

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# MINNESOTA

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**Immigrants  
enrich our culture,  
says attorney  
Laura Danielson**

## **Legal Artistry**

**Who Is "Iron Mike"? • Seniors Who Shine • Pigs, People, and Diabetes**



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*By Robyn Dochterman, Sheila Mulrooney Eldred, Danny LaChance, Erin Peterson, and Cynthia Scott*



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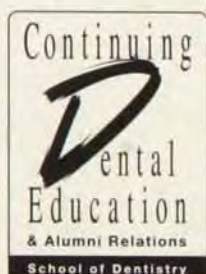
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## The Give and Take of Immigration

"How many of you are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants?" a young University of Minnesota student said into the microphone, asking her audience for a show of hands. A hundred or so of us had crowded into a Walter Library auditorium to consider the future of ethnic studies at the U in the 21st century. I raised my hand, and it was little surprise when nearly everyone's went up. The student went on to explain what it meant to her to find a home in American Indian studies—and to imply how curious it was that the study and preservation of American Indian culture had to elbow its way into academia, brought to her ancestors' land by immigrants.



Shelly Fling

The label that the United States is "a nation of immigrants" is both true and a simplification. Whether we're Americans who landed here last year or are the descendants of the nation's founders, we share a tinge of collective guilt for living on land that was, to put it gently, appropriated.

But here we are. For generations, every parcel has been delineated, farmed, developed, fostered, and become the foundation for the hopes and dreams of families and entrepreneurs. We can't undo what's been done. We can't, without economic and humanitarian crises, give the land back or return to wherever we came from. Nor can the United States realistically throw open its doors to anyone and everyone who knocks.

Our nation is far from perfect, and it's best viewed as a work in progress, but it is still a beacon. It represents hope and opportunity to millions of desperate and suffering people around the globe. Those of us who have benefited from the fruits of our freedoms, who have found higher education within our grasp, can barely appreciate what our lives would be like if we worked 18 hours a day and still couldn't feed our children, were imprisoned for our religious or political beliefs, or had no rights because of our gender, race, or ethnicity.

I know I had little understanding of such lives when, as a high school student, I was a hotel maid and worked alongside refugees from Laos who were thrilled to be doing a job I despised but knew I could leave at the end of the summer. I earned greater understanding when, as a college student, I tutored a Vietnamese immigrant in English. He mourned leaving his country—and his father who was killed in the war and his mother by a stray bullet—but he wanted to live. So he came to America and would study computer science when he could master English.

I'll never completely understand where others have come from: the Pakistani friend who can't return home or she'll lose her children, who is raising them in America to be good people, she says, her contribution to the world; the friend whose family fled Nicaragua where she suffered unspeakable trauma, who is now a college professor; the immigrants who sit at a computer terminal set up in the Mexican restaurant down the street, tapping into resources to find their futures in the United States.

From the day the first boats landed on the shores of what would become America, immigrants have come seeking something. Decisions are being made about how to deal with immigration, legal and illegal, and I believe it would be wise to acknowledge that immigrants give America as much, or more, as they take. ■

Shelly Fling can be reached at [fling003@umn.edu](mailto:fling003@umn.edu).



Kids can't wait to learn.

It's time to help kids grow up and realize their dreams. Because most brain growth happens before age 5, Minnesota needs to invest in early childhood learning. After all, supporting our youngest citizens supports us all. Let's work together to demand top-quality early care and education so that kids get off to a great start.

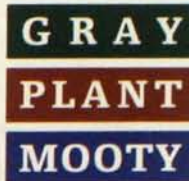






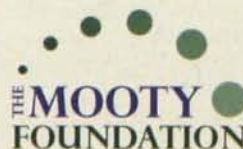
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# Letters

## WHO ARE THE OPPRESSED?

I'm sure there have been many "watershed days" at the University of Minnesota. Most of them probably didn't involve the occupation of an administration building ["Student Leaders in 1969 Takeover Reunite," March-April].

Though [Marie Braddock] Williams, one of the occupants, spoke about the "inequalities and injustices of institutional racism at the U," the article and quotes didn't give any examples of what that might mean. Though I'm an advocate of free speech and change, I highly doubt that, for example, if Christians or conservatives "took over, occupied, and presented a list of demands" to the current president of the University of Minnesota, that miraculously a department would be created and the hiring of a Christian or conservative faculty would commence.

Apparently, diversity of color is important, not diversity of thought.

**Koreen Wallis Bowers (B.S. '91)**  
High Ridge, Missouri

## COOKING OIL MIGHT WORK WELL

In response to your article about finding a solution to the depleting oil reserves ["Oil Is Not Well," Editor's Note, March-April]: Is anyone at the University studying the use of vegetable oil—including used cooking oil—as a source of fuel? Fresh and used

cooking oil is renewable, widely available, inexpensive or free, clean, 95 percent as efficient as gas, and becoming viable even in cold climates.

**Jim Amundson (B.S. '73)**  
Minneapolis

## BLACK ALUMNI GROUP LONG AWAITED

A co-worker handed me a copy of your magazine because I attended the University for a time in the 1970s. I was so pleased to see the beaming faces of some of your graduates, the members of the new University of Minnesota Black Alumni Association ["Two New Groups of Interest," March-April], which is now part of your larger alumni group.

As an African American on campus, I often felt alone, on the outside, unconnected in my classes and in the wider arena as a student. I did make several dear friends, but something was missing. I cannot know this 100 percent, but if a group of African American alumni had been active in my day, encouraging me or just if it existed, I may have stayed around to earn a degree. I applaud those young people.

**Cassandra McKee**  
Chicago

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA





## Pedaling a New Lifestyle

Imagine a transportation system built to cater to bicyclists and pedestrians. That was the challenge issued to 300 people, many of them policymakers, who attended the fifth James L. Oberstar Forum on Transportation Policy and Technology, "Transportation Choices: The Important Role of Walking and Biking," at Coffman Memorial Union in April.

Berthold Tillman, the mayor of Munster, Germany, was on hand to nudge along any naysayer who might think such a vision is out of reach. Munster, voted the World's Most Livable City by the United Nations in 2004, is a haven for non-motorized transportation. In the city of 300,000 people where January's average temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit, 35 percent of all daily travel is conducted on bicycles and another 25 percent occurs by foot and mass transit. "It is inconceivable what it would be like if even half the bicyclists in Munster came into town in a car," Tillman said.

Tillman presented a slide show highlighting the city's bike-friendly infrastructure, including bike service stations, designated bike streets, and underground bike parking. He noted that the city's commitment to the bicycle is an economic boon: It saves on street repair and maintenance expenditures, attracts millions of dollars in tourism, and significantly cuts health care costs.

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota Center for



U.S. Rep. James Oberstar (left) and Berthold Tillman

Transportation Studies, the forum is named for 15-term Minnesota Rep. James L. Oberstar. Oberstar has gained national prominence for preaching the gospel of integrating biking and walking into the transportation mainstream and has been instrumental in passing legislation toward that end. He opened the forum by calling for a sweeping change of lifestyle habits among Americans. "Our job is not just to recite dreary statistics [about the benefits of walking and biking], but to change lives," Oberstar said. "We have to change the habits of an entire generation and make this the bicycling century."

Oberstar also proffered a vision of what he fears. "My view of Armageddon is that day when we're all sitting on the freeway, hands gripped on the steering wheels, and we run out of that last drop of gas. And one by one, the car doors start opening and people look around and ask, 'How do you walk?'"

—Cynthia Scott

## Overheard on Campus

**"We go on these trips to help others, but really, in the end we help ourselves."**

—University of Minnesota student Laura Carter, who spent her spring break with other college students doing good work—such as neighborhood cleanup or serving the homeless—in cities around the country on the Pay It Forward tour.

**"I think it is a terrible thing when a person has a huge win like that because it will negatively affect him and others just to... be deluded that they can win that amount again."**

—David Koepf, director of the compulsive gambling treatment program at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, commenting on the news that University journalism student Mike Schneider won \$1 million in a poker tournament over spring break.

**"Regardless of one's opinion on the issue of abortion, we might expect the governor of [Hubert H.] Humphrey's home state to attribute his words to their author, and to use them in the context of their original meaning."**

—Steve Sandell, director of the Humphrey Forum at the University's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, criticizing South Dakota governor Mike Rounds for his choice of words in defending his state's legislative action making abortion illegal: "In the history of the world, the true test of a civilization is how well people treat the most vulnerable and most helpless in their society."

**"We've got an interstate between our stadium and our students."**

—University of Minnesota law student Joshua Colburn

## Reviving the Ivory Tower

*Ivory Tower*, the University's undergraduate arts and literary magazine of the 1950s and '60s, is back. More than 200 people, including University alumnus and former *Ivory Tower* editor Garrison Keillor, attended the relaunch in April at the Bell Museum. Copies of the publication, produced by U students, are available on the Twin Cities campus at the English and journalism departments and at the University Bookstore.



## Hit "Send" at Your Own Risk

A word to the wise: Your e-mail is nothing more than a bit of data ripe for plucking out of cyberspace by anybody who knows how to do the plucking. And, if you think you have legal or Constitutional recourse should that happen, think again.

Adjunct University law associate professor Stephen Cribari, Denver attorney Richard Reeve, and computer forensics specialist Mary Horvath at the FBI in Quetico, Virginia, all who specialize in legal issues related to cyberspace, explored this and other emerging concerns associated with new communications technology at the fourth Silha Center Forum—"Your E-Mail Is Not Yours: Government Surveillance and Digital Privacy"—sponsored by the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The three agreed that new communications technology has created a legal no man's land where there is uncertainty about whether privacy rights exist at all. The problem is, many everyday users assume that the old protections apply to the new technology. Not true.

"The question of what's private in cyberspace is not a simple one," Cribari said. One reason is confusion about language. For example, you can throw away this article by crumpling it and putting it in a wastebasket, confident it will eventually be incinerated. On the other hand, when you "throw away" that e-mail missive you wrote to your ex, you simply transfer it to a new part of your computer, where it resides indefinitely.

That may not be news to the cyberspace-savvy, but to multitudes of everyday users, it's a revelation. And not a welcome one. "When you hit the 'send' button, you give up all expectations of constitutionally protected privacy," Reeve asserted.

Horvath, an expert at retrieving data from hard drives, had some advice of her own. When it comes to e-mail, she said, "Nothing is safe. Nothing. The best way to protect yourself, which no one does, is encryption. Know what's going on with your information and try the best you can to protect yourself."

—Cynthia Scott



## Healthy as a Horse

Sisters Angie (left) and Emily Norwig from Hampton, Minnesota, practiced wrapping the legs of Jordan at Hands-On Day at the U for Horse Owners in March. Nearly 100 horse owners attended the daylong clinic, presented by the College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Continuing Education. Participants learned about first aid for horses, bandaging techniques, tips on buying and storing hay, and news about infectious diseases and then toured the equine veterinary medical center. The college offered the Hands-On Day in response to many requests from the public for health and nutrition information for their horses.



## Rockin' for Jewish Culture

University students Brian Palay (left), a junior in architecture, and Nate Uri, a senior in economics, performed at the Hillel Jewish Student Center for Purimfest in March. The holiday celebration was part of Jewish Culture Week on campus. Other events included a documentary on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a discussion about the Israeli elections, decorating pillows and blankets for children in local hospitals, and free matzoh ball soup.



## Hog Heaven

**A**braham the pig lives a quiet life in rural South Dakota, eating, sleeping, scratching—and helping to develop a cure for diabetes.

Thanks to his superior genetics and breeding prowess, Abraham is powering the work of Scott Fahrenkrug, associate professor of genetics in the department of animal science, and Bernhard Hering, M.D., associate professor of surgery and scientific director of the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation at the University of Minnesota.

"Abraham is a special pig," says Fahrenkrug (Ph.D. '97) with a smile.

Actually, it's Abraham's offspring that are making special contributions to medical science. Their pancreases yield a gold mine of insulin-producing islet cells, the type of cells that Fahrenkrug and Hering are using to attack diabetes in humans—and, they hope, to cure it.

In February, the two scientists made headlines when the online journal *Nature Medicine* published the results from a 180-day study, in which Hering harvested islet cells from Abraham's brood and transplanted them into 12 diabetic monkeys. The monkeys accepted the cells and began creating insulin on their own, thus reversing their diabetes. "That's the landmark piece of work that has everybody in the world excited," says Fahrenkrug.

The next landmark will be to use pig islet cells to reverse diabetes in humans. Fahrenkrug and Hering are working toward a clinical trial beginning in late 2008. Again, Abraham's offspring will supply the islets.

Fahrenkrug, whose Ph.D. is in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and genetics, returned to the University in 2001 intending to pursue agricultural genomics. He had been working in Nebraska on the United States Department of Agriculture's swine gene sequencing project, a multimillion dollar endeavor aimed at deciphering the pig's genetic code. Xenotransplantation—the transplantation of organs from one species to another—was nowhere on his horizon. But when he met Hering, everything changed. Fahrenkrug recalls a 10-minute appointment with Hering that stretched into hours. The two discovered that they share a common vision for how pigs might be used to battle human disease.

"He'd been working on pig islet xenotransfer patients since he came here. And I remember reading about xenotransplantation in science-fiction novels when I was a teenager! It really was something I'd always wanted to do," Fahrenkrug says.

"We actually have a lot in common with pigs," he says. "They have the same physiology and organ systems; their skin is very similar to ours. Winston Churchill said, 'Cats



Scott Fahrenkrug

look down on us. Dogs look up to us. I like pigs. They see us as equals.' It's so true!"

Today, Fahrenkrug is working to grow the supply of "clean" (virus- and bacteria-free) donor pigs. The nonprofit Spring Point Project has funded both Abraham's home in South Dakota and the construction of a biosecure facility in Wisconsin, which is scheduled to break ground in May.

In his University lab, Fahrenkrug is now concentrating on genetically altering the pig islet cells even more, so that the human immune system will not recognize them as "foreign" and reject them. "It's like stealth technology—you 'hide' the transplant from the immune system," he says.

Fahrenkrug says it's "serendipity" that has taken him to where he is today. "Fate happens," he says. "It's pretty dang exciting. People are expecting great things. Especially for somebody junior like myself, it's a fantastic opportunity."

—Patricia Kelly

### A MARRIAGE OF LOVE AND LAW

**"Same-sex wedding ceremonies represent an effort to create a kind of legality outside official law, a way to create law when there isn't any. For many people, ceremonies help to make their commitments real."**

—Sociology researcher Kathleen Hull, who writes in her new book *Same-Sex Marriage: The Cultural Politics of Love and Law* that gays and lesbians seek to legalize same-sex marriage not only to acquire the legal and financial benefits of marriage, such as tax breaks and next-of-kin designation, but also to claim their equal rights as citizens and assert their social legitimacy.



## BRAINSTORMS

Two discoveries at the University of Minnesota hold promise for helping people who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. A team of researchers has for the first time identified a protein complex in the brain of mice that is proven to cause memory loss. The discovery holds out the possibility that drug developers now have a target for creating drugs that can stop Alzheimer's disease before it causes irreversible damage to the brain.

Another team of researchers at the University Medical School and the Brain Sciences Center at the Minneapolis Veterans' Affairs Medical Center discovered a way to assess how the nerve networks in the brain communicate and interact with one another over time. The discovery will allow researchers to better evaluate the brain function of people with brain diseases.



## LIFTING GIVES A LIFT

Women who have undergone breast cancer surgery reap substantial emotional and physical benefits from weight training, according to results of a study by researchers at the University of Minnesota and the University of Pennsylvania. A study of 86 women who were between four and 36 months past their primary treatment showed that those who engaged in twice-weekly weight training sessions scored a significantly better quality of life score than those who did not lift



weights. Researchers said weight training may improve quality of life in breast cancer survivors because they gain a sense of feeling in control of their bodies again. That, in turn, may translate into feeling greater effectiveness in other areas of their lives.

## BANNED DRUG, NEW HOPE

Thalidomide, a drug that gained notoriety in the 1960s for causing birth defects, has been discovered to be an effective addition to treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota Medical School and Cancer Center found that women with recurrent ovarian cancer experienced significantly better response to therapy and a longer disease-free interval when thalidomide was added to a conventional chemotherapeutic drug. Thalidomide is a biologic therapy, which works with the body's natural defenses to help fight tumor cells without harming healthy cells. Biologic therapies can be effective in treating cancer without the extreme toxicities often seen in conventional chemotherapy.

Thalidomide was banned in the early 1960s after it was found to cause deformed limbs in the children of women who took it early in pregnancy to ease morning sickness. The drug is now being investigated for use in treating some types of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

## ATHEISM UN-AMERICAN?

Americans who don't believe in God are perceived to be the least likely to share a common vision of American society, according to a nationwide survey conducted by three University of Minnesota sociology professors. The survey, part of the American Mosaic Project, was designed to better understand the state of diversity and tolerance in the United States. The findings surprised the report's authors. "After 9/11, we assumed that Muslims would fare the worst," they wrote. "However, this was not the case. Atheists received the lowest scores by far." Overall, only 54 percent of respondents thought atheists shared their vision of America. Muslims were ranked the next lowest but still scored 10 points higher than atheists, at 64 percent.

The authors suggest that religion has become a "line in the sand" for inclusion in American society. "The absence of faith, a belief in a higher being, seems to be a major barrier between people in our society today."

## TEASING'S WEIGHTY CONSEQUENCES

Adolescent boys who are teased about their weight are more likely than girls to initiate binge eating and unhealthy weight control behaviors. Girls, on the other hand, are more likely than boys to become frequent dieters.

That's the conclusion of a study conducted by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The survey included more than 2,500 children who were surveyed twice, five years apart. Researchers say the study shows that teasing has a profound impact on all children, but that boys may be more affected because they are not as accustomed as girls to facing a negative reaction to their weight.

Unhealthy weight control methods adopted by children in the study included fasting, skipping meals, vomiting, or using laxatives. The study also found evidence that reducing teasing through educational interventions and policies may reduce the level of disordered eating behaviors among young people.





## HAVE A SEAT

*"A chair is a very difficult object. A skyscraper is almost easier. That is why Chippendale is famous."*

—Architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

"Everyone sits," says Lin Nelson-Mayson with a laugh, describing the ubiquity of that indispensable piece of furniture we use throughout the day: the chair. But for artists, architects, and designers, the chair is also the perfect template for design innovation, adds the director of the Goldstein Museum of Design, "because it's fun to design something with a sculptural form as well as a functional form. And chair design is both problem solving and a creative challenge."

In its exhibition "The Chair: 125 Years of Sitting" opening June 3, the Goldstein celebrates such innovations in materials, form, and use by showcasing selections from its extensive chair collection. The Goldstein's strength is in mid-20th-century modernism, as evidenced by such iconic designs as Hans Wegner's oak and rope-seat dining chair (c. 1950), Eero Saarinen's plastic and fiberglass "goblet chair" (1957–63), and Charles and Ray Eames's molded and bent birchwood "potato chip" chair (1946) for furniture manufacturer Herman Miller.

"These chairs are really about a minimalist, sculptural form, or at the very least a modernist aesthetic," explains Nelson-Mayson. "If they have any upholstery, it's just a seat cushion." Case in point, the Alvar Aalto bent and laminated wood dining chair with fiber seat (1933–35). Now considered objets d'art, these chairs are keystones of the collection, she continues, "primarily because when the Goldstein opened in 1976 to support the academic directions of the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, with its crossover into interior design, these chairs were dramatic new forms."

The exhibition, however, also includes gorgeously simple chairs designed by the Shakers and sturdy wide chairs designed by Arts and Crafts denizen Gustav Stickley. But there are also educational components to the exhibition, intended to "direct your attention to a piece of furniture that's often overlooked or not paid attention to, so you can study and appreciate chairs in a new way," says Nelson-Mayson.

An 18th-century corner chair was stripped of upholstery



**Chair, 1965, wire and fiberglass with cloth, by Warren Platner**



**Goblet Chair, 1957–63, plastic/fiberglass with a wool seat, by Eero Saarinen**



**"Potato Chip" Chair, 1946, molded and bent birchwood, by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller**



**Dining Chair, 1933–35, bent laminated wood and a fiber seat, by Alvar Aalto**



to reveal its structure. A Frank Lloyd Wright office chair from the 1930s is contrasted with the contemporary Knoll office chair the Goldstein's gallery monitor sits in every day, in an examination of the office chair's changing aesthetics, function, and ergonomics. By placing a classic bentwood rocker and Frank Gehry's 20th-century bentwood chair side by side, or the classical iron ice-cream-parlor chair next to Warren Platner metal-barred and fiberglass 1965 chair, the exhibition explores material experimentation as evidenced in chairs. And working with the human-dimensioning lab in the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, Nelson-Mayson has included an aspect to the exhibition that takes an in-depth look at how chairs are functionally designed to hold the body in specific places, depending on the chair's designated use.

"If you think about it, there are a lot of chairs in our lives; chairs around your desk, conference table, dining room table, kitchen table, in your living room," Nelson-Mayson says. "The key message of this exhibition is that enduring chair design is a successful combination of aesthetics and function."

"The Chair: 125 Years of Sitting" runs June 3 through September 2 at the Goldstein Museum of Design, McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul. Admission is free. For more information, call 612-624-7434 or visit <http://goldstein.cbe.umn.edu>.

—Camille LeFevre

*Dining Chair, c. 1950, oak with a rope seat, by Hans Wegner*



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**“The state of the University is strong,”** said University President Bob Bruininks, “and we are making great strides in the quality of our programs and the impact of our public mission.” In his annual State of U address March 2, Bruininks outlined several measures of improvement at the University—in student preparation and achievement, in procuring royalties and commercializing intellectual property, and in raising funds for scholarships. He also spoke of the gains the U has made in its financial partnership with the state, as well as concerns for the current legislative session. For his full address, go to [www.umn.edu/pres](http://www.umn.edu/pres) and click on “Selected Speeches.”

**Preliminary recommendations have been submitted from 11 more of the 34 strategic positioning task forces**, formed as part of the University’s ongoing initiative to transform itself into one of the top three public research universities in the world. The recommendations range from what metrics the University should use for determining its progress to what steps it can take to improve its research infrastructure. The recommendations may be read at [www.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic\\_positioning](http://www.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic_positioning).

**This summer the University will restructure several colleges and reduce their number by three**, to strengthen the U’s goal of being one of the top three public research universities in the world. The College of Human Ecology’s four academic units will be integrated into three new or newly reconfigured colleges. The College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Natural Resources, and CHE’s Department of Food Science and Nutrition will be integrated into a new College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. General College will become the Department of Postsecondary Teaching and Learning within the College of Education and Human Development, which will also include CHE’s Department of Family Social Science and School of Social Work. And a new College of Design will encompass the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and CHE’s Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel.

**Students are increasingly satisfied with their experiences on the Twin Cities campus**, according to the University’s 2005 Student Experience and Senior Exit Surveys. In terms of overall satisfaction, the average rating, on a scale of 1 to 6, of undergraduates on the Twin Cities campus was 4.91, up from 4.72 in 2003 and 4.45 in 2001. On the Morris campus, the average rating was 5.16, up from 5.09 in 2003 and the highest of any University campus. The average rating for undergraduates at Duluth and Crookston was 4.85. Students who participated in five “intensive activities”—such as internships or working with faculty on a research project—rated their satisfaction level nearly six-tenths of a point higher than



## Collegiate Conclusions

University alumna Leola Josefson shared stories and memories with College of Human Ecology alumni, faculty, and students who gathered on the St. Paul campus April 7 to celebrate the impact of the college over the past century. More than 700 people came to mark the closing of the college and the integration of its departments with other colleges as part of the University’s strategic positioning plan to become one of the top three research universities in the world. On May 25, General College, which will become a department in the College of Education and Human Development, is hosting a Coming Home Celebration at Coffman Memorial Union for all alumni and current and former faculty, staff, and students. For more information, visit [www.gen.umn.edu/gala](http://www.gen.umn.edu/gala).

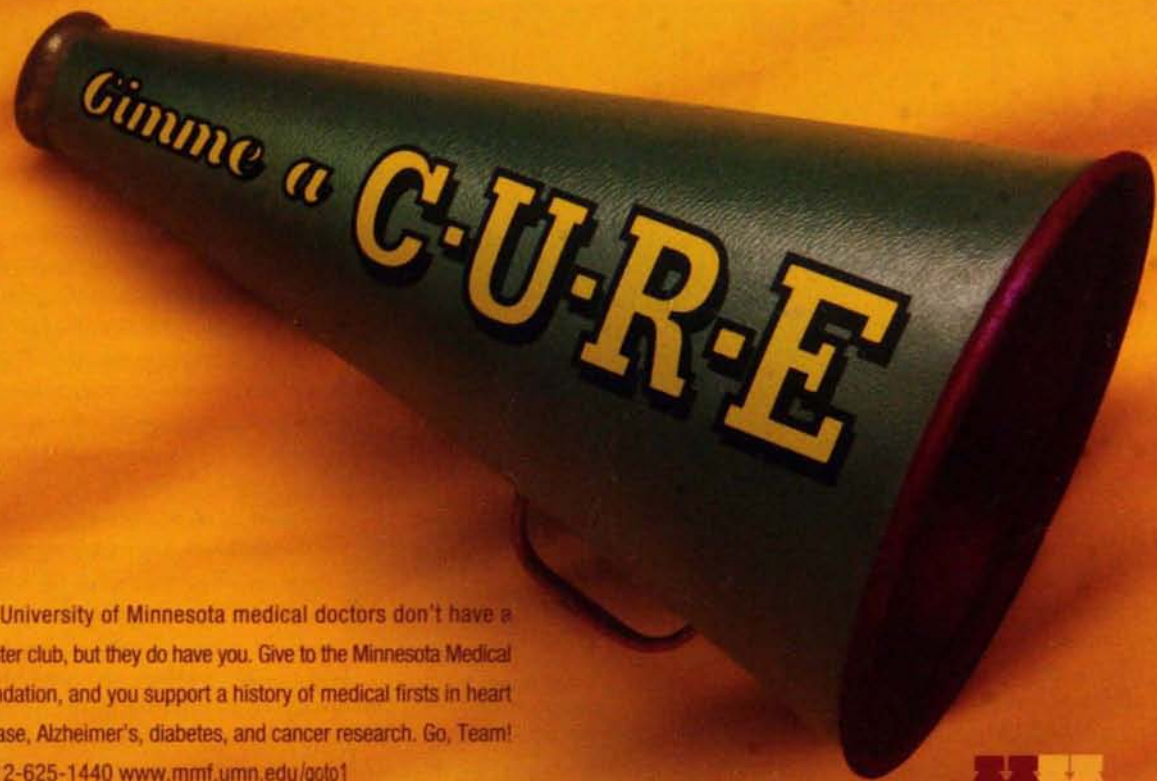
students who didn’t participate in any such activities.

**Herbert M. Hanson Jr. Hall, or Hanson Hall, will be the name of the Carlson School of Management’s new undergraduate building.** Architectural designs for the new four-story, 124,000-square-foot facility, named in honor of alumnus Herb Hanson and his wife, Barbara, were unveiled in March. The building will connect to the current Carlson School building by a skyway and allow the Carlson School to grow its undergraduate program by 50 percent by 2008, when the new building is scheduled to open. Currently, the school is able to admit just 12 percent of those who apply because of space limitations. Of those who are not admitted, 70 percent are Minnesota residents and 42 percent leave the state. Construction would start this fall, following Board of Regents approval.

**Nancy “Rusty” Barcelo is the University’s first Vice President for Access, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs.** Pending approval by the Board of Regents, her appointment will begin May 15. Barcelo served as associate vice president for multicultural and academic affairs from 1996 to 2001 and headed the Chicano studies department from 1999 to 2001. In her new position, Barcelo will be responsible for developing a plan to ensure access and diversity on all campuses. She has been at the University of Washington since 2001.

—Pauline Oo





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## A Wild Ride

To many city and suburb dwellers, the wilderness is just a concept. If we think at all about the roadless region to the north, we romanticize it. Images of lakes and forests color our calendars and imaginations, and wooden loons draw dust on our shelves. But only the relative few who have ventured into the boreal forest have any idea how beautiful it is.

And how dangerous.

Dan Stephens and Jason Rasmussen were two 20-something trekkers who, more than most of us, knew. In 1998, Stephens, a Boy Scout guide from Georgia, tripped and hit his head on a rock while looking for a portage in Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park, awoke hours later with a concussion, and staggered deep into the woods before realizing he was profoundly lost. In 2001, Rasmussen, a Wisconsin medical student whose family lived in Bloomington, Minnesota, strayed from a tricky trail in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and stumbled into a vast, almost impenetrable bog. He pitched his tent and took a short walk to get his bearings. Then he couldn't find his tent.

Stephens and Rasmussen survived, but just barely. The former, a seasoned wilderness guide, scared the daylight out of passing canoeists when he walked out on his own after three days, hair wild and skin bloody with insect bites. He'd been guided by the stars and sheer luck. The latter spent his nights in a tree trunk and was gaunt and frozen, near death, when searchers found him after six days.

*Lost in the Wild*, Cary Griffith's account of their harrowing adventures, is taut and terrific. He weaves the stories of the lost and of those who found them into irresistible narratives. Griffith (M.A. '80) is a meticulous reporter—a master of the telling detail—and a fine writer. The story is enriched by many a wonderful, dreadful tidbit such as this:



Lost in the Wild: Danger and Survival in the North Woods  
Cary J. Griffith (M.A. '80)  
Borealis Books, 2006

"Later in the night [Stephens, wrapped in tree boughs] feels the ants crawling. One crawls near his arm. He reaches down, picks it up. But instead of smashing it with his hand or brushing it away he feels the large black shape wriggling, recognizes the outline of a large carpenter ant. And then he pops it into his mouth. He bites and swallows and in darkness feels a satisfying twinge of vengeance at having turned the tables on at least one of the gnawing beasts."

Maps and photographs illustrate the book. Perhaps the most haunting image is the photo Rasmussen snapped of himself near the end of his ordeal with a disposable-camera that he imagined his family would find.

The searchers' stories are equally rich and suspenseful, full of fascinating details about the things wilderness rescuers know, such as that people lost in the woods veer in the direction of handedness; the right-handed veer right, the left-handed left.

But *Lost in the Wild* is more than a colorful adventure story. It's an unsentimental ode to wilderness mysteries and hazards. Most powerfully, it's an account of two modern-day odysseys, complete with unexpected obstacles and terrors, brushes with death, moments of heightened appreciation for nature's terrible beauty, gritty courage, and the rise and fall of hope. A quote by Edward Abbey that precedes one of the chapters captures well the theme: "A great thirst is a great joy when quenched in time."

*Lost in the Wild* is a book you'll cancel appointments to read. Shelve it between the works of Jack London and Jon Krakauer, or better yet, pass it on to a city dweller when you've read it. It's a fine literary trek.

—Pamela Miller

## Mystery and Intrigue in the New World

In 1689, May Powers set sail for the New World, leaving behind her life in England, as well as her reputation as a brazen and wanton young woman. In America, she was to settle down and become respectable. She was to marry a man she'd never met—Gabriel, a plantation owner and the young son of a distant cousin.

Three years later, her little sister, Hannah, set off to join her. All brain where May was all heart, Hannah was her

father's daughter. She had learned the craft of medicine by going with him on his rounds and was secretly practiced as a healer and a surgeon. She took with her to America her late father's surgical kit, a supply of healing herbs, and a strong hope that the new land would allow her and her sister to live the lives they were meant to live.

But the new world was no more enlightened than the old world. May's first encounter upon disembarking was with



a group of people jeering a woman who was being dragged behind a boat. The torture—the woman nearly drowned—was punishment for adultery. Hannah's first encounter was with a family whose father was suffering terribly from kidney stones. Her shy offer of medical help was met with horror at her impropriety.

Mary Sharratt's new novel, *The Vanishing Point*, is a page-turner, a mystery, a quietly feminist tale, and a richly researched historical novel with ever-unfolding plot twists. An author's note indicates that Sharratt (B.A. '88), who also wrote *Summit Avenue* and *The Real Minerva*, spent 10 years researching the medicine and mores of the 17th century, and her expertise is evident. Her hand is sure as she guides us through the story, sprinkling confident and casual references to birth control (did you know that honey kills sperm?), and healing herbs, and the Diggers and Levelers, English rebel groups who sought an end to feudal ways.

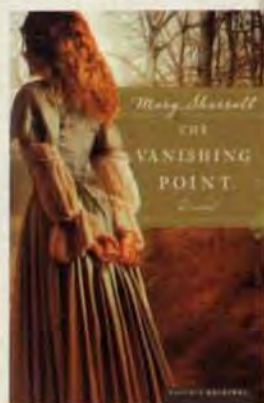
*The Vanishing Point* is also an examination of love, loyalty, and betrayal.

Hannah and her trunk eventually make it up the river to May's new home, but once there she finds that nothing was as she had expected. There was no plantation, just a rough cabin in the forest. The seven hired men the cousin had spoken of weren't there—no one was there except for Gabriel. May herself had vanished, and Gabriel told Hannah that she and their baby had died in childbirth.

There is no way for Hannah to leave, and during the weeks that follow—as Gabriel builds a dugout canoe to take her back down the river—the two fall in love. Gabriel is a mountain man with long hair and buckskin clothing. He clearly guards his thoughts and his feelings, and it appears he has something to hide. But something in his gentle and vulnerable nature appeals to Hannah, and once the canoe is ready, she decides, instead, to stay.

Over time, the stories around May's death change, and change again, and Hannah fights growing doubt and guilt. Is it right to have found happiness with her dead sister's husband? What if he had been the cause of May's death? She finally realizes she must choose between her love for Gabriel, and her loyalty to her sister's memory. Which will win? And is May really dead? And if she is, how did she die?

The plot questions will keep you reading. But Sharratt's underlying message will keep you thinking long after the questions are answered.



**The Vanishing Point**  
By Mary Sharratt (B.A. '88)  
Mariner Books, 2006

—Laurie Hertzell

## Bookmarks

Baseball in Minnesota: The Definitive History

By Stew Thornley (B.S. '81)  
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2006

Local sports historian Stew Thornley (B.S. '81), author of more than 35 books, relays the story of "America's pastime" in his home state. He has unearthed stories reaching back to 1857, when Minnesota's first ball club was organized, and covers town teams, minor league baseball, ballparks, the game's personalities, the Minnesota Gophers, and the Minnesota Twins. The book includes 140 black-and-white photographs.

Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy

By Jeff Manza and Christopher Uggen, 2006  
Oxford University Press

University of Minnesota sociology professor Christopher Uggen, with a Northwestern University sociology professor, has co-authored a book based on their famous study about felon disenfranchisement and its effect on U.S. election outcomes, including the 2000 presidential election that put George W. Bush into office. The book contends that stiffer penalties for nonviolent crimes are increasing disenfranchisement, and that most Americans believe a person who has served his or her prison time should have their voting rights restored.

Minnesota Weather Almanac

By Mark W. Seeley  
Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2006

University professor Mark Seeley—a climatologist, meteorologist, and popular Minnesota Public Radio commentator—has written the ideal book for those Minnesotans who love talking about the weather. The book covers interesting weather and climate facts in Minnesota, including what town claims the highest temperature ever recorded and how to predict when the leaves will change color. And it's a guide, with black-and-white illustrations, maps, and tables containing historical information on rainfall, temperatures, and more.

Money in the Bank: The Katherine Kierland Herberger Collection

By Corine Wegener and Karal Ann Marling  
University of Minnesota Press, 2006

Karal Ann Marling, a professor of American studies and art history at the University, is also a pop culture expert and author of about a dozen books on American visual culture. She is a contributor to this new book on the Minneapolis Institute of Arts collection of more than 1,200 mechanical and still banks, tracing the cultural importance of these iconic banks—where Americans stashed their hard-earned pennies—going back to the late 18th century.

Minnesota publishes reviews and highlights of books with a University of Minnesota connection. Send to Minnesota Magazine, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455.





**The United States needs immigrants,** says Laura Danielson, a University alumna and a top immigration attorney who represents artists and entertainers trying to enter the United States.

BY RICHARD BRODERICK

# The Art of Immigration Law

# It's

Friday the evening of St. Patrick's Day and by 7 o'clock the Dakota Jazz Club in downtown Minneapolis is already jammed with patrons.

Tonight's draw is jazz pianist and band leader Nachito Herrera. Having arrived in the Twin Cities only in 1998 and unable to speak more than a few words of English, the Cuban-born Herrera has acquired an enthusiastic following with a high-energy mixture of pyrotechnic keyboard riffs and dazzling technical proficiency.

Sitting at a table on the mezzanine level, Dakota owner Lowell Pickett looks down at the stage where Herrera, with great

flourish, introduces each member of Nachito Herrera and Friends, a 12-piece combo assembled just for this weekend from some of the area's best musicians and percussionists. Despite the standing-room-only crowd, Pickett, a beloved figure in the world of jazz, is edgy, glancing nervously toward the sound engineer and then back at the stage where Herrera has just announced the theme of tonight's show: a tribute to the 1970s funk group Earth, Wind & Fire.

Earth, Wind & Fire is a far cry from jazz. How would the Dakota's fans react?

As it turns out, Pickett has no reason to worry. Within

moments it's clear that Earth, Wind & Fire is merely a point of departure for a two-and-a-half-hour set of hot, Latin-infused jazz, punctuated by lengthy solos and dueling duets. About a half-hour into the set, the music pauses long enough for Herrera to point up toward Pickett and announce his love and gratitude to the club owner. Then he points at another figure seated at Pickett's table. "And I want to thank Laura Danielson," Herrera says. "She's a great, great lawyer and, now you know, my really good friend."

In the reflected glow of the stage lights, Danielson (J.D. '89) smiles but shakes her head slightly in mild self-depre-





cation as if to say, "Oh, I don't deserve this sort of recognition."

Her clients and colleagues disagree.

#### A DEGREE OF HUMANITY

"I've always had artists and entertainers in my life as friends and family members," Danielson says. "From the first I wanted to combine my interests in the law and foreign cultures in my work." Danielson, who helped Herrera obtain a coveted O1 visa—reserved for artists of extraordinary or unique talent—is an immigration lawyer who has made a subspecialty of representing artists and other foreign-born clients.

Consistently ranked one of the top 100 lawyers in Minnesota, the University of Minnesota Law School graduate is a partner in the prestigious Minneapolis-based Fredrikson & Byron law firm, where she heads the immigration department. "We do full service immigration law, including obtaining visas for corporations bringing in people from overseas," Danielson explains. "My specialty—though it

**"She is a genuinely decent, caring person, a great example of how professionalism is ultimately personal,"** says Mark Hunter. "She's the kind of person you want working for you."

is hardly all I do—is getting visas for artists and writers. They can be short- or long-term, so-called green cards, but even artists here on temporary visas require work permits if they are getting paid for a performance or some other kind of work."

Danielson has for the past several years also received an AV ranking—the highest possible and showing that she has reached the height of professional excellence—from the national law trade journal *Martindale-Hubbell*. Eight to 10 times a year she travels to Fredrikson's London offices, where her expertise in immigration law and marketing enables the firm to compete against much larger firms on the East and West coasts. When, as planned, Fredrikson opens an office in China's boomtown of Shanghai, she will add East Asia to her globetrotting portfolio. Meanwhile, she also finds time to co-teach a once-a-year course in immigration law at the University along with Regents Professor David Weissbrodt and attorney Sam Myers, past president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

"Laura has built her own niche," says fellow attorney Mark Hunter, who is also a longtime friend of Danielson's and former classmate at Carleton College. "At the same time, she is a genuinely decent, caring person, a great example of how professionalism is ultimately personal. She's the

kind of person you want working for you."

"She was the first lawyer we had and it was a very lucky choice," says Meena Natarajan, the executive and literary director of Minneapolis-based Pangea Theatre, which she co-founded a decade ago with her husband, Dipanker Mukherjee. When the couple decided to stay in Minnesota at the end of Mukherjee's appointment as a visiting director at the Guthrie Theater, a friend recommended contacting Danielson. In addition to helping the couple acquire visas and then permanent residency—green cards—Danielson provided reassurance that helped the two artists get through a very anxious time in any immigrant's life.

"She really brings a degree of humanity to her work," Natarajan says. "She really cares about the people she represents. There is an extraordinary amount of worry about this kind of thing—it literally dominated our lives for a couple of years. She had this way of reassuring us that everything would be OK in a way that gave us the hope we needed to keep on." One indication of Danielson's willingness to go the extra mile: As with several artist clients,

she adjusted her fees and repayment schedule to make it possible for the couple to afford her services. In the case of other artists, she has even been willing to exchange her services for works of art. And as with many of her former clients, she has gone on to form a personal friendship with Natarajan and Mukherjee, even serving on Pangea's board for a period of time.

"Laura is a very calming individual," says Jonathan Ferguson, a theater director and educator from England who specializes in the Renaissance form of theater known as *commedia d'elle arte* and has been living in the Twin Cities since last June. "She's very laid-back and helps you realize everything is going to be OK. There's a lot of anxiety associated with [applying for an O1 visa] and she sort of walked me through it. At the same time, she clearly understands the kind of theater that I do, and so I knew she would be able to make a very strong case [with the immigration authorities] that what I am doing is out of the ordinary."

#### BY MYSELF

Even before 9/11, immigration law was never the easiest or the most lucrative kind of practice, and by the mid-1990s, tough new statutes and regulations began to make it even more difficult for foreigners to get work visas or permanent residency status. In the wake of 9/11, as Mark Hunter observes, immigration law has turned into a kind of human rights advocacy.

A streak of activism, of wanting to do good and not just do well, as well as an interest in other cultures and international travel, have strong roots in Danielson's upbringing. "I grew up in a pretty liberal household," she says, adding,



"My dad's dad worked on the railroad and was a Socialist."

She was born in Elgin, Illinois. Her father, David, is a retired Lutheran minister and her mother, Joan, was an elementary school teacher who founded the first U.S. school-based infant and toddler care for the children of high school students. For much of her childhood, the family lived in DeKalb, Illinois, where her father was a campus minister at DeKalb University.

"The very first words she spoke were not 'mama' or 'papa,'" David Danielson recalls. "They were 'by myself.' She never wanted help. She always wanted to do things for herself."

In the late '60s, her father saw an ad in a mission publication for a job working with academic communities in Malaysia. Though he had no idea what that kind of work would entail—and only a hazy sense of Malaysia's location—he applied for the position.

Because of political turmoil, the job in Malaysia did not pan out and after a year in Taiwan to learn Chinese, Danielson's father was transferred to a working class district of Singapore. There he was given the job of community organizing, using the model pioneered by American activist Saul Alinsky. Such activity was illegal in Singapore, however, and after only two years the family returned to the United States. But in the meantime, Laura Danielson had acquired familiarity with Chinese language and culture and the beginning of a lifetime of interest in other cultures and peoples.

#### ADDING LAW TO THE MIX

Back in the United States, she took a degree in Chinese history and language at Carleton but also pursued artistic interests. But instead of pursuing a career in the arts—or even going off to see the world—Danielson settled down in Northfield, earning a teaching certificate from Mankato State, marrying Northfield lawyer David Hvistendahl, and going on to serve as office manager for his law practice while raising the couple's two children, Mara and Jacob. The marriage ended in 1985, but her experience managing her husband's firm gave her the confidence that she herself could succeed in taking a law degree despite being a single mother. In 1986, after receiving a high score on her LSAT, she was accepted at the University of Minnesota Law School. Her husband paid her tuition as a lump sum settlement.

"I had always wanted to go to law school," Danielson explains. "I had always had it in my mind that I would combine international law with my interest and knowledge of Chinese history, language, and culture."

"She had a real strength of character that made her believe in her ability to do what she wanted," recalls Lowell Pickett, who came to know Danielson through her ex-hus-

band, a college classmate at St. Olaf. "She came to the Twin Cities with two kids, and no real way of supporting herself, but determined to succeed." At the same time, he says, "she always had this sense of compassion. A lot of people in her circumstance might enroll in a professional school and ask 'How much money can I make?' With her, it seemed more a question of, 'How can I provide a secure career for myself and my children and utilize my intelligence and education in ways that help others?'"

"She is very generous, always eager to help, financially, mentally, physically," says Honyu Lang, an actuarial consultant with St. Paul Travelers. Lang met Danielson in Northfield when Lang was a student at St. Olaf and Danielson came to her for tutoring in Chinese. Both ended up as single mothers and when Danielson moved to the Twin Cities she invited Lang to share her house with her rent-free. At the time, Lang had a student visa but no work permit.

"She shared everything with me," Lang recalls. "She gave me money and brought presents for me to give to my son. Even now, if she has a friend who doesn't have a place to stay, she will invite them in. She has a very big heart."

#### YOU CAN'T GO BACK

At the University, Danielson's abilities and legal experience brought her to the attention of Regents Professor David Weissbrodt, who had her in a first-year tort class and later in a course on immigration law. He was impressed enough to select her to serve as the legal internal adviser at the University's International Student and Scholar Services program.

"I usually only select a student for that position once every two years," Weissbrodt explains. "But she was so good that I violated the normal routine and hired her in her second year [of law school] for a single year."

Upon graduation, Danielson continued to set her own course, setting up her own practice specializing in entertainment and immigration law in space she shared above

**"I knew she would be able to make a very strong case [with the immigration authorities] that what I am doing is out of the ordinary,"** says theater director Jonathan Ferguson.

the New French Café in downtown Minneapolis with John Rote, an attorney she'd met through Pickett.

"I went into practice myself because there were no firms in the Twin Cities that would embrace what I wanted to do," she explains. "I had to stay here because of my kids. There were small boutique firms where I could have done immigration law, but no openings at large firms—and they would





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**“We really need immigrants in this country,”** says Laura Danielson. “Economically we really need them, not to mention the ways in which they enrich our culture.”

have placed me wherever they wanted. But I was too old for that. It was really hard. I was living on nothing.”

Things were lean at first. Danielson took out a loan to build out her share of the office and got an old desk and computer from a lawyer friend whom she paid back by clerking for him. Rote referred entertainment clients to her and Weissbrodt sent immigrant cases her way, but it wasn't enough to cover expenses. She maxed out her credit cards and saved money by parking in a space she shared with Pickett. Her mother went back to work in order to help purchase a small house for her; Danielson paid her back with monthly rent checks.

A few months later, she and her second husband, sculptor Jim Larson—the couple divorced after a couple of years of marriage—bought a small house in Minnetonka and set about renovating and expanding it, but the wolf was never far from the door. Her first month in business she billed \$120, doubled that the next month, and slowly but steadily increased her income. Still, it took five years before she was earning what she had at her ex-husband's law firm. “Many nights I lay awake wondering if I had made the worst mistake of my life [going into private practice],” she recalls. “But it was what I wanted to do, and you can't go back.”

Danielson continued in her own practice for the next several years. Then she formed a small partnership, moved on to a firm that specializes in intellectual property law, decided she had to narrow her focus to immigration law with a subspecialty in representing artists and entertainers, took herself and her staff to another firm, and finally joined Fredrikson & Byron. As head

of the firm's newly created immigration law department, she manages a staff of three lawyers and five paralegals.

#### THE CULTURE OF NO

Danielson happened to be in Tokyo attending an international art conference with Julie Voight, the performing arts curator at Walker Art Center, when the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked five years ago. The implications of the attacks on her work were not lost on her. “We just sat on the bed and watched in shock,” she recalls. “I realized that this was going to change the face of everything.”

She returned to find many of her Muslim clients facing FBI interrogations, seizure of property, and other difficulties. One of the worst cases involved a Somali client who operated a money-wiring service. Shortly after 9/11, FBI agents raided the owner's house, ransacking personal belongings, seizing assets and records, and trashing the premises. The owner was never charged with anything but it took more than two years to recover his assets and in the meantime, he was effectively put out of business. In another case, a Muslim imam had to wait five years before his green card was approved by immigration services, during which time he could not leave the United States to see his family for fear that he would not be allowed back in.

“There was no reason for the five-year gap,” Danielson argues. “But he was effectively stuck here. Many people wouldn't put up with that. They would simply leave—and many have.”

In the wake of the 2001 attacks and the epidemic of fear that gripped the nation, things got so tense that there were even high-level talks at Fredrikson & Byron over whether the firm



wanted to stay in immigration law at all. But, Danielson says, "The firm really stood behind us. It was a very big moment for [Fredrickson & Byron] to decide what we stand for." Though the firm received advice that doing so might ruin it, a decision was made: Fredrickson & Byron would remain in immigration. "It was a personal crossroads for me. If the decision had gone the other way, I would probably have had to leave."

Despite the firm's decision, things have not been easy. The immigration services have developed what Danielson calls "a culture of no," with a growing backlog of cases awaiting adjudication as more and more resources have been funneled into enforcement—hiring border agents and tracking down immigrants with expired visas rather than processing applications for new immigrants.

"The pendulum for immigration has swung back and forth many times," Danielson says. "Right now, the combination of fear of terrorists as well as the unwarranted perception that immigrants somehow are costing America money, has caused the pendulum to swing pretty far to one extreme," even though, as she argues, "We really need immigrants in this country. Economically we really need them, not to mention the ways in which they enrich our culture."

Still, the culture of no appears firmly in place. Not that this is going to stop people from wanting to come to the United States for economic, political, and artistic reasons.

"Even with all the things that have happened, there are still many people trying to immigrate [to the United States], but the need far outweighs the opportunities," Danielson says.

"Until they raise the quota on visas," she continues, "our business will not grow. Right now, there are many, many people we simply have to turn away. We keep their names on a list and maybe someday we'll be able to help them." ■

*Richard Broderick is a St. Paul-based writer.*

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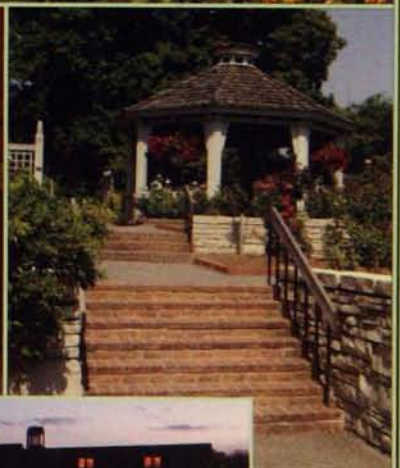
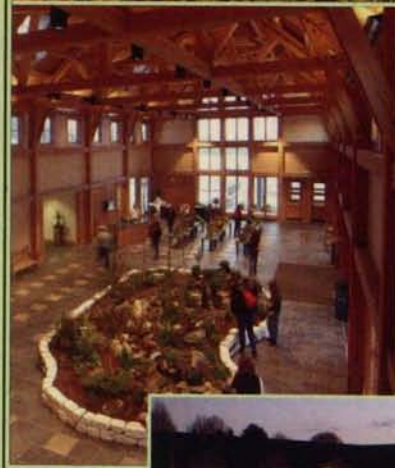


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The unassuming statue unveiled 100 years ago on campus this Memorial Day continues to stand tall for the University students who rushed to serve in the Spanish-American War.

# THE STORY BEHIND “Iron Mike”

BY TIM BRADY



A photograph of the Student Soldier Memorial, as pictured in the *Gopher*.

**O**n Memorial Day 1906, a large crowd gathered on the grounds opposite the University of Minnesota's Armory, on land now occupied by the Bell Museum. They'd come for the unveiling of a sculpture dedicated to the U of M students who'd served in the Spanish-American War.

On hand to offer speeches for the occasion were former governor Samuel Van Sant, current governor John Johnson, University President Cyrus Northrop and professor Arthur E. Haynes. Haynes was the driving force behind the creation of this monument, donating the first \$10 toward its completion and serving as chairman of the committee that raised the remaining funds.

Also on hand was the sculptor herself, a 35-year-old Boston woman named Theo Alice Ruggles-Kitson, who had already built a reputation as perhaps the nation's foremost creator of military monuments in a career that would stretch well into the 20th century. As a woman, working in a field composed almost entirely of men, Ruggles-Kitson had nonetheless thrived in her labors, winning numerous contracts for her heroic depictions of Revolutionary War era, Civil War, and now Spanish-American War soldiers. As she was introduced to the crowd, there was heard "a lusty Ski-U-Mah" from the assembled students on the grounds, according to the next day's *Minneapolis Journal*, which reported that a similar cheer had been given to Professor Haynes.

Shortly after 10 o'clock that morning, after a brief musical introduction by the University's cadet band and a song from a group called the Euterpean Club, "little Richard



Pillsbury Gale," the grandson of yet another Minnesota governor (John Pillsbury), was given the honor of pulling the drapes from the statue. As buglers played reveille and the cadet artillery corps fired off a salute, the sculpture of an American soldier, circa 1898, was unveiled.

Set upon a six-foot-high granite pedestal, the soldier was himself a nine-foot-tall iron goliath. Dressed in khakis and wearing a slouch hat above an open-collared shirt with rolled-up sleeves, he was posed with his feet flat on the ground and his hips slightly cocked. His left boot inched forward of his right, as if he were taking a momentary break from a slog through the jungles of the Philippines. A rifle rested in muscular arms across his thighs, with a cartridge belt on his hips, and pack set against the small of his back, adding to the impression of a soldier pausing in the midst of some sort of reconnaissance.

Veterans of the Spanish-American War called themselves "hikers," in the same way that World War I vets were "doughboys" and World War II vets were "G.I. Joes." In fact, this statue, which would subsequently be recast more than 50 times and wind up in town squares and cemeteries across the nation, was given the name "The Hiker" in almost all of these locales, including at Arlington National Cemetery, where the monument was dedicated under that name in 1965.

Here on the University of Minnesota campus, where the very first casting of Theo Ruggles-Kitson's statue was unveiled on that Memorial Day in 1906, the monument was called the *Student Soldier Memorial*; though over the years, it has become popularly known among U of M students as "Iron Mike." Whatever its name, the sculpture memorializes the 218 University students who served in the war against Spain, including the nine who died in the conflict.

**T**he Spanish-American War came to the U of M campus in the same way that World Wars I and II would arrive: with a wave of patriotic fervor and a rush of young men to the enlistment rolls.

Conflict between Spain and the United States had been simmering for many months prior to February 1898, when



### The Soldiers' Monument



PROFESSOR A. H. HAYNES

A "great, stone face," the story goes, once molded the life of a man. We of Minnesota are privileged to look every day upon a great face and figure of bronze. The beard in the stillness of metal, it seems to live. The veins are bulging with blood, the muscles are tense for action, and on the face is written "Will!"

The sculptor of the Soldiers' Monument is Mrs. Theo A. Ruggles-Kitson. To her art we are indebted for such a true portrayal of Minnesota Manhood. To her generosity we are beholden for the fact that the statue is actually worth more than twice the sum that was paid for it.

But how came this image of great meaning to our campus? Is it the "benevolence" of a tainted money magnate? We are glad that it is not. With all that it stands for, a memorial to the soldier dead and the image of an ideal for those who live, it is, furthermore, a monument to five disheartening years of effort, patience and devotion on the part of a single man. That man is Arthur E. Haynes.

The Soldiers' Monument, unveiled on May 30, 1906, is a memorial to the student soldiers of Minnesota University who died in the Spanish-American War. There are nine of them:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| C. F. Peppers Colburn,<br>Co. B, 13th Min., Vol. Inf.        | August Foss,<br>Capt. Co. H, 2nd Inf.<br>U. S. Vol. Corp. | Schuyler Pratt,<br>Co. A, 13th Min.                                   |
| Harry Laska Currier,<br>Corp. Co. A, 13th Min.,<br>Vol. Inf. | T. P. A. Hanson,<br>1st Sergeant                          | 1st Lieut. Co. M, 7th Min.,<br>Vol. Infantry                          |
| George Howard Edwards,<br>Quartermaster Sergeant             | L. J. Olin McClain,<br>3rd Sergeant U. S. Army            | Frederick O. Smith,<br>Sergeant, Co. M, 13th Min.,<br>U. S. Vol. Inf. |

**Top: Sculptor Theo Alice Ruggles-Kitson created the Student Soldier Memorial for the University of Minnesota.**

**Bottom: Professor Arthur Haynes was the driving force behind building a memorial statue.**

the U.S. battleship *Maine* was blown up in Havana harbor—by whom and how remains a debatable matter. What was important was that the United States, feeling its muscle and long tired of a Spanish presence in its spheres of influence, decided that the time was right to free Cuba of its oppressive colonial master. Spain was blamed for the destruction of the *Maine*, and by April, the United States had declared war. By April 23, the U of M student newspaper the *Ariel* was printing notice of a mass meeting at the Armory "for the purpose of considering plans for organizing a provisional battalion of volunteers from the University of Minnesota to be used in the service of the United States government against Spain."

Very few Americans anticipated a lengthy conflict. U.S. Secretary of State John Hay would later write that what the nation had needed at the time was "a splendid little war" to prove its rank in the imperial powers of the world. Spain, a weakening power, with a weakening hold on distant colonies, was a perfect foil.

From the very beginning, one of the chief concerns of U of M volunteers was that they might miss out on the action. Most of the initial student recruits wound up in the Minnesota 13th, a regiment that was organized and shipped to San Francisco before the month of May was through. Their final destination was to be Manila in the Philippines, another Spanish colony within the sphere of American's expanding influence and the second front in the war against Spain. But of course the Philippines were on the other side of the wide Pacific

Ocean. Would the Minnesota 13th even get a chance to fight after sailing halfway around the world?

"If blood tells and good looks go for anything, the men of Minnesota should be heard from in Manila," wrote a U of M student named Harry Currier from the 13th's station in California. "That the Government expects well of them is proven by the fact that orders have been received to send them with the first Manila expedition," Currier wrote for the *Ariel*. "The Minnesota boys are magnificent. They are giants in stature, with fine clean-cut limbs and strong determined faces."

A few weeks later, as they shipped from San Francisco to Manila, by way of Hawaii, those "magnificent" Minnesota



boys were not looking quite so virile. Few of them had ever been at sea or knew its ignominies. "We had no idea a ship could roll so," wrote correspondent Currier. "The deck was often as steep as the roof of a house. . . . Long before we lost sight of land a good many of the boys had lost all interest in the scenery."

On July 5, the fleet containing the Minnesota 13th reached Honolulu, where the Minnesota boys were entertained not only by the natives, but by a Minnesota transplant named E.O. Hall and his lovely daughter Charlotte, who had attended the U from 1894 to 1896. She'd pledged Kappa Alpha Theta, according to Currier. Hall was a wealthy hardware dealer with one of the most beautiful homes in the city.

The most arresting moment in their stop, however, came at their arrival in Honolulu, when the Minnesota troops were greeted at the dock by crowds of native boys who dove for the pennies the soldiers flipped into the clear blue sea. To keep their hands free for their descents, the boys would put the captured coins in their mouths so that some "had their cheeks so full of pennies, that they looked like some new kind of pocket gopher."

The idyll of the 13th in Hawaii was brief. By July 8, the regiment was once again at sea, heading across the Pacific for the Philippines, where it arrived on July 31 to curiously disappointing news. There in Manila Bay, the boys from the U of M learned that Admiral Dewey had already destroyed the Spanish fleet two months earlier, in these same waters. In addition, the 13th heard that Santiago, Cuba, had fallen while they were at sea. The war was essentially over before they'd touched land.

The Spanish still had a tenuous hold on the city of Manila, but their principal concern seemed to be with Filipino insurgents, whom they had been fighting before the arrival of the Americans. Each night, Currier wrote, the men in the 13th could hear the Spanish lobbing shells at the guerrillas in the jungles surrounding the city.

The Americans continued to wonder if there would be anyone left to fight, after all these miles of travel: 2,100 miles from Minneapolis to San Francisco, 2,100 miles from San Francisco to Honolulu, 4,918 miles from Hono-



**Top: University student soldiers played games aboard ship en route to the Philippines.**

**Bottom: The front page of the *Ariel* carried photos of four University students who died in the Philippines, including Harry Currier, upper left, and Sidney Pratt, lower left.**

lulu to Manila. A total of 9,118 miles from home. "Before this reaches you," Currier wrote to the editors of the *Ariel* on August 4, "the war may be over and we on our way home. If we remain here, however, I shall endeavor to tell in another letter something of the climate, people, and customs of the Philippines. I may note here that the weather so far, while it has been very rainy, has been quite cool and comfortable. The troops who came on the first expedition say that they have not suffered from the climate, except that it is very wet and muddy."

These were the last words of Currier's that the *Ariel* would ever publish. A week later, the newspaper sadly announced that it had received word of his death by typhoid fever in Manila. Harry Currier had been a junior from River Falls, Wisconsin, studying mining. "He was one of the popular men of the college," the paper added, "being of a genial, frank disposition and always ready for any fun or sport that might be going."

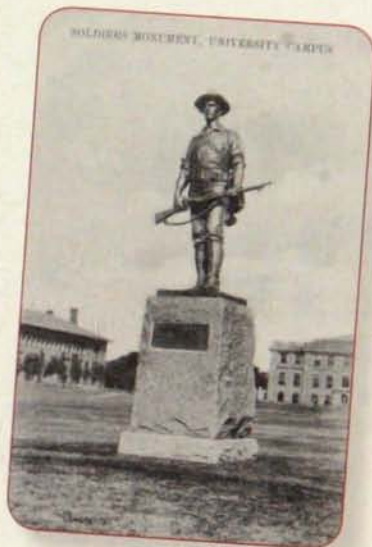
Currier's death was one of four announced that week in the *Ariel*, including that of Sidney Pratt, who was the son of the mayor of Minneapolis. All had died of tropical disease. All had been members of the Minnesota 13th. All had made that long journey from the University of Minnesota Armory to the Philippines in the service of their country.

Meanwhile, Manila fell without much of a fight. American troops

occupied Spanish barracks, and Spanish troops were imprisoned within the walls of the city. Members of the Minnesota 13th were assigned police duty in the city and that would remain their principal role for the months to come. The Spanish were no longer a power on the islands, but the occupation of the Philippines would turn messy for the United States. In the years to come, American troops found themselves assuming one of the roles the Spanish had had in the islands—fighting the insurgency of Filipino guerillas.

**A**s fall turned into winter, and winter turned into the spring of 1899, back on the University of Minnesota campus, Professor Arthur Haynes began his campaign to honor the young students who had volunteered for service—and who were still serving 9,118 miles from home. He





"Iron Mike" was a popular University postcard image.

first suggested that a commemorative medal be sent to each U of M soldier, and then he proposed a monument.

In the Philippines, the soldiers were grateful for the medals and thankful for the thoughts and prayers. But a year past the beginning of the war, the Minnesota 13th had had enough. In April 1899, the *Ariel* printed a letter from another former U of M student, named Frank Force, who was serving in the Philippines. "From time to time we read in the papers that the troops are contented in Manila. This is not true, never has been true, and is written by some unscrupulous officer who has not the interests of his men at heart. The boys want to come home," he wrote.

By the end of the summer, that was just what happened. Though an American force would remain in the Philippines for years to come, the 13th was headed home and Frank Force was soon back in Minneapolis, where he wound up as a reporter for *The Minneapolis Journal*.

In the meantime, Arthur Haynes continued his campaign to honor the U of M students who'd served in the conflict. By 1904, he and his committee had raised sufficient funds to commission the work of Theo Ruggles-Kitson, and the *Student Soldier Memorial* began to take shape.

Years after its unveiling, when the Bell Museum was built in the 1930s, "Iron Mike" was moved across the street to its current location in front of the Armory. There it continues to honor the "Hikers" of the Spanish-American War, and those, like Harry Currier, who never slogged through a Philippine jungle but nonetheless gave their all to their country.

Curiously enough, the statue has served another function through the years—a scientific and environmental

purpose. Because "The Hiker" statues are so numerous, and spread so widely across the United States, they have been the subject of a National Park Service study that records the various levels of corrosion caused by acid rain in different regions of the nation. "Iron Mike" remains an ever-vigilant soldier, still slogging, in his own fashion, for the good of his country. ■

*Tim Brady is a St. Paul writer and frequent contributor to Minnesota.*

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# Seniors Who Shine

**Hard work, perseverance, and commitment are a way of life for the student athlete. Here are four Gopher seniors whose careers exemplify excellence in the classroom and on the field of play.** Photographs by Dan Marshall

## { Adam Mitchell }

*Drawing on Success*

G

**ive Adam Mitchell a goal**, and he'll figure out how to achieve it. Sure, it sounds simple. But if it really were, lots of people would be breaking swimming records and drawing high-rise condos in architecture school, like Mitchell does. For the senior from Des Moines, Iowa, dedication makes the difference.

"I'll put my mind to something and work at it until I get a solution that fits my design," Mitchell says. "I set small goals that get progressively larger."

Mitchell's designs all reflect his signature—and successful—strategy of hard work. The proof: Mitchell capped his college career at the NCAA meet in March, earning an impressive 10th all-American honor. In February, he swam on the 4 x 100 meter relay team that won the Big Ten title and set a conference record. At the same meet, Mitchell also became the new owner of the University of Minnesota record in the 200 individual medley (IM). It had been the oldest swimming record on the Minnesota books.

Success in the IM has required Mitchell to become accomplished in the butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. Since he trains to perfect all the strokes, Mitchell is able to compete in nearly every other race in a swim meet. According to Gophers coach Dennis Dale, Mitchell is always up for the challenge.

"Adam can do a lot of different things. He can do a lot of things well. The team always knows if we need someone to do something really spectacular, we call on Mitch," Dale says.

Mitchell is versatile enough to master pencil strokes as well as swimming strokes. He maintains better than a B average while pursuing a degree in architecture, a demanding course of study. It's something he loves as much as swimming.

"I knew when Adam got admitted to the school of architecture," recalled Dale. "He had this big grin on his face.

He was beaming. He was as happy as he was about winning any race."

Swimming and architecture have been twin passions for Mitchell for most of his life. He's been swimming competitively since he was seven. He started designing structures a few years later.

"As a little kid, we were constantly building tree houses," he says. "They were very elaborate tree houses. I developed a passion for design. Some of my friends liked to build stuff. I was the one who said, 'This tree here, it's going to be like this.'"

When it was time to choose a college, he also had a very clear plan. He wanted a place where he could pursue both his interests. "The school had to have a good swimming program and a very good architecture program," Mitchell says.

Although he led his high school team to three state championships, big schools weren't knocking down Mitchell's











door. Lanky and lean, the kid with the curly mop of hair didn't look much like the muscular powerhouses that drew the attention of recruiters.

The Gophers offered him a small scholarship. He made the traveling team as a freshman and then exploded onto the collegiate scene as a sophomore, finishing seventh at the NCAA meet in both the 200 and 400 IM.

Although he's put on 20 pounds of muscle during his collegiate swimming, Mitchell is still a "rail," according to his coach.

"My metabolic rate is very high," says Mitchell, who once spent an hour eating a huge steak one night after a tough workout. "It's hard for me to gain muscle. I'd consume 5,000

to 6,000 calories a day sometimes. I need to eat so much. Sometimes I wish I could just sit out a meal."

Now that his swimming career at the University is complete, Mitchell plans to focus on completing his degree. He has come to appreciate a wide range of architectural styles around the Twin Cities. He likes elements of the St. Paul Cathedral. And the IDS Tower. But what he likes even more is gathering ideas for his own creative plans.

"I'm always thinking of things I can use in my designs, how I can put it together. It's like training," Mitchell says, confident that he can build his future by drawing on the success he achieved in his swimming career.

—Robyn Dochterman

## { Nischela Reddy }

### Net Gains

**T**he strings of a typical tennis player's racket wear out fastest around the circumference. The strings of Gopher senior captain Nischela Reddy's racket fray first in the middle, right in the sweet spot. "She's a clean ball striker," Gopher women's coach Tyler Thomson says. "She has such good balance. She always seems to be still when she's swinging at the ball."

That balance is evident in more than her racket. Reddy maintains her even-keeled approach on the court not only as captain of the Gopher tennis team, but also as a marketing major in the Carlson School of Management, and as an international student from Hyderabad, India, with family scattered around the globe.

During her four years in Minnesota, Reddy has emerged as a nationally ranked tennis player while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. She was named to both the 2005 all-Big Ten team and academic all-Big Ten team and earned conference player of the week honors early this season.

Balancing academics and athletics can be challenging, but Reddy makes it seem simple. "It sounds so clichéd, but I think it's just priorities," Reddy says. "You figure out what's important to you, and you do those things."

Ever since a friend convinced her to play tennis at age 7, the sport has been a priority for Reddy. It's what drew her to the United States and to Minnesota for college. In India, where universities don't sponsor competitive sports teams, she would have been forced to choose between tennis and college.

Four years ago, Reddy's parents dropped her off at the

Baseline Tennis Center, the home of Gopher tennis, and, crying, asked Thomson to take good care of her. When they return this year to watch their daughter as a collegiate player for the first time, they'll see how she has thrived, both on and off the court: She has a chance at qualifying for the NCAA tournament as Minnesota's No. 1 player, and she has adapted to on-the-go American culture so well that she plans to stay in the United States after her December 2006 graduation to pursue a career in marketing. "Schoolwork is simple: You go to class, do the work," says Reddy, who studies with her teammates in airports and hotels during road trips. "Tennis is more challenging. You have to deal with a lot of other factors: stress, fatigue, issues with confidence."

On the court, Reddy has improved her offense and her ability to finish points at the net. She's even learned to drop her even-keeled approach occasionally and portray a bit of intensity.

As she gains momentum in a recent match against Maria Klokozky of Louisville, coming back from a 1-6 loss in the first game, her poker face begins to melt. She pumps her fist and shouts "C'mon!"

She eventually wins by a tie-breaker.

As a freshman, she says, she might have mustered a barely audible "yay."

"It's definitely an attribute, not to let her emotions get the better of her," says Thomson. "But we've encouraged her to allow herself to get more excited and celebrate good shots."

That's come easily, as each match brings the end of the season closer. It's a bittersweet time for Reddy, ending her collegiate athletic career even as she looks forward to starting on the road to professional excellence. Still, she can't help wanting to turn back time on her tennis career. "I don't want it to be over," she says. "I wish I were a sophomore."



Although her final semester will be strange without tennis, Reddy is looking forward to being able to concentrate solely on academics. Finding a company that will sponsor her work visa will make job-hunting more challenging, she knows, but she plans on leaping that hurdle with her usual vigor. In her spare time, she's busily applying for summer internships. Eventually, after landing her first job—possibly in brand management, preferably in athletics—she plans on applying to graduate school to get her M.B.A. in marketing.

"I'll be able to focus on it a lot more next semester," she says. Just what you'd expect from someone with such a finely tuned sense of balance.

—Sheila Mulrooney Eldred

## Gino Guyer

*All Business*

**O**ne of Gino Guyer's earliest memories is of the backyard ice skating rink at his Coleraine, Minnesota, home that his father created each winter using a garden hose. "It wasn't a big rink," Guyer recalls. "But it was enough for me to have fun, to go out and enjoy myself."

Twenty years later, Guyer has grown accustomed to skating in much bigger venues—like Mariucci Arena and Xcel Energy Center—as a member of the University of Minnesota men's hockey team. As captain of the team this past year, he led the top-ranked Gophers to a 27–9–5 season and a first-place finish in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association. But he still traces his love of the game back to a family that instilled in him, on the patch of ice in his backyard, a simple and profound love for the sport.

Hockey, he explains, "is a family thing. My dad was a hockey player growing up. All his brothers did it. His dad did it. Everyone played hockey."

It was no surprise, then, when Guyer put on skates for the first time at the age of 2—or when he announced to his family, in elementary school, that he planned to become a successful Division I hockey player.

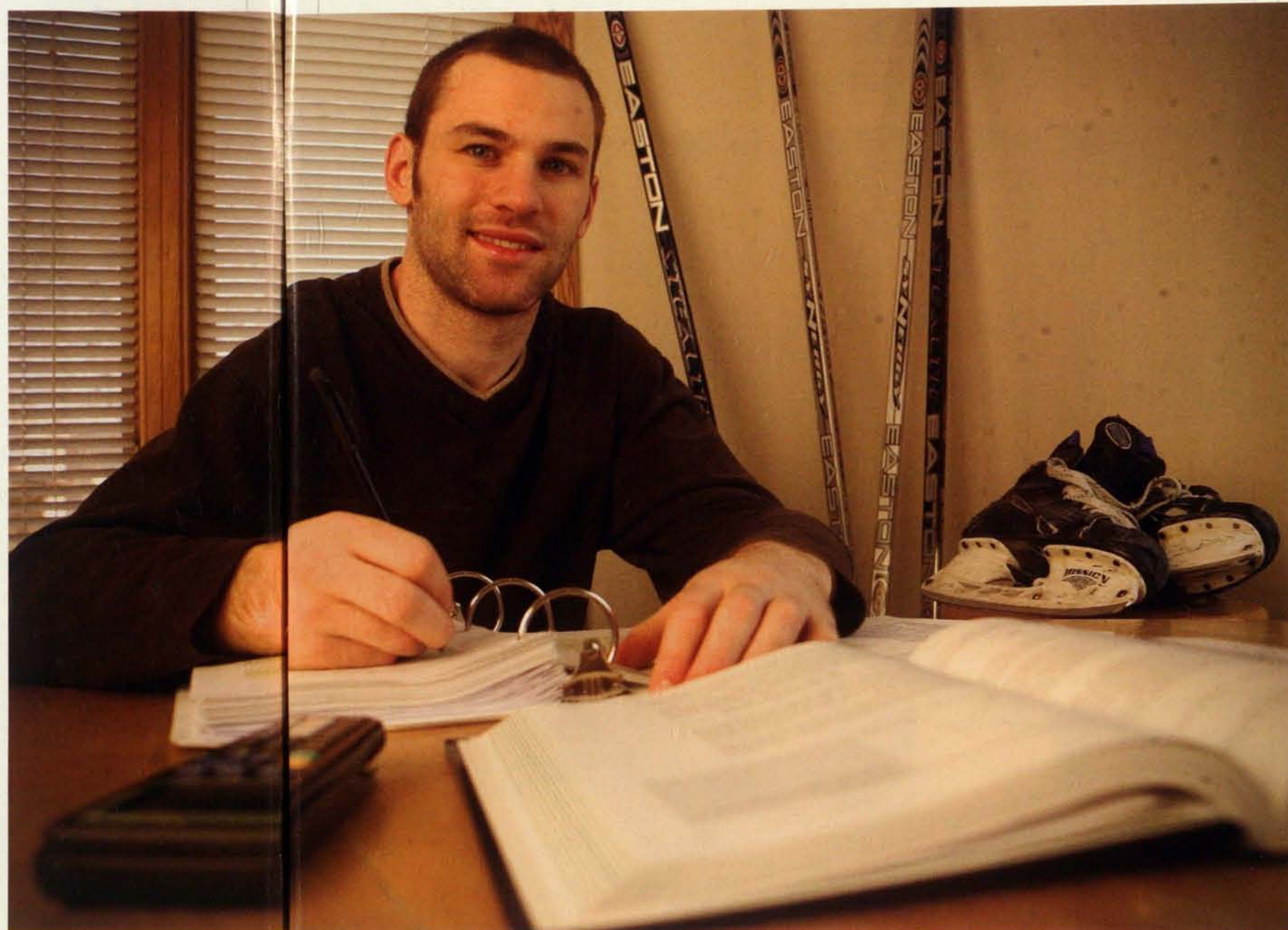
His father, Pat, was supportive but not pushy. "My dad always told me two things: Make sure you always have fun, and work hard. If you're not doing one of the two, then you shouldn't be playing at all."

It's advice that Guyer has put to use in the classroom as well as on the ice. The finance major graduated salutatorian of his high school class and was named a scholar athlete each of his four years at the University, an honor given to students who maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above while earning a varsity letter.

Courses in business that Guyer took as a high school senior showed him that finance could be fun, if unpredictable. "We had some projects where you had to manage a stock portfolio. I did really well on it and it got me hooked, thinking, 'Hey, this could be easy money,'" he laughs. "I soon found out that it's a little bit more difficult than that."

Fortunately, though, Guyer's success in both hockey and finance has depended more on his attitude and effort than on fickle market forces.

Guyer's work ethic was noticeable from day one, says Gopher head coach Don Lucia. What has changed, though, is Guyer's ease with fast-paced city life. "I think he's more



worldly today than he was four years ago," Lucia says. "He's more mature, not quite so naïve," says Lucia.

It was an adjustment, Guyer admits, coming from an Iron Range town with a population of just over 1,000. Balancing school and hockey proved challenging, as did adjusting to classes with enrollments larger than that of his entire high school. Even the traffic during rush hour was new.

Mandatory study hall hours and assistance from the academic counseling unit and student services, required of all incoming athletes, helped him learn how to balance schoolwork and hockey, he says. Close friendships with teammates, forged in off-hours video game marathons, made the University seem less imposing.

With graduation this spring, Guyer is looking toward the future. He eventually hopes to enter the business world full time in the Twin Cities, perhaps working in as a manager of investment portfolios. But not just yet.

"I'm going to delay it for a little while and see if I can make a decent living playing hockey," he says. Guyer hopes to spend some time playing in the American Hockey League, which will give him the opportunity to prove himself to talent scouts for teams in the NHL. "My goal is to be in the NHL someday. Nothing is written in stone. It's a long ways off and takes a lot of hard work and dedication," he says. "That's something I'm willing to do."

—Danny LaChance





## Laura Johnson

*Making an Impact*

**L**aura Johnson was an active child. Too active, maybe. “My parents enrolled me in a gymnastics class when I was 4 because they were going crazy with me,” she says. “I was bouncing off the walls.” Gymnastics proved to be the perfect sport for Johnson to harness her energy. Compact and powerful, she had a gymnast’s body. Aggressive and driven, she had a competitor’s mind. Disciplined and focused, she had the ability to balance gymnastics and school. And with an extended family that included several scholarship athletes, success may have been in her genes.

Sheer physical strength also gave Johnson a distinct advantage over nearly everyone—including boys—in gym class. “I was the one in junior high doing 25 chin-ups when everyone else was doing two,” she recalls. By high school, she was fielding offers from Division I schools across the country.

Though she would be far from her New Mexico home, she chose Minnesota for its coaches and academics. She didn’t worry about the transition to college-level gymnastics and schoolwork. “I’ve done gymnastics my entire academic life. Since I can remember, it’s been school, practice, homework, bed,” she says. That schedule continued at Minnesota, where she has excelled in competition and in the classroom. Johnson will graduate with a degree in journalism and plans to pursue a career in public relations. She found a role model in lecturer David Kistle, who taught Cases in Strategic Planning and Thinking.

“He inspired me because he worked full time, which included constant traveling to places like Africa, and taught my class,” she says. “I always thought I had a busy schedule until I met him. He helped me realize that you can always make time for things you truly want to do.” Johnson has managed that with aplomb. She earned academic all-Big Ten honors each of the last three years, and this year was named Big Ten Gymnast of the Year.

“Laura was a born gymnast,” says Jim Stephenson, head co-coach with his wife, Meg. “She’s quick and she’s got great awareness—things a coach can’t affect. A coach can only take those things and guide them.” Since her freshman year, Johnson has been a consistent and impressive performer in each event—vault, bars, beam, and floor. She has earned all-Big Ten first team honors since her sophomore year, and represented Minnesota at the NCAA Championships this year and in 2005. And in a sport where one bad landing can mean the end of the season—or even a career—she has been durable enough to compete in every single meet.

Still, no matter how many top scores she turns in, her greatest achievement won’t be found in the record books, according to Stephenson. “She’s an example to literally thousands of young girls who are involved in gymnastics,” he says. “About 2,000 people come to our home competitions, and most of them are young girls who are involved in clubs. I think she’s done a lot for the gymnastics community around the state.”

With nearly two decades of gymnastics practice and performance behind her, Johnson says it will be hard to give up the sport when she graduates this year—though she’s happy to leave behind the aches and pains that come from a lifetime of participating in the high-impact activity. “Now that I’m old, I can’t take as much of a beating as I could when I was younger,” she says ruefully, sounding as though her AARP membership is imminent. “I just have to listen to my body.”

Before Johnson settles down into the work world, though, she may head to Europe. A few months of carefree travel may be exactly what she needs before she vaults into her post-collegiate career.

—Erin Peterson



# Sports Notebook

## Gopher sports news and notes

BY CYNTHIA SCOTT

**I**t was a memorable winter sports season, with the good, the bad, and the bewildering. First the good:

Two Gopher wrestlers and a runner brought home NCAA individual national titles. In **wrestling**, junior heavyweight Cole Konrad put together a Herculean finish to go undefeated for the season and capture the national title in double overtime against Steve Mocco of Oklahoma State. The victory came nearly a year to the day that Mocco defeated Konrad in overtime for the 2005 crown. Freshman Dustin Schlatter finished the best freshman wrestling season in school history with a win over Iowa's Ty Eustice at 157 pounds. Schlatter finished the season at 42-1. As a team, the Gophers finished second to Oklahoma State, which won its fourth straight NCAA title.

Heather Dorniden, a freshman, claimed the national title in the 800-meter indoor run. She is the University's first **women's track and field** athlete to win a national crown.

**Women's swimming and diving** co-head coaches Kelly Kremer and Terry Nieszner made waves by being named Big Ten Coaches of the Year in only their second season at the helm. The team finished a close second to Penn State at the Big Ten championships.

The Gopher women's **gymnastics** team, led by conference Gymnast of the Year Laura Johnson, snapped Michigan's seven-year title streak and brought home the Big Ten team title for the first time since 1998. The Gophers are the only team to defeat Michigan in the Big Ten championships in the past 14 years. The men's gymnastics team earned a bid to the 2006 national championships as the No. 10 seed. The team has competed in the championship every season since 1975.

The Gopher **women's hockey** team made it to the NCAA title game for the third straight year but lost 3-0 to Wisconsin in front of 4,701 fans at Mariucci Arena.

**>>> The bad:** The top-seeded Gopher **men's hockey** team suffered a shocking 4-3 overtime loss to No. 4 seed Holy Cross in the semifinals of the 2006 NCAA West Regional. The Gophers finished the season on a three-game skid; a week before the Holy Cross loss, they dropped an 8-7 heartbreaker in overtime to St. Cloud State in the semifinal of the WCHA Final Five, and suffered a 4-0 shutout in the third-place game.

**>>> And the bewildering:** The Gopher **women's basketball** team endured plenty of frustration on the court this season, beginning 17-4 and then losing six of the final eight games. But the real stinger came after the season ended, when five players quit the team in a one-week span. Sophomores Lauren Lacey



Dustin Schlatter



Heather Dorniden

and Brittney Davis were the first to go, followed by top forward Jamie Broback, up-and-coming sophomore forward Natasha Williams, and junior Liz Podominick, a veteran post player who was expected to contend for a starting spot next season. Podominick's departure was anticipated—she's an elite thrower on the track and field team and will concentrate on making the 2008 Olympic team—but the other defections were unexpected. Athletics Director Joel Maturi was steadfast in his support of coach Pam Borton, and said his annual routine review of the program would include a closer look at players' concerns. Combined with the graduation of six seniors, the losses add up to a major challenge going into next season.

The Gopher **men's basketball** team finished the Big Ten season a dismal 5-11, but the team's lackluster show-

ing was surpassed by the poor performance of Twin Cities media following the Gophers' final loss of the season. Newspapers and other outlets, picking up on Internet rumors, widely—and incorrectly—reported that Maturi had decided to fire coach Dan Monson. The reports caught both men off guard and necessitated some quick reassurances to players, their families, fans, and, presumably, recruits. "You have empathy for the people besides you that it affects," Monson told the *Minnesota Daily*. "[I]t really makes you reflective on how many people your job impacts and what the responsibility for this job is." ■

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

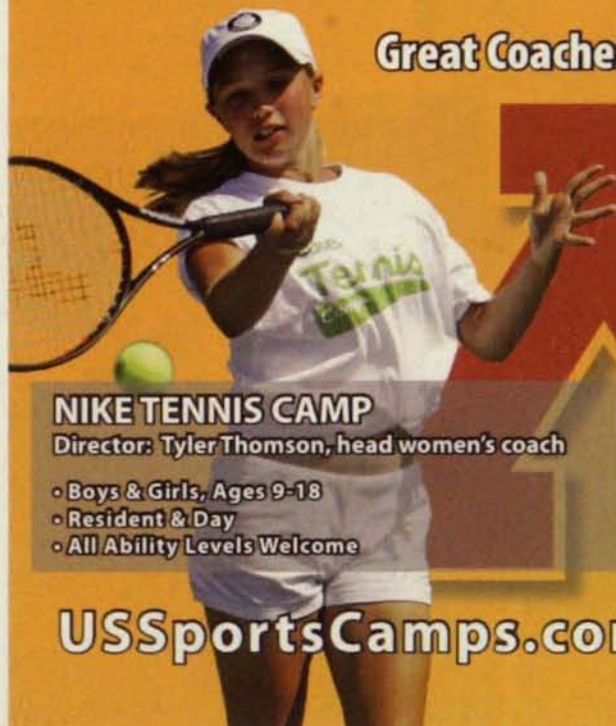


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## { Member Spotlight } Roberta Hunt

### Hungary Mind

**R**oberta Hunt (B.A. '86, Ph.D. '04), always wanted to spend time in another country, not just as a visitor, but genuinely immersed in the culture. "At this point in our country, it seems so obvious that we really need to have friendships between nations," she says. Last year, her wish came true when she was awarded a Fulbright scholar grant to teach community health nursing for six months at Semmelweis University in Budapest. "It was an indescribably wonderful experience. I really miss being there," says Hunt, who hopes to return to do more teaching in the future.

Hunt applied for the Fulbright after learning that the school was in need of someone with her expertise. She was already somewhat familiar with Semmelweis because, years earlier, the school had asked that a textbook she wrote, *Introduction to Community-Based Nursing*, be translated into Hungarian. Today, an updated version of the book is still one of the primary texts used by nursing students there.

In many ways, Hunt says, teaching at Semmelweis was similar to teaching at the College of St. Catherine, where she has taught community-based nursing courses since 1996. "Students were pretty much the same," she says, laughing. "You know, they all wore Western-style clothes and ate and drank during class just like students here do."

But there was one big difference. In Hungary, as in much of the European Union, health care focuses more on preventing illness rather than only caring for people once they become ill. It's an approach born both of necessity and ideology. For example, Hunt explains, Hungary doesn't have a lot of high-tech equipment, so nurses do a lot of hands-on work, like visiting pregnant women regularly in their homes before and after they have their babies. "They believe in the philosophy



Roberta Hunt

of keeping people well and I'm also very drawn to that," Hunt says. "In many ways, that's what being a community health nurse is all about."

Hunt was accompanied on her trip to Budapest by her husband, Tim Heaney (J.D. '72). While Hunt spent her days



at Semmelweis, Heaney worked as a volunteer teaching English to high school students. During their off hours, the two explored the countryside, visiting with locals about what it's been like to live in a country that has gone through so much change in a handful of decades. "It was so inspiring to hear their stories," Hunt says. "People told us what it was like to live in Hungary after World War

**"I came home feeling hopeful about the world and, with all that's going on right now, that's not always an easy thing to do."**

II. They described how they lived under Communism and how their country changed as it has moved toward a more market-oriented system. They've been through so much and yet they were very, very positive. I came home feeling hopeful about the world and, with all that's going on right now, that's not always an easy thing to do."

Now that Heaney is retired from practicing law, the couple devotes more time to making their own positive contributions to the world. In 2002, they traveled to Romania to volunteer with an organization that helps abandoned infants. Recently, Heaney spent time in Tanzania teaching English to teenagers. Hunt's rich experience in Hungary leaves her eager to do more to foster international cooperation. "Doing volunteer work and teaching at Semmelweis only reinforces that feeling for me," she says.

—*Melcub Maynard*



UMAA members receive a discount on three-day and weeklong Split Rock Arts Program workshops on writing, painting, weaving, and other media.

## Nourish Your Creativity

UMAA members receive a \$50 discount on noncredit workshops during the 2006 Split Rock Arts Program, a nationally renowned summer series of workshops in creative writing, visual art, design, and creativity enhancement. Participants of all skill levels, interests, and backgrounds have the opportunity to learn from accomplished artists and writers in an intensive, intimate setting. Three-day and weeklong workshops are held on the University's Twin Cities campus and at the U's Cloquet Forestry Center in northern Minnesota.

A sampling of this summer's offerings includes: an introduction to Navajo weaving with Marilou Schulz; beginning fiction with Sheila O'Connor; a mixed-genre writing workshop with Frank X Walker; a session on the young adult novel with David Haynes; workshops in beadwork, poetry writing, painting, drawing, and much, much more. It's a prime opportunity to become immersed in creative explorations away from the pressures of daily life. Split Rock Shorts run from June 18 through 21 and weeklong sessions begin June 25. To learn more, visit [www.alumni.umn.edu/Split\\_Rock\\_Arts\\_Program2](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/Split_Rock_Arts_Program2), or request a printed catalog by calling 612-625-8100.

## Save on Greens Fees



UMAA members receive substantial discounts at the University's Les Bolstad Golf Course. Save \$155 on an annual season pass (regularly \$1,300). Save \$9 on your 18-hole round every Monday, when UMAA members play for just \$19. (A current UMAA membership card must be presented for all discounts.) Since its humble beginnings as a nine-hole executive track, the Bolstad course has blossomed into a 6,100-yard challenge of accuracy, skill, and creativity. In its storied history, the course has played host to nine men's Big Ten championships, three women's Big Ten championships, and the 1991 Minnesota State Publinks Championship.

To book a tee time, call 612-627-4000. For more information, go to [www.alumni.umn.edu/golf](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/golf)

## So Long and Welcome

The UMAA welcomed the class of 2006 into the ranks of alumni at the annual Senior Send-Off, held in April at the McNamara Alumni Center. More than 700 students attended the party, which featured a talk by Robert Stephens, former University computer science student and founder of the Geek Squad. Stephens, emphasizing that there is no single path to success, entertained the students with the story of how his computer repair business—which he started with \$200 in 1994—grew from a one-person shop into a national enterprise with 12,000 service agents before selling it to Best Buy a few years ago. Students also received a complimentary one-year membership to the UMAA.







## Honoring Excellent Teachers

**T**eachers who challenge and inspire students have a profound, far-reaching impact. Their contributions benefit not just their students, but also their schools, communities, and disciplines. Recognizing that excellent teaching is the single most influential factor in creating great alumni, the UMAA and the Office of Academic Affairs and

Provost co-sponsor the annual Distinguished Teaching Awards, the University's highest honor for its exceptional teaching professors. The awards include a salary stipend, a monetary award to the recipient's department, and a five-year term in the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, a body that works to promote great teaching at the University.

### Morse-Alumni Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education



FREDERICK M. ASHER

**Professor Frederick M. Asher**  
Art History, College of Liberal Arts

"I'm committed to working with students at virtually any time. If I can contribute to their learning and overall to their academic success, I will have done what I seek to do as a teacher."



MARK D. DISTEFANO

**Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies Mark D. Distefano**  
Chemistry, Institute of Technology

"Whether they major in chemistry is not important to me. My main goal is for students to be excited about learning, discover their own passion, and achieve their goals."



PAREENA G. LAWRENCE

**Associate Professor Pareena G. Lawrence**  
Economics and Management, Division of the Social Sciences, Morris campus

"Advising for me is more than helping students choose classes for the next semester. It encompasses encouraging and steering students towards self-evaluation and growth."



JAMES R. LEGER

**Professor James R. Leger**  
Electrical and Computer Engineering, Institute of Technology

"There has to be a balance between research, classroom instruction, and advising. They should support one another, and ideally form a synergistic whole."



DONALD J. LIU

**Associate Professor Donald J. Liu**  
Applied Economics, College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences

"It is the nurturing of the mind, the empowering of the young, and the challenge of trying to be a better teacher every day that makes teaching such a fulfilling and pleasurable activity."



RANDY MOORE

**Professor Randy Moore**  
General College

"I want students to appreciate the biological concepts that we discuss, but I also want them to know the excitement and value of learning, and understand how an appreciation of their world can help them make better choices in their lives."



MARSHALL D. STERN

**Professor Marshall D. Stern**  
Animal Science, College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences

"I believe it is essential to engage and motivate students while making the learning process fun so that students look forward to coming to every class."



BARBARA Y. WELKE

**Associate Professor Barbara Y. Welke**  
History, College of Liberal Arts

"I expect a great deal from my students and have high standards. But I think students also see that I am excited about the subjects I teach, that I care about their intellectual development, and that whatever I ask of them, I am willing to give more."



DENNIS R. FALK

**Professor Dennis R. Falk**  
Social Work, College of Education and Human Service Professions, Duluth campus

"I work to create a cooperative environment in each class, validating students' experiences, but encouraging them to think critically and to learn more from these experiences."



JOAN B. GARFIELD

**Professor Joan B. Garfield**  
Educational Psychology, College of Education and Human Development

"One of my greatest joys has been to help develop graduate students into excellent teachers of statistics."



WENDY L. HELLERSTEDT

**Associate Professor Wendy L. Hellerstedt**  
Epidemiology and Community Health, School of Public Health

"I remind students that our work is social justice and our best work is fueled by passion. We don't just read numbers. We serve populations."





**Professor Richard Leppert**  
Cultural Studies  
and Comparative  
Literature,  
College of Liberal Arts

"I try to demonstrate my respect for students through a pedagogy that consistently challenges them to be critical thinkers and to take pride in what they do, not least by being self-reflective about discussing the social stakes of advanced inquiry."



DEBORAH LEVISON

**Associate Professor Deborah Levison**  
Hubert H. Humphrey  
Institute  
of Public Affairs

"[Students] themselves are my secret vice. If I were not strict with myself, I would spend all my time with students and for students."



JEAN O'BRIEN

**Associate Professor Jean O'Brien**  
History, College  
of Liberal Arts

"I take great pleasure in creating a teaching environment in which lively, candid educational exchanges take place."



MICHEL M. SANDERS

**Professor Michel M. Sanders**  
Biochemistry,  
Molecular Biology  
and Biophysics,  
School of Medicine

"The students are completely respectful, interactive, and amazing learners. The challenge is to keep up with them, and their questions often nudge me into learning more myself. It is the best of both worlds as I get the fun of both teaching and learning."

## Academics and Athletics: a Win-Win

The debate has raged for years. Are academic excellence and athletic success compatible in a university? Critics of intercollegiate athletics may argue that a successful athletics program could have a negative effect on academics, because an overemphasis on athletics could draw resources and attention away from the academic program of the school. At best, some would argue, academics and athletics are quite independent of each another and excellence in one has no effect on the other.

I submit that quality and success in academics and athletics are not only compatible but are mutually reinforcing, and that success in one can strengthen the other. I base my opinion on my observations as a professor, dean, and vice president at the University of Minnesota for more than 30 years, as well as the U's faculty athletic representative to the NCAA, WCHA, and Big Ten.

We are all aware of universities that have consistently demonstrated success in both academic quality and athletic competition. The University of Michigan and Stanford immediately come to mind. But there are many others, and these universities represent standards of excellence to which other universities should aspire.

As faculty athletic representative, I attended several Rose Bowl tournaments. Each year, I observed the extraordinary fund-raising success of the schools competing in that game. Alumni, exhilarated by their schools' football success, responded generously to their presidents' fund-raising appeals on behalf of the academic programs at those institutions. That scenario is repeated with other national athletic championships.

In addition to private fund-raising success, athletic success may even have a positive effect on legislative support of public universities. The president of one public university that is a perennial football power told me that the legislature of his state was more favorably inclined toward the entire school, including the academic programs, in those years when it was contending as a national champion.

And schools that have experienced athletic success are able to compete more successfully for top students. For example, when George Mason University, a relatively new school with a reputation as a commuter school, advanced this year to the NCAA Final Four, the university's dean of admissions was quoted in a national news story predicting "a surge in applications" as a result of the Final Four appearance and that "the basketball team would give the school the chance like never before to show the rest of the world its progress as an institution of higher education." He went on to say, "There is no doubt that no amount of marketing or recruitment or success gives us a chance to tell our story to so many people like the Final Four."

And what about the reverse? How does academic success reinforce athletic success? I believe quality academic programs of a university are a major recruiting advantage to attract the most skilled student athletes to the school. The most sought-after student athletes have the option of attending a university where they could compete athletically at the highest levels and also receive the best education for success in life after competition.

The University of Minnesota is one of the great public universities in this country. Your alumni association strongly supports the plans of University President Bob Bruininks to further strengthen the U and to make it one of the top three public research universities in the world. And I am proud of the athletic success enjoyed by so many of the men's and women's teams at the University. I think they go hand in hand. ■



**Robert Stein, B.S.L. '60,  
J.D. '61**





## U Libraries at Your Fingertips

The UMAA, in partnership with University Libraries, now offers members free online access to hundreds of general interest, business, academic, scientific, and other online journals. Magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Money*, *Health*, *Scientific American*, *People*, *Child*, and *PC Magazine* are included. These publications, and hundreds of others, offer full-text content otherwise not available without paid subscriptions. Company profiles, industry profiles, and market research reports are readily available to job seekers, investors, entrepreneurs, or anyone who wants to stay on top of the business world. In addition, academic and scientific journals from the world's largest interdisciplinary database are at your fingertips. Visit [www.alumni.umn.edu](http://www.alumni.umn.edu) to access the databases; you will be prompted to provide your UMAA member number.

## Buoyant Fun aboard the Showboat



A scene from the 2005 Showboat production *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Join other UMAA members for a spectacular evening of entertainment on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat. The UMAA presents "Evening on the Showboat" on June 20 and July 18; the \$25 ticket includes a performance of George M. Cohan's *Forty-Five Minutes from Broadway* and a post-show reception with the cast.

Docked at Harriet Island Regional Park on the Mississippi River in St. Paul, the Minnesota Centennial Showboat features Victorian-era décor and a grand central staircase. It is the primary performance spot for the University of Minnesota Showboat Players, a unique troupe of talented performers cast exclusively with University students.

Tickets are available by calling Padelford Riverboats at 651-227-1100 or toll-free at 800-543-3908. Please identify yourself immediately with the reservationist as a member of the UMAA and have your alumni member number available.

## UMAA Calendar

Upcoming alumni events on campus and around the country. For more information, visit [www.alumni.umn.edu](http://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.

### MAY

- 13 Puget Sound Chapter outing at Paul Brainerd's Islandwood, 9 a.m. at Islandwood on Bainbridge Island; contact Mark Allen
- 13 Portland Chapter guided air museum tour and wine tasting, 11 a.m., Evergreen Aviation Museum; contact Mark Allen
- 16 West Central Lakes Chapter annual meeting with U of M professor of medicine Phil Peterson presenting "Growing Challenges of Emerging Infections: Responses of the University," 4 p.m., Discovery Middle School Auditorium, Alexandria; contact Chad Kono
- 17 Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of Minnesota annual meeting, time TBD, Heintz Center, Rochester; contact Chad Kono
- 23 UMAA Annual Celebration featuring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 8 p.m. keynote address in Northrop Auditorium (6 p.m. dinner on Northrop Mall is sold out); call 612-624-2345 for tickets
- 28 Norway Chapter alumni reception, 5 p.m. Østeråskroken 14, 1361 Østerås, Norway; contact Mark Allen
- 31 South Central Minnesota Chapter Gopher sports update presented by University Athletics Director Joel Maturi, noon, New Ulm, location TBD; contact Chad Kono

### JUNE

- 24 Portland Chapter hiking, 10:30 a.m., at Eagle Creek Trail Head in Bonneville; contact Mark Allen
- 28 Southwest Florida Chapter summer outing, 1:30 p.m. tour of Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis, 5500 Stevens Ave. S.; contact Chad Kono

### ALUMNI TOURS

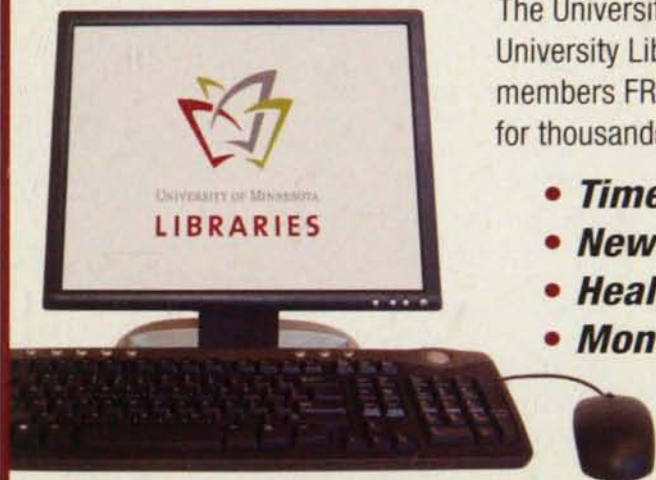
- June 2-17 Islands of Antiquity (five Mediterranean ports)
- June 3-14 Greek Isles Cruise and Venice
- June 4-12 Chianti in a Tuscan Villa Alumni Campus Abroad
- June 6-18 Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great (St. Petersburg and Moscow)
- June 12-20 Lake Constance (Switzerland) Alumni Campus Abroad
- June 13-20 Taste of Northern Italy
- June 18-25 Voyageur Outward Bound Boundary Waters Canoe Area
- July 1-10 Ukraine
- July 15-24 Family Adventure in Costa Rica
- July 16-24 Village Life in England's Cotswolds
- July 16-30 Voyage to French Canada and the Great Lakes

For more information, call Christine Howard at 612-625-9427 or visit [www.alumni.umn.edu/travel](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/travel).



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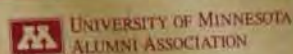
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**Chief Executive Officer**

**Give It Up for the U**

“How will we know when we get there?” It’s a question that comes up quite frequently on campus these days in conversation about the University’s plan to become one of the top three research universities in the world.

The more pressing question, however, is: “What do we need to do to get there?” To answer this we look to the Metrics and Measurements task force, one of 34 task forces formed to help implement the University’s strategic positioning plans.

To measure the U’s progress on its way to the top, this task force has adopted criteria developed by a national center that annually ranks the top American research universities. These gauges include federal research expenditures, total research expenditures, endowment assets, faculty awards, national academy members, doctorates awarded, post-doctoral appointees, students’ SAT scores—and annual giving.



**Margaret Sughrue Carlson,**  
Ph.D. '83

We’ve noticed encouraging trends in giving over the past three years. The University has seen a 20 percent increase in alumni donors during this period of time. In fiscal year 2005, 51,000 alumni made gifts to the U, an increase of 8 percent compared with the previous year. And we’re pleased to learn that the numbers of young alumni giving back to their alma mater are up, which validates the increasingly positive feedback that the U receives from recent graduates about the quality of their educational experience.

This is all very welcome news. But for a top-ranked university, we can and should do better. The goal over the next three years is to increase alumni giving to more than 60,000 so we’re in the top five of the Big Ten and, most important, so students, faculty, academics, research, and other programs at the U are getting the help they need.

Because you’re an alumni association member, I know that you care about and take pride in your alma mater. While membership is a very important way to support the U, it’s not the same as a gift. Alumni giving is critical to building a strong University. Private gifts create opportunity for students, attract world-class faculty, and support leading-edge research, academic programs, and new buildings.

Contributions of any amount make a difference. Last year, gifts from hundreds of alumni were combined to create a new \$250,000 endowed scholarship fund for students in the College of Liberal Arts. At the College of Biological Sciences, alumni gifts to the “Habitat for Biologists” project made it possible to build new lodging at Lake Itasca Biological Station to accommodate the increasing number of female students in the college.

Also thanks to private giving, the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Raptor Center was able to treat more than 100 great gray owls last year. The Weisman Art Museum presented “Chicano Visions,” a major exhibit featuring works by emerging figures in the Chicano art movement, to the largest audience since the museum’s opening year. And many special student projects, such as the Institute of Technology Solar Vehicle Project, are 100 percent supported by private giving.

So I ask you to help the University in its quest to reach the top three. Please consider making a gift to the University college, program, or campus of your choice. Visit [www.giving.umn.edu](http://www.giving.umn.edu) to learn more about how private gifts play a critical role in leading the University to success. ■



# There are many causes to give to. But only one is your alma mater.

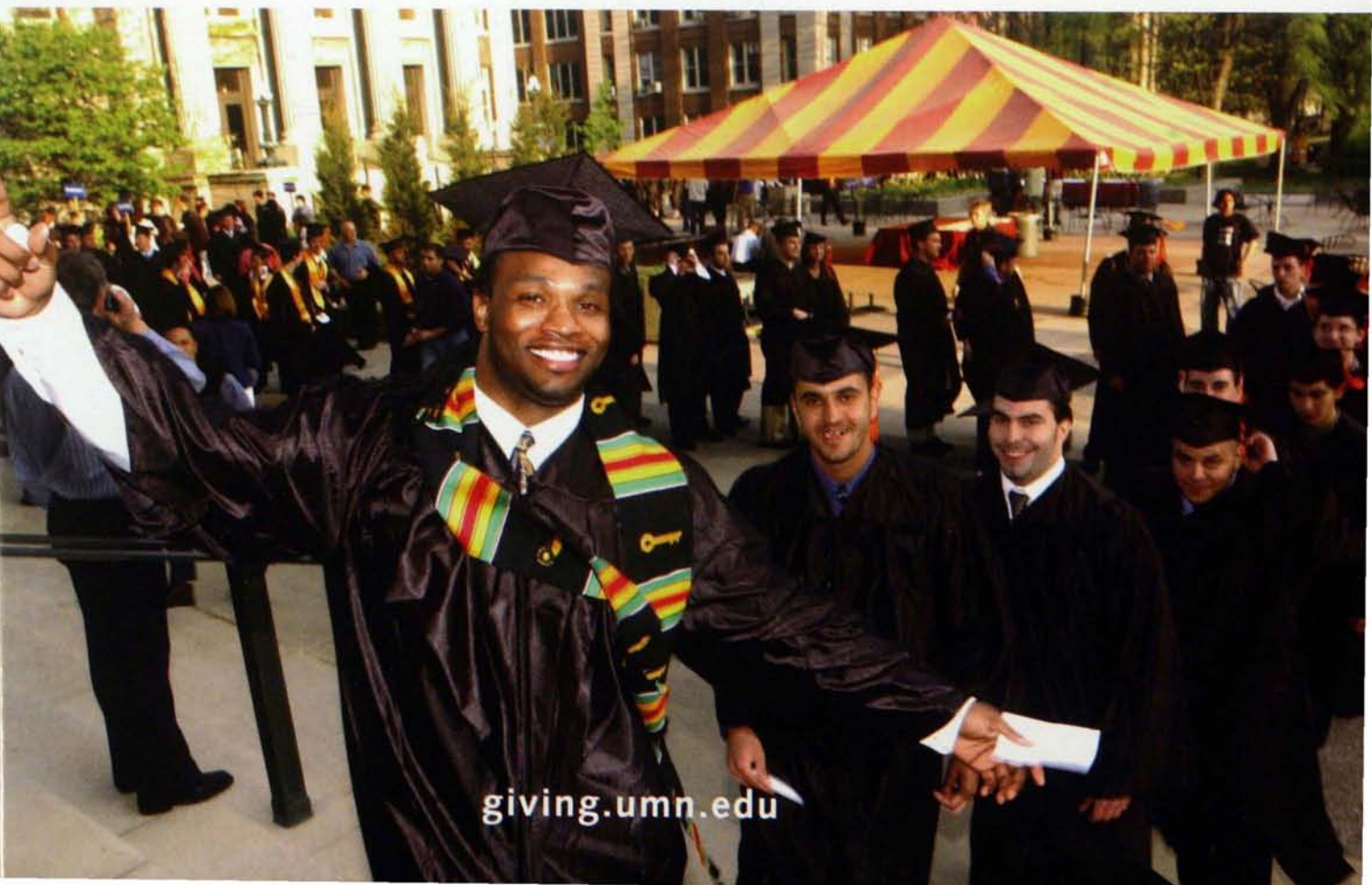
What kind of role do alumni play in boosting academic quality and scholarships at the University of Minnesota? It couldn't be more significant. Last year, a remarkable 55 percent of donors who made gifts were alumni. Every contribution furthered the quality of the University's work and its ability to change people's lives. If you haven't made a contribution this year, please make your alma mater a priority.

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# MINNESOTA

JULY • AUGUST 2006 \$2.95

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, slightly out of focus, as she holds a tuatara lizard. The lizard is the central focus, showing its textured, bumpy skin and large, dark eyes. The background is dark and blurry, suggesting an indoor setting with some light sources.

**Can the  
ancient  
tuatara  
adapt  
to global  
warming?**

## **Creature of Change**

**Gopher Football Preview • The Next Stadium Steps • A History of Student Health**





Leslie Miller, M.D.  
Cardiologist

He's more than  
a cardiologist.

He's a pioneer.

Part of a renowned team of cardiac specialists, he and his colleagues are using cells from other muscles to repair the heart. They are more than surgeons, they are trailblazers, performing Minnesota's first robot-assisted heart surgery. They are more than doctors, they are leaders, whose discoveries are helping patients the world over. This is more than health care...it's academic medicine, and it's at the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

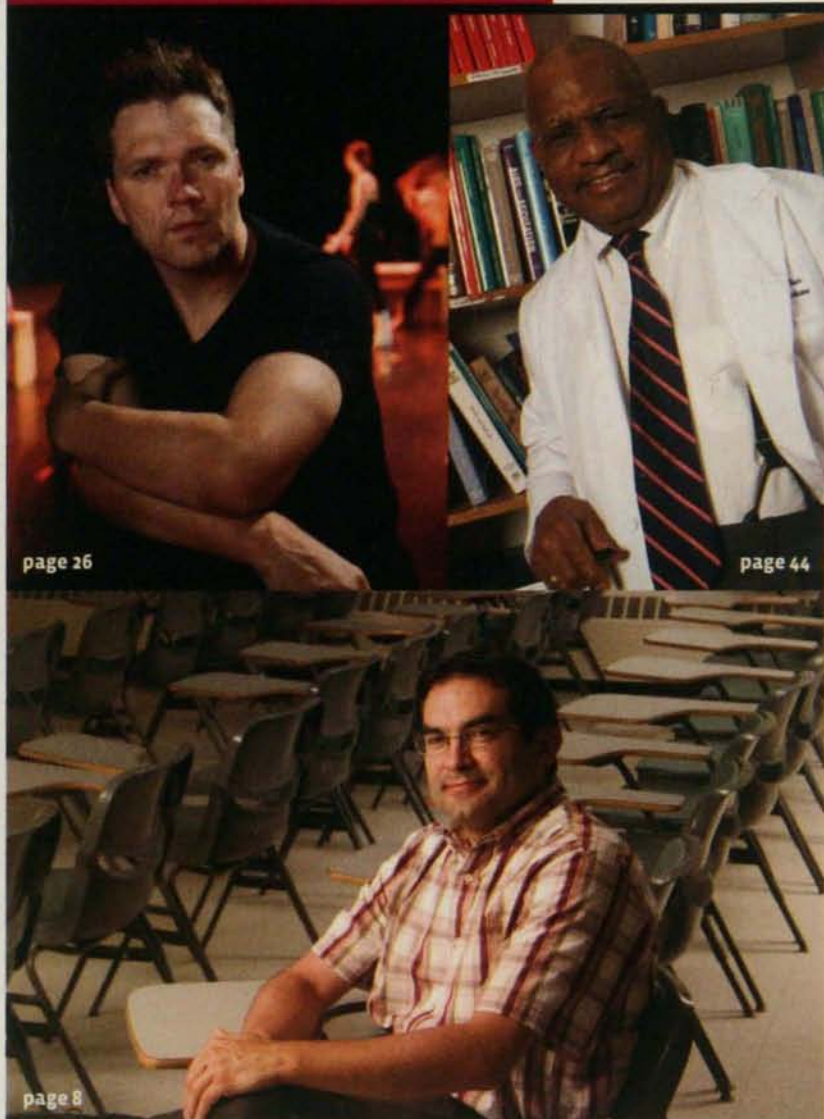
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 FAIRVIEW





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Thanks for making the UMAA's past year one for the record books.

*Cover photograph by Simon Wilson*





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# MINNESOTA

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## Editor's Note

### Something to Contemplate

You'll never find a sudoku puzzle in this magazine. Some say global warming will bring about the world's decline. Others point to nuclear disaster or same-sex marriage. I have reason to believe that the sudoku sensation will be to blame.

I was settling in for a long flight in late February and, to kill some time, reached for the airline's magazine in the seat pocket. I flipped through the pages and when I came to the sudoku puzzle I thought I'd see what all the fuss was about. An hour or so later, I had correctly filled in the last square and felt a surge of satisfaction. I was immediately hooked and couldn't wait to try another one, perhaps even a tougher one.

I savored knowing that, on my return flight, the new month would have rolled

in and the airline would have inserted the new issue of its in-flight magazine into the seat pockets. I anticipated how the flight home would be lost in the labyrinth of the sudoku. I wouldn't even notice turbulence or the stale air or that I had the middle seat. But when I buckled up and pulled out the magazine, not only was it the old issue, but someone had already worked out the sudoku. I suddenly felt that I was wearing a noose that needed adjusting. I snapped at my husband about the armrest being mine. And I irritably reclined my seat back into the knees of the passenger behind me.



Shelly Fling

The episode eventually passed and all was well for the rest of the flight. But back at home I developed the habit of unwinding at the end of the day with the daily paper's sudoku. Some days, I would neglect to feed the cats until I

had finished the puzzle. I wouldn't even hear their meows or feel their claws.

"So, how are your gardens?" my hair stylist asked me in late spring.

"Not so good," I said. Catching her eye in the mirror, I tried to explain: "Have you ever played sudoku?"

Then someone gave me *Sudoku for Dummies*—240 puzzles, from easy to diabolic—and I began working two or three a day, and then four or five a day. But it wasn't just me who was addicted. On benches around campus or in alleys outside area lunch spots, I noticed abandoned newspapers, their pages folded back to reveal a worked over sudoku.

I tried to justify my habit when questioned. It requires me to use a part of my brain I don't usually tap, I'd reply. One evening, however, it was bedtime but I was deep into a puzzle. The news was on the television and I looked up when I heard the newscaster describe a horrible human tragedy, multiple car bombs and dozens dead. But with a blink I went back to my pencil and paper; I had to figure out whether the 3 or the 7—or the 9 or the 2—would unlock this particular sudoku.

Fortunately, I was lucid enough to catch the appalling irony of what I had just thought and done. I was losing my humanity to a pointless puzzle that had almost infinite variations. Sudoku wasn't helping me to think, I realized, it was numbing my mind. Was this the effect it was having on hundreds of thousands of other sudoku-crazed people? I tossed the paper into the recycling bin.

I still play the occasional sudoku. But between distraction and contemplation, I choose the latter. So, you won't find sudoku in these pages, but I hope that you always find plenty to contemplate. ■

Shelly Fling can be reached at [fling003@umn.edu](mailto:fling003@umn.edu).





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# Letters

## HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

Just received the March–April 2006 issue of the University of Minnesota magazine. Surely, the University could have addressed important social, political, or economic issues. Instead, for its cover, it dwelt on grape growing [“Grape Expectations”]. No wonder the University continues to slide in the ranking of colleges and universities. With such a cover, the University, in some areas of this planet, continues to carry the provincial mantle.

Joaquin Arriola (J.D. '53)  
Hagatna, Guam

*Editor's note:* *Minnesota* is published by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, not the University of Minnesota.

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION'S TOLL

What were you thinking when you ran as your cover story in the May–June issue, “Legal Artistry: Immigrants enrich our culture, says attorney Laura Danielson”? At a time when America is struggling with securing our borders to halt the invasion of *illegal* immigrants, *Minnesota* prints a puff piece on the plight of *legal* immigrants. Was this a rather “subtle” criticism of the majority of Americans who welcome *legal* immigrants but do not believe it is fair or economically feasible to grant amnesty to the millions of *illegals* and their families who are overwhelming our schools, medical facilities, law enforcement, and other state and federal agencies?

I would appreciate an article in the next issue of *Minnesota* focusing on the real costs of *illegal immigrants* to middle-class, tax-paying Americans. Bear in mind America cannot assimilate the sheer numbers covered in the proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill. Bear in mind this amnesty will be the largest expansion in welfare in U.S. history. Those of you born after 1960 can say good-bye to Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Nancy Armstrong Nordeen (B.S. '91)  
St. Paul

## AN ENRICHING EDITION

Thank you for putting together a spectacular edition of *Minnesota* for May–June. Especially appreciated are the editor's note and the article on Laura Danielson. Together they shine a positive light on one of the most critical issues facing the nation today.

Patrick Leung (J.D. '82)  
North Oaks, MN

This was a nice article about Ms. Laura Danielson. I went to law school with her and am from the same class. Good to see someone standing tall after overcoming all those obstacles and also helping a lot of people while doing it. She looks like a real role model.

Jon Hoppensteadt (J.D. '89)  
Florida

Please write to: Letters to the Editor, *Minnesota*, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Or e-mail: [fling003@umn.edu](mailto:fling003@umn.edu).

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# About Campus

## { Faculty Profile } Found in Translation

**T**he Spanish phrase *te bañas* literally means “wash yourself.” But in some parts of rural Mexico, it is used as a way to communicate a sense of comradeship. It was with affection, then, that an immigrant student at Long Prairie High School said “*te bañas*” to his principal a few years back. Michael Rodriguez (B.A. '89, Morris; M.A. '95), an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Minnesota, cringes when he describes what happened next. An adult misinterpreted the remark and told the principal that the student was being disrespectful and the student was punished. “In fact, what the kid meant was: ‘Thanks a lot for your support; we recognize it,’” Rodriguez says.

According to Rodriguez, that kind of miscommunication is common in school systems like Long Prairie that have undergone rapid demographic change. Located about 125 miles northwest of the Twin Cities, the town of 3,000 has experienced an influx of Mexican immigrants in the past decade who have moved there to work in the meat-packing industry. Though not a native Spanish speaker, Rodriguez thought that his research on Latino youth development might prove helpful to Long Prairie school officials and the immigrant community.

Taking advantage of the University’s support for faculty who want to pursue volunteer community outreach activities, Rodriguez began making monthly trips to the high school beginning in 1999. He would eat lunch with the school’s three Mexican immigrant students (there are now more than 40) and informally consult with administrators about the district’s attempts to integrate the new immigrant children into the school system. What he found there troubled him. Students told him stories of harassment by other students. Administrators were puzzled by what they saw as a lack of commitment to success in the students and their families.

Rodriguez put administrators in touch with Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, a statewide organization that conducted surveys and workshops with students and staff to improve the climate. He made a formal presentation to the school board about the immigrant students’ experiences. As a kind of cultural translator, he was able to explain to administrators why the parents of the children weren’t coming into the schools regularly. “There’s a tradition in Mexico: When you send your kids to school, you know that they’ll be taken care of. So parents don’t have to engage schools directly in Mexico



Michael Rodriguez

like they do here,” Rodriguez explains.

Over the years, Rodriguez has made six trips to the immigrants’ hometown in Mexico to better understand their culture of origin. Most recently, he has shifted his attention to developing strategies for retaining students in the high school and sending them to college.

Until the 2004–05 school year, none of the immigrant students had graduated from the high school and many of them had never even set foot in it, opting instead to enter the workforce after the eighth grade. “They don’t see what a high school diploma will do for them because they see all of their peers in the high school not graduating,” Rodriguez says.

To change that mentality, Rodriguez organized a trip this past year that took 45 of the immigrant students to visit the University’s Morris campus. He hopes trips like that will lead to changes in the high school’s college counseling program. Schools can respond to this challenge, Rodriguez says, by helping students envision a clear path to college at the beginning of their high school careers. “What I’d like to see is somebody sit down with every kid and make a plan, to say, ‘Here’s your plan. This is how we’re going to support you. This is what you can do. This is what your family can do to support you.’ That needs to happen a lot earlier,” Rodriguez says.

Given the economic situation of the immigrant families, short-term needs often preclude long-term planning, thus diminishing the likelihood that students will enter college. “In this community,” he says, “planning is a luxury that nobody has.”

—Danny LaChance



## Web Hit: A Cure for Health News

Sick of bad health reporting? The School of Journalism and Mass Communication has partnered with the Boston-based Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making to launch [www.HealthNewsReview.org](http://www.HealthNewsReview.org), the first online service in the United States designed to help journalists and consumers sift through health-care news articles that make claims about treatments and procedures. Articles are evaluated by professionals with expertise in journalism, medicine, public health, and health services research, and each article is graded on accuracy, balance, and completeness. News stories are taken from the top 50 circulation newspapers, major broadcast media, weekly news magazines, and wire services.

## Overheard on Campus

**"My goal was to get my degree before I die. So I thought, OK, if I get across the stage and I keel over, that's OK. But then I was thinking I'd like to wait till after dinner."**

—New University graduate Karlyce Pestello, age 63, who has been working toward her bachelor's degree for three decades, in between raising three children and serving in the military.

**"[The male] will most certainly attract another female. Hopefully, it will be one with a better attitude."**

—Patrick Redig, director of the University's Raptor Center, on possibly removing a female peregrine falcon in Sartell, Minnesota, that is protecting her nest of three fledglings by attacking passersby.

## Hmong Professor Earns a First

U sociology professor Zha Blong Xiong (M.A. '97, Ph.D. '00) has become the nation's first Hmong professor to attain tenure at a research university. Xiong, age 39, teaches sociology in the Department of Postsecondary Teaching and Learning (formerly General College). Xiong began teaching in General College in 2002 and specializes in parent/adolescent relationships in immigrant families, adolescent adjustment, and parent education. He earned his Ph.D. in family social science from the U just 18 years after his family fled Laos. Xiong's research projects have included a study of why some siblings in a Hmong family become juvenile delinquents and others don't. He also co-authored the curriculum "Helping Youth Succeed: Bicultural Parenting in Southeast Asian Families," which has been translated into Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian.

Zha Blong Xiong



## Biodiversity: Now in a Back Yard Near You

Hear the word *biodiversity* and you probably think of a rainforest or wilderness. Start thinking about your own backyard too. BioBlitz 2006, held this year in May and co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, helped participants do just that.

Part contest, part festival, and part scientific experiment, BioBlitz 2006 brought together 40 researchers and 100 volunteers in a 24-hour pursuit to document as many species of plants and animals as possible on the St. Paul campus and adjacent areas. Eighty-two households in the area registered their yards as official BioBlitz sites, allowing researchers literally to discover what species could be found there, as well as in public sites.



A bluebird perched on a side-view mirror was one of 78 species of bird counted in BioBlitz 2006.

Armed with sonar detectors, bug lights, live traps, and laptops, BioBlitzers identified more than 875 plant and animal species, including: 437 plant species, the majority of which were native plants; 232 species of insects; 78 species of birds, including 8 types of sparrow, along with Tennessee, Mourning, and Chestnut-sided warblers; 54 fungus species; two fish, two reptiles, and three amphibian species; 18 spider species; three mollusk species; and eight other invertebrates. Among the native plants, many were uncommon varieties that are part of homeowners' efforts to restore the woodland diversity that has been devastated by deer and invasive earthworms.

Among the most notable finds were several plant species that historically have not been able to survive Minnesota winters, including a tulip tree and Ohio Buckeye seedlings. Researchers believe that the presence of these plants, which are not supposed to be hardy in Minnesota, is a harbinger of climate change.

BioBlitz has been held annually since 2004. The Bell Museum is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Sciences.

## Official to the Core



The state of Minnesota has a new state fruit, thanks to researchers at the University of Minnesota and the plucky persistence of a fifth-grade class.

Last year, students in Bayport, Minnesota, began lobbying their local legislators to introduce a bill designating the Honeycrisp apple the state fruit. The 2006 legislature passed the measure, and it was signed into law by Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) in May.

The Honeycrisp was developed by University Agricultural Experiment Station researchers Jim Luby and David Bedford, and was introduced to the public in 1991. It has become wildly popular with consumers for its sweet, tart crispness and with growers for its hardy constitution. In recent years, it replaced the Haralson as the state's best-selling apple. This spring, the Association of University Technology Managers, a nonprofit group dedicated to advancing academic and nonprofit research, named the Honeycrisp one of 25 innovations that changed the world. The association praised the apple for helping small, family-run growers in the northern tier become competitive and profitable in the apple market.

In addition to Honeycrisp, the University has developed many other apple varieties, including Fireside, Regent, State Fair, Honeygold, Zestar!, and Snowsweet.



## Pinpointing a Lupus Gene

**O**ne million Americans have been diagnosed with lupus, a chronic, painful, and sometimes fatal autoimmune disease. Thanks to research conducted at the University of Minnesota and several other universities, their future looks a bit brighter.

As with all autoimmune diseases, lupus causes the body to attack its own healthy tissue, causing chronic inflammation, fatigue, and other problems. While it has been suspected that lupus has genetic elements because it runs in families, this is the first time research has shown such a strong link between the presence of a particular gene variant and a lupus diagnosis. Timothy Behrens, professor of medicine at the University and co-leader on the research, says the findings, which were published in *Nature Genetics* in April, may have an impact on the kind of treatment that sufferers of the disease receive.

The study began more than a decade ago, when researchers at the University of Minnesota and Uppsala University in Sweden (and, eventually, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard), began collecting and studying DNA samples of lupus sufferers and their families. Research was slow going at first, says Behrens, since technology wasn't as sophisticated as they would have liked, and the Human Genome Project had not yet been completed. But as the technology advanced, so did their research.

That's when they began taking a serious look at a gene known as interferon regulatory factor 5 (IRF5). "This gene is part of a pathway that is normally used for fighting off infection," Behrens explains. Researchers discovered that two common variations of IRF5 that are equally present among the general population are out of balance among lupus sufferers, who are more likely to carry one variety than the other. "It's one of the best demonstrations of a common variation in the genome and DNA contributing to a rela-

tively rare disease," says Behrens.

The findings may enable pharmaceutical companies to discern why some lupus sufferers respond to certain medications while others don't. Collaboration between the University and other institutions was crucial for this project. "We realize that this problem is so big that no one lab can generate all the funding or collect all the samples that are needed," Behrens says. "By pooling samples, we increased our chances of finding the real genetic factors." One of the University of Minnesota's primary responsibilities was to collect a significant percentage of the 2,000 lupus samples and the 2,000 control samples.

Behrens cautions that this finding in no way suggests that they've found a gene that causes lupus—just that they've found one of what could be many factors. "Because lupus is relatively rare, this study suggests that this gene alone is not enough to cause lupus," he says. "You need other genetic factors, and perhaps environmental factors, to cause the disease." While Behrens acknowledges that there is a great deal more to learn about the disease, he believes this is an important first step in understanding what contributes to it.

Lupus sufferers aren't the only ones who may benefit from the study's findings. Researchers around the country are studying how the pathway containing the IRF5 gene affects other autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis. The larger finding—that common variations of genes play a role in disease—may influence research being done on other diseases. "This larger lesson may be applicable to diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes," Behrens says.

In the meantime, the University of Minnesota is continuing its collaboration with Uppsala University to study other genes in the pathway. The results may give an even clearer picture of the genetic blueprint of lupus. —Erin Peterson



### TAKING A BITE OUT OF MALARIA

Two researchers at the University of Minnesota Center for Microbial and Plant Genomics have discovered a group of genes that make some mosquitoes resistant to malaria, one of the world's most common and deadly infectious diseases. The discovery could be used to develop strategies to control the disease. Some mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans after feeding on human blood that has been infected with the malaria parasite. But the study suggests that other mosquitoes are genetically resistant and kill the parasite in the infected blood without transmitting it. The researchers speculate that mosquitoes that transmit malaria may have defective immune systems.



## PLANTS CAN'T SOAK IT UP

Don't count on plants to compensate for rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A six-year study has led scientists from the University of Minnesota to conclude that the world's land plants will not be able to absorb as great a share of carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global climate change, as some reports have suggested. The reason? Natural limitations on the availability of nitrogen, a necessary soil nutrient, will likely diminish plants' ability to absorb the gas. The study is the first long-term examination of how soil nitrogen affects the abilities of plants to increase their size by absorbing extra carbon dioxide.



## A WAY OUT OF SEGREGATION

Choice about where to send kids to school coupled with more affordable housing in the suburbs are pathways out of the severe school segregation that plagues the Twin Cities region, according to a report by the Institute on Race & Poverty at the University of Minnesota. The report, "The Choice Is Ours: Expanding Educational Opportunities for All Twin Cities Children," documents the disturbing extent to which schools in the central cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and in a growing number of suburbs are segregated. It calls for the expansion of a pilot program that permits some students in segregated Minneapolis schools to attend schools in the suburbs that do not have high poverty enrollments. Affordable housing should be available so that families can live near where their children attend school, the report says. The full report is available at [www.irpumn.org](http://www.irpumn.org).

## BUTT-KICKING INSIGHTS

Health education is more effective than nicotine gum in helping African Americans who are light smokers to kick the habit. That is the conclusion of the first clinical trial to focus on light smokers, conducted by the University of Minnesota Medical School and Cancer Center. The 26-week study included 755 African Americans who smoked 10 or fewer cigarettes per day. About half of African Americans who smoke are light smokers, but they experience a disproportionate share of tobacco-related illnesses, including a higher rate of death.

Another University study found that the telephone could be a valuable tool in helping smokers quit. In a study of 837 daily smokers, researchers at the U's Medical School and the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center demonstrated that smokers who received regular telephone support as part of their cessation program had a higher quit rate than those who did not. The telephone counseling consisted of seven calls over a two-month period; after three months, about 40 percent of the telephone-care group had not smoked in the previous seven days, compared with about 10 percent of the group who did not receive telephone care.

## BABIES DO INHALE

Infants 1 year old and younger whose parents smoke inhale enough secondhand smoke to accumulate cancer-causing chemicals in their urine, according to a study by the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. Researchers examined urine samples from 144 infants and found detectable levels of a carcinogen found only in tobacco in almost half of them. Of those, some had levels similar to those found in adult smokers. The infants lived in homes where an average of about four packs of cigarettes per week were smoked.

The study expands on a previous study by the same research team that found that newborns of mothers who smoked took in the cancer-causing chemical directly from their mothers through the placenta.

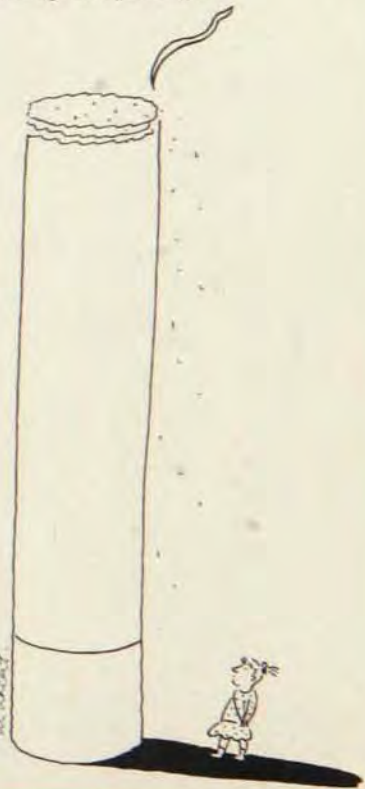


ILLUSTRATION BY MERLE NACHT

## WEEDING OUT POT FROM HEMP

University of Minnesota scientists have become the first to unequivocally distinguish marijuana from its close cousin, hemp, by using genetic markers. The discovery may help smooth the way for developing hemp as an alternative crop for American farmers. Hemp, a natural for northern climates, is a hardy plant that has potential for use in paper, textiles, building materials, food, medicine, paint, fuel, and other applications. The breakthrough could also have implications in law enforcement and the medical use of marijuana.

Currently, all hemp products are imported into the United States because it is illegal to grow. That could change if distinguishing the two forms of *Cannabis* becomes possible. The researchers were able to separate hemp from marijuana using a new DNA "fingerprinting" technique. Scientists have previously been able to distinguish the two types of *Cannabis* from one another, but not unequivocally, as the new technique allows.





## Secrets Revealed

Since Frances Hodgson Burnett penned the children's classic *The Secret Garden* in 1909, the idea of happening upon a secret garden, and discovering the mysteries within it, has fueled generations of imaginations. So when Peter Olin, director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and a professor in the horticulture department at the University of Minnesota, began planning the public garden's fourth annual summer exhibition, the concept of secret gardens was front of mind.

He wasn't interested in staging a variation of the book, however. Instead, the Arboretum issued a call for submissions that asked local artists, landscape architects, and architects to interpret the notion of "secret garden" through designs that would encourage interaction, exploration, and examination—within both the gardens and the larger Arboretum.

Of the more than 55 proposals submitted, a jury selected 20 intriguing designs now installed throughout the Arboretum's 1,047 acres as part of the "Secret Gardens Exhibition." "We were looking for a range of expressions, because the Arboretum draws an intergenerational audience, from babies to seniors," explains Rebecca Krinke (B.A. '80), associate professor in the College of Design and a member of the jury.

The selections fall into three general categories, Krinke adds. Some of the secret gardens use plants in novel ways. For *Penny Lane*, Nathan Anderson (B.A. '94, M.A. '95) planted miniature landscapes in copper disks standing about 30 inches high, at a child's eye level. The enchanting mini-landscapes are scattered throughout the Arboretum's arborvitae collection, which Anderson says is "already a whimsical fantasyland."

Other designs employ architectural devices or structures to frame, view, or screen parts of the Arboretum. For *An In[tr]overted Garden*, Beth Nelson (B.A. '02) and Brian Toov (M.A. '06) built a simple, white-painted plywood box just past the shrub roses along Three-Mile Drive. Inside the box is a surprise: an undulating interior of curving wood slats. Embedded in the walls are spyglasses focused on views to the outside.

Some of the gardens are highly conceptual, such as *Secret Reflections* by James Robin (B.A. '70). Olin describes this garden as a 10-foot-square hole 3 feet deep, lined with



*An In[tr]overted Garden* by Beth Nelson and Brian Toov



*Secret Reflections* by James Robin



*Penny Lane* by Nathan Anderson

mirrors and beds of red-leaved plants. "This is wild stuff," he says, adding that the exhibition is probably "the most avant-garde of anything we've ever done."

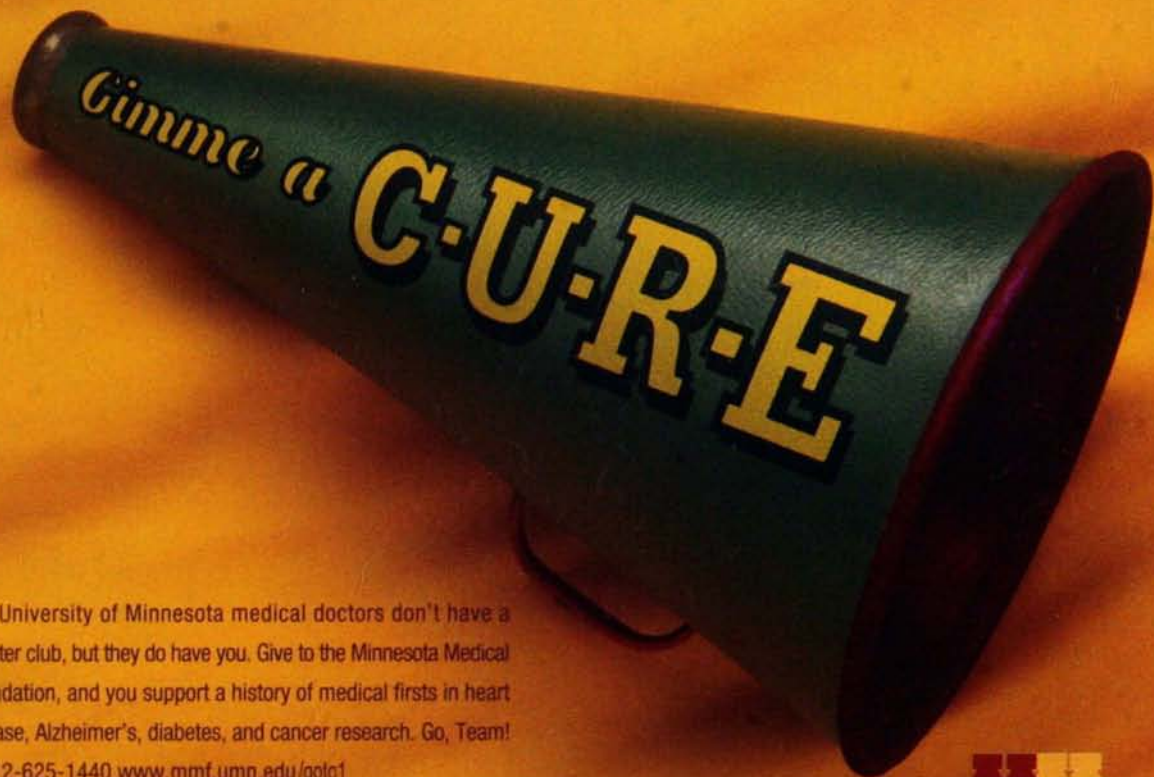
The Arboretum, which is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, is a world-renowned resource for horticultural and environmental information, research, and public education.

The response Olin hopes for is, "Wow! Look at this garden over here!" he says. "Nature has lots of secrets. Our goal is to continually expand visitors' perceptions of nature by giving them another view."

The "Secret Gardens Exhibition" runs June 3 through September 10 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, nine miles west of Interstate 94 on Highway 5 in Chaska, Minnesota. Admission is \$7 for adults and free for members and children 15 and under. Call 612-443-1400 or go to [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu).

—Camille LeFevre





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## Minnesota Magazine Fiction Contest

Our eighth-annual fiction contest is open to all University of Minnesota alumni and students.

**How to enter:**

Submit a double-spaced, typed manuscript, 3,000 words or fewer. Submissions must not have been previously published. Past winners of this contest must wait two years before entering again. Poetry, children's stories, plays, and screenplays are not eligible.

Include a cover sheet that bears your name, year of graduation (or years of attending the University), day and evening phone numbers, address, story title, and word count of the manuscript. To ensure anonymity, please do not put your name on the manuscript itself. Manuscripts will not be returned.

The winner will receive \$1,500, and the winning story will be published in the March-April 2007 issue of *Minnesota* magazine and on the magazine's Web site. The author of the winning entry will be notified in early January but won't be announced until publication.

**Submissions must be postmarked by December 4, 2006. Send to:**

Minnesota Magazine Fiction Contest, U of M Alumni Association, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040.



**O**n May 24, Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) signed a bill that will bring Minnesota football back to the Twin Cities campus. The Gophers moved to the Metrodome in 1982. The bill signing came four days after the House (96–37 vote) and Senate (43–24) passed a bill to fund a \$248 million on-campus stadium. As part of the legislation, the state will pay \$10.25 million per year for 25 years—approximately 55 percent of the total stadium cost—and the University will give the state 2,840 acres of undeveloped land in Dakota County for future use as a metropolitan area nature preserve. The University will also raise private funds and implement a student fee—up to a maximum of \$25 per year—to pay for the rest of the stadium's costs. The bill includes a naming-rights deal with TCF Financial Corporation. In exchange for \$35 million, the stadium will be named TCF Bank Stadium. The University hopes to begin construction of the stadium this summer and finish in time for the 2009 season.

**Governor Pawlenty also signed into law a \$158.4 million funding measure for capital improvement projects throughout the University.** The measure includes \$26.6 million for an expansion of the Carlson School of Management on the Twin Cities campus, \$15.3 million for a new Labovitz School of Business and Economics on the Duluth campus, \$40 million for a biomedical sciences research building on the Twin Cities campus, \$3.5 million for research and outreach centers (\$500,000 each for Cedar Creek and the Cloquet Forestry Center and \$2.5 million for the West Regional Outreach Center in Morris), and \$300,000 for the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory in Willmar. The law also includes \$30 million in Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement funds, which are used for general repairs and maintenance projects across the University system. The legislature also voted \$5 million to support academic programs at the University of Minnesota, Rochester.

**The University, along with several other institutions, received a five-year, \$15 million grant from the National Science Foundation to create an Engineering Research Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power** on the Twin Cities campus. Fluid power is energy transmitted and controlled by means of a pressurized fluid, either liquid or gas. The center will be devoted to reviving and rejuvenating the science and technology of fluid power and helping to bring the science to middle and high school students in Minnesota and around the nation. Optimal use of fluid power could allow all sorts of vehicles and power machinery—from dentists' drills to jaws of life to backhoes—to cut their energy consumption between 10 percent and 30 percent.



## Pomp, Circumstance, and Smiles

Students celebrated graduation during spring commencement ceremonies in 21 University colleges throughout May and June. Notable speakers included United States Senator Norm Coleman for the Institute of Technology; United States Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns for the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences; Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, United States Surgeon General, for the School of Public Health; and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Russell Anderson for the Law School.

**University students' tuition bill will increase 6.5 percent beginning this fall.** Tuition on the Twin Cities campus will rise from \$8,040 to \$8,563 in 2006–07 for most resident students. At Crookston, tuition will go from \$6,765 to \$7,208; at Morris, from \$9,104 to \$9,695; and at Duluth, from \$8,056 to \$8,580. Peter Zetterberg of the Office of Institutional Research and Reporting told the Board of Regents' Educational Planning and Policy Committee that tuition increases at universities across the nation have been driven by a common set of circumstances, including the downturn in the economy and subsequent budget problems, escalating costs of employee health insurance, and the continuing need to retain and attract top faculty.

**Jacqueline Johnson will be the new chancellor at Morris beginning August 1.** Johnson is the outgoing vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. She succeeds Sam Schuman, who retired on June 30 after 11 years in senior leadership positions at Morris.

**Darlyne Bailey was named the dean of the University's expanded College of Education and Human Development (CEHD).** Bailey, vice president for academic affairs and dean of Teachers College at Columbia University, is the first female dean and the first African American dean of CEHD and the first African American female dean at the University. Bailey is scheduled to start on October 1.

—Pauline Oo



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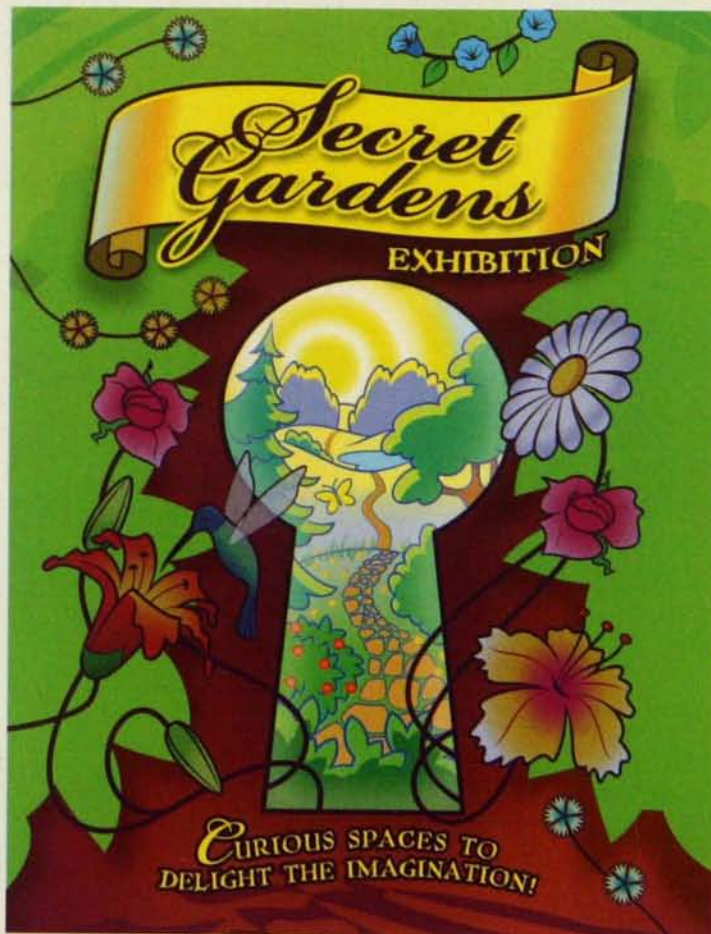
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## Murder's Shock and Aftershock

In *Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson*, the first chapter alone introduces readers to some three dozen people—neighbors, officers, doctors, relatives, and friends whose lives were all affected by a shocking attack inside an upscale St. Paul home. Murder can be the most personal of crimes, but *Dial M* shows, in page-turning detail, the broad and enduring impact of a homicide.

Among the many names, the most widely known is that of T. Eugene Thompson, who was at his law office on March 6, 1963, when someone tried to drown and shoot (then ultimately resorted to beating and stabbing) his wife. Author William Swanson's clear, unadorned prose doesn't go out of its way to be gruesome, but there's no honest way to downplay the brutality of the crime.

If you look at the dust jacket or recall the news reports from the time, you'll know that T. Eugene played a key role in the killing, making the book only partly a whodunit. Its first half follows the efforts of investigators and prosecutors to bring various habitual miscreants—and the widower—to justice. Swanson (B.A. '68) plumbed public documents and news accounts to create a classic courtroom drama, complete with climactic testimony by the Thompsons' then-14-year-old son, Jeff. Even though the narrative's arc is evident, Swanson keeps things interesting with vivid

details and well-chosen excerpts from the stand.

The second half of the book strikes out on a less familiar journey by chronicling the case's long-term impact on the four Thompson children, whose lives were suddenly defined by the reality that their father had not only hired someone to kill their mother but also had refused to admit it. Being hounded by journalists and having to explain to potential dates why they weren't being invited home to meet the parents made for an eerie childhood; even stranger was, 20 years after the murder, telling their own children that Grandpa had been paroled and wanted to be part of their lives. In an attempt to make some sense of their situation, Jeff, who had developed a keen interest in the law and eventually became a judge, organized a second trial—by the family—to give his father a chance to prove his claimed innocence. The story of this surreal and maddening evening, held in the basement rec room of one sister's home, is one of the more fascinating scenes of the book.

Although its title is drawn from the movie *Dial M for Murder*, the book makes only the briefest reference to the 1954 Hitchcock classic, and indeed, the parallels are few (in the movie, for example, the wife survives). But like Hitchcock, Swanson knows how to tell a tale. He transports readers to 1960s Highland Park and back to the present day, acknowledging along the way that some things haven't changed—such as the sensationalized news coverage that follows the mysterious death of any attractive woman. Had they existed at the time, cable news channels would have devoted weeks to the murder of Carol Thompson. Fortunately, we have Swanson to give us the story in a less lurid—and more compelling—format.

—Jim Foti

## A Guide to the Gargantuan

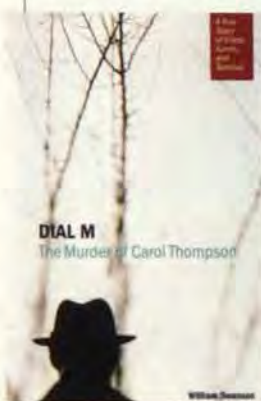
One of the joys of hitting the open road is cruising down the two-lane, rounding a bend, and coming across . . . a park of concrete animals trimmed in broken beer bottles? A gigantic fiberglass turkey? The world's largest stack of empty cans?

Roadside art is not an exclusively Midwestern phenomenon, but it seems to have bloomed here more than just about anywhere else. Perhaps it's because of our long winters, which keep us indoors for months at a time, making crafts. Really big crafts. Or maybe it's caused by our stoic personalities, which keep us from expressing our feelings through words or actions and so we must express them with, well, a 9,000-pound prairie chicken (Blooming Prairie, Minnesota) or a Humpty Dumpty forever in mid-fall

(Rapid City, South Dakota).

Travel the East Coast and you'll see covered bridges; in California you'll find Knott's Berry Farm. On a recent road trip through Arizona, my husband and I never saw anything more wacky than some old neon signs (and, of course, the Grand Canyon). But the Midwest has the 70-foot-tall Tin Family (Regent, North Dakota) and the World's Largest Cow (DeForest, Wisconsin).

Eric Dregni (M.S. '03), a current



**DIAL M**  
The Murder of Carol Thompson  
By William Swanson  
(B.A. '68)  
Borealis Books, 2006



Midwest Marvels  
By Eric Dregni  
University of  
Minnesota Press, 2006



M.F.A. student at the University of Minnesota, has made something of a career out of tracking these things down and documenting them for the rest of us, and then telling us how to find them too. His most recent book is *Midwest Marvels*, a compendium of hundreds of fiberglass animals, Paul Bunyans (lots of Paul Bunyans) and mammoth fish (lots and lots of mammoth fish) scattered across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and the Dakotas. An awful lot of these are labeled "the world's largest," and I guess there isn't any sure way to tell whether or not those claims are true. Certainly Dregni doesn't try to sort it out. Perhaps if it means enough to a town (Huron, South Dakota) to claim the world's largest pheasant ("as big as a car"), then it would be impolite for another town to show them up, or for an author to disprove it.

But there is controversy. Consider Dala horses—those orange painted wooden horses that symbolize Sweden—for instance. Is the world's largest in Minot, North Dakota; Mora, Minnesota; or Albert City, Iowa? Dregni wisely takes no sides, just records each claim for his book.

I'm not convinced that everything Dregni has included belongs here; grouping the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota campus and Duluth's Aerial Lift Bridge alongside the Dickeyville Grotto and the World's Largest Loon seems a little disrespectful, and somewhat off point. But Dregni has done a good job of finding a wide variety of oddities and then tracking down their essential facts: why they came to be, how big they are, and how to find them. As a sort of bonus, he includes tips on other things to do while you're in the area. If you go to Dubuque, Iowa, to see the world's shortest and steepest railroad, for example, he suggests that as long as you're there you might want to head down Highway 52 to see the world's largest strawberry.

His book is rich with photographs and details, a great book to toss into the back seat when you head out for the weekend. An index would have been nice, but the table of contents is very complete, organized first by state, then by town, then by attraction, so if you have a vague recollection of something you spotted years ago outside of Crookston (perhaps the world's largest ox cart?) it should be easy enough to find.

—Laurie Hertzell

## Bookmarks

**Balanced Brand: How to Balance the Stakeholder Forces That Can Make or Break Your Business**

Jossey-Bass, 2006

By John Foley (B.A. '79), with Julie Kendrick

Values have become a driving force in how stakeholders shape their decisions about a company. That is the fundamental premise of branding expert John Foley's book, which asserts that companies aligned with the values of their stakeholders will enjoy sustained growth and profitability. Foley's BalancedBrand methodology is a departure from traditional marketing and advertising, for it requires executives to harmonize their stated values with their operating values.



**Before the Mortgage: Real Stories of Brazen Loves, Broken Leases, and the Perplexing Pursuit of Adulthood**

Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 2006

Edited by Christina Amini and Rachel Hutton

Tim Gihring (B.A. '95) is a contributor in this collection of essays that explores the hazards of the transition from college student to full-fledged adult. Gihring's essay, "Fake Dating," appears alongside work by other talented young writers who address topics as varied as apartment search horror stories, relationship red flags, and regrettable interview quotes. Contributors include Sarah Vowell, Anna Chlumsky, Joel Stein, and others who are adept at articulating the experiences of what has come to be known as the "twixter generation."



**The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide**

By Meizhu Lui, Barbara Robles, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Rose Brewer, and Rebecca Anderson, with United For A Fair Economy  
The New Press, 2006

Rose Brewer, a professor of African American and African Studies at the University, is a co-author of this multicultural history of American wealth. The book recounts the asset-building histories of various race groups and makes the case that until government policy addresses disparities in wealth and not just income, the United States will never have economic or racial justice.



**Common Good: Ideas from the Humphrey**

Edited by John Brandl

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 2006

Former dean John Brandl has edited a compilation of essays written in observance of the 25th anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in 2002. Each of the 16 essays, written by professors and fellows, articulates an idea or theory that has a bearing on public affairs. Taken together, they represent the kind of spirited, rigorous dialogue toward defining the common good for which the Humphrey Institute has come to be known.



**The Summer Sherman Loved Me**

By Jane St. Anthony (B.A. '73)

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006

Jane St. Anthony's debut novel tenderly unravels the textures of first love. Set in the 1960s, this book for young readers captures the emotional intensity and awkwardness of love during the time between childhood and adolescence. Margaret, the central character, chronicles in a first-person narrative what happens to her world after her pal and next-door neighbor declares his love for her. The book is a poignant evocation of the terrors and joys of adolescent love.



Minnesota publishes reviews and highlights of books with a University of Minnesota connection. Send to Minnesota Magazine, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455.



# Up in SMOKE

A story  
about  
a new  
grad's  
change  
in  
career  
plans.

"Hey, Mom. Smell my hair."

Sitting in the living room of my son's apartment this past spring, I obliged and he leaned his freshly shampooed head toward me. "Does it smell like smoke?" It did.

It wasn't the first time he'd asked me this question. Long before smoking bans, Sam had worked his way through college tending bar. Back then, everyone left the place smelling like smoke. But this time the question had a completely different meaning.

In the summer of 2002, after Sam's graduation from the University of Minnesota with a degree in journalism, my husband and I visited him at work and asked, as parents of new grads do, what he planned to do next—an internship in sports broadcasting, perhaps, as he'd discussed with us earlier. But he calmly told us that he'd changed his mind.

"Oh?" I asked. "What kind of change?"

"I want to become a firefighter."

"A *what*?" My husband and I responded in tandem. Sam, polishing a glass behind the bar, shook his head. "I was afraid you wouldn't understand."

Seeing that I needed to process this bit of information, my husband paid our tab, took me gently by the elbow, and led me outside. Sam was right; I didn't understand. All that time working toward his degree, all that effort and money. "He's throwing it all away," I said, my telegenic son's dream of becoming a sports broadcaster going up, literally, in smoke.

I didn't object to his becoming a firefighter *per se*. At least I didn't think so. It was a noble profession, albeit one I hadn't given much thought. When Sam and his siblings were young, I'd taken them to the neighborhood fire station to meet the firefighters, climb into the driver's seat of the hook-and-ladder truck, and try on a fireproof helmet—kids looking up to their local heroes, that kind of thing.

Many of my reservations had to do with Sam's talent as a writer, his education. Would he be intellectually challenged as a firefighter? And of course there were the dangers. I much preferred to think of him safely ensconced in a press booth covering Major League Baseball than disappearing into the mouth of a hungry inferno of roaring flames and toxic smoke.

But as often happens with my grown children, the roles had become reversed. This time Sam had something to teach *me*. When I looked honestly at my concerns, I saw something unattractive that I'd often observed in *other* parents but certainly not in myself: projecting my own agenda onto my children.

The truth is, I wanted my son to be a writer, like *me*. My worries about his writing talent and intellectual stimulation had more to do with my interests than his. Writing came eas-

ily to Sam, but it wasn't a passion. He needed to choose his destiny, and I needed to sit ringside and cheer him on.

Powered by his own internal combustion, Sam embarked on a journey that would take three years. It began with an eight-month program to become an emergency medical technician (EMT). He earned his way through by driving an ambulance (Hemingway drove ambulances, I reminded

myself) and tending bar, all the while dedicating himself to a physically demanding regime of strength training, aerobics, and bodybuilding. He went from a lithe 180-pound soccer player to a powerful 200-pound weight lifter.

On the nights we could lure him home with the promise of a steak dinner, he told us stories of nursing homes and hospitals, where he worked with elderly patients and transported sick or injured people from one facility to the next, offering reassurance along with basic medical treatment. When the patient was Hispanic, Sam rode in the back of the ambulance while his partner drove; his minor in Spanish allowed him to explain what was happening and comfort someone who might be frightened.

At the same time, he was crisscrossing the country taking the written firefighter exam wherever a city or county might be hiring, though only a handful of municipalities were. Due to budget cuts, some were laying off firefighters, working with skeleton crews, or using a volunteer force. In Los Angeles, 60,000 men and women applied for 500 openings. In Denver, 12,000 applicants for 50 positions.

As Sam held forth at the dinner table, it was impossible for me to ignore that he told a good story, in journalistic style: a pyramid of the highlights and details with a compelling narrative. It made me wonder if my son shouldn't revisit his ambitions. Sports journalism, a difficult field to break into, looked positively promising.

But not to Sam. Since September 11, 2001, a generation of young people, my son included, had undergone a profound change in the process of coming of age. The firefighters who stormed into the Twin Towers that day became national heroes and role models, first responders in the war on terror.

Now, at a time when young Americans were lining up to follow their example, when it seemed that firefighters were needed more than ever on the home front, cities across the nation were cutting back. But the odds did not deter him. Sam enrolled in a full-time, 18-month paramedic training program while working a 40-hour week as an EMT. He went to the gym. He tended bar Thursday nights. When we would stop in for a beer, the conversation went in one direction: doing what he

BY MARY WINSTEAD // ILLUSTRATION BY VIVIENNE FLESHER





needed to do to become a firefighter.

In 2005, the City of St. Paul announced that it would be hiring and 2,500 applicants showed up to take the written exam. There were 27 openings. Sam took the test, scoring in the top 5 percent. He made it to the next level, a grueling set of tasks that included running up 10 flights of stairs in under three minutes in full firefighter regalia, carrying 200 extra pounds. All on the hottest day of the summer. Again, he scored in the top 5 percent.

There were no more steak dinners, and often on Thursday nights Sam had to find someone to cover his shift while he studied for his paramedic test or went out on a training ride. From time to time he'd check in with me by phone to brief me about his week, telling stories of heart attack patients or triage at the site of a car accident. He even delivered babies in

the back of his ambulance. I'd never seen anyone pursue a goal with such dedication and drive.

He made it to the next level, which involved intensive background checks that scrutinized every inch of his life, all the way back to childhood. Then interviews with the field captains. Then a psychological exam. And then, an interview with the chief. There were 35 finalists.

By now I was a full-fledged supporter. Having witnessed three years of sleepless nights, the physical demands, the financial and personal sacrifices, the dedication to his medical training, I was completely on board. After all of this, and with the end so tantalizingly in sight, I just had to believe he'd go all the way.

When my cell phone rang on my way home from work and Sam's name appeared on the caller ID, I pulled the car over to answer. No matter what he had to say, I didn't want to be on the road. His voice was shaky but clear. He'd made it. I screamed. My strong, stoic grown son began to cry.

Twelve weeks of boot camp. His graduation in dress uniform. His assignment to a fire station in North St. Paul. Lots of paramedic calls—cardiac arrests, falls, and accidents—but no fires.

Until Easter Sunday 2006. A two-alarm fire, just blocks from the station, shortly after midnight.

I came by the next day with a loaf of banana bread, Easter eggs, and a small wrapped gift. I wanted to hear all about his first fire. How it went. What happened.

As he ate the hard-boiled eggs and sliced into the banana bread, he told me a harrowing story. A house engulfed in flames. A family with nine children. Sam

was the first to go in, the first with the hose. The heat was too intense and the interior was a pressure-cooker, the windows in the upstairs bedrooms had already blown and shattered. There was no saving the home, just putting the fire out so it wouldn't spread. It had taken all night. But every family member was safe and accounted for. Hours later, Sam's eyes were still rimmed in red, there was soot under his fingernails, and after two showers, his hair still smelled like smoke.

When he opened his present, I felt a little nervous. I'd wondered, when I'd picked it out, if I was buying it for Sam or for me. But I bought it anyway. It was a leather-bound notebook.

"What's this for?" he asked.

"What you just told me," I replied. "And all the rest. Please. I want you to write it down." ■

Mary Winstead (M.F.A. '00) teaches creative writing at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She lives in Apple Valley. For First Person essay guidelines, go to [www.alumni.umn.edu/minnesota](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/minnesota), call 612-626-4864, or e-mail [fling003@umn.edu](mailto:fling003@umn.edu).



# Creature of Change

Can the ancient tuatara adapt to global warming?  
University graduate **Jeanine Refsnider** plans to find out.

**T**he tuatara of New Zealand have an unusual problem with sex. It isn't a new problem for the spiky green reptiles, but it could get a lot worse, with dire consequences.

The tuatara are the last remnants of an ancient order of reptiles known as the rhynchocephalians, or "beak heads," that lived throughout much of the world 220 million years ago. About 18 inches long and resembling an iguana with bits of crocodile, salamander, and dinosaur thrown into the mix, today's tuatara is nearly identical to 140-million-year-old tuatara fossils, making it among the oldest unchanged vertebrates on earth. Tuatara have lived through ice ages, killer meteors, massive volcanic eruptions, and the shifting of the continents. They saw their cousins the dinosaurs come and go. In the last 1,000 years, the arrival of humans and the predators they introduced wiped out the tuatara on mainland New Zealand. Now they survive as a protected species on offshore islands and are the focus of intensive conservation efforts.

That does not mean they are out of danger, however. After enduring across the eons, the tuatara could be facing another serious threat because of global warming, says Jeanine Refsnider (B.S. '99 Morris, M.S. '05), a 28-year-old University of Minnesota graduate who is studying the creatures in New Zealand with the aid of a prestigious Fulbright grant. Refsnider is trying to see how quickly the tuatara can adjust to rising temperatures in order to avoid extinction.

In her office at Victoria University in Wellington, she explains that the temperature in tuatara nests determines the gender of hatchlings. More than 22 degrees Celsius (71.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and all tuatara are born male. Less than 21 degrees (69.8 degrees Fahrenheit), and all are female. If the air stays warm for too many consecutive years, it could be a reproductive disaster for the tuatara, with only males being born, she says.

Clearly, the tuatara have found ways to cope with climate change before, perhaps simply by moving their rookeries or nests to warmer or cooler spots. But Refsnider contends that global warming is happening much more quickly than past temperature swings, and she worries that the tuatara



Tuatara females lay about eight eggs, which incubate for a year.

could be too slow to move their nests. She cites the work of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which estimates that global surface temperatures will rise from between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius (2.52 and 10.44 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of this century.

"If before it's taken 10,000 years to change a couple of degrees, and now it happens in 100 years, the question is how flexible are tuatara in looking for new places to nest?" Refsnider says. "Climate change in the past has happened slowly. This is happening so fast, they may not be able to

adapt quickly enough."

**R**efsnider grew up in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. She received her bachelor's degree in biology and her master's in conservation biology. She made her first mark in the world of reptile ecology as a graduate student, with a study of the breeding habits of Blanding's turtles in Minnesota. When she returns to the United States next year, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in ecology and evolution, specializing in reptiles.

Endangered species, and reptiles in particular, have long fascinated Refsnider. When she was 8 years old, she saved her allowance to buy a fox snake from a pet shop. As a high school and college student, she volunteered at Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, Minnesota, and adopted abandoned snakes and other reptiles as pets. Her box turtle and 10-foot-long boa constrictor are living in her parents' basement while she is in New Zealand.

Her father, Ron Refsnider (M.S. '78), says his daughter showed her proclivity for unusual animals at an early age. She carried around a rubber shark instead of dolls, he says, and collected offbeat stuffed toys, including an armadillo and a spiny anteater.

Ron Refsnider works as an endangered species biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jeanine Refsnider grew up helping her father with his field research. While in the sixth and seventh grades, she worked with him on a study of Kirtland's warblers, a unique and endangered bird species in the Upper Midwest.

"Conservation biology is something that almost seems

BY HUDSON SANGREE // PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON WILSON







to be in her blood," he says. "She started with me working with birds, and moving to tuatara is a natural step. Reptiles have always been her first love."

"I've been learning about science from an early age and doing things in a scientific method," she says. "I was really lucky I was able to do that. I've always been interested in learning enough about threatened species to be able to protect them."

**A**ltogether, Refsnider is spending a year and a half in New Zealand, working on her own and as part of a research team from Victoria University. Between stints in Wellington, she and her colleagues live among the tuatara on Stephens Island, a remote and rugged prominence off the northeast tip of New Zealand's South Island. There are some 30,000 to 50,000 tuatara on Stephens Island, by far the largest concentration of the reptiles in the world. Much smaller groups, from a few dozen to a few hundred individuals, live on about 30 other offshore islands.

Stephens Island's sheer cliffs and rough seas prevent boat landings, so the researchers arrive by helicopter. They make their home in a former lighthouse keeper's residence and, other than two wildlife rangers, are the only humans on the island. Refsnider spent six weeks on Stephens Island last year and plans to return again for six weeks this year. Her visits coincide with the tuatara breeding season in the austral spring months of late October through early December.

She goes out every night, visiting tuatara rookeries and often working until morning. She marks females and keeps track of their movements and choice of nest sites. Tuatara have little fear of humans and can easily be caught and studied at night, she says.

Tuatara are long-lived creatures. According to Refsnider, the oldest known individual on Stephens Island is 80 years old, and scientists speculate that some may live to be 120. They are slow to mature and do not reproduce until they are about 20 years old. They are also slow to breed. Female tuatara nest every two or three years. They lay about eight eggs on average, which take a year to hatch. The females leave their forest burrows and always return to the same rookeries on rocky hillsides to make their nests. Whether the tuatara have the flexibility to change their nest sites within the rookeries to adjust for temperature is a key question of Refsnider's study.

On Stephens Island, recent summer months have been among the warmest on record and things are definitely

heating up for the tuatara, Refsnider says. To test whether the creatures would nest in cooler spots if they had the option, she designed a simple but first-of-its-kind experiment. Refsnider uses shade cloth to create cooler nesting sites within the rookeries and monitors the females to see whether they opt for the shade. "We're actually giving the animals a choice to see what they do under different conditions," she says. "If they try to compensate for global

warming, you would expect more of them to nest under the shade cloth."

The results aren't in yet, but Refsnider says she hopes to have enough data after her next trip to Stephens Island to predict whether the tuatara might change their nesting behavior in response to increasing temperatures.

Refsnider's experiment follows up on a prior study done by Victoria University researchers that determined the exact temperatures at which tuatara become male or female in the egg. Nicky

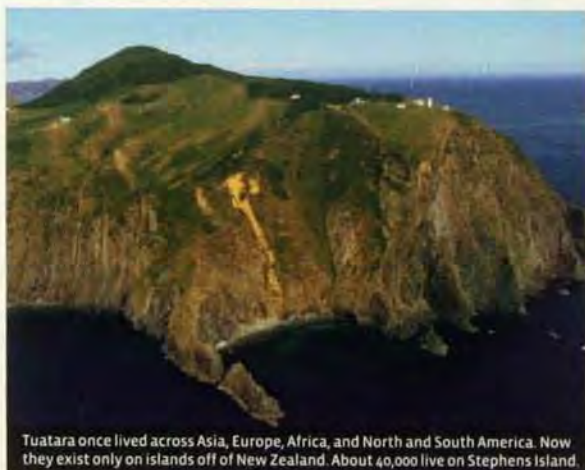
Nelson, the graduate student who led that study, is now a biology professor at Victoria and Refsnider's supervisor. Nelson says that Refsnider's project could be vital to helping the tuatara survive during the next century of global warming.

"The climate change we're seeing is pretty extreme," Nelson says. "The females must modify their behavior so the sex ratio doesn't get too skewed toward males. It's not something they can respond to genetically over centuries. That's not an option. They have to respond within their lifetimes."

Currently, an experiment is under way to reintroduce tuatara on the mainland, in a fenced and predator-free area of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington. If all goes well there, more releases could happen in the next few years. Refsnider says her experiment could have a lasting practical application in such efforts.

"We can put them anywhere, but if there's no place to nest they will just die out eventually," she says. "Obviously we need to make sure their habitat, including nesting sites, is suitable. We're still not sure what they like—what makes a good nest spot for them. They go to the same spot every year but what, exactly, makes that spot attractive to them is still a question."

**T**uatara is a Maori name that means "peaks on the back," referring to the reptiles' spiky crests. Tuatara originated during the Mesozoic era, when the rhynchocephalians lived throughout Asia, Europe, Africa, and North and South America. Only the tuatara of New Zealand avoid-



Tuatara once lived across Asia, Europe, Africa, and North and South America. Now they exist only on islands off of New Zealand. About 40,000 live on Stephens Island.





Tuatara eat insects, spiders, small lizards, and seabird eggs and chicks.



A tuatara male. If the temperature in the nest is more than 22 degrees Celsius, all tuatara will be male.



A tuatara yearling. Adult tuatara, such as at right, grow to be about 18 inches long. The oldest known tuatara on Stephens Island is 80 years old, and scientists speculate that some tuatara might live to be 120.



ed extinction because New Zealand separated from the super continent of Gondwanaland about 85 million years ago, before mammals evolved as predators. Today, tuatara are the sole occupants of their own order in the reptile class. The other three orders include crocodiles and alligators, snakes and lizards, and turtles.

The relatively recent arrival of humans ended the tuatara's protective isolation and decimated their population on the mainland. By most estimates, the Maori came to New Zealand from Polynesia between 700 and 1200 A.D. European settlers arrived in greater numbers during the 1800s. Both groups cleared and burned the native forests, introduced predators, and hunted many unique species to extinction or near-extinction.

The tuatara suffered from habitat destruction, as the forests where they burrowed were cleared for farming and sheep pasture. Introduced predators, such as the Polynesian rat and the English stoat, an ermine, competed with the tuatara for food—mainly insects and spiders, small lizards, and seabird eggs and chicks. As adults, tuatara have no serious predators, but introduced mammals eat their eggs and young.

Reintroducing the tuatara and keeping the species going are top priorities for the Kiwis, who have undertaken intensive conservation efforts after seeing much of their native flora and fauna wiped out by the impact of humans on New Zealand's fragile ecosystems.

Saving the tuatara is important not just for its own sake, but because it is a vital part of its natural environment, Refsnider insists. On Stephens Island, for example, the

burrowing creatures mix seabird droppings with the soil, making it more fertile in exposed, rocky areas. In the forest, their digging uproots seedlings, creating a mature forest with little understory, maintaining its and other creatures' habitat.

Professor Nelson says tuatara are also important as a window into the world of reptiles that predated the dinosaurs. "As representatives of this ancient group of reptiles they provide a link to the past," she says. "They are called 'living fossils,' which isn't really accurate, but it shows their importance as heirs to this extremely old lineage."

The threat of global warming to much-loved species such as polar bears and penguins has been well-publicized. But Refsnider is concerned that the numbers of tuatara and other reptiles could dwindle without people taking enough notice. Tuatara, for instance, have hardly been heard of outside New Zealand or the rarefied world of herpetology, the study of reptiles.

"With species like polar bears and penguins, we call them charismatic mega fauna," Refsnider says. "Tuatara certainly are not that. But lots of reptiles are temperature sensitive. A tiny increase in climate could potentially wipe out a species."

"Reptiles aren't everybody's favorite animals, so the things that affect them aren't popularized," she continues. "But the tuatara are ancient and unique. If we lose them, they're gone forever." ■

*Hudson Sangree is a freelance writer based in Davis, California, who spent half of 2006 living in Wellington, New Zealand.*



# ALMOST HOME

*The football Gophers will kick off in their on-campus stadium in fall 2009. By Shelly Fling*

Murray Warmath was all smiles when he entered Memorial Hall in the McNamara Alumni Center on May 24, and the Gopher fans gathered there parted reverentially to let him through. The legendary coach of the football Gophers from 1954 to 1971 had led his teams to a national championship, two Big Ten championships, and two Rose Bowl appearances, including a victory in 1962. His happy mood had little to do with past glories, however, and everything to do with possibilities.

Warmath, honorary co-chair of the "Back to Campus" stadium fundraising campaign, wanted to see it for himself: the signing of the legislative



Nancy Lindahl (B.S. '68) congratulated former Gopher football coach Murray Warmath at the stadium bill-signing ceremony. Lindahl and her husband, John (B.S. '68), are co-chairs of the campaign to raise private gifts for the stadium. Warmath, Gopher football coach for 18 years, and Richard "Pinky" McNamara (B.A. '56), who played for Warmath and has made a gift to the stadium, are honorary campaign co-chairs.

bill that would secure \$248.7 million in funding to bring Gopher football home. A few days earlier, the Min-

nesota legislature had passed the bill (96-37 in the House, 43-24 in the Senate), and now it waited for Governor Tim Pawlenty's pen.

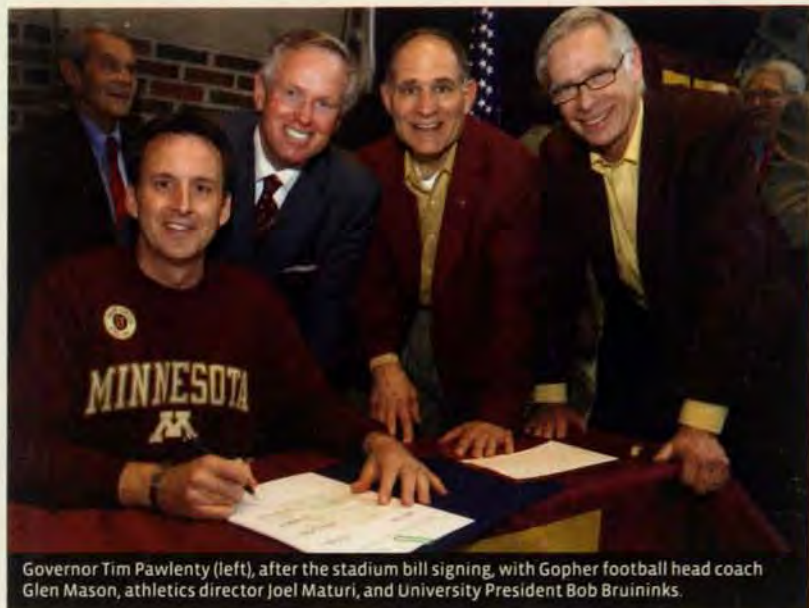
"The stadium doesn't happen because I sign the bill today, but because of the years of hard work" to make it happen, said Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86), standing beneath the reconstructed Memorial Stadium Arch and surrounded by University officials and state legislators. The Gophers moved to the Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis in 1982 and have played there the past 25 years.

If you want a successful, dynamic University, you need a successful, dynamic athletics program, Pawlenty said. "The U is one of Minnesota's



An aerial photograph is assisting traffic engineers with stadium site plans. The stadium will be built to the east of Mariucci and Williams arenas on what are now parking lots. Several roads around the stadium will be rerouted beginning this summer.





Governor Tim Pawlenty (left), after the stadium bill signing, with Gopher football head coach Glen Mason, athletics director Joel Maturi, and University President Bob Bruininks.

most important assets. The new on-campus stadium will bring visibility and excitement that will benefit the U, our state, and our citizens."

The stadium will be called TCF Bank Stadium per a \$35 million naming-rights agreement with TCF Financial Corporation. The bill calls for the state to pay \$10.25 million per year for 25 years, 55 percent of the stadium cost. And the deal includes the transfer of 2,840 acres of unde-

veloped University land in Dakota County to the state for use as a metropolitan area nature preserve.

University fund-raising, game-day parking revenue, and student fees (a maximum of \$25 a year) will cover the remainder of the price tag. The University is accountable for \$111.5 million of the stadium project, and approximately 20 percent, \$48.9 million, still needs to be raised.

President Bob Bruininks, who has been talking about building an on-campus stadium since 2002, noted the bipartisan makeup of the stadium bill's passage, which had only a one-vote difference between Democrats and Republicans. He thanked the legislators in attendance for their across-the-aisle negotiations.

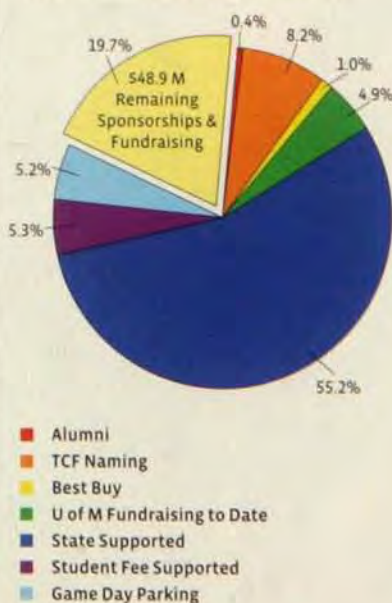
For years, the University has been the only Big Ten school without a football stadium on its campus, Bruininks said. "This new facility will have a huge, positive impact on our football program, recruiting, and all of our athletics programs."

He acknowledged that kickoff at home is over three years away, however, and much work remained. "We still need to raise tens of millions of dollars," Bruininks told the crowd, "so I hope you all brought your checkbooks."

*Shelly Fling is editor of Minnesota.*

### Stadium Financing Plan

Eighty percent of the stadium's \$248.7 million cost has been secured.



## STADIUM GAME PLAN

### What will the stadium look like?

Project architects HOK Sport of Kansas City, Missouri, whose résumé includes Jacobs Field in Cleveland and Camden Yards in Baltimore, and local partner Architectural Alliance of Minneapolis, will release stadium sketches in fall 2006. Following project guidelines, the TCF Bank Stadium will have a collegiate style in an open-air, horseshoe design. It will be home not only to the Gopher football program but also to the Minnesota Marching band, and will be suitable for commencement ceremonies, soccer games and intramural sports, concerts, and other campus community events.

TCF Bank Stadium will sport 50,000 chair-back seats and benches, including 39 suites, 750 loge seats, 300 indoor club seats, and 1,250 outdoor club seats. The stadium will include a 30,000-square-foot indoor club, a merchandise store, a Gopher athletics hall of fame, concessions, and, of course, home and visitor locker rooms.

### When does construction begin and end?

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the stadium is planned for this September, and construction on the stadium is expected to begin in summer 2007. Around the stadium site, road construction on Sixth Street and 23rd Avenue will begin this summer, and construction on Oak Street and University is scheduled to take place in summer 2007. The football Gophers will play their first game in TCF Bank Stadium in fall 2009.

### What about parking?

TCF Bank Stadium will be located on lots that now yield 2,600 parking spaces. But parking for U employees and visitors to campus will be available throughout construction, and project planners expect to replace as many parking spaces in the surrounding stadium district on University-purchased land, including on the site of the grain elevators, as development progresses.

### How can I get seats in the new stadium?

Since the passage of the stadium bill, Gopher football season-ticket sales have increased. Gopher fans can guarantee a seat in TCF Bank Stadium by purchasing season tickets before the stadium is built. Season-ticket-purchase history and giving to Gopher athletics will be criteria in seat allocation in the new stadium. Athletics officials expect 20 percent of season-ticket holders to be University students. For information on buying or renewing season tickets, visit [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com) or call 612-624-8080.

### How can I help build the stadium?

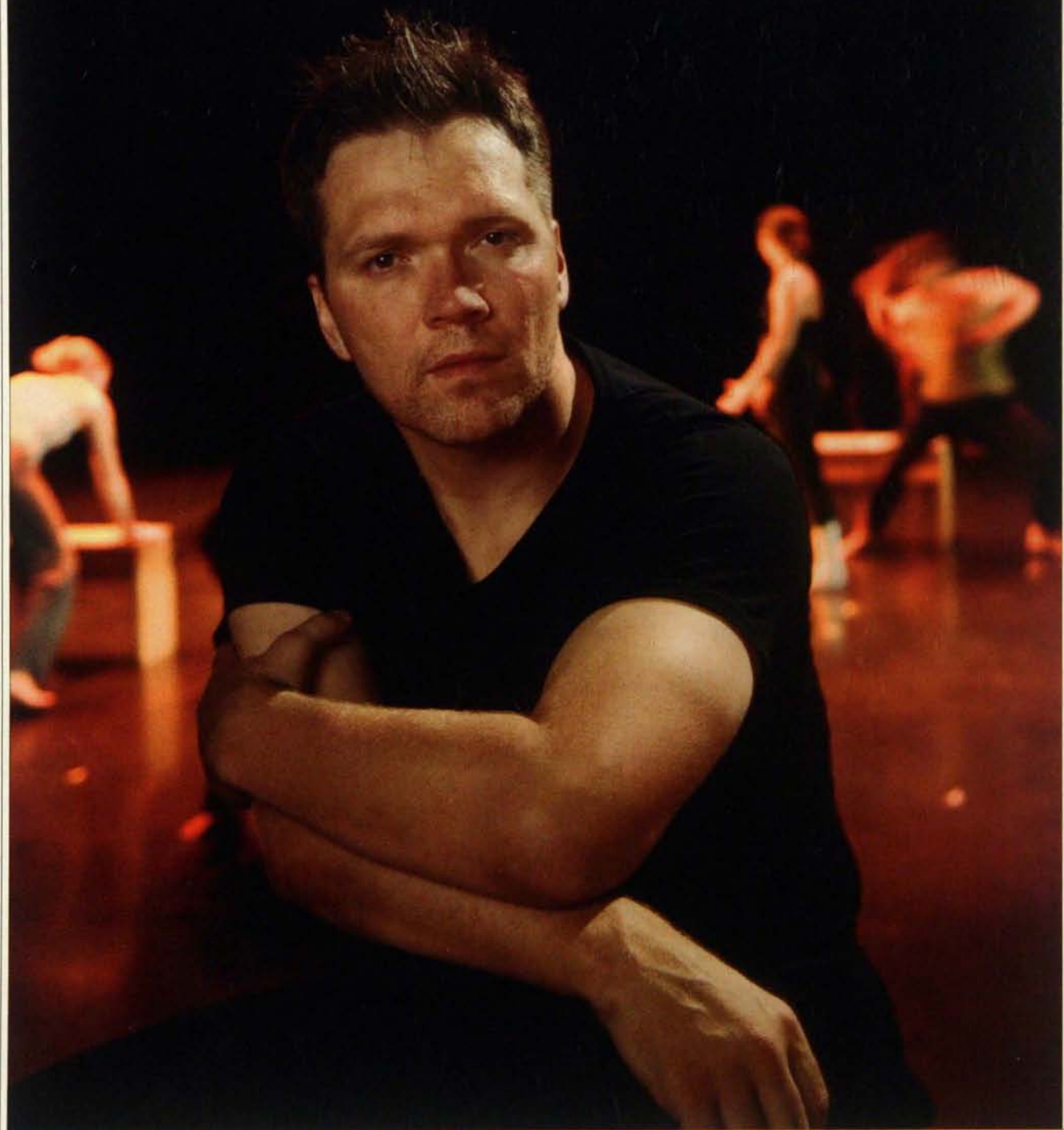
Major sponsorships and gifts for the stadium include \$35 million from TCF Financial Corporation, \$2.5 million from Best Buy, and \$1 million from the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. Nearly \$50 million still needs to be raised, and fund-raising will take place in phases over the next 18 months. Grassroots fund-raising will likely be launched in summer 2007. Those interested in giving should visit [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com) or call the Golden Gopher Fund at 612-626-GOLD.



# Political Movement

Through his new dance company, associate professor Carl Flink wants to connect minds with bodies and the University with the wider community.

BY CAMILLE LEFEVRE // PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUINENBURG







**O**ne evening this spring, Carl Flink (B.A. '90) watched intently as two of his dancers, University student Eddie Oroyan and Miriam Castro (B.A. '06), performed his "Duet from *Wreck*" at Old Arizona arts center in Minneapolis. As the dancers perched at either end of a bench, in unwavering yet precarious-looking shoulder stands, the audience gasped. They flung, clung to, lifted, and carried each other with an intense physicality cast in tenderness, and the audience was rapt.

As the tension and uncertainty in the dancers' relationship ebbed and flowed, the audience's emotional identification with the portrayal was palpable. The duet ended with the dancers simply, yet profoundly, holding hands. The audience was silent, as if collectively regaining its breath. One or two people softly said, "Wow."

Then the theater erupted with vigorous clapping and loud whoops. Several audience members dabbed at their eyes. Flink nodded to his dancers with approval, as his wife, Emilie, and 3-year-old daughter, Willa, joined in the applause. The performance had offered a glimpse at the Twin Cities' newest dance company, Black Label Movement, which debuts in August. As excitement coursed through the audience, the company's founder realized, he said later, that "I'd hit it; I'd struck a universal chord."

He explains: "I talk a lot with my dancers and students about how you touch someone communicates everything. The emotion is inherent in the physicality. If I've achieved my goal, the audience can't help but be there with the dancers when they're experiencing the emotional or mental vulnerability that comes with physical risk. When people can see human vulnerability in a piece, that's their entrance point," Flink says.

Last year, Flink began assembling Black Label Movement—whose name was inspired by the spare, unadorned generic food labels that began appearing in the 1970s—to facilitate such choreographic explorations. The company features an outstanding cast of dancers, many of whom, like Castro, are recent graduates of the University of Minnesota's dance department. Flink began teaching dance at the University in 2001. In 2004 he joined the University as an associate professor. In 2005, he was appointed director of dance for the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.

Black Label Movement is the means by which Flink merges his theories and research in dance with real-world practice. "It's a holistic model that has the specific benefit of breaking down institutional walls between the university and the larger Twin Cities community," Flink explains. "And it gives people who aren't necessarily going to respond to an article, a book, a lecture, or a panel a whole new way of accessing those ideas."

According to Steve Rosenstone, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Black Label Movement demonstrates that faculty contributions to the broader community are "not just about technology transfer, not just about jobs, not just about serving as consultants to cities when they're designing highways and buildings," he says. Rather, artistic ventures like Black Label Movement contribute to "the cultural fabric of our community."

The company also brings a powerful and unique choreographic voice to the local dance community. "A lot of people in academia and beyond think of the arts as simply descriptive of knowledge," Flink says. "Someone does a piece about apartheid so the audience will think and learn something deeper about it." Instead of making his dances "about" something, Flink says, in his work "artistic expression comes out of the body through movement." This "embodied art," as he calls his work, conveys "a way of knowing, not a description. It's a way of communicating in and of itself. I don't need to layer it with a paragraph of description."

Flink also sees this approach to dance, in which the physical manifests the emotional and intellectual, as an "act of rebellion" in contemporary American society. He cites decreasing physical activity and increasing obesity, distorted views of the "perfect" body, and the tendency to watch activities, such as sports on television or games on computers, rather than to participate in them.

In short, he says, people increasingly disconnect their minds from their bodies. "But anytime you move, or experience the power of someone else's movement, you become aware that the mind is connected to the body." Because of his "embodied" approach to choreography, Flink continues, "my pieces are distinctly human. I truly believe art and dance are pivotal forces for change in our society. And I believe the ultimate political statement is helping people find deeper centeredness in their own humanity."

**T**his merging of art and politics in Flink's work, with its strong infusions of athleticism and humanism, comes naturally. He was raised in Kenwood during the 1960s, when the Minneapolis neighborhood was "a liberal bastion of progressive thought," he recalls. His father, who worked for 30 years in Medtronic's department of international corporate medical standards, "was always extremely rigorous in his thinking and very critical of our society." Flink's mother was a schoolteacher who worked with juvenile delinquents and adults earning their high-school GEDs.

His younger sister, who was adopted at three months and was of African American and French Canadian origin, died in 2005 "as the result of a 20-year addiction to heroin," Flink says. "The experience of witnessing her life, and the lens it provided on social programs in this country and how they privilege certain groups over others, was radicalizing. My sister's life took my liberal progressive upbringing away from theory and made it real. For me, there was no more talking about equality, tolerance, and acceptance. I realized



that I needed to act if people like my sister were going to get a fair share of society."

A star soccer player, Flink transferred from Carleton College to the University in 1985 to major in political science and women's studies—and to play club soccer with an eye toward a professional career in Europe. Then he took a modern-dance class, to satisfy a yearning he'd felt since ninth grade, when he saw a television program in which football player Herschel Walker of the Dallas Cowboys danced with the Fort Worth Ballet.

After that first class, Flink says, "dance was like a virus. It infused my whole body." Within six months, he was taking up to eight ballet classes a week, as well as dance classes at the University and throughout the Twin Cities. "In three years, I crunched in 10 years of dance training. It was crazy."

Flink was still playing soccer and planning on graduate school in political science when, in 1990, he produced his women's studies honors thesis, a dance performance titled *Silence, Whispers, Screams*. "My task was to produce a dance concert using feminist organizational theory—essentially a more democratic, collective approach to organizing a concert versus a hierarchical approach," Flink explains. The dance works included a woman dancing with her mother, pieces questioning gender roles, and an examination of prison culture. "The attempt was to have dances under a larger umbrella of social criticism," he recalls. "It was a huge success."

Graduate school, however, would wait. Susan McGuire, a visiting dancer via the Cowles Land Grant Guest Artist Chair, had taught a work by iconic New York choreographer Paul Taylor to the University students. Flink loved Taylor's work. "It completely made sense to my athlete's body," he says. McGuire suggested Flink move to New York and pursue a career in dance. He earned a full scholarship at the Paul Taylor School and by 1992 was performing with the internationally renowned José Limón Dance Company, where he met and married another company dancer, Emilie Plauché.

In 1996, during a Limón performance at the White House, Flink had an epiphany. "The fact that I was there as the 'entertainment' was shocking to me," Flink recalls. "If you had asked me, when I was 20, what would be my first time in the White House, I would have said as a congressional page or White House intern. I realized I hadn't left political science and women's studies and social justice because I was bored with it. . . . So I asked myself, 'Is dance what I want to be doing for the rest of my life? Or is there unfinished business?'"

He contacted his mentors at the University, including Raymond Duvall in political science and Robert Brown from cultural studies and comparative literature, who suggested law. In 2001, Flink graduated from Stanford Law School (having served as a guest instructor, lecturer, and choreographer in Stanford's dance program at the same time). He moved back to St. Paul, taking a job with Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc., as a staff attorney. But he also began teaching dance at the University as an affiliate

faculty member.

With the birth of daughter Willa in 2002, he says, "the seams started showing. I basically was doing a full-time law practice and a full-time arts practice, and when she came along that lifestyle was unsustainable." By accepting the position as director of the dance program, Flink could finally "bring all of my disparate skills under one roof."

**R**osenstone predicts Flink will continue to strengthen a dance department that's already "one of the best undergraduate programs in the country. There's a sense of energy around the program that comes from new leadership," he says. "Carl is a magnetic personality who engages in broad discussions about the arts and creative processes in the college. And he's a remarkable choreographer who enjoys tremendous relationships with the college and the larger dance community."

Flink's appointment has also benefited the development of the Interdisciplinary Program in Collaborative Arts, part of the U's Initiative on Arts and Humanities. The premise of the program, Rosenstone explains, is simple: "Much of the creativity in the arts occurs at the intersections, or boundaries, of the distinct disciplines of dance, theater, music, and studio arts. Many of our students come to the University already playing at those boundaries and intersections." Through the collaborative-arts program, he says, the University will be better prepared to support and nurture the work of such students.

Flink says he brings to the College of Liberal Arts and the dance program "an instinctive, manifested, interdisciplinary experience. . . . It's not an intellectual exercise. I am *living* it." The primacy of Flink's diverse background in his daily life as an administrator and educator, dancer and choreographer, is also the foundation for the most public of his activities: Black Label Movement.

Jamie Ryan (B.A. '04) is a Black Label Movement dancer, who—along with Flink—is also a member of the Minneapolis-based Shapiro and Smith Dance. Flink's choreography requires strong, athletic dancers who aren't afraid to push at the boundaries of their own physical limitations, which is what Ryan loves about his work. "He'll show us something and I'll think, 'There's no way I can do that,'" Ryan explains, with a laugh. "Then I do it, and the thrill and adrenaline rush excite me."

That excitement—as well as the emotional shading that accompanies the dancers' fear, vulnerability, trust, commitment, and mastery as they perform the choreography—easily transfers to the audience. "You can't be dishonest when you're at true risk," Flink says. "It's the ultimate metaphor for human experience. And audiences can't help but go along for the ride." ■

*Camille LeFevre (B.A. '81) is a freelance dance critic and arts journalist in the Twin Cities. Black Label Movement premieres August 17 through 20 at the Southern Theater in Minneapolis. Visit [www.southerntheater.org](http://www.southerntheater.org).*



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*In her 40 years at the University Health Service, Ruth Boynton faced tuberculosis concerns, influenza outbreaks, Benzedrine overdoses, and the common cold.*

## A HISTORY OF

# Student Health

BY TIM BRADY

**R**uth Boynton (M.D. '20, M.P.H. '27) had just arrived on the campus of the University of Minnesota as a newly enrolled medical student when she made her first acquaintance with the institution that would become the center of her professional universe in years to come. It was the fall of 1918, and the University of Minnesota Health Service had opened its doors for the very first time late that September when a flood of students poured in. The great flu pandemic was sweeping the nation, and it hit the campus hard, including Ruth Boynton.

Dr. John Sundwall, the first director of the Health Service, along with a small staff of volunteer nurses, medical students, and doctors from the University Hospital, were inundated with sick students, some of them suddenly and desperately ill. The University closed its doors in a vain attempt to prevent the spread of the virus; even so, more than 2,000 cases of the flu would be seen by health personnel at the University. Through all of October, classes were canceled and the campus was shuttered. Ultimately, 20 students would die of the disease before the crisis abated over the winter of 1918-19.

Boynton was one of the lucky survivors. A native of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Boynton contracted the disease upon her arrival in Minneapolis but did not succumb. Perhaps out of appreciation for the aid she received there, Boynton returned to the University Health Service in 1921 with her medical degree in hand to begin a long and distinguished career in student health.

Except for a couple of brief stints early in her career, when she served as director of the Division of Child Hygiene for the

State of Minnesota and then taught at the University of Chicago, Boynton would spend the rest of her next 40 years in the employ of the University Health Service. In 1936, she became the first woman in the nation to be appointed the director of such an organization and would hold that post for 25 years.

Boynton was at the Health Service as the University of Minnesota grew from a good-sized land grant institution in the years before World War II into a giant state university. She was there as G.I.s poured into college after the war, and she was there through the University's continued growth in the 1950s. She oversaw the commensurate growth of the Health Service, which had begun as a one-doctor unit housed in a few rooms in the basement of Pillsbury Hall, and wound up, by the time of her retirement, as one of the most essential services offered by the University to its students, faculty, and staff.

The Health Service was a long time in the making. A typhoid epidemic in the Twin Cities in 1904 had prompted the first calls for a student health orga-



Boynton in 1936, when she became director of the University Health Service.



A technician gives an allergy test.





**Students making appointments at the Health Service in 1933. The service was then located in a wing of the University Hospital.**

nization, but the wheels of the bureaucracy were slow-turning and it would take 14 years for the plan to be fully implemented.

After its horrible first days in 1918 dealing with "The Spanish Flu," the Health Service settled into the routine of handling more typical student health problems. It also quickly experienced its first growth spurt. In 1921, the same year that Dr. Ruth Boynton was hired, John Sundwall took a position at the University of Michigan and was replaced as director by Dr. Harold Diehl. Dr. William Shepard was hired as the third full-time M.D. on this staff.

The service's most pressing ongoing concern at the time was tuberculosis. The U of M averaged two new cases of TB a month during these early years of the Health Service. But as with all student health services, the most frequent misery attended to was the common cold, and Boynton, Shepard, and Diehl spent long hours not just prescribing bed rest and aspirin, but searching for a cure.

According to Shepard, in a recollection published upon Boynton's retirement, a post-World War I report from a weapons arsenal in Maryland suggested that workers in the plant who had been engaged in making chlorine bombs for gas warfare "were remarkably free of colds." This prompted an experiment at the University of Minnesota in which a group of students with colds were sent to a "chlorine room" where "a very small, carefully measured amount of chlorine" was pumped into the room. Afflicted students would sit for an hour in study chairs, breathing the chlorinated air. Its effectiveness as a remedy for the

sniffles was then matched against another group given more traditional treatment. Needless to say, the chlorine cure didn't work, but under Diehl and then Boynton, the Health Service would continue to conduct experiments in the vain hope of finding that ever-elusive fix for the common cold.

Shepard also tells us that in the first years of the Health Service there was "a terrific outbreak of scarlet fever at the [St. Paul] farm campus." But its most serious crisis was an epidemic of smallpox that struck the Twin Cities in the mid-1920s. Eight thousand vaccinations were given to students and other members of the University community; still, seven students died from the disease.

Boynton's foray into the world of student health whetted her appetite for continued service. She taught public health at Minnesota, as well as at the University of Chicago. She was also interested in the study of tuberculosis and would over the course of her career publish a number of articles on public health aspects of the disease.

TB remained the largest and most fearful killer of college-age students when Boynton assumed the role of director. While in that position, she would expand the amount of TB testing done at the University, insisting first that all new students be tested for the disease and then that all staff,



**A Health Service dietitian consults with a student.**

academic and non-academic, be tested as well. It was one of the early steps in what would become a gradual process of expanding the Health Service from its focus on students to its ultimate role as a University-wide service.

When she took office in 1936, Boynton inherited a well-



run office. She replaced Diehl, who left to become dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Medicine, where he would do much to build its national reputation. He left Boynton a service that had grown to nine full-time physicians, 28 part-time doctors, 11 part-time dentists, and a whole slew of nurses, administrators, and other staff. The Health Service had long since left Pillsbury Hall and was now housed in a wing of the University Hospital. It attended to an assortment of health needs for the 400 to 500 students it saw on a weekly basis.

Aside from the TB testing, Boynton instituted some immediate changes at the Health Service. Consultants in proctology and urology were added at the service, as was a "diet table" in the campus dining area. Boynton's early concern about what students ate foreshadowed the modern era. Her diet table treated primarily obese students, who had trouble finding healthful foods elsewhere on the campus or in Dinkytown restaurants, but also served students with diabetes, nephritis, gastric ulcers, and colitis. She hired a graduate dietician to oversee the menus, and 82 students signed up for the service in its very first year.

Another problem was the excessive use of the amphetamine Bzedrine by students on campus. First introduced around 1940, the drug quickly became popular around exam time with students looking for post-midnight boosts. One year, Boynton and the Health Service had four students in the hospital suffering from Bzedrine overdoses. In response, the Health Service ran an ad in *The Minnesota Daily* advising students of the dangers of the drug. "Whether this was effective, I do not know," Boynton would later write a colleague. Regardless, the initial popularity of the drug faded and there were no more cases of overdose.

Beginning in her early years at the Health Service, and continuing throughout, Boynton would respond to an increasing number of "mental hygiene" problems at the U. Particularly in the postwar years, Boynton would oversee the boosting of psychiatric and psychological counseling services for students—including increasing aid to a number of vets dealing with what would come to be called post-traumatic stress disorder.

World War II and its after-



**A Health Service sanitarian inspects the health and safety aspects of campus housing.**

math brought other special problems to the University Health Service. During the war, as the campus became home to a large number of servicemen, the incidents of communicable diseases climbed. Particularly frightening was a November 1943 outbreak of influenza. For those, like Boynton herself, who had lived through the 1918 pandemic (which had been exacerbated by troops being shuttled around the globe), the week of November 22 must have seemed like a terribly dangerous moment in time. Coffman Union was converted into an emergency hospital, and 80 beds were set up in the halls of the building. This strain of flu was not deadly, however, and the epidemic passed in four weeks with no fatalities. (A far more serious outbreak of influenza came in 1957. Around 1,200 U of M students wound up hospitalized with the disease, but fortunately, once again, there were no deaths.)

The years after the war saw an enormous boost in student enrollment and a concomitant jump in visits to the Health Service. From just under 40,000 trips to the Minneapolis clinic in 1944-45, the service had to handle more than double that number in 1946-47. To meet these demands, both full- and part-time staff were increased, including the addition of three physicians and two full-time psychiatrists. Administration became much more complex as the service now had to deal with veterans attending the University under the auspices of the G.I. Bill. The Veterans Administration contracted with the University's Health Service to provide campus medical services for its ex-soldiers, adding to the administrative and medical burdens of the service.

Not surprisingly, the beds and waiting rooms at the old Health Service (in Minneapolis, still housed at University Hospital) quickly proved inadequate to the growing needs of the University, and plans were made to construct a new building.

Finished in the fall of 1950, the four-story structure was built across from a wing of the hospital on Church Street, in the heart of the campus. The Health Service also had an office on the St. Paul campus, and Dr. Boynton pronounced that "the University of Minnesota now has physical facilities for its Health Service second to none."

But student numbers kept rising, and health services were

expanded. In 1954, Boynton hired a full-time health educator and enlarged the pharmacy and X-ray departments.



**Boynton came to campus for the naming of the Health Service after her, in 1975.**



Also housed in the building under the service's administration was the University's Environmental Health Department. Just five years after the new Health Service was completed, another expansion was needed.

By all accounts, Boynton not only kept pace with the dizzying rate of change at the University, she also generously offered her expertise to the wider world of public health. Throughout her many years of service at the U, Boynton was active in state public health matters as well. For 22 years she served on the Minnesota State Board of Health and was twice elected its president. From 1931 until her retirement, she was a professor of preventive medicine and public health at the University and served as acting director of the School of Public Health during World War II. In addition, in the early 1950s, a Rhodes Scholarship took her to Oxford for a year where she assisted British colleges in establishing student health services.

When she retired in 1961, Boynton was one of the most highly regarded directors of a student health program in the United States. She took her leave in Miami, where she lived with a companion, Prudence Cartwright, and worked as the unpaid secretary-treasurer for the American Student Health Association. According to her old colleague, Dr. William Shepard, who visited her in her new home soon after her retirement, "She seems to be enjoying the happiest days of her life."

In 1975, the University of Minnesota honored Boynton's long and distinguished career by renaming its health service for her. Boynton herself was able to attend the ceremony, but she lived just two more years. The Boynton Health Service still carries her name. ■

*Tim Brady is a freelance writer based in St. Paul. His January-February 2005 Minnesota article, "The Great Flu Epidemic," about the founding of the University Health Service, can be read at [www.alumni.umn.edu/flu](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/flu).*

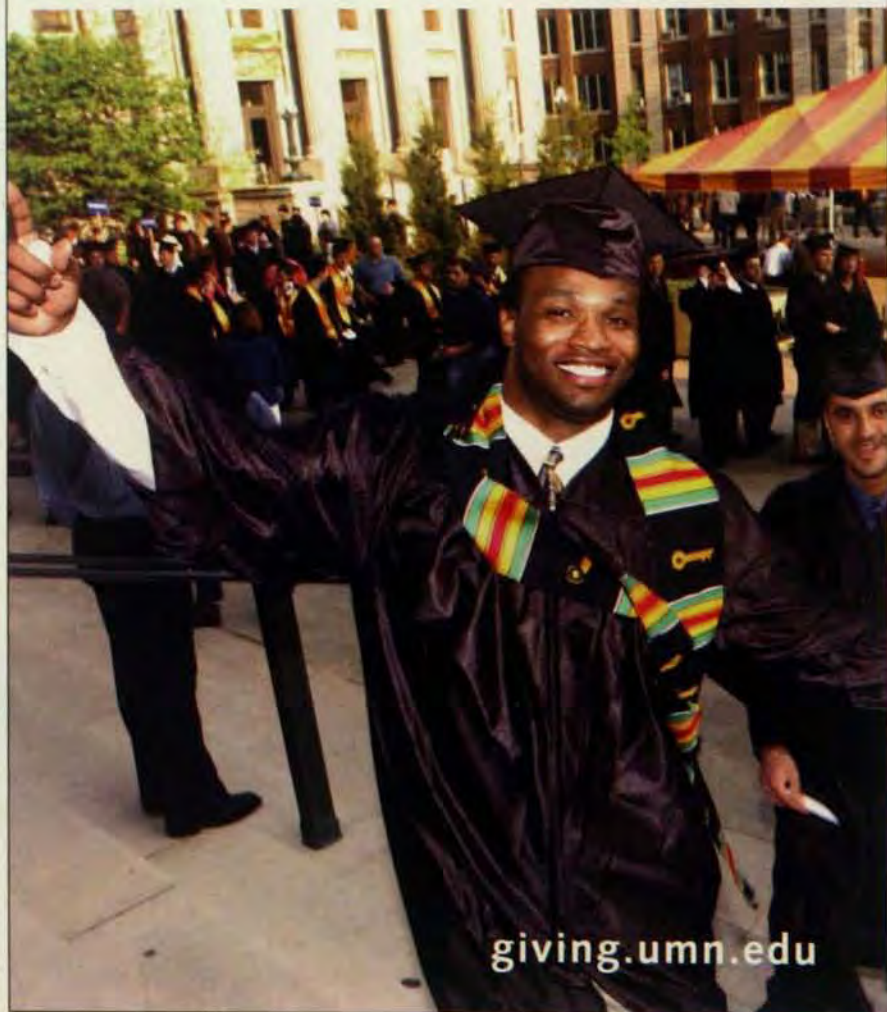
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# Up in the Air

**A top flight passing game will be one of the keys to success as the Gophers kick off their 2006 season.**

**D**uring a press conference at the beginning of spring practice earlier this year, Gopher football head coach Glen Mason summed up the reality his team faces heading into the 2006 season. "We really only lost a few players from last year. That's the good news," Mason said. "The bad news is that most of the ones we lost were outstanding football players."

If the Gophers are to improve on last year's disappointing seventh place finish in the Big Ten, the team's contingent of 16 returning starters will have to compensate for the loss of 10 starters, including all-American running back **Laurence Maroney** and three-time all-American **Greg Eslinger** at center.

**OFFENSE: UP IN THE AIR.** For the first time in years, the Gophers enter the season with uncertainty in the running game. Last season Minnesota had the top rushing offense in the Big Ten and third best in the nation behind Maroney, **Gary Russell**, and **Amir Pinnix**. Maroney departed for the NFL, and Russell is unlikely to return due to academic problems. That leaves the ball in the hands of Pinnix, a strong and speedy back who ran for 6 yards per carry last season and is eager to prove what he can do as a starter. Others who will figure in the ground game are junior fullback **Justin Valentine**, junior college transfer **Brylee Callender**, and freshmen **Judd Smith** and **Jay Thomas**.

Replacing Eslinger is impossible—he was the recipient of numerous honors last season, including the Rimington Award as the nation's best center—but Mason and his staff are confident they have found an able successor in junior **Tony Brinkhaus**. Brinkhaus was an honorable mention all-

Big Ten at right tackle last season and emerged as the clear choice to succeed Eslinger during the spring season.

Look for the Gophers' air attack to be a prominent feature of the 2006 offense. **Bryan Cupito**, who threw for a career-high four touchdowns during last year's Music City Bowl, is poised to have a banner year. His top three receivers—**Logan Payne**, **Ernie Wheelwright**, and all-Big Ten tight end **Matt Spaeth**—all return. Additionally, Cupito came out of spring practice high on the potential of freshmen wide receivers **Eric Decker** and **Mike Chambers**.

**DEFENSE: HELP WANTED.** Last season, Minnesota gave up 413 yards and 29 points per game. Even worse, the Gophers yielded a whopping 42.6 points per game in their five losses. Vitalizing the defense will involve equal parts mental and physical transformation.

Key to a defensive resurgence will be sophomore defensive end **Steve Davis**, who was one of six Big Ten first-year standouts named to *The Sporting News* Freshman All-America Team last year. Returning at linebacker is **John Shevlin**, who was in the conference's top 25 in tackles with 74. Given the talented crop of returning quarterbacks in the Big Ten this season, fielding a strong pass defense will be essential. Unfortunately, budding star **Brandon Owens**, a safety, called it a career in the spring following surgery for a major shoulder injury he suffered last season against Penn State. The Gophers will look to senior **Trumaine Banks**, who was moved to safety after starting at cornerback for three years. Likewise, **Eric Clark** will switch from defensive end to tackle in an effort to improve depth at that position.

Others to watch are defensive end **Willie VanDeSteege**, who could become a dominant player, and tackle **Todd Meisel**, a former walk-on who impressed Mason during spring practice.



Steve Davis

Trumaine Banks

Logan Payne





John Shevlin

**THE SKINNY ON THE SCHEDULE.** The Gophers have earned a reputation for playing a soft nonconference schedule. This year, sandwiched in between the season opener at Kent State and the home opener versus Temple, they travel to Berkeley for a game against the California Golden Bears. The Bears will be a legitimate test for Minnesota: They return 18 starters from last year's 8-4 team that defeated Brigham Young University 35-28 in the Las Vegas Bowl. Rounding out the nonconference schedule is an October 21 home game against North Dakota State, which is ranked No. 12 nationally in the NCAA Division I-AA preseason poll.

The Gophers get no help from the Big Ten schedule. Each year, every team in the conference does not play two teams.

This year, the Gophers avoid Illinois (winless in conference play last year) and Northwestern, a team the Gophers have defeated decisively in their previous two matchups.

**THE IFS HAVE IT.** Rushing has been the bread and butter of the Gopher offense in the past several seasons. That is not likely to be the case in 2006, though Pinnix will undoubtedly be a force. And if Gary Russell returns—a big “if”—the ground game will be formidable. Look for the passing game behind the arm of Bryan Cupito to shine. If the defense improves and plays with confidence as the season progresses, the Gophers will be in the thick of things in the Big Ten.

—Cynthia Scott



Matt Spaeth



Tony Brinkhaus



Ernie Wheelwright



# Nine Takes

## on the Big Ten

**1 THE YEAR OF THE QUARTERBACK.** For the first time in more than 20 years, the Big Ten will feature nine returning starters at quarterback, including Minnesota's Bryan Cupito, a third-year starter. Other third-year starters are Drew Tate of Iowa, Chad Henne of Michigan, Drew Stanton of Michigan State, Troy Smith of Ohio State, and John Stocco of Wisconsin. Last season, Cupito ranked fifth among conference QBs in passing efficiency and fourth in passing yards per game.

**2 NO DYNASTY HERE.** Parity has ruled the Big Ten during the past decade. Since 1996, eight different teams have won the conference title, either outright or as co-champion. (The three teams not on that list are Minnesota, Indiana, and Michigan State.)

**3 HOWEVER...** Ohio State returns quarterback Troy Smith and star wide receiver Ted Ginn, Jr., and is in prime position to repeat as Big Ten champion. Others likely to be at or near the top of the pile are Iowa, which has emerged as the conference's most consistent winning team (38 victories in the past four seasons), and Michigan, which underachieved with last year's 5-3 record. The Gophers are generally considered to be a middle-of-the-pack finisher, but they will exceed those expectations if: the defense is revitalized, Amir Pinnix comes into his own as a running back, and Cupito has the sort of season he's expecting.

**4 BIG TEN = BIG TIME.** The Big Ten established a solid presence on the national scene last season. In 2005, co-champions Penn State and Ohio State finished the regular season ranked No. 3 and No. 4 nationally; that was the first time in conference history that two teams have been ranked among the top four teams nationally at the end of the season. Both won major post-season bowl games, making the Big Ten the only conference to rack up multiple major bowl wins in three different years (1999, 2000, and 2005). And Penn State coach Joe Paterno earned national coach-of-the-year honors for taking his Nittany Lions from a ninth place finish in 2004 to a championship the following year.

**5 FAMILIARITY BREEDS COMPETITION.** Eight of the Big Ten's 11 teams return more than half of their starters from a season ago. Leading the pack is Illinois, where 21 return. Northwestern ranks second with 17, and the Gophers and Michigan each return 16.

**6 AN IRISH SEPTEMBER.** Big Ten teams will take on Notre Dame, picked to be a top national contender, on four consecutive weekends. The Irish autumn begins on September 9 versus Penn State, followed by Michigan, Michigan State, and Purdue.

**7 LOMBARDI AWARD WATCH.** Minnesota tight end Matt Spaeth is one of four Big Ten players on the preliminary watch list for the Lombardi Award, given annually to the best lineman in the country. Others are Paul Posluszny and Levi Brown of Penn State and Joe Thomas of Wisconsin.



Craig Bray



Mark Criner

**8 HEISMAN TROPHY WATCH.** Ohio State wide receiver Ted Ginn, Jr., and quarterback Troy Smith are among the pre-season picks to contend for the Heisman trophy, which honors the nation's top college football player. Other Big Ten players to keep an eye on are Michigan running back Michael Hart and Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton.

**9 BIG, LOUD CROWDS.** Big Ten teams occupied three of the top four spots in the final NCAA attendance rankings in 2005. Michigan led the nation with an average of 110,915 people per home game, while Ohio State ranked third with 105,017 and Penn State fourth with 104,859. Minnesota drew an average of 49,025.

### NEW FACES ON THE SIDELINES

Craig Bray will coach the defensive secondary and Mark Criner takes over as linebacker coach for the Gophers' 2006 season.

Bray spent the past two seasons at the University of Colorado, where he coached the secondary. He has 30 years of college coaching experience, including stints at Arizona, Oregon State, and Washington State. Criner comes to Minnesota from Middle Tennessee University, where he was defensive coordinator. His defense ranked 28th nationally last season. Criner began his coaching career in 1992 at Utah State and has also held positions at Portland State and the University of Cincinnati.

### GOTO A GOPHER GAME

Gopher home games are played at the Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis. Pre-game festivities on the outdoor Metrodome plaza include tailgating, concerts, and appearances by the 300-member University of Minnesota Marching Band. The homecoming game, November 4 against Indiana, is preceded by the annual parade down University Avenue.

Ticket prices for Gopher home games vary: from \$35 to \$50 against Michigan, from \$30 to \$45 against other Big Ten schools, and from \$15 to \$25 against Temple and North Dakota State. Tickets for home games can be purchased at [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com) or by

calling 612-624-8080. Minnesota residents, UMAA members, and season ticket holders can also purchase tickets for away games at these locations.

—Cynthia Scott

### 2006 GOPHER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 31	at Kent State
September 9	at California
September 16	Temple
September 23	at Purdue (11 a.m.)
September 30	Michigan (7 p.m.)*
October 7	Penn State
October 14	at Wisconsin (11 a.m.)
October 21	North Dakota State
October 28	at Ohio State (2:30 p.m.)*
November 4	Indiana (homecoming) (2:30 p.m.)
November 11	at Michigan State
November 18	Iowa

Gopher home games are played at the Metrodome. Unless noted, game times are to be announced. For more information, visit [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com). \*Broadcast on ABC, ESPN, or ESPN2.

### TICKETS FOR TROOPS

University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics has partnered with the Minnesota Guard and Reserve and the Minnesota Masons for the third annual Tickets for Troops fund drive to send troops and their families to the Gopher football game against Temple on September 16. The goal is to raise enough money for 2,000 tickets; every \$10 raised buys a ticket and T-shirt. To make a donation, call 612-626-4653 or visit [www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com) and click on "Tickets for Troops."



# Q&A

With Gopher football head coach **Glen Mason**

**Glen Mason** came to the University of Minnesota in January 1997 with a reputation for turning football programs around, a feat he accomplished first at Kent State and then at Kansas. Now beginning his 10th season as head coach at the U, Mason has quietly accrued more tenure than any Minnesota coach since Murray Warmath (1954–71). With 117 victories, Mason is second only to Penn State's Joe Paterno in total career victories among current Big Ten coaches; his record at Minnesota is 58–50. And though he has guided the Gophers to six bowls in the past seven years, Minnesota is still trapped in a gridiron purgatory, seemingly unable to crack the top three in the Big Ten standings since 1986 and still searching for its first trip to the Rose Bowl since 1962.

In between spring recruiting trips, Mason paused to talk about the challenges and pleasures of being head coach.

**Q: Athletics Director Joel Maturi suggested to the Board of Regents recently that the football team is not far away from a Big Ten championship. Do you agree?**

**A:** We've made a lot of progress. We've been a blink of an eye away from really being a serious contender on a number of occasions since we've been here. But until you do it, you haven't done it. And the Big Ten is a pretty competitive conference. All you have to do is look at the money that people are investing in their programs in the way of football-related facilities and it's almost mind-boggling. And that's all because there's an *intense* race to be in position to win Big Ten championships.

**Q: When it comes to recruiting, are you hampered by anything inherent to Minnesota or the University?**

**A:** I think that the biggest obstacle in recruiting is that we are forced to recruit a large number of players from a long distance away. We have some awful good programs and some awful good players in the state; however, we don't have an abundance of them. There are some states that will produce six to 15 times the number of Division I players than we do on a yearly basis, and when you're confronted with signing between 20 and 25 players per year, that dictates that you're going to have to get on planes and recruit from a far distance away. I think the farther you go away from campus the more



Glen Mason is the longest-tenured Gopher football coach since Murray Warmath.

difficult it is to recruit.

**Q: Just when you might have the powers figured out in a given year, along comes a Penn State last year. Is it frustrating playing in the Big Ten knowing that there really are few, if any, soft games on the schedule?**

**A:** I don't think the success that Penn State had last year surprised anybody that really knows anything about college football internally. But in saying that, there are no easy games in the Big Ten right now. When you look at maybe the change that you've seen in the Big

Ten, the perennial powers are still the perennial powers, but the perennial doormats aren't doormats anymore. On any given Saturday they can win.

**Q: Do you feel any external pressure to win more games or put more fans in the stands, or is most of the pressure you may feel self-imposed?**

**A:** At this level, if you're a major college football coach, there's always pressure to win. Let's face it, major college football coaches are held accountable for a *lot* of stuff, especially out of season. Ultimately, unless you cheat, you're fired because you lose. One of my favorite sayings is, for a football coach the posse is always out there. Sometimes you see the dust, sometimes you don't, but they're always there. But, that type of pressure and/or criticism doesn't bother me. The only thing I worry about is putting a credible product out there on the field. We've not won a championship, but we've had a credible product; we've had the best offensive production that this school's ever seen and was tops in the conference.

**Q: Away from the field, away from the office, what do you do for fun and for release?**

**A:** I'm an avid jogger—that's because I love to eat . . . and it keeps me healthy. I love going on Lake Minnetonka with my family. I go out there as often as I possibly can—sometimes with my wife, sometimes with a kid, always with the dog. And then I enjoy playing golf. My favorite part of golf is playing with guys who are critical of my athletes and of pro athletes and everybody's athletes, and on the 18th hole, when they have a three-foot putt, they can't even hit the hole. And I let 'em know about it too.

—Rick Moore



# Air Apparent

It's his team now, and QB Bryan Cupito is ready.

# W

hen Minnesota senior quarterback Bryan Cupito took the field during spring practice, he no doubt pictured the players who were absent: last year's top center in the nation, Greg Eslinger; all-American running back Laurence Maroney; nationally ranked guard Mark Setterstrom; and powerhouse running back Gary Russell. Eslinger, Maroney, and Setterstrom are all NFL-bound, and Russell is out indefinitely due to academic problems. But the confident Cupito, who became a first-time dad last December, also saw that the 2006 season presents him with an opportunity to nurture a Gopher club that is ripe for both a revamped air attack and fresh leadership—specifically, his.

"Before the Music City Bowl game last year was the point I realized that it was my team now, that those guys were leaving, and that I would be taking the other guys into the off-season," Cupito reflects. Indeed, his stellar performance in that game—he threw for 263 yards and a career-high four touchdowns in a narrow 34-31 loss to Virginia—suggests that the Cincinnati-born Cupito has come into his own and is poised for a high-flying season.

Nevertheless, Cupito candidly admits that the Gopher team that took the field during the spring season is very different from the one that featured last year's offensive stalwarts. "I thought it would be an easier transition than it was. Just knowing those guys aren't there is tough," he says. "I just knew they'd take care of everything up front—all the checks they made at the line. It'll still take a while for our new offensive linemen to get together. Eslinger and Setterstrom—I really don't think you can replace those two guys."

Sage words, considering the fact that Cupito is fast becoming an expert in the art of transition. Not only have the past six months seen his arm throw him into a gridiron leadership role, but his head earned him a business and marketing degree in May. This fall, he plans to start graduate school in sports management. Oh, yeah, and then there's that little addition to the family. Cupito and his girlfriend, Carly, welcomed daughter Callie into their lineup just days before his breakout performance at the Music City Bowl.

Just as he's been lauded for his poise in spring football, Cupito brings focus and maturity to the role of fatherhood. "When you're in college you go to practice, you go to class, you go to practice, and it can be like, 'Aw, practice. . . .' But when I go now, it's like, 'Alright—practice!' I can talk to the guys, have some fun. When we're at home with Callie, it's constantly something," Cupito says, sounding like a sleep-deprived father. "There's never a dull moment. We're always trying to do something to make her happy. . . . But as soon

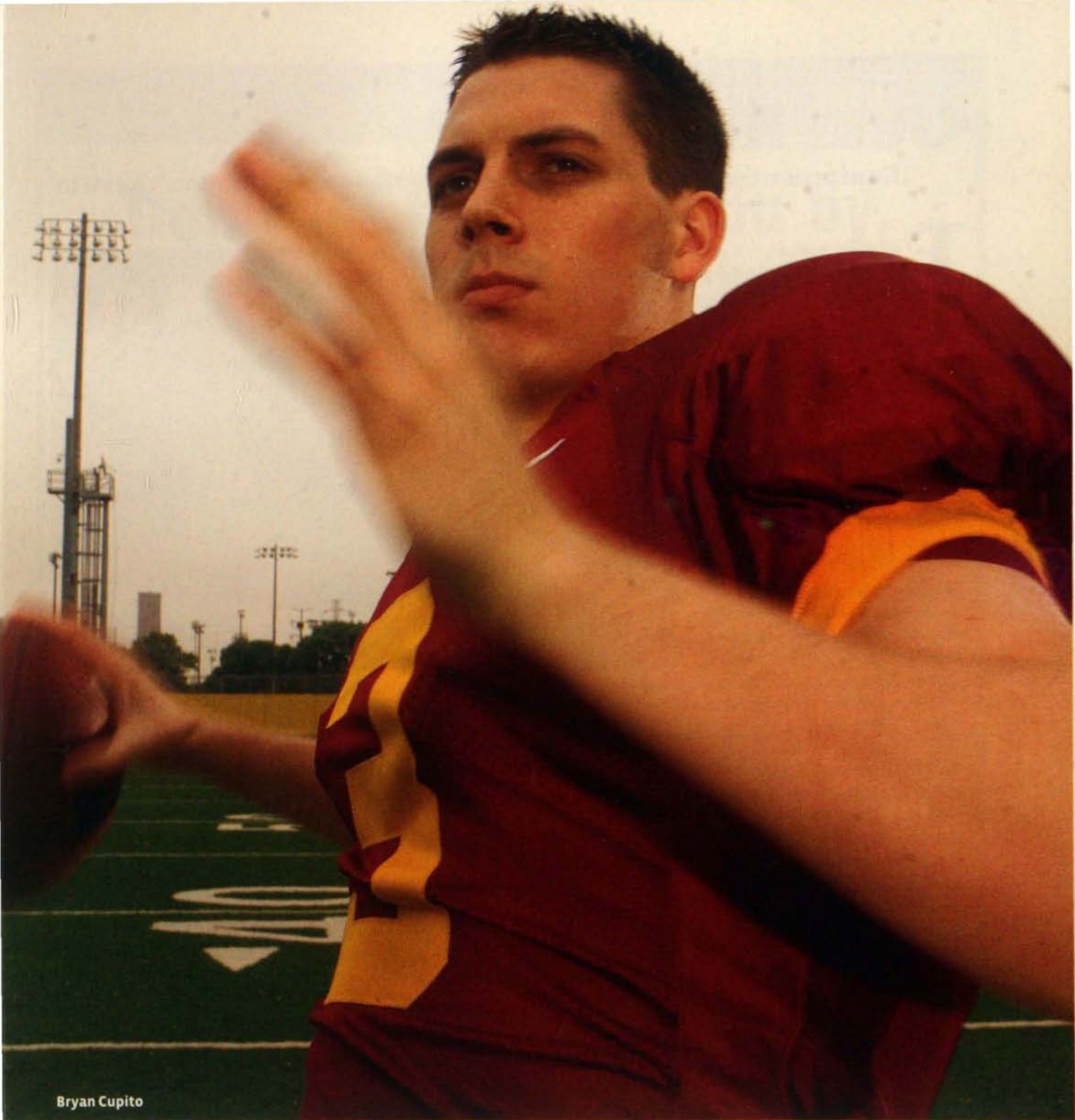
as football's done for the day, I look forward to going home and being with Callie. We love it. You know in college, on weekends, a lot of guys go out and party or whatever, but we just hang out with her. . . . Going to practice, that's my party of the day."

Cupito's growth is apparent to Gopher quarterbacks coach Tony Peterson, whose impressive list of past pupils includes NFL pros Chad Pennington and Troy Brown. Peterson sees in Cupito many of the attributes that have led his former students to notable careers and successful lives. "There's common qualities to all the good players," Peterson says. "They make the right decisions on and off the field. They're guys you don't have to worry about in the classroom. They're guys that take care of business. Bryan definitely has all the qualities of some of the really good players that I've coached. . . . I just think he's constantly improving and taking his game to another level. I think he's ready to have his best season. He's very knowledgeable of our offense, very comfortable making decisions."

Peterson also notices a change in Cupito since he became a father. "I think it's improved Bryan off the field," Peterson adds. "I just think it's made him a little more responsible, thinking about things in the future. It's forced him to grow up a little quicker. Some kids who have a child while they're in college, they're not ready for it, they can't handle it. If anything, I think it's been a positive for Bryan."

While this Cincinnati kid deservedly garners praise for his work on the home front, he also faces plenty of skepticism about his ability to lead his team to success on the battlefield. And no wonder: Last year's offense ran a total of 933 plays. Five hundred of those touches went to Russell or Maroney. If Russell is able to return from his academic woes, Cupito will have some of the team's former offensive potency to rely on. If not, running back Amir Pinnix, who showed his potential with his stunning, 206-yard performance versus Michigan





Bryan Cupito

State last year, will attempt to become the next link in the Thomas Tapeh-Marion Barber III-Laurence Maroney chain of great Gopher running backs.

One factor solidly in Cupito's favor is the return of the team's top three receivers in Ernie Wheelwright, Logan Payne, and all-Big Ten tight end Matt Spaeth. Those close to the Minnesota program are confident that Cupito will both surpass last year's 230 passing yards per game (good for fourth in the Big Ten) and eclipse the 20-touchdown mark

after tossing for 19 scores in 2005.

"My expectations are real high for this year," Cupito says of his final season in maroon and gold. "We have a lot of guys that are going to work hard to prove who they are and what they can do."

In shouldering the great spectrum of responsibilities from a football huddle to a father's cuddle, 2006 is the time for Bryan Cupito to prove that father throws best.

—Judd Spicer



# Gear Head

Equipment manager Jason Nance **worries so players don't have to.**

**I**f all goes well, no one ever notices Jason Nance standing at the 25-yard line, intent on every minute of every Gophers game. He's not watching quarterback Bryan Cupito's arm, or how well the defense is hitting. But the moment a shoelace breaks, Nance springs into action.

"I don't watch the plays. I'm watching the actual players and looking for things that might have broken," Nance says, noting that his wife jokingly calls this habit a sickness. "Players are coming off the field and people are congratulating them, fans are cheering—and I'm looking at the snaps on their helmets and making sure their chin straps aren't broken or seeing if there's a rip in a jersey."

Nance, a 13-year equipment veteran, was recently promoted to head football equipment supervisor for the Gophers. "A perfect practice for me is when nobody notices that I'm even there. That means everything ran smoothly," he says. By "everything," Nance means that every dummy and ball were in place; that drills were set up quickly; that helmet and shoulder pad problems were immediately addressed; that student workers were in place for spotting drills, placing the down marker, or setting up cones for drills.

It's a job that squeezes every drop of potential out of Nance's perfectionist tendencies. Walk into the equipment room and marvel. Every pair of sweatpants is neatly rolled and placed in the appropriate player's cubbyhole. Extra helmets hang from a pegboard with military precision. Each of the 1,200 to 1,400 pairs of shoes is stacked in its box according to type and size (Nance keeps about three backup pairs for each current player). "I expect us to have the best-run equipment room and equipment staff in the nation," Nance says. That's an extra challenge at Minnesota, considering that the equipment must be transported to every game, not just away games.

"We move the entire equipment room to another place," Nance says. That includes about 18 trunks on wheels containing everything from walkie-talkies for the equipment staff to gum for the players and coaches (chewing "helps to work off nervous energy," Nance says).

A 65-foot maroon-and-gold moving van and meticulous organizational skills are required to transport the gear for 110 players and 20 coaches who travel to the Metrodome for home games. It takes an entire week, from the moment the laundry



Jason Nance

goes in the machines after the previous week's game, for Nance's staff of 12 student workers and one full-time assistant to prepare. Each trunk is unpacked, inventoried, and repacked. Each helmet is dismantled, each individual piece cleaned, put back together, and inspected.

"When the players and coaches show up, everything's already unpacked and in each individual locker," Nance explains. Each jersey is draped over its shoulder pads and sits on a chair with the name facing out. A bag containing socks, wristbands, shorts, and T-shirt sits next to it. "On game day, my job is to make everything as easy and familiar as possible. They shouldn't have to say, Where is this? Where is that? Everything should be already provided so all they have to concentrate on is playing football," Nance says.

Nance admits he goes above and beyond the call of duty: He mends the players' uniforms and places the half-dozen or so helmet decals, including the "M" on each side and "Gophers" on the front and back, himself. "To be a Minnesota football helmet, I had to have [put the decal on] it," Nance says. "If I didn't, it's not a Minnesota helmet. I want everything to look the same, be the same. I'm really, really, really strict on that."

Nance tells his wife not to schedule anything for him during football season, when he'll work from August until Thanksgiving without a day off. He begins preparing for August two-a-day practices in May. It adds up to 12-hour days, even during much of the off-season, when he inventories and places orders for the following season. "It's a hard, time-consuming, thankless job, but at the end of the day, I wouldn't trade it for anything," Nance says.

—Sheila Mulrooney Eldred



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Two thousand guests dined in the tent on Northrop Mall.

## O'Connor Addressed Alumni and Friends



Sandra Day O'Connor addressed 4,200 friends and alumni.

**C**oncerned citizens need to stand up for an impartial, independent judiciary, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor told 4,200 guests at the 2006 UMAA Annual Celebration Tuesday, May 23.

Recent "verbal attacks" by politicians and others threatening to impeach judges and limit the kinds of cases they can hear

is a grave threat to the balance of powers enacted by the founders of this country, O'Connor said. The framers of the Constitution were careful to ensure the independence of the federal judiciary, she said. They knew that "without justices who could and would make decisions that they knew were unpopular, we would lose the protections of our Constitution."

O'Connor's comments came at the close of her keynote presentation in Northrop Auditorium, the conclusion of an evening-long alumni event. The annual celebration opened with a dinner for more than 2,000 in a 150-yard-long tent on Northrop Mall, then moved inside the auditorium for the annual alumni meeting.

In introducing O'Connor, UMAA volunteer President Bob Stein remarked on many of her career highlights and the obstacles she had to overcome. Despite being a top law school graduate from Stanford, she could not get a job as a lawyer in California, for example. But she rose up through the ranks in her home state of Arizona to become majority leader of the state senate and then a judge. In 1981 she was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to become the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. She was confirmed





Guests lined up to meet Justice O'Connor and to express their gratitude and admiration.



University athletics director Joel Maturi and his wife, Lois, met Justice O'Connor.



The alumni band entertained alumni on the Northrop plaza before the program.



2006-07 national board president-elect Tom LaSalle and his wife, Michelle



Law school alumni Barbara Cole and Nick Wallace

National board member Ertugrul Tuzcu

99-0. Since that time, as one of two centrist jurists on an increasingly polarized court, she has cast pivotal votes or written the majority decision in numerous landmark cases.

Stein recalled that in 1987, when he was dean of the law school, O'Connor accepted his invitation to speak to law students at Minnesota. "Wherever we went crowds of women would press forward, some with tears of joy running down their faces, many just wanting to touch her," Stein recalled. "She represented such a momentous step forward in opportunities for women in this country. She represented the American dream for women—not just in law but in all fields of endeavor."

For the bulk of her speech, O'Connor recounted the history of Supreme Court firsts. John Jay, the first chief justice and one of the authors of *The Federalist Papers*, took part because it was "a great political experiment" to create a truly independent judiciary. His great statesmanship helped prove that not only was a separate judiciary possible, but that it was vital to a functioning democracy.



Outgoing national board president Bob Stein (right) passed the gavel to incoming president Dennis Schulstad.

The first female law clerk was Lucille Loman, hired in 1944 because of a lack of men to fill the job. Now 40 percent of Supreme Court clerks are women, O'Connor said, though she also pointed out that the percentage of women on the Supreme Court "has dropped substantially." (Ruth Bader Ginsburg is currently the only female justice.)

The first African American Supreme Court Justice was Thurgood Marshall, who offered O'Connor a piece of advice on how to deal with the scrutiny that comes with being a "first." After recounting a disappointing case from early in his career, he said he learned that there are "two choices in life: stop or go on," O'Connor recalled. "Thurgood Marshall taught us to go on."

The audience stood and applauded O'Connor both before and after her speech. Her role as a groundbreaking first and the impact she had as a justice clearly earned her the heartfelt respect and gratitude of this crowd of alumni and friends.

—Chris Coughlan-Smith





## { Member Spotlight } Bailus Walker

### Ambassador of Public Health

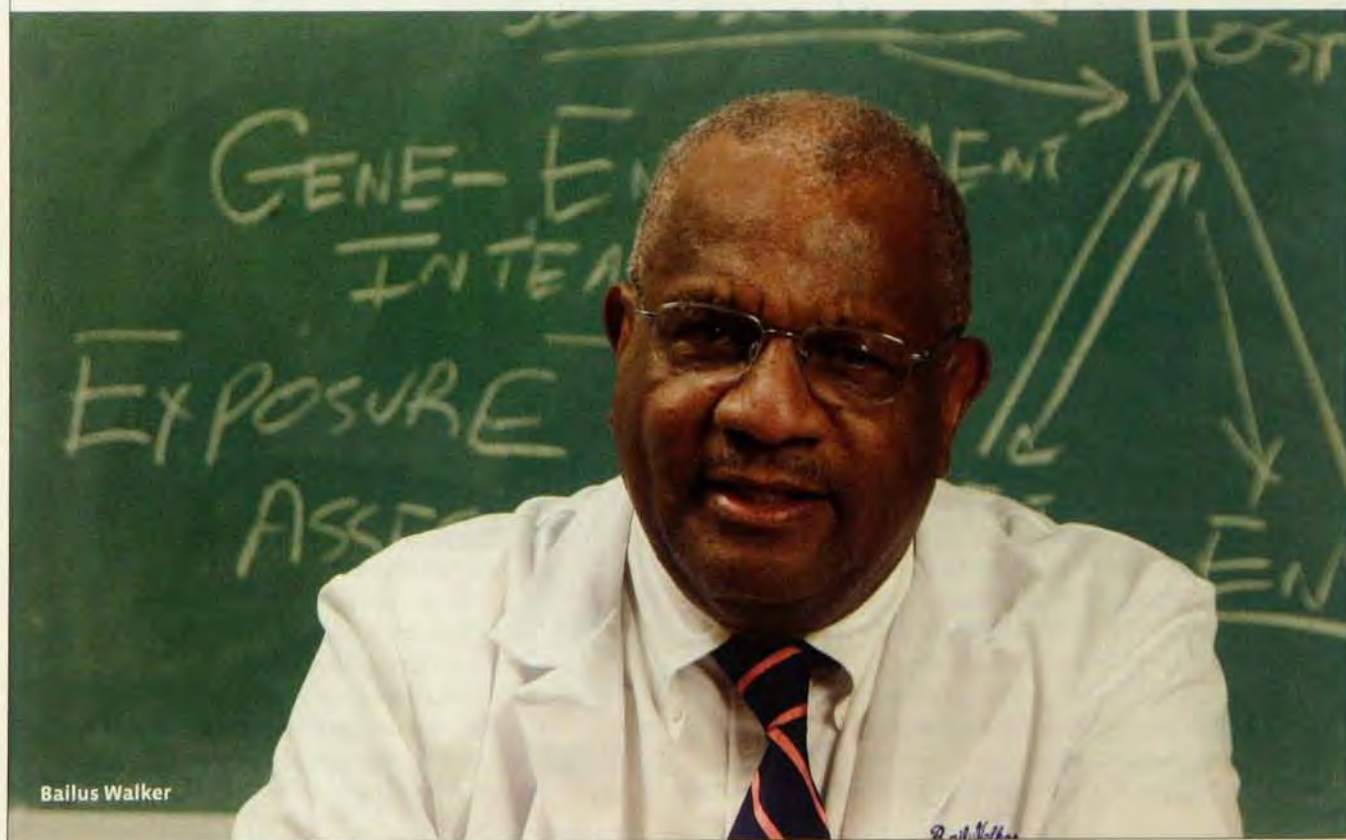
**H**is friends said his Southern blood could never stand the cold. But Bailus Walker (Ph.D. '70) told them, "I'm going to the University of Minnesota if I have to crawl through the snow every day!" Walker lists his reasons for heading north: Roy Wilkins (B.A. '23), executive director of the NAACP; Carl Rowan (M.A. '48), journalist; Carl Stokes (J.D. '56), mayor of Cleveland; Whitney Young (M.S.W. '47), president of the Urban League. "All of the people whom I idolized in the black community had gone to the University of Minnesota," he says. "And I wanted to emulate them."

Today, Walker is a professor of environmental health at Howard University's College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. His career has spanned more than 50 years and taken him to nine states, including director of the Michigan Department of Health (the first non-physician to do so); commissioner of the Department of Public Health for Massachusetts; dean of the school of public health at the University of Oklahoma; and director of occupational health standards for the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Walker's interest in health began when he was a kid in rural Springfield, Tennessee, a community marked by poor-quality well water and substandard housing with no indoor plumbing. During a routine screening at school, 14-year-old Bailus was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Prompt medical attention in Nashville eventually led to a clean bill of health, but the experience sparked in Walker a lifelong appreciation for the importance of public health.

"So many aspects of human potential—political participation, social relationships, and a whole range of other activities—are contingent on health," he says. "When we improve the water supply or the air quality for thousands of people, or when we reduce worker exposure to a chemical that may cause cancer, we've accomplished something."

Walker maintains strong connections to the U. Last spring, for instance, Walker and about 50 other members of the UMAA's Washington, D.C., chapter attended a presentation at Howard University about bioterrorism by John Finnegan, Jr., (M.A. '78, Ph.D. '85), dean of the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, and Michael Osterholm (M.S. '78, M.A. '80, Ph.D. '80), director of the University's Center for Infectious Disease Research and



Bailus Walker

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAY CHERNUSH



**"From Carl Stokes, I learned tolerance . . . and concern for people regardless of their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status."**

Policy. "My alumni association membership is a good way to connect with people," Walker says. "And in this field, it is very, very important to have those connections."

In the late 1980s, Walker's University ties served him well as commissioner of public health for Massachusetts. He was charged with a challenge in an emerging area of medicine about which he knew little: organ transplantation. As commissioner, it was his job to determine which hospitals should be allowed to conduct organ transplants. "It was a popular thing—a sexy thing—and every hospital wanted to do it," he says. "I had a kitchen cabinet of people at the University of Minnesota who knew far more about organ transplantation than I did. I would send my questions to Professor Leonard Schuman at the School of Public Health . . . and we would talk. He would consult with the organ-transplant experts at the U and advise me."

At age 73, Walker credits his success to lessons learned from his University heroes. "From Carl Stokes, I learned tolerance for the views of others and concern for people regardless of their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status," he says. "I learned the power of quiet diplomacy, calm negotiation, and intelligent discussion from Whitney Young. And from Roy Wilkins, I learned the art of 'speaking truth to power.'"

—Patricia Kelly

## Coming Home

**C**oming home. What a wonderful flood of memories and emotions are summoned by those words.

Some of you may have had the joyful experience of returning to a place that you loved—a place where you had grown personally and intellectually and developed many of your most deeply held values and beliefs. It's a priceless experience, especially if, when you return to that place, you have the opportunity to share the knowledge, ideas, and experiences you have gained since you left.

That's the wonderful opportunity that awaits me when, later this year, I return home to the University of Minnesota.

As I noted in this space several issues back, I have lived much of my life at the University—as an undergraduate student, a law student, a tenured faculty member, dean of the Law School, and as a University vice president. I changed the scenery in 1994 to begin a new chapter in my life, as executive director and chief operating officer of the American Bar Association (ABA), which, with more than 400,000 members, is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world.

With the ABA, I've had opportunity to provide leadership and help improve the administration of justice and expand the rule of law in this country and around the world. This has been an overwhelmingly satisfying and rewarding experience. But it's time now for me to step down from the ABA and accept my invitation back home.

As the University's newly appointed Everett Fraser Professor of Law in the coming school year, I plan to teach a course in which I'll discuss with students the remarkable work American lawyers have done to bring the rule of law to struggling new democracies throughout the world. I also plan to teach a course to undergraduate students about the major cases that have shaped our nation over the past 200 years. In addition to my work in the classroom, I'll serve as counsel to the distinguished law firm of Gray Plant Mooty.

It's a joy to be coming home. And I invite each of you to do the same. The University once was your home. Perhaps, as with me, it was a place where you grew in immeasurable ways. Perhaps you've since grown apart from the University as you've pursued your own life's path. But no matter where you are now, that path can always lead—metaphorically if not physically—back to the University of Minnesota.

The University is stronger than ever. Every day, U researchers make gains in finding the cures to devastating diseases. Thanks to the Minnesota State Legislature, this fall the Carlson School of Management will break ground on a long-awaited expansion to better serve undergraduate students, and in three years the football Gophers will play outdoors and on campus for the first time in 28 years. And under the inspired leadership of President Bob Bruininks, the University is positioning itself to elevate its standing as one of the top three public research universities in the world. These are golden times for the U. And with your help, we can move this remarkable institution to new levels.

The UMAA offers many ways to become active in the University or to increase your level of involvement. Serve as a student mentor; join the Legislative Network; or get involved with an alumni society, chapter, or interest group. I assure you that you'll be enriched by the experience.

I eagerly await my homecoming. I hope to see you when I get there. ■



Robert Stein, B.S.L. '60,  
J.D. '61

To learn more about UMAA membership, call 612-624-2323 or visit [www.alumni.umn.edu](http://www.alumni.umn.edu).





## Dedication Date Set

The Scholars Walk, a wide pathway across the East Bank campus, will be dedicated September 29. The Scholars Walk honors the research and classroom accomplishments of the University's award-winning faculty and students. Lined with 40 bur oak trees and featuring monuments that pay tribute to honorees, the Scholars Walk recognizes the U's Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners; Rhodes, Truman, and Marshall scholars; American Academy of Arts and Sciences winners; McKnight Distinguished Professors; national academies inductees; and others from the University who have attained the highest levels of scholastic achievement. It begins at Walnut Street, near the McNamara Alumni Center, and stretches west to Appleby Hall. The Scholars Walk and the nearby Alumni Wall of Honor are gifts to the University from the UMAA, the University of Minnesota Foundation, and the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

Details on the dedication will be announced in the next issue of *Minnesota*, or visit [www.alumni.umn.edu](http://www.alumni.umn.edu).



## See You at the State Fair

Drop in at the UMAA booth during the Minnesota State Fair August 24 through September 4. The booth is in the University of Minnesota building on Dan Patch Avenue and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Show your membership card and receive a free gift. Computers will be available for visitors to learn more about the online benefits of UMAA membership, including the new library benefit, which gives members access to hundreds of magazines and other resources, and M Alumni Online, a great networking tool. Information on the UMAA's legislative advocacy efforts and the Legislative Network will also be available. Goldy Gopher will make appearances at the booth throughout the fair. And Maroon and Gold Day, which includes an appearance by the Minnesota Marching Band, is August 27. So don your maroon and gold, and we'll see you at the fair!

For more information, visit [www.alumni.umn.edu](http://www.alumni.umn.edu).

## UMAA Calendar

Upcoming alumni events on campus and around the country. For more information, visit [www.alumni.umn.edu](http://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.

### JULY

- 13 New Mexico Chapter gathering: an evening with Antoine Predock, who designed the McNamara Alumni Center, 5:30 p.m., Antoine Predock Architectural Office, Albuquerque; contact Mark Allen
- 30 Bay Area Chapter fifth annual picnic for Big Ten alumni, 11:30 a.m., San Leandro Marina Park; contact Mark Allen

### AUGUST

- 6 Portland Chapter annual picnic, 11 a.m., Washington Park Elephant House; contact Mark Allen
- 12 Bay Area Chapter, Monet in Normandy, 9 a.m., Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco; contact Mark Allen
- 16 Southwest Florida Chapter summer outing: Cruise on Lake Minnetonka, 11:30 a.m.; contact Mark Allen

## New Colleges, New Alumni Societies

Six colleges at the University of Minnesota became three as of July 1 as part of the University's strategic positioning process, which aims to make the U one of the top three public research universities in the world. The changes affect six collegiate alumni societies in the UMAA: Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences; Natural Resources; General College; Human Ecology; Social Work; and Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Five of these societies have been regrouped and renamed to correspond to the new collegiate units. The Social Work society remains as it was, even though the School of Social Work is now under a new college.

The realigned colleges and societies are as follows:

- **New:** The College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences. **Includes:** The College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences; the College of Natural Resources; and the Department of Food Science and Nutrition from the College of Human Ecology.

- **New:** The College of Design. **Includes:** The College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the Department of Design, Housing and Apparel from the College of Human Ecology.

- **New:** The College of Education and Human Development. **Includes:** the College of Education and Human Development; General College; the Department of Family Social Science from the College of Human Ecology.

Current membership in these societies will be automatically transferred to reflect the changes. For more information, or to request a different society designation, contact the UMAA membership department at 612-624-9658.

## One Last Rally



Former Gopher great Tony Dungy (B.S. '78), head coach of the National Football League's Indianapolis Colts, was the featured speaker at a stadium rally on the steps of the state capitol in May. The rally was sponsored by the UMAA, the "M" Club, and the Goal Line Club. Dungy, who played quarterback for the Gophers from 1973 to 1976, made a special trip to Minnesota to show his support for bringing Gopher football back to campus. In addition to speaking at the rally, he also met with legislative leaders and Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.S. '83, J.D. '86) to urge passage of a stadium bill.

### ALUMNI TOURS

- September 4-12: Cruise the Majestic Passage Alumni Campus Abroad
- September 10-18: Village Life in Verona and the Medieval Veneto
- September 21-29: Italy's Magnificent Lake Como and the Swiss Alps
- September 28-October 6: Treasures of Italy: Chianciano and Fiuggi
- October 6-14: An Irish Classic
- October 7-15: The French Riviera and Provence
- October 8-16: Scotland Alumni Campus Abroad
- October 27-November 5: The Galapagos Islands

For more information, call Christine Howard at 612-625-9427 or visit [www.alumni.umn.edu/travel](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/travel).



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## Chief Executive Officer

### A Year to Remember

Every summer, we take time to look back on the year and to count our accomplishments—not to pat ourselves on the back, but to measure whether your alumni association is fulfilling its mission.

This summer, however, a few backs deserve some pats, including many of yours. The alumni association just concluded one of its most memorable years in decades, and I'd like to share with you some of the highlights.

We formed a new partnership with the University of Minnesota Law Alumni Association, adding 4,700 law alumni to our membership ranks. Of our 56,000 members, more than half now have multi-year memberships and 22 percent are life members. I am thrilled to see an increase in this level of commitment.



Margaret Sughrue Carlson,  
Ph.D. '83

More alumni now have more ways to connect to the U, as we've added four new Alumni Interest Groups: the St. Lawrence–Newman Center Alumni, University of Minnesota Black Alumni Association, Intercollegiate Sport Clubs and Rec Sports Network, and the *Minnesota Daily* Alumni Association. We also started a new alumni chapter in Guangzhou, one of six chapters on mainland China and 21 outside the United States. And we launched the new online access to the University Libraries, a valuable benefit for alumni anywhere in the world who want to connect to the U.

With our partners, the University of Minnesota Foundation and the Minnesota Medical Foundation, we dedicated the Alumni Wall of Honor, a permanent, public monument on the Gateway Plaza that recognizes the more than 1,000 recipients of the University's Outstanding Achievement Award.

In May, we brought 4,200 alumni and friends to campus—including 2,000 of them for dinner on Northrop Mall—for our annual celebration to hear recently retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. It was our largest annual celebration event ever and it was moving and magical to see that many people, together in one place, feeling so proud of the University of Minnesota.

Spirits were high that evening. The legislature had adjourned the day before, but not without passing a bill to build an on-campus football stadium. The UMAA has been working to bring Gopher football back to campus for years. It was the first organization to donate \$1 million to the effort and has worked tirelessly as an advocate at the capitol and around the state, urging legislators to do right by the U.

Advocating for the U has long been one of the alumni association's most important roles, and this year was no different. We asked friends and alumni to speak up for the U at the legislature, to make gifts to the U, and to show their support by joining the alumni association.

Finally, we completed a new five-year UMAA strategic plan that was informed by feedback and data we collected from alumni and University stakeholders through surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Because of what we've learned from you, your alumni association is ready to serve you and the University even better. Indeed, our mission for the coming years is to become the most influential organization in advancing the University's goal to be one of the top three public research universities in the world.

Thanks to all alumni and friends for making the past year one for the record books. We could not and would not have done it without you. ■

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