



winter 2001

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A publication for alumni and friends of the  
University of Minnesota—Crookston, Duluth,  
Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities

# HUMBLE BEGINNINGS BY THE FALLS:

by Carl Franzén

A HARDCRABBLE START FOR THE  
FOUNDERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Father Hennepin's falls** The University of Minnesota's history began at St. Anthony Falls, a natural formation stunning to both explorers and land speculators. When Franklin Steele first saw the falls in 1837, there were no roads or buildings near them—they were as Father Hennepin saw them when he named them after his favorite saint nearly 200 years before. Steele could not help but imagine the falls as the centerpiece for his ambitions.

When Steele heard that a treaty had been negotiated with the Ojibwe and Dakota to open up lands on the east side of the Mississippi, he moved fast. He paced off his claim in the moonlight, while his hired crew cut trees to build a cabin. By frontier law, the land Steele claimed adjacent to the falls also included the right to develop waterpower—his main objective.

Steele's goal was to cut timber along the Rum River, float the logs down to St. Anthony, cut them into boards in his sawmill, and use the lumber to build a town. It was an excellent plan, but it required capital—mostly other people's money—and lots of good fortune. Both seemed in short supply. But through many a disaster, Steele persevered and by the fall of 1848, he had two mills up and running.

**22 mice and a piano** In the spring of 1849, the year Minnesota became a territory, John Wesley North ventured from New York to St. Anthony in search of a better place to live.

An abolitionist preacher at a time when 9 out of 10 clergy were proslavery, he quit the Methodist church and became a lecturer for the Connecticut Antislavery Society. Needing to make more money, he became a lawyer.

When North made an exploratory visit to Minnesota, Steele noticed him. Thinking that a lawyer would benefit his business activities, Steele promised North and his 17-year-old bride, Ann, the use of his cabin on Nicollet Island, with no urgency to pay rent.

Like most pioneers, the Norths had lots of hope and ambition, but very little money. Before leaving for Minnesota, the couple had to choose between Ann's coveted grand piano and John's law library. They chose the piano—it was the first piano in St. Anthony and a reminder of the civility they left behind.

To get to their new island home, the Norths had to pass through a sawmill, then walk along a dam or tiptoe on logs over the water. In the winter, of course, they could cross on the ice. But such crossings put a crimp in their social plans when people refused to risk the journey to their house.

In spring the roads turned to mud, and in winter there were often no roads at all. Few people had milk because it came from downstream and was priced at an exorbitant 10 cents a quart. The only fruit was the cranberry. And most people ate salt pork all winter. Pigs wandered about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

View of St. Anthony's Main Street from about the time of the University's charter (1851)



PHOTO: COURTESY MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

among piles of logs and lumber. Houses were built with green boards, and housewives had to constantly mop up the oozing moisture. Worst of all, there were no cats to catch the mice. In a letter back home, Ann North talked about catching 22 mice.

In spite of the inconveniences, order was gradually taking hold in St. Anthony. Many streets had boardwalks. Churches were cropping up. School teachers came. There was talk of a library. The population increased from a couple hundred people in 1847 to nearly a thousand a few years later. St. Anthony was beginning to look like a New England village.

### Stillwater gets the penitentiary, St. Anthony gets the University

North played a strong role in attracting New Englanders to St. Anthony. He wrote countless letters to abolitionist newspapers describing life at the falls and faithfully answered every inquiry, recruiting hundreds to St. Anthony. This was perfect for Steele, the investor. But it satisfied North's ideal, too. North pictured a town filled with people who thought and acted as he did. A year after his arrival, his recruitment efforts paid off when the town's people elected him and his close friend William Rainey Marshall—a 22-year-old grocer, land surveyor, and future governor of the state—to the first territorial legislature.

One of the first issues confronting the legislature was the location for the state capitol. Marshall, North, and others pushed for St. Anthony as the site. They felt St. Paul, where “gamblers, con men, thieves, and bad women thronged the hotels and streets,” wasn't seemly. However, St. Anthony's initiative failed when St. Paul politicians banded together with Stillwater interests: if Stillwater would vote for St. Paul as the capitol, St. Paul, in turn, would vote for Stillwater as the site of the state penitentiary. St. Paul's victory was close. It became the capitol by a margin of 5 to 4 votes in the council, and 10 to 8 in the legislature. Thus, was the stage set for the location of the next public institution—the University.

In 1785 and 1787, a land-grant policy was established in Washington giving territories huge pieces of land to endow their universities.

### “A wholly and altogether impracticable passage.”

Swedish novelist Fredrika Bremmer writes of her 1849 visit with the Norths:

*“... As to describe how we traveled about, how we walked over the river on broken trunks of trees, which were jammed together by the stream in chaotic masses, how we climbed and clambered up and down, over, among, and upon the sticks, and stones, and precipices, and sheer descents—all this I shall not attempt to describe, because it is indescribable. I considered many a passage wholly and altogether impracticable, until my conductors, both gentlemen and ladies, convinced me that it was to them a simple and everyday path.”*

By the end of 1850, 10 territories had taken advantage of this opportunity. In the territorial legislature, North was chair of the House committee on schools and he could see what should happen next for Minnesota.

Previewing the 1851 legislative session, the *Minnesota Chronicle & Register* said, “Among the interesting questions which will be brought before the present Legislature, will be the propriety of applying to Congress for a grant of Public Lands to constitute the endowment of a University for the Territory; and we hope it will meet with the most cordial approbation.”

Territorial governor Alexander Ramsey reiterated this message in his opening address to the legislature in January 1851. North convinced Ramsey and his supporters that it was now St. Anthony's turn to receive a public building.

It was North who wrote the University charter bill, following Ramsey's guidelines and borrowing language from the University of Wisconsin's effort a year earlier. The bill officially creating



1848 painting of St. Anthony Falls by Henry Lewis. The original site of the University is in the background between Nicollet and Hennepin Islands.

PHOTO COURTESY MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

the University of Minnesota was ratified by the territorial legislature on February 19, 1851, and signed into law by the governor on February 25.

In May the school's regents met for the first time at the St. Charles Hotel in St. Anthony. After an open request for land to build the school, three proposals came in and Franklin Steele's four-acre donation near present-day Central and University Avenues was accepted. (Later it was discovered that the University never had actual title to the land Steele gave it. So the founders purchased land a mile to the east and built the first permanent building in 1858 where the present Shevlin Hall is located on the East Bank.) Regents solicited donations of money and books for the school, and that fall, on November 26, a two-story wooden building was ready for business.

Few students in the new territory were ready for college-level instruction, so Elijah Merrill, the first teacher, was hired to run the University as a preparatory school. Merrill stayed as a guest of the Norths, and his salary was paid from the \$4–\$6 per student tuition. In the first week he had about 20 pupils; before the year ended there were 20 more, ready to learn algebra, geometry, physiology, and languages. He began the following year with 85 students and three assistants, two of them women.

The cornerstone of the University was laid by an unpolished, political bunch of young men whose personal ambitions intertwined with the fortunes of this land. They had their eyes on a legacy and a faith that education would strengthen the then fledgling state of Minnesota. ✱

# THE FIRST 12 REGENTS PROVIDE A WHO'S WHO OF EARLY MINNESOTA HISTORY

**Henry Sibley** Started out as a fur trader. Territorial delegate to Congress from Wisconsin. Helped pass the act making Minnesota a territory. Obtained first land grant for the University. Elected first governor of the state of Minnesota under highly questionable circumstances. Sibley County named for him.

**Franklin Steele** Owned all of St. Anthony at one time. Built the first sawmill there and the first suspension bridge from Nicollet Island to the west side of the Mississippi. Operated the first ferry between Minneapolis and St. Anthony. Owned more land in Minnesota than anyone in the history of the state. Steele County named for him.

**Alexander Ramsey** First territorial governor, first president of the Minnesota Historical Society, mayor of St. Paul, governor of Minnesota, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of War. Ramsey County named for him.



PHOTO COURTESY MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Isaac Atwater** Yale graduate. Came to St. Anthony in 1849 as John North's law partner. Editor of the first newspaper in St. Anthony, the *Express*. Served on state's first Supreme Court. Hennepin County district attorney. Minneapolis council member.

**B. B. Meeker** Self-educated. Graduated from Yale. First judge in St. Anthony. Used old government sawmill on the Minneapolis side of the river for first court session, which lasted two days. No guilty verdicts found, to the disgust of the state's 15 lawyers. Meeker County named for him.

**Socrates Nelson** Highly respected Stillwater business person. Started out as a trader at the mouth of the Chippewa River. Original owner of much of Stillwater. Donated land for Washington County courthouse. Served as state senator and Washington County commissioner.

**Charles (C. K.) Smith** County recorder in Cincinnati, Ohio; then a lawyer and associate judge. Was appointed secretary of the Minnesota Territory by President Taylor in 1849, although he coveted the position of governor. As superintendent of common schools (elementary and secondary schools), he wrote a 200-page report describing how Minnesota's infant school system should be run.

**William Rainey Marshall** Elected to the first territorial legislature. Helped raise funds for first University building in 1851. Founded the *St. Paul Press*, helped start Minnesota's Republican party, and was a Civil War hero. Was governor in 1868 when the legislature reorganized and reopened the University. Secured Morrill Land Grant of 1862 for the University while governor. Marshall County in Minnesota and South Dakota named for him.

**Nathan C. D. Taylor** Came to Minnesota in the lumber business. One of the original storekeepers at Taylors Falls. Speaker of the territorial legislature in 1854 and 1856. Treasurer of Chisago County.

**Henry Rice** Fur trader with the Winnebago and Ojibwe Indians. Represented Minnesota interests to Congress. Introduced the 1856 bill that granted statehood to Minnesota and funded the University with two townships of land (more than 23,000 acres). Elected to U.S. Senate in 1858. Rice County named for him.

**Abraham Van Vorhees** Successful inventor. Had only 18 months of formal schooling in his entire life. Served Ohio as legislator and senator. Appointed by President Taylor as Minnesota's land office registrar in 1849. Served as territorial auditor and elected to territorial legislature. Finished career as Washington County surveyor.

**Joseph W. Furber** Came to Cottage Grove in 1847 and became a wealthy farmer. Speaker of the first and last territorial legislative sessions. Member of state legislature in 1858.

**John W. North** Not a regent but elected treasurer of the first board. Resettled along the Cannon River and founded Northfield. Appointed surveyor-general to Nevada territory by President Lincoln. Nearly became governor, instead served on Nevada's supreme court. Settled in Tennessee to help in reconstruction after the Civil War. Operated a foundry in Knoxville. Later was a pioneering fruit grower in California and served as a judge there. \*

## REFERENCES

John W. North: helped found the University; established Northfield, Minnesota; served as a Nevada judge; tried his hand at fruit growing in California.

Background Image: 1871 map of St. Anthony (now Minneapolis) MAP: COURTESY MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The four circles are drawn at the distances of 1 mile, 1 1/2 miles, 2 miles, and 3 miles, from the Tribune Office.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your article on *Memories and Convocation* (fall 2000) brought to mind one special convocation when I was a sophomore at the U. The date was December 8, 1941, when we all assembled at Northrop to listen to a broadcast of President Roosevelt giving his "A day that will live in infamy" speech.

I remember looking around me at all the young men, and wondering how many would be returning from this war that had just been declared—and not yet named! I scarcely knew where Pearl Harbor was, never dreaming that one day I would be living here.

Thanks for bringing back memories.

Elaine Otterstein Lewis  
Kaneohe, Hawaii  
eolewis@webtv.net

**!** **talk to us!** Contact us with your letters, comments, questions or suggestions: 6 Morrill Hall, 100 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455-0110  
Phone: 612-624-6868 E-mail: urelate@umn.edu.  
Letters selected for publication, which may be edited for length, in no way reflect the opinion of *M*'s publishers.

## How do you like our new look?

We asked Minneapolis design firm Woychick Design ([www.woychickdesign.com](http://www.woychickdesign.com)) to give *M* a more readable and inviting format and to cut costs, as well. By going to a different dimension publication, we can now mail at the cheaper letter rate. And the better quality paper you hold in your hand is actually less expensive than the paper we used before, plus it contains more recycled content. To let us know what you think about our redesign, please e-mail [urelate@umn.edu](mailto:urelate@umn.edu).

# LESSONS FROM OLD MAN RIVER:

## A SOLO KAYAK JOURNEY DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI

When Ron Severs was a boy, his parents managed a marina in East Peoria. He and his brother saved enough money for a little boat and a motor and, writes Severs, "...our summer days were spent exploring the Illinois River, going as far around each bend as the old 15-horse Evinrude and five gallons of gas would take us."

Nearly 35 years later, Severs's love of river travel launched him down the Mississippi on a 2,552-mile kayak journey from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico. He traveled alone, and what he discovered about himself, the river, and the people who live from, on, and along it are the subjects of his new book, *One Good Story*, published by Minneapolis's Nodin Press.

Severs, a forester-land manager for the University of Minnesota's College of Natural Resources, writes engagingly about spending 10 hours a day in the seat of a kayak. He encounters beaver dams, fights dehydration and crosscurrents, and meets an extraordinary bunch of kind and easygoing people.

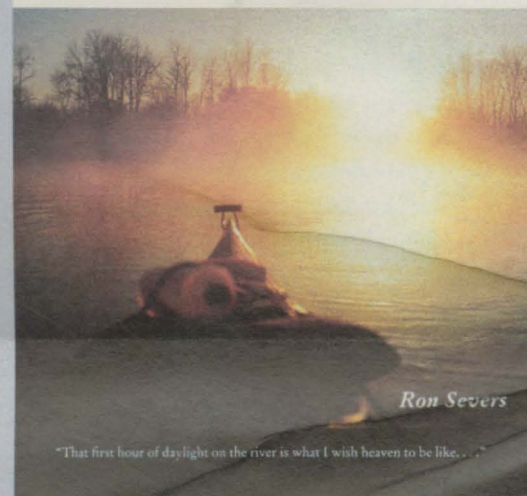
Severs shares his interior travels as well and imbues his writing with the joy, honesty, and curiosity of a man eager for any discovery about himself and the world.

*One Good Story* reminds the reader that in the days of jet travel and the Internet, there are still pearl divers and river pilots in our country, and that the mighty Mississippi remains a force to be reckoned with. \*

**?** **get more info** *One Good Story* is published by Nodin Press (Minneapolis) and is available at local bookstores.

## ONE GOOD STORY

A Mississippi Kayak Journey



"That first hour of daylight on the river is what I wish heaven to be like..."

*"I don't think a person can endure the physical hardship of 2,552 miles of river paddling and not return as a more self-confident person. A solo traveler could not survive the day after day, endless hours of uninterrupted thinking and not return with a more open mind. One cannot witness the natural beauty of the river and feel its timelessness, and not return with a greater sense of wonder. Being on a journey changes a person. It is inevitable."*  
~ from *One Good Story*

# A LIFETIME AT THE UNIVERSITY

A '31 SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE GRAD, A 30-YEAR U PROFESSOR, AND A 30-YEAR VOLUNTEER WITH A MAROON AND GOLD HEART. by Bridget Krage O'Connor

When meeting Gerald McKay, you would never guess he is 92. A sharp and charismatic man, Professor Emeritus McKay shows he is a gentleman, too, by taking my coat, then offering me a chair.

For almost an hour, we talk about his nearly 75-year history with the University of Minnesota.

He tells me he heard fellow student Harold Stassen, later a Minnesota governor, say at a 1928 convocation that, "The University should be maintained not by what we pay, but by what we repay." Not only has McKay remembered that message—he has lived it.

A farm boy born in Crooks, South Dakota, and raised in Pine County, Minnesota, McKay graduated from the School of Agriculture in 1931 and earned his B.S. from the College of Agriculture in 1939. McKay calls June 17, 1939, his "big day" because he was married at 10 a.m., received a phone call with a teaching offer from Brainerd High School in the afternoon, and then went to his graduation ceremony in Memorial Stadium at 7 p.m. "Not bad for one day," McKay says with a wink.

In 1945, he returned to the University to teach. A professor in audiovisual communication for the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics for 30 years, McKay hung up his teaching hat in 1974. He then spent 27 years as a University volunteer.

McKay tells me that some of his best U memories revolve around the School of Agriculture, which graduated its last group of students in 1960. (Agricultural studies are now part of the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences.) McKay, with the help of many others, developed a revolving Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems to honor the alumni of the former school. Funds for this endowed chair now total \$2 million.

"Gerry played a major role in helping us promote this to the agriculture school alumni," says Gene Allen, vice president of the Institute of

Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics at the time of the endowment campaign. "And he did it enthusiastically and convincingly. He is a grand alum." Modestly, McKay claims he just had "a lot of years that allowed me to know people who might want to be a part of this."

"Working with people planning to be extension educators and other agriculture professionals is what I am most proud of. I helped them," says McKay. "It's what I came to do and what I enjoyed."

After talking in Coffey Hall, McKay suggests we go over to his house just a few blocks from the campus in St. Paul. "I've got a lot of things I can show you there." Once we arrive, he tells me more stories, drawing on his detailed memory and dozens of books he has within reach, including his 1995 autobiography, *My Story: A Recollection of 80+ Years*.

Assisted by his family, he has filled the book with photos, diplomas, awards, and detailed stories from their life together.

Showing me pictures of his time in post-World War II Europe as an audiovisual education consultant for economic revitalization programs, including the Marshall Plan, McKay explains that he saw this as an educational opportunity of a lifetime for his family. So he and his wife, Mary, packed up all five children, ages 5½ to 12 years old, and left for Paris. McKay later wrote that those days "will be with us forever."

Each time McKay mentions another memory he snaps his fingers, springs up, and says, "Just a moment, I have it here somewhere." And sure enough, he does. While he searches for something, my eye wanders through the dozens of professional and community service awards on his wall. I then notice the University of Minnesota marching band blanket on his couch. "They gave that to me when I retired," he says with a smile. McKay marched with the alumni band at almost every homecoming game from 1947 to 1997, and his five children were also a part of the University's marching band. "Now they're doctors, lawyers, and teachers—all with University of Minnesota degrees," he notes proudly.

Mary McKay peeks in to offer us coffee and as she walks away, McKay asks that I not leave her out of the article. "She deserves most of the credit for things."

Yet McKay has some credit due himself. This December, the University recognized McKay with the University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award.

When I ask McKay about his most meaningful professional achievement, he sits down and pauses. "Working with people planning to be extension educators and other agriculture professionals is what I am most proud of. I helped them," he says. "It's what I came to do and what I enjoyed." \*



PHOTO: TOM FOLEY

Gerald McKay recalls, "Northrop was being built the year I first stepped on the U's campus as a student." McKay stands in front of a display in Coffey Hall that he helped create to honor the School of Agriculture alumni.

# BACK ON TOP: THE JOURNALISM SCHOOL REINVENTS ITSELF

by Pat Mack

Turns out, stories about the death of the University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication in the 1990s were not greatly exaggerated. "We were ready to be shut down," journalism professor Kathy Hansen says.

Years of budget cuts, loss of teachers, and a divided faculty took their toll. The problems caused accrediting teams in 1989 and 1994 to place the school on provisional reaccreditation. Their reports concluded that conditions at the school "won't get much better very soon and could well get worse." What had happened to a school that had been a pioneer in journalism education since it began in 1916?

The school's own answer, documented in a 2000 self-study, is sobering. "Collective egos, superior arrogance, and the enormity of the school's reputation may have ultimately collided to explode the school from within," the study states.

But now, only about four years since the darkest days, the school has been transformed. "I think what turned it around is that people realized it was either going to die or be reborn," Campaign Minnesota cochair for the school and former *Pioneer Press* editor John Finnegan says. "And we weren't willing to let it die."

This fall's accrediting team found a stunning shift from the last visit. "It's a different world. I have not seen this level of change anywhere," says Gerald Baldasty, University of Washington, who chaired the team. "We're talking about a sea change here, a new direction, new money, and an infusion of a new spirit."

The first glimmer of hope shone in 1997 when Mark Yudof became the University's new president and outlined his top five priorities. They included training students for media jobs in a digital age. "It was extraordinary to find a university president give this much attention to a communications program," Albert Tims, the school's director, says.

Being a top presidential priority helped the school's operating budget grow and it added urgency to the work of a task force formed to recommend changes in communication studies

PHOTO: TOM FOLEY



Learning to tell stories in Murphy Hall's new Digital Media Studio.

at the U. The school also received funding from the legislature to add faculty and renovate its home, Murphy Hall, thanks in part to an unprecedented lobbying effort from alumni and members of the professional media.

The legislative backing and improvements undertaken by the school also helped in raising private funds. The school has raised \$16 million—including a \$10 million gift from Hubbard Broadcasting to enhance the ways technology is used for teaching and research and for new media studies. One million of that gift was also set up as a matching grant to encourage additional gifts from alumni.

The renovated Murphy Hall has state-of-the-art computers and fiber optics for the highest speed Internet connections. The once separate labs for reporting, graphics, and photography can now accommodate three classes at once, allowing faculty and students in print, broadcast, and Web to work together.

"There's going to be a strong emphasis on people working in groups—the writer, editor, video person creating stories together," says Joel Kramer, Senior Cowles Fellow and former publisher of the *Star Tribune*. "It's very much like a professional setting."

"We're really not about the technology," Tims says. "We're about telling stories. The new technology merely allows us to tell stories in new ways with new tools."

Another emphasis is connecting students with media professionals. Now, a news-reporting course is taught at the *Pioneer Press*. Another course on arts reporting met regularly at the Guthrie Theater, where students talked to the actors, watched a play, and wrote reviews. And the school has created an annual work-shop on economics for working journalists with the help of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Attention-drawing experts, like Nora Paul in new media, Jane Kirtley in media ethics, and media economist Dan Sullivan, have joined the faculty of the resurgent school.

Word of the recent faculty hires, a rebuilt school, additional funding, and a new vision has spread around the country. "The school is really a model for programs around the country who realize they need to change or die," Hansen says. \*



An open house at Murphy Hall will be held on Friday, April 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. All alumni are invited.

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

### Campaign Surpasses \$1 Billion

Gifts for Campaign Minnesota now total more than \$1 billion, reaching \$1,001,100,000 as of December 31, 2000, or 77 percent of the campaign's goal of \$1.3 billion by 2003. Campaign Minnesota priorities include \$540 million in endowment funds for faculty, students, and strategic investments, and another \$760 million for research, ongoing academic programs, and outreach programs.

### Arboretum Receives \$10 Million

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum received a gift of \$10 million from an anonymous donor for construction of its new visitor center. The center will serve as a formal entry point to the arboretum's gardens and collections, and will provide expanded space for interactive exhibits and demonstrations, classrooms, an auditorium, gift shop, restaurant, and outdoor terrace.

### Faculty and Staff Give Generously

More than 6,500 faculty and staff, including those featured at right, have given \$35 million so far to Campaign Minnesota. A special campaign effort for faculty and staff was kicked off in November.

### How you can participate

All gifts, regardless of size, count toward Campaign Minnesota, and alumni may designate their gifts in support of the campus, college, or program of their choice. Gifts made through the Annual Fund also count toward the campaign, and alumni are encouraged to continue to make annual gifts. To make a gift, visit the campaign Web site at [www.campaign.umn.edu](http://www.campaign.umn.edu), or contact the University of Minnesota Foundation at 612-624-3333 or 800-775-2187.



CAMPAIGN MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# GIFTS TO HONOR THE PAST AND SECURE THE FUTURE

by Kara Rose and Judy Korn

When he speaks of the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM), Jim Gremmels paraphrases Herman Melville's character Ishmael in *Moby Dick*. To Ishmael, "A whale ship was my Yale College and my Harvard." To Gremmels, Morris "was my Oxford College and my Cambridge. For me it was a 40-year voyage with a group of remarkable faculty, outstanding students, and an administration whose dead reckoning always kept us afloat and on course. This campus has meant a great deal to me."

Professor emeritus of English at Morris and a University graduate, Gremmels and his wife, Ruth, a Morris alumna, have joined faculty and staff from across the University in supporting Campaign Minnesota, the \$1.3 billion campaign for the University and its four campuses. The Gremmelses' gift, made in the form of a bequest, supports scholarships for English majors who excel in the classroom and letter on a Morris athletic team; sabbatical funding for young Morris faculty; and seed money for the planning and construction of a performing arts center.

The Gremmelses made their gift to celebrate the role the University has played in their lives. Their son, Paul, is also a graduate of UMM. "Our family owes a great deal to the University of Minnesota. This gift helps repay this debt." \*



U of M, Morris, professor emeritus Jim Gremmels and his wife, alumna Ruth Gremmels, are among thousands of University faculty, staff, alumni, and friends supporting Campaign Minnesota.

### MERLE MEYER TRIBUTE FUND ESTABLISHED

In St. Paul, colleagues and friends of Merle Meyer, professor emeritus of forestry and University alumnus, are supporting a fellowship fund established in tribute to Meyer. As a member of the College of Natural Resources faculty, Meyer gained national recognition for his research in the use of aerial photography by natural resource professionals. Alumni Alan Ek, head of the Department of Forest Resources, and Richard Skok, dean emeritus of the College of Natural Resources, wrote of Meyer: "Perhaps Merle's greatest legacy is the effect he has had on people—his undergraduate students, his

graduate advisees, extension foresters, and other natural resources professionals."

Phillip Knorr, professor emeritus of the University of Arizona, was one of Meyer's advisees. Last year, Knorr established the Merle P. Meyer Fellowship in Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota. Gifts from other former students and U of M faculty quickly followed. Payout from the endowed fund will be matched by the University's 21st Century Graduate Fellowship Endowment, which doubles the impact of gifts for fellowships. \*

# WORLD OF WONDERS

DIGGING FOR HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE UNIVERSITY'S COLLECTIONS

by Barbara Silberg

For the well-heeled Renaissance prince or merchant, the cabinet of curiosities was a tangible symbol of social standing, influence, and accomplishment. The cabinet featured an eclectic variety of rare and exotic objects. This private collection might include shells, animal and mineral specimens, mummies, fossils, coins, manuscripts, paintings, musical instruments, scientific inventions, hand-crafted items, weapons, and all manner of wondrous artifacts that represented the sum of current knowledge of the world. Objects were arranged in a visually pleasing way without regard to chronology, function, origin, or artistic style. The intention was to educate, to delight, and to spur discussion.

With the rise of the Enlightenment in the 18th century, the cabinet of curiosities was eclipsed by the development of the modern museum. The idiosyncratic private collections were dispersed into natural history museums, art galleries, and libraries and the objects were categorized and displayed in increasingly standardized ways.

American artist Mark Dion has been disenchanted with the conventional practices of the modern museum for most of his career. He explores the format of the cabinet of curiosities to revitalize the museum goer's experience, and now he is introducing this concept to the Weisman Art Museum. "I want to blur the lines between current classifications. I want to present nature as a set of ideas, which don't fit neatly into categories," Dion says. "The cabinet of curiosities, with its unexpected juxtapositions and combinations of objects, encourages people to think about relationships among things and to decode meaning for themselves."

Dion is a soft-spoken man whose modest demeanor belies his accomplishments. At 39, he has had dozens of exhibitions around the world, from Berlin to Caracas and from Amsterdam to Tel Aviv. In recent years, he's been invited to create installations for the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Tate Modern Gallery in London. His exhibition for the Weisman is the brainchild of Colleen

PHOTOS: TOM FOLEY



Mark Dion + Colleen Sheehy collaborate to spotlight the University's outstanding collections.

Sheehy, the museum's director of education and an adjunct faculty member in American studies.

"I've wanted to collaborate with Mark for years," says Sheehy. "With the sesquicentennial observance here, it seemed like the ideal time to spotlight the importance of the University's outstanding collections."

"He was reluctant at first to commit to such a huge effort, but after he came and took a whirlwind tour of the University and met with museum staff and collection curators, he got excited about what he saw."

To convince Dion to accept the assignment, Sheehy proposed developing the Weisman exhibition in collaboration with students. She and Dion would teach a special class—The Making of Collections, Knowledge, and Museums—that would examine the origins and development of Western practices of collecting and exhibiting, with emphasis on the cabinet of curiosities and its impact on the emergence of the public museum. As a major component of the course, the students, Dion, and Sheehy would serve as cocurators of the exhibition—"Cabinet of Curiosity"—researching and selecting objects from more than 30 University collections, many of which are little known outside of scholarly circles.

They recruited nine students for the fall semester class. Dion was in residence one week each

month of the semester, and he and Sheehy shared responsibility for leading class discussions and advising the students on their research. Each student had the chance to select several collections to investigate based on his or her interests, and the balance of the collection searches fell to Dion and Sheehy. The detective work began with meetings with collection curators to identify the treasures that might be included in the installation. It was a mammoth undertaking.

**The hunt** Despite her long-time interest in natural history, B.A. student Alison Gerber, an art major, had her share of surprises as she scoured the Bell Museum of Natural History's entomology, mammal, fish, bird, reptile, and amphibian collections. "Some of the specimens really creeped me out at first," says Gerber. "Just as I was getting used to one thing, I'd open another drawer and be shocked again. But I became more comfortable after working with the curators. I found out amazing things about storage methods, how to prepare specimens for display, and who uses the collections." Gerber's contributions to the exhibition include the spiral tusk of a narwhal; the skeleton of a howler monkey; a selection of colorful dried and mounted scarab beetles and butterflies; and a preserved cavefish, one of a family of freshwater fishes that cannot see.

Jean-Nickolaus Treter, an M.S. student in interdisciplinary studies with specializations in





PHOTO: TOM FOLEY

Student Alison Gerber confronts a crocodile for the Weisman's "Cabinet of Curiosity" exhibition.

library, museum, and archival studies, chose to work with several collections. Closest to his heart is the Tretter Collection of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Studies, which Tretter himself donated to the University. The collection yielded one of the jewels of the exhibition: a miniature model of the lighthouse on Fire Island, New York, made of hand-cut and soldered stained glass.

Other items Tretter discovered for the installation include a rare *lysurus* mushroom from the University herbarium, sections of 28,000-year-old mastodon tusks from the paleontology collection, and a hand-scripted medieval choir book, circa 1325, from the rare books collection.

Lisa Arnold, a Ph.D. student in theater with minors in museum studies and art, uncovered perhaps the most chilling item destined for the display: a photo album depicting activities at a Nazi training camp, drawn from the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Collection. "The album does show people in military exercises but also in living quarters and just socializing. To me, it's a reminder of how easy it is to fall into stereotypes, to see them as evil monsters. But there they are, doing the mundane things that all of us do," says Arnold.

Among other items Arnold chose was a book of poetry by Phyllis Wheatley from 1773, the first published work by an African-American, from the Givens collection.

**Displaying the bounty** Each student was assigned one of nine display cabinets and proposed how to arrange the curiosities inside.

Two-dimensional objects that didn't fit neatly on the shelves of the nine-foot-tall-by-four-foot-wide cabinets were hung on a salon wall: a Diego Rivera drawing of Mexican farmworkers from the immigration history archives, field notes from Jane Goodall's research in Africa from the Goodall primate studies center, and Hubert Humphrey's University diploma from the Humphrey collection, among others.

Dion has high praise for his University collaborators. "The project required a lot of cooperation among museum staff, curators, and students," he says. "This is an incredible group of people—well-read and educated, really committed to what they're doing, and willing to look at new ways of doing things... And the students themselves really delivered. They helped shape the direction of the piece. This has been a true partnership."

The students repay the compliment. "Mark's been very generous in respecting our artistic sensibilities, our research, and our ways of looking at things," says Arnold.

Dion returned to the University in February to direct the exhibition installation and to work with the students on refining display design.

What does Dion want the museum goer to draw from the experience? "The exhibit is like a puzzle," he says. "There will be a vast range of objects—some quirky, some familiar, some humorous, some unsettling. I think it will be fantastic—both challenging and exciting. The encounter will mirror what the individual puts into it. The viewer must establish his or her own text."

Sheehy echoes this notion: "This will be quite a different experience. We're not used to seeing these types of objects together. There are a lot of different ways of viewing things, a lot of different levels of meaning."

"Cabinet of Curiosities" represents a microcosm of the University's vast repository of knowledge, a treasure trove of wonders collected over the 150 years of the school's existence. Museum goers can expect to see a cavalcade of objects, arranged in fresh and unexpected ways, that will linger and resonate in memory for many weeks to come.

The exhibit opened at the Weisman on February 23 and runs through May 27. \*

## A UNIVERSITY COLLECTION SAMPLING

**Charles Babbage Institute of Computer History** Contains collections connected to the history of computing and information systems.

**Phillip S. Hench and John Bennett Shaw Collections of Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes** Largest public collection of its kind in North America.

**The Performing Arts Archives** Material from Minnesota's performing arts companies; more than 6,500 movie posters and 15,000 still photos from films.

**Cereal Disease Laboratory** Cultures of several thousand isolates of rust fungi in liquid nitrogen; seeds of more than 1,600 lines of wheat, small grains, and grasses.

**The Swedish Royal Decrees Collection** Approximately 3,000 edicts on everything from home brewing to warfare.

**Ames Library of South Asia** Collection's main focus is British-Indian interaction.

**University Archives** The history of the University, including 90,000 photographs.

**Literary Manuscripts Collections** Literary materials of Minnesota writers; 6,200 World War I and II posters and more than 10,000 photos from these conflicts.

**Owen H. Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine** Rare books and illustrations from 14th century to 1900; pharmacy paraphernalia; historical medical instruments.



PHOTO: BOB ROSE



**get more info** For a complete collection listing with locations: [www.umn.edu/twincities/arts.html](http://www.umn.edu/twincities/arts.html)



**get more info** For more on Mark Dion, see the book, *Mark Dion* by Lisa Corrin and others (Phaidon Press, 1997). Available at booksellers and the Weisman store. To find out about current exhibits at the Weisman, view samples from the permanent collection, and learn how the Frank Gehry-designed building was conceived and constructed, go to [www.weisman.umn.edu](http://www.weisman.umn.edu). For general information call 612-625-9494.

# LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL— ROY WILKINS STOOD FAST

by Pauline Oo

"We believe all men are created equal yet many are denied equal treatment... not because of their own failures, but because of the color of their skin."

~ President Lyndon B. Johnson on signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Roy Ottoway Wilkins, one-time executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was the grandson of Mississippi slaves. Born August 30, 1901, in St. Louis, Missouri, Wilkins dropped his middle name, which was the name of the doctor who delivered him, as soon as he "learned how to write." When Wilkins was five, his mother died; and since his father "couldn't pick up the pieces" left by her death, Wilkins and his siblings were sent packing to their maternal relatives in St. Paul.

According to his memoirs, Wilkins first became aware of different skin colors at age six while enrolled in an integrated class at Whittier Grammar School on Marion and Wayzata Streets. The kindergarten he had attended in St. Louis had been segregated. "I suppose the faith I have in integration comes from the days I spent in a schoolboy's cap and knickers chasing around the quiet, tree-shaded lanes that stretched off and away from our little cottage," Wilkins writes. His best friend was Herman Anderson, a shy blond boy whose mother told her son that what really mattered "was the kind of person you were."

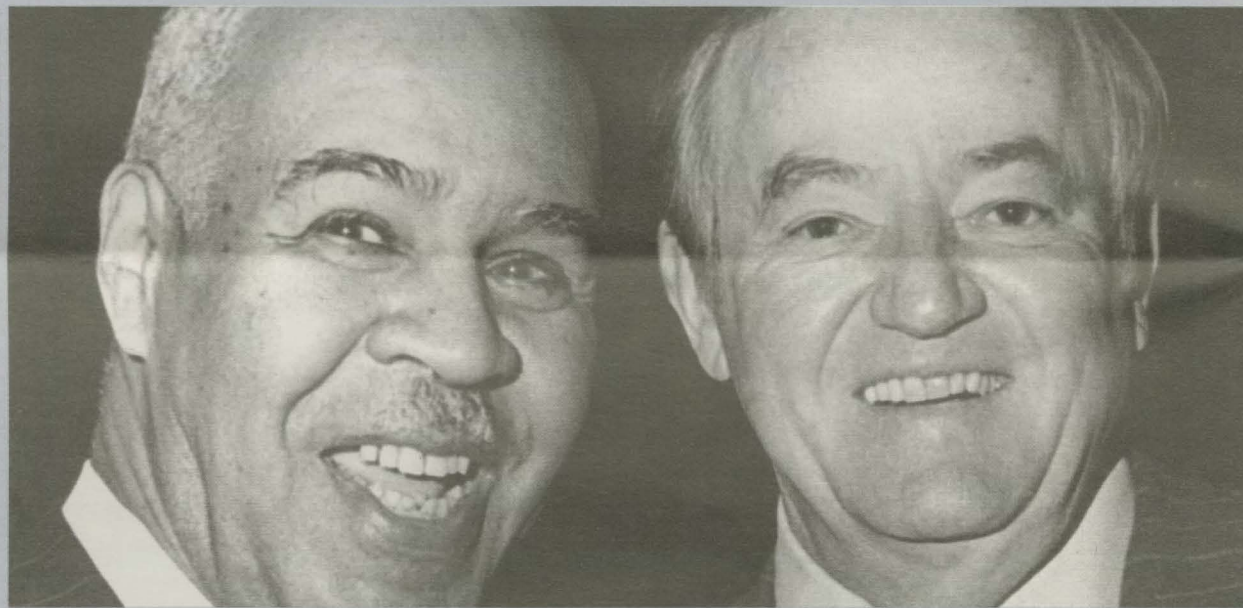
As a teenager, Wilkins dreamed of being an engineer. However, he soon discovered that he had a penchant for books and writing. In the fall of 1919, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota as a freshman, paying just \$115 for tuition and other required fees. "Minnesotans were fiercely

proud of the University, and I didn't think of going anywhere else," he explained in his biography, *Standing Fast*. While a student, Wilkins was a reporter and night editor for *The Minnesota Daily*, a reporter for the St. Paul black community weekly, *Appeal*, and a member of the local NAACP. He received a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in journalism in 1923.

In the late 1920s, Wilkins was a full-time journalist for *Call* in Kansas City, where "even good manners could be a crime for a black man."

of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. He helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, consulted with presidents of four administrations, and received the nation's highest civilian decoration—the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1976, the University of Minnesota awarded Wilkins an honorary degree. Four years after his retirement from active leadership with the NAACP, Wilkins died.

"... in each generation, God somehow manages to select someone that has the perseverance, the



Roy Wilkins and Hubert Humphrey at the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., January 27, 1975

It was here that he fell in love and eventually married Aminda "Minnie" Badeau, a social worker from St. Louis. The couple made the move from the Midwest to New York when Wilkins was offered the position of NAACP assistant secretary in 1931.

Between 1955 and 1977, Wilkins held executive secretary and executive director roles with the NAACP. He was often described as a "gentle giant" because of his modest, yet powerful influence in the civil rights movement. Under his leadership, the NAACP campaigned for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act

ability, the articulation to be able to improve upon the contribution that [ethnic groups] can make," testified Rep. Charles Rangel, New York, during the discussion of a bill in 1984 to award a commemorative medal to Wilkins's widow. "As you protect the constitutional rights of one set of people, you're protecting the constitutional rights for all. So, whether we're talking about a black person or white, a Jew or gentile, a Catholic or Protestant, Roy Wilkins has done so much for America and the free world..." \*

## AN ALMA MATER REMEMBERS

**Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice** Located at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the center studies and formulates solutions to problems of racial and ethnic equality.

**Roy Wilkins Chair and director of the Roy Wilkins Center** The chair was established in 1992 with a \$2 million endowment. It is currently held by Professor Samuel J. Myers.

**Roy Wilkins Seminar Room** This room on the 2nd floor of the Hubert H. Humphrey Center houses a collection of Roy Wilkins memorabilia, including a photograph with Martin Luther King, Jr., and a letter to Sen. Hubert Humphrey.

**Roy Wilkins Hall** An apartment-style student residence hall erected in 1996 at 1212 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

# THE ROY WILKINS U.S. POSTAL STAMP

by Pauline Oo

Roy Wilkins was honored as the 24th African-American in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage Commemorative Stamp Series on January 24, 2001, at Northrop Memorial Auditorium.

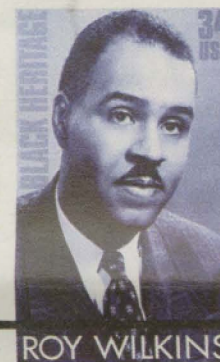
The program included family and friends who spoke about Wilkins's life and contributions, entertainment by Franklin Middle School students, and a public unveiling of an enlarged version of the stamp. There were first-day-of-issue stamped envelopes for serious collectors and framed artwork for sale, in addition to some of the 200 million self-adhesive stamps the U.S. Postal Service will print.

A number of cities, including St. Louis and New York, were considered for the first-day issuance of the Roy Wilkins stamp, but strong

local support from leaders in the community, including President Mark Yudof, led to the selection of Minneapolis and Northrop.

"It is quite an honor to have not only the first day in recognition of [a stamp]," said Jim Ahlgren, U.S. Postal Service customer relations coordinator, "but to have someone local like Mr. Wilkins who has committed so much of his life to the betterment of America." \*

The Roy Wilkins stamp was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Arizona, (issued stamp reflects 34 cent first-class rate). Morgan and Marvin Smith, twin brothers who documented the lives of African Americans, furnished the black-and-white photograph taken in the 1940s.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

### NEWS DIGEST NEWS DIGEST NEWS DIGEST NEWS DIGEST NEWS DIGEST NEWS DIGEST

**University surgeons recently performed the nation's first laparoscopy** for combined kidney and partial pancreas donation. Laparoscopy, a procedure that results in faster healing and less pain, has been used in kidney and pancreas transplantations but never when both organs are removed at the same time.

**President Bush has named President Yudof to his 31-member transition advisory committee on education.** "Education policy and reform are longtime interests of mine," says Yudof, "and I look forward to discussing these critical issues with those charged with setting our nation's policies."

**The University will have guaranteed access to the world's most powerful telescope**—Large Binocular Telescope (LBT)—with a \$5 million gift from Hubbard Broadcasting. The telescope, which is under construction in Arizona, will have 10 times better resolution and 25 times more light-collecting area than the Hubble Space Telescope.

**Catherine Verfaillie, head of the University's new Stem Cell Research Institute,** was profiled in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2000 year-end issue as one of the nation's 10 leading innovators in science and technology. Verfaillie discovered that stem (master) cells derived from adult bone marrow can be made to grow into a variety of human tissues. \*

# NUMBER 1 OF 50,000

by Chris Coughlan-Smith



PHOTO: SUZIE LEAVINES

## Did you come to the University right out of high school?

Yes. I went to high school at the West Central School of Agriculture, which I understand is now the University of Minnesota, Morris, and I entered the University in 1941. At the end of fall quarter, most of the graduate students went right into the service, so I [as an undergrad] went from making 25 cents an hour in the horticulture greenhouses to being a USDA field agent in basically a graduate assistant's job. I had joined AGR [Alpha Gamma Rho, an agricultural fraternity] and there were three of us who stayed until the end of the year to close down the house. Then I went into the service, too.

## Why did you keep pursuing degrees?

My brother Earle had his Ph.D. in plant pathology and was teaching at the University, so that had a lot of influence on me. Also, I got married while I was in the service, so I had to go to work right away [when I got out]. I was fortunate to get reinstated with the USDA and I used the USDA job and the GI Bill to get through school.

## How did you end up teaching in Lebanon?

I had worked for six years at the Geneva Experiment Station in New York state, where I did a lot of fruit breeding. Our family wanted a different experience, so I signed on for three years with the American University in Beirut. This was a very interesting time. I taught all the horticulture classes except subtropical. We had an average of 24 different nationalities involved as students. I had some research plots over the mountains in the Bekaa Valley. It was mostly classifying and adapting varieties to use less water—there is no rainfall in the Bekaa Valley during the growing season.

The people were really wonderful. While we were there, we camped all over Europe and the Middle East. People ask if I was scared to camp out there in the desert... We'd usually find the police station and tell them what we were doing. I remember once that a group of Bedouins was curious about why we weren't staying in a hotel.

We told them we were American Bedouins and invited them in for coffee. They ended up posting guards around our camp that night so no one would bother us.

## What did you do when you returned from Lebanon?

We came back in June of 1963 and that December I became director and horticulturist of Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. We were an independent agency then, not affiliated with a university, so I had to go to the legislature myself and get funds for operating and improvements. (The station is now the centerpiece of Southwest Missouri State's Mountain Grove Campus.) It grew from just me to a plant pathologist, an entomologist, a plant physiologist, and research assistants. The budget went from a few thousand dollars to I guess pretty close to half a million. I retired in 1985.

## What were some of your successes at the experiment station?

I developed a couple of new peaches. One of them, the Loring, is an early bloomer and was one of the top five peaches east of the Rockies. I see them here at the farmers market. The Ozark Gold apple, which I developed, ripens six weeks ahead of Golden Delicious. I worked on lots of grapes. I named one the Challenger after the space shuttle.

## In 1958 you joined the alumni association as a life member. Why?

I wanted to continue getting the alumni magazine, and I got tired of sending in the yearly subscription. I was in a position that I could afford to buy a life membership, so I did. I'm glad I did. I get a chance to read the magazine no matter where I happen to be. It even followed me to Lebanon. I'm one of seven boys and two girls. All of us have U of M degrees. Quite a few in the second generation graduated from the University as well, plus their grandkids. We have quite a line of Hansons that have graduated from the U. \*

Kenneth Hanson, '48, '51, '52, is the longest-standing life member in the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's records. His three horticulture degrees took him to Georgia, New York, and Lebanon, and he spent more than 20 years as director of the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. He now lives in Gulfport, Mississippi, with Margaret, his wife of 54 years. In a recent conversation, he discussed the University, his career, and his decision to become a life member.

## Why did you choose to study horticulture?

I've always been interested in seeing new things; that's why I got involved in fruit breeding [and] developing new varieties. I grew up in western Minnesota where it's too cold for most fruits. We used to buy apples out by Big Stone Lake that had been developed to withstand the 40 and 50 degree below zero days you can get out there. They weren't the best quality, but we ate them. It was the Depression, and you took what you could get. Growing up on a farm, we were fortunate that we had our own milk, beef, hogs, chickens, and sheep. I was very active in 4H. I had a whole wall of blue and red ribbons.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The award-winning McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota Gateway



PHOTO: JONATHAN CHAPMAN

Through bands of glass piercing the ceiling, sunlight angles into the alumni center's Memorial Hall.

## IT'S OFFICIAL: ALUMNI CENTER AN AWARD WINNER

by Chris Coughlan-Smith

Declared "a masterpiece," the engineering of the McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota Gateway earned the Grand Award at the 2001 Engineering Excellence Awards competition on February 9. Judges not only gave the building the highest point total of 32 entries, but also praised the achievement of Meyer, Borgman, and Johnson, Inc., (MBJ), the alumni center's structural engineers. "This is the first project in my 10 years as a judge that I have scored a 100," wrote one of the judges for the Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota, the award sponsors. "I'm very impressed with this project." Judges cited innovative solutions to the complex project in their comments.

"The judges recognized that what set this apart from other projects was the nonrepetitiveness," says MBJ's Jerod Hoffman ('93, '94), who created computer and physical models of Memorial Hall, the center's soaring atrium. "Almost every beam was unique in either size, loads, length, or connections."

Hoffman and other members of the design and building team nicknamed Memorial Hall "the geode," a rock whose exterior belies a crystal-filled interior. The cliffs along Lake Superior's north shore were the inspiration for architect Antoine Predock's 85-foot-high space. The exterior is made up of some 2,200 blocks of granite crisscrossed by dramatic fissures of glass and large, irregular windows. Supporting the massive weight of the granite is an intricate web of more than 500 steel beams and 800 connections. Inside, other natural elements, including wood strips, copper panels, and water give the hall a warm feel.

Turning Predock's vision into reality took a team that included Mortenson Construction, the building's general contractor; Korsunsky Krank Erickson (KKE), the executive architects; steel millers and detailers; and the granite and glass designers, makers, and installers.

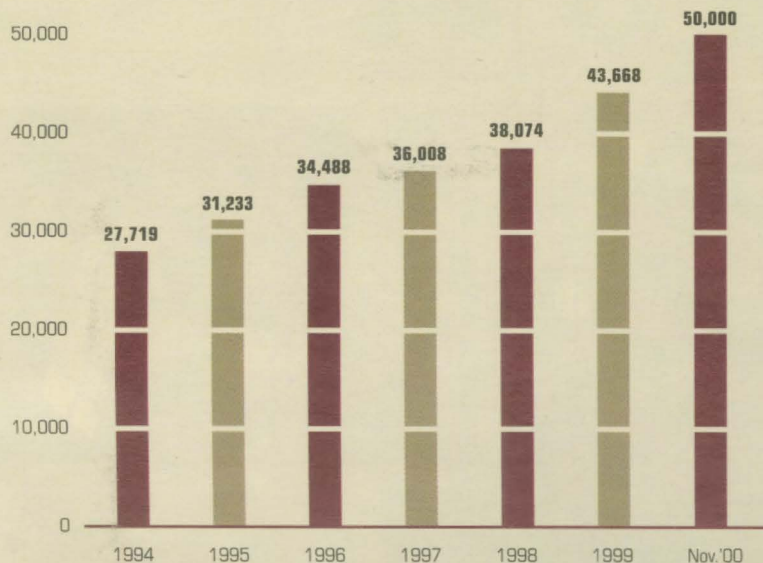
The University community holds new employee orientations, departmental luncheons, com-

mencement ceremonies, teaching award presentations, and other events in Memorial Hall's dramatic space.

The Minnesota Grand Award winners, including the McNamara Alumni Center, are entered in the national competition sponsored by the American Consulting Engineers Council. Winners will be announced in an awards ceremony in March in Washington, D.C.

The center is located at 200 Oak Street S.E. on part of the former Memorial Stadium site on the East Bank. The structure was built entirely with donations and other private money. It is home to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and the three building owners: the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, the University of Minnesota Foundation, and the Minnesota Medical Foundation. Several University units with significant outreach missions are also housed in the alumni center. \*

### UMAA Membership Growth



## 50,000 MEMBERS MAKING THE LIFELONG CONNECTION

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) officially reached its goal of 50,000 members by the end of 2000. On November 7, the UMAA received the application of Laura Sanford, a 1991 physical therapy graduate, and that put the count over the top. When the goal was set in 1994, membership stood at about 27,000.

The importance of growth is not hard to understand. "A large and active membership makes the UMAA a visible partner on campus and gives alumni a stronger voice, both with administration and the legislature," says Margaret S. Carlson, UMAA executive director.

Members can look forward to thank you specials in March, when UMAA benefit partners will offer extra discounts and benefits to members. Look for details of the thank you week in the March-April issue of *Minnesota*, the UMAA's members-only magazine. \*

**?** **get more info** Membership in UMAA is open to all Twin Cities campus alumni and friends. For information about joining the alumni association, call 612-624-2323 or 1-800-862-5867 or send an e-mail to [umalumni@tc.umn.edu](mailto:umalumni@tc.umn.edu). Visit [www.umaa.umn.edu](http://www.umaa.umn.edu) to learn more.

## A CALL TO ACTION:

### THE UNIVERSITY FIGHTS TO KEEP ITS QUALITY HIGH

The University of Minnesota asked the legislature for \$221.5 million in state funds this year. Of this, \$150 million would be used to strengthen the University's foundation, to keep its quality from eroding. A standard 3 percent cost of living allowance for faculty and staff is included in this amount, as is \$58 million the University must pay for double-digit increases in employee health insurance premiums. The money would also improve undergraduate education, erase the Medical School deficit, and provide support for technology, libraries, and facilities.

The balance of the money, \$71.5 million, is needed to support initiatives that invest in the future of Minnesota and fuel a healthy economy—one of these is education for badly needed health care professionals for the state.

Governor Ventura has recommended \$56.6 million for the University—the third lowest appropriation for the University in a nonrecession year since 1945. This entire amount won't even cover the rise in employee health insurance costs. President Yudof considers this proposal "a personal disappointment and a major step backward."

The governor thinks that the University can function well with the amount he recommends if it couples that money with belt-tightening and program cuts. But President Yudof believes such a view is "short-sighted" and that, without the money the University requested, "all the gains we have made together will be lost."

If you support the University, it is imperative that you contact your representative and senator now and tell them how you feel. If you want a world-class university that cares for the people

of this state and educates Minnesota's next generation of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, artists, and entrepreneurs, your legislators must know this. If you believe that this University can strengthen and encourage the flourishing of the state's economy, you've got to make your voice heard. If you think that education is more important than tax cuts, call your legislators. \*



**get more info** To find your legislators, visit [www.umn.edu/govrel](http://www.umn.edu/govrel) and click on District Finder.



**get more info** For more on the University's budget request, see [www.umn.edu/request](http://www.umn.edu/request).



**get more info** To join the Legislative Network, a grassroots lobbying group of more than 3,000 alumni, staff, faculty, and students, visit [www.umaa.umn.edu/legislative](http://www.umaa.umn.edu/legislative) or call 612-624-2323.

# HELP FOR THE BODY & SOUL

When it comes to clinical strengths, the University of Minnesota has some of the world's experts. The health care people listed here are leading authorities and innovators in their fields. Their contact information follows their names.

**Pediatric cancers:** Norma Ramsay  
612-626-2961, ramsa001@umn.edu

**Congestive heart failure:** Jay Cohn  
612-625-5646, cohnx001@umn.edu

**Schizophrenia:** Charles Schulz  
(national authority on schizophrenia in teens)  
Department of Psychiatry, 612-273-9800

**Cord blood transplants for Fanconi anemia, leukemia, other blood diseases:** John Wagner,  
Department of Pediatrics, 612-624-3113  
Catherine Verfaillie, Stem Cell Institute,  
612-626-4916, verfa001@umn.edu

**Parkinson's disease:**  
Walter Low, 612-626-9200, lowwalt@umn.edu

**Diabetes (new therapies and surgeries for prevention and treatment):**  
Bernhard Hering, David Sutherland  
Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation, 612-626-2101, diit@umn.edu

**Organ transplants:** R. Morton Bolman  
612-625-3902 or 1-800-US HEART  
bolma001@umn.edu.

**Bone marrow transplantation:** Phil McGlave  
612-624-5422, mcgla001@umn.edu.

**Mind Body Spirit Clinic (complementary and alternative medicine):** Mary Jo Kreitzer,  
Greg Plotnikof 612-273-5000,  
www.fairview.org/mindbodyspirit

**Ovarian and other gynecologic cancers:**  
Linda Carson, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health, 612-626-3111

**Eating disorders (including a new treatment for bulimia):** Elke Eckert  
612-273-9819, ecker001@umn.edu

**Head and neck cancer:** George Adams  
612-625-7400, adams002@umn.edu

**Gambling, other compulsive behavior (including a new drug for gambling and alcoholism):**  
Jon Grant, 612-273-9850, grant045@umn.edu

**Epilepsy Drug Therapy:** James Cloyd, College of Pharmacy, 612-624-4609, cloyd001@umn.edu

**Oral cancer and Sjogren's syndrome (dry mouth):**  
Nelson Rhodus, School of Dentistry,  
612-626-3233 (clinic) 612-625-0693 (office),  
rhodu001@umn.edu



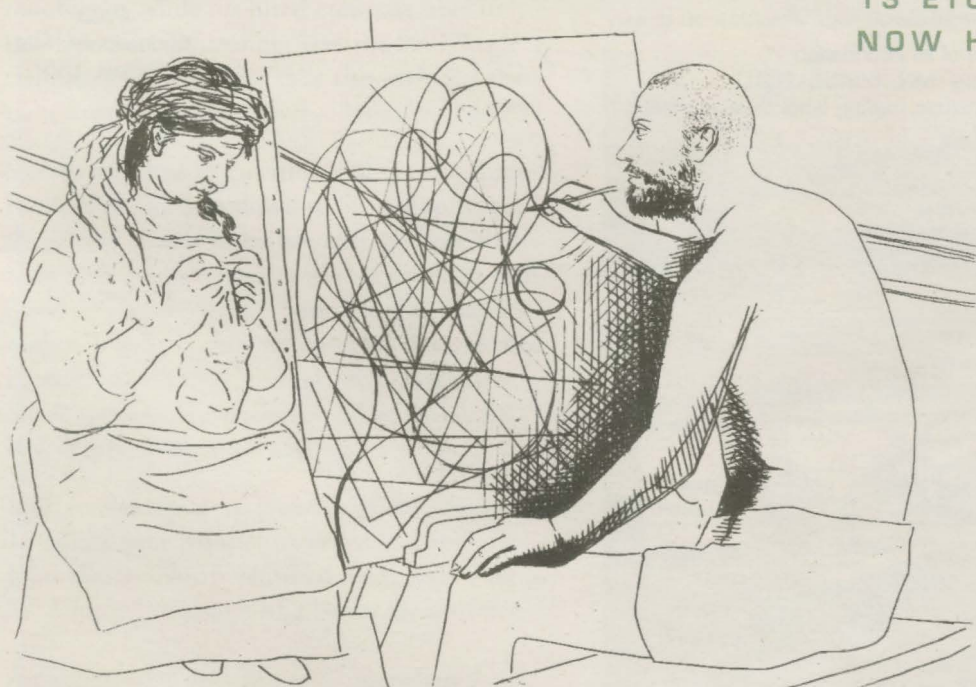
**get more info** For more information on leading medical treatments at the University or for general questions, call University of Minnesota Physicians (UMP) health access line at 612-672-7422. Or toll-free at 1-888-256-9787.



The University of Minnesota collaborates with 20 health sciences libraries in the Midwest to produce HealthWeb (www.healthweb.org), an index and link to thousands of high quality health-related Internet sources.

## PICASSO BY THE LAKE:

13 ETCHINGS BY THE FAMED 20TH-CENTURY ARTIST  
NOW HANG IN DULUTH'S TWEED MUSEUM OF ART



In the 1920s, a Paris publishing house commissioned Pablo Picasso to illustrate Honoré de Balzac's short story, "Le Chef-d'oeuvre Inconnu (The Unknown Masterpiece)." The etchings depict Balzac's story of an artist striving to paint the ideal woman.

Picasso produced the etchings by carving into copper plates and using them to make prints. The etchings were used in only a few hundred books, but the publisher collected the etchings into what is called an artist's book and published 99 copies. The Tweed, on the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus, now owns one of those copies.

These etchings, considered among Picasso's finest, now join the Tweed's permanent collection, best known for its 19th-century French and American landscapes. \*

83/49

Picasso

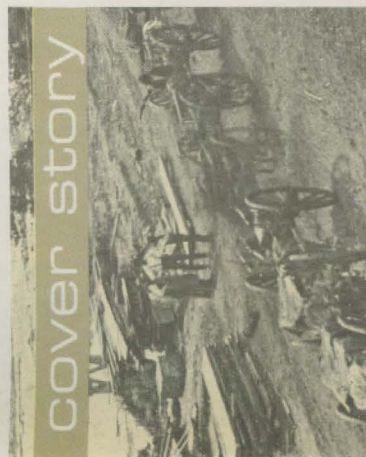
One of 13 Picasso etchings commissioned for the Balzac short story "The Unknown Masterpiece."  
Some of Picasso's finest etchings, the entire set now hangs as part of the Tweed's permanent collection.



**get more info** For information on the Tweed, call 218-726-8222 or see www.d.umn.edu/tma.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

winter 2001



cover story

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS'  
HARDSCRABBLE START

John Sargent Pillsbury, honored as the father of the University, was instrumental in rejuvenating the school after it closed its doors in the face of the financial panic of 1857 and the Civil War. His story and his contributions to secure the University's future are well known. What follows is a lesser known tale from the years when Minnesota was barely a territory and the founders and first regents of the University were staking their claims to this rough land.

### inside:

- > *One Good Story Book Review* ..... 4
- > *Gerald McKay: A Lifetime at the U* ..... 5
- > *Journalism School* ..... 6
- > *Kenneth Hanson: UMMAA's 1 of 50,000* ..... 12
- > *A Call to Action* ..... 14
- > *Guide to Leading Medical Treatments at the U* ..... 15



High-profile curator Mark Dion brings "Cabinet of Curiosities" to the Weisman Art Museum > page 8

8



Roy Wilkins is honored with USPS Black Heritage commemorative stamp > page 11

11



McNamara Alumni Center wins a 2001 Engineering Excellence Award > page 13

13



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A publication for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota—  
Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities

Address changes and cancellations: U of M Foundation  
200 Oak St SE Suite 500 Minneapolis MN 55455-2010  
or e-mail: [urelate@umn.edu](mailto:urelate@umn.edu). Please include mailing label code numbers.

Change service requested

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit 155

Editor ..... Martha Coventry  
Managing Editor ..... Sharon Grimes  
Graphic Design ..... Woychick Design  
Photographer ..... Tom Foley

*The opinions expressed in M do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Board of Regents or the University administration.*

M has a Web page:  
[www.umn.edu/urelate/m](http://www.umn.edu/urelate/m)





spring 2001

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A publication for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota—Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities

## THE CURE WITHIN: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF OUR STEM CELLS by Carl Franzén

The elusive fountain of youth isn't in Florida. But it may be in your body. At the earliest stage of life, the cluster of cells in a mother's womb are stem cells. These embryonic stem cells carry all the instructions needed to make a whole person.

Within a few days the cells begin to specialize, eventually creating more than 200 different kinds of cells. Some will head off to make heart muscle, some form skin, and others account for bone. When the body is fully grown most of the stem cells will have fulfilled their purpose and they die off.

Some rare stem cells, referred to as adult stem cells, continue to make new cells, to replenish the body with specific things like blood cells or skin tissue, for example.

Naturally, this—why some stem cells continue to function and others do not—has made scientists curious. Salamanders and starfish have the natural ability to regenerate a limb if it is severed. But in the human body—if a nerve is severed, if knee cartilage wears out, or heart muscle is damaged—there is no biological way to fix the problem. This may change in the not-too-distant future, however.

### What the excitement is about

Scientists at the University of Minnesota and around the world are so excited about breakthroughs that have come in stem cell research during the past few years, that it's difficult not to talk about potential cell therapies. The list is breathtaking.

In the next decade we have good reason to believe there will be cures for hemophilia, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases and regenerative therapies

for worn out joints, damaged heart muscle, bones that won't heal, and stroke damage.

That's just the short list. In theory, every organ of the body can benefit from the knowledge that is now being collected in preparation for clinical tests.

The University's Stem Cell Institute is in the thick of discovery. Under the leadership of Catharine Verfaillie, the institute—the first of its kind in the country—is held in high regard among those pursuing answers to stem cell behavior.

This year Verfaillie was named one of the nation's 10 leading innovators in science and technology by *U.S. News & World Report*. Most recently the Michael J. Fox Foundation

for Parkinson's Research honored the institute with a one-year \$100,000 grant.

**A key discovery made at the University** A little more than three years ago Verfaillie and the University began to rewrite a few pages from the textbook on stem cell biology.

In a project designed to grow stem cells in a petri dish to regenerate bone and cartilage for a rare childhood genetic disease, something was changed in the regular way of doing things. Verfaillie instructed her lab researcher Morayma Reyes to leave an ingredient that might have been harmful to the child out of the medium normally used for growing stem cells.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Petri dishes incubating adult stem cells

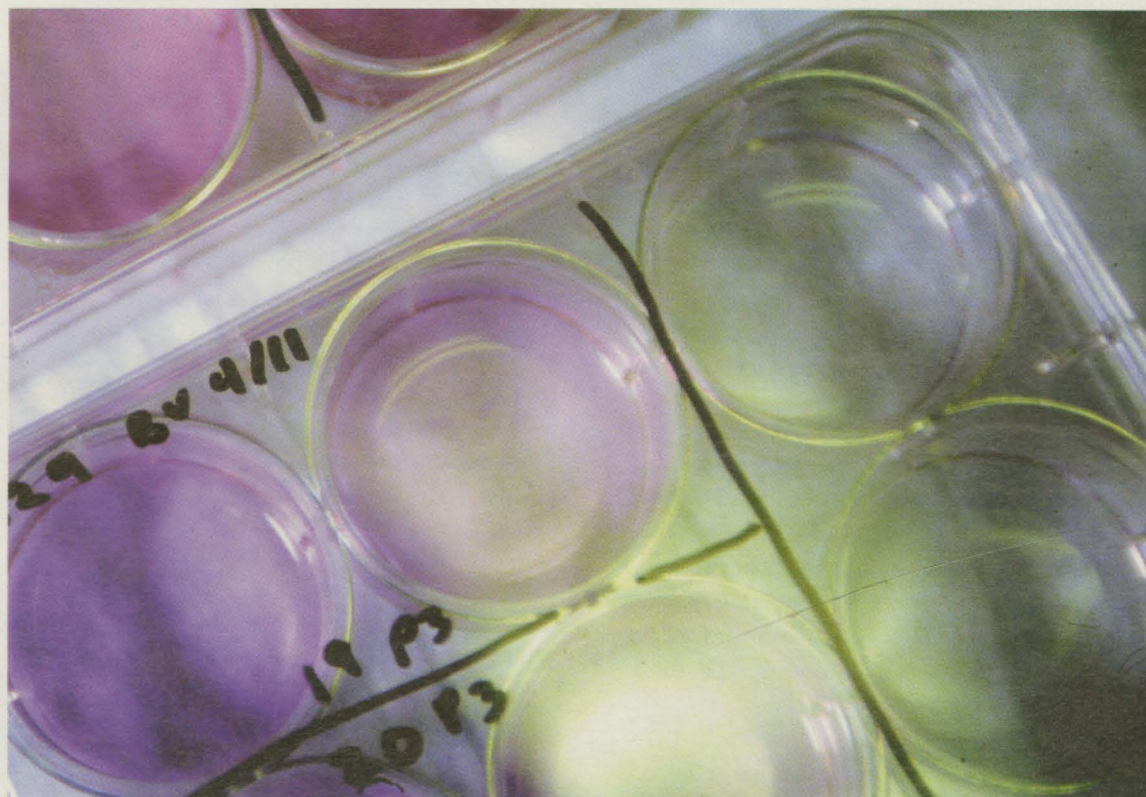


PHOTO: TOM FOLEY

The result was surprising. What Verfaillie saw when she peered into the microscope was completely unexpected. Instead of seeing only stem cells for bone and cartilage, the culture dish also included endothelial stem cells, cells that line blood vessels.

**This was a huge discovery** Until then it had been believed that an adult stem cell could only develop into its own rigid cell type—blood, skin, smooth muscles, and so forth. But evidently a stem cell has chameleon-like qualities, able to change its function to match the surrounding environment.

Verfaillie's team saw an opening and immediately began studying how modified growing conditions could trick an adult stem cell into being as flexible as an embryonic cell. Soon the group was able to grow solid bone that actually stuck to the bottom of a culture dish. They've been able to grow little balls of cartilage—imagine what those might do for a bad knee joint?

With each investigation, the team made slight changes to a stem cell's growing habitat to see what they could get. They tinkered with the recipe to mimic conditions and timing that take place during a stem cell's natural evolution.

One day what they saw astounded them. Heart muscle stem cells were found in a culture dish, beating. In addition, they found functioning brain and liver cells.

**From bone marrow to stem cells** Bone marrow has been the primary source of adult stem cells since the 1960s when University of Minnesota immunologist Robert Good successfully transplanted bone marrow for the first time. The University has been at the forefront of bone marrow use ever since. In fact, Verfaillie came from Belgium in 1988 as a hematologist to learn how to perform bone marrow transplants under Philip McGlave, another pioneer in the field.

An adult stem cell project begins by extracting a small amount of bone marrow, usually from the hip-bone area. Bone marrow is used because it contains more adult stem cells than can be found elsewhere in the body. The bone marrow is then purified in a four- to six-month process that allows stem cells, but not other cells, to

thrive. The new stem cells can be frozen and later used one cell at a time to answer investigators' questions.

#### **The value of adult stem cells**

At about the same time Verfaillie revealed the potential of adult stem cells, a storm was brewing over the ethical use of unneeded embryos—previously frozen for in vitro fertilization—as a source of stem cells.

So the timing of Verfaillie's discovery couldn't have been better. While research using embryos could continue abroad, the University and other American research centers pursued research on adult stem cells in order not to lose important federal funding.

Adult stem cells may one day eliminate the need for organ transplants. In 5 to 10 years it is predicted that doctors could remove the stem cells from the body of someone with a damaged organ, purify the cells, genetically alter them, and place them back in the patient's body to grow a new, healthy organ. And because the DNA would be a perfect match, there would be little or no need for antirejection drugs.

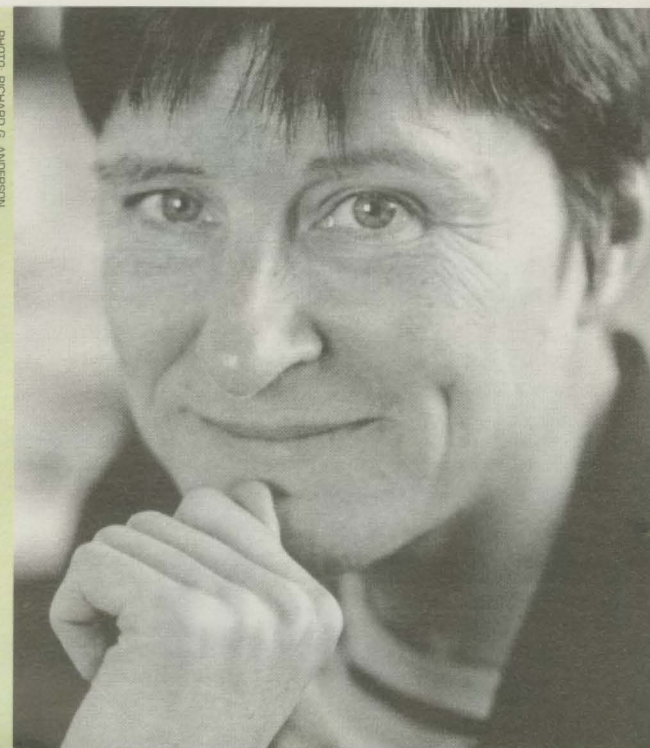
**An interdisciplinary effort** More than 50 different stem cell research projects currently are under way at the University—from the College of Veterinary Medicine to the Institute of Technology.

When a stem cell needs to be genetically corrected, the work moves from the Stem Cell Institute to the new Center for Molecular and Cellular Therapy in St. Paul. To generate the quantity of cells that will eventually be needed for a prospective transplant, the institute has opened a dialogue with chemical and biological engineering to build a bioreactor—technology that employs fluid vats and micropatterning to grow massive amounts of stem cells efficiently.

It is also an international effort. The institute is collaborating with research units in Belgium, France, Denmark, and Germany, as well as the United States, to speed the work.

**On the horizon** The institute has three diseases in its immediate sites: diabetes, hemophilia, and mucopolysaccharidosis (Hunter's syndrome). These are diseases known to be

PHOTO: RICHARD G. ANDERSON



Catherine Verfaillie, director of the Stem Cell Institute, holds three endowed chairs: the McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair, the Anderson Chair in Stem Cell Biology, and the Edmund Wallace Tulloch and Anna Marie Tulloch Endowed Chair in Stem Cell Biology, Genetics, and Genomics.

controlled by a single factor—a missing islet, protein, or enzyme. The singular focus for these diseases makes the work of the institute a little easier and, in the eyes of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), less risky. The FDA has the final say on when clinical studies may begin.

Until the FDA gives the high sign for these types of studies, stem cells can help in drug discovery. Until now, no fool-proof method existed for pretesting a new drug for unwanted side effects. But because stem cells are like the human body in miniature, they can be used, rather than an actual patient, to test drug toxicity.

In the short run, drugs may also provide a quicker, less costly solution than stem cell therapy. To develop solutions for chronic or degenerative diseases, investigators are treating defective stem cells with an assortment of drugs to see which, if any, can correct the cells.

There's a lot bubbling at the Stem Cell Institute. After some important findings, researchers are practically on the edge of creating a whole new medical industry. And for patients and doctors alike, that could be a big fountain of joy. 🌱

I would like to address Carl Franzén's "Humble Beginnings by the Falls," published in the Winter 2001 edition of *M*. I am disappointed at the lack of detail and breadth that authors who write about the establishment of the University of Minnesota as a land-grant institution give to the indigenous populations that were forcibly removed in order for the University to be built. This article especially disgusts me as it addresses the original regents of the University as colonialists with pride—Henry Sibley "helped pass the act making Minnesota a territory;" Franklin Steele "owned more land in Minnesota than anyone in the history of the state." The damage that colonialism has wrought on native people is reflected in the poverty and cultural genocide experienced by our Minnesota native community. It is time that the University community recognize its role in the appropriation of native land, the second class citizenship of disenfranchised native people, and cultural genocide.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Molina Balbuena  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Your new format is much better! I was one of the grumblers and gripers about the old one—just too unwieldy. This is a huge improvement. Thanks!

Mary Hoff  
Stillwater, Minnesota

I like the new design.... Now if you could only cull your mailing lists and give alumni the option of receiving only one or two publications a year, it would be appreciated.... Thanks!

Mark Emme  
Columbia Heights, Minnesota

I enjoyed the new format tremendously. It is actually the first time I have read the mailing from front to back....

Thank you,  
Doug Kern  
Omaha, Nebraska

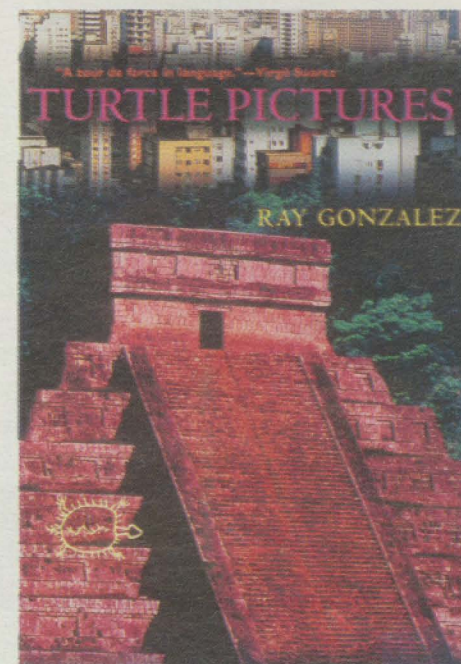
# TURTLE PICTURES:

LUSH LANGUAGE CALLS MEXICAN AMERICANS  
BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

Ray Gonzalez, an associate professor of English who holds an endowed chair at the University of Minnesota, recently won the Minnesota Book Award for poetry. In his book *Turtle Pictures* Gonzalez forges a cultural memoir that traces both his personal journey and the communal journey that Mexican Americans have traveled throughout this century.

Using images both beautiful and brutal, Gonzalez interweaves nonfiction, short fiction, poetry, and prose poems to call on Mexican Americans to return to their roots in order to avoid being engulfed by American material culture.

The writing in *Turtle Pictures* is not easy, but it is hypnotic and evocative and often starkly realistic. Gonzalez takes the reader into sensual worlds of desperation and hope on both sides of the Rio Grande. 🐢



... Chew it slowly and taste the oil  
from your grandmother's hands—  
the slap happy method of making  
the flat round dough into plates  
that will heal. It is made with  
water and forms a taste that is  
taste, but as some say, no taste  
at all. Nourishment that has nothing  
to do with the expectations  
that all brown faces eat nothing  
but tortillas. Stone monuments  
and artifacts were not created  
without the Mayans eating the  
tortillas to build. Campesino. Indio.  
If you could see how the tortilla  
cake is your soul flattened in the  
atmosphere of the new world,  
you would keep eating them and  
not eat them at the same time.  
Roots. Loyalty. Tortillas. Masa.

As if you have to bite to see  
how your people are both hungry  
and fed. Breast food. Chest food.  
Heart food. Look at the campesino  
tucking his tortillas into his shirt  
as he goes to work. The women  
folding them in their shawls as  
they hit the streets. Eat the  
tortilla. Serve it. Sacrament as if  
the simple, round, toasted, some-  
times burned face of the tortilla  
is the true reason for gathering  
everyone together, feeding them  
what flatness the corn god  
stepped on long ago. Eating  
them off the floor of the earth.

—from "Chicano Tortuga Party"  
in *Turtle Pictures*

**!** **talk to us!** Send us your letters, comments, questions or suggestions: 6 Morrill Hall 100 Church Street SE Minneapolis MN 55455-0110. Phone: 612-624-6868. E-mail: urelate@umn.edu. Letters selected for publication, which may be edited for length, in no way reflect the opinion of *M*'s publishers.

**?** **get more info** *Turtle Pictures* is available from the University of Arizona Press.  
**to order, go to:** [www.uapress.arizona.edu](http://www.uapress.arizona.edu), or call 1-800-426-3797. ISBN# 0-81165-1966-8. \$16.95.

# DESIGN FUTURES

THE UNIVERSITY BACKS ITS DESIGN INSTITUTE TO HELP CHANGE THE FACE OF THE MATERIAL WORLD

by Faith McGown

Look around you. Nearly everything you see—from the community you live in, to the car you drive, to the pen you write with—was designed. Unless it grew (and even sometimes then) or was part of the earth before humans, it was designed by someone. And, although most of us recognize the value of good design in major undertakings such as building a house, few of us give it much thought in our daily lives.

Despite the pervasiveness of design in our lives, most people know little about it. “There is a gap between the effect of design on people’s lives and their understanding of design,” notes Tom Fisher, dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Janet Abrams, director of the University of Minnesota Design Institute, points out that the importance of good design was demonstrated in Florida last fall with the presidential ballot. In that instance, design may have played a major role in determining one of the world’s leaders.

William Garrard, director of the University’s Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics Department, recently discovered the value of good design. Faculty member Gary Balas hired an architectural firm and raised the funds to renovate the department’s computer lab and seminar room. Garrard admits that going into the project he was skeptical about its value to the department. The finished product has made him a believer.

“I had thought it was probably a waste of money,” Garrard says. “But the new lab and seminar room have had a positive effect on students, faculty, and visitors. The new lab looks like a place you’d want to go to work in, and that will help us recruit students and faculty. I was very surprised at what a difference the renovation made.”

The study and practice of design has been left to professional designers, architects, and academics. Fisher notes that design is absent from most

K–12 curricula, and few people are exposed to design through their postsecondary education.

## Closing the gap

With recurring funds from the state legislature and strong support from President Mark Yudof—who included design among five interdisciplinary initiatives he announced for the University in 1997—the University established the Design Institute in 1998, in part to address the gap between design impact and understanding.

The Design Institute’s mission is to position the U of M as a leader in interdisciplinary design education, scholarship, and contributions to society. Although housed in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the institute is structured to work across college and program lines. To date, links have been made with architecture, as well as the Colleges of Education and Human Development, Human Ecology, and Liberal Arts; the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; and the Institute of Technology. In November 2000, Abrams became the institute’s first director.



Current London Transport bus stops, left, (this one near Regent’s Park) still use the system’s original typeface designed by typographer Edward Johnston in 1916 and redrawn in the 1980s for computer typesetting. At a height capable of being clearly seen at a distance, the signs display the name of the stop, the direction and route number of the buses that stop there, and their fare zones; timetables are posted at eye level. The Metro Transit sign, by comparison, is a mere flat panel attached to a galvanized steel pole (often festooned with other road signs), and commonly posted at a level easily obscured by traffic. They usually have no information about the buses that stop there; and timetables are posted elsewhere (if at all). The graphics are underwhelming.

The Design Institute has attracted attention and support from many leaders in the Twin Cities design and business communities. Abrams says that support and the budget it allows, in addition to the institute’s mission, are what convinced her to accept the position.

“This is the largest, or one of the largest, public commitments to design at an American university,” she says. “What the institute is doing is very important both to the University and to the world of design. We are creating a center of excellence that will be recognized throughout the state, the country, and quite probably internationally.”

Since it was established, the Design Institute has created a design minor for students from all disciplines interested in design, funded projects totaling more than \$1 million, and brought together 400 designers from various fields at a design summit.

## Economic consequences

According to Fisher, business is increasingly recognizing the value of good design.

“Design has economic consequences. More and more, we’re seeing design as the differentiating factor between products,” Fisher says. “Businesses are recognizing design as key to their economic success and their customers’ quality of life.”

One of those businesses is Target Corporation. Recognizing the role that design has played in Target stores’ success, the company has established relationships with well-known designers, including Michael Graves and Philippe Starck, and has made design the major focus of recent advertising campaigns. Target Corporation has also supported the Design Institute with a \$1 million gift that will enable the institute to host a K–12 design camp and launch the first Twin Cities Design Celebration.

“Target recognizes design as a factor in the company’s success,” explains Fisher, “in the products they sell, the stores’ layout, their service, and the organization as a whole.”

The HannoverExpo 2000 was the occasion for a complete overhaul of the city's buses. James Irvine Design of Milan remodeled Mercedes-Benz's Citaro model, top, in bright green and orange livery. Curved ends make the continuous side windows seem like stretched-out ship's portholes, allowing for an airy interior and improved passenger views, while the driver gets unobstructed visibility through a sleek, curved, single pane of glass. Compare Metro Transit's buses, with their bug-eyed, paired front windshields, square windows on the sides, and clunky electronic route number and destination signs, which are almost impossible to read at a distance.

### Working together

In addition to enhancing the University's reputation and furthering the University's leadership in interdisciplinary research and education, the Design Institute's current goals include stimulating the state's economy and strengthening partnerships between the University and industry. The institute has already funded several projects that will accomplish that, including development of a digital map for downtown St. Paul, which will help the city plan future development and determine the impact of roadway design on motorists' behavior.

Abrams is also discussing future projects with several organizations including Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council. The Design Institute is developing plans for a workshop and audit of best practice in transit design worldwide to assist Metro Transit in rethinking the overall identity of Twin Cities public transportation, including the forthcoming Hiawatha Rail Transit System (LRT) and the existing bus system.

"We are looking into the institute helping us with the design of the LRT cars, maps, tickets, and everything associated with LRT, as well as the transit system as a whole," says Caren Dewar of the Metropolitan Council. "We believe that design can enhance people's experience with transit and keep them coming back."

Abrams and Fisher are particularly interested in projects that involve creative collaborations across disciplinary boundaries.

"Problems you encounter out in the world are interdisciplinary by nature," Fisher says, "A lot of new knowledge is growing at the edges of disciplines or between disciplines."

Abrams agrees: "Everything leads to everything else. All things are connected and a lot of enterprising ideas can be found at the junctures." 🌿



## JANET ABRAMS: RECOGNIZING RELATIONSHIPS



Janet Abrams,  
director of the  
University of Minnesota  
Design Institute

At high school in her native London, Janet Abrams participated in two career exploration outings—veterinary medicine and architecture. Following the sessions, Abrams announced to her parents that neither field was the right path for her.

"I rejected veterinary medicine mainly because I couldn't imagine extricating my arm from the back side of a cow," she explains. "And architecture seemed so bureaucratic."

Despite her initial feelings, Abrams chose architecture as her major at London University the next year. "I opted for architecture because it represented the best mixture of the humanities and science," she says. "I rapidly found that it was as interdisciplinary as any undergraduate degree program can be."

Abrams's quest for interdisciplinary connections has guided her through her career. It includes writing about the design field for publications such as *I.D.* magazine and *The New York Times* magazine; teaching graphic design at Yale University and digital design at Parsons School of Design; directing the Chicago Institute for Architecture and Urbanism; and founding Leading Questions, a New York research and events consulting firm specializing in design, urbanism, and new media. "I feel like the focus on one area of design works for some people, but it doesn't work for me," says Abrams.

The U of M is an appropriate home for the Design Institute, says Abrams, because it is one the nation's biggest universities, has a well-known architecture program, and can collaborate with numerous large companies because of its Twin Cities location. Most important though, she says, is the University's strong backing for the initiative.

"The University of Minnesota has a willing and enthusiastic administration and faculty who are actively in support of the institute's mission," Abrams says. **F. McG.**

# SAVING THE ANCIENT ONES:

PROTECTING NORTHERN MINNESOTA'S 1,000-YEAR-OLD  
WHITE CEDARS FROM CONTROLLED BURNS

by Deane Morrison

Sometimes, even a professional woodsman can't see the forest for the trees. For six years, Lee Frelich traveled regularly to Seagull Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) with a colleague to study how red and white pine trees recovered from the fires that periodically sweep through the woods. At one of the study sites, they would hitch the boat to a white cedar, then hurry off to the pines without so much as a backward glance.

Then came the blowdown. The windstorm of July 4, 1999, flattened pines and aspen by the score around Seagull Lake. Overnight the landscape turned into a graveyard of trees—except for several hundred white cedars. Frelich, a research associate in forest resources and director of the University's Center for Hardwood Ecology, suddenly

noticed not only that white cedars had ridden out the storm, but that they seemed positively ancient. Ancient, as in 500 to 1,500 years old.

"I knew there were such things as ancient cedars," says Frelich. "I had heard about the 'witch tree' on Lake Superior, which is an ancient cedar, and there were white cedars on the Door Peninsula in Wisconsin, where we had a summer house when I was a kid. But until the blowdown, it didn't register that there were ancient cedars all around Seagull Lake."

To the unpracticed eye, white cedars don't show their age. They're short, and a thousand-year-old tree may measure only six inches in diameter. Most are 5 to 10 inches in diameter, though they can grow to two feet in diameter. Their age is revealed by their thick, gnarly bark and, often, their tortured postures—the legacy of wind, fire, and branch losses. The trees are born survivors.

"When a cedar blows down, it can root anywhere it touches the ground," says Frelich. "The branches grow up and turn into trees. That way, a whole tree can walk across the forest." No wonder white cedar is known as *arbor vitae*, the tree of life.

After the blowdown, the U.S. Forest Service decided to perform controlled burns to remove branches and twigs that might kindle a devastating fire in the BWCAW. As lead forest ecologist for the environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning the burns, Frelich realized that although the oldest trees might have



PHOTO: MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

survived 15 or 20 forest fires during their lives, fires in the blowdown conditions could kill many of them.

"The cedars grow in crevices between domes of granite," he says. "Fires didn't go in there. But with the blowdown, big conifers have fallen into the cedars' space and could conduct fire right to them."

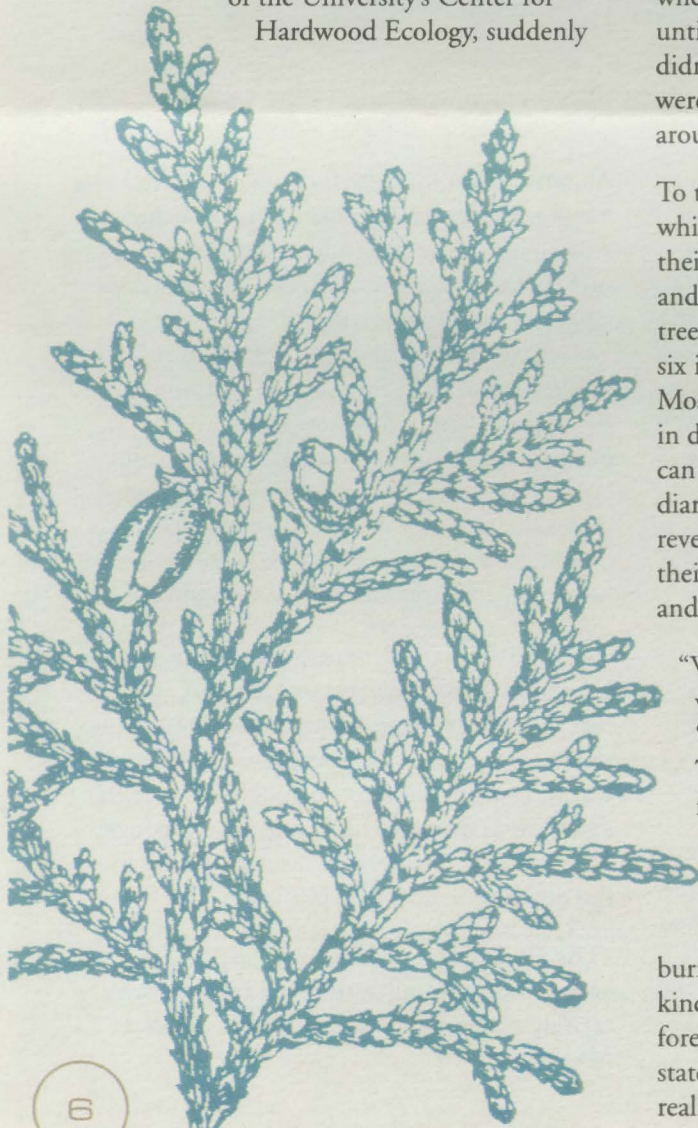
In fall 2000, Frelich warned the Forest Service that destroying these living relics would become an issue. "But they just didn't seem to hear me," he says. Then, during the period of public comment for the EIS, *Pioneer Press* reporter Dennis Lien called Frelich. When Lien broke the story of the white cedars' impending fate, environmental organizations urged their members to tell the Forest Service to save the trees. "This became the largest category of public statements," says Frelich.

The Forest Service amended its burn plan to save the white cedars by such measures as wetting them down before the burns and removing fallen conifers from their crevices.

The Forest Service will also save groves of old red and white pine; those trees, plus the cedars, will reseed the forest, says Frelich.

This fall, Frelich and graduate student Anne-Marie Hoskinson will tap, literally, into the store of knowledge in living cedars.

"By taking a core of a trunk, we can see burn scars and read fluctuations of temperature and moisture to construct past climates," says Frelich. "We may get cores 500 to 1,500 years old. That would put us in the same league as westerners who study redwoods and giant sequoias, which can live 2,000 years." 🌲



# CONTEMPLATION IN MOTION

by Kristin Gustafson

Kristin Gustafson wrote this portrait of Professor Phil Shively for a literary journalism course. —Ed.

As inviting as a lecture hall with soft seats might seem for a midday nap, nodding off during one of political science professor Phil Shively's lectures would mean missing out on the fun. Shively has long-fingered hands that reach forward to hold ideas like a football, and then swirl in circles as if to capture the music of his message.

Students watch him closely, taking notes on the role of power and choice in politics. He admits the material is dense and difficult. With both seriousness and a twinkle, he says political science makes rocket science look simple.

But masterfully, Shively dissects political concepts into manageable pieces, including family stories like the "mutual use of power" his wife employed during a recent car-buying decision.

Shively is gangly and puts himself at the level of awkward undergraduates with stories of banging his head on door frames and trying to find

clothes that fit. At the beginning of his classes, he draws an outline neatly on the blackboard, but readily follows the tangents generated by student questions. "Yes, you," he says as he points to a student. He asks for a name, then deliberately and slowly writes it down before the question is allowed. It is a habit that seems overly intentional, but he explains he is incapable of remembering names, even the obvious ones.

He told about the time he forgot Charles de Gaulle's name while he was teaching. Flustered and frustrated, Shively had tried to act out clues to the man's name. "Big nose," Shively said as he motioned his hand over his imaginary Pinocchio nose. "French general." He says the class sat silent, waiting out the charade and not offering the name because they thought it was a joke. Yet students don't seem to fault the gray-haired, cherub-faced professor for his quirks.

Shively's teaching success has not gone unnoticed. In 1989, he won the Horace T. Morse-University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.

In an interview after class, Shively shifts in his chair as he explains how much he loves undergraduate teaching. He has a way of leaning back but looking intently forward when he speaks, a habit that intrigues the listener. Political science is his passion, he says. It is "a field where all kinds of explanations can flourish."

At age 58, Shively has done more than teach politics—he has engaged in politics. He spent four years as a University lobbyist, fighting for student scholarships, library funding, and faculty salaries at the state capitol. In 1995, Shively was appointed to serve as the University's provost for arts, sciences, and engineering.

But his three-year administrative stint was not without controversy. The University's Board of Regents hotly debated and barely approved Shively's appointment in 1995 because of concerns about diversity goals. Some say Shively was inexperienced. But Shively was unfazed by the criticism and served until restructuring eliminated his position. Shively didn't mind. "When I took the job, I told [then president Nils Hasselmo] I didn't want an administrative career... and that I wanted to go back to research." Besides, he shrugged, his appointment was a Hasselmo appointment and Hasselmo was no longer president.

As a full-time teacher, Shively draws on his provost experience to help students understand theories about power and choice. A man who enjoys bird watching and classical music, Shively seems at ease with the ebb and flow of politics and teaching in his career. His head is full of new ideas—including a CD-ROM publishing project that allows educators to pick and choose the classroom materials from his book rather than ordering the complete edition. "I like to go in and out of contemplation and doing," he says. "I guess I'm now in contemplation."

Contemplation, maybe, but not quiet contemplation. Even as he explains his last thought, he rocks forward and back, his eyes dance and his hands move gracefully, only settling after he has made his final point. 🌿

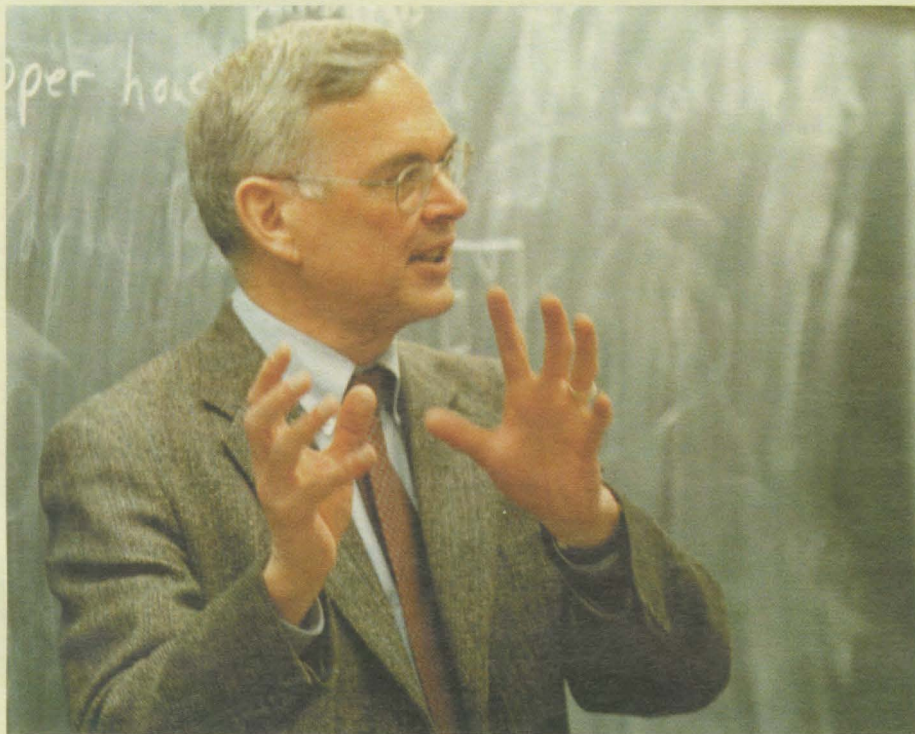


PHOTO: TOM FOLEY

Professor Phil Shively making political science understandable.

# BACK TOGETHER AGAIN:

THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO NORTHROP MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM TO CELEBRATE THE U'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

by Chris Coughlan-Smith

It was 1929 when two Minnesota institutions crossed paths for the first time. Northrop Memorial Auditorium was a grand new concert hall at the University of Minnesota that opened with great promise and fanfare. Playing one of Northrop's three dedication concerts that fall was the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, a nationally renowned group faced with a growing rent burden and a reputation that was suffering with the failing health of conductor Henri Verbruggen.

As a possible home for the orchestra, Northrop Auditorium could offer many advantages—larger capacity, more space, a location between downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul, and a virtually adjacent academic music program. University policy prohibited renting or leasing U property, but a unique contract was devised and the orchestra moved to campus.

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski was music director of the Minnesota Orchestra from 1960 to 1979. Now conductor emeritus, he will lead the orchestra at the Sesquicentennial Grand Finale on June 29 in Northrop Auditorium.

In Northrop, and under the direction of Eugene Ormandy, Dimitri Mitropoulos, Antal Dorati, and Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, the orchestra's reputation returned to one of greatness. For 44 years, the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra (which changed its name to the Minnesota Orchestra in 1968) brought crowds seeking culture to the University of Minnesota. That tradition will be celebrated on June 29 at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) Annual Celebration and Sesquicentennial Grand Finale (see sidebar, page 9).

Generations of concertgoers, students, and professors were energized by the orchestra's residency. "Then, as now, students walked through [Northrop's side hallways] on cold days and they could hear the orchestra rehearsing," recalls Dale Schatzlein, a former backstage student worker who is now director of concerts and lectures at Northrop. "I know many times they would stop to listen.... Occasionally a door might have been left open and students were known to slip in the back and stay for awhile." Obviously the orchestra added something to campus that you never would have found otherwise."

Professor emeritus Dominick Argento, who eventually wrote several pieces for the orchestra, had more direct access. "At the time, the music department was housed in Scott Hall, about a hundred steps away," he says. "The orchestra rehearsed every morning and there were times they'd let me bring a group of composition students over when they had [a guest conductor like] Aaron Copland or Igor Stravinsky. For students to actually meet the great man and listen to the rehearsal was something you could never have duplicated [if the orchestra were not on campus]." Other greats who came to campus, either directly with the orchestra or as part of the University Artists Course, included Sergei

Rachmaninov, Leonard Bernstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Artur Rubinstein, and Isaac Stern.

Among the works Argento wrote for the orchestra is *A Ring of Time*, which debuted in Northrop in 1973 to mark the orchestra's 70th anniversary. "Spring," one of the movements from that work, will open the June 29 concert.

The orchestra moved to its own home, Orchestra Hall, in 1974. But the tie to the University remains. A dozen University instructors and several alumni are principal players with the orchestra, and they continue to commission work from University faculty. Another work on the June 29 program is "Echo's Shell" from former University professor Eric Stokes's Symphony no. 1, written in 1979. Music professor Lydia Artymiw is guest soloist at the concert.

For those who were on campus with the orchestra, the memories will never fade. Arnold Walker was a KUOM radio announcer in the late 1950s who eventually did an

internship with the orchestra, became emcee for the orchestra's young people's concerts, and directed two Gilbert and Sullivan stage productions with the orchestra. He was frequently responsible for attending to visiting musicians and singers. "I was basically their Minnesota go-fer," he jokes. "They were normally quite nice. I spent almost an entire week with the conductor Andre Kostalanitz. He was known for his lighter work, but he was an absolutely brilliant and talented conductor. We had a grand time running around town doing all the things he needed to do."

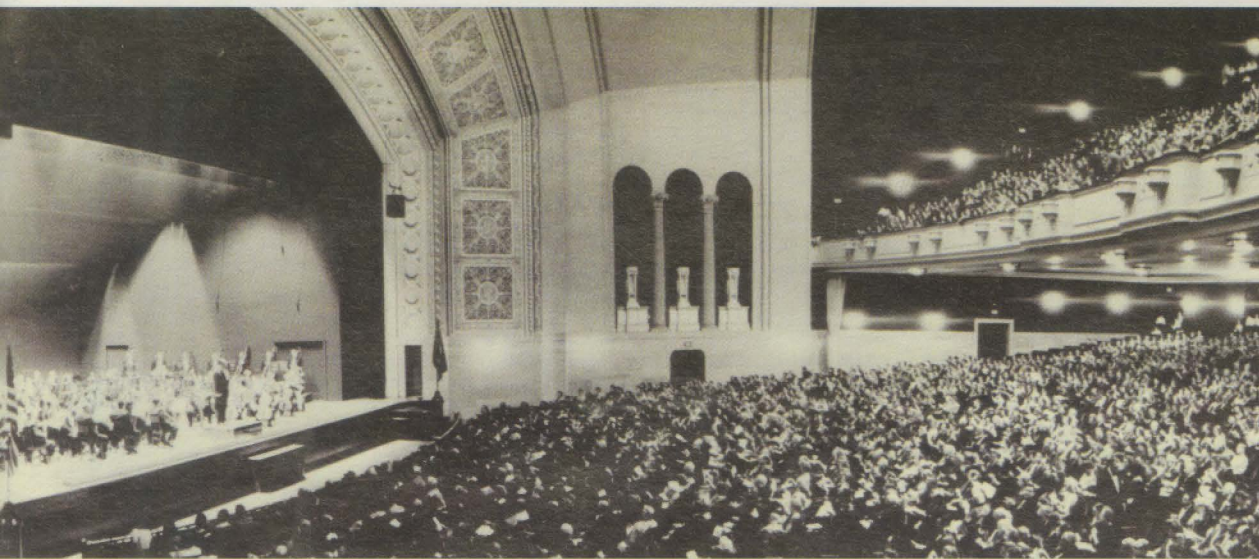
"There was a real excitement that a young person could sort of be rubbing shoulders with the great players....," adds Schatzlein. "We even got to know them and their personalities. Several of them liked to come into the backstage break room and shoot the breeze and joke with us. You never forget that." 🌱

"I know many times they would stop to listen.... Occasionally a door might have been left open and students were known to slip in the back and stay for awhile."



ALL PHOTOS: MINNESOTA ORCHESTRAL COLLECTION, U OF M PERFORMING ARTS ARCHIVE





Conductor Antal Dorati leads the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra (now Minnesota Orchestra) during opening night in 1958. The orchestra attracted thousands to its annual concert series held in Northrop Memorial Auditorium from 1930 until 1974.

## A WONDERFUL NEW VISION FOR A BEAUTIFUL OLD PLACE

Perhaps the most historic Twin Cities performance hall, Northrop Memorial Auditorium has been the venue for the greatest jazz and classical musicians, singers, dancers, and thinkers of the 20th century. Personalities as diverse as Ani DiFranco, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the Dalai Lama have graced its stage.

But after 70 years and only a few updates, Northrop is beginning to show its age. A two-part, \$20 million renovation plan is in the final stages, and the first half should be ready to present to the Minnesota Legislature for funding next year. "We're contemplating a new vision for Northrop," says Phil McDonald, associate to the vice president for University Services. "We'd like to both build on the tradition of the Minnesota Orchestra residency with a Northrop Great Performers Series, and try to establish more daily life and activity in Northrop."

Using Northrop more during the day might mean adding things like study and classroom space or a restaurant or coffeehouse open during the day and around performance times. Other changes may include more comfortable seating, improved sightlines, more bathrooms, and technological updates. While the number of seats may be reduced slightly, McDonald says capacity will stay as close to the current 4,900 as possible.

Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium, named for the second and still longest serving (1884–1911) University president, opened in the fall of 1929. Money for construction was raised as part

of the U's first major public fund-raising effort for campus buildings. Some 18,000 alumni, faculty, and students contributed. The first part of the money went to build Memorial Stadium, which was dedicated in late 1924. The auditorium, which had been envisioned as capping the mall in the Cass Gilbert plan of 1910, was a rather more complicated structure. The exterior of brick and Indiana limestone includes 10 massive pillars and gives way to a soaring entry space. The auditorium space was as grand as any in the state; its seating roughly matched the size of the student body in the late 1920s. (Weekly convocations were held in Northrop for several decades after its opening.)

Other than the removal of some detail work above the stage to improve acoustics, a new stage floor made for dance performances, and the recent addition of air conditioning, relatively few changes have been made to the building. Even with the envisioned updates, the historic character won't be touched. "The exterior, the entry, and to some extent, the hall itself are somewhat sacred," McDonald says, adding, "The University is considering nominating Northrop for the National Register of Historic Places."

If the Minnesota Legislature approves the first half of the funding next year, renovations could start as early as next summer and would continue for two or three years, depending on the scope of changes and whether the second portion of funds is also approved in 2004. **C.C.S.**



## UMAA ANNUAL CELEBRATION + SESQUICENTENNIAL GRAND FINALE

Friday, June 29, 2001

5:30 p.m.

Dinner, McNamara Alumni Center,  
University of Minnesota Gateway

7:30 p.m.

Minnesota Orchestra performance,  
Northrop Memorial Auditorium

10:00 p.m. (approximately)

Fireworks over Mississippi River (visible from  
Northrop mall) immediately following concert

### Concert

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, conductor  
Lydia Artymiw, piano

Dominick Argento

"Spring (Dawn/Parade)"—Moderato assai,  
from *A Ring of Time*

Eric Stokes

"Echo's Shell," from Symphony no. 1

Robert Schumann

Introduction and Allegro appassionato,  
Opus 92 (Concert Piece in G major)  
Lydia Artymiw, piano

Johannes Brahms

Symphony no. 2 in D major, Opus 73  
Allegro non troppo  
Adagio non troppo  
Allegretto grazioso (Quasi andantino)  
Allegro con spirito



**ticket prices** Dinner and concert:  
\$45 UMAA members, \$55 nonmembers.  
Concert only: \$30 UMAA members, \$40 nonmembers.  
**order tickets** Northrop Ticket Office 612-624-2345

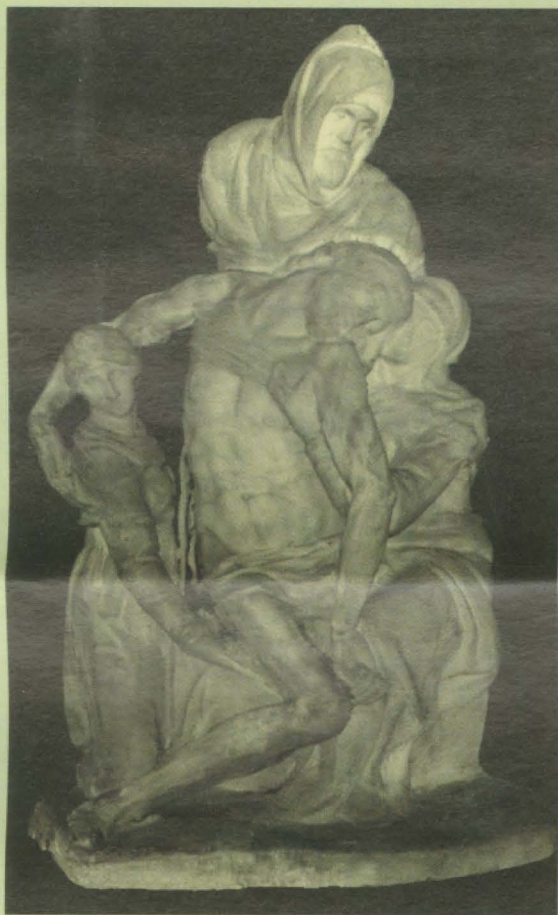


**get more info** Call the UMAA at 612-624-2323  
or visit [www.umaa.umn.edu](http://www.umaa.umn.edu).

# TECHNOLOGY COMES TO MICHELANGELO:

IBM'S 3-D CAMERAS CREATE A NEW PERSPECTIVE OF THE FLORENTINE PIETÁ by Karla Halvorson

PHOTO PROVIDED BY IBM



Michelangelo's Florentine Pietá with Jesus in the arms of Mary Magdalen, Nicodemus, and the Virgin Mary.

Michelangelo Buonarroti began what we now refer to as the Florentine Pietá in the mid-1500s when he was in his 70s. It was the second of three pietás (defined as any representation of the Virgin Mary mourning over the dead Christ) that he would carve in his lifetime. It is said that this one was intended for his tomb.

He originally carved the sculpture out of a single piece of marble, but completed only the faces of Jesus and Mary Magdalen. Nicodemus's features (modeled on Michelangelo's own) and the Virgin Mary's are roughed out, not detailed. Michelangelo hacked off several of the figures' arms and legs, perhaps out of dissatisfaction with his work, and years later allowed one of his contemporaries to partially repair the damaged sculpture.

The Pietá is in the Museum of the Opera del Duomo in Florence, Italy, and housed in such a small gallery that it's difficult to see from all sides, much less thoroughly investigate. Thanks to new technology developed by IBM, we can now get a closer look at the Pietá.

Art historian Jack Wasserman, professor emeritus at Temple University, has been studying this particular pietá for years. He approached IBM and asked for help in collecting data that would allow him to take his research to new levels. With special 3-D cameras, IBM photographed the sculpture from many angles and used some of the collected data to develop the Pietá kiosk.

IBM donated one of the kiosks to the University of Minnesota's Elmer L. Andersen Library in February. The kiosk itself is a boxy wooden structure with a computer, speakers, and a large monitor. Touch screens and audio tracks allow users to follow the history of the sculpture, hear comments from Wasserman, see how the data was collected, and explore how the sculpture would look without the repaired limbs. A special interactive option allows users to focus on a



PHOTO: TOM FOLEY

IBM's Pietá kiosk in the University's Elmer L. Andersen Library houses a powerful computer, touch screen, and speakers in warm, natural wood.

detailed area of the sculpture and manipulate the direction of the light source, thus offering new perspectives on chisel marks and other small details.

The total of the information IBM amassed on the Pietá will eventually allow Wasserman and others to determine what portions of the work were created by Michelangelo, what portions were created by the other artist, and how the piece might have looked had it not been damaged and repaired.

"The kiosk was not meant to provide in-depth study of the Pietá," says Peggy Johnson, assistant University librarian. "It does, however, serve as an excellent introduction to the [work], as well as an introduction to this exciting new technology. So many high-tech applications are focused on the sciences. This is an example of how they can be used to support research and teaching in the humanities as well."

This effort by IBM is one of several projects under way at various companies and universities to gather new information about Michelangelo's work. 🌿



The IBM Pietá kiosk is located in the atrium of the Elmer L. Andersen Library on the west bank of the University's Twin Cities campus. Call Peggy Johnson at 612-624-2312 for more information.



**get more info** For more on Michelangelo visit <http://www.michelangelo.com/buonarroti.html>. This site also contains a link to the IBM project.

For a look at another project visit <http://graphics.stanford.edu/projects/mich/>

# BACK WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL...

by Rick Moore

## THE DIFFERENCE 50 YEARS CAN MAKE

When Kay Anderson graduated from the University of Minnesota with a journalism degree in 1951, she knew her after-college work as a retail copywriter would be limited by her desire to be a wife and mother. (She and her husband eventually had seven children.) Monica Wright graduated in the spring of 2001, also in journalism.

At 22, Monica says, "A family and marriage are kind of hard for me to wrap my brain around.... I can barely take care of myself."

These two women sat down together recently at Murphy Hall to share a few common bonds, as well as a half century's worth of differences.



PHOTO: TOM TOLEY

Journalism grads Monica Wright, 2001 and Kay (LaPlant) Anderson, 1951 in Murphy Hall.

### Campus life

**KA:** We spent a lot of time at the Union.... We had a post office box there where we got all of our mail. We played cards and spent a lot of time at the grill, the bowling alley in the basement, and the darkroom—seeing what developed, as my husband used to say. I kind of hung around there and at the Newman Club and at the Y. And, of course, Stub and Herb's.

**MW:** I play a lot of intramurals. That's pretty big. Working at the *Daily* takes up about 30 hours a week. I see a lot of music. I definitely go out, too—to Stub and Herb's and to bars and things like that. I've never been to the Y.

**KA:** Of course, we didn't have all the cars and the need for parking, because most students, if they didn't live on campus, came by streetcar. Doesn't that sound old-fashioned?

### In class

**KA:** We had a lot of returning vets when I started, so there was a certain number of the students that were older, probably in their mid-20s.

**MW:** I'm in several classes with students who are older than my parents. One of my good friends is a 45-year-old woman who's graduating with me this spring. I took most of my classes with her.

**KA:** I just noticed, walking around, the diversity of the student body, ethnically. When I was in school, it was all Caucasians. Well, there were a few [minorities], but very few...

Maybe a third of the people in my journalism classes were women, but when I took business classes, I was often the only one. In my statistics class it was horrible.... If I missed a class the professor would say, "Oh, I see you had something else to do yesterday." I was the noticeable one.

**MW:** My classes are about three quarters female and a quarter male, but I had a class last semester that had about 14 people and there was one guy and 13 girls. That's probably why I'm not getting married right out of school—there're no guys.

### Today's world

**KA:** I've made an adjustment [to the computer age], but it was a struggle. I much preferred my old manual typewriter, even though you couldn't correct the mistakes. I did a lot of writing just on yellow pads.

**MW:** I have to get on [a computer], 'cause I can change and move things around and cut and paste. I can't even write a story out on paper anymore.... I don't even know how it all worked before computers.

**KA:** It did work. And you know what? We didn't have as much information. And we didn't know we didn't have enough.

**MW:** We're just overloaded [now]. There's so much stuff all the time—press releases, e-mails.... I live for e-mail, you know? Maybe that's like the post office box for me—checking my e-mail.

**KA:** Well, it is. Your e-mail address is your post office box.

**MW:** [Things have] gotten a lot more competitive, too. You have to have an internship just to get an internship.... I wish it wasn't like that.

**KA:** Still, you're getting a lot more experience before you get out into the real world.

**MW:** But because of that, people expect you to have so much experience by the time you graduate. It's like, "I had to go to school at some point, too. So sorry that whole [internship] thing at *The New York Times* didn't work out."

**KA:** The world... used to be quite a bit simpler in some ways.... Most of us were born during the Depression [and] our expectations weren't as materialistic, shall we say, as my children's or my grandchildren's. Everything is different. It's not worse, just different. 🍃

# UNPAVING PARADISE

TURNING A PARKING LOT INTO A PARK TO BRING SOME GREEN BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY

by Chris Coughlan-Smith

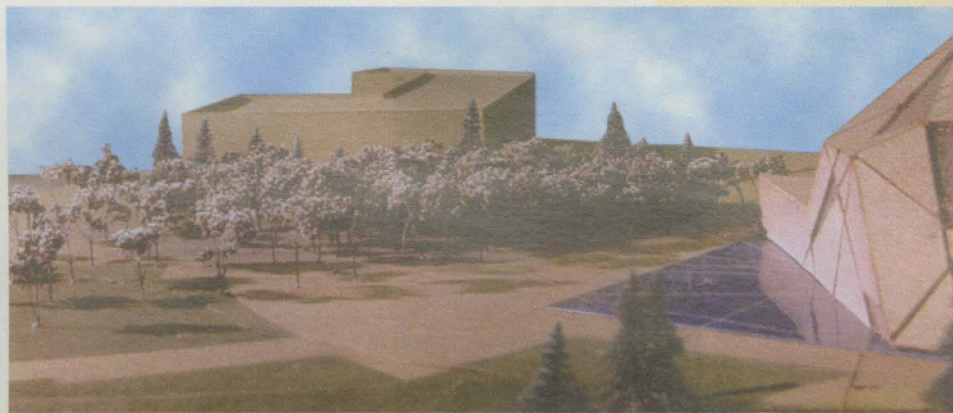
When students return to campus in the fall they'll be in for a big surprise—the makings of a new park in Stadium Village. Although it may not be completed till later in the fall, the Gateway Plaza, directly south of the McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota Gateway, should be well on its way to becoming a significant open space on a campus notably short of green.

The plaza will feature water, lawns, prairie grasses, and perhaps 100 mature trees. The placement of the trees from north to south will reflect in miniature their distribution across Minnesota. Large areas of five-foot-square granite pavers similar to those on the exterior of the alumni center will allow the plaza to be transformed from a park into a setting for pep rallies or other programs.

The plaza will be more than a nice place to eat lunch or hold gatherings. To Bill Moorish, outgoing director of the University's Design Center for the American Urban Landscape, it's a symbol of reaching out to the community. "This is not only about enhancing the University, but also about the interaction with the community around it," Moorish says. "It says both you're welcome to be here, and that you are arriving on campus. It creates a space where the two worlds come together."

Unlike Northrop mall, the knoll, and the lawns and gardens of the University in St. Paul, the Gateway Plaza is designed specifically for its functions. It will include room for more than 1,200 seats for formal programs, permanent benches for eating, patches of grass for sunning, and paths among the trees for strolling. A possible addition could be a monument at the corner of Oak Street and Washington Avenue.

Even so, the plaza's carefully designed features don't make it feel like an engineered space. "It's got a very flexible structure that can be built upon," Moorish says. "It's also a space that can evolve [as needs change]."



A photo of the architect's model for the new Gateway Plaza in Stadium Village. At right is the McNamara Alumni Center, U of M Gateway building.

A plaza was envisioned at the same time the alumni center was designed, but work had to wait until the University Avenue Ramp opened just west of the alumni center. The plaza is on University-owned land, but money to build it will be privately raised.

The private funding and alumni involvement are meaningful, Moorish says. "Alumni are the long-term citizenry of the University," he points out. "They're not just leaving behind a column or a statue. They are leaving behind an open door, and that is a very powerful statement." 🌿

## A CAMPUS GREENING TREND

At Rice University in Houston this fall, students took a look around and did not like what they saw. Construction was eating up green space on their urban campus. Students called on administrators to restore the green, and the ensuing debate highlighted the dilemma facing many urban colleges: how to

both build needed new facilities and maintain public space.

"The trend is to develop buildings on any available land [but] the public sentiment is always toward greening the campus," says Doug Friend of LHB Engineers

and Architects. LHB is designing the new Gateway Plaza with Antoine Predock, architect of the adjacent McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota Gateway. Friend adds that the need for academic space is nearly impossible to predict in the long-range building plans universities try to follow.

Many universities are recognizing the need to preserve or create open space to welcome in surrounding neighborhoods and create gathering spaces outside the classroom. Bill Moorish, outgoing director of the University's Design Center for the American Urban Landscape, points to Yale University and the University of Michigan as institutions where projects similar to the Gateway Plaza were recently undertaken. "[Places] like [these] can be cultural centers to a community or a university," he says. "A lot of universities are starting to understand that." **C.C.S.**



# THIS TOO SHALL PASS... by Pauline Oo

**Elation can be as temporary as despair; what remains constant is our happiness set point.**

"The happiness set point is the point you come back to after you've recovered from a disaster or a disappointment, or from winning the lottery, getting married, or whatever joyful thing that has occurred," says David Lykken, University of Minnesota professor emeritus of psychology. "The typical person experiences highs and lows above and below that set point."

In his book, *Happiness: What Studies on Twins Show About Nature, Nurture, and the Happiness Set Point*, Lykken shows that people with high IQs or a fat bank account are no happier than the rest of us. According to him, each person's capacity for joy is different because our happiness set point is determined genetically.

"I have this notion that the happiness set point corresponds to the depth of our lake of happiness, but there are waves and troughs on that lake," he says. "The higher the wave, the happier you are temporarily, but you're going to come back to the set point again—big waves subside in about six months. The deeper the trough, the more despondent you will be temporarily, but almost always you will rise up again to the level of the lake."

Lykken says we cannot permanently raise our happiness set point but we can produce temporary wavelike increases that can make us happier. And happier people are healthier people, says the 73-year-old man whose last name means "the happiness" in Norwegian.

"There is a good deal of consistency in what makes people happy," he says. "I believe that if most people were to really examine their own lives, making a difference, doing something that is creative or that produces a useful result—whether it is cleaning house or writing a sonnet or developing a skill and exercising the skill—are the real sources of satisfaction. Every now and then, sure, you'll like to lean back and just be entertained or have a good meal but the things that really sustain people are the things that satisfy what psychologists call the effectance motivation—that desire to influence our environment or to control events."

So what gives a man who researches happiness pleasure? "One of the advantages of academics is you can usually keep on, to some extent, doing the kinds of things you took satisfaction in before, and that's what I am doing. I write



© 2001 THE NEW YORKER COLLECTION FROM CARTOONBANK.COM. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

*"I could cry when I think of the years I wasted accumulating money, only to learn that my cheerful disposition is genetic."*

and sit in on weekly seminars at the University. If I couldn't do those I wouldn't be very happy in retirement."

And a happy person is "someone who says that when he wakes up in the morning, he generally looks forward to his day and that his days are full of things that he can influence." 🌱

## > newsdigest <

> **The University of Minnesota, Crookston, is the first state school to abolish nonresident tuition.** Students from most states will no longer pay nearly three times as much as Minnesotans. Total enrollment at UMC was up 11 percent this year and is predicted to rise another 10 percent next year.

> **A cancer vaccine trial has begun at the University Medical School.** The study is the second phase of a new cancer therapy that uses a patient's own cancer cells to create a vaccine.

> **The Peace Corps presented the University with a plaque** on April 19 to honor the more than 1,200 University students who have served in the organization. The organization is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

> **Walter Mondale honored** by Toyota Motor Corporation with a \$1 million gift to the Law School for its new building addition. The gift recognizes Walter Mondale, a 1956 law graduate, and his accomplishments as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996.

The Law School will name its entire building complex the Walter F. Mondale Hall.

> **University of Minnesota volunteers** made more than 13,000 phone calls to rally statewide support for the University's biennial budget request. The legislature has yet to determine the final budget, but volunteers succeeded in raising awareness of the U's programs and services. 🌱

### Grant Supports Study Abroad

A grant of \$900,000 from the Bush Foundation will be used to enhance the integration of study abroad into undergraduate programs. Currently about 1,000 undergraduates from the Twin Cities campus study abroad each year. The goal is to increase that number to 3,000 students by 2005, with similar gains targeted for the Crookston, Duluth, and Morris campuses. Increasing study abroad opportunities is one of the goals of Campaign Minnesota.

### Annuity Rates to Drop

If you are considering a gift annuity to the University, which provides a fixed income for life for you or someone else, act before July 1. On that day, the average gift annuity rates will drop, with the most significant drop for donors between ages 65 and 85. Call Planned Giving at 612-624-4158 or 800-775-2187.

### How you can participate

Campaign Minnesota aims to raise gifts to support faculty, students, and strategic opportunities on all University campuses. All gifts, regardless of size, count toward the campaign, and alumni may designate their gifts in support of the campus, college, or program of their choice. Gifts made through the Annual Fund also count toward the campaign. To make a gift, visit the campaign Web site at [www.campaign.umn.edu](http://www.campaign.umn.edu), or contact the University of Minnesota Foundation at 612-624-3333 or 800-775-2187.



CAMPAIGN MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# ENTWINED ROOTS:

THE KEMENS AND THE U

by Kara Rose

In 1878, a young man named George Howard traveled from Rochester, Minnesota, to interview with William Watts Folwell, the University's first president, regarding admission to the University. He paid his \$5 tuition and began classes in Old Main, the one building then on campus. Howard eventually joined the faculty as a rural school specialist on the University's Farm Campus, in St. Paul.

Nearly 125 years after Howard began studies at the University, his granddaughter, Genevieve Kemen, and his great-granddaughter, Mary Kemen—both U of M alumni—established a scholarship in the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences to benefit today's students. The scholarship in agricultural education honors University alumnus Joseph Kemen (Genevieve's late husband and Mary's father), who devoted years as a teacher and administrator in agricultural education.

Genevieve Kemen's roots at the University run deep, and her own story is entwined with that of the University. "My grandfather [George Howard], parents, all my aunts and uncles (except one), all my cousins (except one), my husband [Joseph Kemen], and two of our children attended the University of Minnesota," she explains. Her father, Mark Thompson, who served as a University faculty member for 39 years, was the first superintendent of the Northeast Agricultural Experiment Station near Duluth, founded in 1913. Mark and Leola Howard Thompson were at the experiment station in 1918 when the worst fire in the state's history swept through the region. The inferno consumed 2,000 square miles and killed nearly 500 people. When fire threatened the experiment station and noxious gases filled the air, the Thompsons survived by spending the night in a low-lying creek, safe from the flames and fumes.



Alumnus and faculty member Mark Thompson was the first superintendent of the U's Northeast Agricultural Experiment Station near Duluth, which was founded in 1913. His daughter and granddaughter have established a scholarship to honor the family's ties to the U.

Growing up at the station, Genevieve learned from her family the importance of education. "It was woven into our growing-up years," explains Genevieve, a retired teacher. Today, tuition is \$2,450 per semester for the typical undergraduate—a far cry from the \$5 that George Howard paid in 1878. Genevieve and Mary's gifts for the Joseph Kemen Scholarship continue their family legacy of helping to make education accessible to all. Scholarships such as this are a top priority of the \$1.3 billion Campaign Minnesota, which seeks to raise \$225 million for student support. 🌱

# TAKING IN THE SIGHTS

The University's Twin Cities campus can feel like a big place, but a cadre of University writers, archivists, and editors have made it your own with a newly designed self-guided walking trail. Thirty heritage markers along the way describe some of the campus's unique academic, geographic, and historic features.

The trail is designed so you can visit as many markers and points of interest as you like. Or, if a particular marker interests you, like Crossing the River—West Bank Development, or The University's Agricultural Roots, you can locate it on the map and go directly to it. For a virtual walking tour of the Twin Cities campus, visit [www.uservices.umn.edu/heritage](http://www.uservices.umn.edu/heritage).

Some of the other University campuses are creating similar markers. So if you find yourself at the Duluth, Morris, or the Twin Cities campuses with some time to spare, tie on those walking shoes and take a stroll down memory lane.

**get more info** The Twin Cities campus Heritage Trail brochures are available at University Relations, 6 Morrill Hall; the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, 200 McNamara Alumni Center; the St. Paul Student Center; and the Information booth on Pillsbury Drive.

A simplified version of the more detailed Heritage Trail map to the Twin Cities campus.



PHOTO: TOM POLEY

UM writer Pauline Oo checks out The Campus Knoll marker to learn about the original University site and buildings.



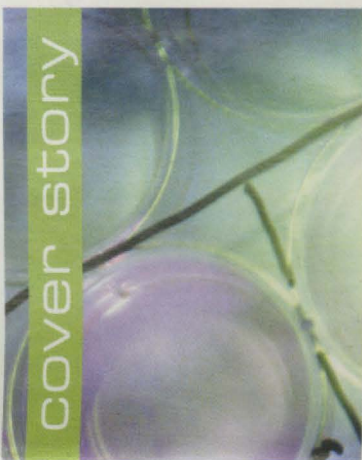
Above: Heritage marker near Andersen Library on the West Bank describing Bohemian Flats, the immigrant community that formed along the river below the Washington Avenue Bridge.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

spring 2001



cover story



# UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF STEM CELLS

Mapping the genome grabbed the attention of the world in the early 1990s. This decade the race is on to discover how stem cells can correct genetic defects or repair damaged tissue in the body. The Stem Cell Institute, led by Catherine Verfaillie, is at the forefront of discovery, with the promise of medical breakthroughs only a few years away.

## inside:

- > Turtle Pictures book review ..... 3
- > Phil Shively in motion ..... 7
- > Electronic Michelangelo ..... 10
- > How happy are you? ..... 13
- > Scholarship honors four generations ..... 14
- > Heritage Trail ..... 15



Design gains new recognition at the University

4



Saving Minnesota's 500-1,500-year-old white cedars from the BWCA burn

6



The Minnesota Orchestra comes back to Northrop for a birthday bash.

8



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Editor ..... Martha Coventry  
Managing Editor ..... Sharon Grimes  
Graphic Design ..... Woychick Design  
Photographer ..... Tom Foley

*The opinions expressed in M do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Board of Regents or the University administration.*

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

A publication for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota—  
Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities

♻️ Printed on recycled paper using at least 10% post-consumer waste.  
Please recycle as newsprint.

Address changes and cancellations: U of M Foundation  
200 Oak St SE Suite 500 Minneapolis MN 55455-2010  
or e-mail: [urelate@umn.edu](mailto:urelate@umn.edu). Please include mailing label code numbers.

Change service requested

MAG  
M660m

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis MN  
Permit 155



M has a Web page:  
[www.umn.edu/urelate/m](http://www.umn.edu/urelate/m)





fall 2001

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A publication for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota—Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities

# PRAIRIE SON: NOTED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER JIM BRANDENBURG PROTECTS THE LAND OF HIS YOUTH by Martha Coventry

To get to Jim Brandenburg's place, you drive 17 miles north of Ely, a town already just about as far north as you can go in Minnesota before you run into the vast canoe country that sprawls across both sides of the Canadian-U.S. border. There are only two major east-west roads, Brandenburg notes, between his home and the Arctic Circle.

The persistent dream of Jim Brandenburg's prairie childhood was a log cabin in a northern woods, welcoming smoke curling up from the chimney. Later, he added wolves to the picture and the wilderness they need to live in. He pulled that dream off at Ravenwood—a cluster of small, elegant buildings that tumble along the bank of Judd Creek as it flows toward a 20-foot drop into a still, black pool. Made of stone and

timber, the buildings are surrounded by 1,500 acres of wolves, ravens, bears, chickadees, wood orchids, clouds, and water that are one enormous studio for Brandenburg. He lives and works here with his wife, Judy.

Unassuming and kind, Jim Brandenburg is a high-profile personality in a country where few photographers reach star status. His pictures have appeared in virtually every national magazine, and in 1991, he received the World Achievement Award from the United Nations for "using nature photography to raise public awareness for the environment."

In his photos, Brandenburg is after the big mystery—the eternal, untouched wild. "I've spent my whole life trying to recapture what they took

away. To catch an image of the land before we chewed it up," says Brandenburg. The despoiled modern world paces just outside his photographs; he never allows it to intrude into images of a dead deer's staring eye, a simple flap of birch bark wind-torn from the trunk, a wolf caught in midleap from one ice flow to the next. Now in his 50s, he is bringing that quest for the ancient purity of the world down to earth by saving and restoring the land that gave him his history and his start.

As a photographer, Brandenburg is associated mostly with the north country, specifically the wolves of Canada's Ellesmere Island and northern Minnesota, but it is the windswept land of his childhood that holds him so tightly. He grew up on the prairie turned pastureland of Rock County that is the far southwestern corner of Minnesota. This land promised agricultural riches to Brandenburg's German and Norwegian grandparents who were among the first settlers in this county. At that time, this prairie supported an estimated 200 to 400 species of plants per acre, but like most virgin prairie, it was plowed and grazed into oblivion. "You know, I'll never forgive them," says Brandenburg. "Why couldn't they have kept some land aside? Just a small parcel here and there that would be untouched?... I'm pretty resentful," he says, laughing at himself. Then a couple of years ago, Brandenburg got the rare chance to take what his ancestors did wrong and make it right.

Jim and Judy Brandenburg grew up in Luverne, Minnesota, a town of about 4,000 people supported mostly by farming corn and beans (soybeans). It's a beautiful little town that's still alive, no megadiscount stores yet to suck the local businesses dry and no multiplex to close down the Palace Theater that has been showing movies since the days of silent films.

A southern Minnesota sky with side oats grama, one of the 200 to 400 plants of the tallgrass prairie.



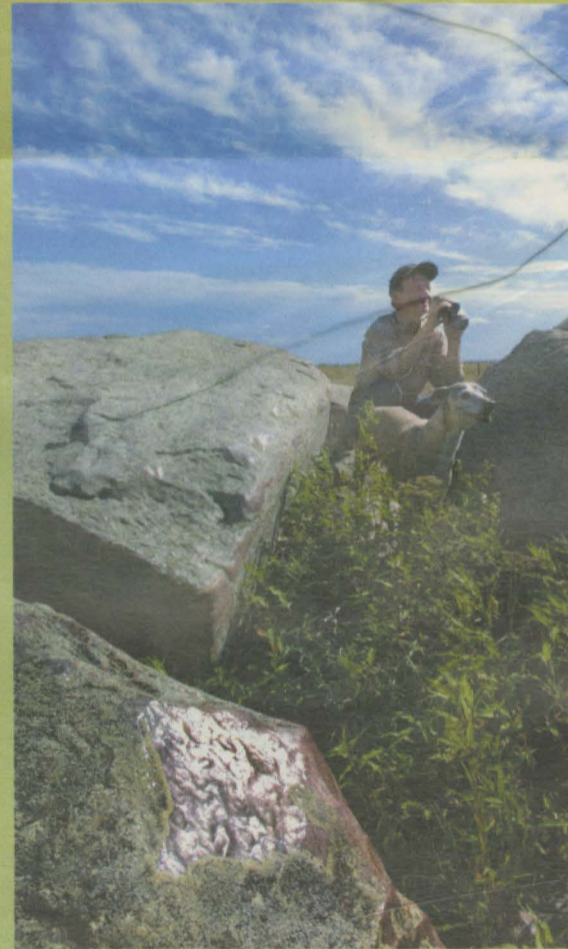
PHOTO: JIM BRANDENBURG

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: JIM BRANDENBURG

The captivating wildflower, prairie smoke.



Jim Brandenburg and his dog survey the prairie he roamed in his childhood and is now helping to restore. In the left foreground, a patch of diamond-hard Sioux quartzite rubbed smooth over the centuries by rough bison hides.

Atop a chunk of rock on this rescued prairie sits the jawbone of a long dead bison, part of the 60 to 70 million strong herd that once covered the American plains.

< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But the town needs more than farming to bring in revenue, and so a couple of Brandenburg's childhood friends asked him to open a gallery to pull people off Interstate 90 and into their town. Brandenburg turned them down, thinking it was naïve to expect people to leave the freeway and come to Luverne to see his pictures. But his friends persisted, and finally Brandenburg agreed, with the stipulation that it be a prairie gallery devoted to prairie education and preservation. His vision widened into taking that education to the school, restoring prairie around the school, buying more prairie, and putting up a learning center. "My friends kind of gulped at first... and a week later we were on our way," says Brandenburg. In what is lightening speed for this kind of project, the city of Luverne built a nonprofit gallery. One hundred percent of the money from the sales of Brandenburg's photos in that gallery now goes to educate people about the prairie and support restoration projects.

As a storefront was being renovated for the gallery, Jim and Judy Brandenburg established the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation run by a board of directors with a mission to "Educate, Promote, Preserve, and Expand Native Prairie in

Southwest Minnesota." Soon it got the chance to buy a piece of prairie in need of restoration.

From the farm where Jim Brandenburg grew up, you can look to the northwest at a long low island rising above the sea of corn and beans. The land is scattered with clusters of Sioux quartzite, a swirled pink and lavender stone covered with patches of pale green lichen. It's a hard stone—on a scale of 1 to 10 with a diamond being 10, Sioux quartzite is a 7. This rock saved the 360-acre piece of prairie because no farmer would risk his plow trying to till the soil. Today the land is used for grazing Herefords, white-faced Angus, and Charlais.

When Brandenburg was a boy, he would come here. First as a hunter with a rifle and traps, then as a picture taker. This piece of prairie and the land that is now Blue Mound State Park taught him to love the earth, and his gratitude runs deep.

Ron Cole of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says he's never had a community call him and ask for a wildlife refuge in its backyard, but two years ago that's what the town of Luverne did. The service purchased the 360-acre prairie parcel with the help of the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation and the WM Foundation, established by Wallace and Mary Lee Dayton and their four

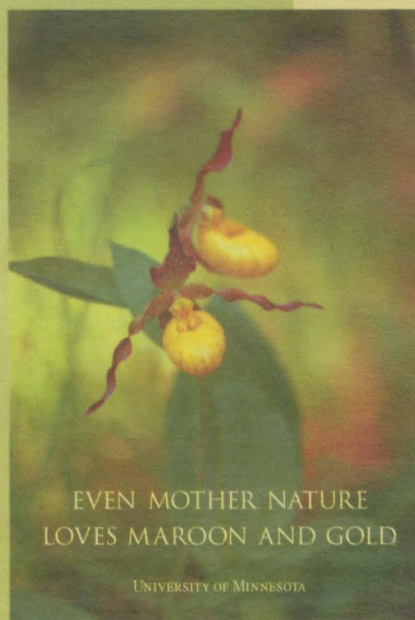
daughters to make grants supporting environmental issues. Both the Brandenburg foundation and the service will work closely in the restoration and rebirth of this prairie. On August 10 this year, a bunch of folks rode on a tractor trailer out into the middle of this cow pasture to dedicate this piece of land and catch Brandenburg's dream of a prairie grown high again with purple coneflower and side oats grama, big bluestem and blazing star. Burrowing owls would return, and maybe if we were lucky, prairie chickens would come back. It will take 15 years for this chewed-over piece of ground to resemble a real prairie again, but it has time, protected forever as part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.

Later that evening, after a bison dinner served in the new Luverne elementary school, several speakers talked about the prairie and what it means for us as a people to have lost more than 99.9 percent of America's largest ecosystem. In Minnesota and Iowa alone, tallgrass prairie once covered 25 million acres. Don Hultman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spoke

eloquently of why the tallgrass prairie draws us to it "like a moth to light." It is its rarity and its landscape, its flora and fauna, but perhaps most of all, Hultman said, "What really draws us to the tallgrass prairie is us... We are forever part of those who came before. Prairie helps keep that link alive... [saving the prairie] is a shining example of our love for ourselves and for those who follow."

After the speeches, Brandenburg gave a slide show in the high school auditorium. Here were his finest images of the land where he grew up, including his very first wildlife photo taken with a plastic Argus camera of a curious fox kit approaching him through the tall grass. When Brandenburg talks of the land of his grandparents, his wife, his childhood, he is moved by memory and hope. He has traveled the world many times over, but here in this place, he feels "like a salmon coming home to the stream where he was born."

Brandenburg donated a photo of the small yellow lady's slipper to the University for this year's *Even Mother Nature Loves Maroon and Gold* poster series.



## THE UNIVERSITY AND JIM BRANDENBURG

As a junior college student, Jim Brandenburg was working as a photographer for the *Worthington Daily Globe*, a southern Minnesota paper that nurtured some of the state's best talents, like Brandenburg, and the writers Tim O'Brien and Paul Gruchow. One day, University of Minnesota photojournalism professor Smitty Schuneman stopped by, and Brandenburg knew immediately that this man could teach him something important. But when Brandenburg

came to the U to enroll, he felt overwhelmed, and he couldn't get into Schuneman's class.

So Brandenburg went to the University campus in Duluth and changed his focus from photojournalism to art. "Smitty Schuneman was horrified, and so was I, that I just took off. Just couldn't deal with [the big campus]. Farm boy, you know." One quarter short of graduating, Brandenburg got the opportunity to travel with Duluth pathologist Art Aufderheide to the Northwest Territories. Here he filmed the last group of Inuit to live the way they've lived for thousands of years before their move to government housing. Brandenburg went on to a highly successful career with National Geographic and as a freelance photographer. He'd love to go back to school someday.

In 1996, Brandenburg gave the commencement address at UMD. And this year, he donated one of his photographs—a picture of the small yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum*) in an old-growth cedar bog at Ravenwood—for the University's *Even Mother Nature Loves Maroon and Gold* poster series.

Brandenburg will be at the Bell Museum on the Twin Cities campus on October 25 for a public event to launch the new poster. He will give a slide show and autograph copies of the newly issued paperback edition of his bestselling book, *Chased by the Light*. 🌻

This little patch of protected prairie—which now belongs to the public—is only a start. A Luverne civic group called Spirit of the Prairie, the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dream of an archipelago of prairie land, stretching from Split

Rock Creek State Park south to this promising new parcel in Luverne. Tied together by biking and walking trails, these small but significant remnants of tallgrass prairie will give us a vision of what people looked out upon for thousands of years before the plow came.

"What really draws us to the tallgrass prairie is us... We are forever part of those who came before. Prairie helps keep that link alive..."

On one of the larger outcrops of Sioux quartzite is a section of stone rubbed perfectly smooth and shiny by endless herds of bison. Jim Brandenburg likes to run his hand over it. With the awe of a young boy and the commitment of a grown man, he is recapturing a part of what his grandparents did not know enough to save and offering its wonder to the world. 🌻



for more info on the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, call 320-273-2191 or visit <http://midwest.fws.gov/NorthernTallgrassPrairie>



for more info about the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation, contact Dave Smith at the Luverne Chamber of Commerce, 507-283-4061.



for more info on Luverne, Minnesota, go to [www.luvernemn.com](http://www.luvernemn.com).



for more info on Jim Brandenburg's visit to the U, call the Bell museum at 612-624-0089.

## Stem cells

I read with great interest Carl Franzén's article "The Cure Within: Unlocking the Secrets of our Stem Cells" and the research of Dr. Verfaillie. I am a patient of Dr. Verfaillie's and know first-hand the value of this research. One thing that should have been mentioned in the article is not only how dedicated and concerned Dr. Verfaillie is with her research but also how concerned she is with the well-being of her patients. Without her dedication and that of the entire bone marrow transplant team, I might not be here today!

Sincerely,  
Susan Wedin  
Glencoe, Minnesota

Carl Franzén's "The Cure Within" (spring 2001) is most informative about the U of M's leadership worldwide in stem cell research, a work which he states focuses on adult stem cells—not on the use of embryos as a source of those unspecialized cells...

I hope that by the reading of this letter, President Bush will have made the decision to declare stem cell research with human embryos off limits.

Do readers of this publication know that God assigns an angel even to a fertilized egg outside the womb? He is so concerned about His handiwork as creator!

Again, the writer of the article makes an outstanding presentation of the topic of stem cell research. It's nice to know that the U of M is on the cutting edge.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert L. Marrs  
St. Cloud, MN

**talk to us!** Send us your letters, comments, questions or suggestions: 6 Morrill Hall  
100 Church Street SE, Minneapolis MN 55455-0110  
Phone: 612-624-6868. E-mail: [urelate@umn.edu](mailto:urelate@umn.edu).

Letters selected for publication, which may be edited for length, in no way reflect the opinion of M's publishers.

## Northrop memories

Your article on Northrop Memorial Auditorium (spring 2001) evoked numerous memories, including the lavish inauguration of President James L. Morrill in 1946 on the Northrop steps with Admiral Chester Nimitz being driven in a big open car from Washington Avenue across the long quad (after the cutting down of numerous bushes) to the podium.

But the fondest memory took place in 1946 or 1947 when I came through Northrop, probably to warm my hands, and heard Maestro Dimitri Mitropoulos rehearsing violinist Louis Krasner and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra in their premier of the terribly difficult Schoenberg Violin Concerto. Nothing seemed to work, and the maestro was getting louder and louder. I realized I was going to be late for class and quietly ducked out, but the memory lingers on.

Julius Paul  
Fredonia, NY

## J-school

In the winter edition of *MI* was pleased to note that the school of journalism is not dead but adjusting to media changes.

I hope the values I found there in my 1936 to 1941 classes have survived. One class in particular—Literary Aspects of Journalism—included classmates Max Shulman, Tom Heggen, and Bud Nye.

Now I have reached the age of 83, I am still writing on my computer and have produced and directed a play and write a book of essays or poems each year.

Murphy Hall was a vibrant place in 1941 and instilled in those of us with majors or minors in journalism a love of communication that has served us well. I hope the revival will do as well.

Yours very truly,  
Jeanne Lodge Bergstrom  
San Diego, CA

## LOG ON FOR VIRTUAL HOMECOMING

If you can't get back to campus for homecoming, you don't have to miss the fun. The UMAA will offer a "Virtual Homecoming" through its Web site, with photos, updates, and, best of all, a virtual class reunion. Visitors can go to the new alumni Web site at [www.umaa.umn.edu](http://www.umaa.umn.edu) during homecoming weekend and add a class note. Through class notes alumni can not only let others know what they've been doing, but also find long-lost classmates. The class notes provide space for a picture and a place to update others on career or family or to share a favorite campus memory. The alumni association will post updates and photos about homecoming events as they happen.

Tell your fellow alums to enter their own notes, then check back at the end of the weekend for updates on homecoming events and to see how many classmates made it to the virtual reunion.

The new alumni Web site also features campus news updates and upcoming alumni events as well as background on all the UMAA's initiatives. You can sign up for events, learn about tour destinations, become a mentor, or find alumni groups in your area or for your college or special interest.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Corrections

In our last issue we mistakenly said that associate professor of English Ray Gonzalez holds an endowed chair. Prof. Gonzalez holds a McKnight Land-Grant Professorship.

The phone number of the Stem Cell Institute was incorrectly listed. The correct number is 612-626-4916.

# TAKE BACK YOUR MARRIAGE:

STICKING TOGETHER IN A WORLD THAT PULLS US APART

by Cass Erickson

Fifty percent of new marriages end in divorce, yet 40 percent or more of divorced people regret their divorce—a dismal statistic that doesn't stop William Doherty from finding hope in the institution of marriage and real joy in its possibilities.

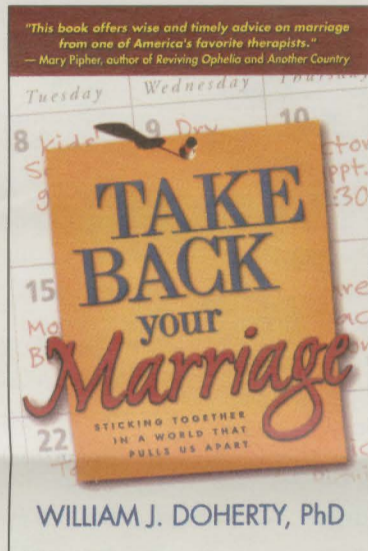
In his latest book, *Take Back Your Marriage: Sticking Together in a World That Pulls Us Apart*, Doherty, a respected family therapist and director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at the University of Minnesota, uses humor and stories from his long practice and his own marriage to show couples a way to a happier life.

Looking at the causes of marriage breakdown, Doherty partially blames our individualistic, consumer society. He also cautions couples with children not to lose their marriage to parenting and to be selective about the company they keep—discussing

marital problems with the wrong therapist, family members, or friends can often undermine a marriage.

Along with several checklists to gauge the health of your marriage, like "Are You on the Verge of an Unnecessary Divorce?," Doherty encourages the use of simple and powerful rituals—from how you say goodbye to each other in the morning to how you choose to make love at night—to rescue or strengthen a marriage. "A ritual is something that has positive emotional meaning to both parties," writes Doherty, and that significance is what separates it from routine.

Named by *Utne Reader* in 1997 as one of the 10 most innovative therapists in the United States, Doherty refuses to give up on love. 🌿



"A client couple was very disconnected, low in conflict but disconnected. The wife would get home from work around 8:30 at night, and usually they did not talk much during the rest of the evening. But they came up with the following talk ritual. When she came home, [her husband] would find her and greet her. He would start the water for tea while she changed clothes. And then she would go to the living room, he would bring in the tea, and they would sit and talk.... This nightly ritual was a way back into feeling like a married couple."

—from *Take Back Your Marriage: Sticking Together in a World That Pulls Us Apart*



**get more info** *Take Back Your Marriage: Sticking Together in a World That Pulls Us Apart*, is available from the Guilford Press or your local bookstore.

**to order, go to:** [www.guilford.com](http://www.guilford.com) or call 1-800-365-7006. ISBN# 1-57230-459-6. \$21.95.

## > newsdigest <

**University of Minnesota now ranks third in the "Top American Research Universities"** report recently released by University of Florida. The U joins University of California, Berkeley, and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in the top three. The report looks at nine performance measures including research dollars, private support, faculty honors, how much advanced training an institution does, and the quality of entering undergraduate students.

**Otto Bremer Foundation will give University of Minnesota, Crookston, \$100,000** over the next four years to support its Service Learning Program. The program involves students and faculty in various course-related community service projects.

**Governor Ventura** made five appointments to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents: Frank Berman, Jean Keffeler, Richard "Pinky" McNamara, Lakeesha Ransom, and Michael O'Keefe (reappointment). The power to appoint fell to Ventura when the legislature could not agree on candidates before the end of its 2001 session. The new regents will serve until the close of the 2002 legislative session and thereafter until the legislature elects successors.

**The percentage of state spending dedicated to the University has steadily declined** over the last 30 years, and only twice in the 1990s did the state appropriation keep up with inflation, noted President Mark Yudof at a special June 26 regents meeting. (The University received \$110.7 million in recent state appropriations, about half its original

request.) Tuition revenue is now covering almost two thirds of instruction costs at the University, compared with about one third in 1982. While the University will more than double its financial aid and grants to \$7.4 million over the next two years, students will still face 10.25 percent tuition and \$75 fee increases each semester in 2001–02 and an 11.25 percent tuition and \$150 fee hike in 2002–03.

**Harry and Sandy Lerner have provided the first major gift**—a pledge of \$25,000—to support the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest Archives, housed in the University's Elmer L. Andersen Library. The gift is in honor of Rabbi Bernard Raskas and Leah Raskas. Harry Lerner will also donate one copy of every book from Lerner Publishing to Andersen Library.

# MORE THAN A NURSING SHORTAGE:

CAREER NURSES REFLECT ON THE STATE OF THEIR PROFESSION

by Mary Farr

Nobody seems to be talking about a host of complex problems that are driving nurses away from what it is they are trained to do—care for patients. Recent media attention focused primarily on nursing shortages and salaries, and that concerns pediatric pulmonary nurse practitioner Mary Jo McCracken. Shortly after graduating from the University some 25 years ago, she was diagnosed with Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory bowel disorder, and she views life from a different perspective than many health professionals—through the eyes of a patient and a healer.

"Being chronically ill has taught me to practice a broader kind of clinical care," says McCracken.

"I realize just what things are not getting addressed today due to the changing world of health care. I have a better understanding of what is reality for a patient and how I can help families in a complete way." This kind of care requires time, and time is money.

McCracken works at the University of Minnesota's Cystic Fibrosis Center, where each day she faces her own health problems as well as those of her patients.

"I've had 28 surgeries and counting," she explains. "Crohn's is a chronic illness, (as is cystic fibrosis) and what people don't realize is that a chronic illness is fraught with psychological and emotional challenges as well as physical ones. These take time to sort out, yet today's health care economics don't include much time to listen to patients or call them to see how they are doing and what they need. When I see a family with a child newly diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, I'm not just doing a physical exam. I'm looking at how that couple is coping with their infant. I ask them about their fears, their anger, and their relationship with one another."

McCracken feels both a passion for her work and frustration at the constant battle of maintaining

her holistic approach to nursing. Her days are much longer now in order to provide the level of care to chronically ill patients and families that they need and deserve—care that takes far more time than the official 32 hours per week of her position. She feels the business of health care discourages many young people from entering the profession. Sicker patients, shorter hospital

stays, and fewer nurses make it enormously difficult to find time for teaching and providing psychological and social support for patients and families.

"The trouble is, the caring piece of nursing is not valued; it's not tracked, reported, or measured," says McCracken. "Yet, it's pretty

hard to say, 'I'm sorry I can't listen to you or help you,' when there is a human being involved."

So, what is the value of caring? Leon Sabath considers it priceless. An infectious disease specialist and professor of medicine at the

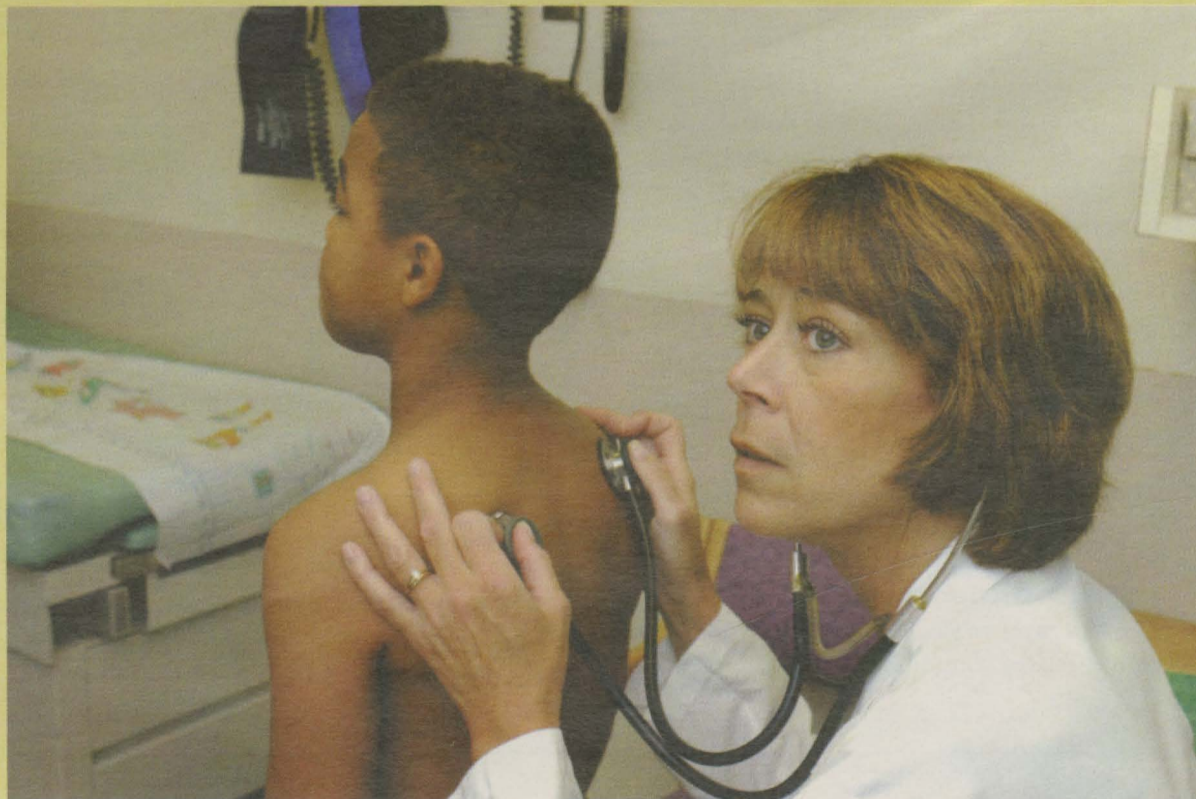
University of Minnesota, Sabath had a heart attack that would have ended his life had a doctor not been at his bedside at the moment his heart stopped. Following bypass surgery, Sabath's oxygen levels started to fall precipitously. Just as the on-call doctor arrived to examine him, Sabath's heart stopped, and the doctor had to open his chest and pump his heart back to life with his hand.

Today, Sabath can hardly believe his good fortune to be alive. He also knows that the doctor who saved his life would never have made it to his bedside without the skilled nurse who quickly assessed his life-threatening situation and called for assistance.

"Early in my training, long before I became an M.D., I learned how important nurses were to the overall care of the patient," says Sabath who is now 70. "Then, shortly after I moved to Minnesota 27 years ago, I sat next to a man on a flight to the Twin Cities who was a neurosurgeon at the Mayo Clinic. This man told me that what

"Today's health care economics don't include much time to listen to patients or call them to see how they are doing and what they need."

Pediatric pulmonary nurse practitioner Mary Jo McCracken examines her young patient, Anthony Berthiaume.





Joanne Disch, director of the University's Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership

PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

## Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership

The Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership was created in 1997 to carry on the legacy of health care pioneer Katharine Densford, an internationally known nursing leader who served as director of the nursing school from 1930 to 1959. The center is the first university-based center in the United States dedicated to improving health worldwide through the development, collaboration, and promotion of nurses as leaders.

Funding for the center has come through gifts from alumni and friends, including the Lillehei family. Kaye Lillehei, a 1950 graduate of the school and a student of Katharine Densford, and her family donated \$3 million to the School of Nursing to establish a chair in nursing leadership.

"It isn't often that many of us have the opportunity to create something brand new," says Carolyn Schroeder, leader of the fund-raising campaign for the Densford Center. "The generosity of our nursing alumni and others truly has been invigorating."

Joanne Disch, who holds the chair and serves as director of the Densford Center, says that the center's unique ability is to bring together people concerned with similar issues and to give nurses an equal voice in improving patient care. "The center is a catalyst, a focal point, to help people collaborate and develop strategies for dealing with today's pressing health care issues," she says.

One illustration of the center's impact is the Densford Clinical Scholars Program, where advanced practice nurses form partnerships with faculty members. Last year a clinical scholar team addressed the problem of pain management in children with bone marrow transplants. It found little consistency in how or when medications were being discontinued, a situation that could be dangerous. The team developed and implemented changes for a more consistent practice and is now publishing an article on its findings. In another project to be undertaken in the coming year, two clinical scholars will develop and conduct a children's survey of health care, something that has never been done. 🌱

made Mayo such a superb institution was its nurses. It was the nurses who spent more time with patients than anyone." Nurses still spend more time with patients than anyone, and Sabbath has never for a moment forgotten the value of that.

"It's a good profession," explains Mary Sumpman, associate director of administration for the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. "It's been very good to a lot of us. Nursing has provided many of us with a great education, excellent training, and many opportunities in life. But society is not promoting nursing as a good profession anymore. I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that nursing is perceived as a woman's profession, and women have a much broader range of career choices today. Lots of careers pay more than nursing."

Like many others in her profession, Sumpman rarely sees parents encouraging their children to enter health care. She no longer gets as many calls about nursing careers, and she knows that many practicing nurses spend far too much time engaged in clerical and housekeeping tasks rather than clinical work.

"Nursing gives you an opportunity to see the impact of what you do at a direct level," she adds. "Whether you are curing someone or making them comfortable, you become a part of people's lives, and this is very emotionally rewarding. On an intellectual level, nursing requires a lot of critical thinking—assessing a patient's condition, doing interventions. Nurses are frequently involved in life and death decision making." She worries that ultimately the public will suffer if that critical thinking talent is not nurtured and protected.

Sumpman agrees that salaries are at least part of what drives nurses or prospective nurses away. Understaffed hospitals and clinics, double shifts, and little power in shaping their overall work environment also contribute.

Joanne Disch, director of the University's Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership, part of the School of Nursing, acknowledges these concerns and agrees that nurses have become a precious and shrinking commodity. However, nursing is only one of many health care professions experiencing a shortage, and even the most effective recruitment and retention strategies will not provide enough nurses.

Disch views the problem as a three-legged stool, and increasing the supply of nurses is only one leg. The second leg requires a decrease in the demand on nurses, enabling them to practice nursing, not clean beds or run to the pharmacy for drugs. The third critical leg underscores the need to improve the environment of care. An unhealthy environment fosters resentment, job dissatisfaction, and compromised patient outcomes.

In her view, each individual in the profession must discover a way to have a positive impact on the health care environment. "Each of us is responsible for ourselves," explains Disch. "Although we cannot control much of what happens in health care today, we can control how we choose to respond to it. Every interaction with patients, families, students, and colleagues either adds to today's nursing problems, or helps maximize tomorrow's workforce." 🌱



for more info on the clinical scholars program or the Densford Center, contact Joanne Disch (disch003@umn.edu, 612-625-1187). Later this fall, a Web site will be available.



# ART GOES PUBLIC AT THE U

by Ann Kirby McGill

You walk by it so often, you hardly notice it. One day, the light hits it differently and you see something new. Maybe you like it, maybe you don't, but it has made you think. What is *it*? *It* is public art. And the University has a sizeable collection.

In 1984, the Minnesota Legislature passed Percent for Art legislation to encourage "state building projects with construction or renovation budgets of \$500,000 or more to add up to 1 percent of the total construction budget to purchase or commission original artwork for the site," according to the State Arts Board Web site. While the University of Minnesota isn't bound by the statute, it set its own standard and formally launched its Public Art on Campus Program in 1988. The University's collection has grown rapidly, accelerating with the building boom of the past four years.

"We're unique, we're a university," says Shelly Willis, program coordinator. "All our disciplines have some connection to public art whether it's design, materials science, engineering, or literature. We have a great laboratory for introducing students to public art."

Each public art project has a selection committee made up of the faculty, staff, and students who occupy the campus building where the art will be placed. Some of the art on the University's campuses has been around a long time, like Daniel Chester French's 1900 bronze statue of Governor John Pillsbury on the Knoll in Minneapolis; other pieces are brand new, like the upcoming *Bulls* by Peter Woytuk outside Haecker Hall in St. Paul.

Look for the pieces described below next time you visit a University campus and keep your eyes peeled for many new works to come. 🌱



## Clear and Silver Chandelier

Artist: Dale Chihuly, 2000, glass Location: entrance foyer, Library, Duluth

> Enter the new Library, and suspended before you is a creation by the internationally known glass artist, Dale Chihuly. Take the stairs to the mezzanine to get a closer look. Inspired by nature, especially the sea, Chihuly manipulates cylindrical forms to construct a dynamic work illuminated from within.



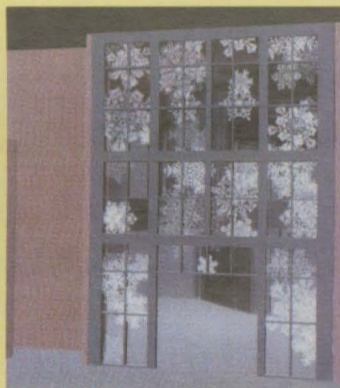
for more info on the Public Art on Campus Program, contact Shelly Willis at 612-625-9686.



## Spanish American War Soldier

Artist: Theo Ruggles-Kitson  
1906, bronze  
Location: southwest lawn, Armory, Minneapolis

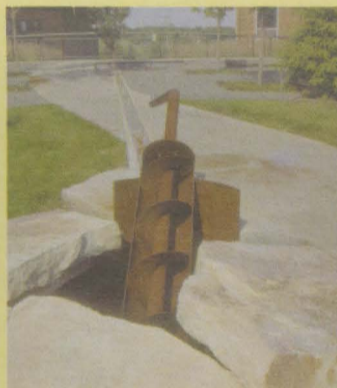
> This bronze memorial sculpture is one of a series of Kitson statues across the U.S. commemorating veterans of the Spanish-American War. Standing against a backdrop of trees in front of the Armory, it is affectionately called Iron Mike by many at the University.



## Untitled

Artist: Cliff Garten  
2001, glass, stone, metal and natural plant materials  
Location: Science and Math Building, Morris

> Cliff Garten's work for the new Science and Math Building at UMM reminds people of the intimate link between the natural world and the theoretical world. Using prairie imagery, including the snowflake and prairie grass etched on glass, metal, and stone, Garten builds a bridge between the internal and external worlds by linking projects in the building with a natural seating area outside.



## Untitled

Artist: AnArch  
1996, earth, metal, wood, and concrete  
Location: plaza between Green Hall and the Natural Resources Administration Building, St. Paul

> Designed by a group of six graduate students from the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, this landscape design integrates natural and manufactured materials to address controversial issues about water conservation and erosion. Watch out, it's hard to resist turning the auger, diverting water across the plaza.



## Panagaea

Artist: Evelyn Rosenberg  
2000, detonography, copper, stainless, bronze, steel  
Location: dean's suite, Carlson School of Management, Minneapolis

> Using a process requiring small, strategically placed explosives that fuse together different metals and objects, Rosenberg created a site-specific, tiered sculpture installed within a cupola outside the Carlson School board room. The Panagaea theory, which asserts that the continents were once a single landmass, is a metaphor for the developing global economy.



## Atrium in Equilibrium

Artist: Glenn R. Schafer  
1994, steel and glass  
Location: entrance lounge, Atrium, Crookston

> Serving as a campus entrance at the junction between Bede Hill, and Owen Halls, the Atrium provides a setting for considering the educational ideal. A mirrored glass pyramid, reflecting one's own image, is balanced between four towers. Each tower contains attributes representing the forces at play in education: idea and growth, knowledge and learning, labor and cooperation, and resource and utilization.



PHOTO: JIM QUINCY



Dave Kapell, inventor of Magnetic Poetry

Dave Kapell, ('91), says he has told the story of The Sneezes That Created Magnetic Poetry so many times that it is beginning to sound like an urban legend. A few years after getting his degree in English, Kapell was an aspiring musician and poet who liked nothing better than to play around with words. One technique he used to spark his imagination was to cut up random sets of words and rearrange them into new phrases. With his allergies, however, sessions tended to last only a few moments before a sneeze would send the scraps flying.

Then came inspiration out of frustration: cutting up a set of refrigerator magnets a friend had given him, he glued the words to them and stuck them on a cookie sheet. Friends who came over discovered what millions have since found—they were unable to resist moving the words around, creating funny and unexpected combinations. Kapell began selling kits he put together in his apartment at local art fairs. They were well received there, too, and he was using the money

to pay off college loans in anticipation of going back to school to become a teacher. But then the Museum Company placed an order for 10,000 kits, and he was in business full time.

Even established poets love Magnetic Poetry. No less than Robert Pinsky, former U.S. poet laureate, wrote an enthusiastic introduction to *The Magnetic Poetry Book of Poetry*. (The company also maintains an online anthology.) “[The praise] is sort of embarrassing in a way,” says Kapell. “After all, the product came about because I was not a good writer. It was a crutch for me to help my own writing.”

#### Spelling out your soul's desire

As Magnetic Poetry has grown into a multimillion-dollar firm, Kapell keeps a higher vision than making a buck. “My personal mission in this whole thing is to give entry points into difficult artistic disciplines,” he says. “Magnetic Poetry is an easy way of starting to think like a poet by just messing around and letting people have some measure of success on their first try.”

While Magnetic Poetry might seem like a one-shot gimmick, a sort of Pet Rock for the '90s, Kapell and company have continued to branch out into new areas: poetry garden stones, poetry beads for necklaces, a magnetic poetry game, online poetry kits, and a growing set of kits in different languages, for specific cities, and for selected interests. Some of the latest products apply Magnetic Poetry's idea of random combinations to other art forms. Camcorder Helper encourages home video shooters to loosen up and take chances; a ukulele song kit in the works will help novices create chord progressions and song lyrics. “Almost all the songs that come out of it are pretty weird,” Kapell laughs.

by Chris Coughlan-Smith

While Kapell never became an English teacher, he takes comfort in the thought that Magnetic Poetry is “a lot more effective teacher of creative spirit to a lot more people than I ever could have reached.”

#### From inspiration to outer space, the U is changing the world one graduate at a time

Kapell is included in the new University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) ad campaign “Changing the World One Graduate at a Time.”

A mid-1980s advertising effort celebrated some of the big names in University alumni history—like Hubert H. Humphrey and Roy Wilkins—while this new campaign features the behind-the-scenes players who are changing our life for the better.

A television public service announcement (PSA) is running on KSTP Channel 5 through December and has been provided to other Hubbard Broadcasting outlets for their PSA rotation. Along with Kapell, it features Earl Bakken ('48), who invented the battery-powered heart pacemaker in 1957 while working with pioneering heart surgeon Dr. C. Walton Lilliehei at the University of Minnesota Hospital. The ad, with messages spelled out in Magnetic Poetry, also mentions Michele Brekke ('75, '77), NASA's first female flight director, and Robert W. Gore ('61, '63), the inventor of Gore-Tex. The punchline of the spot is, “Did we mention the inventor of Magnetic Poetry?”

A series of print ads that appeared in local newspapers feature Endesha Ida Mae Holland ('79, '84, '86) an award-winning playwright and University of Southern California professor, as well as Brekke and Gore. The Minneapolis advertising agency Gabriel Diericks Razidlo (now Gabriel deGrood Bendt) created the ads. Other names collected by the alumni association are being organized into a list of notable alumni that will be available on the alumni association's new Web site. The UMAA hopes to keep the campaign alive by working with collegiate units to publicize more graduates who are helping change the world. 🌱



**get more info** To see the television spots and print ads, go to [www.umaa.umn.edu](http://www.umaa.umn.edu).

For more about Magnetic Poetry, visit [www.magpo.com](http://www.magpo.com).

# STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE:

CLEAR OF ALCOHOL, FORMER U BASEBALL STAR LOOKS TO A PROMISING FUTURE by Rick Moore



Jack Hannahan takes a second to savor a home run he hit against Michigan this past season.

Strike one for Jack Hannahan was when he took his first drink in the eighth grade... and liked it. Strike two was when he was kicked off the Cretin-Derham Hall baseball team for drinking two years later.

Hannahan fought off a number of other tough pitches—a half dozen citations for underage drinking, a like number of visits to jail, blackouts, a trip to detox—and managed to stay alive. Then came strike three. After another night of heavy drinking a year ago last July—and another blackout—he lay passed out on an elderly woman's lawn. She thought he was dead and called the police. When Hannahan woke up he was in an ambulance headed to detox again. He managed to reroute the paramedics to his home with the concession that they could speak to his mother. But it was Hannahan's own talk with his mother after the paramedics left, without the excuses and rationalizations an alcoholic develops when the booze wears off, that set him on a new path.

"I sat my mom down on the couch and said, 'Mom, I have a problem; I can't control my drinking,'" says Hannahan. "I told her 'I need help and I need to stop.'" Later that afternoon, still intoxicated, he was on his way to an inpatient treatment facility.

#### Happy Anniversary

What a difference a year can make. It's the middle of July 2001, two weeks before Hannahan's year anniversary (July 28) of sobriety. He's reflecting on life—its curves and change-ups—while sitting in a hotel room in Vermont nursing an ankle he sprained playing professional baseball. In the last 12 months, Hannahan has cried in desperation among fellow addicts; finished his treatment and returned to the University for his junior year; become the Big Ten baseball Player of the Year and the Gophers' unanimous choice as Most Valuable Player; been drafted in the third round by the Detroit Tigers; and signed a contract with a \$470,000 signing bonus, which includes \$35,000 to finish his college education.

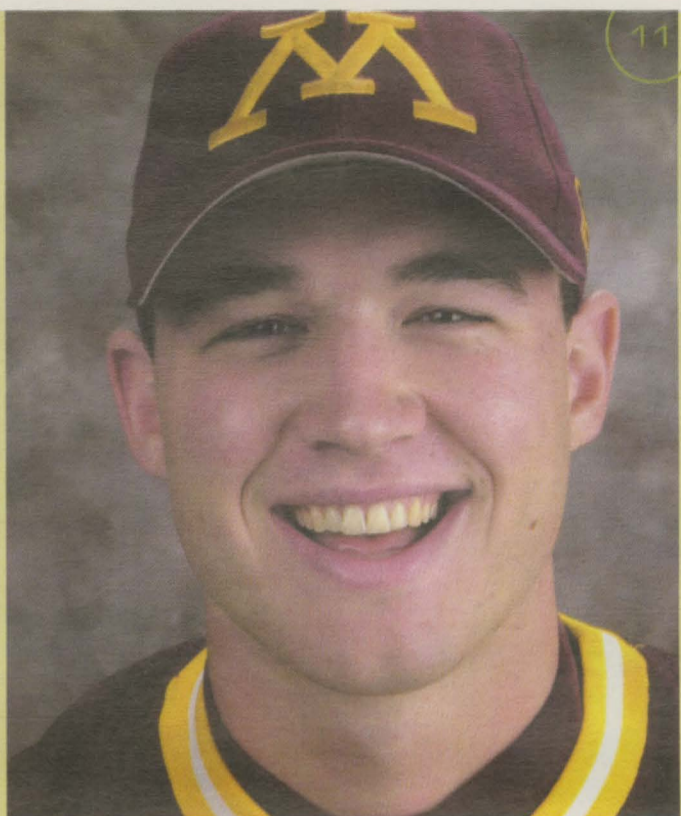
"Everything's fallen into place," says Hannahan. "I have more time to do what I want to do, instead of thinking 'When am I gonna get to the bar; what are we gonna do this weekend.' My mind is so much more clear."

#### Leading by Example

In Hannahan's drinking days, clear usually meant free from any recollection of the previous evening's activities. He says he'd drink four or five times a week, 15 to 20 beers a night, and black out "pretty much every time."

PHOTO: MICHELLE KING

PHOTO: MICHELLE KING



Former Gopher baseball player Jack Hannahan, now with the Michigan Whitecaps.

"I'd look in my wallet. If I didn't have any money in there, I knew I had a fun night," Hannahan says. Or he'd ask one of his roommates or friends what happened the previous evening. "That's when I heard stories of what I did—ridiculous stuff," he says.

"I'd look in my wallet. If I didn't have any money in there, I knew I had a fun night," Hannahan says.

John Anderson, head baseball coach at the University, was to some extent aware of the struggles Hannahan faced. The two talked frequently in Hannahan's first two years and developed a solid bond. "He never lied to me," says Anderson. "He trusted me and I trusted him."

"I think Jack knew he had a problem for some time but he was scared [to confront it]," adds Anderson. "I had the feeling he wanted to do something but he didn't know how." When you're surrounded by drinkers in their early 20s, Anderson asks, "How are you going to admit to your peers that you have a problem?"

This past season, after Hannahan admitted and faced his alcoholism, his peers on the baseball team responded with respect and encouragement. "All of a sudden his credibility just went way up; the other players took him seriously as a leader then," Anderson says. "They rallied around him because they saw the transformation he made in his life and they respected him."

Anderson figured a watershed event was approaching this past season, around the time of the Hormel Foods Baseball Classic. Hannahan was nearing his 21st birthday on March 4, and Anderson asked if he was going to be able to handle the occasion without wishing he were drinking. Anderson says Hannahan's answer spoke volumes about his progress: "Coach, I've celebrated my 21st birthday many times. I don't need to do it again." That was a defining moment when he told me that.

**A story in progress**

From passed out and presumed dead to a bonus baby playing the game he loves for a high Class A team, Hannahan is a bit in awe at how his life has progressed and been transformed. "I look back on things, and at this time last year I was just a complete mess," he says. "Now, I'm moving up in life, I'm getting better; I know what I want to do in life, and I'm going to succeed at it."

"Whatever God's plan is for me, I want to do it," he adds. "If it's to make the major leagues, that would be a dream come true." If not, he says that's okay, too. "I just want to be happy in whatever I do."

"I always felt that Jack had, to some degree, unlimited potential in a lot of areas of his life," says Anderson, but that he wasn't using some of the gifts he had because of the alcohol.

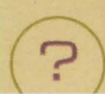
"He grew so much as a person in the last year; it just amazes me," says Anderson. "It just shows that if you take something out of your life that's holding you back from reaching your potential, it can quickly have an impact."

Anderson says that one of Hannahan's former teachers asked him to come back and share with students his tale of redemption. Anderson figures he'll use Hannahan's story, as well. "I will use it to try and teach other kids. It may not be about alcohol but some other thing they need to change in their lives. We all have things we need to change, but it's scary."

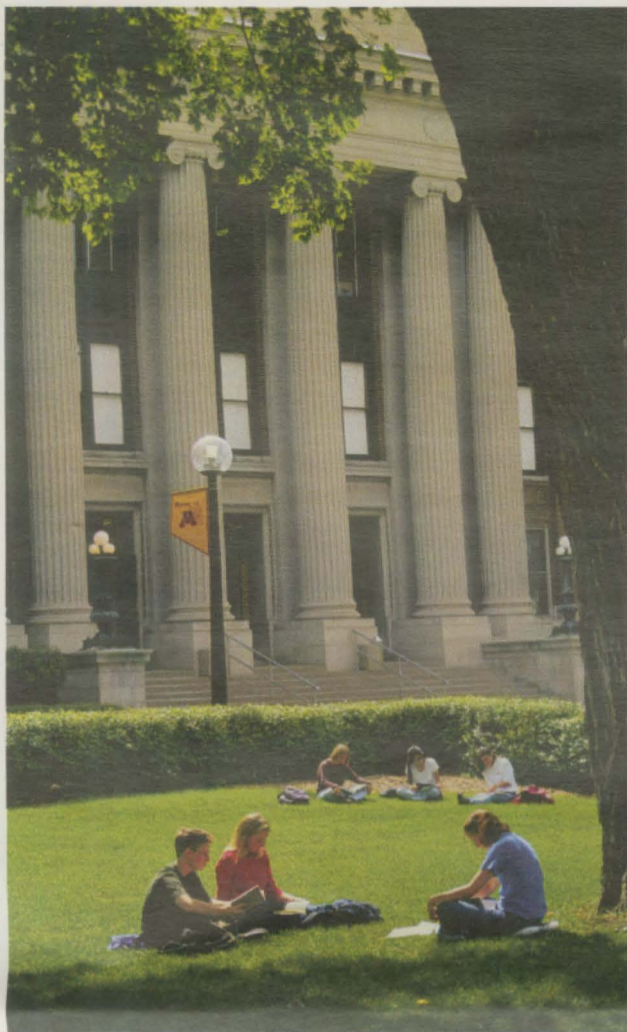
Annie Hannahan, Jack's mother, has witnessed his change, and remembers all too well when her son was "in danger of losing everything—his life, his education, his baseball scholarship, and his relationships.... He's taken so much responsibility and just grown up in front of our eyes," says Annie, who wrote a letter each day to Jack while he was in treatment. "He's taken the Lord's grace and run with it, and we're so proud of him."

Hannahan says that his inspiration has come from his family, Anderson, Gophers assistant head baseball coach Rob Fornasieri, and baseball booster Billy Soule, whom Hannahan cites as a role model who's been through alcoholism himself.

And Hannahan is finding that he is not alone in his struggle. "Everyone who's talked to me about my story has had one of their immediate family or friends or themselves in recovery," he says. "Alcoholism is all over the place; it's huge. People who step up and admit they have a problem are going to come out on top." 🍀



**get more info** For a recap of Jack Hannahan's season statistics for the West Michigan Whitecaps, visit [www.whitecaps-baseball.com](http://www.whitecaps-baseball.com). Click on Team.




# ALUMNI GIVING BACK

For U of M alumnus Russell Bennett, the University of Minnesota is like an old family friend. His grandmother was the first woman admitted to the University's law program, and recently his daughter graduated from the U of M Law School, linking four generations of Bennetts to the U.

"I believe the University of Minnesota is the most important institution in the state," says Bennett. "And that is why I agreed to serve as volunteer chair of Campaign Minnesota. We need private support to stay among the top universities in the country."

Campaign Minnesota is a University-wide fund-raising effort with a goal of raising \$1.3 billion by July 2003. Until then, every gift to the U counts toward the campaign. Gifts made in the form of bequests and other future commitments are also counted.

If you are one of the 66,000 alumni who've already contributed to the campaign, thank you. You are making it possible for the University of Minnesota to continue its tradition of greatness. You have helped create more than 600 new scholarships and fellowships. Your gifts are also supporting faculty, ground-breaking research, state-of-the-art facilities, and service and outreach that touches every county and every town in Minnesota.

If you are one of the more than 255,000 alumni we have not yet heard from, there's never been a better time to give. "This year more than ever, we are calling on our alumni and friends to participate in Campaign Minnesota," says President Mark Yudof. "Alumni support is extremely important in maintaining the greatness of the U. Tuition alone can't do this, nor can state funding." 



CAMPAIGN MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Making a gift to Campaign Minnesota can be easy. Simply return the pledge form you receive in the mail or say "yes" when you are contacted by phone. See the information box on the facing page for more information.

## A MAN OF LETTERS

by Richard Broderick

THIS U GRADUATE CONTINUES TO FIND WAYS TO THANK HIS ALMA MATER

Jonathan Smaby, a 1985 political science graduate, wrote many papers while at the University, but perhaps none as unique and compelling as the two letters he wrote after graduation.

When Smaby graduated, he didn't feel it was sufficient just to tell people how much he'd gotten out of his four years at the University. Instead, he wrote a three-page, single-spaced thank-you letter to then-political science chair Virginia Gray.

An Austin, Minnesota, native whose father taught biology and anatomy at a local community college, Smaby wanted to make sure his teachers were aware of his gratitude. "My professors were really committed to their students," says Smaby, now a lawyer in Dallas. "But faculty don't

always know whether they're having an impact except through what they see in course-end surveys."


"I grew up in a relatively small town," he says, "and it's a wonderful thing for somebody like me to attend an institution like the U with such a diversity of people and educational opportunities." As a student, Smaby interned in the offices of a state legislator and the lieutenant governor.

In his senior year, Smaby received a Selmer Birkelo Scholarship. This scholarship for outstanding College of Liberal Arts students was established in 1972 by U of M alumnus Selmer Birkelo, who was a translator and interpreter with the U.S. State Department. The scholarship paid for Smaby's final year at the U.

"That was very meaningful to me, not only because it reflected the work I had done, but

because I was a financially strapped student going off to law school the next year," he says.

After completing law school, Smaby and his wife, Michelle Roberts, also an attorney, formed their own firm in Dallas, Roberts & Smaby P.C., specializing in commercial litigation. Then, two years ago, he sat down and, along with his wife, signed the second letter to the U, establishing a scholarship not unlike the one he had received. The Jonathan E. Smaby and Michelle E. Roberts Scholarship ("Michelle gets top billing at our law firm," Smaby jokes), will be awarded by the political science faculty to a student in their department.

"My goal was to make sure that any gift I gave should go to the political science department," he says. "What we're doing just seems like a fitting way to express my gratitude to the U." 

### Fun facts about U of M donors

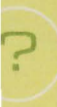
- > Youngest donor to the University this year: Jonathan Gregornik, seven year old from St. Paul, who donated to the U of M's Geological Survey a fossil he found of an extinct sea creature.
- > Alumni donor who's given the most: Curt Carlson, 1937, who donated \$46.5 million before his death in 1999.
- > Colleges with the most alumni donors: medical school, with 25 percent giving; veterinary medicine, with 18 percent.
- > Campus with the highest percent of alumni donors: Morris, at 19 percent.
- > Two of the most faithful U of M alumni donors: Richard and Rose Trochlii, who've made 39 gifts to the U, one every year since 1962.

### How do we compare?

Every university asks its alumni annually for gifts to support their favorite colleges, programs, or the university's set priorities. Here's how the University of Minnesota compares with other Big Ten schools in the percentage of alumni who made a gift to their universities in 2000.

1. Purdue ..... 23%
2. Northwestern ..... 20%
3. Penn State ..... 18%
4. Ohio State ..... 17%
5. Michigan ..... 16%
6. Indiana ..... 14%
7. Iowa ..... 13%
8. Wisconsin ..... 13%
9. Minnesota ..... 11%
10. Michigan State ..... 11%
11. Illinois ..... 11%

(Source: Council for Aid to Education)



**get more info** Participating in Campaign Minnesota is easy, and every gift, designated for whatever college or program you choose, counts toward the campaign. You can make a gift online at [www.campaign.umn.edu](http://www.campaign.umn.edu) or contact the University of Minnesota Foundation at 612-624-3333, the Minnesota Medical Foundation at 612-625-1440, or the development officer of the college you want to support.

# DESIGNS ON THE FUTURE

by Richard Broderick

## A SCHOLARSHIP IS HELPING PAUV THOUK BUILD A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE

Pauv Thouk's architectural career began with Legos at age five. Today, the 21-year-old senior from Minneapolis is winning the attention of the Twin Cities architectural community.

"She has a gift for building models that are superior to those made by graduates with lots of experience," observes Craig Rafferty, 1970 University graduate and principal of Rafferty, Rafferty, Tollefson Architects, a firm where Thouk interned the past three summers. "I have nothing but great expectations for her."

A scholarship from the Minnesota Architectural Foundation has been critical for Thouk, a native of Cambodia, in being able to focus on her studies and take advantage of internship and mentoring opportunities. Her father died several years ago, and she, the youngest of eight children, is only the third child in her family to attend college. "Most of the other kids were teenagers when we came here, so they had a harder time assimilating and didn't have the opportunities I had," she says.

While at the U, Thouk has worked on design projects for the new Minneapolis library and urban landscaping in St. Paul. She has also helped design a transitional living-community center for Minneapolis's Cedar Riverside complex. Thouk's design for the center combines Eastern and Western elements, reflecting the neighborhood's ethnic diversity. With a roofline that looks like woven basketry and sliding interior doors that allow for maximum flexibility, the one-story structure is a cross between a Japanese tearoom and a small Midwestern warehouse.

Her instructors are using her model as an example in other classes. "It's a little embarrassing," Thouk admits. "But it's kind of flattering, too."

Attracting and helping students like Thouk succeed at the U of M is one of the main goals of Campaign Minnesota, the University-wide fundraising effort with a goal of building not just a better University, but a better Minnesota, too. 🍁



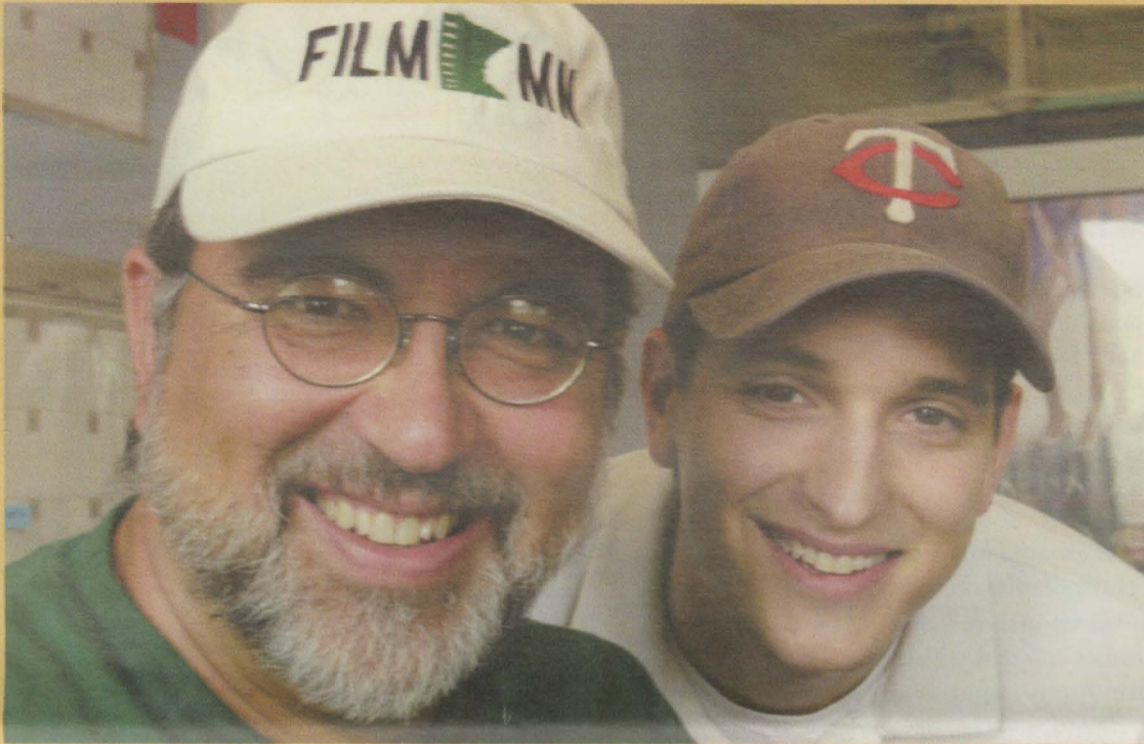
PHOTO: TOM FOLEY

One of architecture's rising stars, Pauv Thouk.

"Most of the other kids were teenagers when we came here, so they had a harder time assimilating and didn't have the opportunities I had."

# SHARING A LOVE OF FILM: by Chris Coughlan-Smith

A PERFECT PAIRING IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS ALUMNI SOCIETY MENTOR PROGRAM



Randy Adamsick, left, and Chris Yocum

Chris Yocum knows he got lucky in his first try in the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Society mentor program. "I can't imagine someone being a better match for me," he says of Randy Adamsick ('76), former executive director of the Minnesota Film Board. "It was perfect serendipity."

Adamsick himself, "had a really, really good experience," he says. "It was something I had always wanted to do, and it far exceeded all my expectations."

Adamsick and Yocum, a psychology and film studies double major originally from Rochester, Minnesota, went to a lot of movies and spent a

lot of time talking about movies. But Adamsick says he also "made sure to guide the conversations toward the question: how do you turn that love of film into something that might become a career? [College] was a time in my life when I really wish I'd had a mentor. It wasn't until my 30s that I realized it was possible to make my avocation my vocation."

Adamsick, who is currently weighing his own career options, gave Yocum a dose of real experience by having him select film clips for a tribute to film producer and Minnesota native Sarah Pillsbury. "He did a terrific job," Adamsick says. "I think I used every one of his clips." Yocum took that assignment seriously and was glad to see it pay off. "I especially remember a scene I thought would be a perfect ending," he says. "Randy used it right at the end. That was nice seeing my work was actually valuable."

For Yocum, who will graduate next year, participating in the mentor program was part of taking advantage of many different opportunities

in his last few years of school. Two years ago he studied in Milan, Italy, and last year, in addition to the mentor program, he began writing film reviews for the *Minnesota Daily*, something Adamsick encouraged. "He said, 'Throw all your brands in the fire and one of them will catch,'" Yocum says. "[Randy's] shown me that there is going to be a job for you somewhere.... You can do what you love."

The CLA mentor program is one of 16 programs organized through the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's Mentor Connection. Programs typically run from fall until shortly before the end of the school year. Although the Mentor Connection provides events and tips for both mentors and students, the participants work out the details of when, where, and how often to meet. 🍂



# 2001 HOMECOMING

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!—A HOLLYWOOD HOMECOMING



## Hollywood theme carries through nine days of events

It's time again for the reunions, pep fests, and sports that surround the annual homecoming celebration at the University of Minnesota. The new event this year is Pregame Pancakes and Parade, a homecoming morning breakfast with U of M events and booths inside the McNamara Alumni Center along the parade route. All the big traditional events are back as well, including last year's fireworks finale. Each day during homecoming week has a special Hollywood theme.

See the calendar below for details. Events of special interest to alumni are in bold. 🍀

### Friday, October 12

Maroon and Gold Friday, all day  
Be part of the tradition by wearing maroon and gold

Gopher women's soccer vs. Northwestern, 7 p.m.,  
Elizabeth Lyle Robbie Stadium, St. Paul

### Saturday, October 13

Gopher women's swimming and diving intrasquad  
meet, 1 p.m., University of Minnesota Aquatic Center,  
Minneapolis

Gopher women's hockey vs. Minnesota State University,  
Mankato, 2 p.m., Mariucci Arena, Minneapolis

### Sunday, October 14

Gopher women's hockey vs. Minnesota State University,  
Mankato, 2 p.m., Mariucci Arena, Minneapolis

### Monday, October 15

"Hollywood Premiere"  
Homecoming kickoff, 11 a.m., West Bank plaza  
Lip-synch contest, 7 p.m., Willey Hall, Minneapolis

### Tuesday, October 16

"Walk of Fame"  
St. Paul Day and Twin Cities Student Unions Day,  
St. Paul Student Center and St. Paul gym field, 11 a.m.

### Wednesday, October 17

"The Big Blockbuster"  
Residence Hall Day at the superblock, East River Road  
triangle, all day, Minneapolis

### Thursday, October 18

"Director's Cut"  
**Institute of Technology donor/scholar event,**  
5 p.m., McNamara Alumni Center, Minneapolis

### Friday, October 19

"Spotlight on the Stars"  
Maroon and Gold Friday, all day  
Be part of the tradition by wearing maroon and gold

**College of Liberal Arts reunion activities** for  
graduates of 1951 and earlier, includes tours,  
luncheon, and reception; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Call 612-626-7642 for information.

**College of Human Ecology all-college reunion,**  
includes seminars, tours, and reception; 8:30 a.m.  
to 8 p.m., McNeal Hall, St. Paul.  
Call 612-625-8796 for information.

**College of Pharmacy Class of 1951** back to school  
celebration, with seminars, tours, and lunch with the  
dean. Call 612-625-1158 for information.

Marching Band CD release celebration sponsored by  
U of M Bookstores, noon, Northrop mall, Minneapolis

**Institute of Technology reunion,** includes tours,  
receptions, and dinner for classes of 1951, '61, and  
'76; 2:30 p.m. welcome reception, 3:30 p.m. tours,  
6 p.m. cocktail reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner.  
Call 612-626-8282 for information.

**College of Biological Sciences homecoming picnic,**  
4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Snyder Hall lawn, St. Paul.  
Call 612-624-4470 for information.

**Gopher men's and women's swimming and diving  
alumni meet,** University of Minnesota Aquatic  
Center, Minneapolis

Gopher women's cross country—Minnesota Open,  
4:30 p.m., Les Bolstad Golf Course, Lauderdale

**Homecoming Huddle** for 1991–2001 grads,  
McNamara Alumni Center, Minneapolis, 5 to 7 p.m.  
Call 612-625-9180 for information.

**Homecoming coronation, bonfire, pep fest, and  
fireworks finale,** 7 p.m., St. Paul Gym field

Gopher women's volleyball vs. Indiana, 7 p.m.,  
Sports Pavilion, Minneapolis

### Saturday, October 20

"Feature Presentation"  
Minnesota Art with a Twist (family day), all day,  
Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis.  
Call 612-625-9683 for information.

**St. Paul Farmer's Share Breakfast and Auction**  
at St. Paul Student Center with special recognition  
for the classes of 1976 and 1951, 7 a.m.;  
Little Red Oil Can Award program, 8:30 a.m.  
Call 612-624-1745 for information.

A Place for Parents at Homecoming, 8 a.m.,  
University Rec Center, Minneapolis

**Pregame Pancakes and Parade,** a new event,  
on the parade route, 8 to 10 a.m., McNamara  
Alumni Center, Minneapolis

**Homecoming Parade,** 9 a.m., along University  
Avenue, Minneapolis

**Homecoming Football Game vs. Michigan State,**  
11:10 a.m., Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis

Homecoming Chili Fest on the Knoll, University and  
15th Avenue, Minneapolis, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Pharmacy Alumni Society,** College of Pharmacy and  
Century Mortar Club, Third Joint Annual Meeting,  
5:45 p.m.; reunion dinners celebrating the classes  
of 1951, '61, '71, '76, '81, and '91, 6:30 p.m.,  
Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis.  
Call 612-625-1158 for information.

Gopher women's volleyball vs. Illinois, 7 p.m.,  
Sports Pavilion, Minneapolis

**School of Music Homecoming Collage Concert,**  
7:30 p.m., Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis.  
Call 612-626-7642 for information.

**Homecoming Ball** sponsored by the Student Unions,  
8 p.m., McNamara Alumni Center, Minneapolis,  
with an alumni reception room open to all alumni and  
friends. Call 612-624-4636 for information.



**for more info** on athletic tickets, call  
612-624-8080. For alumni events, call the  
University of Minnesota Alumni Association at  
612-624-2323. For all other events, call the  
number listed or the homecoming office at 612-624-7917.

MAG  
f Melem



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

fall 2001

cover story

PRAIRIE SON

Noted wildlife photographer Jim Brandenburg turns his attention

to the prairie where he was born and raised. A mile from his grandparent's farm in southwest Minnesota is a 360-acre parcel of rocky pasture that was once part of the vast tallgrass prairie filled with blazing star and big bluestem, burrowing owls and bison. Brandenburg rallied a group of like-minded folks, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to return the land of his youth to its former glory.



inside:

- > A Virtual Homecoming ... 4
- > Take Back Your Marriage book review ... 5
- > World changing grads ... 9
- > Alumni giving back ... 12
- > Pauv Thoutk: rising young architect ... 13
- > The mentoring connection ... 14



Nurses struggle to do what they do best and be honored for their work

6



Public art fills University spaces with the traditional and the sublime

8



Star Gopher baseball player Jack Hannahan finds hope and a promising career without alcohol

10



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A publication for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota—Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities

♻️ Printed on recycled paper using at least 10% post-consumer waste. Please recycle as newsprint.

Address changes and cancellations: U of M Foundation  
200 Oak St SE Suite 500 Minneapolis MN 55455-2010  
or e-mail: [urelate@umn.edu](mailto:urelate@umn.edu). Please include mailing label code numbers.

Change service requested

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis MN  
Permit 155

Editor ..... Martha Coventry  
Managing Editor ..... Sharon Grimes  
Graphic Design ..... Woychick Design  
Photographer ..... Tom Foley

*The opinions expressed in M do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Board of Regents or the University administration.*

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

**M has a Web page:**  
[www.umn.edu/urelate/m](http://www.umn.edu/urelate/m)