

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA

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To Miss New Orleans



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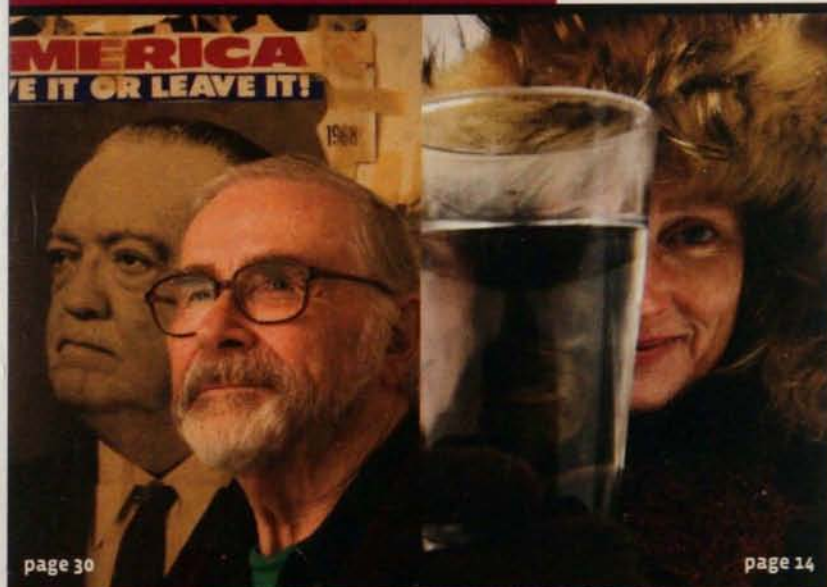
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MEDICAL CENTER

 FAIRVIEW



page 30

page 14



page 22

Features

22 What It Means to Miss New Orleans

Words and pictures by photographer and University alumnus David Rae Morris, who is back home in New Orleans.

30 Culture Critic

For more than 50 years, Professor David Noble has studied the uniquely American civilization.

By Danny LaChance

34 A Place for Women

Articulate and outspoken, Ada Comstock advanced women's higher education concerns at the University of Minnesota and beyond.

By Tim Brady

38 Gopher Sports

Gopher men's hockey player Phil Kessel and women's coach Laura Halldorson.

*By John Rosengren and
Chris Coughlan-Smith*

41 Sports Notebook

Gopher sports news and notes.

By Chris Coughlan-Smith

Left: Voodoo priestess Ava Kay Jones at a memorial service for Chicken Man, a voodoo priest and local character, in 1999. **On the cover:** Alfred Doucette, big chief of the Flaming Arrows tribe of Mardi Gras Indians in 2002. His suit honors New York City and the Twin Towers.

Columns and Departments

6 Editor's Note

8 Letters

10 About Campus

Hmong farm safety, a concrete canoe, and student chefs.

12 Discoveries

Cancer-killing stem cells, grilled meat, and losing weight.

14 Arts & Events

Get in on some great conversations.

16 U News

A new apple, U applications are up, and a regent resigns.

18 Off the Shelf

Cheryl Strayed's *Torch*. Plus, Bookmarks.

20 First Person

"Matryoshka Dolls," an essay by Mary Jo Pehl.

42 UMAA Report

Member profiles, Guangzhou chapter launch, and events.

45 National President

You talked, we listened.

48 Chief Executive Officer

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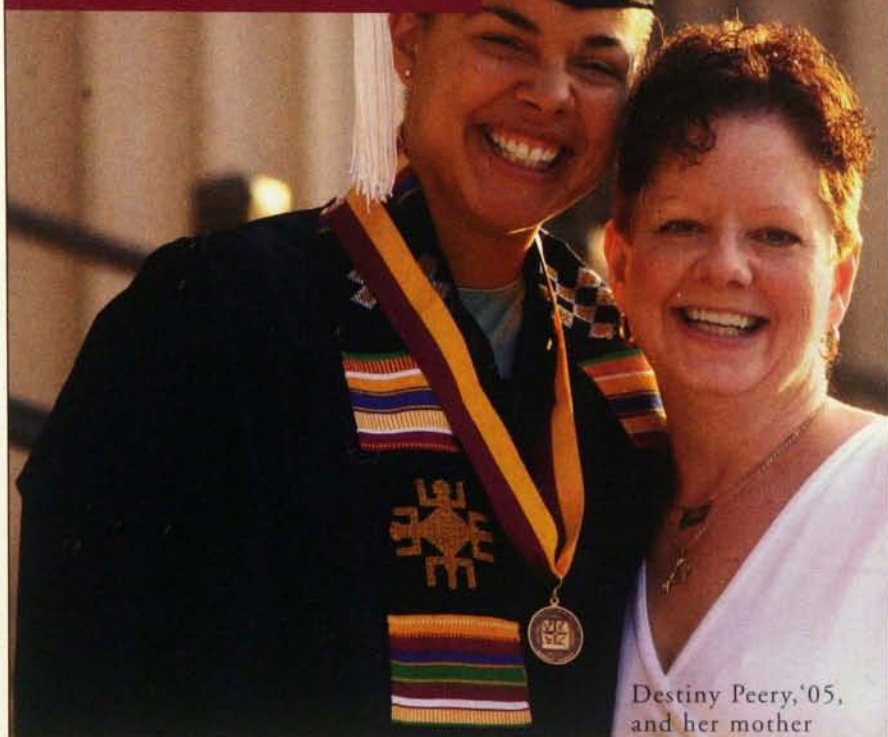
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Editor's Note

Research Findings

Years ago I edited a monthly column by a curmudgeon. He railed against bad business decisions, wasteful spending by the government, and slovenliness in the service industry. I imagined him calling up the electric utility to argue his bill the moment it arrived and tipping 5 percent on his restaurant bills.

One month he took aim at the University of Minnesota and the institutions that grant money for "mind-boggling" research projects. He applauded discoveries that launched new products and industries, but he could not fathom the point of millions of dollars in grants to study pig manure, inner-city building design, and the like. How could this be going on right under our noses, he questioned, when there were real problems to solve? Such as instilling some good sense into elected officials and the paper carrier.



Shelly Fling

Now I work at the University and understand how wrong the curmudgeon was. I confess that when I first arrived I stared at the lists of research grants and the jumbles of scientific terms and wondered if I needed a CAT scan. Then, when I flipped through the pages and pages of problems researchers were investigating, I began to worry that the world was doomed and we were all going to die sooner than anticipated. How could researchers possibly put a dent in these problems? What's the point of trying?

The point is that it's our obligation to try—that finding answers and improving the quality of life is what research institutions do for the world. Every day, I read so many news releases about research findings made at the U that I can hardly see straight. Some discoveries are baby steps in what will be a marathon. Others are leaps that make our imaginations soar, such as recent news that U researchers were able to generate cancer-killing cells from embryonic stem cell lines.

What I've come to appreciate is that research requires large quantities of three things: money, patience, and resolve. These are the key ingredients, and little is accomplished if any one of them is diluted. Researchers don't lack resolve, though they could almost always benefit from more funds and a little patience from those inclined to want results with the snap of a finger.

True, sometimes faculty set out to find an answer but are stumped—for years or for decades or forever. But even when stumped, our researchers acquire knowledge invaluable to the research process. Researchers can't know where their research will lead. It could pave the way to a cure. It could determine what won't be a cure. Or it could result in a serendipitous finding, like the promising vaccine for nicotine addiction. In any case, what is learned through research builds on what has been discovered through earlier research and provides a foundation for research that, we hope, will follow.

U faculty attract hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to Minnesota's economy every year—more than \$560 million in 2005. These dollars not only fund research, they create jobs, give students research experience, attract top faculty to the U, and can multiply through technology transfer.

Invisible to the curmudgeon, and to most onlookers, is that those innovations that lead to new products and industries take decades of research and development, undoubtedly with failures—and cries of curmudgeons—sprinkled throughout. Their invention required money, patience, and resolve. ■

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

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MEDICINE AT MINNESOTA
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Letters

THE FIRST STEP ON A LONG WALK

It was gratifying to read in a past issue of *Minnesota* that there has been progress toward the creation of the Scholars Walk. When planning the sesquicentennial celebration, the advisory committee invited proposals to mark the University's 150-year history in a fitting and enduring manner. The suggestion of a commemorative campus space to honor the intellectual accomplishments of alumni and faculty was first introduced by Clint Hewitt, associate professor in landscape architecture, then the director of master planning. Several campus sites were considered and the walk from the McNamara Alumni Center west across Northrop Mall seemed to hold the greatest promise. The path is not without design and aesthetic challenges . . . [but] I am confident that solutions can and will be found for these challenges and am most pleased that the [work] is well begun.

Warren Ibele (M.S. '47, Ph.D. '53)
Professor emeritus, Department of Mechanical Engineering

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BEEWARE

Thank you for the very well-written and informative article on honeybees ["Breeding a Better Bee," November-December]. I had no idea that the pollinating work of bees played such a critical role in agriculture, what might be found in the produce section of my grocery store, and the U.S. economy. Next time I'm in the garden and see a bee, I will applaud its good work—from a safe distance, that is.

Eileen Krantz (B.A. '62)
Minneapolis

CORRECTION

In "Remembering Roy Wilkins" (November-December) a Minnesota Historical Society photograph misidentified Thurgood Marshall. A civil rights lawyer who was later appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President John F. Kennedy, Marshall (right) was photographed with Roy Wilkins and Martin Luther King,

Jr., in 1959, the 50th anniversary year of the NAACP. The editors regret the error.



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Overheard on Campus

“What counts most? What you will contribute in the future? What you contributed in the past? Should we try to save the most people possible? Which are the values that we think are the most important?”

—University of Minnesota bioethicist Jeffrey Kahn, who says deciding who gets care in an avian flu pandemic will be the hardest.

“We give them a hug, throw them a homecoming celebration, and think it's just fine. But some of these problems can pop up a year later or five years later.”

—University of Minnesota student Andy Davis, a veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and president of the new, student-organized Veterans Transition Center on the Twin Cities campus. The center provides a refuge for veterans, assists in navigating Veterans Affairs issues, and coordinates mentoring and other programs to help war veterans adjust to postwar life.

“There's a consistent, a significant number of biology teachers in public schools who are creationists. Despite decades of science education reform, these numbers have remained pretty consistent.”

—University of Minnesota biology professor Randy Moore, whose recent studies on “closet creationism” in public schools report that roughly 20 percent of Minnesota public schoolteachers consider creationism scientifically valid and that they emphasize the idea in their classes.

Different Strokes

Since the beginning of the school year, some University of Minnesota engineering students have been meeting Wednesday nights to plan a most unusual canoe trip. Their destination is not the Boundary Waters or one of Minnesota's wild and scenic rivers; it's Oklahoma. And they're building their own canoe—not from wood or aluminum, but from concrete.

Students at universities across the country are holding similar meetings in preparation for a quirky but educational annual event known as the National Concrete Canoe Competition. The contest, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) since 1988, provides students with some of the practical experience and problem-solving skills that they'll need in the workplace. The competition also aims to display the versatility of concrete, which first surfaced as a viable material for boats in 1848, according to the ASCE.

The U of M canoe will be about 16 feet long and weigh upwards of 100 pounds. Students will create their own concrete mix, using Portland dry cement, fly ash (a coal combustion byproduct), and a combination of other materials, which ultimately determine the weight and strength of the canoe. “The lightest canoe so far has been 105 pounds,” says U of M team captain Ash-

ley Olson, a senior from Deer River, Minnesota. “One of our goals is to beat that record, but we don't want to compromise the strength of our canoe in the process.” The University of Wisconsin–Madison is the reigning national champion, and more than bragging rights are at stake: Corporate sponsor Degussa Admixtures will award the winning school \$9,000 in scholarships.

The competition itself includes races ranging from a 200-meter sprint to a 600-meter slalom as well as oral and written presentations. Students draw on the knowledge they've gained in their construction materials, structural dynamics, and fluid mechanics classes, says civil engineering professor Cathy French (B.S. '79). “It's also fun for them,” she adds. “It's a community-building activity that also gives them pride in their school, and it's a great way to connect up with other engineers at other schools.”

The University will compete against other Upper Midwest schools in early spring at one of 18 regional competitions. The U is a frequent national qualifier, finishing sixth in 2001 and earning top honors for design in 2004. This year's national event is June 15–17 at Oklahoma State University.

—Amy Gemmaro Barrett (M.A. '94)



University of Minnesota concrete canoe teammates, with a model from a previous year, from left: Tim Shulz, Jonathan Thomas, Teigan Gulliver, Alison Ling, Mike Berg, Ashley Olson, Glenn Schwantes, Kris Langlie, Chelsea Harder, and Christine Baker.

A Story about Hmong Farm Safety

When Michele Schermann (B.S. '80, B.S.N. '96, M.S. '02) tells Hmong farmers that they really ought to wear shoes when they use a rototiller, they say, "Yes, we know, but the soil feels so good!"

A research fellow in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the University, Schermann has taught agricultural health and safety issues—including handling pesticides, protecting against the sun, and avoiding injury from lifting improperly—to new immigrants who are learning to farm. Now, some of her work with Hmong farmers has yielded a new book that employs traditional Hmong storytelling to illustrate the hazards that Hmong farm children face.

Orphan Boy the Farmer (Tub Ntsuag, Tub Ua Teb), by Hmong playwright Cha Yang and artist Kao Lee Thao, is a 90-page book written in English and the most common dialect of the Hmong language. The book includes three short stories portraying the life of an orphaned farm boy, a familiar Hmong folk character, to teach about farming safety, as well as the serious consequences of unsafe practices.

"There are probably 80 to 100 Hmong families in the Twin Cities metro area producing vegetables on 3- to 10-acre farms to sell at local markets," says Schermann, who has degrees in nursing and horticulture. "The Hmong farmers have similar goals as white farmers but different ways." For example, Hmong farmers also use knives to farm instead of machinery and entire Hmong extended families head to the field or garden together.

The book also addresses safety at farmers' markets, which can

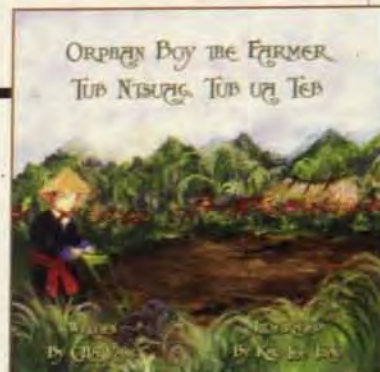
be crowded and confusing with buses and other traffic and often no toilets, leaving children to wander in search of public restrooms. "The nice thing is that all of these families know each other or are related somehow," Schermann says. "So even if the parents aren't watching the kids, an aunt or someone else is."

Traditional storytelling is a common and effective way to convey information in the Hmong culture. The book has been distributed in schools and Hmong organizations and at least one has found its way to California, which also has a large Hmong population. Farmers' market managers promise to promote the book before spring planting, and KFAI radio station plans to feature it on a Hmong program.

"Any books written in both English and Hmong get worn out very fast," says Schermann, who sometimes sells the books out of her trunk and gives copies to libraries. Next is a Hmong storytelling project to address forest fire prevention, especially important in California.

Orphan Boy the Farmer (Tub Ntsuag, Tub Ua Teb) costs \$18 and is available by calling the U's Extension Service at 800-876-8636 or 612-624-4900 or Hmong ABC at 651-293-0019.

—Shelly Fling



Iron Tastebuds

University student Lucia Yess, of team Hiii, put the finishing touches on a dish for the Student Iron Chef competition in November. Ten teams of student chefs were required to concoct three dishes with ingredients typically found in a residence hall, including corn chips, microwave popcorn, chocolate syrup, Pop Tarts, spray cheese, and bananas. Teams were judged on presentation and taste and for integrating the theme ingredient, ramen noodles, into the dishes. The winning chefs, on team Hiii, took home restaurant gift certificates and microwave ovens.



Maroon and Gold, Naturally

The "Even Mother Nature Loves Maroon and Gold" series returns for its sixth consecutive year. The photograph, reproduced on posters and notecards, is of *Thunbergia mysorens*, a large woody vine from the tropical mountains of southern India. Its pendulous maroon-and-gold flowers produce a lot of nectar and are a favorite of hummingbirds. The photograph was taken by University Relations photographer Patrick O'Leary in the College of Biological Sciences greenhouse on the St. Paul campus. Last year's image, of Minnesota prairie grass, was distributed on 25,000 posters and 40,000 notecards. For more information, visit www.umn.edu/urelate and search for "mother nature" or call 612-624-6868.

Math, Magnets, and Muskies

How does a young aerospace engineering professor wind up studying viruses, medical devices, auto parts, microscopic wind sensors, and more? For Richard James, all it took was getting involved with the U's Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA). The internationally renowned think tank brings together experts in scientific fields to solve problems and find new intersections by exploring the basic mathematical underpinnings of their fields. The IMA, founded in 1982, recently received a \$19 million National Science Foundation grant to carry on its work through 2010.

James, now the Russell J. Penrose Professor in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, came to an IMA program in the early 1990s shortly after being named a full professor at the University. He was studying metal alloys that changed shape slightly when exposed to energy but then would return to their original shape. By studying the mathematics behind these and other "shape memory" materials with mathematicians at the IMA and then with other U colleagues, James became a pioneer in "ferro-magnetic shape alloys"—materials that change shape when exposed to a magnetic field.

The alloys are still being refined, but experiments are under way to perfect them for use in devices where direct energy, such as electricity, heat, or force, are problematic—heart valves inside the human body, for example, or carburetors inside engines. "There's just no other way [than

using magnetics] to make things change shape remotely in such a dramatic way," James says.

Other IMA collaborations have already borne fruit. Improved heart rhythm monitors and devices, a way to reduce long-distance telephone disconnections, cost-saving industrial methods, a more mobile robot based on insect movements, and several other advances are directly linked to IMA programs.

James recently served a term on the IMA board of directors, helping set annual topics around which most IMA programming revolves. The topic for 2005–06 is

imaging. The IMA brings up to 1,000 visiting faculty and students a year to the top floor of Lind Hall. Large presentation rooms, open spaces for formal receptions or informal meetings over coffee, quiet workspaces, and numerous desks with powerful computers are all designed to foster collaboration and chance interactions that will lead to the next breakthrough. Half of the IMA participants are not mathematicians but come from other sciences.

"Math is the language of science," IMA director Doug Arnold says, so it offers a common point for crossing disciplines. The IMA "has put Minnesota on the map in a lot of different [academic] communities," attracting top faculty to the U. "It's making Minnesota a more stimulating, more interdisciplinary university."

James finds his work in shape alloys becoming increasingly interdisciplinary as well. With biochemists, James is currently studying a virus that changes shape, pierces the wall of a cell, and then returns to its original form. Piecing out how it stores the energy to make the transformation, as well as what signals the shape change, could lead to research on materials that can transform without external energy supplies. "Mostly what I do is observation and measurement and then build a theory," James says. "Then I take it to my colleagues." It's the way interdisciplinary sciences has worked at the U for 20 years.

"They say interdisciplinary work is the wave of the future," Arnold says, "but we've been doing it for 20 years."

Sometimes the math applications are not only interdisciplinary, but also unexpected and unusual. A recent seminar resulted in models of disease transmission, pinpointing the most effective methods and moments to contain the spread of diseases in the case of a bioterror attack or a serious disease outbreak. This fall, an IMA member was on hand to help verify the size of giant soap bubbles blown on Northrop Mall in an attempt to set a world record. And in November, Arnold was asked to investigate a controversy regarding the world-record muskie, caught by a Wisconsin fisherman in 1949. Challengers—the fish was allegedly more than five feet long—asked Arnold to analyze a photograph of the fish and fisherman.

Arnold says he sees "the math behind everything; it's

For the IMA's research imaging theme for 2005–06, University computer science researchers Baoquan Chen and Hui Xu have provided a painterly image of the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis rendered from 3-D scans.



almost insufferable." He judged that it isn't possible to know the exact size of the fish because of "projective geometry." As any angler knows, the closer the fish is held to the camera, the larger it appears in relation to the person holding it. Arnold, who is "5-foot-10, with shoes and hair," illustrated the effect by holding out in front of him a four-foot board that in a photo appeared to be nearly as tall as he is. From that geometric application, however, Arnold concluded that the fish was far shorter than its claimed size. "That's another side of having the nation's finest math institute," Arnold says. "People come to you with all sorts of interesting things."

The public can view IMA programs several times a year at the Math Matters public lecture series. The next lecture, Artful Mathematics, is set for February 8. For more information, visit www.ima.umn.edu/public-lecture.

—Chris Coughlan-Smith

WEIGH MORE TO WEIGH LESS

Stepping on the scale each day improves the outcome for people trying to lose weight or avoid gaining weight. More than 3,000 people were monitored for two years, and frequency of weighing was directly related to increased weight loss, even for those simply trying not to gain any weight. "If people notice that their weight has increased, they may try to make that small correction [right away] rather than try to



compensate [only] after gaining a larger amount of weight," said lead researcher Jennifer Linde, assistant professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

CANCER-KILLING STEM CELLS

News out of the University of Minnesota Cancer Center this fall was all about creating "natural killer" (NK) cells that attack various types of cancers. In studies done on two federally approved embryonic stem-cell lines, researchers were able to generate NK cells, a type of white blood cell responsible for destroying viruses and tumor cells. NK activity is known to decrease with advancing stages of cancer, so increasing the number or strength of NK cells is a promising avenue for new cancer treatments.

"This is the first published research to show the ability to make cells from human embryonic stem cells that are able to treat and fight cancer, especially human leukemias and lymphomas," said assistant professor Dan Kaufman of the U's Stem Cell Institute and Department of Medicine. Kaufman, lead author on the study, added that this is the first study to show it is possible to drive stem cells to become NK cells, which could benefit not only cancer treatments, but also treatment of serious infections. The research was published in the October 15 edition of *The Journal of Immunology*.

On October 31, the National Cancer Institute announced \$20 million in grants to the Cancer Center for both lab research and clinical trials on stem cells and NK cells. Three teams led by Philip McGlave, co-leader of the Cancer Center's Translational Research Program, will look into the biology of stem cells and the treatment of leukemia and lymphoma with stem-cell transplants. Three other teams led by Jeffrey Miller, co-leader of the Transplant Biology and Therapy Program, will further investigate NK cells and the possibility of transplants from unrelated donors.

BETTER THAN THE PATCH

A vaccine being tested at the University shows great promise in getting people to quit smoking, even though that wasn't the initial goal of the study. NicVax creates antibodies that bind to nicotine in the blood and prevents them from reaching the brain. "This process potentially reduces the pleasurable effects from smoking and reduces the addiction to nicotine," said Dorothy Hatsukami (Ph.D. '80), director of the University of Minnesota Cancer Center's Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center. Researchers were evaluating the safety of NicVax, recruiting subjects who said they had no desire to quit. Yet 38 percent of subjects in the highest dose group self-reported that they had spontaneously quit for at least 30 days during the study. Significant, though smaller, percentages in the two lower-dose groups also spontaneously quit. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the vaccine manufacturer and reported in the November issue of *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*.

DON'T BURN THE BURGER

Avoiding charred red meat appears to lower the risk of pancreatic cancer, according to a University of Minnesota study. In surveying 192 patients with pancreatic cancer and 670 without, researchers concluded that people in the top 20 percent for consumption of well-done grilled or barbecued red meat had twice the risk of pancreatic cancer compared with those in the lowest 20 percent. Pancreatic cancer is one of the most fatal forms of cancer in the United States; it is the 11th most common cancer, but is the fourth most common cause of cancer death.

Taking steps to avoid charring meat, and cutting off parts that do become charred, are among the recommendations of study author Kristin Anderson (M.A. '91), a cancer epidemiologist in the School of Public Health.

HMONG SCHOOL READINESS

Language barriers and low levels of education among Hmong parents in turn affect their children's readiness for kindergarten, according to groundbreaking U research. Professor Zha Blong Xiong (M.A. '97, Ph.D. '00) of General College surveyed 303 Hmong parents and found that roughly 60 percent had less than a high school education, 60 percent speak Hmong at home, and 40 percent never speak English at all. Coming from such a dissimilar culture, Hmong parents are also often unaware of the difference they can make in getting their children ready for school. Among Xiong's recommendations are improving access to English as a Second Language classes, asking employers to create incentives to take those classes, and having those classes introduce parents to pre-kindergarten curricula and provide take-home activities for the parent and child to do together.

MANURE AND ANTIBIOTICS

Traces of antibiotics are turning up in produce, according to a University of Minnesota study published in the *Journal of Environmental Quality*. Chlortetracycline is commonly added to animal feed as supplements to promote growth. Some of the antibiotic is passed out in the animal's manure, which might then be used as fertilizer or to improve soil. U researchers applied antibiotic tainted pig manure to soil growing corn, green onions, and cabbage. In each case small amounts of chlortetracycline were found in the vegetables—not on the outside or skin—and the amount increased with the concentration in the manure. Potential health risks include allergic reactions and an increase in resistant bacteria in people who eat the vegetables.

» Hot Topics

U experts and their world-renowned guests discuss the day's most important issues.

If you could sit down and have a conversation with anyone, who would it be?

That question is the impetus behind Great Conversations, a compelling lecture series that pairs renowned University of Minnesota faculty with their peers from around the world. Sponsored by the University's College of Continuing Education, the series embarks on its 2006 season February 28, when Deborah Swackhamer, professor of environmental health sciences and co-director of the Water Resources Research Institute at the U, sits down with David Schindler, professor of ecology at the University of Alberta and winner of the Volvo International Environmental Prize and the first Stockholm Water Prize. And the public gets to listen in.

Their topic is protecting water quality for future generations. "David is one of the most thoughtful aquatic scientists I've ever met," says Swackhamer, whose research focuses on contaminants in the environment. "His research has taken him from acid rain—he's one of the world's leading researchers on acid rain—to studying contaminants such as PCBs, dioxins and mercury in fish, and global-warming issues." Their conversation, she promises, will be equally as wide ranging.

Swackhamer will also engage Schindler on "the link between science and policy," she continues. "We both strongly believe in the 'precautionary principle,' which says if you have evidence to suggest there's a problem, one should be cautious and enact legislation to prevent problems based on a weight of evidence, not proof. The U.S. government, in general, legislates based on proof, whereas the European Union typically legislates on environmental issues based on the precautionary principle."

Swackhamer describes Schindler as a storyteller who gives such issues immediacy in people's personal lives. And he doesn't "sugarcoat things," she adds. "In Canada, David's been very forthright and visible in explicitly linking his science to policymakers. He feels strongly about having science inform policy and he doesn't suffer fools."

Since Great Conversations began in 2002, nearly 15,000



Deborah Swackhamer

Minnesotans have been privy to such front-line discussions about topics of contemporary concern. The program was initiated after focus groups around the state, many of which included alumni, requested "a high-profile lecture series that would provide the citizens of Minnesota with access to the research going on at the campus, while giving alums a way to remain engaged with the intellectual life of the campus," explains Margaret O'Neill Ligon, director of Personal Enrichment Programs at the College of Continuing Education.

Explorations of the links between academic research and public policy continue on March 28 with the topic of the future of affordable housing. Ann Forsyth, the Dayton Hudson Chair of Urban Design and director of the Metropolitan Design Center in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the U, welcomes Nicolas Retsinas, professor and director of Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. (Their discussion coincides with "The Home House Project: The Future of Affordable Housing" exhibition at the Weisman Art Museum; visit www.weisman.umn.edu.)

"Density is the issue that keeps me up at night," Forsyth says. "How can one develop more intensively and thus with more efficiency and with, hopefully, less environmental damage and a greater commitment to public life? Local policy is often at odds with this, and when policy supports urban intensification local residents are still hesitant to have higher den-

sity and affordable housing near them." Retsinas, who served as Federal Housing Commissioner during the Clinton administration, will bring national scope to the conversation. And as director of a center that conjoins "a design school and a policy school," Forsyth adds, "he also understands the role of design."

The next conversation, on rethinking our urban environment, takes place May 1. After the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, particularly on the communities of people who were unable to evacuate, policy makers and the public have been abuzz about the possibilities for creating sustainable and socially just communities in the Gulf Coast. Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer was not only prescient about the possibilities for tragedy in the areas hardest hit but has also provided clear ideas about how to rebuild.

Blumenauer, the founder of the House Livable Communities Task Force whom *The Washington Post* called "one of Congress's rare visionaries," will be the guest of Judith Martin, director of Urban Studies at the University and president of the Minneapolis Planning Commission. During this timely conversation, Martin says she hopes listeners gain a deeper understanding of how "cities and urban issues, while always changing, are worthy of serious attention, and that policy makers haven't given up on cities."

The series concludes on May 16, when Phyllis Moen, the University's McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Sociology and author of *The Career Mystique: Cracks in the American Dream*, talks with Marc Freedman, founder and president of Civic Ventures in San Francisco and author of *Prime Time: How Baby Boomers Will Revolutionize Retirement and Transform America*, about the forces reshaping the idea of retirement as we know it.

The Great Conversations events take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. SE, Minneapolis. Series tickets are \$95 (\$80 for UMAA members); individual event tickets are \$28.50 (\$23.50 for UMAA members). Call 612-624-2345.

—Camille LeFevre

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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University president Bob Bruininks led the education section of Governor Tim Pawlenty's 200-plus Minnesota delegation to China in November. With more than 8,000 Chinese alumni, the University claims the largest Chinese alumni group of any U.S. university. Three Chinese students studied at the University in 1914, before China closed to foreign influences, and University leaders were the first to reach out to potential students after the United States and China established full diplomatic relations in 1979.

The quality of the incoming freshman class at the University of Minnesota continues to improve, according to fall University enrollment data. On the Twin Cities campus, 73.8 percent of freshmen came from the top 25 percent of their high school class—up from 55.8 percent in 1995. The average ACT composite score continues a 15-year trend of improvement, reaching 25.14 (out of a possible 36) in the fall, up from 22.2 last year.

Applications to the Twin Cities campus for the fall 2005 freshman class increased to 20,576—up more than 2,000 from 2004. Over the past decade, freshman applications to the Twin Cities campus have increased by more than 70 percent, while the number of high school graduates in Minnesota has increased by only 20 percent. As of early December, applications for fall 2006 are up 30 percent over fall 2005. The U projects it will receive approximately 23,500 applications for a freshman class of 5,300.

University Regent Richard "Pinky" McNamara resigned from the Board of Regents in December for health reasons. McNamara (B.A. '56) gave a \$10 million gift to the U in 1998 to improve the undergraduate student experience in liberal arts and intercollegiate athletics and to help build the McNamara Alumni Center. Governor Pawlenty will appoint a replacement for McNamara, whose term expires in 2007.

University of Minnesota-Morris (UMM) was one of 11—and the only small town, liberal arts college—to win a grant from the federal government's Biomass Research and Development Initiative, a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE). UMM will invest its \$1.9 million award into promoting the adaptation of biomass systems across the state and nation. Researchers will work with six different types of biomass, or plant material, and the information obtained from test burns will be used to create the "biomass toolbox," which will include standard operating procedures, best-management practices, and templates for contracts and pricing structures. UMM also received a 2005 Green Power Leadership Award from the DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Center for Resource Solutions for its commitment to renewable energy, in particular its on-site generation of it.

Snowsweet is the University's newest hybrid apple. Patented under the name of University horticulturist Dave Wildung, the Snowsweet apple has been under development for



Free Speech

the past 30 years and features a rich, sweet flavor with hardiness comparable to the Honeycrisp, as well as a late-maturing characteristic like its parent apple, Fireside. About 80 percent of the apples produced in Minnesota are varieties that were developed at the University of Minnesota. University researchers have been breeding apples that can thrive in the harsh conditions of extremely cold winters and hot, dry summers for almost a century. Snowsweet trees will be available for commercial growers in spring 2006, and the fruit should appear in local orchards four to five years later.

Former president Bill Clinton waived his usual six-figure fee when he spoke at the University of Minnesota on November 5. The nearly 5,000 tickets were free, too, and were snatched up in 10 minutes. Clinton's appearance helped mark the 25th anniversary of the Distinguished Carlson Lecture Series, which brings to campus world-renowned speakers to discuss the day's most pressing issues. He covered a range of topics, including health care reform, tax cuts, terrorism, and U.S. foreign policy. The lecture series was made possible by a gift to the Humphrey Institute by the late Curt Carlson (B.A. '37) and continued by his daughter Marilyn Carlson Nelson. Visible behind Clinton are vice president Walter Mondale (B.A. '51, J.D. '56), left, and Humphrey Institute dean J. Brian Atwood.

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center will expand its breast cancer education and treatment programs for recent immigrants and low-income women in the Twin Cities metro area, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Hope Chest for Breast Cancer. Breast cancer is a leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States, with more than 180,000 new cases diagnosed each year. While two-thirds of the donation will go toward producing educational materials, the remainder will be used "to help underserved women who are undergoing breast cancer treatment and need assistance with expenses, such as groceries, utilities, rent, medication costs, and day care," says Susan Pappas-Varco, coordinator of the Breast Cancer Program at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview.

—Pauline Oo

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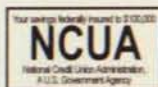
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Off the Shelf

Burning Grief

Torch opens with a woman being told she has less than a year to live. The woman, Teresa, dies less than halfway through the book. But Cheryl Strayed's debut novel is less about Teresa's dying than about its effects on surrounding lives.

It's a carefully observed, meticulously detailed study of the ways in which members of an ordinary family cope—or fail to cope—with loss, how each person carries a personal torch of grief.

To say that Teresa's grown (or nearly grown) children, Claire and Joshua, and common-law husband, Bruce, don't handle things well is an understatement. In chapters that alternate among their points of view, the three spin off into wild orbits, acting on impulses they barely understand, unintentionally hurting each other and themselves. Claire ends a steady relationship, has sex with casual acquaintances. Joshua drops out of high school and starts dealing drugs. Bruce contemplates suicide, then instead jumps into an impetuous marriage.

The three love each other but, by hiding their actions and feelings, deprive themselves of the comfort they might have found in sharing their grief. Each remains wary, resentful, stubbornly closed off:

"Claire could feel Bruce watching her, waiting for her to say something, to press the subject harder, so the entire truth would come out. To do what she now realized she always did with him, and with Joshua too, to ask and ask until he said whatever it was he was too afraid to say all by himself. But she wouldn't, she couldn't. This was going to be a normal birthday party."

Though speculating about a novel's autobiographical elements isn't always appropriate, in this case it's hard to avoid; Strayed (B.A. '97) has written acclaimed personal essays (two were published in the 2000 and 2003 *Best American Essays* series) about her mother's death and what she called "the other griefs" that followed. Strayed's background and family circumstances bear some resemblance to those described in her novel, suggesting that Claire is based, at least loosely, on the author. Yet she is able to view her male characters with equal insight, making them complex and authentic, their actions understandable if ill-advised.

On the other hand, the behavior of Strayed's fictional counterpart, though not entirely stable, is tamer than that of her essays' presumably factual narrator, who confesses to outrageously self-destructive acts (heroin use, recklessly promiscuous sex). Compared to the essays, the novel's tone is calmer, more controlled, more reasoned, more mature—so much so that, indeed, the fictional version of events is actually more plausible. But this restraint also has the effect of flattening the emotional peaks, and I found myself missing the essays' jagged, alarming intensity.

Still, the mood of *Torch* is hardly light. To be honest, I was halfway through an advance copy last summer when Hurricane Katrina hit, and amid all that depressing real-life news I had to set the book aside for a while. There are no moments of real levity, few scenes untouched by the shadow of mourning. It's a compelling tale, but downbeat almost to the end, when it gestures toward the prospect of an imperfect healing.

—Katy Read



Torch
By Cheryl Strayed
(B.A. '97)
Houghton Mifflin, 2006

Bookmarks

No Ordinary Joe: A Life of Joseph Pulitzer III

By Daniel Pfaff (Ph.D. '72)
University of Missouri Press, 2005

A professor emeritus of journalism at Penn State University, Pfaff provides an insightful look at the life and career of Joseph Pulitzer III (1913–93), following his father and grandfather as editor and publisher of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The author had exclusive access to correspondence and records and conducted interviews with more than 70 people who knew or worked with Pulitzer, known best for maintaining his newspaper's journalistic independence and chairing the Pulitzer Prize Board.

On the Ice

Gretchen Legler (Ph.D. '94)
Milkweed Editions, 2005

Legler spent a season in Antarctica, sent to research and observe the landscape. Instead, when she



arrived at McMurdo Station, she found a collection of people from all walks of life—from carpenters to bankers—who went to the vast, harsh continent to escape their problems. Legler counts herself

among them, having recently divorced, come out as a lesbian, and suffered a breakup with another woman.

Real Karaoke People
By Ed Bok Lee (B.A. '93)
New Rivers Press, 2005

Winner of the Many Voices Project Award, Lee's debut collection of poems and prose juxtapose cultures, traditions, classes, continents, immigrant experiences, and radically diverse settings with vivid and sensitive imagery.



Using History

Photographs by Greta Pratt (B.F.A. '84)
Essays by Rennard Strickland and
Karal Ann Marling
Steidl, 2005

Pratt's collection of more than 65 photographs is both a truthful and sardonic documentation of America's living history. In her travels, she has come across and made pictures of icons and attitudes: Civil War reenactments, nine Abraham Lincolns traveling in a log-cabin motorhome, Mount Rushmore on a soda machine, a frontier woman next to an outhouse, and numerous costumed characters depicting Native Americans and the wild West. Marling, one of the book's essayists, is a professor of art history and American studies at the University.

What's Out There

By Mary K. Baumann (B.A. '73),
Will Hopkins, Lorelee Nolletti,
and Michael Soluri
Duncan Baird Publishers, 2005

Alumna Baumann wrote and produced this dictionary of "images from here to the edge of the universe." From asteroids

to WMAP, this resource includes more than 180 stunning photographs, including nebulas, molecular clouds, surfaces of the planets, an eclipse, and views of Earth. The book is not only visually beautiful, the text is informa-

tive and accessible, with commentary to explain the images, data, and facts, and information from astronomy sources from around the world. The foreword is written by Stephen Hawking.

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



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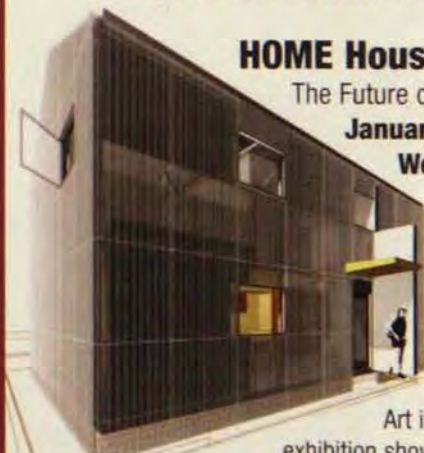


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Matryoshka Dolls

A woman comes to understand something about mothers.

My niece was playing in the bathtub, having the time of her 4-year-old life. Her mother, my sister, had her hands full with the other kids, so I hollered out that I'd get Marie out of the tub. Marie looked up at me from the tepid water and coolly informed me, "But only my mom knows how to wrap me in the towel right."

I told her I'd do my best and would bring her immediately to her mother so any mistakes could be corrected. She was right, I don't have children of my own, so what do I know about wrapping towels around a shivering, rubbery, freshly bathed child? I am not part of the infinite matryoshka nesting-doll chain of humanity—someone's daughter giving way to another daughter giving way to another daughter. . . .

Over the past 20-some years, my family has become infested by these creatures—the offspring of my four brothers and sisters. Each of my four siblings has several children, maintaining a steady inventory of babies. These 12 boys and girls, from infants to young adults, fascinate and baffle me. Each one seems to be fully mammalian, yet also an alien of sorts who was invited sight unseen to be in our family. It's like ordering mystery gifts from the Lillian Vernon catalog. It advertises: "For \$5.95 we'll send a surprise gift selected especially for you!" And you wait with great anticipation for your package but have no idea what it will be.

I watch this bumper crop of my family, these newly minted humans who have redefined us as a family, and my proprietary claims come in strong and unwieldy doses. I make up arbitrary and stringent rules, which I think I can enforce. I demand that my nieces wear turtlenecks under their strapless prom dresses, and I get pangs of sadness when my nephews become too cool to hug me.

I make up arbitrary and stringent rules, which I think I can enforce. I demand that my nieces wear turtlenecks under their strapless prom dresses, and I get pangs of sadness when my nephews become too cool to hug me.

And like most every family, ours has an overbearing maiden aunt. Me. I insist on kissing them all every time I see them and I get lipstick on their cheeks, which I then rub off briskly, and I give them pennies out of my purse, even the 21-year-old. They bring

out in me a maternalism I didn't even know I had. I have known for some time that I cannot have children—if I want to sleep late. Adoption is always a possibility, but I could only seriously consider adopting someone in their late 20s or early 30s. (And if they could live elsewhere and support themselves, why, that would be an ideal scenario.)

My mother can remember each of her five pregnancies and labors. I find the thought of pregnancy and childbirth both spellbinding and, well, dreadful. I am fascinated that women even walk after giving birth. I would insist on a wheelchair for at least 10 years afterward; in fact, I would probably move into assisted living. In a conversation we've had many times over the years, I tell my mother that what I'm really afraid of is the pain.

Every time, she says, "Oh, but you forget about the pain right away."

Every time, she adds, "And besides, millions of women have done it for millions of years."

And every time, I say, "That doesn't make it right."

My mother had a heart attack a few years ago. A minor heart attack, as they go; in fact, when EMTs transferred her from one hospital to another, she implored the ambulance driver to stop at a local Sam's Club for its grand opening—it was the only day you could get a free membership.

In the years since then, she's followed doctor's orders to the letter. But after a routine checkup last year, a nurse from the clinic called the night

BY MARY JO PEHL // ILLUSTRATION BY KARINA DAISAY

before Thanksgiving and left a message on the answering machine to the effect that things didn't look very good on the latest echocardiogram. The nurse concluded with a chipper: "Now, don't let this information ruin your holiday weekend!"

It ruined our holiday weekend.

We tried to wrestle the vague, ominous information into something manageable. My brother, a nurse, tried to decipher the message. A family friend, a doctor, tried to allay my mother's fears. And despite my advanced medical training as a committed viewer of *ER*, I, too, was at a loss to ease her worries. She'd been feeling wonderful and taking good care of herself, and in an instant she was practically poring over casket catalogs.

Later that night, my mother sat in her recliner staring

at a book and trying fiercely not to cry. Finally, she set the book down and heaved out between her sobs, "I'm just not ready to say goodbye to the grandchildren."

For the first time in my often dimly lit life, I saw my mother as someone's daughter who had given way to this daughter. I suddenly saw myself as a baby in her arms once. She had labored alone, in the days before fathers were allowed in the delivery room. Did she wonder what creature I was going to be? Was it then that she finally relinquished her dream of becoming a champion figure skater, now that she and my father were supporting three kids—with two more to follow—and struggling each month to make the \$94 mortgage payment?

Her health scare was a false alarm that required only a routine and minor change in medications. Months later,

I watched my mother with the latest baby. She is expert in the way she handles newborns, with one hand cradling the head and the other hand under the body so the baby faces her. She talks in a low, murmuring cooing voice, nose to nose with the infant. The baby fixes on my mother, riveted, and there is a lock between the two of them as if my mother is doing some sweet voodoo. The baby coos and flails her scrawny limbs and never takes her gaze away from my mother's lovely face. At that moment, they are the only two people in the world, and I am watching my mother's special magic.

Though it's been decades, only she knew how to wrap me in a towel right, and after each bath she'd patiently comb out my freshly washed hair. She would turn me around as I stood at her knees, fluffing up my white-blond hair with her elegant fingers, and every time she would say, "It dries nicer this way."

My niece knows her towel-wrapping mother for the artisan she is. ■

Mary Jo Pebl, an administrative assistant in the University Senate office, wrote for and acted in the sci-fi comedy series Mystery Science Theater 3000. Her book, I Lived With My Parents and Other Tales of Terror, was published in 2004.



What It Means to Miss New Orleans

New Orleans is a magical place—one of great complexity and contradictions. It is a city of elegance and old family wealth, of illiteracy and the most abject poverty. And despite the tourists who can't always hold their liquor, and the young women who expose their breasts on Bourbon Street in exchange for cheap plastic beads, there is a charm about New Orleans that stays with you. I can't put my finger on it, but I can feel it. I can photograph it. It's a soulful place, evident in the people, the food, the architecture, and the very texture of the city itself. Once it possesses you, you can never shake it loose. I've spent the better part of the past 10 years trying to capture that soul in my photographs.

New Orleans is much more than the French Quarter, or Jazz Fest, or Mardi Gras. It's a place where it's acceptable to call someone—man or woman, even a stranger—"baby," and it's not harassment, but affection. It's a place where many folks need only the slightest excuse to dance in the streets, where local musicians are often considered heroes, and where, when you die, friends have a parade in your honor, complete with brass band. It's a place where hot sauce and Cajun spices are a staple on every dinner table, where we eat crawfish by the ton, and where we express lament for the rest of the nation for whom Mardi Gras is just another Tuesday in February. It's where the culture is a gumbo of spices taken from the history of black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight.

There is magic here. And if you listen really hard, you can almost hear Louis Armstrong singing in the distance:

Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans
And miss it each night and day
I know I'm not wrong . . . this feeling's gettin' stronger
The longer, I stay away
Miss them moss covered vines . . . the tall sugar pines
Where mockin' birds used to sing
And I'd like to see that lazy Mississippi . . . hurryin' into spring

Hurricane Katrina made landfall in southeast Louisiana on Monday, August 29. At noon the Friday before, she was a Category 2 hurricane heading to Apalachicola, Florida. The 10 o'clock news that evening reported she was a Category 4 coming right at New Orleans. Overnight she grew into a Category 5, with maximum sustained winds of almost 175 miles an hour.

My partner, Susanne Dietzel, and I have lived in New Orleans since 1994, and I've always stayed to cover hurricanes for a variety of media outlets, from the *New York Times* to the European Press-



Top: The Louisiana swamp exhibit at the Audubon Zoo

Bottom: The weekly crawfish boil at Vaughan's Lounge, May 2003

Top right: A voodoo ceremony in the Bywater neighborhood to ward off hurricanes, June 1998. Two months later, Hurricane Georges was on a course to hit New Orleans but veered off at the last minute, sparing the city any major damage.

Bottom right: Peggy Pace (right) celebrates her 49th birthday at Galatoire's on Bourbon Street, January 25, 2002. Pace is a member of the Galatoire Gals, who celebrate birthdays over lunch at the historic French Quarter restaurant. The birthday gal picks the color everyone wears. Kim Sport is in the foreground.





Top: Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford at his house in New Orleans, January 2002

Bottom: Gothic writer Poppy Z. Brite, author of *Exquisite Corpse* and other novels, in the greenhouse behind her home on Napoleon Avenue in 1996

Right: Australian-born painter Simon Gunning works on a canvas of the Mississippi River in his Faubourg Marigny studio in 1998. The landscape artist has focused on painting scenes along the Mississippi River for more than 10 years.

photo Agency. There were Erin and Opal in 1995, Danny in 1997, Isidore and Lili in 2002, Ivan in 2004. The locals still talk about Betsy, the last hurricane to make a direct hit on New Orleans, in 1965, and Camille, which devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1969. The last major close call in New Orleans was in 1998, when Hurricane Georges struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but we've all been talking about the Big One for years.

I had never evacuated before. There was, however, something about Katrina that convinced me we needed to leave immediately. Plus, we have a 4-year-old daughter now. We beat the traffic out of the city, leaving Saturday afternoon and driving to Jackson, Mississippi, 200 miles north to stay with my father's widow. We took our daughter (Uma Rae), two cars, our 14-year-old cat, and three changes of clothes. We left almost everything else behind. We thought we'd be back by Tuesday. Everyone did.

I did take my laptop and all of my digital files from the last four years. But I wasn't thinking. I left my desktop computer, duplicate slides from long-term projects, years of negatives in boxes on the floor, and my most important work in safe deposit boxes in a downtown New Orleans bank.



Almost as soon as we reached Jackson, I had this dreadful feeling that I was about to lose the bulk of my life's work and there was nothing I could do but watch it on television.

At first it appeared that New Orleans had been spared. Katrina took a slight jog to the east Monday morning, reserving her wrath for the Mississippi Gulf Coast communities of Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, and Long Beach. On Monday morning, I spoke to a friend who had ridden out the storm in New Orleans. He said he could feel his whole house shaking, but the eye had already moved north and the worst seemed to be over. Then the levees broke, communications failed, and all hell broke loose.

Katrina hit Jackson Monday night as a strong tropical storm. We lost power for a week and so were spared

the insanity that others had to endure on television. But we didn't know if we would have anything to go back to. The *New York Times* reported that our neighborhood, the Bywater, was under 12 feet of water. But we had no way of knowing for sure. On the neighborhood blogs on the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* Web site people reported that certain intersections were dry or that water was here but not there. Then came the satellite images, which showed that the floodwaters had stopped a block from our house.

The realization that we had apparently lost nothing, coming on the heels of believing we had lost everything, seemed a miracle. But it was also bittersweet, knowing that there were many, many friends who did lose everything.

At first I was not ready to go back. The tragic conditions



at the Superdome and the convention center weighed heavily on me. I didn't want to see what had befallen our city. But I could not sit still either. So I started in Jackson, picking up a few assignments for the *Jackson Free Press*, the local alternative paper. Then I headed to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for a few days. The devastation was almost beyond words. I have been covering the news for more than 20 years, yet I had never seen anything like this. Entire communities were simply gone.

It wasn't for another five days, until September 8, that I actually got into New Orleans. I had been trading text messages with my friend Lori Waselchuk (B.A. '89), also a University of Minnesota graduate, who had recently returned to Baton Rouge after spending 10 years working as a photojournalist in South Africa. Lori told me to come to Baton Rouge that night and that we'd go into the city together first thing in the morning. Tyrone Turner, a former staff photographer for the *Times-Picayune*, now

shooting for *National Geographic*, was camped out at Lori's as well. The two of them had convinced me to move to New Orleans a decade earlier.

The next day, with Tyrone at the wheel, we made the 70-mile drive down Interstate 10, passing the bayous and oil refineries into the Crescent City. We breezed through the checkpoints with Tyrone's press credentials. The scene was surreal. Here were the familiar landmarks, some standing, others damaged, yet clearly everything was different.

We drove straight through the French Quarter and down Chartres Street into my neighborhood and drove up to my house. Except for the markings left by the search and rescue crew, it looked almost untouched. We immediately encountered a patrol of soldiers from the Oregon National Guard and followed them through the neighborhood as they tried to convince some holdouts to leave. We returned together again the next day. And I went again, by myself, the day after. Assignments began to come in the





weeks that followed, and I began commuting back and forth from Jackson. My work became my therapy. It was the only way for me to make any sense of a situation that made no sense at all.

In the three months after Katrina, I photographed many of the neighborhoods of New Orleans, wandering down the familiar streets of the Lower Ninth Ward, Gentilly, Lakeview, and St. Bernard Parish. They were almost beyond description. I ran into a Louisiana Army National

Guardsman who perhaps put it best. I met him on the levee at the 17th Street Canal, not far from a breach that caused much of the flooding. He had just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, and as he took photographs with a small digital camera, I welcomed him home and asked how New Orleans compared to his year in Baghdad. He shook his head. "Well," he said, "nobody's shooting at us here."

I'd spend four or five days in New Orleans, then return to Jackson for the weekend. On Sunday evening, I'd be

Top left: Members of the Krewe of St. Anne celebrate at the Mississippi River on Mardi Gras Day 2000.

Bottom left: Hayes Williams is greeted by his niece Lakeithia Thompson (left) and daughter Wanda Jackson in front of the Federal Court House in New Orleans on May 15, 1997. Williams was released from prison after serving 30 years at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola for a murder he did not commit.

Top: Mr. Charlie dances to the music of Bill Shanka Harp and Soul at the Delta Blues Bar and Grill in March 2004.

Right: Jazz funeral and second-line parade for jazz musician Freddie Kemp, June 1997.





back on the road to Louisiana. In mid-September, I moved into a friend's house across the river in the Algiers neighborhood. By mid-October I was back in the Bywater, staying in our house. The power and water had been restored, and the gas, too, if you wanted to turn it on. The phones were still dead, however, and cell phone coverage was spotty at best. Susanne and Uma Rae remained in Jackson. New Orleans was no place for children yet.

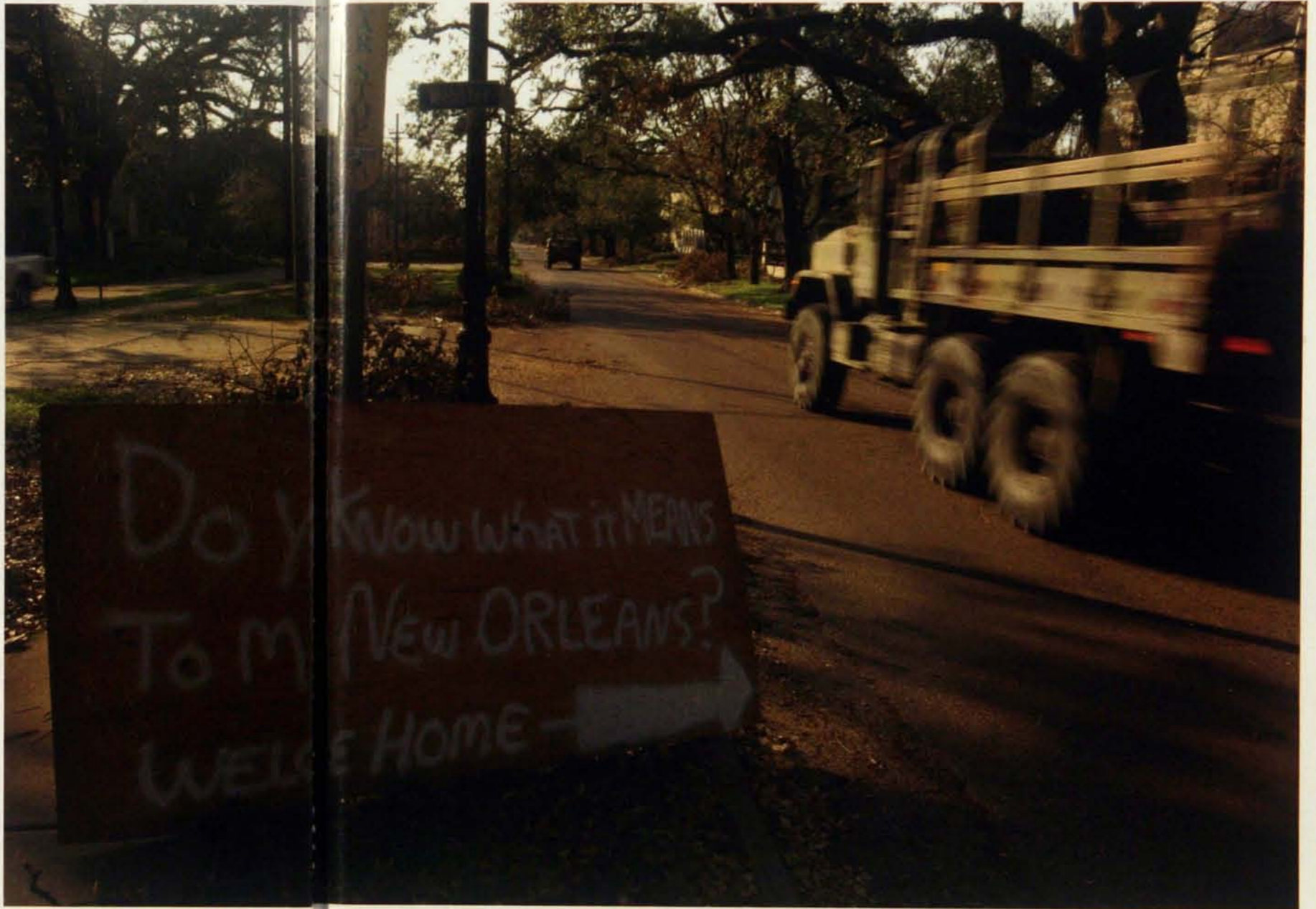
Even though our house is not in a neighborhood that had been officially re-opened, people began to trickle back. Sugar Park Tavern, which makes the best pizza in town, was open down the street. All of the bars had opened up as well. Although a curfew remained in effect, it appeared to be rarely enforced, and people hung out on the streets. You'd see old friends, wave to the passing patrols of the National Guard, and sit down on the curb to catch up. There were reunions and long hugs. Everyone had a hurricane story. Always there was laughter mixed with the tears and the grief.



Top: Search and rescue along Humanity Street in the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans, September 2005

Bottom: Mardi Gras masks in the mud in Arabi, Louisiana, near the Orleans-St. Bernard Parish line, September 2005

Right: Military convoy along St. Charles Avenue in uptown New Orleans, September 2005



In the weeks and months following Katrina, there has been finger pointing, pleas to businesses and residents to return, and calls to rebuild the city and the levees. Now the question becomes, *Whose* New Orleans will rise from the ashes?

The old New Orleans had problems, many of which were simply not being addressed. And perhaps we were all living on borrowed time. Now, with entire communities of color substantially damaged, there is concern that New Orleans will be rebuilt as a "Disneyland for white people." We will have no part of that. There existed in the city a delicate balance between the worlds of black and white, middle class and working class, gay and straight. These worlds often intersected in our day-to-day lives, and at its best the city offered a glimpse of what a truly multicultural community can look like.

"Do you like living in New Orleans?" my friends from around the country have asked over the years, before Katrina. "Do you think you'll stay?"

My answer has always been the same: "Where do you move *to* from New Orleans?" New York? It's just a little too hurried, a little too competitive. San Francisco? I don't have a million dollars. Los Angeles? Far too pretentious. Berlin? Maybe some day. But for now, I would tell my friends, we'll stay in New Orleans until the Big One washes us away. ■

David Rae Morris (M.A. '91) was born in Oxford, England, and grew up in New York City. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1982 from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. His thesis, "Viet Vet: The Face of Vietnam Veterans Ten Years after the War," a series of portraits and oral histories, was widely exhibited for many years. In 1983, he moved to the South and began working for newspapers in Mississippi and Tennessee. In 1988, he followed his girlfriend, now long-term partner, Susanne Dietzel (Ph.D. '96), to the University of Minnesota, where he earned his master's in journalism and mass communication. He and Dietzel moved to Louisiana in the summer of 1994. They moved to the Bywater a year later. In 2000, he published the book *My Mississippi*, collaborating with his late father, noted writer Willie Morris.



David Rae Morris with Susanne Dietzel and their daughter, Uma Rae, in Jackson, Mississippi, the day after Hurricane Katrina

Dietzel and Uma Rae are now back in New Orleans with Morris, who has continued to photograph the aftermath of Katrina. Forty-two of his post-Katrina photographs are in an exhibit titled "Do You Know What It Means?" at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans. In addition, the museum recently published *Missing New Orleans*, a book about lost New Orleans landmarks that includes a 24-page epilogue featuring Morris's photographs. More of his work can be seen at www.davidraemorris.com.

Culture Critic

For more than 50 years, **Professor David Noble** has studied the uniquely American civilization.

A

about 10 years ago, David Noble's colleagues in the American studies department anticipated the professor's retirement by creating the David Noble Lecture, an annual event in his honor. They were a bit premature; their 80-year-old colleague is still teaching a full course load at the University of Minnesota, serving on doctoral dissertation committees, and writing books about a culture he's been studying for over half a century. ■ As a teacher, Noble was among the first 15 faculty members to earn the Morse-Alumni Award, the University's top honor for outstanding teaching. As an academic, Noble's oft-cited work has earned him widespread acclaim. George Lipsitz, a former colleague at the University, marvels at the continuing impact of Noble's 10 books and other writings. "Many of those who know him and his work today are the most junior members of the profession, young scholars who view Noble as one of the few people in his generation . . . alert to the new possibilities emerging from contemporary contradictions and conflicts," Lipsitz wrote in the foreword to Noble's 2002 book, *Death of a Nation*. ■ One of the earliest contributors to a discipline born in the 1930s, Noble is now in his 53rd year of teaching at the University and continues to enjoy sharing his knowledge.

Q: Did American studies have to earn legitimacy in academia, or was it respected from its inception?

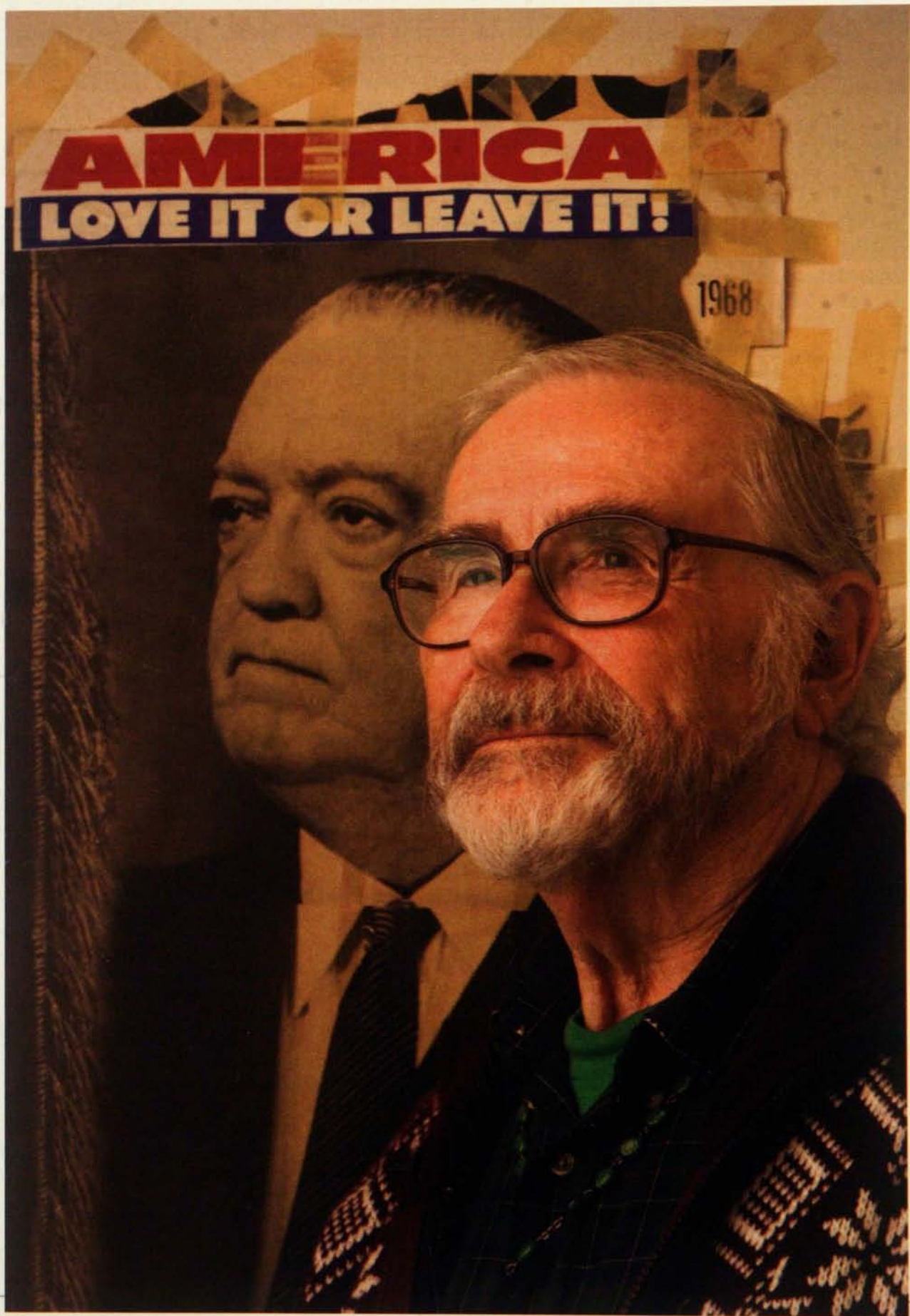
A: The first American studies programs were started as "American civilization" programs in the Ivy League universities in the 1930s. Heretics in English and history departments were coming together to create those American civilization programs. Legitimacy came from the fact that there was such a sense that World War I, as an experiment in internationalism, was a terrible failure and a terrible mistake. Academics wanted to reassert American autonomy and, in a sense, to give greater dignity to that autonomy by calling it an "American civilization." There's a complex conflict between the majority of people who wanted to keep disciplinary boundaries

and those who wanted to create American civilization programs to define that we weren't European.

Ironically, by the 1970s it became easier in these experimental American studies programs to begin to emphasize the transnational character of American culture—easier than within the boundaries of English or history departments. I felt more freedom in American studies to be critical of a tradition of an isolated American history, which continued to be characteristic of history textbooks coming on down into the 1960s and 1970s.

Q: Some have criticized American studies for scholarship that rarely recognizes anything positive in the contributions of white, Protestant, heterosexual men. Does Ameri-

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“THERE WAS SUCH A SENSE THAT WORLD WAR I, AS AN EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONALISM, WAS A TERRIBLE FAILURE AND A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. ACADEMICS WANTED TO REASSERT AMERICAN AUTONOMY AND, IN A SENSE, TO GIVE GREATER DIGNITY TO THAT AUTONOMY BY CALLING IT AN ‘AMERICAN CIVILIZATION.’”

can studies devalue majority culture?

A: What I see us doing is saying “both/and.” Americans or Germans or French or anybody are human beings who are *both* constructive *and* destructive, both good and bad, committed to both liberty and power. Critics thinking in “either/or” terms see the saintly United States or a profane United States. Rather, what we’re presenting is a United States where there is both good and evil, both constructive and destructive activity, and both power and liberty.

I think what we’re doing is giving a balanced picture of the fact that the history of the United States is not just that of liberty, it’s also that of power. And this is both within the U.S., where dominant people have exercised power over dominated people, and in the external world, where the U.S. as a world power has exercised power in the world.

Q: You’ve taught a seminar on the political correctness debate. What is your perspective on that debate?

A: I still see the political correctness debate within a larger pattern of culture wars. The major moment of political correctness was the late ’80s, early ’90s, when conservatives—those who adhere to established patterns and resist abrupt change—saw academics as trying to impose a pattern on under-

graduates, that undergraduates *had* to see that there were a variety of cultures in the United States, they *had* to see that there was an unequal relationship among those cultures.

The conservatives, from my perspective, never looked at their own viewpoint, with its roots in the 1940s, as being politically correct; they just assumed that their viewpoint was neutral, that it was objective. But what they were implicitly saying is that only male Anglo-Protestants had enough dignity to be put in textbooks, or only novels written by male Anglo-Protestants had enough dignity to be put in canons of American literature.

Assuming the neutrality and objectivity of that viewpoint diverted attention from the analysis of the liberals or so-called radicals of the 1960s to the 1980s who wanted, in a sense, to say, “Look at how much political power is being used to exclude all of these people from textbooks or to exclude the writings of all of these other groups of Americans from being considered in American literature.”

We were trying to see to it that courses in American literature were multicultural or that courses in American history were multicultural. We were talked about then as totalitarian in trying to force the teaching of multiplicity, but this way of framing the debate hid the fact that the patterns

of the 1940s were very totalitarian in terms of how tightly the boundaries were guarded.

Q: In *Death of a Nation* you examined the end of U.S. exceptionalism, which was marked by the idea of an isolated, homogenous nation. Why did you choose that topic?

A: In my own field of American studies, the vestiges of exceptionalism lasted into the 1950s. Much of my generation and subsequent generations converted to the idea of the nation as part of a larger community economically, politically, and culturally. There's the breakdown of that vision of homogenous, national culture, the recognition that there are always, within each nation, a variety of local cultures. This all occurred in my lifetime, which has made it very interesting to be a scholar of American studies, to move away from that vision of an autonomous nation with a homogenous culture to visualizing a nation involved in transnational patterns of vibrant, local cultures. It's been a fun 50 years to be a teacher and a student of American studies.

Q: You could have retired a decade or two ago. Why, at 80 years old, have you decided to remain a full-time faculty member?

A: I find this experience so fascinating. I have no idea where my field is going to go. One side wants to imagine a flattening out into a kind of universal global culture. The other side of the debate wants to retain local cultures.

I'm writing a book now that tries to look at the larger implications of this partial shift from what I call the national landscape to the global landscape or global marketplace, to see how this is played out in three academic areas: economics, literary criticism, and ecology. Every day I'm reading for the book I'm learning things and speculating how these patterns interrelate with one another.

I have a bad back and I couldn't play golf anyway. I would rather play with scholarly materials than play golf.

Q: Thirty years from now, when the chair of the American studies department at the University introduces the speaker for the David Noble Lecture and explains your contributions to the field, what would you like him or her to say?

A: That I questioned both departmental boundaries and the whole, awful compartmentalization of culture, which kept people from being able to

understand the culture that they were within and the complexity and contradictions and debates that were going on in the culture.

I would like to be seen as a Don Quixote who tilted at the windmills of both departmental and national fragmentation of culture. ■

Danny LaChance is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

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A Place for Women

Articulate and outspoken, Ada Comstock advanced women's higher education concerns at the University of Minnesota and beyond.

By Tim Brady

I

n November 1940, Ada Louise Comstock, president of Radcliffe College, returned to the University of Minnesota for the dedication of the second women's dormitory ever to be built on campus. Named in her honor, Comstock Hall opened its doors three decades after the inaugural women's residence, Sanford Hall, had been constructed with the guidance and support of the then-dean of women students at the University of Minnesota: Comstock herself.



Ada Comstock circa 1881, at about age 5

It was only fitting that Comstock be chosen for the honor. Few American women in the first half of the 20th century had such a distinguished career in academic administration, few past female students of the University of Minnesota had a more successful professional life than this native of Moorhead, and no early administrator at the U did more than Comstock to strengthen the state of women at the U and to secure for them a place—both in a literal and figurative sense—on

the campus of the University of Minnesota.

The campus had changed in her absence. The student body had grown significantly, and so had the number of young women at the U. Twenty-four years old when she began teaching at Minnesota, Comstock would later describe herself as “hardly older than the students.” She was tall and good-humored and had a self-confidence boosted by dint of the fact that she was the apple of her father's eye. “My father thought I was perfect from the day I was born,” Comstock would later tell a researcher. “My mother had no such illusions.”

Ada Comstock arrived at the U of M in 1892 as a bright 16-year-old freshman, the daughter of a successful lawyer and politician from the western prairies (Solomon G. Comstock served many years in the state legislature and one term in the U.S. Congress). She roomed with the family of an

old friend of her father's, Dean William Pattee of the Law School, and spent two years on the campus before moving on to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1897.

Comstock came back to Minnesota after graduation to earn another diploma—a teaching certificate from Moorhead Normal—before returning to the east in 1898. At Columbia University now, Comstock took a master's in English history and education, after which she headed once more to Minnesota, this time to assume her first academic position: teaching English composition at the University of Minnesota under the watchful eye of the chair of the Department of Rhetoric, the venerable Maria Sanford.

As a young instructor, Comstock entertained a number of suitors—none of whom won her hand—and chafed at the occasionally overbearing presence of the department chair, Miss Sanford.

She taught five classes a day, and aside from the duties incumbent with those labors, quickly became an advocate for the wants and needs of the female students at the U. The most pressing of these was for space that women on campus could call their own.

In the early days of the University, when female students numbered in the dozens, a lounge had been set aside for their use in Old Main. By the turn of the century, when the number of women on campus were in the hundreds, that one room remained the only meeting area on campus that was exclusively theirs.

A Women's League formed at the U soon after Comstock's return to Minneapolis, with the expressed goal of trying to create a meeting place for women at the U—one that would, in Comstock's words, “bring women students together in freer companionship.” When Old Main burned in 1904, the need for this new facility turned even more urgent.



MOORHEAD, MINN.
 1892
 Flaten

Ada Comstock (on left) circa 1892, at about age 16, with five friends in Moorhead, Minnesota

Ada Comstock soon became instrumental to league efforts, particularly in lobbying the president of the U, Cyrus Northrop, to steer funds donated by Thomas Shevlin away from the construction of a chemistry building and toward the making of a women's center. Her efforts were successful, and in 1906 ground was broken for Shevlin Hall, which soon became *the* place on campus for women to dine, socialize, study, and meet.

Comstock's obvious gifts for advocacy on behalf of the female students of the University subsequently led to her appointment as the first dean of women at the U, in 1907. This was not only a new role at the University but in higher education across the country. Just a handful of deans of women existed at state universities, and Ada Comstock quickly took on a leadership role in a national organization that formed among them.

She also set her sights toward a next great quest for the women of Minnesota: a dormitory. At the time Comstock became the dean of women, there were more than 1,000 female students at the U and the majority of them lived in Minneapolis boarding homes. While many male students also lived in area boarding houses, young, Victorian-age women put their reputations, if not their well-being, at risk for doing the same thing. There were a few sorority houses near campus as well, but Comstock was not a big

fan of these ("Unless carefully regulated they often become such centers of gaiety as to be dangerous to the health and scholarship of those who live in them"). Simply put, the off-campus circumstances of women at the University were not, in her opinion, conducive to promoting collegial life. "A woman student at the University might live in complete isolation, gleaning from the college life only the benefits of the class-room," wrote Comstock, "or she might, if she were unfortunate in her choice of lodging house, suffer an absolute loss in refinement and in standards of behavior."

Again, Comstock's lobbying efforts, both at the Uni-

In her early days at the U, Comstock visited the editor-in-chief of a Minneapolis paper "to beg him sometimes to refer to women of the University of Minnesota by another term than coeds; and to write about their activities in a vein which was not facetious. He laughed at me, I remember; and I haven't any recollection that my plea was ever seriously considered."



versity and now at the state legislature, were crucial for the creation of the U's first dormitory. In 1909, the state appropriated \$100,000 for the construction of Sanford Hall and building began that very year. (Pioneer Hall, the first dorm for male students, was built in 1930.) The executive board



Ada Comstock with her husband, Yale professor emeritus Wallace Notestein, circa 1948. They married after she retired from Radcliffe in 1943.

of the all-female Student Government Association of the University of Minnesota—another innovation fostered by Comstock—expressed its

thanks to Ada Louise Comstock through *The Shevlin Record*: “We are to have a girl’s dormitory at Minnesota,” the paper announced. “For her untiring work in procuring it, we as a board, which represents the girls whom it will benefit, thank Miss Comstock. We appreciate her friendship, her kindly assistance and advice during the year that is past.”

Comstock continued to work on their behalf, finding scholarship funding for some students to help defray the costs of living in the dormitory, and pushing for the construction of a women’s gymnasium to help meet the health and recreation needs of her students.

In this second goal, she was not successful. Nor was she able to convince some male members of the community to take seriously the goals and aspirations of the female students of the University of Minnesota. At that 1940 dedication ceremony, Comstock gave a speech in which she recalled her early days at the U. It was a time when “the effort of women for higher education was still regarded as more or less a humorous thing, and occasion for jokes.” She recalled visiting the editor-in-chief of one of the Minneapolis papers “to beg him sometimes to refer to women of the University of Minnesota by another term than coeds; and to write about their activities in a vein which was not facetious. He laughed at me, I remember; and I haven’t any recollection that my plea was ever seriously considered.”

By 1912, her last year at the U, Ada Comstock had earned a stellar reputation, not just at the University but in aca-

demie circles around the United States. When her alma mater, Smith College, came calling, wanting to appoint her to its own brand-new deanship, she couldn’t resist. Despite the entreaties of the new president at Minnesota, George Vincent, Comstock decided to head east, mainly because “she always loved taking a new job . . . and building it.”

She would work at Smith for the next nine years, including one in which she served as the college’s unofficial acting president—the trustees refused to grant her the official title because of her gender. Perhaps not surprisingly under these circumstances, she moved to Radcliffe in 1923, to become president of that college, a post she would hold for the next 20 years. Here again, Comstock’s talents for negotiation and administration were instrumental. She was able to secure for Radcliffe its status as a sister school to a reluctant Harvard; at the same time, she promoted Radcliffe’s standing as an independent women’s college, by expanding the graduate program and launching a nationwide admissions program.

In addition to her academic work, Comstock was elected the first president of the American Association of University Women in 1921; she was the only woman selected to serve on the National Commission of Law Observance and Enforcement (known as the Wickersham Commission), where, among other duties, she counseled for a repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, which had established prohibition; and she was a vice chair of the Institute of Pacific Relations, an organization for which she reported on the Manchurian crisis of the 1930s, in the wake of the Japanese invasion of that country.

When Comstock retired from Radcliffe in 1943, at the age of 67, she surprised almost everyone who knew her by marrying an old friend whom she’d first met at the University of Minnesota more than 30 years earlier. Wallace Notestein had been a young instructor in history at the U of M when they first courted. He was an emeritus professor at Yale when he and Ada were finally married. They lived out the remaining years of their lives together in New Haven.

After Comstock died in 1973 at the age of 97, she was honored by Smith College in the form of the Ada Comstock Scholars Program, a prestigious program which helps fund nontraditional students at Smith. At the University of Minnesota, Comstock Hall remains as a reminder of Ada Comstock’s work on this campus and elsewhere.

In addition, this past fall, the University of Minnesota instituted the Ada Comstock Distinguished Lecture Series. These free lectures, held twice a year, will honor the exceptional research, scholarship, and leadership of female University of Minnesota faculty by featuring the work of these distinguished professors through their own words.

Ada Comstock would no doubt approve. ■

Tim Brady is a St. Paul-based freelance writer.



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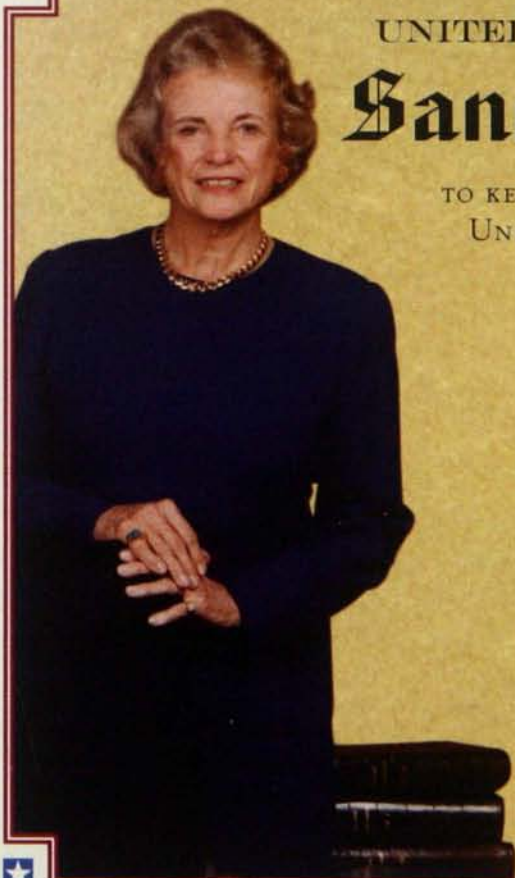
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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TO KEYNOTE THE 102ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

5:30 P.M. RECEPTION, NORTHROP MALL
6:00 P.M. DINNER, NORTHROP MALL
8:00 P.M. PROGRAM AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The Next Next One

Top hockey recruit Phil Kessel lives for the game.

By John Rosengren // Photograph by Dan Marshall



Opening weekend. Sudden-death overtime. The stage is set for a great moment, the curtain poised to unveil the next Gopher men's hockey legend. Here he comes.

Phil Kessel grabs the puck behind the net and rushes up ice. He weaves left, right, and flatfoots Alaska Fairbanks' best. The Mariucci crowd sucks in its collective breath. This is the kid they've heard so much about. The one whose MVP performance in the World Under-18 Championship last year secured gold for the United States. The one *USA Today* called the "king of college hockey prospects." The one named a preseason all-American before he had ever played a college game.

Kessel has just one more defender to beat. He's going to win this game—the first of many—for the Gophers by himself. But wait! His shot sails wide, postponing his coming-out fete.

Still, that burst up ice—it showed us what's to come. The gazelle speed, the lightning release, the scorer's instinct—in short, the stuff to break open a game. Kessel's got it. But he refers to his debut against Alaska Fairbanks, where he recorded his first college assist, as a "crappy weekend." He knows he can play better—far better. "That puts more pressure on me," he explains, as though to say, "just wait."

Through the first month of play, Kessel is averaging a point a game (4 goals, 4 assists), one point off the team lead. The feats aren't yet legendary, but he's only a freshman. In college hockey terms, that usually means 19 or 20 years old, seasoned by a year or two of junior hockey after high school. But Kessel is far younger than his peers. He folded the last two grades of high school into one to enter college early. He turned 18 the month the 2005–06 season started.

This past year, the media christened Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins the Next One (after the Great One, Wayne Gretzky) and anointed the NHL's top draft pick the league's savior following last season's lockout and public

relations disaster. He's got a year on Kessel, but not much else. Kessel, expected to be the top NHL pick in '06, is the Next Next One.

Kessel scored in Gretzkyesque proportions as a 14-year-old Bantam: 174 goals, 286 points in 86 games. By 16, he was drawing comparisons to America's best talent, the likes of Brett Hull and Mike Modano. He made college hockey coaches weak in the knees by considering their programs, opting to play college hockey over Canadian junior hockey, the typical launching pad to the NHL. Undecided on a major, Kessel says he wants a college education "to fall back on."

The Madison native pared his choices to the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. Three days before he announced his decision to play for the Gophers, Kessel sat down his U.S. National Team Development Program teammate Ryan Stoa, from Bloomington, Minnesota, who had already committed to Minnesota, and said that he'd picked Wisconsin. Kessel couldn't resist playing a joke on his best friend. That's typical Kessel, Stoa says.

Kessel had grown up watching the Badgers but figured the Gophers' offensive emphasis would better suit his skills. He had played for Wisconsin coach Bob Suter when Suter coached youth hockey, but Kessel preferred Gophers' coach Don Lucia's double NCAA titles résumé. He also had a good feeling on his first official recruiting visit to Minnesota when the national Under-18 team played an exhibition against the Gophers last February. "I wanted a school where hockey was number one," he says. That all added up to Kessel becoming the first Wisconsinite to wear the maroon M since Kenneth Byerly (B.S. '30), of Milwaukee, played for the Gophers in 1929–30.

Coach Lucia expects his young center to score 50 points this year—"I'll be surprised if he doesn't," Lucia says, acknowledging that that's very difficult for a freshman to do. Lucia showed his confidence early on, placing Kessel on the power play and sending him out to take the opening faceoff in the sudden-death overtime against Alaska Fairbanks. "He's already a go-to player," Lucia says.

Kessel tries not to read the praises inked about him. He endures the persistent interviews but would rather be playing Texas Holdem poker or video games with Stoa, his roommate in Territorial Hall. He dutifully attends daily study hall, grateful for the extra academic guidance. "I don't know if I



could be a regular student without hockey"—his sole passion, he says. On the bench during games, he anticipates his next shift with a knee hiked up on the boards, eager to leap back on the ice. "I couldn't live without hockey."

Kessel's own expectations seem as high as those of others.

but Kessel failed to satisfy himself. "It's coming," he told reporters after scoring a goal and setting up four more, "but I'm still not myself." ■

John Rosengren is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

On many of those early season shifts he returned to the bench shaking his head. He'd failed to execute a move. He'd failed to win a faceoff. He'd failed to hit the net. Failed to carry the team.

When the expectations run so long, it's easy to fall short, especially for a kid who still doesn't shave every day. But Kessel shows a maturity in his refusal to make excuses. That first weekend when he almost won the game in overtime he was fighting through a head cold, but he wouldn't blame that. "I was disappointed in myself," he says. "I expect to play my game."

Kessel leads a class of prize recruits and returning young stars that garnered the Gophers the number-one ranking in pre-season polls. This year's freshmen include Stoa, who also played with Kessel on the U.S. Under-18 gold medal team; goaltender Jeff Frazee, also of the U.S. National Team Development Program and Under-18 team, who made 48 saves in the 5-1 gold medal final; and Blake Wheeler, the former Breck prep star whom Phoenix Coyotes coach Wayne Gretzky made his top pick in the 2003 NHL draft.

Through the first month of the 2005-06 season, the Gophers have flashed more promise than purpose, stumbling to a .500 start against lesser opponents. Yet, with Lucia's knack for getting his teams to peak at the right time, it's likely only a matter of time—as with Kessel himself—before this team plays up to its greatness.

Kessel had a breakout weekend mid-November, notching a goal and six assists in the Gophers' sweep of Alaska Anchorage. Minnesota fans swooned over his play,

Sports Chat

Women's hockey coach
Laura Halldorson

Coming off two consecutive NCAA titles, Gopher women's hockey head coach Laura Halldorson knows the program faces a "transition period." Losing her four best players to the Olympic team and a four-year starting goalie to graduation, however, seems to call for a much stronger statement. But Halldorson, who has taken the Gophers to the Frozen Four in seven of her eight years at Minnesota, is confident her team is up to the challenge. In mid-November, with her team at 9-3 and ranked fourth in the nation, Halldorson sat down to talk with *Minnesota*.

Q: Are you worried about how your players might react to not being a dominant team for the first time in a few years?

A: No, I feel really good about the attitude. I think we're very resilient and have been able to bounce back from losses—the players probably better than the head coach. We've already lost three games. That's more than we lost all last year. I think our opponents are licking their chops to play us.

Q: What is the first thing you need to work on for the team to be successful?

A: Consistency is the thing we want to achieve. Our team is so different this year. We have a lot of talent, but these players are in different roles. They're not going to just jump in and do things they've never done before. Gradually, though, these players will gain confidence and settle in. We knew we'd have our ups and downs. These are great learning experiences.

Q: Does the team have good enough chemistry to work through the ups and downs?

A: Yes. A big part of the recruiting philosophy is getting players who fit together well on and off the ice. We look at



attitude, work ethic, academics, team-first play. This year's team is really exceptional. I really enjoy getting to know them and hanging out with them. They just really enjoy being together and having fun together.

Q: Is it easier in some ways to coach a team of relative newcomers instead of established stars?

A: I don't know that I'd call it easier. We have to focus more on breaking things down and working on specific areas. For example, last year, our power play had four national team players and they were so instinctive. They'd just know what the opportunities were and what the other team was doing and be able to adjust. This year we don't have that, so we have to break things down, practice it piece by piece, look at videotape. I enjoy that. It's rewarding when you see the improvements and you know that they're absorbing the information.

—Chris Coughlan-Smith

Sports Notebook

Gopher sports news and notes

By Chris Coughlan-Smith

As the academic calendar moves into the hottest time of year for Gopher athletics—with both hockey teams, women's basketball, men's swimming, and wrestling all looking to continue making their marks on the national scene—it's appropriate first to look back at some pleasant surprises from the fall. The **soccer team** rode the superb play of senior goalkeeper Molly Schneider, who was named first-team all-Big Ten, to a 9-8-2 overall record, 6-4 in the Big Ten. It was the first winning season for the Gophers since 1999. The Gopher **volleyball team**, after compiling a 24-7 regular season record, earned its ninth trip to the NCAA tournament in coach Mike Hebert's 10 years (the Gophers won their first match for the sixth consecutive year but lost to host Tennessee in the second round). But perhaps most impressive was the **women's cross country team**, which not only made the NCAA championship meet for the first time in four years, but ran to a ninth-place finish, the best in school history. Sophomore Ladia Albertson-Junkans ran to all-American honors and set a school record for a six-kilometer cross country course. Junior Emily Brown was just seconds behind, also running to all-American honors and beating the old school record. Senior Lauren Williams just missed all-American honors. "I told the team before the race that you haven't accomplished anything until you finish the



From left, Ladia Albertson-Junkans, Emily Brown, and Lauren Williams drove to the finish at the Big Ten championship meet at the U of M Les Bolstad Golf Course in October. The three led Minnesota's cross country team to its best season ever.

a sophomore last year, Konrad was second in the nation, and this November he defeated the two-time defending national champion in an early-season showdown. Konrad anchors a Gopher team that entered the year ranked fifth in the nation, with five wrestlers earning top-10 preseason rankings. Minnesota hosts sixth-ranked rival Iowa on January 22 at Williams Arena in its biggest home match of the year.

»» It's heartening to see two of the U's marquee coaches **taking academics seriously**. Men's basketball coach Dan Monson put sophomore Rico Tucker, who played in all 32 games as a freshman and started four times, on "academic lockdown" just before the season started, allowing him back to the team only after getting his school work in order. And women's coach Pam Borton put her star player, preseason all-Big Ten forward Jamie Broback, a junior, on a "leave of absence" over academics that lasted for two weeks, including the first two games. Graduation rates for college basketball players are abysmally low across the country. We can only hope that coaches at other universities are as serious about their student athletes as Borton and Monson.

»» Hope springs each August when the **Gopher football** team takes to the practice field. Weaknesses are overlooked and strengths overestimated. But for the past four years, going to a bowl game has justified some of those early dreams. Thing is, we'd like to move up in the Big Ten bowl pecking order and see a different part of the country in the post season. How? Let's be realistic. When's the last time Minnesota had four consecutive winning seasons? We had to look it up too. It was in the late 1940s, when Bernie Bierman was the coach and Memorial Stadium was still a gem. So here are two places to start: get Glen Mason a long-term contract and get out of the Metrodome, which wasn't a gem the day it opened. ■

Chris Coughlan-Smith (B.A. '86) is director of electronic communications at the UMAA.

Quotebook

"I wish I could come up with a definitive answer for everybody out there to make them feel better, but you can't because it's unexplainable."

—Gopher football coach Glen Mason after Minnesota fell 52-28 to Iowa November 19 in a game with major bowl implications. The Gophers finished the regular season 4-4 in the Big Ten, 7-4 overall.

"I've said it before: I want this to be my last coaching job. I may not just have the best job in college hockey, I may have the best job in hockey."

—Gopher men's hockey coach Don Lucia, who signed a three-year contract extension, through the 2011-12 season.

»» Non-wrestlers have a hard time fathoming the sheer physical and mental exertion the sport demands. In wrestling, the ability to work until you can't do any more, and then doing more, is the paramount factor in becoming a champion. When **Gopher heavyweight Cole Konrad** arrived on campus in 2002, he was surrounded by recruits who had earned far higher accolades, even national titles. But, as Gopher wrestling coach J Robinson said after Konrad's redshirt freshman year when he finished fourth in the nation: "He did everything we asked him to do for 18 months and now he's an all-American." As



MEMBER PROFILE: For the Kids

Diana and Norm Hageboeck were just like all the other parents in the pediatric-cancer lounge: tired, scared, hoping for a miracle.

Their miracle didn't happen.

But in 1980, a year after their 13-year-old daughter Katie died from acute lymphocytic leukemia, the Hageboecks founded the volunteer organization behind the Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF). Since then, CCRF has raised more than \$65 million for pediatric-cancer research at the U. "We started something that just wouldn't stop," says Diana Hageboeck. "It took on an energy and magic all its own."

Diana (B.A. '64) taught school in Hopkins, Minnesota, before marrying Norm and raising a family. By their mid-30s, they had built a good life, with a house in Wayzata, a cabin up north, and three great kids. Redheaded Katie was the oldest.

"She was just a fun daughter," Diana says. "She liked to bake cookies with me. She liked to take care of the baby. She

loved her Brownie troop. She did well at piano. Whatever she did, she enjoyed, and did it well. She was just a really neat young kid."

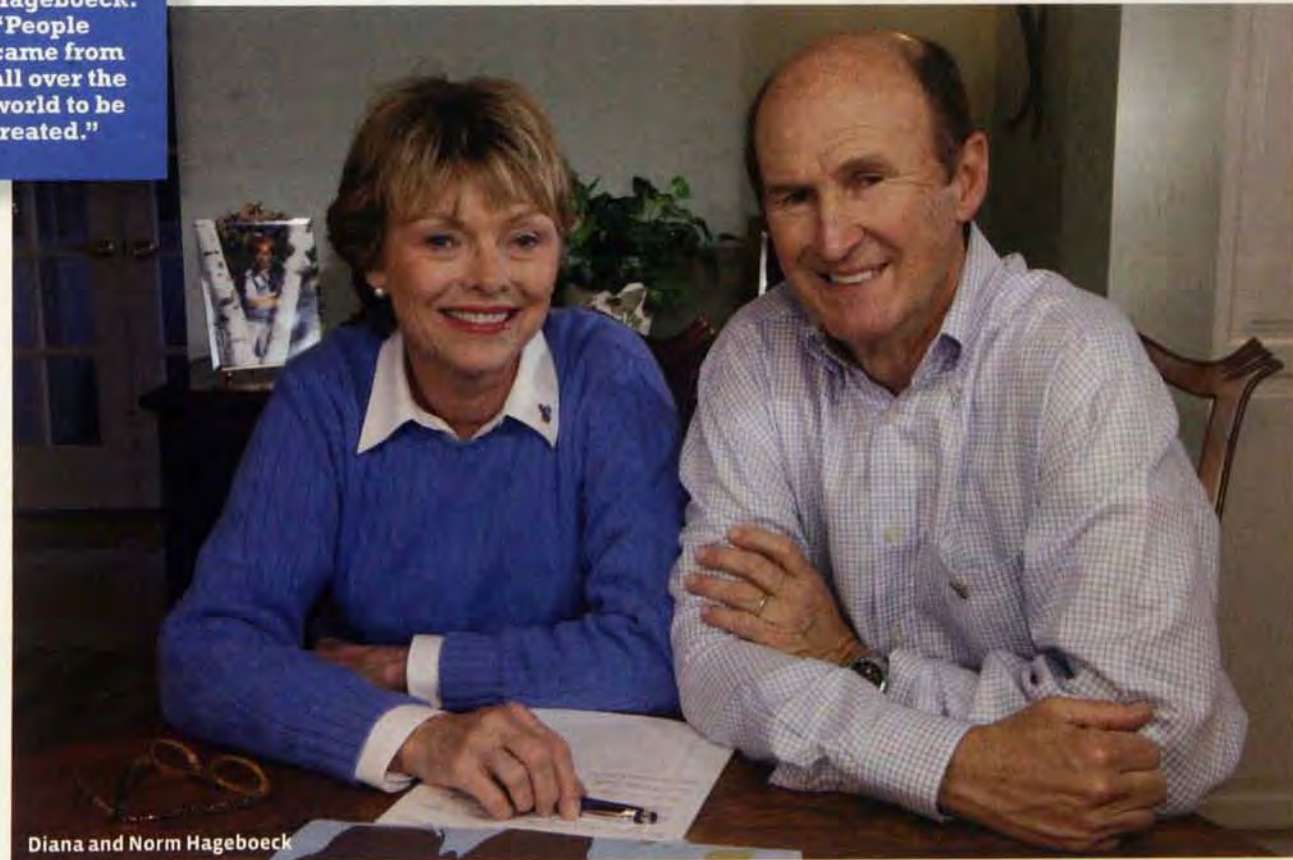
In August 1978, when Katie was 11, a routine strep test led to a very different diagnosis: Katie didn't have strep; she had leukemia. "The doctor said, 'You have to get her somewhere right away,'" Diana recalls. "And I said, 'We're going to the U.'"

Strangely, Diana's college roommate had been through the same nightmare, when her son was diagnosed with leukemia. "That's how I knew there were good things going on at the U," Diana says.

In the year that followed, Diana spent every day with Katie, every night in the nurses' dorm. Norm would stop by after work, then go home to do baths and bedtime stories for their younger son and daughter.

The Hageboecks quickly learned two facts that surprised them: Cancer was the second leading cause of death in children, after accidents, and the University was a leader in treating children with cancer. "We often were the only ones in the lounge who spoke English!" says Diana. "People came

"We often were the only ones in the lounge who spoke English!" says Diana Hageboeck. "People came from all over the world to be treated."



Diana and Norm Hageboeck

from all over the world to be treated."

Parents in the lounge took up a collection each time a child died and donated the money—often just \$20 or less—to the University. "We just passed the hat," says Diana. "And we ended up passing the hat way too many times." That hat was the beginnings of CCRF.

Katie's battle lasted 16 months. When she knew she was going to die, she requested that CCRF be her memorial fund, and she donated the money she'd saved for a 10-speed bike. Two weeks before Christmas in 1979, Katie died at home, in her own room. She was at home thanks to three nurses from the U who volunteered their time to take care of her. "It was a loving, peaceful exit," Diana says. "And when she died, we had such an overwhelming sense of gratitude to the doctors and nurses. Our hearts were full, in spite of our grief."

A year later, the Hageboecks gathered a dozen friends in their living room to hear Dr. Norma Ramsay, director of the U's Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation program, talk about what was going on at the U—and what was needed. Those in attendance formed the first CCRF volunteer organization; the Hageboecks' kitchen table became the first CCRF office. The CCRF's first Dawn of a Dream gala benefit, chaired by Diana, was held in October 1981 and raised \$50,000. This year's benefit raised more than \$700,000, part of which will equip a state-of-the-art immune-based therapies lab.

"A lot of people think we did it to keep Katie's memory alive. But we really didn't," Diana says. "That wasn't a need for us; we would do that on our own. We just had this urge to give back."

Before 1950, the cure rate for childhood cancer was only 10 percent. Today, the average rate is almost 80 percent. CCRF is now a national charity that funds research in stem-cell biology, immune-based therapies, brain tumors, and more through a variety of giving programs, including "Gopher A Cure!" with University Athletics. Fans pledge money for each three-point shot or goal scored by members of the men's and women's basketball and hockey teams.

Diana and Norm are happy to have a CCRF-funded, \$3-million endowed chair named in their honor, but—having stepped back from the day-to-day operations of CCRF—they're happier to attend events and see young people in charge. "The more people we see that we don't know, the better!" Norm says.

"As a parent, you give your children two important things: roots and wings," Diana says. "CCRF has been like a child to us, so it was hard to let go. But we made a commitment to let go—because it had to have wings. And now we're satisfied that it does."

—Patricia Kelly



Welcome, Guangzhou

The UMAA's sixth chapter in the People's Republic of China was launched with great fanfare on November 18. With University of Minnesota officials in China as part of a Minnesota trade delegation, the Guangzhou Chapter celebrated its founding with U president Bob Bruininks in attendance. Other speakers included Huang Daren, president of Sun Yat-sen University, located in Guangzhou; Hong Yang, director of the U's China Center; and Simon Wong (B.A. '74, B.S. '75), president of UMAA's Hong Kong Chapter and president and managing director of Kampery Group, a specialty foods company, of Hong Kong.

Wong's keynote address on marketing of brand names was fitting for the audience, composed primarily of graduates and students of the Carlson School of Management's China executive MBA program based in Guangzhou. Formerly called Canton by Westerners, Guangzhou is in southern China in the Pearl River (Zhujiang) delta. About 100 miles northwest of Hong Kong and with a population of more than six million, it is one of China's most important ports and international trade centers.

The University has a long relationship with China and a leading role in educating Chinese students. In addition to the six chapters in the People's Republic of China, the UMAA also has a chapter in Taiwan, as well as 20 other chapters outside the United States, helping graduates and friends make the University of Minnesota connection around the world.

For more on UMAA chapters, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/chapters.

While traveling with a trade delegation to China in November, University of Minnesota president Bob Bruininks and other U officials celebrated the founding of the Guangzhou Chapter of the UMAA.



MEMBER PROFILE: Immigration Authority

Michael LeMay (Ph.D. '71) can only shake his head when he considers the rush to tighten immigration laws following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Throughout U.S. history, such laws have been repeatedly tightened and relaxed in response to economic conditions and national security concerns, often targeting particular nationalities. "People were talking about these laws as if they were a new idea," LeMay says, pointing to post-World War II immigration restrictions. "But the truth is that there's not much new here at all. Over the past 200 years, most of these things have already been tried—and not very effectively."

LeMay backed into his expertise in immigration. He had been teaching political science for several years, first at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and then at Frostburg State University in Maryland, when he became intrigued by the fact that minority groups assimilated and gained political power at markedly different rates. He wondered whether those assimilation rates reflect immigration policies—for example, whether groups of people singled out as "less desirable" are slower to participate and assimilate. That interest led to his first scholarly work on the subject, *From Open Door to Dutch Door: An Analysis of U.S. Immigration Policy Since 1820*, published in 1987. Several other books, articles, and texts about immigration followed.

After 9/11, immigration law changes singled out Middle Easterners and reinvigorated efforts to halt illegal immigration along the U.S.-Mexican border, and LeMay was reminded of the policies from the 1920s to 1950s, which targeted Eastern and Southern Europeans in response to the two World Wars and the Great Depression. He decided to write a new book. "You can't understand immigration without understanding foreign policy and national security concerns," LeMay says. "The two are interwoven."

That book, *Eagle at the Gates: National Security Issues in the Cycles of U.S. Immigration*, is scheduled to be published this year. It's the first work in an aggressive publishing agenda. LeMay is finishing up *The Tale of Three Islands*, which documents the histories of immigration stations at Ellis Island in New York, Grosse Ile in Canada, and Angel Island in



Michael LeMay

California's San Francisco Bay. He hopes to see it published in 2007 and is already researching his next book.

In his writing, LeMay says, "I make it a point not to be a public policy advocate. That's not what I should be doing in these books. Instead, I analyze the policy and try to show the unintended consequences and what we can learn from them." He cites the creation of a vast, new "beheemoth"—the Department of Homeland Security, which encompasses several previously stand-alone agencies—as an example. "That structure virtually guarantees that there will be management problems that will delay effective, efficient, and equitable implementation of immigration policy and procedures, to say nothing of response to natural disasters."

Since retiring last year from California State University-San Bernardino, where he spent the last 12 years of his career, LeMay moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, with his wife, Lynda. He's quick to credit his professors at the University of Minnesota for first introducing him to what has become his passion. "I really learned to love scholarship at Minnesota," he says. "If an institution is critically important to your career, then you owe it some support once you get out. I've always felt an obligation of sorts to support the alumni association—it's my way of paying back, I guess."

—Sara Gilbert Frederick

Building the U's Future

The University has requested \$206.1 million from the state legislature for 2006 to fund several projects that will help build the U's future. The capital request includes funds for several building upgrade and maintenance projects as well as construction of new buildings, all of which will enable the U to expand its groundbreaking research and to provide excellence in education.

Now, friends and alumni of the University must step up and ask their legislators and governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) to invest in the U—and the future of Minnesota—by supporting the full funding of the request. (The University will supplement state funding with an investment of \$63 million.)

The annual Legislative Briefing, where University president Bob Bruininks explains the capital request and what it means for the future of the U, takes place January 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Minneapolis.

The 2006 capital request includes \$80 million for preserving and replacing existing campus facilities, including changes to address health and safety issues; \$39.9 million for expanding the Carlson School of Management; and \$60 million for phase I of the Medical Biosciences Building (below). For more information on the 2006 capital request, on how to advocate for the U, or to RSVP for the Legislative Briefing, visit www.supportTheU.umn.edu.



Part of the 2006 capital request is \$60 million for phase I of the Medical Biosciences Building, pictured in the foreground, on the East Bank of the Minneapolis campus. The project will accommodate expanded research for the Medical School and the Institute of Technology, particularly in biomedical engineering, medical devices, cancer, immunology, and pharmacology. The building will also house Biosafety Level 3 labs for research on infectious diseases.

National President

You Talked, We Listened

A decade ago, the University of Minnesota Alumni Association unveiled its first-ever five-year strategic plan. We aimed to build an alumni center and to increase membership to 50,000. We called it our “big dream” plan.

As most of you are well aware, that big dream was transformed into reality. Thanks to a partnership with the University of Minnesota Foundation (UMF) and the Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF), the magnificent McNamara Alumni Center opened in February 2000. We eclipsed the 50,000-member mark a year later.

This momentum carried into our second five-year strategic plan, during which we celebrated the 100th anniversaries of both the UMAA and the alumni magazine with great fanfare. And, again with our UMF and MMF partners, we enhanced our alumni center by creating the beautiful Gateway Plaza and the spectacular Alumni Wall of Honor.

With our next five-year plan, for 2006 to 2010, we decided it was essential to tap the individuals and groups whose energy, commitment, and knowledge give the alumni association its vitality and voice. So we solicited input from you to help us build a shared vision for the future. We wanted to know: What do you want from your alumni association?

We conducted interviews with nearly 100 people, held one-on-one discussions with University leaders and alumni board members, and organized small-group discussions with alumni society and chapter volunteers, UMAA staff, and students. In addition, we collected demographic and lifestyle information on 325,000 alumni. We also conducted online surveys of 54,000 current and past UMAA members, as well as alumni who have never tried membership in the alumni association.

I'd like to express my deepest thanks to all who provided us with thoughtful feedback. You talked, we listened, and here are a few of the things we learned:

- Nearly 75 percent of alumni said they believe the primary function of the UMAA should be to support the University.

- UMAA members identified the top three services they want the association to provide. First, they'd like the UMAA to promote academic excellence and to advocate for the U at the legislature. Second, they want the UMAA to provide easy access to information about University resources. Finally, UMAA members would like the association to provide them with lifelong learning opportunities.

- Additional resources respondents indicated they would like the UMAA to offer include: online access to University lectures and presentations, an online “reference library” with the latest University research and information on a variety of topics of interest, and a service to help those seeking new jobs or hoping to embark on new careers.

- The most requested types of information alumni want via the UMAA are medical and health care, followed by personal finance and investing, science and technology, current events, and arts and literature. An overwhelming majority (as high as 94 percent) of alumni said they would like to receive this information online. (Note: Respondents to the online survey may be more inclined to seek online resources.)

With this information in hand, we are using your “wish list” to shape the goals that will guide the alumni association for the next five years. As University President Bob Bruininks recently said, “Great organizations embrace change without retreating from their values.” With your help, we are developing a new strategic plan for the UMAA that's tailored to what *you* value.



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



As the January winds howl and heating bills grow exponentially, UMAA members can turn to a new benefit for relief. The Personal Vacation Club (PVC) offers extraordinary, customizable trips to Brazil, the Caribbean, Hawaii, and elsewhere.

PVC trips are different from the UMAA's long-standing group travel program in that they are primarily for those planning an individual or family vacation, an extended-family reunion, or just a long weekend get-together with old college friends. PVC has hundreds of options that fit every vacation budget, schedule, and style, including

Get out of Town

top luxury cruises, African safaris, simple family vacations, or a trip to a favorite city or theme park. And PVC offers more active vacations like sports and adventure travel along with worldwide vacation adventures specifically for those under age 35.

In Brazil, seven different itineraries are available to explore the vast and diverse nation, which is larger than the continental United States. Brazil has white sand beaches, pristine rain forests, and cities that offer the color of Central America to the north or the cosmopolitan feel of Europe to the south. Vacation experiences include cruises, tropical beaches, mountain getaways, ecotours, and exciting city escapes. The country has wonderful culture, art, natural beauty, varied and unique cuisine, warm people, and many unique animal species. And, since it's south of the equator, January and February are midsummer in Brazil.

Among the Caribbean options is a trip aboard the Yorktown Clipper, a small cruise boat that journeys into secluded bays, marinas, and coves where larger ships cannot venture. The voyage includes a stop at Jost van Dyke, the "barefoot" island known by travelers around the world for its protected anchorages, fine beaches, and beachfront restaurants and bars. Uninhabited Virgin Gorda has



exotic pools and grottos formed by giant boulders strewn across white sand beaches and shallow coral ledges, tropical fish, and underwater caves. Other stops include Tortola, St. John, and St. Thomas, all offering diverse attractions.

The Personal Vacation Club became a UMAA member benefit in 2004 and has grown to include offerings to the above locations, as well as ski packages and more. UMAA members have access to the club's Web site and can search for dates, destinations, and itineraries. Visit www.alumni.umn.edu/PersonalVacation for more information.

Beautiful St. John's is a highlight of the Personal Vacation Club's Caribbean tour. The Personal Vacation Club offers UMAA members a way to customize and purchase top-notch travel packages at special member rates.

UMAA Calendar

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

JANUARY

- 18 Puget Sound Chapter Young Alumni Gathering, 5 p.m. at Ivar's Salmon House in Lake Union; contact Mark Allen
- 19 Puget Sound Chapter Alumni Social, 5 p.m. at Pyramid Alehouse; contact Mark Allen
- 21 Puget Sound Chapter Tour of the Seattle Library, 1:30 p.m.; contact Mark Allen
- 25 Southwest Florida Chapter Great Conversations on the Road, speakers and details TBA; contact Chad Kono
- 25 U of M Legislative Briefing, 5:30 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni Center; contact Amy Reasoner at 612-624-3302
- 27 Arizona West Valley Chapter U of M Update, 5 p.m., Luke Air Force Base in Litchfield; contact Chad Kono
- 28 Suncoast Florida Chapter U of M Athletics and Stadium Update with athletics director Joel Maturi, 11 a.m., location TBA; contact Chad Kono

- 28 Southwest Florida Chapter U of M Athletics and Stadium Update with athletics director Joel Maturi, 5 p.m. at Collier County Athletic Club; contact Chad Kono

FEBRUARY

- 7 UMAA Mentor Connection Networking Necessities event, 5 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni Center; contact Trish Will
- 12 Phoenix Chapter wine-tasting event, 4 p.m. at the Wrigley Mansion; contact Chad Kono
- 16 Northern Dakota County alumni rally and women's basketball vs. Ohio State, 5:30 p.m. at Williams Arena; contact Chad Kono
- 19 San Diego Chapter Annual Meeting and Brunch, 11:30 a.m. at Tom Ham's Lighthouse; contact Mark Allen
- 26 Southwest Minnesota Chapter hosts Grammy-winning jazz composer Maria Schneider (B.A. '83) in concert, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. concert,

- at the Business, Arts, and Recreation Center in Windom; contact Chad Kono
- 27 Southwest Florida Chapter Annual Luncheon "The Word of Mirth" with nurse-humorist Carol O'Flaherty, 11 a.m. at Imperial Golf Club in Naples; contact Chad Kono

MARCH

- 1 Red Wing Chapter "The Role of the U of M in U.S.-China Relations" with U of M China Center director Hong Yang, details TBA; contact Chad Kono
- 11 Southwest Florida at Minnesota Day at Twins Training Camp, time TBA in Ft. Myers; contact Chad Kono
- 19 Southwest Florida Annual Dinner "Wine as Medicine" with Jack Farrell, 5 p.m., location TBA; contact Chad Kono

PLAN AHEAD

May 23 UMAA Annual Celebration featuring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 6 p.m. dinner on Northrop Mall, 8 p.m. keynote address in Northrop Auditorium, tickets on sale February 15; contact Susan Zarambo

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The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will become the most influential organization in advancing the University's goal to be one of the top three public research institutions in the world." This bold statement was approved in December as the vision for the UMAA's 2006–10 strategic plan. A tall order? Yes, but we can deliver on this promise with your help.

On page 45, UMAA president Robert Stein provides an overview of the process that led our strategic planning. We believe the association has both an opportunity and a mandate to be a real player in transforming the University. And here are six easy things you can do to help right now—just by clicking your mouse.



Margaret Sughruue Carlson,
Ph.D. '83

Be a legislative advocate. More than 60 percent of our graduates live in Minnesota. That's 216,000 voters who can carry compelling messages to the state capitol. The University is requesting \$206 million in bonding this legislative session for building construction, upgrades, and maintenance. We'll give you all the details about the U's needs, and how to carry the word to your elected officials, at the U's Legislative Briefing on January 25. Go to www.SupportTheU.umn.edu and, while you're there, join the 15,000-member Legislative Network.

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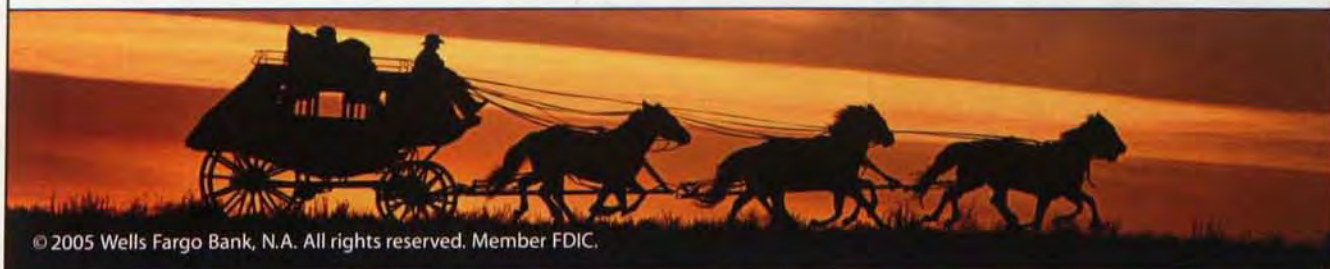
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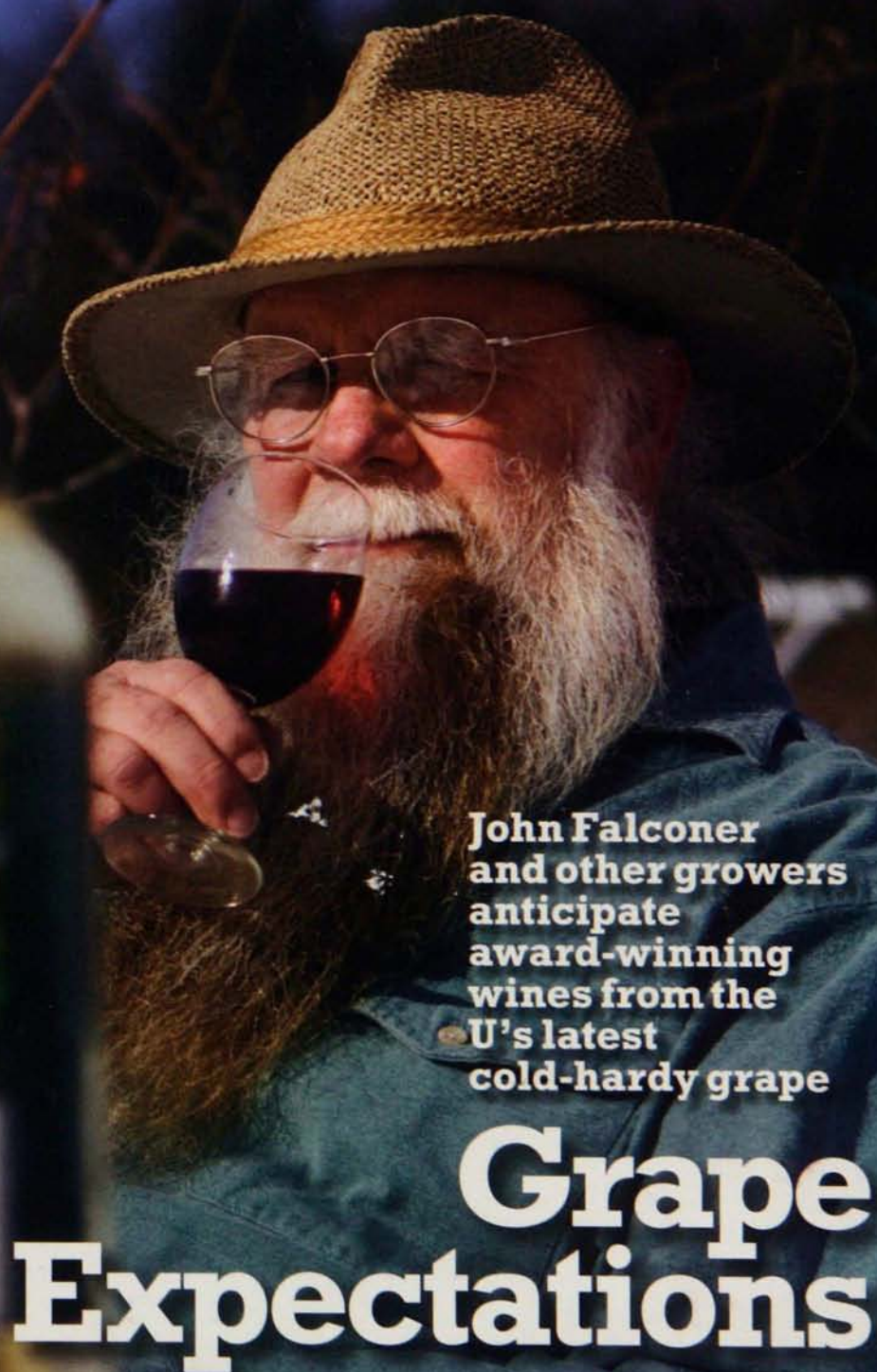
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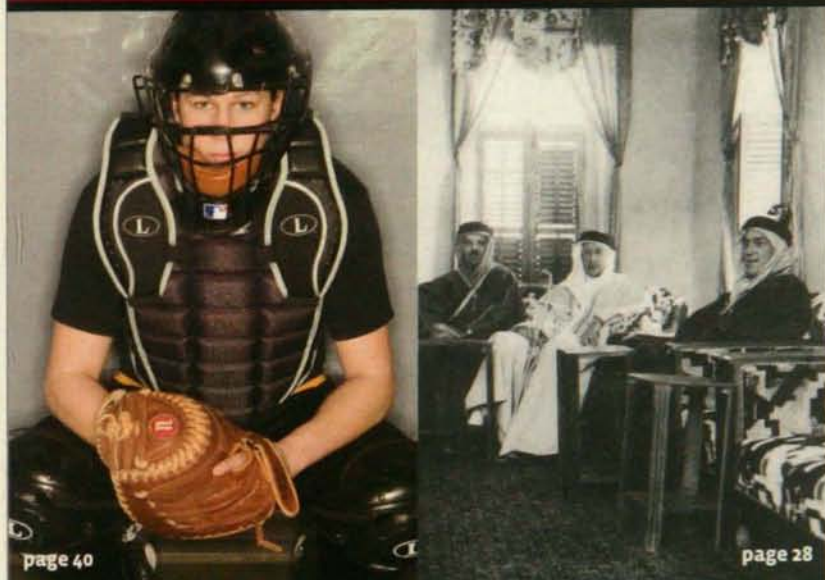
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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 FAIRVIEW



page 40

page 28



page 22

Features

22 Grape Expectations

University horticulture researchers are releasing a new, cold-hardy wine grape this spring.

By Sarah Barker

28 Beneath Saudi Sands

University alumnus Fred Davies had a hunch that crude oil lay hidden deep in the Arabian peninsula.

By Tim Brady

32 Prince of Darkness

University alumnus Santino Fontana plans to do Hamlet justice in the Guthrie's spring production.

By Camille LeFevre

34 Par Avion

The winning entry in *Minnesota* magazine's seventh annual fiction contest.

By Emily Freeman

40 Gopher Sports

Catcher Megan Higginbotham; Q&A with Leo Lewis; and Sports Notebook.

By Sheila Mulrooney Eldred and Cynthia Scott

Columns and Departments

4 Editor's Note

6 Letters

8 About Campus

Morrill Hall takeover reunion and zipping about campus.

10 Discoveries

Forest diversity, new mono drug, and curbing gambling.

12 U News

A new regent, Carlson School impact, and bonding news.

14 Arts & Events

Affordable housing with style.

16 First Person

"Singing for the Silenced," an essay by Erin Altemus.

47 UMAA Report

Two new alumni interest groups, Classes Without Quizzes, the UMAA calendar, and more.

49 National President

Welcome back, Justice O'Connor.

52 Chief Executive Officer

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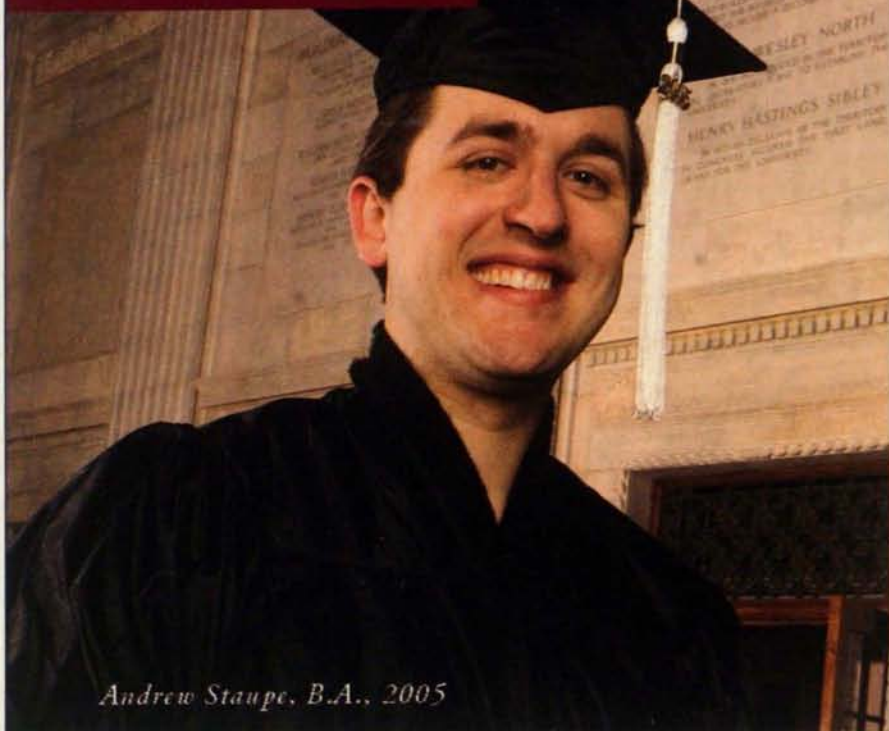


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Andrew Staupe, B.A., 2005

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Editor's Note

Oil Is Not Well

More than a hundred hungry students and scientists balancing stacks of cookies atop cups of punch filed into the auditorium. I learned years ago that if you want to draw a crowd on campus, offer free food.

Waiting for the guest speaker to take the podium, the man next to me introduced himself and asked whether I was also a physics student; he was a current graduate student in the department. I asked him what he would do once he earned his degree and he reported that he wanted to do research—at a university, he hoped. But he wasn't optimistic, as research funding and grants were drying up.

Then he brightened and mentioned how timely the appearance of this guest speaker was, given that President George W. Bush had declared the night before, during his State of the Union address, that he aimed to replace more than 75 percent of our oil imports from the Middle East with alternative fuels by the year 2025. I looked around and recognized that the people who packed the room weren't simply craving baked goods, they were poised to devour what this renowned applied physics professor from the California Institute of Technology had to say about the world's oil supply.



Shelly Fling

David Goodstein, author of *Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil*, reviewed energy sources through history, from swamp gas to nuclear fission. He touched on consumption, conservation, and global warming. And he decried the myth that the price of gasoline is too high. But it was oil the audience came for. We collectively leaned forward as if

watching a horror movie plot unfold. We dreaded what would come next—we knew it wouldn't be good—but we just had to see and hear it for ourselves.

In this issue, we tell the story of University alumnus Fred Davies (B.S. '16), whose geologic work led to the discovery of the largest oil reserves in the world, in Saudi Arabia (page 28). But the first oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania in 1859 and soon altered the pace and mode of how most of the world operates. Nearly 150 years later, most experts concur that the depletion of the planet's oil reserves is in sight. Some thought the peak—when demand would surpass flow—would occur in the 1970s. Today many believe the peak will come in 20 or so years. Goodstein contends that we're now at the crest, or will be in a few years.

How will we know when we're teetering on that peak? Likely we'll pay increasingly more at the pump. Our home heating bills will soar. Wars will break out. Even the seasoned scientists around me emitted nervous laughs when Goodstein stated his ominous prediction: "Civilization as we know it will come to an end sometime in this century when the oil runs out." We knew this. We just had to hear it.

Goodstein said we'd have to build 10,000 nuclear plants to replace today's oil consumption. But then we'd have just a decade's worth of uranium. We have 1,000 or more years of coal reserves, but wholesale use could destroy the planet. Wind energy is unpredictable. Biomass is inefficient. We haven't figured out nuclear fusion. We're awash in solar energy but don't know how to harness it. He went on. And just when we were feeling doomed, he tossed up an opinion and his purpose.

Our leadership should challenge scientists to solve this problem, he declared, like President John F. Kennedy did to put a man on the moon. "I didn't come to scare you," he continued. "I came to inspire you to go out and do something about it." ■

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

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Letters

LIVING HISTORY

Ah, Comstock Hall. . . . As one of the women who lived in Comstock Hall during its final year as an all-women's residence, I can still remember Ada Comstock's portrait that hung in the lobby. Your recent article, "A Place for Women" [January–February], reminded me of how much I enjoyed my Comstock Hall days—both when it was for women only and the following year when it went co-ed. Having a place for women at the U is as important now as it was then, and it's particularly rewarding to see the alumni association share with its members the stories of current national leaders such as Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at the upcoming annual meeting. Good job!

Maria "Tess" Shier (B.A. '94)
College Park, Maryland

DON'T STEM STEM CELL RESEARCH

Stem cells can kill cancer cells?! [Discoveries, January–February] It seems that almost every month I read or hear some new information about how these basic cells might hold the answers to curing devastating diseases and repairing damaged tissue.

But then I panic when I picture the future—my children's and grandchildren's and great grandchildren's futures. I worry about what diseases the world will still battle in the future—what diseases could have been reversed or silenced if only. . . . And I am saddened when I think about what the future will look like simply because scientific research that is restricted today.

Still, it's the little bits of news about the potential of stem cells that gives me hope that we'll find answers before it's too late.

John Jorgenson (B.S. '62)
Minneapolis

"WOWING" THEM

I have admired William Allard's photography in *National Geographic* but didn't know he was a University of Minnesota alumnus until I saw your November–December issue ["Focusing on the Feminine"]. Thank you so much for publishing so many of his photos and his words. I still have my copy of that magazine on my coffee table—it is the most beautiful cover—and whoever comes over can't help but pick it up and say "Wow! What's this?!"

Marion Meyers
Minneapolis

CORRECTION

Minnesota reprinted an error in a correction that appeared in a photo caption in the January–February issue. Regarding the appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court: President Lyndon Johnson appointed him in 1967. President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in 1961. The editors regret the error but appreciate the letters from the University law alumni who pointed it out.

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



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Student Leaders in 1969 Takeover Reunite

If any single day could be considered a watershed moment in University of Minnesota history, it would be January 14, 1969. On that day, African American students and their white allies, frustrated with the glacial pace of change on the nearly all-white campus, occupied Morrill Hall, the U's administration building.



Overheard on Campus

"Places that are not as segregated have much higher quality of life. They have much more of a mix of people and incomes in the city. It drives up arts and amenities and culture and redevelopment and gentrification."

—Myron Orfield, a professor of urban and regional affairs at the University of Minnesota and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

"It's not ethically even something you would consider."

—Bruce Cunningham, professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota and president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, on whether face transplants should be offered for cosmetic surgery.

"In the early days, I would say someone was an expert from Harvard or the Brookings Institution. I'm not making fun of the University of Minnesota. I just thought it sounded very generic, almost connotation free."

—Andy Borowitz, New York online humor columnist, who in his satirical reports includes commentary from University of Minnesota professor Davis Logsdon, a character he made up.

Student leaders Rose Mary Freeman (B.A. '70) (now Rose Freeman Massey) and Horace Huntley (B.A. '70) presented a list of demands to then-president Malcolm Moos that included the establishment of an Afro American and African Studies Department and the hiring of African American faculty. After a full day of negotiations between the students, administrators, and community mediators, the occupation ended with the University agreeing to accelerate reform. Six months later, the Board of Regents approved a new Afro American and African Studies Department. The first classes were offered in 1970, and today the thriving department offers an undergraduate major and graduate minor.

Students who were part of the takeover will meet for the Morrill Hall Reunion and Summit April 21 and 22 at Coffman Memorial Union. The agenda will feature a panel discussion with former student leaders Freeman, Huntley, and Marie Braddock Williams,

who are co-authoring *Nerve Juice and the Ivory Tower*, a forthcoming book about the takeover. The reunion will also include a campus tour, socializing, and a roundtable discussion, "The Morrill Hall Takeover in Retrospect."

Organizers say they have contemplated a reunion for a decade. "Finally we decided, 'If not now, when, and if not us, who?'" says Williams. "We were the ones who opened doors for people of color at the U of M. Just thinking of our commitment to deal with the inequalities and injustices of institutional racism at the U was cause enough to recapture defining moments at the school, for blacks and the entire school."

The reunion is a collaboration between the 1969 Morrill Hall Reunion Committee and the Coalition for the History of African American Contributions to the University of Minnesota, which is headed by David Taylor, former dean of the General College. Anyone who participated in the takeover or was on campus in 1969 is welcome to attend. For information about registration fees, contact Williams at 773-721-5611 or geministar1149@sbcglobal.net or Horace Huntley at 205-249-3207 or hhuntley@bellsouth.net.

—Cynthia Scott

Top-Notch Students


The incoming freshmen classes at the University of Minnesota campuses in fall 2005 included 288 valedictorians.

CAMPUS	VALEDICTORIANS
Crookston	1
Duluth	45
Morris	19 (including 2 students of color)
Twin Cities	223 (including 11 students of color)

Source: University of Minnesota Office of Institutional Research and Reporting



Top: Morrill Hall after African American student leaders and their white allies occupied the U's administration offices in 1969. Bottom: Students Rose Mary Freeman and Horace Huntley demand the hiring of black faculty.



Greeting the Year of the Dog

Chinese students and others from the University community celebrated the Chinese New Year February 5 at Coffman Union. Hosted by the University of Minnesota Chinese American Student Association, the event included traditional dances by local Chinese performance groups and music performed by University students. More than 350 people gathered to welcome in the Year of the Dog, which represents honesty and loyalty. Here, members of the Chinese American Association of Minnesota perform "Lagoon Dreams" while Madelyn Pham, 5, daughter of University employee Doug Pham, gets a closer look.

A New Way to Zip around Campus

The University of Minnesota is one of 23 colleges in the United States to initiate a car-sharing program on its campus. The University is hosting six Zipcars on its Twin Cities campus, including the Honda Element SUV, Mazda 3 sedan, and Toyota Matrix wagon. Zipcar, Inc., is the nation's largest provider of self-service cars for use by the hour or day. University students, staff, and faculty who pay a \$30 membership fee receive a Zipcard key that unlocks any car they reserve. According to Zipcar, Inc., each of its shared cars replaces 7 to 10 privately owned vehicles and Zipcar members who no longer own a car report saving more than \$435 a month.



Web Hit: Health Talk & You

University of Minnesota faculty members provide current, comprehensible information on dozens of health topics through "Health Talk & You," a community outreach effort of the U's Academic Health Center. Over the years, "Health Talk & You" has taken many forms, including a television program, newspaper columns, an e-newsletter, podcasts, and a Web site: www.healthtalk.umn.edu. The site features a biweekly column by a University health expert, such as a recent column by associate professor of nursing Christine Mueller on the factors to consider when choosing a nursing home for a loved one, and lists links to past columns. Topics include the latest on smoking cessation, bariatric surgery, reducing risk of cancer, summer safety for kids, acne, sleep disorders, men's and women's health, and more. (The columns are for general health education purposes only, not intended to replace an examination by a health care professional.) The site also posts the latest U health news and a link to current clinical trials.

Mother Nature Loves Diversity

Diversity isn't just a nice idea. Apparently, Mother Nature demands it.

An analysis of seven tropical forests around the world has revealed that nature encourages biodiversity by favoring the growth of rare trees over common ones. The landmark study, conducted by 33 ecologists from 12 countries, conclusively demonstrates that diversity matters and has ecological importance.

Helene Muller-Landau, an assistant professor of ecology in the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences, is a co-author of the study, which supports previous research by her colleague David Tilman, a Regents' professor of ecology, into the causes and value of biodiversity.

The study was conducted on seven undisturbed forest plots, or "tropical forest observatories," in Borneo, India, Malaysia, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Thailand. The plots themselves are diverse, ranging from dense and species-rich wet rainforest to drier and more open forest that is often swept by fires. Yet all the forests show the same pattern of increasing local diversity as trees age.



"[These findings] highlight the value of the large-scale, long-term, standardized data collected by my collaborators," said Muller-Landau. "This is a unique effort in many ways—multiple large studies in multiple countries are censusing trees according to the same methods," including, at each site, tagging, mapping, and identifying to species every tree greater than one centimeter in diameter and then measuring each tree every five years.

"This research has the surprising finding that biodiversity in tropical rain forests and Minnesota prairies arises from the same kinds of underlying processes," said Tilman, director of the Cedar Creek Natural History Area, an ecological research site in Minnesota. "It brings us a step closer to understanding the

causes of the world's amazing biodiversity."

Lead author Christopher Wills of the University of California–San Diego said the study answers a question that ecologists have debated for decades: Is there something of ecological value to species diversity? The answer, he said, is yes. "We found that, in forests throughout the New and Old World tropics, older trees are more diverse than younger ones," he said. "In other words, diversity is actually selected for as each of the forests matures. This means diversity does indeed matter and is an essential property of these complex ecosystems."

Researchers do not fully understand why that is so, but one possibility is that animals, fungi, bacteria, and viruses are less likely to cause damage when their hosts are rare. Another possibility is that members of different species don't compete as much as members of the same species.

Researchers note that diversity-enhancing processes are likely to be absent from badly damaged forests. When forests are clear-cut, for example, the soil is rapidly depleted of nutrients, and the insects, bacteria, and fungi that help sustain diversity disappear. However, the study also suggests that tropical forests that have been damaged only slightly are resilient and can regain their former levels of diversity.

Wills said the new study points the way toward further detailed investigations of the processes by which forest diversity is maintained and raises new questions and lines of research for ecologists and forest managers to pursue.

—Cynthia Scott

COMBATING A HEFTY OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

Bus drivers are among the most vulnerable workers when it comes to gaining weight as a result of work conditions, according to a new study by the University of Minnesota and the Metro Transit Commission (MTC). The study found that while 63 percent of the general population is overweight, 89 percent of Twin Cities bus drivers are. Long periods of sitting, split shifts, short breaks, and fast food all contribute to the problem.

A joint U of M/MTC initiative called Route H—the "H" stands for healthy—seeks to create a healthier work environment for drivers. Some of the changes envisioned include revamping vending machines to include more healthful options, upgrading fitness rooms, and introducing physical activity programs at work, such as intramural sports and walking clubs. Researchers want the study to help drivers at least maintain if not lose weight. They also want to create strategies to help the transportation industry overall provide a healthier environment for employees. The impact of the changes will be measured over the next two years.



HONEST, ABE'S DNA LEADS TO BREAKTHROUGH

A study at the University of Minnesota that relied on DNA samples from descendants of Abraham Lincoln has produced promising findings for sufferers of ataxia, an incurable, degenerative brain disease that affects movement and coordination. Researchers at the Medical School identified a gene responsible for Spinocerebellar ataxia type 5 (SCA5) by collecting and analyzing DNA samples from more than 300 descendants of President Lincoln.

The discovery provides a genetic test that will lead to improved patient diagnoses and gives researchers greater insight into the causes of ataxia and other neurodegenerative diseases—and advances the development of effective treatment. The findings could also provide historical insight, since there are descriptions of Lincoln having an uncoordinated and uneven gait. These could be early symptoms of SCA5.



SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE MIDNIGHT SNACK

Habitual indulgence in a midnight snack can be linked to psychiatric disorders, according to research conducted at the University of Minnesota Medical School and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Researchers found that “night eating syndrome”—a condition characterized by excessive eating in the evening (called hyperphagia) or waking up during the night to eat—is common among people with substance abuse, depression, and other psychiatric disorders. People in the study, all of whom were being treated in outpatient psychiatric clinics in Minnesota and Pennsylvania, were diagnosed with night eating syndrome if they showed either or both of the characteristics three or more times per week.

Approximately 1.5 percent of the general population and 9 percent of patients in obesity clinics have night eating syndrome. But the recent study found that more than 12 percent of participants in an outpatient psychiatric clinic had the syndrome. Substance abuse, particularly alcohol, was also more likely to occur among patients with night eating syndrome. The published results encouraged mental health practitioners to screen patients for night eating syndrome.

KISS THOSE SYMPTOMS GOODBYE

Researchers at the University of Minnesota have found an antiviral drug that is effective in treating infectious mononucleosis, an affliction that up until now has been notoriously resistant to drug treatment. Mono, sometimes called “kissing disease” because it is spread through saliva, is caused by the Epstein-Barr virus, a member of the herpes virus family. It typically strikes adolescents and young adults, causing severe fatigue, sore throat, headache, loss of appetite, swollen glands, and fever.



University of Minnesota researchers found that sufferers who took the drug valacyclovir experienced less severe symptoms and recovered sooner than those who took no drugs or who took a steroid, commonly prescribed to reduce symptoms. The study also suggests that valacyclovir can limit person-to-person spread of the disease.

Despite the popular association of mono with kissing, puckering up is not the most common means of transmission. The disease is also spread by coughing, sneezing, and sharing a glass or cup. It is not a highly contagious disease.

Despite the popular association of mono with kissing, puckering up is not the most common means of transmission. The disease is also spread by coughing, sneezing, and sharing a glass or cup. It is not a highly contagious disease.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IMPROVE ACADEMICALLY

Nationwide, the percentage of students with disabilities—including physical, emotional, cognitive, and learning—achieving proficiency on state accountability tests has increased for the first time in 14 years, suggesting that they may be able to perform at the same level as other students.

That is one conclusion of a report released by the University of Minnesota's National Center on Educational Outcomes. The report summarizes a survey of state directors of special education in all 50 states. Among the reasons given for students' improvement are better alignment of students' Individual Education Plans with state standards, increased access to standards-based instruction, and improved professional development for teachers.

Special education has historically been synonymous with “special curriculum” that was different from the general curriculum. The shift to standards-based education has given rise to the expectation that all students will work toward the same skills and knowledge and thus have access to the general curriculum.

The National Center on Educational Outcomes was established at the University in 1990 to provide national leadership in designing and building educational assessments and accountability systems that monitor educational results for all students, including students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.

HOPE FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS

Researchers at the University of Minnesota have achieved promising results with a pill to treat pathological gambling, a psychiatric condition associated with financial difficulties, lying, increasing the amounts of bets, time spent gambling, and thinking about gambling. It is estimated that about 2 percent of the adult population, or 6 million people, suffer from pathological gambling.

The pill, nalmefene, works by blocking the rush associated with gambling and curbing the craving to gamble. The trial involved 207 participants in 15 outpatient treatment centers across the United States. Participants took the pill daily and over a four-month period reported significant improvement in gambling urges, thoughts, and behavior. Researchers believe these findings may eventually help treat other addictive behaviors as well.

The University of Minnesota has requested \$206.1 million from the state legislature to maintain and update existing facilities and to build a number of new buildings. Counting its own contribution—one-third of the cost of new construction—the University's total 2006 capital request is for \$269.1 million. The largest portion (\$80 million) of the request is for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR)—upkeep and upgrades of more than 800 buildings around the state. The U's request also includes \$4.2 million for three research centers and field stations, business education facilities on the Duluth and Twin Cities campus, and two new buildings—one for science teaching and student services and another for medical biosciences.

In January, Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) announced his recommendations for the state's bonding bill. It would provide only half of the University's HEAPR request, no funding for research centers and field stations, and only planning costs (\$4.3 million) for the new biosciences building. The house and senate will now develop their own versions of a bonding bill, which will then be reconciled and sent to Pawlenty for approval. "[The governor's] bonding bill is a good start, and we look forward to working with the legislature to build on it," said University President Bob Bruininks. For updates on the University's capital request, visit www.umn.edu/govrel.

The University looks forward to taking a leadership role in the expansion of higher education opportunities in Rochester, Senior Vice President Robert Jones said after the release of the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee's report to Governor Pawlenty and the state legislature in January. Under the plan, the state would draw on the research expertise of the University of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic, IBM, and other partners to develop "signature academic programs" that would attract students from around the region and the world. One-time state funding of \$3.2 million was appropriated to the committee last year to plan, research, and provide initial funding for academic program development and facilities if needed. The report is available at www.obe.state.mn.us/rochester.

The Carlson School of Management has an economic impact on Minnesota, according to its recent survey results. Of those surveyed, Carlson School alumni have founded more than 1,800 Minnesota-based businesses that employ more than 110,000 people and generate annual revenues of \$21.2 billion. Those annual revenues are equivalent to the state's entire manufacturing industry, and the employee base is about the same as that of the combined legal, accounting, architectural, and technology industries in Minnesota. The survey, conducted in August and September 2005, received 9,105 responses, or 25 percent of the Carlson School's 37,000 addressable alumni.



New Regent on Board

Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Russell Anderson swore in the University's newest member of the Board of Regents on February 10. Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) appointed Cynthia Leshar, president and CEO of Xcel Energy in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, to finish the term of Richard "Pinky" McNamara (B.A. '56), who resigned in December. Leshar did not earn her degrees at the University but did complete the Carlson School of Management Master's of Excellence program. She resides in the fourth congressional district and her term ends in February 2007.

Charles Casey was inaugurated chancellor of the University of Minnesota-Crookston on March 3. The fourth chancellor since 1965, Casey was named to the position in August 2005. Prior to that appointment, he served as dean and director of the University of Minnesota Extension Service for six and a half years.

Beverly Durgan is the new director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, in addition to being the dean and director of the University's Extension Service.

"Having one person serve as the director for both ensures that the research and outreach of these University organizations are aligned and continue to be connected with the needs of Minnesota communities," said Senior Vice President Robert Jones. Durgan was named Extension Service dean in September 2005.

Since January, thousands of students have been taking courses in the restored splendor of Nicholson Hall. The historic building, which closed for renovation in 2004, houses 12 state-of-the-art classrooms and four College of Liberal Arts units: the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, the Honors Program, and the Center for Writing. Nicholson, along with Folwell, Jones, Nolte, Pillsbury, and Scott halls (all built between 1889 and 1935; most protected by historic status), will make up the humanities district on the Twin Cities campus.

—Pauline Oo

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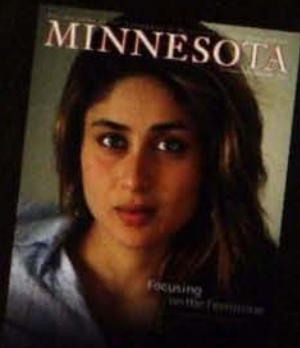
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Arts & Events

Home Affordable Home

The terms *affordable*, *sustainable*, and *well-designed* rarely appear in the same sentence when the subject is low-income housing. A traveling exhibition called "The HOME House Project: The Future of Affordable Housing," however, demonstrates that when affordability and sustainability are interwoven with good design, housing options for those with less financial means become far more innovative and inspired.

Initiated by the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the multiyear "HOME House Project" boasts several components. A competition in 2003, which challenged architects and artists to design affordable, sustainable single-family housing based on the building criteria and costs for a typical three- and four-bedroom Habitat for Humanity house, resulted in more than 400 submissions from around the world.

Many of those designs appear in the book *The HOME House Project: The Future of Affordable Housing*, which accompanies an exhibition of 80 designs that has toured to six contemporary-art museums throughout the United States. The exhibition will be on display at the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota through April 30. The timing is appropriate, says Colleen Sheehy, director of education at the Weisman, as "affordable housing is such a critical issue

in our community and nationally. This project offers a way to talk about not only the social and economic issues, but issues of design and the role architects can play."

David Brown is the senior curator at SECCA who conceived of the "HOME House Project." Its success "depends on the museum's ability to foster close working relationships with a large variety of collaborators," he writes

in the exhibition book. "This collaboration means that the character of the 'HOME House Project' will evolve as the contributions of individuals help define the shape of the initiative."



Design by David Hill, Matt Konar, and Elizabeth Moore, Courtesy of SECCA.



Passive Solar Design, by Rado Ivanov, of Studio R22 in Alexandria, Virginia.

In preparation for the Weisman show, Sheehy assembled a planning committee that includes faculty from the University's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA), Urban Studies, the Center for Sustainable Building Research, and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; representatives from such nonprofit groups as the Family Housing Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Commonbond Communities, and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation; and local architects who design affordable housing.

The planning committee "helped us develop programs that will connect with audiences that have a direct investment in the topic," Sheehy says. Programs include a summit with the mayors of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Eden Prairie, and Elk River; tours to a range of affordable-housing initiatives throughout the Twin Cities; and a keynote speech by Brown and com-



Gradient House, by Beth Blostein, of Blostein/Overly Architects in Columbus, Ohio.



An exhibit of imaginative affordable-housing designs finds a home at the Weisman.

ments by Thomas Fisher, CALA dean, and Thomas Fulton, president of the Family Housing Fund.

The traveling show is largely comprised of one-dimensional design boards but includes a three-dimensional component that highlights the work of local people. For example, on display is a section of a house designed and built by CALA students in St. Paul for the Wilder Foundation out of panelized oriented-strand board, a material that eliminates the need for traditional stud framing and decreases construction time and costs.

Furniture fashioned from such salvaged objects as steel, freeway signs, and a bedspring by Geoffrey Warner of Alchemy Architects in St. Paul is also part of the show. "We've done projects that utilize off-the-shelf and salvaged materials; that's how we address the need for affordability," Warner explains. "The impetus through a lot of these pieces is to celebrate found objects in a different light. That's what we're trying to propose."

The Weisman exhibition also includes full-scale aspects of two local submissions selected for the original traveling show. In addition to displaying the board of his "Sleeve" house, Marc Swackhamer, assistant professor of architecture at the University, will erect a section of the fabric structure. In addition to displaying his board of an easy-to-assemble house out of 4 by 8 plywood sheets, John Dwyer of Shelter Architecture in Minneapolis will provide models of the house that people can play with, as well as furniture designed and built on the same principles of "minimal cutting, minimal waste, and minimal labor," he says. "All you need is a power saw and a screw gun. And it's all designed to be adaptable if you need to reconfigure a living space, bedroom, or storage area."

While most of house designs in the show are practical and use current technology, others are "far out, whimsical, space age," says Sheey. "That's always

a fun part of architecture, though, to project futuristic ideas." Most exciting about the exhibition, she says, is that architects are "applying their inventiveness, fresh thinking, and knowledge of new technologies and materials to the low end of the housing market. It could be revolutionary."

"The HOME House Project: The Future of Affordable Housing" runs through April 30 at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis. Admission is free. For more information, call 612-625-9494 or visit www.weisman.umn.edu.

—Camille LeFevre

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SINGING FOR THE SILENCE

A UNIVERSITY STUDENT RAISES HER VOICE TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS.

"Oscar Romero . . ."

"Presente . . ."

"Unidentified Person . . ."

"Presente . . ."

I wish I could sing these words off the page and into your ears the way I hear them today. One haunting voice calling, singing the name, and the crowd 16,000 strong answering "Presente" followed by a drum's resounding finality. Each time, a field of white crosses rises in unison lifting the air like voices from the grave. We are raising them up, I say to myself.

My cross reads "Marta de la Cruz, Age 6, El Salvador." It's a small cross, painted white, hardly big enough to carry the weight that Marta de la Cruz carries in my mind. She is one victim of thousands killed by Latin American soldiers who graduated from the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. Soon I will place the cross in the gate that closes us off from the Army base there. I have come six times since 1997 to voice my anger, my shame that this school continues to train soldiers from Latin America. But this story has been unfolding for so much longer. It begins when I was 11 and living in Guatemala City with my family. And though I did not know it at the time, I was already familiarizing myself with the School of the Americas and the role it would play in my life for many years to come.

In Guatemala City, my parents, my two younger brothers, and I lived with a Guatemalan family for two months while my parents attended language school. When we first arrived at their home in early October 1989, Doña Anna was crying. She could barely compose herself to meet us. We asked what was wrong and were told it was the anniversary of the day their youngest daughter, Yerma, disappeared.

Desaparecido was a term I became familiar with, as common as the words for ice cream and soda. Yerma was the first person I knew of who disappeared, but there were so many more to follow. Yerma was a university student and active in a student group that voiced its displeasure with the government and its hope for peace and social reform. But such groups were the targets of the military, and one day, I imagine, as Yerma was leaving the university, walking toward the bus stop and chatting with a friend, a pair of black cars pulled up to the curb beside them. I can imagine how her smile might have faded as her eyes took in the soldiers walking toward her and her friend. They likely never asked for her name before grabbing her arms and twisting

them behind her back. She would have cried out then, as her knees fell to the ground. I can imagine her fear rising in her throat as vomit as she kicked out behind her and tried to bite the hands pressing her down into the sidewalk. They would have picked her up, AK-47 pointing in her back, and thrown her like a piece of luggage into the backseat before driving quickly away.

It is easy to imagine what happened, but much harder to live it. Even after years of questioning authorities and searching through morgues full of tortured corpses, her family knows no more than I do—only that their daughter was taken before they could say goodbye and that they may never learn where the soldiers took her or what they did to her one October day.

"Yerma Hicho . . ."

"Presente . . ."

I learned to fear while living in Guatemala. Fear became sort of a sixth sense, a new lens through which I saw the world. My parents tried to hide the brutalities of the war from my young eyes and ears, and yet I was curious. "What does it mean to torture?" I would ask. "Where do the disappeared go?" I eyed the government palace—set in the middle of Guatemala City, surrounded by dark gates, guarded by soldiers with their AK-47s—with suspicion. Maybe my parents hinted that this was a spot the soldiers took their prisoners, because I swear I could smell the fear sweating from the high walls surrounding the palace. I imagined the prisoners in dark rooms underneath the ground and was afraid to walk too close, that the gates would open and swallow us too.

On November 17, 1989, word came to us in Guatemala City that six Jesuit priests, their maid, and her daughter were murdered in their home in El Salvador. Guatemala and El Salvador cradle each other, borders touching. They were both in the midst of civil wars, and many of their military members were being trained at the School of the Americas. In fact, 19 of the 26 soldiers responsible for the Jesuits' murder were graduates of the school.

I also heard about the 1981 massacre of 900 men, women, and children, in El Mozote, El Salvador. As a whole village was wiped out in one afternoon, a mother hid in the bushes and listened to her children screaming. Now this mother speaks of that day at the School of the Americas protest every year. Every year I attend, I hear about how soldiers threw her children into the air and dropped their bodies

BY ERIN ALTEMUS // ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY SMITH



onto the blade of a machete. She was the only survivor. Ten of 12 soldiers responsible were graduates of the school.

"El Mozote . . ."

"Presente . . ."

I first came to a School of the Americas vigil and protest in 1997 with my best friend, Amy. We were six months out of high school and taking time off before college. My dad told us about the vigil, and the next thing I knew Amy and I were on a bus full of Veterans for Peace, mostly men and women over the age of 60. That year there were 1,200

people at the vigil and 600 crossed the line in an act of civil disobedience. They were arrested and processed and ordered never to come back. The next year, more than 1,000 people, including my father and I, crossed the line onto the base. There were too many of us for them to process, so they loaded us onto white school buses and sent us off the base. As they bused us around we sang freedom songs and peace songs—"We ain't gonna study war no more," and "We shall overcome someday"—and I felt connected to the civil rights movement of the South.

The School of the Americas is a part of the larger Fort Benning military training base in Georgia. But it hasn't always been there. It started in 1946 in Panama but was funded and run by the United States. In the early 1980s, the school was moved to Georgia, where soldiers from all over Latin America continue to be trained. Many of these soldiers have returned to their home countries and committed human rights abuses—most often against teachers, religious workers, students, union activists, and anyone who worked to empower the poor.

The next year I crossed the line again, this time with my mother and grandmother. We walked solemnly in rows of 10, holding white crosses and raising them in the air with each name sung. The road inside the gates is peaceful, stretching for several miles before it reaches the base with large, old-growth pines lining the sides. Someone played a flute as we walked and I was struck by the beauty of such an ugly place.

We never reached the base itself. The military stopped us long before, so we sat down, people ahead and behind, thousands strong. When they told us to board a bus, we planted our crosses by the old-growth pines so the victims would not be forgotten and then, once again, we were bused away.

The school's name was changed in 2001, but the training of Latin American soldiers continues. I returned to Fort Benning in 2002, 2003, and again in 2004. But now the

stakes are too high for me to cross the line. Now, anyone who crosses faces time in prison. My father, along with 26 others—including nuns, priests, university students, and political activists—spent three months in prison in 2003. When I think of Yerma Hicho and her family and the victims of El Mozote, serving a few months in prison seems like a small sacrifice if it might result in closing the school someday. So far I have been unable to take this step. But I have been given the opportunity to sing my own songs to the crowd. I stand in front of thousands, knees shaking, and use my voice to sing about peace and for those presente but now voiceless: Oscar Romero, Marta de la Cruz, and those whose names will never be known.

I will keep returning to Fort Benning because I need to rekindle my energy to keep working for peace, to be encouraged by so many others who also want a better world, and to speak and sing for those who no longer can. I will keep returning until we have raised our voices and crosses so high the men and women in Washington can no longer ignore the sound and the rest of America joins in our cries.

Together we will sing, "*Presente, Presente, Presente!*" ■

Erin Altemus, from Glenwood City, Wisconsin, is studying creative nonfiction in the M.F.A. program at the University of Minnesota. In addition to essays, she is also writing a memoir about the year she lived with her family in a school bus in Guatemala and Nicaragua.



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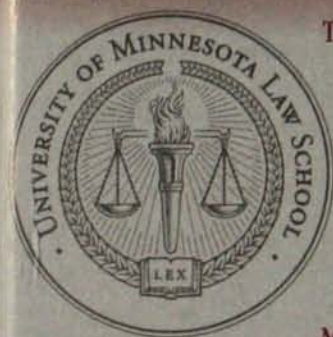
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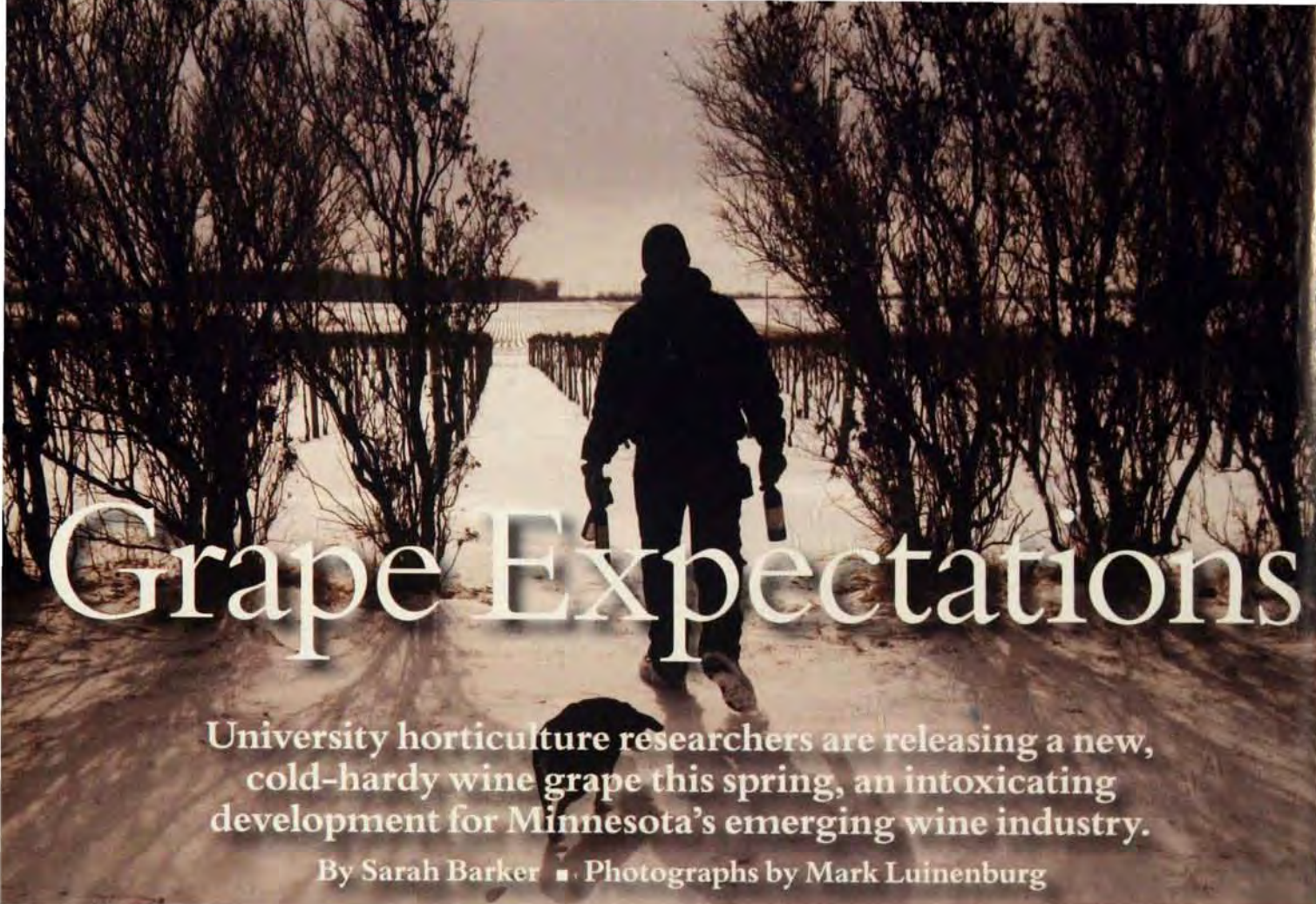
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Grape Expectations

University horticulture researchers are releasing a new, cold-hardy wine grape this spring, an intoxicating development for Minnesota's emerging wine industry.

By Sarah Barker ■ Photographs by Mark Luinenburg

Until recent times, any wine grape that could survive Minnesota's harsh climate was celebrated—cherished solely for its strength of character. It seemed too much to ask that it also taste good. ☺ This spring, however, the University of Minnesota's Horticultural Research Center will release the much-anticipated Marquette, a cold-hardy, disease-resistant grape that yields a pinot noir–like red wine comparable to that produced in sunny California. Marquette marks the fourth variety released in six years by the University's grape-breeding program—a shot in the arm for the emerging Minnesota wine industry and an unlikely boost for traditional Minnesota agriculture.

"Our mandate was to develop more varieties of high-quality, cold-hardy wine grapes," says Peter Hemstad, the grape breeder at the Horticultural Research Center (HRC). "I think we've done that. Twenty years ago, there was one commercial winery in Minnesota. Now there are 16 wineries, about 50 commercial vineyards, and more than a hundred small hobby vineyards. Well over half of those grapes are varieties developed here at the HRC."

One of those commercial vineyards is Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery in Janesville, Minnesota, owned by Ray Winter. He grows some of the University's new varieties and is licensed to propagate vines the U releases. "There

was such a buzz about Marquette, my entire inventory was sold before I even had the vines," Winter says. Eighty to 90 percent of Winterhaven Nursery's stock is University-developed grapes.

A farmer who also grows 650 acres of corn and soybeans, Winter sees grapes as good business—an in-demand, high-value crop that diversifies his crop portfolio. "I make between \$4,000 and \$5,000 [net profit] per acre of grapes. When I have 10 to 12 acres of fully producing grapes, I'll make as much from them as I do from the 650 acres of corn and beans," he says. "Of course," he adds, "you can't grow grapes from a tractor." Much of the work, pruning and



Tom Winter of Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery (left page) and John (left) and Alex Falconer of Falconer Vineyards can't wait for spring.

harvesting, must be done by hand.

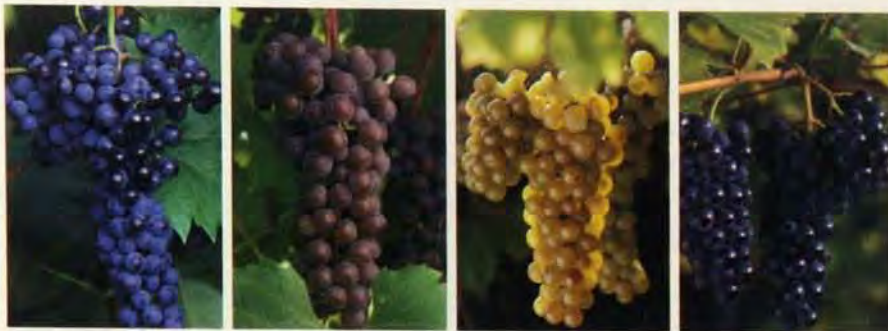
Winter became interested in grapes after he visited with his neighbor, George Marti, owner of Morgan Creek Vineyard and Winery in New Ulm, Minnesota. Winter did some homework, joined the Minnesota Grape Growers Association (MGGA), and started out with about an acre (600 vines) in 2000. He now sells the grapes from his seven and a half acres to Morgan Creek Winery. More wineries have opened and the demand for grapes has increased. To be a licensed winery in Minnesota, at least 51 percent of the juice must come from Minnesota-grown grapes. "Now several of my neighbors are growing grapes. The wineries can't get enough. I think it will be a long time before there are too many grapes in Minnesota," Winter says.

Although Minnesota is not strongly reminiscent of Napa Valley, grapes are native to Minnesota and grow wild as far north as Manitoba. "Horticultural records show that the area around Minnetonka was filled with vineyards in 1885," says John Marshall, secretary of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association. The University has had a grape-breeding program since 1907, but the advent of the railroad, which brought grapes and wine from California, followed by the temperance movement, effectively crushed the Minnesota wine industry.

In 1944, the problem of developing cold-hardy grapes was approached by a Wisconsin dairy farmer. Considered by many to be the father of grape growing in Minnesota, Elmer Swenson worked for 50 years developing varieties still grown today in Minnesota and other northern states. "He didn't have a degree but he really knew his stuff," Hemstad says. Swenson did much of the time-consuming cross breeding on his farm. In 1969, he approached the University of Minnesota, showed them what he had developed, and was offered a job as a gardener at the Horticultural Research Center. Swenson and the University jointly released Edelweiss and Swenson Red in 1978. Swenson released La Crosse and St. Croix varieties in the early 1980s.

In 1973, attorney and gentleman farmer David A. Bailly (J.D. '56) planted French hybrids near Hastings, Minnesota, and started Alexis Bailly Vineyard. These grapes were not cold-hardy and had to be planted at an angle, then tipped and buried in a straw-covered trench over the winter. "To say it was labor-intensive is not a strong-enough term," says Marshall. Despite the pampering, vines do not appreciate being buried and many die. But even more die if they aren't buried. French hybrids, such as Marechal Foche, are still grown in Minnesota but they are rapidly becoming obsolete, replaced by hardy University of Minnesota varieties.

Even though Bailly's was the only commercial winery



Minnesota grapes, left to right: Frontenac, introduced in 1996, is the most popular wine grape in Minnesota and is now widely planted as far as New England and Quebec. Frontenac gris, introduced in 2003, is the white wine version of Frontenac. Trunks of La Crescent, introduced in 2002, have survived temperatures of -36°F degrees Fahrenheit. Marquette, introduced in 2006, is described as a red wine that sets a new standard in cold-hardy viticulture and enology.

Bottom: Researchers are growing and testing new varieties of grapes—for wine and for eating—at the U's Horticultural Research Center near the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

in Minnesota for more than a decade, interest in growing grapes and regional wineries increased in the 1980s due to a blend of reasons, including poor crop prices, an entrepreneurial streak, stubbornness or determination (“who says I can’t grow grapes?”), and the romance of dew-jeweled clusters hanging heavy in the sun. In 1984, the MGGGA asked the Minnesota State Legislature for \$125,000 per year for a viticulture (grape-breeding) and enology program at the University to develop grapes as a new high-value crop for small farms. The growers argued that grapes would improve traditional farmers’ income potential, diversify crops, and augment the state’s tourism industry.

“There was some skepticism on the part of the agriculture committee,” Marshall recalls, “but the amount requested was small and they thought the potential was great, so they went for it.” The HRC (and the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station) has already had considerable success with its apple-breeding program, patenting

such favorites as Haralson, Fireside, and Honeycrisp. In the end, the legislature saw no reason the grape-breeding program couldn’t follow a similar path.

In 1985, Hemstad joined Jim Luby (Ph.D. ’82), a horticulture professor who is responsible for all fruit breeding at the University, as the HRC’s grape breeder. Among the challenges Hemstad faced was developing cold-hardy (meaning the vines could survive winters without being buried), disease-resistant grapes that ripened quickly, had an orderly growth pattern, and contained the right chemical balance of sugars, tannins, and acid to produce a mainstream, commercially acceptable wine—and on a shoestring budget at one of the most northerly latitudes of any wine-producing region in the world. He got right on it.

The HRC’s 11-acre vineyard near the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum west of Chanhassen is the setting for the vinous version of *Survivor*. “Every year we plant out about 3,000 seedling crosses,” Hemstad says. “We don’t spray them, we don’t cover them. The few that survive the rigorous selection process are probably cold-hardy and disease-resistant.”

Less than 1 percent of the seedlings are selected for further testing. A few selections are given to experimental growers around the state and other research stations around the nation to further test the vines’ mettle in various environments. In the fourth and fifth year, fruit from selections are made into wine that is evaluated by a panel of growers and wine experts. In all, it takes about 15 years to produce a named variety: the ultimate survivor. “About one of every 10,000 seedlings has all the qualities necessary to become a named variety,” Hemstad says. The University has released four varieties: Frontenac, Frontenac gris, La Crescent, and now Marquette.

The cross for Marquette was made back in 1992 from MN 1094 and Ravat 262 (a French pinot noir grape), combining the hardiness and early ripening qualities of a wild grape with the ideal chemical content of a traditional wine grape. While Frontenac is probably the most widely grown wine grape in Minnesota, it is not without issues.



University grape breeder Peter Hemstad and enologist Anna Katharine Mansfield work closely with local growers and winemakers.

"It has high acidity that requires adjustment in the fermentation process and low tannins, so the result is a simple wine with a big cherry note. Very little complexity," explains Anna Katharine Mansfield, enologist at the HRC. "Marquette has lower acidity, so it's easier to work with and has higher tannins that make a nice drinkable red with more complexity."

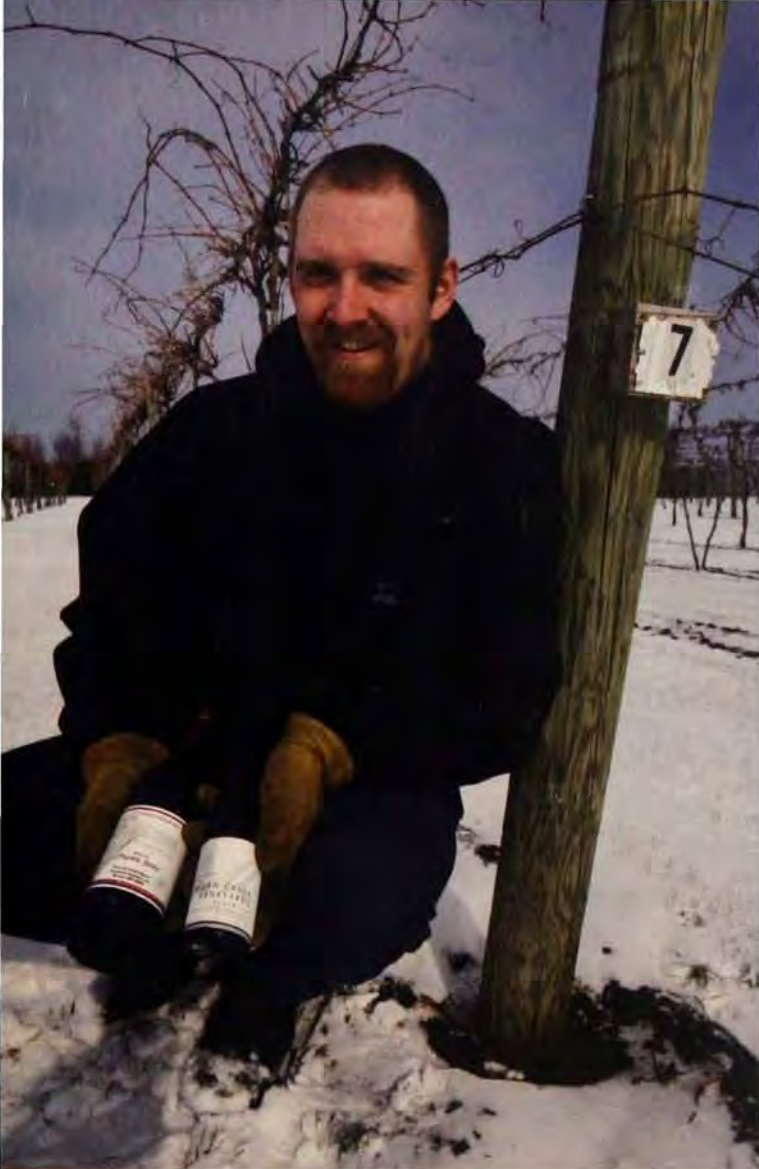
To speed up the snail's pace of vine production, most commercial nurseries pay a horticultural lab to culture the plant material. According to Hemstad, one grape bud can produce a million vines in one year via tissue culture, though there is always some attrition. The University provides plants to about a dozen nurseries in Minnesota and other northern states. (According to the U's Office of Patents and Technology Marketing, in 2005 the University received about \$35,000 in licensing fees from Frontenac, Frontenac gris, and La Crescent—a substantial increase over the three previous years. The U sold about 80,000 Frontenac vines in 2005.)

John Falconer, owner of Falconer Vineyards in Red Wing, is bullish on Minnesota grapes—and Marquette in particular. He first became licensed as a nursery and later as a winery, selling, growing, and producing wine from University-developed grapes. "In the nursery, I could have sold three times as much Marquette as I had, the demand

was so great."

Untroubled by his five landlocked acres, Falconer has three other growers producing grapes for his winery. "Diversification of location makes sense," he says. "If your entire crop is in one place that gets hit by hail or other bad weather, you're in trouble. If it's spread around, you'll always have a good crop." Even though his wine was only available at the winery and in Red Wing, he sold out his inventory in 2005 and registered a 75 percent increase in revenue over the previous year. Ever the entrepreneur, Falconer is building on the romance of wine and his picturesque location by offering the winery as a venue for weddings and picnics and selling Red Wing stoneware as well.

In contrast, Nan Bailly has no romantic notions about running a vineyard. Head grower and winemaker at Alexis Bailly Vineyard, the oldest operating vineyard and winery in Minnesota, Nan Bailly has a unique, seasoned perspective on the business. She is one of the HRC's wine experts and grows experimental selections before they're released to other growers. University varieties make up more than half of her vineyard, but she's thirsty for even more varieties, with less extreme flavors. "Frontenac is very tricky to work with and is, frankly, a niche wine," she says of the popular grape. "Even Marquette is a specialty wine. I just want a good, simple workhorse wine," she explains.



Tom Winter at his family's vineyard in Janesville, Minnesota

Wine Facts Uncorked

- Cold-hardy vines generally have higher salinity in their cells that keeps them from freezing.
- One acre of grapes is about 650 vines.
- One acre of vines produces between three and five tons of grapes at about \$1,200 per ton profit (start-up costs can be \$7,000 per acre).
- Twelve pounds of grapes equals one gallon or five bottles of wine.
- Tannins are not a flavor, but rather a mouth feel or texture that add complexity to wine.
- European winemakers traditionally added bovine blood, egg whites, or milk to clarify wine during the winemaking process, but these are rarely used today.
- A student at the University of Minnesota wishing to pursue viticulture would major in horticulture; a student concentrating on enology would major in food science.
- Wine has been described as figgy, herbal, jammy, briary, big, explosive, toasty, supple, forward, having an elegant frame, and spicy with a long savor of pie crust.
- "You can't make good wine from bad grapes, but you can make bad wine from good grapes" are University enologist Anna Katharine Mansfield's words to live by.

Bailly points out that growing grapes is a complex business, particularly in Minnesota, and that inexperienced growers produce fruit that reflects their inexperience. "I cannot be supported by backyard hobbyists," she explains.

Marshall from the growers association concurs on some points: "The biggest problem we face right now is a shortage of locally grown grapes—and of serious growers." The availability of cold-hardy wine grapes has indeed jump-started an entire industry and provided an alternative, high-value crop, as originally planned. And regional wines pair nicely with tourism. "But you can't go into a vineyard thinking it will be easy money," Marshall says. "It involves a lot of physical labor, up to \$7,000 per acre in start-up costs, five years before the vines are fully productive, and up to 10 years to pay back."

The four partners who own Fieldstone Vineyards in Morgan, Minnesota, have experienced the optimism and the frustrations of an infant industry. Charlie Quast (B.A. '97) has a day job but saw huge potential in three idle acres on his father-in-law's 300-acre farm. Using the University's viticulture program as a resource, he applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and, together with farm owner Don Reding and his son Chad, planted 1,800 vines back in 2000.

Despite the fact that they lost 75 percent of their French hybrids in the first year, Quast was encouraged by the \$3,000- to \$5,000-per-acre income. In 2003, with the help of winemaker Mark Wedge, they renovated a 100-year-old barn and opened a winery. "The dollars and cents work," Quast says. "Five years ago, I would have been happy to have a few growers helping us out. Now we have eight people growing for us because they see the income potential."

Don Crofut, owner of Crofut Family Winery and Vineyard in Jordan, Minnesota, feels the local wine industry has reached critical mass. "The U of M has developed more varieties of better grapes for this region," he says. "Grapes have proven to be an excellent, in-demand crop that provides a nice income on a small piece of land without expensive equipment, so more growers are becoming involved. Winemakers are gaining experience with these grapes and are producing some excellent wine. And finally, consumers are more knowledgeable about wine in general. I think the dream of vibrant farm wineries is not that far off."

For Ray Winter of Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery, grapes have been good for both business and his family. The added income from the vineyard and nursery has allowed his son, Tom, to join him in the venture. And his daughter, Angie, intends to pursue winemaking in college this fall. "If she becomes an enologist [a winemaker], we may open a winery down the road," Winter says. ■

Sarah Barker is a frequent contributor to Minnesota.

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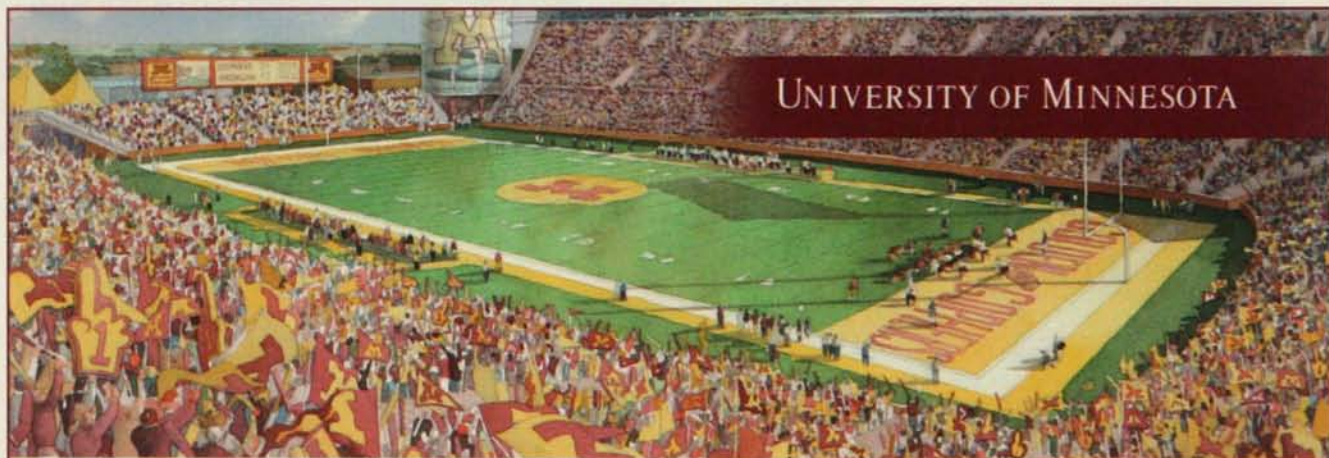
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In 1932, a 37-year-old engineer employed by the Standard Oil Company of California (Socal) made a habit of climbing the highest point on the island of Bahrain, about 20 miles across the Persian Gulf from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. From that hilltop, he stared at the topography of the mainland, over the blue-green waters of the gulf. There, Fred Davies (B.S. '16), a University of Minnesota graduate in mining, saw a landscape similar to the one that he was standing on. In the distance, he could see a cluster of hills forming a dome above the countryside.

Davies had just drilled the first successful oil well in Bahrain through similar terrain. Now his training, experience, and instincts told him that there was more oil to be had across the water—much more—in those hills on the other side of the flat shoreline. In fact, he was confident enough in that assessment to advise his employers that they ought to be here, in the heart of Arabia, where no other oil company in the world had yet drilled.

It is no exaggeration to say that all of the momentous history that has subsequently linked the United States to the Middle East began with that appraisal. From it stemmed a series of events that brought U.S. oil companies to Saudi Arabia to begin extracting the single largest petroleum deposit in the world. From those wells have flowed billions of barrels of oil, trillions of dollars in commerce, and a steady stream of turmoil.

Fred Davies did not disappear from the story with those

sightings. In fact, his work in Saudi Arabia, and at home in the United States for Socal (at his suggestion, the company name would be changed in the 1940s, to the Arab-American Company, Aramco), would make Davies one of the major figures in the early history of Saudi Arabian oil. From his days in the early 1930s as a “hunch and slog” prospector for oil in Bahrain, to his retirement in 1959, as

chairman of the board of Aramco, the largest producer of crude oil in the world, Davies was an integral player in the world of oil discovery and development.

Born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Fred Davies was raised primarily in north Minneapolis, one of five boys, whose father, Ralph, worked in the grain business in the city. The young Davies was tall, rangy, and handsome and earned the nickname “Slim” while studying engineering in the School of Mines at the University of Minnesota.

Davies worked for the Anaconda Copper Company for a year after college, did a hitch in the military in World War I, working in a chemical warfare unit, and wound up employed by Standard Oil of California in 1922. There he looked for oil in the Rocky Mountains until he got the call to head to the Middle East. After overseeing the drilling of that first well in Bahrain, and imagining the possibilities in Saudi Arabia, Davies made his first foray across the gulf waters to the mainland in the spring of 1932.

At the time, Saudi Arabia was just emerging as a modern nation. The Bedouin tribes, which had dominated the region for centuries, had been consolidated under the leadership of King Ibn Saud and a monarchy, whose territory stretched from the Red Sea in the west to the Persian Gulf in the east, was formed. It was the heart of the ancient land known as Arabia and held the two cities most sacred to Muslims all over the world: Mecca, where the Prophet Muhammad was born; and Medina, where the Prophet had died. Because of its importance as the religious center



Fred Davies (second from left) at a camp east of Riyadh. (From the Special Collections Department, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.)

Beneath Saudi Sands

University alumnus **Fred Davies** (B.S. '16) had a hunch that crude oil lay hidden deep in the Arabian peninsula. Indeed, his work would lead to the discovery of the world's largest oil fields.

By Tim Brady



Fred Davies (left), chairman of the board at Aramco, with King Ibn Saud (seated) and others in the Aramco dining hall in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. (From the Seal-Aramco Collection of Photographs, Box 1 Folder 4, Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Division, Washington, D.C.)

of Islam, Saudi Arabia was and remains a special land for all the world's Muslims.

In the early 1930s, King Saud was strapped for funds with which to govern his new nation and looked to the West for support through the sale of oil concessions. Historically, Britain had been the one western power that had dominated the pursuit of oil in the Middle East, but its concessions and reserves had come from Iraq and Iran. It had never explored the interior of the Arabian peninsula for oil. Though it seems hard to imagine today, there were questions whether oil even existed beneath these desert lands.

The British were dealing with a number of economic and diplomatic difficulties in the wake of World War I. Among them was their effort at maintaining a colonial empire under reduced circumstances. As a nation and economic power, Great Britain simply didn't have the resources it once had, and the upshot for King Saud was that Britain's interest in Arab oil exploration was surprisingly tepid.

The United States was a latecomer to the pursuit of Middle Eastern oil, but it jumped into the fray in the late 1920s. Socal had tried, with little success, to find oil in

Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, the Philippines, and Alaska. Some within the company were less than enthusiastic about the prospects for oil in the Persian Gulf. These same skeptics viewed the exploration in even dimmer light as the Great Depression swept over

the globe and a costly hunt for crude in Arabia seemed like an extravagance.

Oil seekers within the company won out over its accountants, however, and Socal became the first American oil business to send explorers to the Middle East. Davies was the man picked to lead the crew, and Bahrain was the first site for drilling. After his successes there, Davies crossed into Saudi Arabia with the hope of talking to Ibn Saud about the possibility of exploring that dome of hills near the gulf coast for oil. But he failed to get an audience with the king and headed back to the United States empty-handed.

Ibn Saud's need for cash remained, British interest in the region's oil remained cool, and Davies, back in the States, continued to lobby for the exploration of oil in Saudi Arabia. Two new representatives of Socal were sent to the Middle East and won an audience with Saud in 1933. Through these emissaries, Socal was able to sign an agreement to begin the process of looking for oil in eastern Saudi Arabia.

By 1934, Fred Davies was back in Bahrain. A year later, he was in Saudi Arabia, serving as camp boss in the first American effort at digging oil wells in those same hills that he'd spied three years earlier, now called the Damman Dome.

As a nation, Saudi Arabia's income was derived primar-



Fred Davies (second from left) with other Aramco officials in Saudi Arabia. (From the Special Collections Department, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.)

ily from Muslim pilgrims making the trip to Mecca. Otherwise, Davies said in an Aramco statement, it was "a nomadic society [dependent] on the scant and uncertain provisions of the desert." The culture was tribal, patriarchal, Islamic, and ancient. According to Davies, it "could not have changed much since the days of the Prophet."

The agreement signed between Socal and the Saudis made patently clear that the Americans were in Arabia at the invitation of the Saudis and would adhere to the customs of the people and the land. That meant, among other restrictions, alcohol was strictly forbidden and consorting in any fashion with the women of Saudi Arabia was a crime punishable by death. In the eyes of the Saudis, the Americans were infidels, working in their lands at their own invitation and for Arab profit.

Into these circumstances came a group of roughnecks and wildcatters from Dust Bowl America accustomed to working in the oil fields of Texas, Oklahoma, and California. Cultural sensitivity was hardly their forte. Perhaps not surprisingly, all of the powers concerned felt it was best for contact between Arabs and Americans to be as limited as possible. Though Saudis provided much of the labor at the drilling sites, the camps themselves were isolated and interaction between Americans and Saudis was otherwise

strictly limited.

Davies's job was to make all of this work and to produce oil. He had the right, no-nonsense sensibility for the task. "Davies was not a terribly warm and chummy guy," wrote an Aramco colleague many years later, "but he was enormously respected by government officials and employees alike." Another co-worker said that he was "hard working, smart, imaginative, honest" and "concerned about people." Also, a little moody, said this friend, and a quick-tempered.

No doubt working on the Damman Dome tested Davies's patience. Aside from the cultural difficulties, the desert climate was as extreme as any on Earth. Temperatures climbed quickly and easily into the 120s and sandstorms were a frequent hazard. To top it all off, oil did not immediately pour from the sands of Saudi Arabia.

In 1935, Damman No. 1 was drilled in the dome and produced a modest amount of crude at 2,300 feet. A few months later, a second well, Damman No. 2, brought in oil at 2,100 feet. It began flowing at a rate of 3,800 barrels a day, which was a sufficiently exciting return for Standard Oil Company officials in San Francisco to send air conditioning units to the camp in Saudi Arabia as a sign of commitment to the project. The company also quickly ordered drilling on wells No. 3, 4, 5, and 6.

But soon after Davies and the crew began working on Damman No. 7 in December of 1936, enthusiasm eroded. Oil from each of the first six wells had turned into trickles and it would take until October for No. 7 to produce any oil at all—and that was at a depth of more than 3,600 feet. In early 1938, Davies and the chief geologist on the site were called back to San Francisco to explain to the honchos at Standard why it made sense to remain in the sands of Saudi Arabia.

The gusher came in while they were away. In March 1938, at a depth of more than 4,700 feet, Damman No. 7 started producing oil at a consistent rate of 3,000 barrels a day. By digging deeper in Nos. 2 and 4, oil came in at similar rates. All through the year, the crude was suddenly flowing thick and fast in the Arabian heat, and Standard Oil was finally convinced that it had struck pay dirt. Early in 1939, Ibn Saud and the nation of Saudi Arabia received its first royalty check at a rate of 21 cents per barrel, and soon after, the first shipment of Saudi oil was loaded in a tanker and headed for the United States.

Damman Dome was the first of more than 50 oil fields begun by Aramco in Saudi Arabia, where, in time, more than a quarter of the world's known oil reserves would be found. Damman Dome was not the largest field in the region, on land or sea, but it was where the saga of U.S. involvement in Middle East oil all began; and No. 7 would produce at a consistent rate of around 3,000 barrels of oil a day until 1982, almost 45 years.

Not long after that first shipment of oil sailed for the States, Fred Davies followed it home. Back in California he was rewarded for his stellar work in Saudi Arabia by being named president of the Arabian arm of Socal. He held that post for the next seven years, overseeing the contin-

ued expansion of operations in Saudi Arabia.

Aramco was formed in the late 1940s out of a joining of Socal, Texaco, Exxon, and Mobil. At the time, Davies was asked to step aside from the presidency, which went to a Texaco man. Davies, "a good soldier," in the words of one co-worker, became vice president in charge of operations for Aramco and in 1949 moved back to Dhahran in Saudi Arabia with his wife, Amy, where the two would spend the rest of Davies's career.

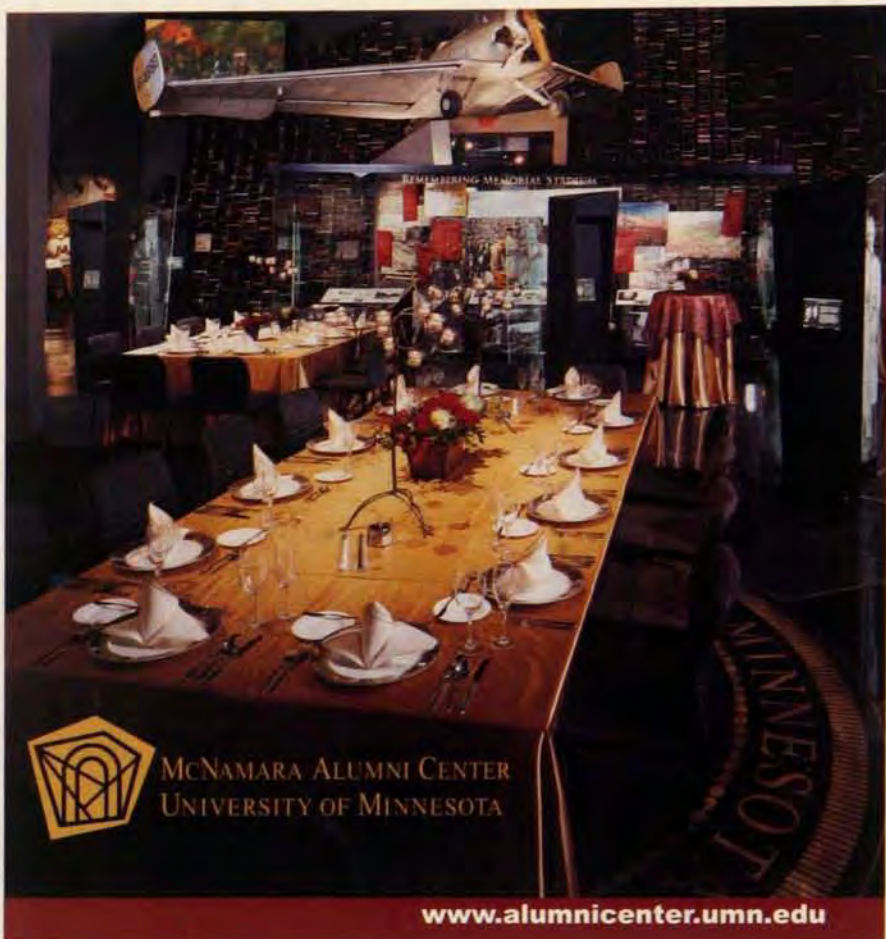
In 1952, the headquarters for Aramco were moved to Saudi Arabia, and Davies, already there and in charge of operations, was named chairman of the board and CEO. Along with the Texaco executive, who remained president of Aramco, Davies worked as a co-chief officer until his retirement in 1959.

The University of Minnesota honored Fred Davies in 1954 with an Outstanding Achievement Award for his professional accomplishments. Six years later, the U recognized Fred's brother Herman, also a U of M grad (B.S. '21), and also a long-time employee of Socal, with the same honor.

Davies spent the last years of his life in California, still working as a consultant, now for an oil development business called Kern County Land Company. In 1971, Aramco honored him by naming the first supertanker ever commissioned after him. The *F.A. Davies* delivered its first oil that same year. At ceremonies marking the occasion, he was honored as a man "whose vision, professional skills, and persistence were instrumental in the uncovering of vast petroleum reserves in the Gulf."

Davies died in Lafayette, California on February 3, 1975. He was 80 years old. Amy had passed away six years earlier. They had two children who survived them, Fred M. Davies and Mary Davies Robbins. ■

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



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Prince of Darkness

University alumnus **Santino Fontana** plans to do Hamlet justice in the Guthrie's spring production.

Santino Fontana was a young actor living in New York City, dining with a friend on a hotel's free hors d'oeuvres, when he got the call on his cell. "How would you like to be the Prince of Denmark," asked Joe Dowling, artistic director of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. "I think I said, 'Are you serious?'" Fontana recalls. "Meanwhile, my friend started yelling in the hotel, 'He's going to play Hamlet!' It was so exciting, but I couldn't get too excited because I was in a hotel I shouldn't be in. Oh, lordy."

The 23-year-old Fontana (B.F.A. '04), a graduate of the Guthrie Theater/University of Minnesota Actor Training Program, had been given a career-making role: that of Shakespeare's conflicted young prince in the eponymous tragedy, *Hamlet*. Moreover, this production will close the world-renowned theater's final season at 725 Vineland Place, 43 years after it opened with *Hamlet*, directed by Tyrone Guthrie in 1963 and starring George Grizzard in the title role. (The new Guthrie Theater on the Mississippi River opens in June.)

So it's no surprise Fontana awoke the next morning in a panic. "I was scared to death," he says, recalling his uncertainty about particular scenes and Hamlet's relationships with other characters in the play, as well as his trepidation about the play's importance as a touchstone for the Guthrie. But he also remembered Guthrie actor Helen Carey's advice before he auditioned for the role.

"She said to just forget the name Hamlet and instead think of a young kid who was at college and his father passed away and he had to come home," Santino says. "And it really did make a difference." That sort of schooling, in fact, is a hallmark of the Actor Training Program, the only program of its kind allied with a major regional theater company.

A native of Richland, Washington, Santino originally planned on studying music. But during his senior year of high school, while competing for a scholarship from the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, he met Ken Washington, one of the judges and the Guthrie's

director of company development. "We got to talking and he slowly but surely talked me out of going to music school and into going to acting school," Fontana says.

The young actor/singer traveled to Minneapolis to audition for the new B.F.A. program and saw *The Darker Face of the Earth* at the Guthrie. "I had never seen a thrust stage, a play like that, and everything started seeming more right," he says. "I knew this is where I should be and where my talents lie." Fontana and 18 other students were selected as the first class of the fledgling B.F.A. program. "They called us the trailblazers," he says with a laugh, "but we called ourselves the guinea pigs."

The program's primary strength is its combination of liberal arts education and acting training, Fontana says. Instructors from both the University and the Guthrie "really pushed the actor as an artist," he says. "They nurtured us as artists and trained us to be aware of the world we're living in and who we're trying to communicate with." Fontana's natural abilities, however, clearly put him in a class by himself.

"They were a very talented group, that first class," Dowling says. "But there was something about Santino's stage presence, his musicality and his openness as an actor; you kept being drawn to him. I really became aware of him at the end of his sophomore year when they did a program called 'Shakespeare's Lovers' at the Illusion Theater. It was very clear that here was a young actor who could command text, who had the ability to be very flexible with the language, and whose understanding of Shakespeare resonated through that whole program. So I watched fairly closely from then on."

In his junior year, Fontana was cast in the Guthrie's *Six Degrees of Separation*. Following graduation, he appeared in the Guthrie's *As You Like It*, *A Christmas Carol*, and as Bernard in *Death of a Salesman*, which toured to the Dublin Theater Festival. In the role of Bernard, Fontana's transition from bookish kid to successful adult "was superbly handled," Dowling recalls. "You could see Santino is a major actor in the making."

Last summer, Fontana served as assistant director for Dowling's production of *His Girl Friday* by John Guare, starring Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance. In addition to performing in plays at the University and elsewhere around the country, Fontana has also composed original scores for five plays, was a recent guest soloist at Joe's Pub in New York, and was recognized at the National Lionel

BY CAMILLE LeFEVRE // PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN MARSHALL



Hampton Jazz Festival as Outstanding Male Vocalist. He's also no stranger to Hamlet. Fontana founded Take the Lead, an educational program that engages high school students with classical theater, and he directed several versions of *Hamlet* with the students.

Currently, however, Fontana's experiencing what he laughingly calls "Hamlet boot camp" to prepare him physically for the punishing role. He estimates the character is onstage 80 percent of the time during the three-hour play, which runs for nine weeks with two shows a day on Saturdays and Sundays. Marcela Lorca, the Guthrie's movement coach, has him practicing yoga and African dance, "because it frees up your body to be expressive." Fontana has been working with Dowling since last October and is also under the tutelage of Andrew Wade, an internationally recognized voice/text coach who has coached, among other Hamlets, British actor Kenneth Branagh in his film of the play.

"I have to go to bat for this character. I have to stand up for him," says Fontana, who will turn 24 during *Hamlet*'s

run. To do so, he adds, "I'm going to need the vocal, textual, and physical chops to be as expressive as I can, so I'm not limited by myself." At the same time, he continues, "I need to connect to the character on a deeper level that's going to allow me to transcend the technical exercises and just do the role." Already, Fontana's passion for and connection with his character are clear.

On that deeper level, does Fontana find Hamlet to be hesitant and whiny, as literary interpretations contend? "I say no!" he argues. "The importance of Hamlet getting everything right is huge. He wants to make the right decision, so he talks himself through every possible way things could turn out. He's incredibly smart, and yet he's incredibly gentle. He's all about honor, dignity, and fulfilling his role as a prince." ■

Camille LeFevre is a St. Paul-based freelance writer. For tickets to the Guthrie's Hamlet, which runs March 4–May 7, call 612-377-2224 or visit www.guthrietheater.com.



PAR AVION

The winning entry
in *Minnesota* magazine's
seventh annual
fiction contest.

BY EMILY FREEMAN



HELEN and her husband had bought the small, white house on Farmington Road only four months before a heart attack took him, quickly and quietly in the garden. He was 59. Helen

had found him in the yard of their old house on Maple Street, lying at the edge of the garden by the raspberry bushes, an impenetrable mass of leaves, small thorns, and hard pink berries that wouldn't be ready to pick for another month. It was only June, and the raspberries needed until at least the Fourth of July to ripen properly.

She remembered having nearly fainted at the sight of him. She'd tripped awkwardly through the neat rows of carrots, beets, and cabbage till she reached the post of the garden gate. Here she propped herself up in frozen panic, catching her breath before she could shout for help and rush over to where her husband lay. He was warm. She'd heard her daughter running through the yard. The dog burst into the garden, ran over to Helen's husband, and stared with confusion at what looked and smelled like his master but was missing something. He turned away and began to root beneath the raspberry bushes for mice. Helen heard the ambulance's wail from down the road.

Eight years after his death, she was still living in Pittsford in the house they'd bought, filling in her husband's empty spaces with her 10-year-old granddaughter, Faye, who had come to stay after her mother, Helen's daughter, needed some time alone to get back on her feet after a second—and quite unexpected—divorce. Faye had dutifully shown up at her grandmother's door one afternoon in late summer, behaving as though it were just a weekend visit, apparently unfazed when it stretched on for several months while her mother was busy finding herself somewhere in northern California.

Helen cried out in sleep for her dead husband, a soft wailing that often woke Faye, who would

ILLUSTRATION BY CARMEN SEGOVIA





grow up believing that this was an entirely normal thing to hear in the middle of the night. Faye would stir softly, maybe readjust her pillow or tug her blankets up higher around her shoulders, then fall back into dreams.

For years Helen lived in complete ignorance of what was on average a twice-weekly occurrence. Not until Faye was a teenager, long since having moved back in with her mother, would she ever mention any of this to Helen. This delayed discussion wasn't due to any well-meaning attempt to spare Helen the soft pang of humiliation that comes with the recognition of one's fallibility in the eyes of a younger family member. Rather, it had simply never occurred to Faye that this was anything worth mentioning, anything out of the ordinary. To her, it was simply one square in the patchwork of night sounds at her grandmother's house: the wind through the trees, the cracking boom of thunder, the name of a man she'd never known sent through the wall in plaintive tones.

Helen's husband had been distant, almost passively unkind, but she mourned his absence nonetheless. He'd defined her, and without him all of her insecurities and fears rose quickly to the surface. In old family films, silent and wobbly, the camera was fixed on him as he strolled handsomely down the driveway or worked in his garden. Helen (most often it was she who held the camera) filmed her husband laboring elegantly among the rows, pant legs tucked into stiff black Wellingtons, often wearing a dress shirt, and always standing up. Rarely did he crouch down to the earth. It was a very removed, clinical sort of gardening, but successful nonetheless.

At times the camera fell into other hands, and Helen herself was occasionally caught on film, made shy and apparently uncomfortable by the attention. She smiled and covered her mouth, hiding teeth that she'd always thought were too big. She never believed herself beautiful, and in later years would worry that she'd never done enough to help her children believe that they were beautiful either. In truth, it had never occurred to her at the time that this was one of the responsibilities of being a parent.

On occasion Helen had dinner with a man named Bill Boone, an old friend of her husband's from Princeton. He would pick her up early on a Saturday evening, moving with little variation through the formalities of kissing her dryly on the cheek in greeting, opening the car door for her. They would head to Valvano's, an Italian restaurant in the next town, an easy 15-minute drive past sprawling horse farms, old stone houses and small white churches with tall steeples. Once in a while they'd head north to have dinner

at the country club to which Helen and her husband had belonged. She felt uncomfortable showing up there with Bill, though, worried that other members might think she'd replaced her husband too quickly, having no way to communicate that this man by her side was merely a companion, a stand-in for his old friend. He wasn't the one who was supposed to have been pulling out Helen's chair for her, placing her dinner order with the waiter, smiling at her across the white tablecloth. It was never supposed to be like this.

As the years went on, Bill's eyesight began to wane, and his daughter would do the driving while Bill sat next to Helen in the back seat of the daughter's small sedan. It was an arrangement that Helen found humiliating for everyone involved. She felt like a child, like some kind of useless passenger, somehow not proper enough.

The dinners with Bill always followed a certain pattern: talking about the menu; talking about old friends who had died, moved away, or gotten sick; talking about changes in the town. Helen would have a small glass of sherry with her meal. Every so often Bill would order a second Tom Collins, halfway through which he would lean in closer to Helen, suggesting with a smile that they might want to arrange to spend a longer evening together at some point. "Of course, I couldn't do much," he'd say shyly, "but it would be nice to just lie there with you."


Helen, who found the whole prospect extraordinarily unsettling, would fuss with her napkin, affect her most accommodating smile, and direct the conversation elsewhere. She'd never had to know the shame of bedroom failure with her husband and had no interest in being introduced to it by this stooped, white-haired man who couldn't even drive a car at night. On nights following such a proposal, Bill would invariably place his cold, gouty hand on Helen's knee as his daughter drove them home.

Helen found Faye to be a surprisingly easy and pleasant charge. Each night, she would fix Faye dinner: macaroni and cheese, corned beef hash, sometimes a hamburger, and the two of them would sit quietly in front of the television in the living room, their meals on a small matching trays. Faye sat through programs that Helen thought oddly mature for a girl her age: heavy period dramas on PBS, or old black-and-white sitcoms the humor of which, to Helen's mind, couldn't possibly resonate with her young granddaughter. Faye was transfixed, though, lifting forkfuls of macaroni to her lips as canned laughter or Cockney accents drifted through the house.

Faye would sometimes spend afternoons with Helen in her bedroom, looking through her grandmother's cos-

Helen's husband had been an avid stamp collector, and she'd often wondered if his innumerable trips to philately meetings were more about philandering, a way to connect with a lover in the safety of a mid-range hotel in some anonymous Midwestern city.

By air mail
Par avion



In this moment, the tiny square of paper held aloft above the phone bill, Helen felt a kind of control, as though life weren't constantly just out of her grasp, taunting her with its enticing impossibilities. She brought the stamp close to her face and inspected the plane's details. Twenty cents. Air Mail.

tume jewelry and trying on the long, dangly clip-on earrings that Helen had long since abandoned wearing. Often Faye wound all of Helen's music boxes at once, producing a bright, tinkling confusion that might have sounded discordant to the unfamiliar ear. To Helen, though, who was able to recognize and isolate the various strains of Schubert, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, the sound proved a delightful pastiche of music she had loved, an auditory scrapbook of her younger days.

The child had a delicate and respectful touch, and Helen never feared for the well-being of the objects with which she played. Only once, when Faye was much younger and visiting with her mother, had she attempted to take the clothing off of a small stuffed dog that Helen's husband had brought back from a trip to Germany. It wore a tiny pair of lederhosen that Faye had managed to remove but couldn't quite put back on correctly.

Helen had found her in tears, vainly yanking the dog's pants on backwards, one leg through the tail hole, practically collapsed in penitential frustration. Helen was only mildly troubled by the dog's undressing, more fixated as she was on her granddaughter's reaction. It seemed to her maudlin, exaggerated, as though someone had told Faye how best to comport herself in order to elicit pity and not anger in her grandmother. As Helen correctly clothed the doll, accompanied by sounds of sniffing and whimpering, she thought about how silly she'd been to assign such calculations to the small child.

Helen's husband had been an avid stamp collector, and she'd often wondered if his innumerable trips to philately meetings were more about philandering, a way to connect with a lover in the safety of a mid-range hotel in some anonymous Midwestern city. She typically shrugged off such suspicion, reminding herself of the times that he'd invited her to come along to Buffalo for the statewide convention, or on a drive down South to pick up a rare stamp from a collector outside of Atlanta. He was handsome, there was no doubt, but she'd never been given sufficient cause to doubt his loyalty.

His invitations to come along notwithstanding, Helen resented these pastimes that so often took her husband from her. Theirs had been a time and place in which a man's worth was measured not merely by his success at a noteworthy occupation, but in the quality of his leisure time as well. Her husband collected stamps, played golf, went big game hunting in Canada with Bill Boone and other old college friends. She'd wanted so badly to be included all those years, to drive across the state next to her handsome husband,

humming along with the songs that played on the radio as they passed through small coastal towns, stopping for picnics along the way. She'd wanted to come along to Canada, as Bill Boone's exuberant tomboy of a wife once had, and spend her days in front of the fire at the lodge, reading, maybe even snowshoeing along the trails that skirted the great dark forest where the men hid with guns.

There was something in Helen that held her back, though, gripping her as though with cords drawn tightly across her chest and bound to the front porch of the house. She always wanted so badly to be asked, to be included in her husband's overseas junkets and weekend trips upstate, but no matter how firmly she'd set her mind to eagerly joining him the next time he asked, she would always hear the same words come out of her mouth as if from some other, disappointingly unenthusiastic woman: "Not this time, dear, but thank you for thinking of me." Eventually, he stopped asking.

Now, her husband gone, Helen was left with the souvenirs and relics of 30 years of travel in tireless pursuit of business and diversion. She had photo albums of her husband and his friends holding long shotguns in front of white-roofed hunting lodges; she had soft, wool sweaters in many colors, emblazoned with the crests of St. Andrews and Gleneagles; she had a Russian lacquered box, the stuffed dog from Germany, and a Japanese netsuke of dull green jade—a small cat curled tightly into a ball, its head tucked beneath its tail as though hiding.

On the bottom shelf of her bookcase she kept his stamp collection, painstakingly organized by her husband into seven heavy leather volumes. This hobby was his most solitary and the one from which she felt most excluded. It seemed to take him away from her more and more in the later years, the years during which he no longer made any overtures toward an invitation to join him. It was during his last year at a Northeast regional collectors' meeting that Helen had called what she'd been certain had been his hotel room number, only to hear a woman's voice answer on the other end, gaily inquiring, "Hello? Hello? Who is this, please?"

Faye wasn't allowed to play with the stamps herself, but occasionally Helen would pull a volume off the shelf and she and her granddaughter would sit quietly at the desk, Helen slowly turning the pages while Faye looked but didn't touch. Lacking any apparent genetic predisposition for the hobby, Faye's interest would wane and she would ask her grandmother permission to look at her charm bracelets, or to play with the wooden cigarette box that played "Easter

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Parade" when its lid was opened. On the lid was a small and faded painting of a woman in a towering flowered hat. For Faye, the sweet smell of unlit cigarettes would become inextricably connected with this song. At a friend's wedding years later, she would hear the first few notes and for one brief moment the unmistakable honey-sweet smell of tobacco would permeate the air of the musty old ballroom that had been rented out for the occasion. In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it, you'll be the grandest lady in the Easter Parade.

On a gray fall afternoon, after rinsing out her teacup in the sink, Helen tightened her shawl around her shoulders and headed into her sitting room, where she'd laid out her bills the night before. She opened a volume marked "Domestic 1935-1945" and gently lifted a faded green airplane from its onionskin pocket. The adhesive on the stamp had long since dried up, so she dabbed a bit of mucilage on the envelope of her October phone bill, squeezing a single, golden drop from the crusty rubber top of the bottle.

Helen held the antique stamp above the envelope. In that moment of hesitation she felt a powerful stillness, a present quality unlike any she could remember feeling. In this moment, the tiny square of paper held aloft above the phone bill, Helen felt a

kind of control, as though life weren't constantly just out of her grasp, taunting her with its various and enticing impossibilities. She brought the stamp close to her face and inspected the plane's details. Twenty cents. Air Mail. She admired the careful detail of the image, the subtle coloring, wondering if she, too, might have been interested in stamp collecting if she'd taken a moment to consider its appeal. She thought of all the journeys that she might have taken, to American cities and to destinations requiring Air Mail postage, of plane rides and foreign men asking intriguing questions. If not for that voice inside of her that whispered: *Stay. Stay right here where it's warm and constant.*

Helen slipped the old airplane stamp back into its pocket and began to rummage through her desk for current postage. The rates seemed to increase with each passing year. Shaking her head, she poked through a small box of paper clips, return address labels, and stamps of odd denominations until she found what she needed.

With a creak of the front door she stepped out onto the porch and down the cement steps to the mailbox. Soon she would have to call someone to come by and switch out the screens with storm windows. It was something her husband had always done in order to shield Helen from the Eastern winters, a tangible way in which he demonstrated his protectiveness. Or maybe, Helen thought as she slipped

ABOUT THE CONTEST AND ITS WINNER

Emily Freeman is a first-year graduate student in the University of Minnesota's creative writing M.F.A. program. Originally from New York, she completed her undergraduate degree in history at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1998. Since then, she's lived and worked on both coasts, finally making her way back to the Midwest. Before deciding to return to school, Freeman's various jobs included ranch hand, secretary, health-food store manager, and art history instructor. Emily lives with her husband, artist Nathaniel Freeman, and their two dogs in a former corner grocery store in northeast Minneapolis. "Par Avion" is her first published short story.

Minnesota magazine's annual fiction contest is open to all University of Minnesota students and alumni. An independent judge selects the winner from a group of finalists culled by the editorial staff. The winning entry is published in the magazine and online and its author is awarded a cash prize. This year's entry won \$1,500. Watch *Minnesota* for guidelines for next year's contest, or visit www.alumni.umn.edu/fiction.

the envelope into the mailbox and lifted the flag, maybe it was only to keep her comfortably quiet, to create the illusion that all was well in the home, to make it a place she'd want to stay. Or perhaps it was as simple as keeping the heating bills down.

She walked back up into the house and peered down the street before closing the screen door behind her. Faye's bus would be coming soon, and Helen thought she might try to engage her granddaughter in something besides costume jewelry and music boxes. Faye was getting old enough, Helen thought, that she might like to look through some of the old photo albums, to see the pictures of the places that her grandfather had visited, her mother as an infant, and the old house on Maple Street. She leaned down and straightened the doormat, pushing it flush against the house where its faded letters called out a faint welcome.

That afternoon they read nearly 20 pages of *Sara Crewe*, and afterwards Helen joined Faye in a game of the girl's choosing. She'd failed in nearly ever attempt to turn Faye on to backgammon or cribbage and generally resisted playing the games that Faye's mother had sent out for her: boxes bearing images of happy families, with foolish titles and complex rules. Faye chose a game from the shelf and set it out on the table in Helen's sitting room.

The board was bright and stiff from lack of use, covered with numbers and words, and some kind of woodland theme. Faye reached immediately for a red squirrel and placed it firmly in the corner of the board labeled "Start." Helen picked up a yellow bird, sighing as she compared its weight to the satisfying heft of the backgammon pieces that lay in their case just yards away. Her initial disinclination melted softly as she watched her granddaughter move the small, plastic pieces across the board. Here, Helen realized, was a girl wrapped up in nothing but childhood. Faye, lips pursed and eyes narrowed, rolled a die and surveyed her options, her strategy unfolding. ■



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Catching Everyone's Attention

Megan Higginbotham is more than a team leader at and behind home plate.

It's 23 degrees outside, and the Gopher softball team is indoors—in the football practice facility—for the start of spring practice. Still, catcher Megan Higginbotham is dressed in layers, with a long-sleeve shirt under her maroon practice jersey. Even indoor temperatures on a January day in Minnesota are cool for the program's first Floridian.

Not that Higginbotham minds. On the contrary, the team's leading hitter says she came here hoping to be jolted into new experiences, and she has been: seeing her first snowfall (cool), cross-country skiing (boring), getting chosen to try out for the U.S. national team (amazing). "I like to do different things, and Minnesota is very different," Higginbotham says. "There's nothing I won't try once."

Entering her junior season, Higginbotham is perfectly at ease. Playing catch during warm-ups, she chats with teammates about bad movies as she effortlessly steps into each throw, its precise rhythm culminating with the slap of her partner's glove. Then the lithe 5-8 catcher turns the drill into a contest: Who can get the ball to her partner the fastest?

"C'mon, one more time, one more time!" she insists. "On your mark, get set, go!" and three balls are fired simultaneously. It's hard to tell whose arrives first, but it's clear Higginbotham deserves her reputation as a competitor.

"She could be playing bunco, horseshoes, or rock-paper-scissors and she would win," says co-head coach Lisa Bernstein. "She's a phenomenal athlete, one of those gifted players who comes along very infrequently. She could play four or five different positions on our team."

Indeed, Higginbotham put the three-sport-athlete moniker to shame by playing five varsity sports in high school: softball, volleyball, basketball, golf, and flag football. Her first passion,

of course, was softball—or, more accurately, T-ball. When the boys on her block in Tallahassee went to register, the 5-year-old Higginbotham insisted on joining them.

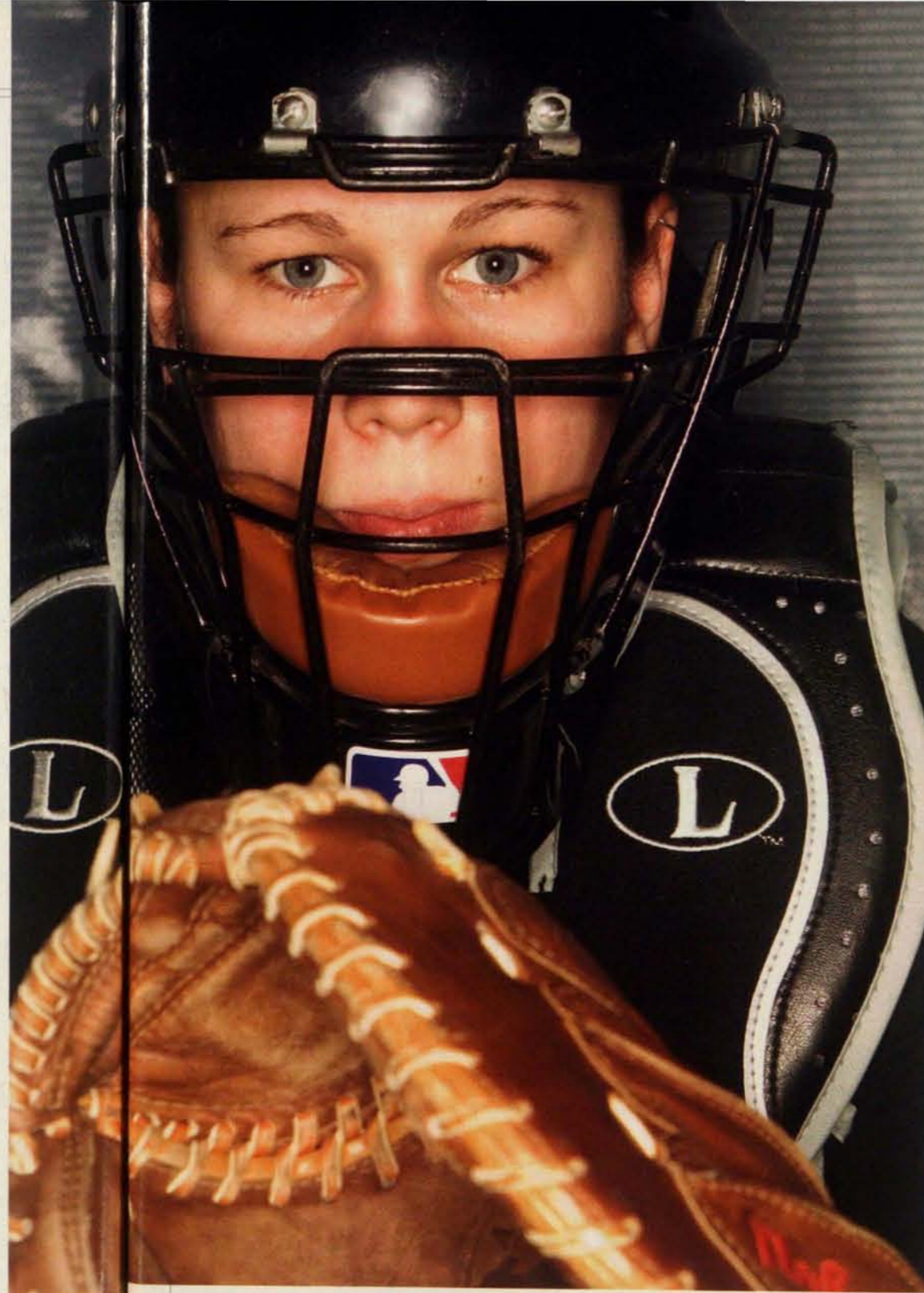
An assistant coach for the Gophers stumbled upon Higginbotham in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and the timing was perfect. Minnesota's all-region pitcher, Piper Marten, needed a catcher and Higginbotham won the starting spot. "The coaches really turned me on to Minnesota and I felt like I fit in here," Higginbotham says. "When I came here on my visit . . . you know how when you meet someone and you just know right away they're good people? That's the kind of feeling I had."

Her first season, Higginbotham led the team in batting average (.358), doubles (9), triples (5), home runs (4), RBI (36), slugging percentage (.538), and on-base percentage (.404). No one else has caught a game for the Gophers since.

As a sophomore, Higginbotham continued her tear, again leading the team in batting average (.411), doubles (12), home runs (7), RBI (29), slugging percentage (.629), and on-base percentage (.471).

Higginbotham knows her impressive stats alone won't get the team into the NCAA tournament. Instead, it's the intangibles that concern her most. Although she developed a rapport (and friendship) with Marten, she's still realizing how essential that pitcher-catcher relationship is to the game. She's been working with the pitching staff outside of practice, talking, making sure everyone's "on the same page," a phrase that peppers her speech when discussing the year's goals. According to her battery mates, the effort has paid off.

"I think she's a different catcher this year," says pitcher



Katie Dalen. "Last year, she was concerned with what she needed to do. Now she knows what she needs to do and she can empower the rest of us. She's the leader of the team, and she has the ability to make us better in each situation. She opens us up, wants to know what's missing when something's wrong."

The team aims to make it to the regional tournament for the first time since 2003 and improving on last year's 25-27

record (11-11 in the Big Ten). Higginbotham's goal is to be named All-American.

"She has All-American numbers and style," Bernstein says. "People remember Minnesota's catcher. For us, the bottom line is, I want her to be in charge. I want her to be demanding. People respond to her because of her work ethic."

That ethic is something Higginbotham intends to pass along one day: The sociology major plans to pursue a career as a college softball coach. "Ever since I was a little kid, I've loved to see people improve," she says. "It's not just coaching a game. It's how to coach a person how to work hard, to do the right things in life. It's such a fun job."

In the meantime, Higginbotham enjoys *being* coached. At a recent practice, her group is the last to finish a base-running drill. Higginbotham has come up just shy of an out at home, and, regardless of the odds that anyone could have made the play, she's chiding herself and persuading co-head coach Julie Standerling to run the drill again. On the next play, Higginbotham whips the ball to second and gets the out.

During those first practices, a sense of anticipation hangs in the air, amid all the giddiness and joking and "atta-girls," that despite the football hash marks on the artificial turf and the stale indoor air, spring—softball season—is coming.

"This is the time of year you look forward to," Higginbotham says. "I am *so* excited." ■

Sheila Mulrooney Eldred is a freelance writer based in Minneapolis.

By Sheila Mulrooney Eldred // Photograph by Dan Marshall

Q&A

With Leo Lewis, the U's new associate athletics director for student athlete development

When the University of Minnesota men's and women's athletics departments merged three years ago, achieving diversity on the staff became one of Athletics Director Joel Maturi's primary goals. Specifically, Maturi wanted a senior staff member who could establish relationships with minority communities in the Twin Cities area as well as work closely with student athletes.



Enter Leo Lewis. Lewis (Ph.D. '97) joined the department in December 2005 as associate athletics director for student athlete development, a position that Maturi created to help fulfill his diversity goals for the department.

Lewis holds several advanced degrees, including a Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Minnesota. He joins the athletics department after 13 years as director of player development for the Minnesota Vikings, a team he played for from 1981-91.

"We wanted to hire a former athlete with the same vision of athletics as we have at the University, who could relate to the student athlete as a whole person," Maturi says. "Leo just rose to the surface and was exactly what we needed."

In January, six weeks into his job, Lewis talked with *Minnesota* about his vision for the athletics department and student athletes.

Q: Why is outreach to the wider community important?

A: We want to get student athletes, coaches, and staff more connected to the various communities in the Twin Cities as well as the extended community on campus. By exposing youth to educational and athletic opportunities on campus, we hope that when they come of age they will consider the University. So one of the things I've done is to help create a

cabinet of leaders within the African American community who can help provide access to organizations in the community as well as give advice on how we can achieve diversity.

It's a big campus and it can be daunting in some respects. What we've found is that we don't have an information channel that's connected to, for instance, the city high schools and the rest of the communities in Minneapolis-St. Paul that's sufficient for telling our story as an athletics department.

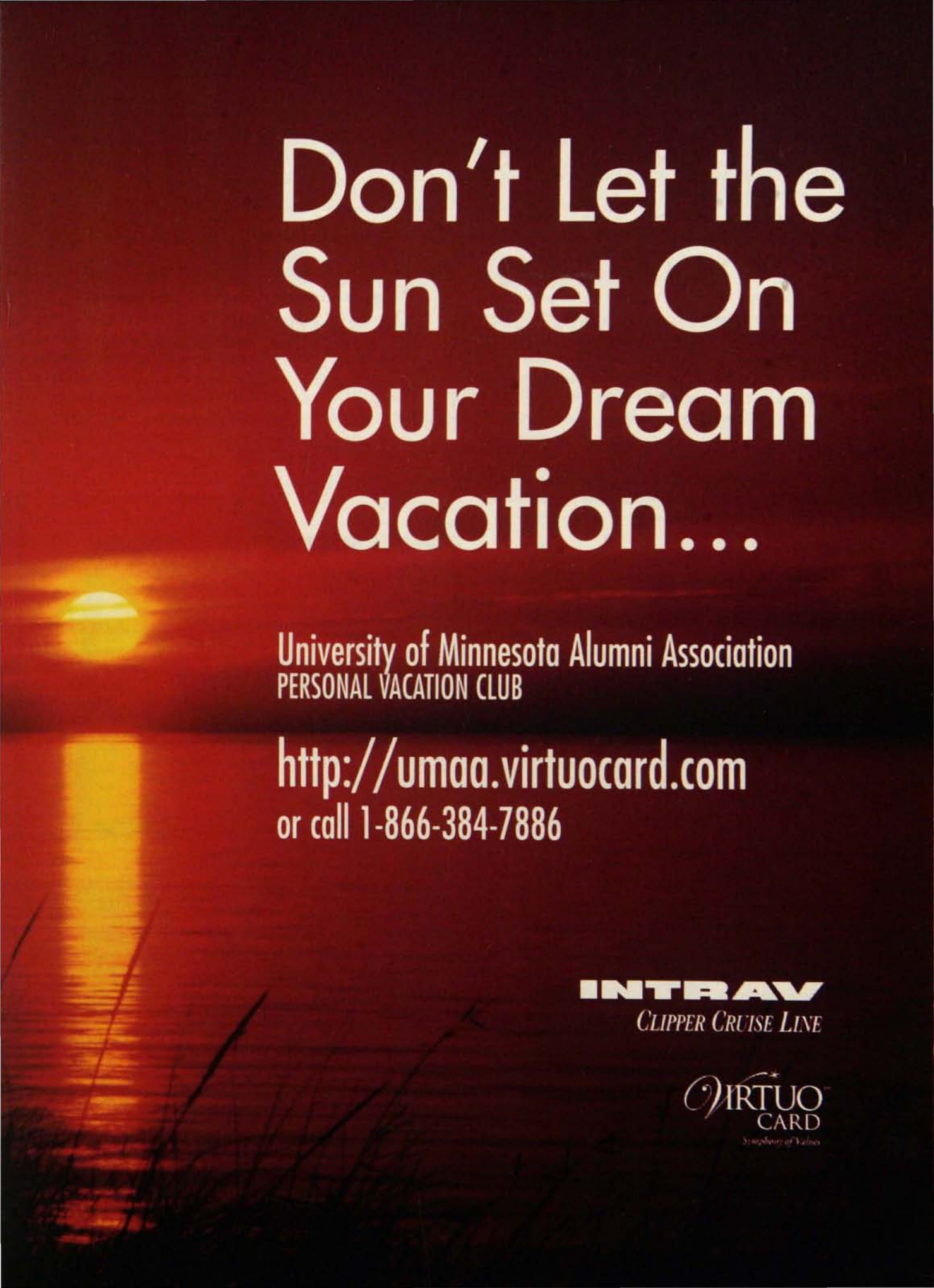
Q: What is that story?

A: That we have student athletes who are dedicated in every way possible and are going to graduate and succeed in life. They will then become ambassadors for the University and the athletics department.

Q: Many of the pressures that student athletes face are the same as the pressures every student has. But some are unique. What are those?

A: There are some particulars to each sport that you have to be worried about. Some of the pathological stuff, like eating disorders, may not necessarily be an issue for the football team but it might be for wrestling or gymnastics. So there are some sport-specific concerns, but I think generally you're going to find basic competitive concerns that deal with anxiety about getting injured, being away from home and how that affects your competitive play, dealing with teammates and coaches, maintaining your eligibility—those are some of the headliners that are common across all sports. And we can't get away from the overriding fact that sometimes athletes spend a lot of time trying to be the best athlete they

By Cynthia Scott // Photograph by Dan Marshall



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can be and tend not to spend enough time on their academic work or looking ahead to their post-college career.

Q: How do you view your role in helping student athletes cope with those pressures?

A: The number one thing is to embrace them when they get here. They've been launched from their homes; it's the first time they've been out on their own. When they come to the University, it's important to give them a sense that they're going to have all the resources available to be successful.

Being successful as students means graduating. Retention is one of the dilemmas that a lot of athletics departments around the country have. Yes, they bring them in and the athletes are able to compete, but they don't have a wonderful experience on campus. My vision includes making sure that these four years that our student athletes have at the University is one of the best experiences of their lives.

Q: Do you find that a lot of athletes go into their college careers expecting to go on and become professionals?

A: Everyone believes they can be Tiger Woods or Michael Jordan or Tom Brady or whatever, and it's up to us to help them realize what it's really like. It's good for former elite athletes to give them a reality check as to the odds and to instill in them that you can be successful in sports without being an athlete. That's why I got this job, because I was able to translate what I learned in sports into the work world.

Q: As a former pro football player you have a lot of authority in being able to talk to student athletes about that.

A: That's a role I love to play. Certainly, I've been there. I didn't go into my college career thinking about going to the next level, because my size and stature weren't really a recipe for success. Plus, my parents were educators and they always embedded in my mind that education was valuable and it came first. So I had the notion of becoming a superintendent or principal or athletics director. And lo and behold, 30 years later, here I am. ■

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

Sports Notebook Gopher sports news and notes

The entire 1980-81 Gopher women's basketball team was inducted into the inaugural class of the Gopher Women's Basketball Hall of Fame on January 21.

The 1980-81 Gophers still own the distinction of winning more games in a season than any other in Minnesota women's basketball history. The roster contained three players—Linda Roberts, Debbie Hunter, and Laura Gardner—who finished their collegiate careers as 1,000-point scorers. Roberts's career rebounding and Hunter's career assists and steals remain on top of the Gopher record book. Minnesota finished that season with a record of 28-7 after losing to Jackson State in the AIAW National Tournament. The Big Ten did not sponsor women's basketball until the following season.

Five individuals—all of whom already reside in the University M Club Hall of Fame—were also inducted: head coach Ellen Mosher Hanson (1977-87), Roberts (1977-81), Hunter (1977-81), Laura Coenen (1981-85), and Carol Ann (Shudlick) Smith (1990-94).

»»» Gopher football legends **Murray Warmath** and **Richard "Pinky" McNamara** have been chosen to serve as honorary co-chairs of the "Back to Campus" football stadium fund-raising campaign. McNamara

is also making a \$1.25 million gift to the campaign. They will join overall campaign co-chairs John and Nancy Lindahl to raise private contributions for the new stadium.

Warmath, football coach from 1954-71, led the Gophers to a national championship in 1960, two Big Ten championships in 1960 and 1967, and two back-to-back Rose Bowl appearances, including a victory in 1962. McNamara, a successful businessman and former University Regent, played for Warmath from 1954-56.

»»» Two former Gopher gymnasts continue to excel, albeit in different venues. **Guillermo Alvarez**, who competed for the Gophers from 2002-05, earned a spot on the U.S. Men's Senior National Team with a third place finish at the 2006 Winter Cup Challenge last month. The top six finishers qualified. Alvarez, who graduated in 2005, is still involved with the Minnesota program as a volunteer coach.

Alicia Opsahl Saari, a two-time all-Big Ten honoree and four-year varsity letterwinner for the Gophers (2001-04), won a role in *Stick It*, a film that follows a rebellious 17-year-old who is forced to return to the regimented world of elite gymnastics. She will play Lacey, one of the competitors at a gymnastics academy. The film stars Jeff Bridges and Missy Peregrym and is scheduled for release in April

—Cynthia Scott



Guillermo Alvarez

Quotebook

"Minnesota was close, but it doesn't help them that they don't have an on-campus stadium. It's not a football school. If I was a hockey player, Minnesota would be my first choice. They're just not a big-time [football] program."

—Nationally ranked offensive lineman Matt Carufel from Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, explaining why he chose Notre Dame over Minnesota.

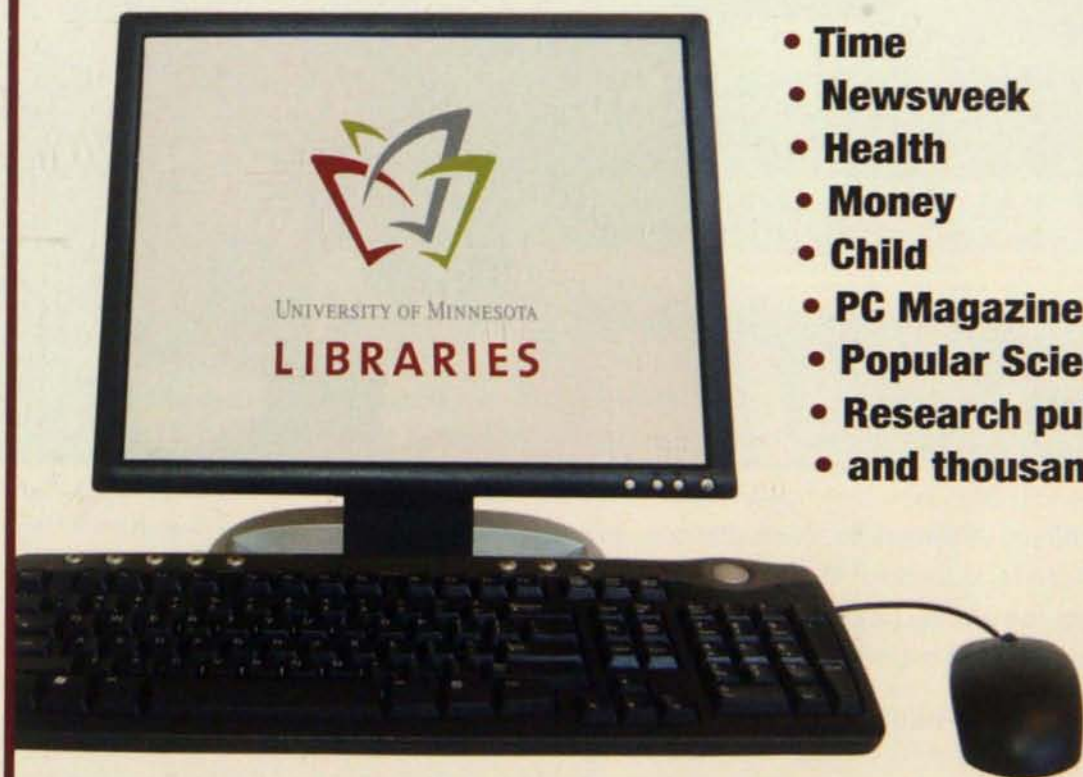
"Man, it was fun. I saw [Killingsworth] play against Duke, and he had like 32 points, so ever since then I've wanted to go at him. I'm glad I got the opportunity."

—Gopher men's basketball forward Zach Puchtel, who limited Marco Killingsworth, the Big Ten's third leading scorer, to 15 points in the Gophers' 61-42 upset of the Hoosiers on January 29.

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Members of the University of Minnesota Black Alumni Association. Front row, left to right: Dalia Khourshid, Suzie Hewitt, Wokie Daboh, and Toya Turner. Back row, left to right: Simon Shannon, Crystal Morgan, Samuel Adegoke, Azizah Jor'dan, William Collins, and Tola Oyewole.

Two New Groups of Interest

When Wokie Daboh enrolled at the University of Minnesota in 2000, she did so against the urging of several friends. Daboh, a graduate of Robbinsdale Cooper High School, is African American. While some of her peers gravitated towards traditionally African American schools, such as Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Morehouse College in Atlanta, Daboh decided that her hometown university suited her best.

"I went to the University and it's made all the difference in my life," says Daboh (B.A. '04), who earned a degree in journalism with minors in business and African American and African Studies and is now a recruiting specialist at Target Corporation. "It definitely was the road less traveled for me, and for a lot of African American people in Minnesota, and from other places. You don't often see a lot of people that look like you or have a similar background, but it's a great place to learn and develop your skills and develop the person you'll be. It's a great institution."

Now, Daboh is determined to encourage more African American high school students to follow in her footsteps to the University. She also wants to ensure that they don't leave the U behind once they graduate.

Last fall, Daboh helped create the University of Minne-

sota Black Alumni Association (UMBAA), one of two new University alumni interest groups. The UMBAA held its inaugural event, a happy hour, during homecoming weekend. "Our biggest challenge so far has been to find potential members," says Daboh, who says that the UMBAA currently has about 40 members. In addition to planning future social gatherings, the UMBAA will continue marketing itself through mass e-mails and old-fashioned word of mouth. "Everyone we've contacted is very interested, very excited. They really see the need for this."

Unlike collegiate societies and geographic chapters, which serve alumni with the same academic background or the same area code, alumni interest groups offer a way for U graduates to stay connected based on common interests and activities. The University has 10 such interest groups, including the Finnish Connection and the *Minnesota Daily* Alumni Association. The Intercollegiate Sport Club and Recreational Sports Network, another new interest group, was created for alumni who have past or present involvement in any of the Department of Recreational Sports' programs (such as aquatics or intramural sports) or Sport Clubs (from aikido to water polo).

(continued on next page)



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"So many of us graduate from the University and then join the alumni association, which is a huge organization," says Kara Fresk (B.S. '02), membership and marketing coordinator for the Department of Recreational Sports who helped found the Sports Club and Rec Sports Network. "Our primary intent is to get people reconnected with their interests so they know where and how to find each other."

Fresk says the Rec Sports Network plans to host two events annually: a homecoming barbecue at the University Recreation Center and a spring golf outing at the Les Bolstad Golf Course.

The UMBAA, meanwhile, has wide-ranging goals that include providing networking and community-building events for alumni; creating mentorship opportunities for students; and helping recruit and retain African American

students.

"We hope to cultivate more interest in the University of Minnesota among young African American people. We're focusing on starting them here and getting them to finish here, and bridging the gap between the young people at the U and the alumni, administration, and faculty," Daboh says. "And we hope to work with the University to find alumni and bring them back so they can give back to their school and to their community. That's the whole purpose of being an alum—giving back to the institution that gave you and helped make you the person that you are."

To learn more about the UMBAA, write to umbaa05@yahoo.com. For the rec sports network, visit <http://recsports.software.umn.edu/alumni>. And to learn about the other alumni interest groups, go to www.alumni.umn.edu/interestgroups.

—Andrew Backskai

Learn from the Experts

This year, the annual Classes Without Quizzes program will take you from the bottom of your grocery cart to the end of your fishing rod. In between, you can solve the riddle of how to deal with those pesky Asian lady beetles.

—is an opportunity to learn from University faculty how research and science affect everyday life. It includes a selection of breakout sessions, a keynote address, and lunch.

The keynote address, by Theodore Labuza, promises to be particularly useful for anyone who eats. Labuza, a Morse

Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Food Science and award-winning food technologist, will talk about recent developments in food technology.

"Over the past several years we have had a number of food crises," Labuza says. "The Chinese word for crisis is made up of two symbols: one for opportunity and one for danger. As these crises have come about, researchers and industry have responded dramatically."

He offers two examples: the discovery that acrylamide, a compound produced during high temperature frying and baking, is a carcinogen; and the dangers of trans fat, a kind of fat created during hydrogenation,

a process that turns liquid oils into solids. Trans fats are known to increase the levels of LDL cholesterol in the blood,



Theodore Labuza

The popular half-day public event—sponsored by the alumni societies of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and the College of Natural Resources

thus raising the risk for heart attack.

Labuza will discuss efforts under way at the University and in private industry to address these and other food crises. Cargill, for instance, has developed a way to hydrogenate oils without converting them to trans fats.

Labuza will also share some thoughts on how consumers can deal with the problem of what he calls "dueling nutrition studies: Who do you believe and when do you believe it?"

Other topics U faculty will address include:

- How to kill a tree: the dos and don'ts of protecting urban trees.
- Curbside appeal: how adding plants to your property can enhance the architectural style of your house.
- Cutting global warming: the long-term implications of your favorite energy-saving schemes.
- The science of invasion and the multicolored Asian lady beetle.
- Keeping fish on the end of your line: an overview of the distribution of Minnesota fish communities.

Classes Without Quizzes has drawn more than 600 participants since it began in 2002. The 2006 event takes place on Saturday, April 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Borlaug Hall on the St. Paul campus. Cost for UMAA members is \$15. Lunch will be available for \$10. For more information, visit www.coafes.umn.edu/cwq or call 612-624-1745.

—Cynthia Scott

Welcome Back, Justice O'Connor

Most Americans identify Sandra Day O'Connor, first and foremost, as the first woman to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court. But O'Connor was blazing trails long before she ascended to our nation's highest court in 1981. Indeed, for someone who had difficulty landing a job when she graduated from law school, O'Connor has had an astounding career.

Born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in rural Arizona, Sandra Day was just 16 years old when she graduated high school and was accepted to Stanford University. She went on to attend Stanford Law School at a time when only 1 percent of all law students in the United States were women.

In 1952, she graduated third in her law school class of 102. Yet despite her impressive academic achievement, O'Connor was rejected time and again by law firms; her only job offer was as a legal secretary. She turned that job down and directed her attention away from private practice, taking a position as deputy county attorney in San Mateo County, California. She has said that her first foray into public service was a defining moment in her life.

Over the next dozen years, O'Connor followed a varied professional and personal path. When her husband, John Jay O'Connor, was stationed in Germany for three years as a member of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps, she worked as a civilian lawyer for the Quartermaster Corps. Next, she ran her own law firm before becoming a full-time mother to her three sons, born between 1958 and 1964.

She returned to the workplace in 1965 as assistant state attorney general in Arizona. Four years later, she was appointed to a state senate seat and then reelected twice. When she was elected state senate majority leader in 1972, she was the first woman to hold such a position in the United States.

O'Connor was serving on the Arizona Court of Appeals when, in 1981, she was tapped by President Ronald Reagan for the Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Potter Stewart. She was confirmed by a vote of 99-0. Today, O'Connor is recognized not only as a trailblazer but as a thoughtful centrist on the court who cast the deciding vote in several landmark decisions, including rulings on abortion, voting rights, affirmative action, and prayer in school. Her remarkable leadership is reflected in the title of a new biography, *Sandra Day O'Connor: How the First Woman on the Supreme Court Became Its Most Influential Justice*, by Joan Biskupic.

I have known Justice O'Connor for more than 20 years, since she visited the University of Minnesota as a jurist-in-residence when I was dean of the Law School. During my years as executive director of the American Bar Association, I have had the privilege of working closely with O'Connor on the ABA's program of legal assistance in Central Europe and Eurasia. As part of that initiative we have traveled together to many cities in that region over the past 12 years.

O'Connor announced her retirement last July and concluded her historic term on the court when her successor, Samuel Alito, took his seat earlier this year. I will be honored to welcome Justice O'Connor back to campus on May 23, when she speaks at the UMAA's 102nd Annual Celebration. Please join us; I can promise you that she'll be thoughtful, pragmatic, and memorable—as always. ■



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

For more information on the annual celebration, see page 7 or visit www.alumni.umn.edu.



Sandra Day O'Connor Comes to Campus

Recently retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will be the keynote speaker at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's Annual Celebration on Tuesday, May 23. The first woman ever confirmed to the nation's highest court, in 1981, O'Connor was often the "swing vote" on an increasingly polarized court.

Among her votes were denying holding U.S. citizens indefinitely as enemy combatants, halting the 2000 presidential vote recount in Florida, and upholding both capital punishment and key abortion rights. Prior to joining the judiciary, O'Connor, a moderate Republican, was majority leader of the Arizona Senate.

The event begins with a reception and dinner on Northrop Mall followed by a short annual meeting and the keynote presentation in Northrop Auditorium. For ticket information, call the U of M Arts Ticket Office at



Sandra Day O'Connor holds a favorite object, an Aleut "talking stick," in her office. In public forums, the only person allowed to speak is the one holding the stick. (Photograph © 2005, *The Washington Post*. Photo by Lucian Perkins. Reprinted with permission.)

612-624-2345 or visit www.umn.edu/umato. For event details, visit www.alumni.umn.edu.

UMAA Calendar

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

MARCH

- 13 Puget Sound Chapter Alumni Social, 5:30 p.m. at Pyramid Alehouse; contact Mark Allen
- 15 Puget Sound Chapter Young Alum Get Together, 5 p.m. at Ivar's Salmon House in Lake Union; contact Mark Allen
- 19 Southwest Florida Chapter Annual Dinner "Wine as Medicine" with Jack Farrell, 5:30 p.m. at the Country Club of Naples; contact Chad Kono
- 25 Puget Sound Chapter, LeMay Car Museum tour, 10 a.m. at LeMay Car Museum in Tacoma; contact Mark Allen
- 26 Southwest Florida Chapter, Minnesota Day at the Twins Spring Training, 1:05 p.m. at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers; contact Chad Kono
- 30 South Central Minnesota Chapter "Drug Marketing" lecture, 2 p.m. at Old Main Village in Mankato; contact Chad Kono

APRIL

- 3 Senior Send-Off, a free party for graduating seniors, noon-1:30 p.m. at McNamara Alumni Center; contact Susan Zarambo
- 4 Glacial Ridge Chapter "Enrolling at the U," time TBD, at Willmar High School; contact Chad Kono
- 10 Puget Sound Chapter Alumni Social, 5:30 p.m. at Pyramid Alehouse; contact Mark Allen
- 19 Puget Sound Chapter Young Alum Get Together, 5 p.m. at Ivar's Salmon House in Lake Union; contact Mark Allen
- 24 Distinguished Teaching Awards, 3:30 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni Center; contact Jocelyn Brekken

MAY

- 1 West Central Lakes Chapter Annual Meeting, time TBD, at Carlos Creek Winery; contact Chad Kono
- 2 Washington, D.C., Chapter "Minnesotans on the Beat in D.C.," 6 p.m., at RFD; contact Mark Allen
- 8 Puget Sound Chapter Alumni Social, 5:30 p.m. at Pyramid Alehouse; contact Mark Allen
- 13 Puget Sound Chapter, Presentation by Paul Brainerd, 9 a.m. at Islandwood on Bainbridge Island; contact Mark Allen
- 17 Puget Sound Chapter Young Alum Get Together, 5 p.m., Ivar's Salmon House in Lake Union; contact Mark Allen
- 23 UMAA Annual Celebration featuring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 6 p.m. dinner on Northrop Mall, 8 p.m. keynote address in Northrop Auditorium, tickets on sale now; contact Susan Zarambo

ALUMNI TOURS

- April 14-22 April in Paris
 - April 15-22 Baja
 - April 17-24 Antebellum South Along the Intercoastal Highway
 - April 18-26 Portugal Alumni Campus Abroad
 - May 10-23 Temples and Gardens of Ancient Japan
 - May 13-21 Best of the Alps in Kitzbuhel, Austria
 - May 16-27 Folklore and Natural History of British Columbia and Southeast Alaska
 - May 17-29 Cruise on the Rhine and Mosel Rivers
 - May 25-June 6 Treasures of China and Yangtze River Cruise
 - May 30-June 7 Cote d'Azur and Provence
- For more information, call Christine Howard at 612-625-9427 or visit www.alumni.umn.edu/travel.

A Simple Request: Support the U

University of Minnesota chemistry professor Jeffrey Roberts borrowed a dollar bill from President Bob Bruininks (left) and then set it on fire, to the alarm of nearly 400 onlookers at this year's Legislative Briefing. By some miracle of science, the bill survived the flames intact, however, and illustrated Roberts's point: that the state would not be burned if it funded a new science teaching facility.

Alumni and friends of the U, including several state legislators, attended the briefing January 25 at the McNamara Alumni Center to learn about the U's 2006 bonding request. Hosted by the University's Legislative Network, the briefing included appeals by Bruininks and several faculty members and students to support the U's request.

The U is asking for \$206.1 million from the state for a variety of projects and would contribute another \$63 million in private support and U bonding. Funds would be used for maintaining and upgrading existing buildings, new business school buildings on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses, a new science teaching and student service center, a new medical bioscience building, and upgrading research centers and field stations around the state.



Governor Tim Pawlenty (B.A. '83, J.D. '86) recently recommended the U receive \$127.6 million, but no funds for the research centers and field stations and only about \$4 million in planning money only for the medical biosciences building.

After the briefing, volunteers broke into small groups for brief training on how best to tell their stories about the U's importance to the state and its citizens, how to effectively contact the media on issues, and how to build relationships with legislators.

The 2006 legislative session begins March 6. For information on how to advocate for the University, as well as details on the U's bonding request, visit www.umn.edu/grants.

New Library Privileges for UMAA Members

Access to premium content on 4,200 publication Web sites is now available to UMAA members through the University of Minnesota Libraries. Members can read full text and archives of *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Health*, *Fortune*, *Popular Science*, *Sports Illustrated*, and other popular titles—as well as hundreds of trade and scholarly publications—all for the cost of a UMAA membership (\$40 per year for a single membership or \$45 for a joint membership). For more information see page 45 or visit www.alumni.umn.edu.

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Chief Executive Officer

A World of Information Online

In my 20 years as alumni director, I have never been this eager to tell you about a new benefit of membership in the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. Beginning now, UMAA members have free online access to thousands of popular magazines, business and academic journals, and trade publications, thanks to a new partnership with the University Libraries.

There is no catch. Alumni association members who have Internet access may log on to two databases made available by University Libraries—Academic Search Premier and Business Source Premier that provide online entry to a virtual treasure trove of general interest, business, lifestyle, special interest, academic, and scientific publications.



Margaret Sughrue Carlson,
Ph.D. '83

Academic Search Alumni Edition is the world's largest academic multidisciplinary database. In addition to scholarly publications, the database includes the full text of hundreds of periodicals, including *U.S. News & World Report*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Billboard*, *Entrepreneur*, *Scholastic Parent & Child*, *Fortune*, *Health*, *PC Magazine*, *Money*, *People*, and *Interior Design*. Each of these publications offers content and text of archived issues not available on their main Web site. So not only do UMAA members have access to content nonsubscribers do not, they can also easily search back issues for stories or topics of interest to them.

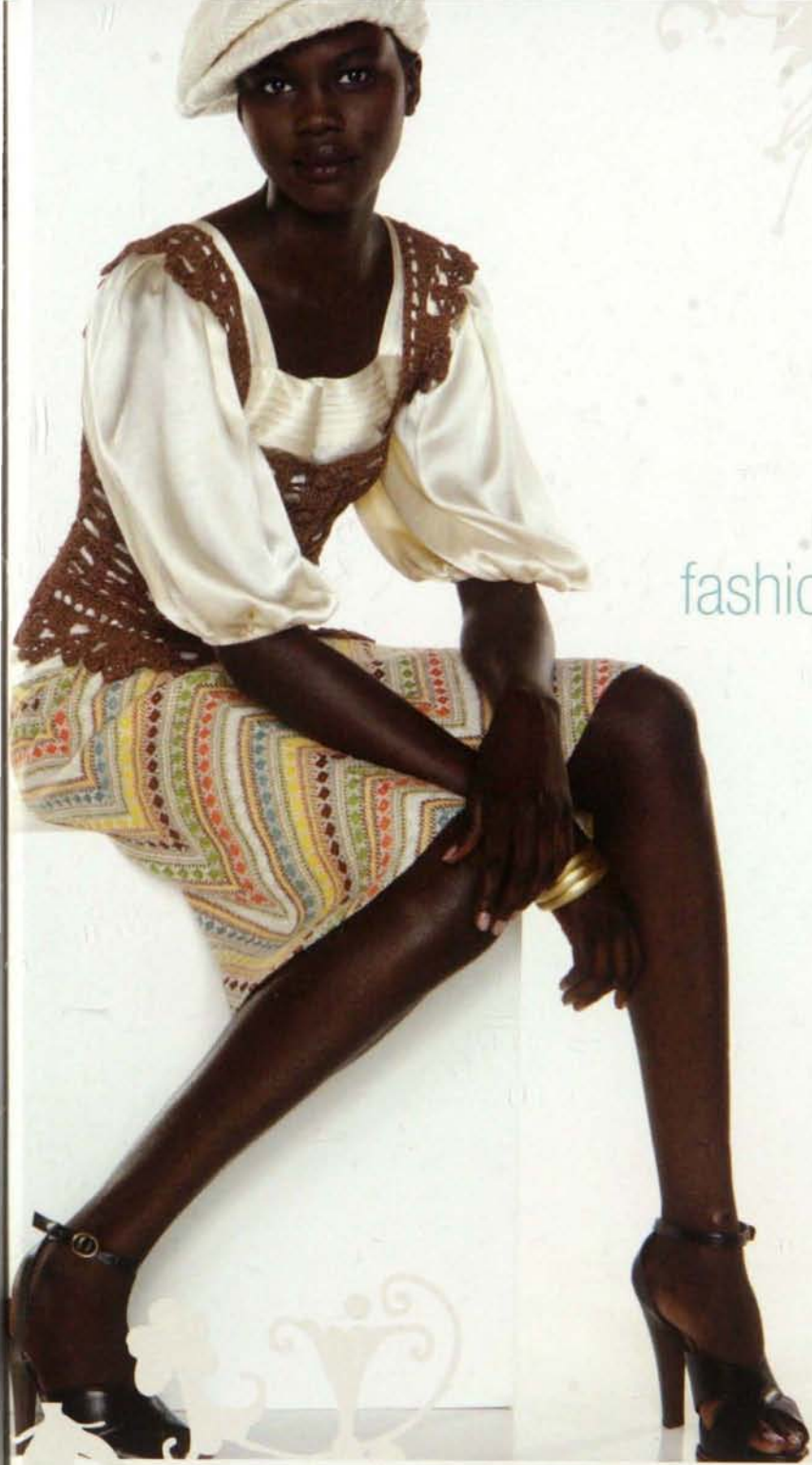
And Business Source Premier provides one-stop access to company profiles, industry analyses, country reports, market research studies, and articles from magazines and journals. This database is a powerful tool for job seekers, investors, entrepreneurs, students, or anyone who wants to stay on top of the business world.

In short, every discipline, professional field, issue, and topic imaginable is addressed somewhere in these two online collections.

It's not just the massive scope of available content that I'm so enthusiastic about. This service is truly an incredible value. For example, a subscription to *U.S. News & World Report* costs \$20 a year. An annual subscription to *Sports Illustrated* costs \$48. And to receive *Scientific American* for 12 months would cost \$44. To read just these three publications, you would pay \$112 for a year. University alumni, however, will now be able to read online the full content of these and thousands of other magazines and journals for the price of a UMAA membership: \$40 per year for a single membership; \$45 for a joint membership (the UMAA also offers three-year and life memberships).

University students, faculty, and staff have long had access to these online databases, but it's rare for alumni to have similar library privileges; just two other Big Ten alumni associations offer a comparable library benefit. I applaud Wendy Lougee, University librarian, and Karen Williams, associate director at the libraries, for making this plan a reality—and for their desire to help keep alumni connected both to the University and to lifelong learning.

So prepare to be amazed, as I was, by the depth and breadth of published material now available to alumni online. Get started by registering your member number (found on your membership card) on the Online Libraries Publications page of the UMAA Web site—visit www.alumni.umn.edu—and then enjoy this incredible benefit of belonging to your alumni association. ■



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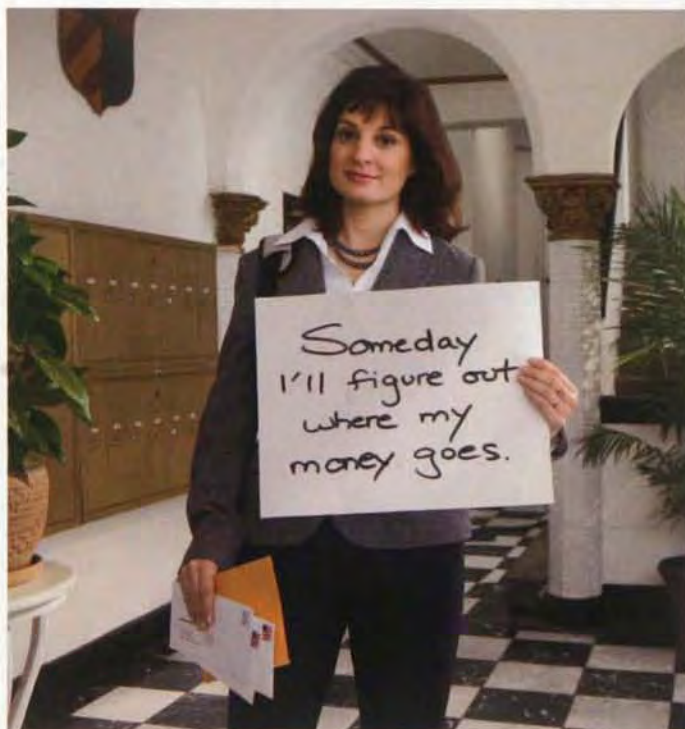
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