rich Broderick is a freelance writer in St. Paul.



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Knowing When to Improvise

Jazz composer Maria Schneider (B.A. '83) has earned critical acclaim through hard work, developing her own sound, and being open to surprises.

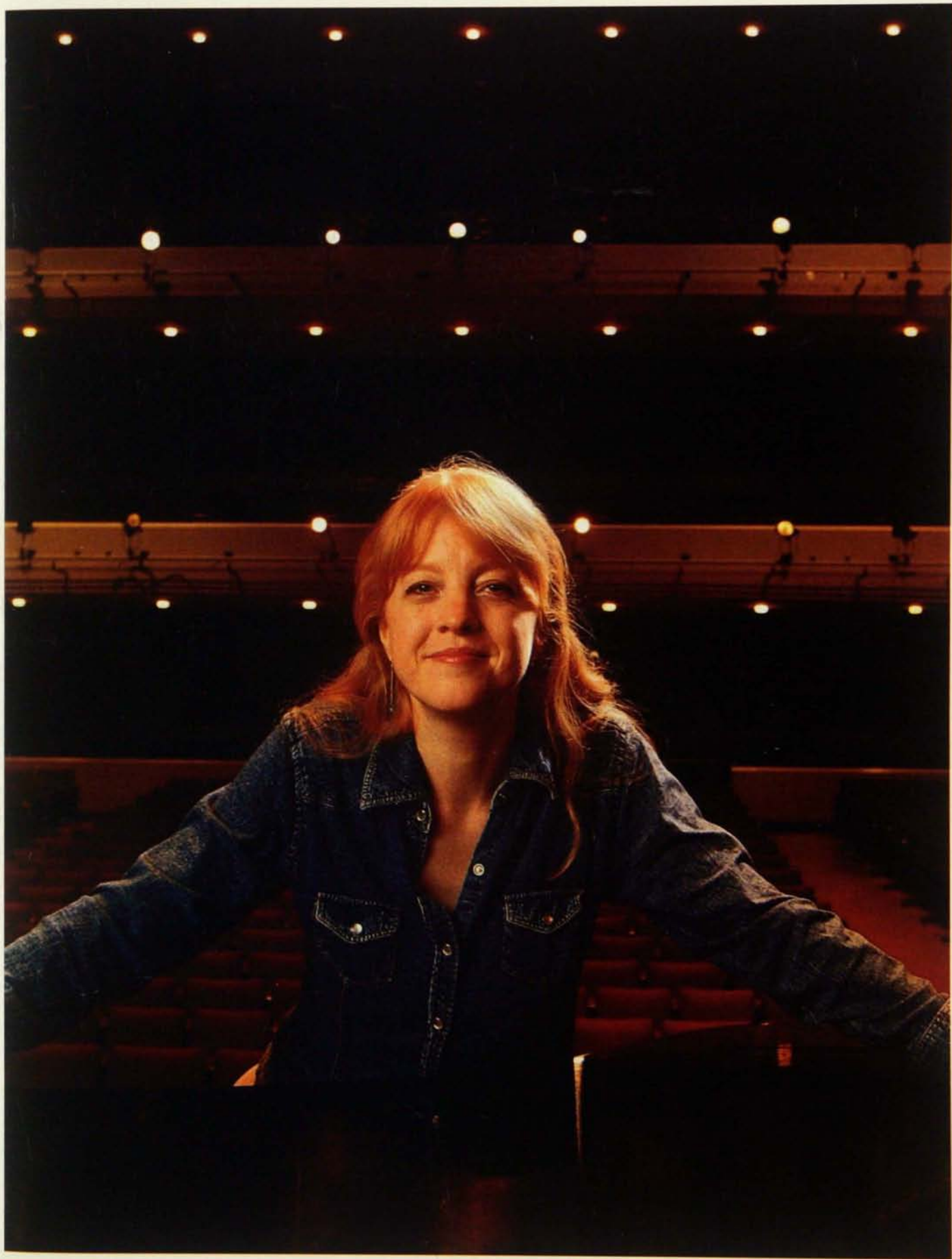
In the midst of writing a new composition, jazz composer Maria Schneider (B.A. '83) read "Concert in the Garden," a poem by Mexican Nobel Laureate Octavio Paz. With its vivid metaphors of wind, rain, and music, of the world opening like a double blossom of sadness and joy, the poem transported Schneider to a place she hadn't visited since childhood: a tree house overlooking a lake near her childhood home in southwestern Minnesota. Schneider could hear the sweeping prairie winds, see the soaring great blue herons, and feel herself becoming lost in that treasured place.

Paz's poem and the memories it elicited inspired Schneider's new work. She named the piece "Concert in the Garden" and gave her new album the same title. "When I create a piece, I don't just sit down and write," Schneider explains. "Sometimes I'll write some music, and all of a sudden those musical ideas attach themselves to a memory from my life. It's an almost cinematographic experience; I can almost see a movie at that point."

Since her recording debut a decade ago, the Windom, Minnesota, native has become recognized as one of the top composers in jazz, earning critical acclaim and several Grammy nominations along the way. Although Schneider has lived and worked in New York City since 1985, her experience composing "Concert in the Garden" illustrates that Minnesota is still part of that impressionistic creative process. "Some people say they hear a kind of openness or expansiveness in my music," Schneider says. "It doesn't surprise them to find out that I was raised on the prairie."

"Her approach is fresh and new," says Dean Sorenson (B.A. '86), interim director of jazz studies at the University of Minnesota who met Schneider when both were undergraduate music majors. "A listener needs to hear only a few bars and her 'sound' is evident. This is certainly true in her own compositions, but also true when she arranges other pieces. She can put her musical stamp on an arrangement, yet still retain the character of the original piece—a very unique talent. Maria's style allows for the perfect balance of composed and improvised music."

BY DAN EMERSON | PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUINENBURG



Schneider began taking piano lessons at age 5. Her first teacher was Evelyn Butler, a jazz pianist from Chicago who had moved to Windom to care for a relative. After dinner at the Schneiders' one evening, Butler gave a stride piano performance that drew the young Schneider from the other room. "She sat down and played the piano and it was almost like *The Wizard of Oz*, when everything changes into color," Schneider recalls. "I could almost see images floating above her as she played. She was not only a magnificent pianist but a special musician who could manifest personality in her music."

Schneider decided right then that she wanted to play the piano.

Butler was eccentric. She wore rhinestones in her red hair, purple muumuus, and green satin slippers. She taught Schneider for 13 years, beginning with jazz and classical theory. She also schooled Schneider to understand the emotion in music—for example, comparing the sunny sound of a major triad with the somber feel of a minor chord, just a half-step down the keyboard. "She taught me to be intrigued by emotion in music," Schneider says.

Schneider's eventual decision to focus on jazz rather than classical music was shaped by another impromptu piano performance in her parents' living room, when she was in high school. A neighbor's niece visiting from the East Coast played a Mozart concerto that had won first place in a competition. "In that moment, my heart fell. I realized there was no way I would be a [professional] classical pianist," Schneider says.

A few minutes later, however, Schneider entertained the gathering by playing a few Christmas carols with improvised jazz embellishments. "The other girl was looking at this in awe," Schneider recalls. "I had unintentionally deflated something in her, and I started to realize I was a musician at heart."

Schneider enrolled at the University of Minnesota as a music theory major but had no particular career in mind. Looking back, however, she can point to numerous people and chance experiences that shaped her ultimate decision to become a jazz composer.

One of her formative experiences took place outside the classroom, in her Territorial Hall dorm room. "I was steeped in stride piano, but I hadn't heard any modern jazz—I thought jazz hadn't developed past the swing era," she says. "This kid heard me playing an old [Duke] Ellington record. He loaned me some jazz albums by people like Herbie Hancock, John Coltrane, and McCoy Tyner. I listened to those and my head started spinning."

In the classroom, she notes two professors who gave her the tools she would one day employ: Dominick Argento, who taught a class on orchestration and exploring the use of instrumental colors (writing arrangements that produce a desired blend of sounds), and Paul Fetler (B.A. '56), who taught advanced counterpoint (music that has two or more melody lines sounding simultaneously). "We spent a lot of time studying the art of the fugue, and also the math and geometry behind all that beauty," she says. "These men were brilliant." Fetler urged Schneider to write a piece for the University concert band.

Schneider recalls a performance by the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz

Orchestra at Orchestra Hall in the early 1980s that she describes as a pivotal moment. "It was beautiful and compelling," she says. "Here was jazz music being played on the stage of a concert hall by a huge band on tour. A lightbulb went on that this could be a career for me, although it seemed impossible to make a living as a composer."

Schneider graduated with a degree in theory and composition, but writing for a jazz orchestra still seemed daunting. "I wasn't sure I was compositionally strong enough to do that," she says. "I never had too much confidence and was always testing whether I was trying to do something I had no business doing. Maybe because I was from a small town I wasn't sure if I had what it would take."

According to Sorenson, part of Schneider's success is the result of sheer effort. "She was working constantly," he recalls. "I regularly use her as an example to my students as someone to whom hard work has paid dividends. She certainly is blessed with talent, but she also makes the most of what she has by working very hard. I know these habits continue to this day."

After graduating from the University and spending a semester at the University of Miami, Schneider was accepted to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where she earned her master's in jazz writing and contemporary media, in 1985. Eager to further develop as a writer, she moved to New York City and received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to study with Bob Brookmeyer, an esteemed trombonist and composer/arranger. But to survive, Schneider put to use a practical skill she learned at the University of Minnesota. Argento had required his orchestration students to copy neatly in pen and ink each score they wrote. "I learned to be a really good calligrapher, and that's how I made my living [as a music copyist] for eight years in New York City while composing in my off time," Schneider explains.

A chance meeting with another musician led to a break: a position working as a copyist for Gil Evans, the famed composer whose "Birth of the Cool" scores written for trumpeter Miles Davis were some of the most influential recordings in jazz history. Schneider worked as Evans' assistant for three years, including collaborating on the score for the film *The Color of Money* and arrangements for Sting's 1987 European tour with the Gil Evans Orchestra.

Schneider was becoming known in the jazz world and her confidence grew. Her work with Evans, who died in 1988, had led to meeting other jazz musicians in New York, and in 1989 she began putting her own orchestra together. "Eventually I needed to write for a group with no preordained style, a group to test my own ideas and develop my own sound," Schneider wrote in the notes to her first CD. Her band performed in New York for three years, and an offshoot of this group formed her recording orchestra.

Evanesence, Schneider's first CD, was nominated for two 1995 Grammy Awards: Best Large Jazz Ensemble Performance and, for its title piece, Best Instrumental Composition. Her second and third CDs, *Coming About* (1996) and *Allegresse* (2000), were also nominated for Grammys, the latter chosen by both *Time* and *Bill-*

board as one of the 10 best recordings of 2000. (She also released a live CD, *Days of Wine and Roses: Live at the Jazz Standard*, in 2000.) Schneider has received Jazz Journalist Awards for Best Composer, Best Arranger, and, for her orchestra, Best Big Band. She has also won a number of *Downbeat* and *JazzTimes* magazines critics' and readers' polls.

Schneider's music has a spacious feel that is similar to Evans's. She also learned from him to pay attention to the way instruments blend and interact. "I don't use typical big band orchestration," Schneider says. "I treat the big band like a chamber group—not the 'wall of sound' approach," the heavy-handed brass often used in big band music.

Music critics have had difficulty categorizing Schneider's compositions as either jazz or classical since they employ elements of both. Schneider says jazz improvisations typically use the harmonic form of a song as a structure that repeats itself, but she usually doesn't follow that convention. "My approach to form changes drastically from piece to piece. One piece is apt to wind and twist and develop, passing through various textures and temperaments."

To create expressive sonic textures, she sometimes uses instruments not often heard in jazz, such as oboe, bass flute, English horn, and accordion. Although her music has classical elements, much of it could not be played properly by classical musicians because of the improvisation required—and because some of the rhythmic nuances of Brazilian, flamenco, and other types of music "are not meant to be notated," Schneider explains. Blending sounds to evoke a shifting range of moods, Schneider often gives verbal instructions to the musicians, such as describing a feeling of gravity pushing down on a rhythm. "Although it's very orchestrated," she says, "the players contribute a lot to the development of the music."

Between recordings, Schneider maintains a busy schedule of performing, traveling, and composing. She has earned commissions from a number of European orchestras, including Orchestre National de Jazz in Paris, the Danish Radio Jazz Orchestra in Copenhagen, and Metropole Orchestra in the Netherlands. In 2003, Schneider arranged and conducted an entire show of works by famed Brazilian composer Ivan Lins, played by the Brussels Jazz Orchestra. She recently made another foray into pop

music, creating an arrangement for the latest CD by rock group Phish. Schneider has also been a guest lecturer at the University of Minnesota's School of Music and has presented a composing/arranging clinic. Two years ago, she and her orchestra made a tour stop at Northrop Auditorium.

Schneider's new CD also represents a new direction in marketing her music, selling *Concert in the Garden* only through her Web site (www.mariaschneider.com). Although her first three studio albums earned her critical acclaim, she lost money on each—not uncommon for recording artists.

With *Concert in the Garden*, Schneider and Web company ArtistShare offer subscribers behind-the-scenes access to the creative process. Fellow composers and students can download scores, lectures, and analyses and participate in online conversations. The new Internet model not only helps finance each recording project, it will enable Schneider to receive a much larger share of the proceeds than she would under a traditional record company contract. And she can avoid being pigeonholed for commercial purposes. "When you're not in a record store, your music doesn't have to be categorized," Schneider says. "You can speak directly to the people who are attracted to your music."

New York jazz critic and author Gary Giddins says Schneider's latest CD should speak to anyone who cares about jazz. *Concert in the Garden* "is light years beyond her earlier ones," he says. "When she first came on the scene, she sounded like a meditative version of Gil Evans with Thad Jones embellishments. In the last year, she's

really developed an unmistakable personality."

And Schneider's recent introduction of Latin and South American rhythms in her work doesn't make her music eclectic, "as it might in a lesser talent," Giddins says. "It has brought out more originality in her. You want to follow her development. She's one of those musicians who gives you hope about the future of jazz."

For Schneider, the future shouldn't be overly orchestrated. "I went to the University knowing I was a musician but without a clear plan," she says. "In a thousand years, I could never have envisioned that things would turn out this way. I obviously have plans for projects, but I also want life to surprise me. When I look back, I don't want to see a straight path that took me exactly where I expected to go. I think of life as finding a balance between planning and working hard and improvisation." ■

Dan Emerson is a Minneapolis freelance writer.



"I treat the big band like a chamber group—not the 'wall of sound' approach," says Schneider, pictured at a rehearsal at Hunter College in New York earlier this year.

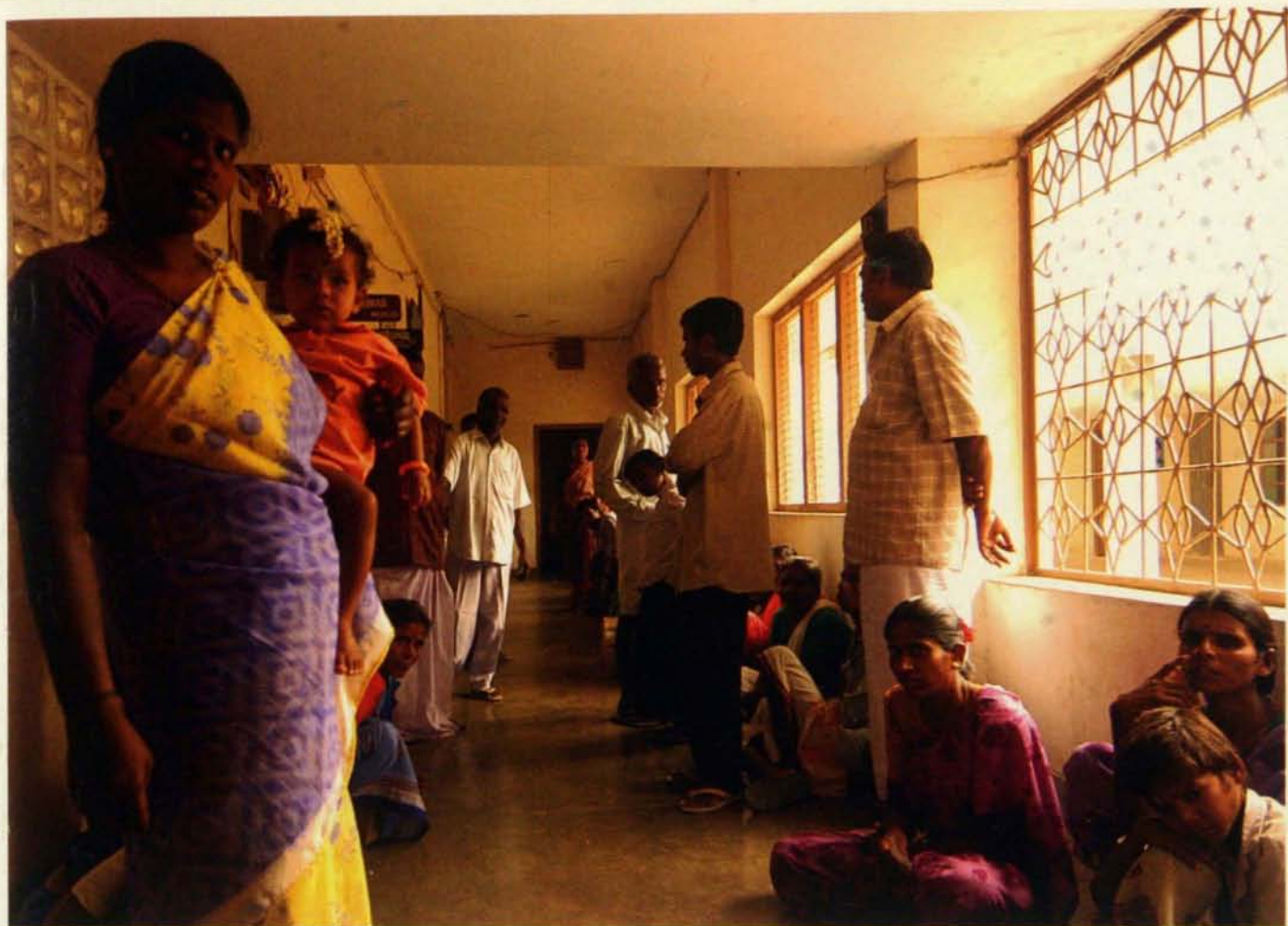
Right: Patients lie on mats, recovering from surgery. Opposite page: A hallway serves as waiting room. The hospital was built by Danish missionaries in the mid-20th century.

Two University medical students spend a month volunteering at a rural South India hospital and discover the power and limits of medicine, as well as the ethical and practical challenges that await them as doctors.



Interpreters of Maladies

By Genie Bang and Josh Blomberg • Photographs by John Noltner



THE MOMENT WE STEP OUT OF THE CHENNAI AIRPORT in South India we are bombarded by taxi drivers trying to convince us they are the ones sent to pick us up. Luckily, we know to look for a representative from the hospital holding a sign with our names on it.

The 200-kilometer drive to the Danish Mission Hospital takes about five hours. We haven't slept for the past 24 and are exhausted, but the sights of India are so shocking we can't shut our eyes. Passengers hang off the sides of crowded buses. Vehicles dodge pedestrians, dogs, cows, bullock carts, and each other. There are no restrooms at the gas station, so people use the parking lot. Our senses are overwhelmed: so many people dressed so colorfully, the constant horns and sounds of the city, but also the aroma of the wonderful spices of Indian food.

The hospital is located a couple kilometers outside Tirukoilur, a rural town of roughly 100,000 people. We drive through town down a narrow, bumpy road lined with shops, past fields of rice and sugar cane, across a river that is almost dried up from the drought, and come to the hospital entrance. We step out of the van into the heat and the sound of dogs barking. Music blares from loudspeakers in a village down the road.

Four primary doctors—an ophthalmologist, a gynecologist, and two general practitioners—work at the hospital. The complex includes maternity, eye, casualty, and outpatient wards. There is also an optical shop, a pharmacy, and a lab for urine and blood

analysis and other tests. And there are two operation theaters for eye surgeries and tubal ligations.

The buildings don't seem like they've changed much since Danish missionaries built them half a century ago, but they are clean and in good repair. Still, there are no paintings on the walls, no magazines in the waiting rooms, no potted plants.

Our workday officially starts at 9 a.m. We shadow doctors in the outpatient or eye wards, observe patient care, sometimes doing



JOSH BLOMBERG

It's about 9:30 p.m. and a bull cart pulls up to the hospital. A mother, father, and their 9-year-old daughter sit on the hay in the cart. The girl's stomach is so large from ascites, the accumulation of fluid in her abdominal cavity, she can't walk. She is brought into the emergency room in a wheelchair and lifted to a cot, but she can't lie back. Her abdomen is so big it compresses her lungs.

We come to learn that she has suffered from ascites for two years and that it hasn't been treated properly. The doctor quickly concludes that the girl needs to go to the urban care center in Pondicherry, two hours away by car.

The father says that there is no way they can afford the 1,000 rupees (about \$20) for a taxi but they can take her by bull cart. The doctor explains that the eight-hour trip by cart would kill their child. The family wants to take the girl home and basically let her pass away.

I watch this scene unfold, and when the girl's family meets outside I get the story from the doctor. As an American medical student who is in India primarily to observe health care, it isn't my place to intervene. Moreover, we have been told over and over that we should not give money to the Indian people. I feel that this situation is unique, however, so I speak to the doctor and offer to pay for the taxi.

It is a tough decision. Doctors are supposed to take care of patients but not pay for their medical care. There is a line that should not be crossed, and I worry I am guilty of crossing it.

The doctor speaks with the family and they discuss it for some time. In the end, they call all the relatives they know and finally state that they are able to pull together enough money.

We never learn what becomes of the girl or if she makes it to Pondicherry. I don't regret my offer, but if her family had accepted it, perhaps things would be different. It is a challenging situation, and I have a feeling I might get the chance to make decisions like that in the future.



Above: Blomberg and patients take turns listening to heart sounds.

hands-on work such as listening to heart sounds or observing an EKG or ultrasound. In the eye department we get to check vision, take blood pressure, and clear some lacrimal sacs, the hollow spaces near the nasal cavity that collect tears. In the afternoon we either watch surgery, see more patients, or do some work around the hospital—we paint at the preschool on the hospital campus and organize medical supplies. Other days or nights we might attend deliveries or patients in the ER.

The equipment is outdated, but it all works. The EKG machine is so old very few people in the United States would know how to use it. Yet the hospital has an EKG specialist and the machine saves lives. The operating room is simple but serves its purpose. All the tables, even the one for delivery, are metal with no padding. The pre-op tables are old church pews, and the waiting room for surgery is a hallway where patients sit on the floor. The post-op rooms are large, bare-floored, and patients lie on mats while their families sleep beside them.

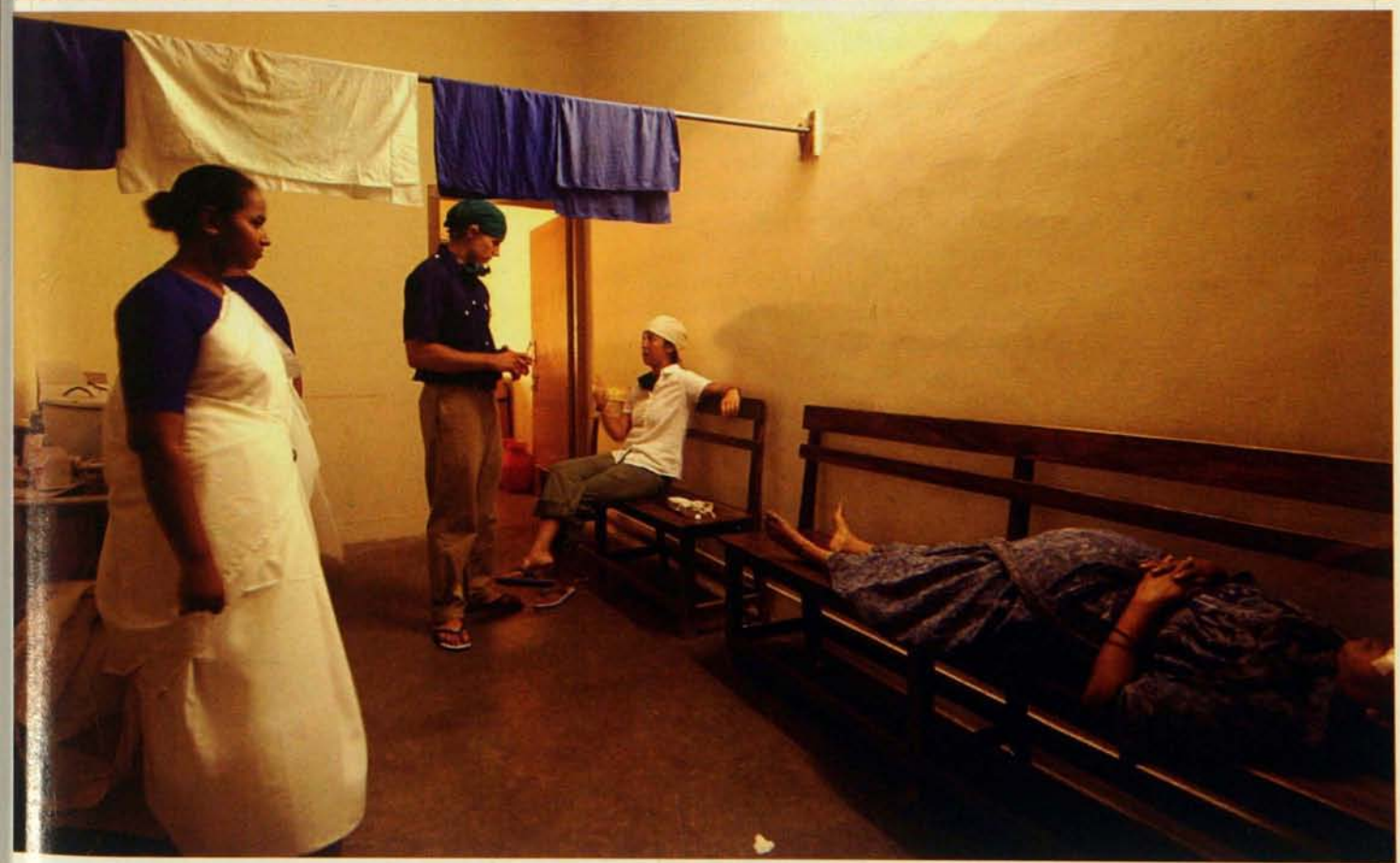
The hospital has the resources to handle many more patients, but most Indians go to the doctor only when they absolutely have to. Every single patient we see has a definite issue. There are no colds or vague pains, only true health problems. Some days the general practitioners sit for hours without seeing a patient, but there always seems to be a line in the eye department.

Field workers develop cataracts and other eye issues from the sun and dust. Metal- and woodworkers don't wear protective glasses and are always getting debris in their eyes, often resulting in infections. Blunt trauma cases, from fights or accidents associated with manual labor, are also common. And many children have night blindness or cataracts, a symptom of having blood-related parents.

Ophthalmologist Dr. Ramesh rivals any U.S. eye doctor in skill and knowledge. He sometimes performs 25 cataract surgeries in one day in a 90-degree operating room whose power flickers on and off. The instruments he uses are so out of date we wouldn't use them to cut cadavers in anatomy class. Yet of the 100 or so cataract surgeries he performs during the month we are at the hospital, not one has post-operative complications.

Three days a week, the hospital sends out a mobile clinic—a van with a few nurses and medical student volunteers if available—to one of the 21 villages in the area. These are very small, very poor farming villages with no other access to medical care. Farm laborers work 10 hours a day for

Top right: Bang assists in the eye ward. Right: Church pews serve as pre-op tables.





Above: A local mother carries her baby to the mobile clinic van.

about 20 rupees, or about 45 cents. We are told that the laborers can't afford to buy enough food to replace the energy they expend working. Some of the people literally work themselves to death this way. The sugar cane workers are the luckiest, because they can suck on sugar cane and replace some of the lost calories.

In most of the villages, the people have never seen Americans before, so if they hear we're coming on a medical visit everyone crowds around and waits for our arrival. As medical students, we take blood pressures, listen to the lungs and the heart, and recommend medications or daily habits, such as diet. If cases are serious, we take the patients back to the hospital with us. The village visits are also a chance to refer patients with cataracts or eye questions to the eye camps at the hospital. Dr. Ramesh is joined by a visiting ophthalmologist, Dr. Ravi, the third weekend of the month to see hundreds of patients and perform dozens of cataract surgeries, all free.

One of the biggest health problems is a lack of education. People simply do not know how to take care of their health and do not understand the consequences. AIDS is a mystery to much of the rural population, and most women do not understand the importance of regular check-ups during pregnancy. Medicines are very expensive and hard to get, and health insurance does not exist except for the relatively wealthy.

Diabetes is not understood and therefore not taken care of. Untreated, it can lead to foot ulcers that become infected and cause all sorts of problems. Tuberculosis treatments are free but need to be taken for at least six months. Most patients begin to feel better after one month and stop taking the medications so the illness returns, a never-ending cycle.

The care we are able to give patients is limited, medically speaking. We never offer medical knowledge; we don't have very much after only one year of medical school. But we assist with anesthesia during very busy operating times and write prescriptions when the patient load is heavy, which would never be allowed in the United States.

We really contribute just by being there. We have come thousands of miles to work with the staff at a small hospital in rural South India. It lets them know that their hospital is important and is supported. Patients hold American doctors and students in very high regard, and our being there makes them understand that their hospital is a very good institution with top-notch medical care. Our greatest contribution is our presence. ■

Genie Bang, of Rapid City, South Dakota, and Josh Blomberg, of Rochester, Minnesota, are second-year medical students at the University of Minnesota. They arranged their work in India through Minneapolis-based Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

GENIE BANG

In the eye department, three patients might be taken care of at a time. Behind each of them two more line up to be seen, all with families in tow. I am amazed at how crowded the ward is, particularly coming from a medical environment where privacy and doctor-patient confidentiality are so valued. The ophthalmologist can see 25 patients in an hour, which seems impossible, especially when I witness how he listens to each patient and is able to provide empathy and comfort.

They say that in the United States the average amount of time that passes before a doctor interrupts a patient is 11 seconds. Even with brief patient appointments, the Indian doctors never interrupt. The Indians have found a way to use what they have as efficiently as possible. Procedures are modified to make use of available tools. The doctors and nurses don't have the luxury of ordering everything they need, so they figure out how to make do. It is an incredible balance of efficiency and care, something I come to appreciate over the weeks at the hospital.

As a kid I envisioned medicine as a sort of superpower. I'd be able to help everyone who needed it, and everyone would want my help. I have come to realize that there are those who don't want any care, but there are many more who do. With so many people needing care and with limited resources, the Indian doctors have to pick their battles and live with their losses.

On our last mobile clinic visit, we go to one of the poorest villages. We see a little girl wandering around the village naked with a distended belly indicative of worms. When we ask the nurse about it she just shakes her head and says that the parents don't want the one pill that will cure their daughter. And that is that. There is nothing we can do about it, so we go on to the next patient.

The doctors we work with give endlessly and willingly. Their resources are limited, but they hold enough optimism to improve their services and help their patients, which is an attitude I hope to carry with me.



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THE CAULDRON STIRRER

*Professor Jack Zipes
rails against the unobtainable ideals
in mainstream fairy tales
while teaching children and students
to keep hold of their own stories.*

BY ROXANNE SADOVSKY

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUINENBURG

THE TERMS *fairy tale*, *folklore*, and *folktale* conjure up memories of childhood tales of cauldron-stirring hags, peeping gnomes, and glass slippers. For Jack Zipes, professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch, they represent a life's work interpreting the texts and the stories behind them, and their influence.

Both praise and criticism have been heaped on Zipes in publications from *City Pages* to *The New York Times Review of Books* to *Entertainment Weekly*, where reviews, interviews, and book excerpts suggest he is both an authority and a cauldron stirrer himself. But his hundreds of books, essays, reviews, and translations consistently make his main point: Mainstream fairy tales as presented by the Brothers Grimm and Walt Disney foster false, unobtainable ideals and dreams. Though Zipes admits he can be a fairy-tale buzz-kill and playfully identified him-



self as a "critic villain" following the 1999 publication of his book *Sticks and Stones: The Questionable Success of Children's Literature from Slovenly Peter to Harry Potter*, he was also recipient of a 1992 Minnesota Book Award for the anthology *Spells of Enchantment: The Wondrous Fairy Tales of Western Culture* and was chosen by KARE-TV in 2001 as one of Eleven Who Care, for introducing storytelling to inner-city schoolchildren.

Much like the tales he analyzes, deciphering Jack Zipes is both difficult and rewarding. His impressive, and intimidating, list of accomplishments and an erudite demeanor give way to something elfin, wise, and good about him, something evident in the heart of his work.

Q: What's the difference between folklore, folktale, and fairy tale?

A: Folklore is fairly simple to define. It's the so-called "lore" of the folk, their customs, tales, how they dress, superstitions—all that belongs to the "common" people.

Within folklore there are many different sub-fields, such as oral storytelling, folktales, fairy tales, legends—all with a narrative tradition, which is about communicating vital aspects of lives. Eventually the influence of the educated classes led to the writing down of the tales, particularly the more miraculous tales [of magic or creation].

The distinction I make is that fairy tales come from the literary tradition and folktales come from the oral tradition.

Q: How do oral and literary traditions differ?

A: An educated person has heard [a tale] from a nanny, or a peasant, or a lower-class person, loves it, thinks it's a great tale but begins to write it down and transforms it for an educated audience, which has social values that are different than the lower-class values. [They have] different outlooks on women, sex, power, violence. I've been intrigued by what happens in character development—how a woman is portrayed in [some



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versions of] “Little Red Riding Hood.” What’s going on for the author? He wants to show that women are responsible for their own rape.

Everyone used to think that the Grimms went out into the fields and wrote down all these tales, but they didn’t do that at all! They also used a lot of books from the middle class, which glorified power, the feudal system, depicted women as passive. Disney was a catastrophe to the fairy-tale tradition because, worse than the Grimms, he made girls into Barbie dolls.

A horrendous example is Snow White. The Grimms took a folk tale of familial murder with undercurrents of incest and changed it into a sanitized fairy tale that removes those elements and drops in a prince at the end. Disney’s *Snow White* begins with a prince singing a song, [but] there’s no prince in the original! Snow White sings “Someday My Prince Will Come,” when again, there’s no prince!” Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* added a feminist touch, but even so, in the end the prince saves Beauty.

When you look at these transformations and how they influence both children and adults, it’s fascinating.

Q: Are you concerned when tales stray from their spoken or original form?

A: I do not say the characters should be this way or that way. What I do is critically analyze changes that occur because writers and storytellers have very different ideological perspectives. I try to show that writers and storytellers use tales to make a statement about life. Disney will never present, say, a very feisty, independent young woman who decides to become a single mother.

What interests me is how [the stories] change, why they change, and what they reflect about social conditions. What does it say about *us* that we continue to read these tales? Why the phenomenon around *Harry Potter*? What does it say when authors attack each other in fairy tales, or criticize things that are going on in society by using the fairy tale?

In the first of the *Sbrek* films [made by DreamWorks], the evil king dwarf works in this very sterile office and he’s all for law and order. He is a depiction of [Disney CEO] Michael Eisner and the

whole film can be seen as an attack on Disney and the Disney corporation.

Q: What is your ideal tale?

A: I think we should strive to a fairy-tale tradition that animates children and adults to understand our world better, to enable a different perspective, enable them to grapple with a lot of the contradictions that are going on and some of the lies that are being spread.

However, it’s not just about putting out a social or political message, but using art in a way that is aesthetic so it gives pleasure to people. It is difficult to take a retold tale and tell it in a way that really sits in our society, where it has an impact so people will wake up, so people are given hope.

Q: What are fairy tales reflecting about our world today?

A: The majority—classical, traditional, like Disney and the Brothers Grimm—know they will make money by reproducing tales that reinforce negative stereotypes. The better, but smaller [number] are writing critical, innovative, challenging tales. They are coming from writers who are trying to animate us to look at the world in a different way, to look at the extraordinary and the ordinary, to get us to make changes in our own lives. I could give you a list of writers who are doing remarkable work, but in terms of film, *Sbrek* and *Sbrek 2*. They deal with the question of ugliness, power, and what is beauty.

Q: How do you teach this to University students?

A: They take “Puss in Boots,” for example, and read five different versions, from the 18th century to the present, and look at gender and how it is presented—for example, in the cat, who used to be female and is now male. I ask them to explore why changes are happening. When they come out of my class, they will never look at fairy tales in the same way. I promise them that.

Q: What are you working on now?

A: I’ve been translating tales that are in dialect or other languages. *Beautiful Angiola* is a collection of 40 tales gathered in Sicily by a German woman, Laura

Gozenbach, which she collected in 1868. The second volume [of Sicilian tales] is *The Robber with the Witch's Head*.

These tales are astounding. These folk and fairy-tale traditions are much different than the Grimms'. They reflect different social points of view and contribute a great deal to our understanding of life. They reveal women totally different: independent, smart women who are outsmarting men. But the tales also reveal cruelty and violence because life was very hard. I am interested in the Sicilian tradition because these tales really came straight from the mouths of the peasant women in the fields.

Q: Why does that make these tales important?

A: These tales have been neglected! They contribute a deep understanding to the problems we have in the world now. They're so much more candid about relationships between classes and among peasants. They reflect goals aimed at transforming society to have a better life for everyone. The details help us understand what lives were like, what we dream about and think about, how we deal with problems.

We continue to tell tales all the time: in bars, the barbershop. We don't sit around the hearth because we have television, but we tell stories. The findings are helpful in dealing with contemporary problems from reflecting on the patterns over time.

Q: You also wrote a play based on the Gozenbach collection. What did you want the audience to learn?

A: The power you get by knowing how to tell your own story is a great skill. Everyone should have a skill that indicates that you have a sense of yourself. If you can tell your own story and if you can keep it your own story, it's very important philosophically. For everyone.

Q: Why?

A: Because every day we are bombarded by messages—advertisements, commercials—trying to twist our minds and to take our stories away from us, take our lives away from us. In order to develop a certain amount of confidence to survive all the pressure and lies, you have to know

your own story and keep that story for yourself. Not just one story, but you have to become the narrator of your own life. You don't want to become a horseback rider when your great love is to write poetry! You don't want your parents to tell you what to do or other people to tell you what to do. You have to learn this at a very young age.

Q: Is that why you started the Neighborhood Bridges program to bring storytelling to schools?

A: The philosophy of Bridges is not to go in and tell stories, but to get them to tell their own stories, to develop the confidence to do so. Because if they don't, they will succumb to all sorts of pressures and become—this is an exaggeration—but automatons.

Q: What sort of results have you seen?

A: When you work with young children who are not totally "conditioned" yet, they have a lot of imagination and fantasy, raw talent to build on. We can see a timid young boy or girl become a flower in a period of months.

Q: What inspired you to do this sort of work?

A: I was part of the '60s generation that rebelled against traditional thinking that I thought was detrimental: racism; anti-Semitism, which I experienced growing up in New York; sexism. All those things woke me up. Over time, I realized the more critically educated people we have—people educated to help others—we can change society. My inspiration was to share what had given me confidence and helped me deal with a lot of things that I thought were wrong in society and still are.

Q: What has this work taught you?

A: Patience. I used to think change could happen from one day to the next until a revolution would occur, but now I know that change is gradual. [I] choose to work with certain people and do what I think will be somewhat effective. And these choices bring me a great deal of pleasure. If you don't do that, you compromise the values organic to your own story. ■

Roxanne Sadovsky (M.F.A. '04) is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

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* Sticking Together



KRISSY WENDELL loves to tee it up at charity golf scrambles, while Natalie Darwitz can't wait to rev up her WaveRunner at the lake. These friends and teammates are fun-loving on land and water, but when they lace up their skates, grab their sticks, and take the ice, opposing goalies know the fun is over.

Last March, the all-American forwards and Olympic silver medalists propelled the Gopher women's hockey team to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association title, and then led the Gophers to a pair of dramatic come-from-behind victories to capture the NCAA championship. "They are two of the best women's hockey players in the world," says Gopher head coach Laura Halldorson. "The fact that they are from Minnesota makes it even better."

Darwitz, of Eagan, and Wendell, of Brooklyn Park, share more than memories of the jubilant sea-

son. In fact, their bios read like one copied the other: Both followed older brothers to the rink from the time they were tots and eagerly awaited their fifth birthdays, when their parents told them they could start playing the game. Both skated on boys' teams until they found themselves being checked by players twice their weight, and then took their power-playing ways to girls' teams.

Darwitz was a rink rat through and through. She would play from morning until it was too dark to see, then ask her father to shine his car headlights on the ice so she could play some more. Wendell loved hockey, too, but played other sports all year round. She was catcher for the Brooklyn Park baseball team

* All-American hockey forwards **Natalie Darwitz** and **Krissy Wendell** are fast friends who share similar backgrounds and a love of giving opposing goalies nightmares.

Krissy Wendell (left) and Natalie Darwitz, the most exciting women players ever to come out of Minnesota high schools, share Olympic medals, an NCAA title, and a lasting friendship.

that reached the Little League World Series in 1994. Enshrined in the Little League Hall of Fame this summer, Wendell is one of only 11 girls ever to play in the annual tournament.

They both became high school hockey goal-scoring phenoms and earned spots on the U.S. national team before they were old enough to vote, circling the globe since 1999 to test themselves against the world's best. After the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, both joined the Gophers, eager to see familiar faces in the stands and to sit down to family dinners again.

Their carbon copy histories make it impossible not to compare the stars. Not surprisingly, they are ready for the inevitable question. "We couldn't be more opposite," insists Wendell. "I tend to be more outgoing." Darwitz agrees: "I'm more quiet and reserved."

Wendell's mother, Drenda, says Krissy's brashness led to some conflicts at home, as she and her older brother, former Gopher men's player Erik, clashed often both on and off the playing fields. Erik's bedroom was "her favorite place to shop," Drenda Wendell laughs. "She was always taking his stuff." But Krissy Wendell also has a strong faith that guides her and has landed her in Christian magazines like *Sports Spectrum* and *Brio*.

Darwitz's mother, Nancy, says Natalie is quiet and deeply caring about those around her. But as a great athlete, she also has a daring side that takes on challenges: As a grade-schooler she juggled fire and knives in a Shrine Circus performance.

But the pair have bonded through their astounding talents and their common love for their home state, a trait that becomes apparent when they travel with the national team. "We talk about home, the Vikings and the Twins and the Wild," says Wendell, who is pursuing a degree in communications. "People always make fun of how the Minnesota girls stick together. But it's a comfort to have someone else who understands. We appreciate home."

That might have been even more important for Darwitz, a sports studies major. Two years younger than Wendell, she first left home at 15 to train with the national team. "It was very hard. She was not only away from family and friends, but she was also going to school. After she was done training, she'd have to go to her room and study," Nancy Darwitz says. "That's where she and Krissy really did bond. They missed home. The team went to Germany and they had to leave Christmas Eve day. They had each other to talk to about it. They were in the same boat."

On the ice, both Wendell and Darwitz are high-voltage forwards with what Halldorson calls "exceptional gifts." Wendell is

BY ROBYN DOCHTERMAN | PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY BISTRAM

an offensive-minded stick handler who thrives on competition and loves nothing more than to challenge goalies one-on-one. Her signature move is a fake she picked up on outdoor rinks when she was a kid. The team dubbed it "The Krissy Toe Drag."

Darwitz uses stunning bursts of speed to get free for precision passes and rifling wrist shots that defenders don't even see. Although her speed comes naturally, Darwitz does explosive lifts and plyometric exercises in the weight room to make sure she continues to give goalies nightmares.

As a Gopher, Darwitz required a mere 45 games to score 100 points. It took Wendell just 47. Darwitz was a first-team all-American and national player-of-the-year finalist as a freshman, Wendell earned those same honors last year as a sophomore. Between them, they scored 62 goals last season, a number that could climb if both stay healthy. Wendell cracked her collarbone and missed eight games as a freshman. Darwitz tore ligaments in her elbow and missed 10 games last season.

Darwitz's January elbow injury initially looked like it might end her season. "That was really tough on me," says Darwitz, who hadn't sustained a serious injury in her entire career. "It was new territory, and it made me appreciate the game even more." She also refused to believe she would not be back by the end of the season: "I worked hard in rehab because I knew I was coming back. I wasn't going to sit in the stands during playoffs."

Wendell, well acquainted with injuries even before her cracked collarbone, helped Darwitz deal with the emotional side of her injuries. As a high school sophomore, Wendell tried out for the national team but was sent home after separating her shoulder. Then, the first month of her junior year, she severed her thumb

in a skating accident. Yet she came back from surgical reattachment and months of rehabilitation to regain her form and earn her spot on the national team the following year.

While Darwitz was healing, Halldorson rallied her team, in part by challenging Wendell to carry the team. "Her answer was, 'I love pressure,'" Halldorson recalls. Wendell had no trouble backing up her words. In the Gophers' first game without Darwitz, Wendell scored three goals in a 5-1 rout of Mercyhurst. She scored seven points in a two-game sweep of Bemidji State in early February and collected her 100th collegiate point in a close loss to Dartmouth that same month.

When Darwitz returned, she had what her mother describes as "fire in her eyes." Halldorson decided to put her on the same line with Wendell and Kelly Stephens, also a major offensive threat. When the trio climbed over the boards, a three-headed scoring monster roared to life. "I've never had a line where three people click so well," says Stephens, now a senior and team captain. "We communicate well. When we are on, it's almost automatic. I know where I want to put the puck and someone is there. It's so deadly with us three."

Heading into the WCHA tournament, the team rode a wave of five straight wins and 28 goals in six games. It wasn't just the first line that was working either. Goalkeeper Jody Horak and the rest of the team had more confidence and drive than ever. When the Gophers knocked off archrival Minnesota-Duluth in the title game, they knew they'd very likely kept the three-time champs from returning to the Frozen Four.

The door was open and the Gophers burst through. Wendell scored a hat trick in a semifinal 5-1 defeat of Dartmouth, and Darwitz registered her own hat trick in the 6-2 hammering of Harvard in the finale. Though the firepower garnered headlines,

Return of the Champs

"Defending champions" has such a nice ring to it. Last season, the Minnesota women's hockey team won both the WCHA and the NCAA titles, finishing with an impressive 30-4-2 record. The national championship was especially satisfying, since the Gophers bowed out in the semifinals the previous two seasons.

Although the team graduated four seniors, a core of high-caliber starters return, including a trio of U.S. national team members: 2004 WCHA Player of the Year and all-American Krissy Wendell, a junior from Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; all-American Natalie Darwitz, a junior from Eagan, Minnesota; and team captain and fellow forward Kelly Stephens, a senior from Shoreline, Washington. Highly regarded goalie Jody Horak, a senior from Blaine, Minnesota, will be back in the net for the Gophers. And the team should get a boost from the return of another U.S. national team member, sophomore defender Lyndsay Wall of Churchville, New York.

The biggest challenge, according to head coach Laura Halldorson, will be staying hungry and finding the right player com-



Natalie Darwitz, one of Minnesota's two all-American forwards, has a powerful shot that has netted her 60 goals in 59 games in her first two seasons.

binations as she mixes in a large group of talented freshmen. While she can't guarantee that the explosive offensive trio of Darwitz, Stephens, and Wendell will see action on the same line again this season, she was confident fans would see them on power play together. "We have high expectations," Halldorson says. "I'm sure the target will be on our back. We return a lot of talent. It's just a matter of pulling it all together."

The Gopher women will learn quickly how well the pieces fit, as Minnesota faces a difficult stretch in late November and early December, starting with a series at the University's Ridder Arena against archrival Minnesota-Duluth on November 19 and 20. Ridder Arena is the site for the conference playoffs March 3-6. The expanded eight-team NCAA tournament begins March 18.

—R.D.

it was the team's calmness and confidence that impressed Halldorson the most.

"When we were playing in the championship game against Harvard, we were down 1-0 after one period and tied 2-2 after the second period," she says. "Nine seconds into the last period, Natalie scored. There was a big delay while they reviewed the goal. The players on the ice came over to the bench, and Krissy said, 'Coach, if they don't count it, we'll get another one.' Well, they counted the goal and 30 seconds later, we got another one." That one was from Stephens, off passes from Darwitz and Wendell.

Even though both Wendell and Darwitz had tasted big victories on the international stage, winning the NCAA title was especially sweet. In fact, both players say they couldn't choose between the national championship and their Olympic memories. "They were both great in different ways," Wendell says. "The Olympic experience was just incredible. But I love the way the [Gopher] players came together. We all appreciated what everyone brought to the team. I love wearing the 'M' on the front of my jersey."

Almost as soon as they'd peeled off their Minnesota jerseys, Wendell and Darwitz put on fresh USA jerseys and joined the



Natalie Darwitz (left) and Krissy Wendell.

national team in the women's world hockey championships in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Though they would have enjoyed celebrating with their Gopher teammates a little longer, they had some goalies to scare. ■

Robyn Dochterman is a freelance writer living in Scandia, Minnesota.

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- 7:11 RED TURTLENECK
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SPORTS NOTEBOOK

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE that Janel McCarville has ever lost any athletic contest. With her muscular frame, the superbly conditioned 6-foot 2-inch senior from a farm outside Stevens Point, Wisconsin, is the unyielding force at the heart of the Gopher women's basketball team. The center even earned the nickname "Shaq," after pro basketball star Shaquille O'Neall, perhaps the most powerful NBA player ever. As McCarville eases through the hallways of the Bierman Field Athletic Building, coaches, administrators, and fellow athletes greet the returning all-American: "Hey, Shaq, how's it going?" She replies to each with a quick smile and a friendly word.

McCarville, a history major, is renowned for her toughness and tenacity, something she earned by mixing it up with her four older siblings, losing at everything except basketball, played under a hoop nailed to the side of the barn. "I got pummeled on when I was little," she says. "But when I got bigger and started playing basketball, I had to beg them to play. They didn't like getting beat by their little sister."

Her family now inspires McCarville on the court. When her mother, Bonnie, was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2003, Janel had Bonnie's initials tattooed inside her left forearm. (As of September

2004, the cancer was still in check.) This year, McCarville sports a larger tattoo inside her right forearm. The names of her parents and siblings encircle a

Strength and Will

large "M," for "McCarville." An outer ring reads, "Strength Lies Within." "For me strength lies within this," she explains, her soft voice growing intense as she taps the "M." "Within this is my family. This is where I draw my strength and my willpower."

McCarville's strength and willpower helped the Gophers rise from seven consecutive losing seasons to three straight NCAA tournament berths, culminating in a Final Four appearance in 2004. "She's a very confident and, in a good way, a cocky player," says head coach Pam Borton. "She carries herself with a little bit of a swagger. Most women would not like being so big and tall, but she likes how she's shaped and she likes being strong."

But it isn't just overpowering strength that has landed McCarville on every list of preseason all-Americans. "She's also very agile, she sees the floor so well and makes great passes," Borton explains. "She makes everyone better when they play with her."

McCarville's freshman year, new coach Brenda Oldfield unleashed the talent inside McCarville—who was named Big Ten Rookie of the Year—by letting the team run the floor, score lots of points, and have fun. Nine months later, Oldfield took the coaching job at the University of Maryland, and Borton came in emphasizing defense above all else. It was a difficult transition for the players. They felt burned by Oldfield, who had left abruptly, and were slow to trust someone who wanted to tamper with their success. No one struggled more than McCarville.

"When I came in I asked Janel to do some things differently, to play differently," Borton recalls. "She looked at me like, 'You've got to be kidding me; look at what I did last year.' It took half a year for us to develop trust and for her to realize that she could be even better than she thought she could be."

This year the team has set its sights high: a Big Ten title and, Borton says, "getting back to the Final Four and finishing the job." To do so, McCarville will have to adjust her game again as she'll face defenses specifically designed to stop her. But when star guard Lindsay Whalen, now playing professional basketball, was out with a wrist injury for eight games last year, her Gopher teammates had to play more minutes, take more shots, and fill more roles than ever.



All-American center Janel McCarville is at the heart of the Gophers' quest to win the Big Ten and return to the NCAA Final Four.

That experience will pay off this season when two other starters return: point guard Shannon Schonrock, a junior from Winnebago, Minnesota, and junior forward Shannon Bolden, of Marshall, Minnesota, the team's defensive ace.

The Gophers also return three sophomores who played extensive minutes last year and an experienced junior center. Two Minnesota high school all-stars who started at guard for other Division I schools transferred to Minnesota last year and are eligible this season. Rounding out the squad are four highly touted recruits, including two 6-foot 3-inch high school all-Americans from the Chicago area, signaling Minnesota's new national recruiting status.

"I think we'll be a better team this year," Borton says. "We have more depth and experience and more players who can play multiple positions. . . . We'll definitely be ready by the time March and April get here." (The NCAA Final Four is April 3 and 5.)

McCarville knows they'll be ready. "Things happen for a reason," she says. "When Brenda left, it made us closer as a team. When Whalen got hurt, it helped us learn what we could do as players and as a team." But the players aren't the only ones raring for the season to begin. "I think my mom is more excited than I am," McCarville says. "She can't wait to get back here and see the games."

Q&A with Dan Coleman

Freshman Dan Coleman, a 6-foot 9-inch forward from Minneapolis, will carry a lot on his shoulders this season. After sitting out last year—ineligible to play because he transferred from Boston College just before school started—he is expected to play a major role on a Gopher men's basketball team that returns only two key reserves (senior guard Adam Boone of Minnetonka, Minnesota, is out with an injury and could miss the entire season). Despite never even playing in a college game, Coleman was chosen as Minnesota's representative on the Big Ten's "Foreign Tour" team, made up largely of non-seniors from Big Ten schools, which played in Europe this summer.

Minnesota caught up with Coleman after a September practice.

Q: Was it tough to sit out last year?

A: Of course, but it was also good because I grew a lot. I got to adjust to college basketball in practice and work on a lot of aspects of the game. It also took some of the pressure off my books.

Q: What was your favorite part of the foreign tour?

A: There were a lot of things. Meeting guys I'll get to play against will give us a little extra intensity, you know, something to talk about when we're out there going against each other. We also went to Venice and a lot of historical sites. We went to the beach at Nice, and I'd never really seen the ocean before.

But I'd have to say playing in the games was my favorite part. It was nice to get out in a real game again and to get into a flow and to have refs calling fouls and everything. When you play nothing but pick-up games, you don't call fouls because it just turns into a big argument.

Q: Minnesota has a lot of change this year. Do you think you'll surprise some people?

A: Definitely. This is a chance for redemption [after a disappointing season in 2003-04]. Everybody is working really hard and has a great attitude. I'm really excited to get out there.

Dan Coleman in last year's intrasquad game

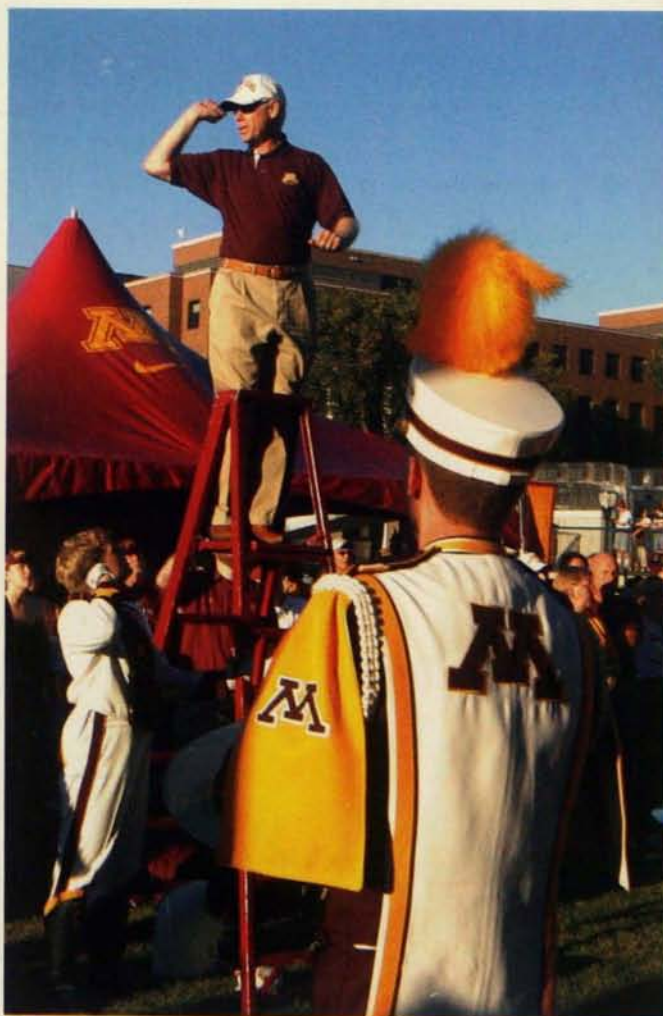
Bowl Bound?

With the Gopher football team off to a great start, the UMAA has already set up an official bowl travel Web page. Visit www.alumni.umn.edu/bowl and sign up to receive information on traveling with the U's official tour as soon as the bowl is selected.



VOTE FOR GOLDY

Being all-American is not enough for Goldy Gopher. Named one of 12 members of the Capital One All-America Mascot Team, Goldy is a finalist for Mascot of the Year title, which includes online voting. Judges' ranking of mascots will be combined with the results of online voting, which began October 11 and continues until December 26. The champ will be named on January 1, during the Capital One Bowl on ABC television. To vote, visit www.capitalonebowl.com.



Bringing Football Spirit Home

President Bob Bruininks led the University of Minnesota Marching Band at a Touchdown on Campus rally before the Gopher football game against Northwestern on September 28. Touchdown on Campus is a new effort by several University organizations to bring game-day spirit back to campus. Food and Gopher merchandise were available at the rallies before each home game on the Coffman Union Plaza and free shuttles carried fans to the game.

Roethlisberger Retires

Fred Roethlisberger, whose last name is synonymous with the greatest moments in Minnesota gymnastics, retired as men's gymnastics coach in August. In 33 years leading the Gophers, Roethlisberger's teams won 11 Big Ten titles, missing a national title by one-tenth of a point in 1990. He earned four national coach-of-the-year awards and coached 51 Big Ten-title winners and 22 all-Americans, including his son, John (B.S. '94), a three-time NCAA all-around champion, and four-time single event national champion Clay Strother. Roethlisberger's daughter, Marie (B.S. '91, M.D. '96), is the most decorated female gymnast in University history, having earned a national title among her four all-American citations. John and Marie are Olympians as well.

Roethlisberger says his favorite part of coaching was the interaction with student athletes, pushing them to succeed both in the gym and the classroom. "Since the announcement that I was retiring I've had all kinds of guys call me up and say, 'You know, I never thanked you for what you did for me,'" Roethlisberger says. "When you're caught up in preparing for meets and recruiting and assembling the team, you don't really notice how much of a difference you're making. But now, reflecting on it, that was really rewarding."

In April 2001, University officials announced that the men's gymnastics program, along with men's and women's golf, would be dropped for financial



Fred Roethlisberger (center) coached his son, John (right), to three national all-around titles as a Gopher gymnast.

reasons. But Roethlisberger insists he was not overly worried. "Nonrevenue sports are always on edge, always threatened," he explains. "I knew we'd be back at least one more year, and when we got a few months into the [fund-raising] campaign, I could tell we'd be alright."

The 1968 Olympic gymnast says he'll support new coach Michael Burns, who was an assistant coach at the University of Michigan, however he can, perhaps even competing in the annual alumni meet held in late fall. "I can still do a giant swing on the high bar and front and back handsprings on the floor," he says. "That's not bad for a 63-year-old."

Quotebook

"I just hold the ball until I feel pressure. If I don't feel any pressure, I continue to hold it and then run for my dear life."

—Gopher football punter Rhys Lloyd after running for two first downs in the opening game against Toledo.

Men's Hockey

Barry Tallackson, a senior forward from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, is one of just three returning Gopher men's hockey players with more than 10 goals last year. Minnesota will seek to replace more than half its goal scoring as its top four scorers have either graduated or signed with professional hockey teams. Minnesota, ranked sixth in the preseason poll (third in the conference), does return a fine supporting cast and two experienced goaltenders to a team that won the WCHA conference tournament and made a trip to the 16-team NCAA tournament for the fourth consecutive year.





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Nov. 30	Florida State	Jan. 22	Michigan State
Dec. 4	Holy Cross	Jan. 26	Indiana
Dec. 11	Central Michigan	Feb. 5	Wisconsin
Dec. 15	Chicago State	Feb. 9	Northwestern
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Dec. 29	UNC Greensboro	Feb. 23	Iowa
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► Saluting Vital Volunteers

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association depends on loyal volunteers—and the chapters and societies they form—to keep the UMAA a strong organization. For the 22nd year, the alumni association honored its outstanding alumni and friends at the Volunteer Awards Ceremony in September.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: BILL MANWARREN

Bill Manwarren (B.S. '69) was the first member of his southern Minnesota farming family to go to college. Even though his immediate family opposed the idea, it turned out to be just what he expected: a life-changing experience. "It was amazing," he says. "It was a real eye-opener. I learned more outside the classroom than inside the first year."

Manwarren has become an extraordinary volunteer for his alma mater, the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (COAFES). The former president of the college's alumni society and one of its most aggressive scholarship fund-raisers earned the 2004 University of Minnesota Alumni Association's Volunteer of the Year award in September.

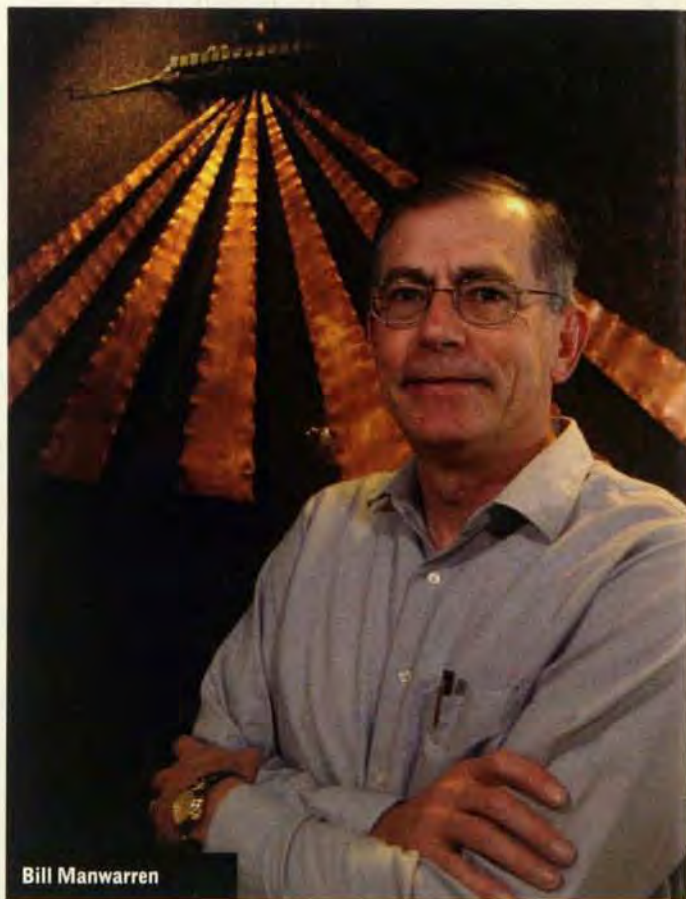
But Manwarren faced obstacles even getting to the U. Scraping by on a small farm with very little spending money, his parents refused to support his education beyond high school. "Deep down, I think they wanted me to accomplish it," he says. "But they were afraid I was going to set my hopes way up here and get them dashed. You don't want to see your kids fail."

His father also balked at disclosing the family finances so Manwarren could apply for scholarships and aid. "Number one, it was private and that's how he was," Manwarren recalls. "And number two, I think he was a little bit embarrassed about how little money we had."

But Manwarren was determined. As a junior at Wells High School, he met a vocational agriculture teacher named Arnie Carlson (B.S. '55, M.A. '70) who "showed me there's another world out there," he recalls. "And I liked it. He told me, 'You have to go to school; you have to get your degree.' So that's what I went to school for, to be an ag teacher. I thought, 'This is a guy I could pattern my life after.' He was a mentor and I highly respected him."

After working his way through school, Manwarren became a high school teacher in Tracy, Minnesota, passing on his belief in higher education to the next generation. "I just understood that there is so much value in getting out on your own and getting an education," he says. "It opens your eyes, it opens your understanding of the world and of how to handle different situations."

After moving on to a career with Cenex, which is now agricultural and energy products company CHS, Manwarren became an active community volunteer. When their sons Scott (B.S.



Bill Manwarren

'97) and Adam (B.S. '99) enrolled at the University, Bill and his wife, Cindy (B.S. '69), became active with their alma mater. "It brings back memories of why I was here," he says. "You don't even think about your own story. You kind of forget it; you go on to your next thing. But being here, I get to take a look at something really meaningful in my life and think about why. For example, why have I got such a passion for scholarships? [It's because] I have a passion for higher education and for making sure other people have opportunities like I did.

"That's what keeps me involved with COAFES," he continues. "We're a very effective society. I think we're really accomplishing important things."

—Chris Coughlan-Smith

More Volunteers of the Year

[MEMBER PROFILE] Erin Muir

ALUMNI SOCIETY OF THE YEAR

College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society

A large and robust group of active and dedicated alumni, COAFES has an unrivaled and growing set of annual events. In April, its Classes without Quizzes program drew more than 200 alumni and friends in its third year. The society assists with numerous college outreach efforts, as well as maintaining an influential presence in the University's Legislative Network. COAFES also collaborated with the UMAA on the 2003 Homecoming Breakfast and Spirit Night Auction scholarship fundraiser in October 2003.

But it is in their work with students that COAFES alumni really shine. They help recruit promising students to the college, then offer welcoming informational phone calls to those admitted. The society has endowed three \$500 scholarships and is currently pursuing a \$25,000 fund-raising effort under the U's scholarship matching program. The society's alumni-student mentor program grew to 127 pairs last year. And for graduating seniors, COAFES alumni cohort a send-off celebration and present alumni pins at commencement.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of Minnesota

A perennial presence in the UMAA's annual awards, RAAFUM adds new and dedicated alumni leaders to its group every year. Those active volunteers are key to a series of successful events and initiatives that serve the U and their community. The Rochester group is the UMAA's leading chapter in scholarship fund-raising, with endowments that provide funds for students attending both the Twin Cities and Rochester campuses. The chapter is also active in legislative efforts and in promoting ties between the Rochester and Twin Cities campuses. Its popular events include annual homecoming rallies and spring and fall programs with University speakers. Every other year RAAFUM hosts a Maroon and Gold Day that involves much of the community, culminating in a U of M Marching Band concert that draws thousands.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Deborah Hopp

UMAA Past President

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College of Human Ecology Alumni Society

Career Readiness Program

College of Pharmacy Alumni Society

Duluth Expansion Project

Denver Alumni Chapter

2004 Gopher Hockey Special Event

Institute of Technology Alumni Society

K-12 Outreach Program

Madison Alumni Chapter

Freshman Information Session

FACULTY/STAFF

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Dick Westerlund (B.S. '60)

Institute of Technology
Alumni Society and Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of Minnesota

RISING STAR

Michelle Aytay (B.S. '96)

College of Pharmacy

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Peri Periakaruppan

Institute of Technology

SPIRIT AWARD

College of Liberal Arts

Alumni Society

West Bank Arts Quarter projects

ERIN MUIR (B.A. '03) spent less than a week working as a psychic phone friend, but that proved to be all the inspiration she needed to write, co-produce, and star in *My Life as a Telephone Psychic*, a play that debuted in August at the Twin Cities' Fringe Festival. Muir took the job shortly after graduating, thinking she could use her knowledge of astrology to earn some easy cash, but found that the callers were looking for quick fixes rather than metaphysical insights. "People wanted me to predict the winning lottery numbers," she says of the job. "I wanted to say to them, 'If I knew the winning lottery numbers, do you think I'd be spending my time as a phone psychic?'"

In the funny, vibrant *My Life as a Telephone Psychic*, Muir stars as Arianna, a struggling Twin Cities actress who takes a job doing tarot card readings by telephone as a lark. But Arianna soon discovers she has actual psychic abilities.

The 27-year-old Muir knows her own future was never in fortune-telling. Acting, on the other hand, seems to have been in the cards. She got her start at age 7 playing Flopsy in a Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, community theater production of *Peter Cottontail*. "I was one of those dramatic kids who was always putting together plays in my backyard," she says. "My dream—like every kid's—was to be a movie star."

Acting was one of the few constants in Muir's circuitous path to a degree in English literature from the University of Minnesota. She attended another college for a year and earned a certificate in massage therapy before enrolling at the University. Since that early foray into acting, Muir has performed in more than 30 plays and musicals, acted alongside one-time teen heartthrob Corey Feldman in the sci-fi film *Space Daze*, and starred in a six-episode sitcom, *Josh and Sandi*, which appears on cable access channels in the Twin Cities. She's slated to do additional episodes this fall.

"Josh and Sandi are a pop-music duo trying to make it in the music business, but Sandi is the only one with any talent," says Muir. "Josh can only play the tambourine—and not very well, either." Muir also performs in three burlesque and cabaret troupes and serves as a singer in her boyfriend's band, Michael Quinn and the Virgin Suicides.

Once naive about making it big on the silver screen, Muir says she takes a more pragmatic approach these days, working as a massage therapist to pay the bills while pursuing other projects. "I used to think that all I needed was a good head shot, but I understand that acting is a business. I've learned a lot about fund-raising, promotion, and making a living." She hopes her writing and producing credits will help boost her chances at other work when she makes a planned move to California next year.

Like the characters she plays in *Telephone Psychic* and *Josh and Sandi*, Muir will be working toward her big break. "Everybody has something that they've always wanted to do," she says. "The tough part is taking the steps to make it happen."

—Erin Peterson



[MEMBER PROFILE]

▶ Christine Cumming

CHRISTINE CUMMING (B.S. '74, Ph.D. '83) is one of those lucky few who landed a job that sparked her interest right out of college. Twenty-four years later, she's still there. But she has moved up the ranks—way up.

Cumming was named first vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York early in 2004. The New York bank is one of 12 regional reserve banks that make up the Federal Reserve System. It distributes the nation's currency, supervises and regulates member banks and holding companies, serves as banker for the U.S. Treasury, and operates a nationwide payments system that handles electronic, check, and cash transfers between banks. As the bank's second-in-command, Cumming also serves as chief operating officer and an alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, the most important policymaking body within the reserve system.

In an era when people change jobs as often as cars, what has kept Cumming at "the Fed" is partly the "very high-caliber people," she says. "And it's intellectually stimulating—there's always another puzzle to solve." Cumming is the first woman to hold her post in New York, but says the system has a good track record of promoting women, pointing to female presidents of other reserve banks and on the board of governors.

The St. Paul native chose an economics major as an incoming freshman because the field was both challenging and captivating. "I could learn a lot," she recalls, "and it really fascinated me that you could build mathematical models of how . . . the business world worked." Cumming finished her coursework for her Ph.D. in 1979 and took a job as an economist in the International Research Department at the New York Fed's lower Manhattan offices. She moved on to the bank's International Capital Markets staff, then was named a vice president in 1992. She was next made a senior vice president and then executive vice president and director of research.

In her new role as first vice president, the 52-year-old Cumming is moving into more oversight of overall operations. Major initiatives she is working on include transitions in the payments system hastened by globalization and growing overall financial activity, as well as safeguarding the timeliness, reliability, and security of payments, "in a world in which we have to worry

about terrorism and . . . information security and cyberhackers," she adds.

Outside of work, Cumming enjoys the artistic wealth of New York City: opera, ballet, and theater, and even bird-watching on Jamaica Bay in the Bronx, a short jaunt from her Brooklyn residence. "I've really tried to create more work-life balance," she says with a laugh. But it's clear Cumming loves her work too—and you can take that to the bank.

—Alicia Conroy



Honoring Outstanding Alumni

When the members of this year's freshman class arrived in September, they stepped onto the grounds of a great university that has produced a long list of outstanding alumni. For these highest-achieving alumni, the University reserves its Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes individuals who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields or professions or in public service. So far, more than 1,000 University alumni have received this honor. To name a few:

■ Kathleen Blatz (M.A. '78, J.D. '84) became, in 1998, the first female chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Throughout her public service career, including eight terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives, Blatz has been an unwavering advocate for children's rights. She authored the so-called "Cocaine Baby" law, which requires doctors to report drug-using pregnant women. More recently, Blatz has championed the Children's Justice Initiative, designed to expedite the process through which children move from foster care into permanent homes.



Andrea Hjelm, B.S. '65

■ Ismael Abu-Saad (Ph.D. '89), born in a tent in Israel's underdeveloped Negev region, became the first Israeli-Bedouin to complete a doctorate degree. Abu-Saad returned to Israel and is a professor of education at Israel's Ben-Gurion University, where he is devoted to helping fellow Bedouins, especially women, pursue a university education. In 1998, Abu-Saad established the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development at his school. The center helps prepare Bedouin students for the university and provides financial aid. In four years, the number of Bedouin women studying at the Ben-Gurion University increased from 8 to 120.

■ Norman Shumway (Ph.D. '56) performed the first heart transplant in the United States, in 1968. Shumway accomplished this breakthrough at Stanford University, where he is now chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery. In the years following the first heart transplants, 85 percent of the recipients died, largely due to tissue rejection. Shumway and his team of doctors devised a way to detect signs of rejection and to suppress it with a then-experimental drug called cyclosporine. Today, roughly 80 percent of heart transplant recipients survive the procedure.

These and other outstanding University alumni have inspired a magnificent new public art installation under construction outside the McNamara Alumni Center. This alumni wall of honor will span more than 200 feet from the corner of Oak Street and Washington Avenue toward the alumni center entrance. Designed by artist Constance DeJong, a colleague of alumni center architect Antoine Predock, the structure will be covered with an oxidized steel that matches the copper of the alumni center.

Within a 20-foot peak, the landmark will feature a "day chamber" in which tiny holes direct sunlight onto an angled stainless-steel panel, creating an impression of constellations. Most important, the work will be a place to recognize outstanding alumni. In fact, the names of all of the University's Outstanding Achievement Award recipients will be inscribed on the wall of the landmark.

This work of art will be accompanied by the Scholars Walk, whose construction began this summer. Lined with newly planted bur oaks, the walk will run west from the alumni center across Northrop Mall to Appleby Hall. It will feature monuments to the U's Nobel Prize winners and recipients of other prestigious academic awards. Both projects are being built with private funds raised by a nonprofit partnership of the UMAA, the University of Minnesota Foundation, and the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

The new landmarks are not only fitting tributes to our outstanding alumni and our highest achieving faculty, they are places of inspiration for current scholars and for today's students—our future outstanding alumni.

[BENEFIT UPDATE]

Personal Vacation Club

UMAA MEMBERS now have access to a network of travel companies offering discounts and incentives on unique travel packages around the world. UMAA members can go online and research, design, and reserve vacations through the Personal Vacation Club's easy-to-use Web site, powered by Virtuocard. Travel packages offered

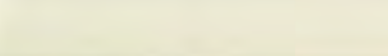
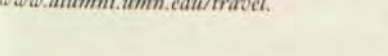
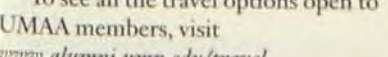
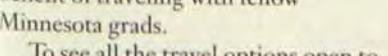
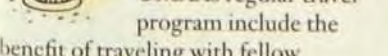
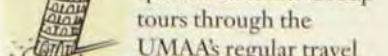
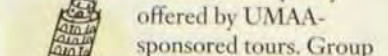
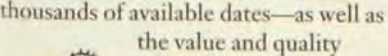
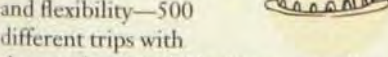
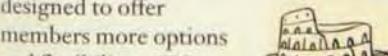
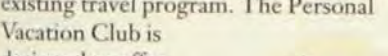
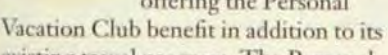
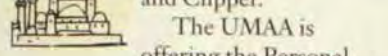
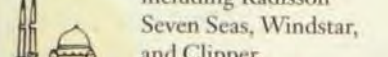
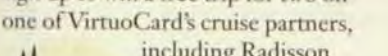
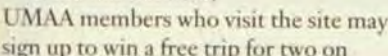
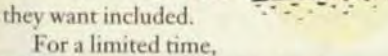
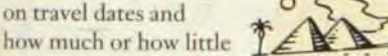
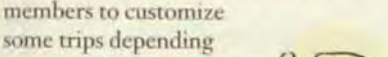
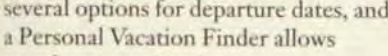
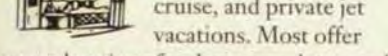
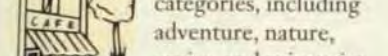
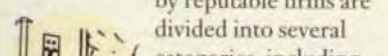
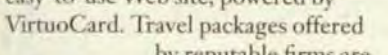
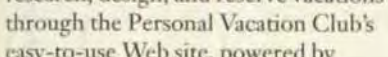
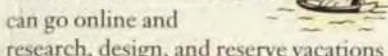
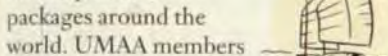
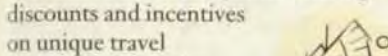
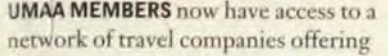
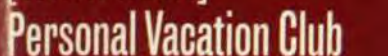
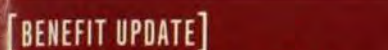
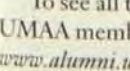
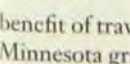
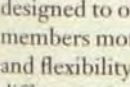
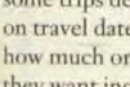
by reputable firms are divided into several categories, including adventure, nature, cruise, and private jet vacations. Most offer several options for departure dates, and a Personal Vacation Finder allows members to customize some trips depending on travel dates and how much or how little they want included.

For a limited time, UMAA members who visit the site may sign up to win a free trip for two on one of Virtuocard's cruise partners, including Radisson Seven Seas, Windstar, and Clipper.

The UMAA is offering the Personal Vacation Club benefit in addition to its existing travel program. The Personal Vacation Club is designed to offer members more options and flexibility—500 different trips with

thousands of available dates—as well as the value and quality offered by UMAA-sponsored tours. Group tours through the UMAA's regular travel program include the benefit of traveling with fellow Minnesota grads.

To see all the travel options open to UMAA members, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/travel.



Legislative Update: Petition the Governor

WITH THE 2004 ELECTIONS just completed, the University of Minnesota Legislative Network is turning its attention to the 2005 legislative session. The first step is encouraging U supporters to sign a petition urging Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '82, J.D. '85) to ensure excellence by investing in higher education and research at the University of Minnesota.

The state legislature will consider the University's capital and biennial requests in the upcoming session. Normally capital bonding requests are discussed only in even-year sessions, but due to the legislature's failure to pass a bonding bill in 2004, capital requests will again be considered in 2005.

Pawlenty is now drafting his recommendations for both capital bonding and for the upcoming two-year budget cycle and will present them in early January. The governor's proposals are a starting point for discussions on final state budget decisions.

In recent years, every significant state investment in the University can be traced to strong gubernatorial backing. In the early 1990s, then-Governor Arne Carlson tightened budgets



to address large deficits. Recognizing the economic impact that the University has on the state, Carlson changed course and became a champion for education funding. As a result, the campus underwent a physical and cultural renaissance that has helped it weather several years of limited state funding, including last biennium's unprecedented \$185 million cut.

The Legislative Network has more than 10,000 volunteers who learn about the University's needs and its impact on the state. These advocates regularly contact their elected officials to voice their support for the University. The annual Legislative Briefing, at which U officials explain the bonding and budget requests as well as their strategy at the legislature, is set for Thursday, January 27, 2005 (see the UMAA calendar below). The briefing is open to all Legislative Network members and others interested in learning how to help the University in the upcoming session.

To see the petition, to join the Legislative Network, or for more information on the U's budget request and how to make effective contacts with legislators, visit www.supporttheU.umn.edu.

UMAA Calendar

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

November

- 14 Southwest Florida Chapter Welcome Back Celebration, 5:30 p.m. at the Tarpon Cove Yacht and Racquet Club; contact Chad Kono
- 14 Puget Sound Chapter at Gophers vs. Washington women's basketball game, 1 p.m. at Bank of America Arena, Seattle; contact Mark Allen
- 16 St. Croix Valley Chapter lecture on "Bioterrorism and the Nation's Food Supply," with Michael Osterholm, details TBA; contact Chad Kono
- 16 Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of Minnesota second annual Scarves for Scholars auction, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Heintz Center; contact Chad Kono
- 28 Northeastern Nebraska Chapter at Gophers vs. Creighton women's basketball game, 3 p.m. at the Omaha Civic Auditorium; contact Mark Allen
- 30 St. Cloud Chapter Young Alums after Work Gathering, 5:30 p.m. at the Green Mill Restaurant; contact Chad Kono

December

- 3 School of Nursing Alumni Society Lighting the Lamp Ceremony, 5:30 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni

Center; contact Kate Hanson at 612-624-9494

- 5 Portland Chapter Holiday Party, details TBA; contact Mark Allen
- 8 Biological Sciences Alumni Society Dinner at Biology House, 5 p.m. at Frontier Hall; contact Emily Johnston at 612-624-4770
- 10 Arizona West Valley Chapter Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Briarwood Country Club in Sun City; contact Chad Kono
- 11 Bay Area Chapter at Gophers vs. Santa Clara University women's basketball game, 2 p.m. at the Leavey Center; contact Mark Allen
- 12 Puget Sound Alumni Chapter at the Seattle Symphony Holiday Concert, 2 p.m. at Benaroya Hall, Seattle; contact Mark Allen
- 16 Glacial Ridge (Minnesota) Chapter Holiday Caroling Party, details TBA; contact Chad Kono
- 18 Suncoast (Florida) Chapter Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at Isla del Sol Country Club in St. Petersburg; contact Chad Kono
- 30 Bay Area Chapter at Minnesota Wild vs. San Jose Sharks hockey game, 6 p.m. at HP Pavilion, San Jose; contact Mark Allen

January 2005

- 10 St. Croix Valley lecture on "The Future of Bio-Genetics," with Bob Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences, 7 p.m. at Boutwell's Landing in Stillwater; contact Chad Kono
- 10 Puget Sound Alumni Chapter Social, 5:30 p.m. at the Pyramid Alehouse in Seattle; contact Mark Allen
- 15-26 Panama Canal alumni cruise; contact Cheryl Jones
- 27 Legislative Briefing, 5:30 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni Center; contact Mike Dean
- 27 Arizona West Valley Chapter Annual Meeting, 5 p.m. at Luke Air Force Base; contact Chad Kono
- 29 Great Conversations on the Road and President's Reception at the Southwest Florida Chapter with Bob Bruininks, Jeffrey Hahn, and Patricia Hampl, 1 p.m. at the Naples Bath and Tennis Resort; contact Chad Kono
- 30 Great Conversations on the Road at Suncoast (Florida) Chapter with Jeffrey Kahn and Patricia Hampl, 1 p.m., location TBA; contact Chad Kono

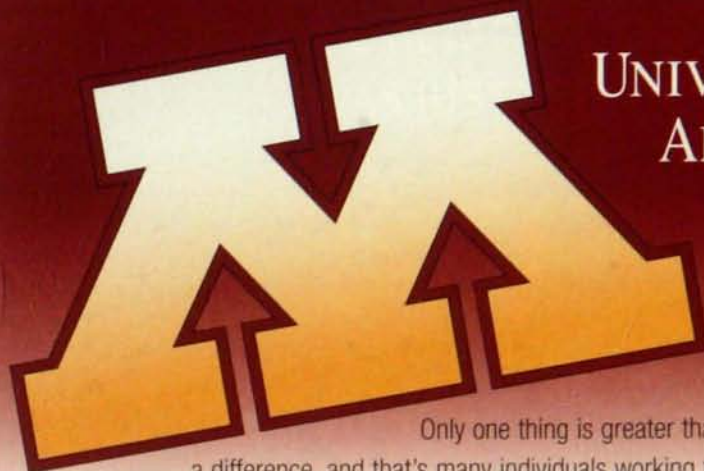
PLAN AHEAD

February 2005

- 5-14 Sicily's Cultural Season alumni tour; contact Cheryl Jones
- 16 U of M Legislative Rally at the Minnesota State Capitol, time TBA; contact Mike Dean
- 20 Great Conversations on the Road at Arizona West Valley Chapter with Jeffrey Kahn and Stephen Feinstein, 1 p.m., location TBA; contact Chad Kono

March 2005

- 3-10 Alumni Campus Abroad in the Yucatan; contact Cheryl Jones
- 6-16 Sea of Cortez whale-watching alumni tour; contact Cheryl Jones
- 12-20 Rome alumni tour; contact Cheryl Jones
- 17-27 Legends of the Nile alumni tour; contact Cheryl Jones



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Join Today

Only one thing is greater than the power of an individual striving to make a difference, and that's many individuals working together toward a common cause. That's precisely what the alumni association is all about: alumni working to create lifelong connections to one another; advocating for academic excellence; and building pride, spirit, and community.

Stay Connected

By joining the University of Minnesota Alumni Association today, you'll find yourself linked to tens of thousands of U of M alumni worldwide. You'll find old friends – or make new connections – no matter where you are.

Make a Difference

Your membership benefits you and the U. Rewards include networking opportunities; a subscription to *Minnesota* magazine; access to U of M societies, chapters, and interest groups worldwide; and money-saving discounts. Plus, membership builds a stronger U by supporting the Mentor Connection, Legislative Network, and other programs that enhance the student experience.

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Graduation Year(s) College/ Major or Friend of the University

E-mail address

*Joint member name (indicate name changes)

*Joint member grad year/college/major or Friend of the University

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	Single	Joint*
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Life Installment	<input type="checkbox"/> \$62.50/10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$77.50/10 years
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A Call for Vision and Voice

In his "State of the State" address earlier this year, Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) asked the Citizens League—an independent, nonpartisan group that studies public policy issues—to take a good, hard look at Minnesota's higher education system. For six months, a 33-member task force spent hundreds of hours studying this complex issue. It concluded that Minnesota's higher education system cannot continue to sustain

what it has achieved and that the state's economic success and quality of life are at risk.

The facts and trends that led the task force to these conclusions are disturbing. The number of students coming through the K-12 pipeline will begin shrinking just as baby boomers are retiring. Meanwhile, Minnesota's most rapidly growing minority populations have the lowest rates of high school graduation and higher education participation—and already more than 30 percent of Minnesota high school graduates who go to college must take remedial courses. Moreover, Minnesota



Margaret Sughrue Carlson,
Ph.D. '83

ranks in the bottom half of states in science and engineering degrees as a percentage of total degrees granted.

Minnesota needs to do a better job preparing its children for the high-tech, global economy that awaits them. But higher education is facing a long-term trend of eroding state support. Appropriations for the University of Minnesota dropped by \$196 million between the 2003 and 2005 bienniums, and the University has had to implement several double-digit tuition increases to make up for the funding shortfall.

The alumni association took special interest in the work of the Citizens League. The task force meetings were open to the public, and I attended several to watch and listen to these devoted and capable citizens grapple with myriad challenging issues. But they struggled especially hard with the funding piece. Task force members were well aware of the governor's "no new taxes" mantra. They also knew that Minnesota anticipates another \$1 billion budget shortfall. And part of their charge from the governor was to recommend ways that higher education could "do more with less."

But excellence and investment in higher education are tightly linked, and University President Bob Bruininks told task force members that *stable* funding—an annual base amount, adjusted for inflation, plus an investment amount—is essential.

Former Minnesota governor Elmer L. Andersen (B.A. '31, hon. Ph.D. '83), who continues to champion higher education more than 40 years after leaving office, also testified. "If you want great education, you have to pay for it," Andersen said. "Taxes are the way people join hands to get good things done. That's the tradition of Minnesota."

Minnesota is not the only state facing a crisis in higher education; troubling trends are seen nationwide. Even so, earlier this

year, Washington Governor Gary Locke unveiled the Washington Education Trust Fund to provide new and stable funding for education from preschool through college. Dubbed "One Penny for Education," the trust fund is derived from a 1 cent per dollar state sales tax increase and will generate an additional \$1 billion annually. "All governors are facing the economic downturn," Locke said. "But you've got to make sure you're attending to the basics."

Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen announced his plans to reestablish "the education of our children as our highest calling." His budget included not only spending new funds to support higher education, but moving money from other areas as well.

Noting that his state has been disinvesting in higher education for too long, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski announced late last year his plan to create a new era of economic vitality in Oregon. In addition to objectives to expand access to higher education and achieve excellence in fields sought after by a global economy, Kulongoski called for a "strategy of reinvestment in post-secondary education."

And in May, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced a "compact" that promises annual growth in state funding for the University of California. "Governor Schwarzenegger is to be congratulated for his exceptionally strong commitment to higher education," said University of California President Robert Dynes, "particularly given that the state still is experiencing fiscal difficulties."

As the Citizens League task force moved through its deliberations, the alumni association's advocacy committee reviewed its findings and preliminary reports and provided feedback. It was our hope that the final report would make a strong and clear connection between excellence and investment, and we were pleased to hear several task force members, including Steve Hunter of Minneapolis, recommend increased funding. "Given the current political and financial reality, more money shouldn't be the primary thrust of our report," Hunter said, "but it needs to be in there . . . or we're ignoring long-term consequences."

The report delivered to Governor Pawlenty on November 11 made four key recommendations (www.citizensleague.net). While one does call for the state to increase its investment in the University's research infrastructure, the report doesn't make a compelling case for secure funding for higher education.

We applaud Governor Pawlenty for convening the task force and praise the Citizens League for shedding light on the problems facing higher education. Now, the alumni association asks the governor to provide the vision and the voice that are so urgently needed.

We ask Governor Pawlenty to speak up loudly and clearly about the fundamental importance of higher education to the future of Minnesota, as his colleagues in other states have done. We ask the governor to commit to stable funding for the University. Not making a strong commitment to higher education is to accept that the quality of the University and the state will erode.

"It takes years and years for an institution to reach preeminent status," President Bruininks has said many times. "But you can lose it overnight." ■

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