

Minnesota

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL 2023

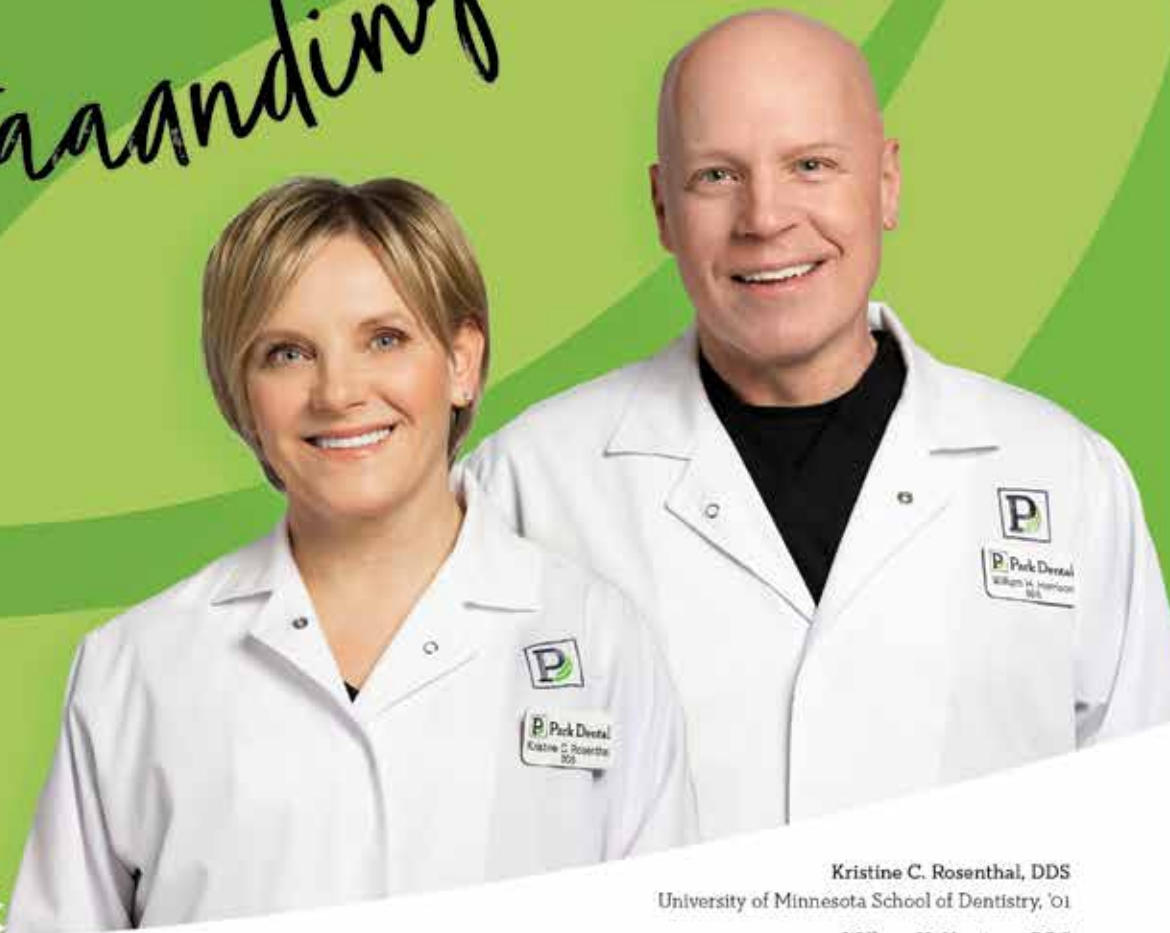
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The Evolving Campus



For most alumni, their image of campus stays under glass—like a pressed flower—as it appeared on the day they graduated. College memories become snapshots of a favorite study space, a specific hallway walked for years, or the leafy Mall filled with students and their ever-present backpacks.

But as with most things, time passes, and the “living environment” on and near the U of M Twin Cities campus continues to change. Old buildings and houses are razed and replaced with high-rise student housing. Departments where students spent thousands of hours relocate to more updated spaces. Local restaurants appear and disappear as tastes change and economic realities intervene. Young trees grow and shade replaces sun-dappled corners.

In this issue, we look at how the campus area and its related neighborhoods have evolved over the past few years and examine both short- and long-term plans for how they may change in the future.

This type of change doesn’t happen without intense planning, however: In December 2021, the Board of Regents approved an updated Twin Cities Campus Plan, a guidepost for future expansion and refurbishment that stretches decades into the future. The document takes a broad look at how campus may evolve, which helps guide decisions made today.

Not everything identified in the plan will happen soon, of course. For instance, the prior master plan, unveiled in 2009, identified a number of campus buildings it recommended be demolished. Those buildings still stand in 2023—although so does the recommendation that they be replaced in coming years.

Major planned projects in coming years include The MIX neighborhood, an innovation corridor near campus; changes to the medical school, hospital, and biological sciences areas near Stadium Village; and a proposed move for the “superblock” of dormitories onto the slope to the river to better engage the Mississippi as a central campus feature.

And then there’s the U of M’s sometimes complicated dual mandate to preserve historic campus buildings while also updating them to meet the needs of today’s students. That’s an issue that’s been hampered by a lack of funding from the legislature in past years, which provides money to update building infrastructure for the state’s higher education centers. That issue remains a concern for the University.

Finally, for many graduates, the Dinkytown neighborhood remains a treasured memory, even though it lies outside campus proper. A grassroots group called Preserving Historic Dinkytown successfully lobbied Minneapolis in 2015 to have the four-block commercial zone at Fourth Street and 14th Avenue declared an historic preservation district. Today the U of M is supporting these efforts with the purchase of the former Gray’s Campus Drug (more recently the Loring Pasta Bar) with plans to renovate the location for future use, including a sit-down restaurant space. We look at the Dinkytown of today and also revisit the iconic neighborhood’s colorful past in photos.

I’d love to hear what you think. Please drop me a note at ohara119@umn.edu.

— Kelly O’Hara Dyer

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Minnesota Alumni (ISSN 2473-5086) is published four times yearly—in September, December, March, and June—by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, 200 Oak St SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Minnesota Alumni, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55455-2040 © 2020 University of Minnesota Alumni Association



Feedback on the last issue

This edition [Summer 2023] is stacked with many interesting articles. Some comments on a few of these articles: As an 83-year-old graduate of the U of M, the quietest place in the world is my kitchen in the morning before I put in my hearing aids. My wife says I have always been hard of listening, and now I am hard of hearing. [Ed. Note: He is referring to the story “The Quietest Place in the World,” about Orfield Laboratories.] On “Learning As Child’s Play” [about alumna

We’d love to hear from you! Please share your thoughts at UMNAlumnimag.umn.edu or write our editor at ohara119@umn.edu

Jesse Ilhardt], learning is child’s play! Learning is the most important thing anyone can do. It is fun and can be very satisfying. I have a saying: ‘Learn as much as you can and teach as much as you can. Remember, a smart person has one option that a dumb person does not have—the smart person can play dumb.’

One of the most important decisions I have made in my life was choosing the University of Minnesota over two other schools for my graduate training. Working for Cargill Inc. for more than 30 years gave me the opportunity to see much of the world.

Keep up the good work
Robert M. Granger Ph.D. '73
Kaunakakai, HI

Clarification

In our story “New Hope for Transplantable Organs” in the Summer 2023 issue, the Miromatrix company’s first two products—a surgical mesh called MIROMESH and a wound care solution called MIRODERM—were spun off in 2019 into a new company called Reprise Biomedical, which still manufactures both products today.

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Good Cheer

As a new school year begins and students return, U of M sports teams also kick off their seasons. Here members of the Spirit Squad practice bringing pumped-up maroon and gold spirit to fans.

Photo by Caroline Yang





U of M Unveils Sustainability Plans

Climate change, one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, is already affecting communities and ecosystems in Minnesota and around the world.

That's why the U of M is taking aggressive action to meet its climate goals as quickly as possible. In 2021, the University created a systemwide strategic plan, MPact 2025, which identifies "building a fully sustainable future" as a core commitment for the University.

Now, the U of M Twin Cities has released a

new Climate Action Plan that looks toward the future of carbon neutrality and resilience on campus. It builds on the University's history of sustainability leadership and recommends new actions to eliminate carbon emissions as quickly as possible to adapt to a changing climate. The CAP aims to reduce U of M Twin Cities emissions 60 percent (from 2019 levels) by 2033 and to become completely carbon neutral by 2050.

Along with the blueprint for eliminating campus greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the plan includes a 10-year horizon outlining specific actions that need to be achieved by 2033. That includes reducing energy use on campus; supplying more of the campus's energy needs from renewable sources; and rightsizing and electrifying campus fleet vehicles. It also includes the University's first



climate vulnerability and strength assessment, which will be a foundation for future resiliency planning.

More than 3,000 students, faculty, staff, and community members helped develop the plan, which was led by the Twin Cities Sustainability Committee and the Office of Sustainability.

“Our campus community and state overwhelmingly agree that climate change is a critical area of focus, and we know the costs of inaction far outweigh the investment needed to build a sustainable future,” says the U of M’s first Chief Sustainability Officer Shane Stennes, who leads the Office of Sustainability. “Business as usual will not achieve the transformational results we need.”

You can learn more and see full details of the plan at sustainable.umn.edu.



SKI-U-MAH for Gopher Scholars!

Gopher Athletics Director Mark Coyle recognized the nation-leading academic achievements of Gopher student-athletes collectively before the U of M Board of Regents in July. The students hold a **cumulative grade-point average of 3.4** and a **graduation rate of 94 percent**—giving the department its best graduation success rates of all time in each of the past five years. Last year, the department had:

- 318 Academic All-Big Ten honorees**
- 115 Big Ten Distinguished Scholars**
- 9 Academic All-Americans**
- 56 Academic All-District selections** (a campus-record)

Across the varsity programs it sponsors, Gopher Athletics led the Big Ten in Academic All-Americans and tied for seventh nationally.

Proposed Health System Merger Called Off

In late July, representatives announced that the proposed merger between Fairview Health Services, the U of M’s medical partner, and South Dakota-based Sanford Health, would not go forward.

The merger drew political concerns, as well as questions about the U of M’s critical relationship with its health services and teaching hospital. It was the second time the two entities proposed a merger,

with the first effort failing in 2013. The University sold its hospital to Fairview in 1997.

The U of M said, “As we move forward from here, we remain focused on our public mission to provide high quality, innovative, and leading-edge care to patients across Minnesota, and how we can best support access to world-class health care for the entire state.”

Minnesota Attorney

General Keith Ellison, who conducted an investigation into the potential merger, told the *Star Tribune* on July 27 that “While this merger will not be going forward, the health and future of Fairview, the University of Minnesota health care facilities, and all Minnesota health systems are of vital interest to all Minnesotans. Much work remains to be done.”

'My life has done a 180'

How one first-generation student went from dropping out of high school to embracing the U of M

Kaitlin McKinley said she was done with education when she dropped out of high school at 16. "I got to a point where I really didn't feel supported in school. I didn't feel like I had anyone to talk to. I didn't want to keep pushing through an experience where I was really miserable," she says.

At 17, she earned her GED and began working in retail. She also did a stint at a sanctuary for rescued chickens.

But she knew she wanted more. "I wasn't happy with my retail jobs, and I wasn't happy with the person I was," she recalls. McKinley had thought about going back to school, "but I didn't want to admit I wanted to go to college," she says.

As the first in her family to continue beyond high school, she wasn't sure where to begin. She knew little about student loans or scholarships. "I didn't even know the difference between a community college and a university," she says.

McKinley enrolled in Normandale Community College in 2019 at age 28. After earning an associate's degree, she wanted to go for her bachelor's degree and applied at a few schools. "But I knew in my heart the U was where I wanted to be."

McKinley, who started at the U last fall, says making the switch from a community college to a large university was a culture shock, and she admits her first semester was pretty tough. "I feel like every day I learn something new about the U," she says.



She also began working as a peer coach with the Center for Academic Planning and Exploration, talking to students who are trying to decide on a major. She credits her supervisor with being a mentor and helping her create an individualized major that combines communication studies and family social science in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

McKinley's goal is to work with nontraditional students like herself who need extra support. "My life has done a 180," she says. "If I could put a fraction of that back out into the world, I would be happy." She credits scholarships with lessening her debt, as she hopes to go on to graduate school.

"I'm really grateful to be at the U," she says. "It's been an amazing experience, and it's become a place where I feel at home."

Double your impact for next-generation leaders

Gifts of all sizes show support for University of Minnesota students from many backgrounds and help tomorrow's leaders realize their dreams. This September, your gift to select funds that help to create a sense of community and belonging at the U will be matched.

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Personality Matters

Recent research from the U of M shows surprising links between personality and cognitive abilities.

To determine how these traits influence each other, psychology Professor Deniz Ones and researcher Kevin Stanek (M.A. '12, Ph.D. '14) synthesized data from more than 1,300 studies from the past century, representing more than 2 million participants from 50 countries. They also integrated data from academic journals, test manuals, military databases, previously unpublished datasets, and even proprietary databases of private companies. Their work took 13 years and involved more than 30 volunteers.

Key findings include:

- Individuals who are active and energetic tend to have a better command of various cognitive abilities. Regardless of subject, active folks tend to know more about it.
- People with high levels of depression or anxiety may find it more difficult to accumulate knowledge or reason logically.
- Those who were more industrious and compassionate tended to have better verbal and quantitative knowledge skills. This suggests a connection between personality traits and how we learn.

“Knowing how personality and intelligence are related allows us to ponder the much deeper question of why,” says Ones. “These findings revolutionize our understanding of human diversity and individuality. Only by knowing ourselves can we fully tap into our potential.”

This research was published in the May 30 edition of *PNAS*, the publication of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.



Heat Stress in Cows

For cows, heat stress can lead to health complications, including impaired immune function, increased disease and death rates, and lower calf birth weights. It can also lower milk production and decrease pregnancy rates, which can lead to financial hardship for dairy producers.

Researchers at the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences have developed a comprehensive model that can identify the conditions that lead to lactating cow heat stress. Building on previous research, this new model reports the heat exchange between a lactating cow and the environment through respiration, air flowing past the cow, sweating, and shortwave and longwave radiation. This data can assess a host of factors, including milk yield, air temperature, dew-point temperature, cow respiration rates, and body temperature.

Researchers hope this work will help dairy producers cool their cows more efficiently. “Engineers will be able to use the model to better assess alternative cooling designs,” says Kevin Janni, a professor in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering and an Extension engineer.

This research first appeared in the journal of the *American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*.

Support for Diverse Teams

As organizations work to better reflect the diverse communities they represent, research from the Carlson School of Management shows that diverse teams may be more vulnerable to adversity.

Assistant Professor Xuege (Cathy) Lu and her colleagues used professional men’s tennis as a case study. They wanted to examine what happens to diverse teams faced with adversity, in this case losing in the first round of an Association of Tennis Professionals match, to try to understand why people tend to interact with others with similar backgrounds.

Comparing 10,000 doubles pairs from 99 countries, researchers found teams made up of men from different countries were 6 percent more likely to break up after a first-round loss than pairs made up of fellow countrymen. Players who left a two-country pair were also more likely to switch to a partner of the same nationality.

“After facing adversity, there appears to be this tendency to return to what’s familiar,” says Lu, who notes that organizations committed to a diverse workforce should devote additional resources to promote collaboration. “People have to be mindful when setbacks happen, a diverse team may be more susceptible to falling apart. Increasing mutual trust could help strengthen the resiliency of the partnership.”

This study first appeared in the March 24 issue of *Sociological Science*.

Our thanks to the team at University Relations for their help compiling and writing these briefs.



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LEARNERS to LEADERS

Drive for University of Minnesota Students

Dear Minnesota: There's something you should know...

Greetings, U of M alumni and friends of the University!

I'm honored to be serving as the interim president of the University of Minnesota—a place that means so much not only to



alumni, but to all Minnesotans.

I've spent a good share of my first few months in office traveling the state and getting to know our University of Minnesota System community (students, faculty, and staff) as well as our greater Minnesota community—including government officials, ag and business leaders, and many of our great alumni.

I've been heartened by warm receptions and impressed by all the positive stories and memories that people have shared. I've learned first and foremost that the U of M is incredibly important to this state, and we need to continue to listen to the voices of Minnesota residents and decision-makers. I take that responsibility to heart.

In addition to listening, we'll be sharing more this fall. We're reaching out to Minnesotans with a new campaign entitled "Dear Minnesota." As the name suggests, it's an expression of affection for our citizens, but also a chance to showcase some of the impressive work of our University community.

Polling has confirmed that Minnesotans place a high value on the University of Minnesota conducting research that improves their lives. We also know that tooting our own horns goes against the grain of being Minnesotan, but I do think we need to brag more. As a University System we have so much to be proud of, and we want to show Minnesotans more of what we do for them.

The campaign will feature faculty and students systemwide sharing their passion for things that Minnesotans care about—and that

make our state and nation better, healthier, and more prosperous. You'll see these stories on television and online beginning in the fall. (You can read these and other "Dear Minnesota" stories and tell us yours at system.umn.edu/DearMN).

So, "Dear Minnesota," we have a lot of amazing things happening here: in Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and the Twin Cities, and at research and outreach centers and engagement sites throughout the entire state. We can't wait to share them with you.

And on a personal note, I'm grateful to be here helping to guide the University of Minnesota over the coming months. We face plenty of challenges for the new academic year and beyond, but we do so with a collective strength and a spirit of genuine optimism. The future of campus is definitely bright. I thank you for your past and continued support as we continue our important journey.

I also look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months, and to sharing more U of M news and accomplishments over the coming year.

—Jeffrey Ettinger

“I'm honored to be serving as the interim president of the U of M—a place that means so much not only to alumni, but to all Minnesotans.”



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LAURA COATES (J.D. '05)

Attorney, Chief Legal Analyst
and Anchor

Laura Coates, a St. Paul native, holds a law degree from the U of M and is also a graduate of Princeton University. Coates started her career practicing law in Minnesota and New York, but was soon called to public service. She worked as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and served during both the Bush and Obama administrations, specializing in enforcement of voting rights. She also served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia and as an adjunct professor at George Washington University School of Law.

She's used her unique storytelling skills to author the bestseller, *You Have the Right: A Constitutional Guide to Policing the Police*. Today she hosts "The Laura Coates Show" on SiriusXM's POTUS Politics channel and is also CNN's chief legal analyst and anchor and plays a central role in the network's extensive legal programming.

Coates routinely speaks across the country on civil rights, social justice, economic empowerment, and leaps of faith. Last year she wrote *Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor's Fight for Fairness* about her experience as a black female federal prosecutor. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and two children.

ALUMNI AWARDS AFFAIR

September 28 at 5:30 p.m.

McNamara Alumni Center, University Hall

Alumni Service Award

- ▶ Jim Borowick (B.E.E. '85)
- ▶ Jamie Curtis (B.S. '99)
- ▶ Judy Kelloway
(B.S.Pharm '85, Pharm.D. '86)
- ▶ Scott Wallace (B.S.B. '80)

Advocate of the Year

- ▶ Jerry Sosinske (B.E.E. '78)

Outstanding Alumni Network of the Year

- ▶ UMAA-DC Chapter

Outstanding Alumni Society of the Year

- ▶ Carlson Women Global Connect
(Carlson School of Management)

Program Extraordinaire (Society)

- ▶ Alumni Exchange
(Humphrey School of Public Affairs)

On the Rise Alumni Leader

- ▶ Alyssa Sandholm (B.B.m.E. '14)

Entrepreneurial Spirit

- ▶ Larissa Loden (B.A. '07, M.Ed. '09)

U40 Alumni Leader

- ▶ Shannon Peloquin (B.S.B. '06)
- ▶ Patrick Puckett (B.A. '12, B.F.A. '12)

Community Leader

- ▶ Angela Lewis-Dmello
(B.A. '06, M.S.W. '10)

Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals

- ▶ Shwetlena Sabarwal (Ph.D. '07)
- ▶ Tommy Westerlund
(M.S.Pharm. '81)



HOMECOMING PARADE

September 29 at 6:30 p.m.
University Avenue

Join us for one of the most festive activities on campus each year! We invite your whole family to the Homecoming parade led by our 2023 Grand Marshal Laura Coates.

Park in the 4th Street Ramp and then watch the parade floats from a spot on University Avenue. *Note: Limited access to the University Avenue Ramp due to the parade route.*

SKI-U-MANIA @ HOMECOMING

The Official Pregame Party of the Alumni Association

Sept. 30 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
McNamara Alumni Center

The premier Homecoming pregame party for alumni and fans has:

- ▶ Coronation of Homecoming Royalty
- ▶ Appearances by Goldy Gopher, Spirit Squads, and the Homecoming Grand Marshal
- ▶ Sample alumni-made Keeper's Heart, an Irish + American Whiskey
- ▶ Prizes, swag, gear and more!

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HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

STRIPE THE BANK
vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
September 30 at 11 a.m.

MEMBER BENEFIT: Up to 25% off on tickets to the Homecoming Football game.

Alumni can access discounted Gopher Sports tickets for multiple sports all season long! Exclusively available through the Alumni Association at UMNalumni.org/Homecoming.



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Proceeds from the Maroon Shirt support the Alumni Association's work to help students thrive.



The
FUTURE
of
CAMPUS

The long-range vision for the U of M
Twin Cities campus could transform the
way students learn and how the University
serves Minnesota. *By Elizabeth Foy Larsen*





For University of Minnesota alumni, memories are embedded in the places where we spent our time: late nights socializing in Sanford Hall; breakfasts at Al's; basketball games in the Barn. There are the technicolor fall days on the Northrop Mall, the shivery winter walks across the Washington Avenue Bridge, the reflection of sunlight off the cladding of the Weisman Art Museum. It's a campus that is made all the more unique by its setting in two large American cities.

As a land grant university, the University of Minnesota has a commitment not just to the larger community, but also to the very buildings whose bricks and mortar hold so many years of student, faculty, and staff stories. But it must also look to the future to ensure that in 10, 50, or even 100 years, the Twin Cities campus remains a place where people want to create new memories and have the facilities to develop tomorrow's scientific, intellectual, and cultural breakthroughs.

In 2021, a campus planning committee delivered an ambitious, updated Twin Cities Campus Plan that it calls a “vision for the future” in terms of potential growth, expansion, and renovation on campus.

The Big Ideas

The campus plan is informed by 10 “big ideas” that build on existing conditions and goals for change. The big ideas emerged from consultation, surveys, and analysis carried out during the planning process. They represent goals, actions, and opportunities for enhancing the campus and aspirations for the future.

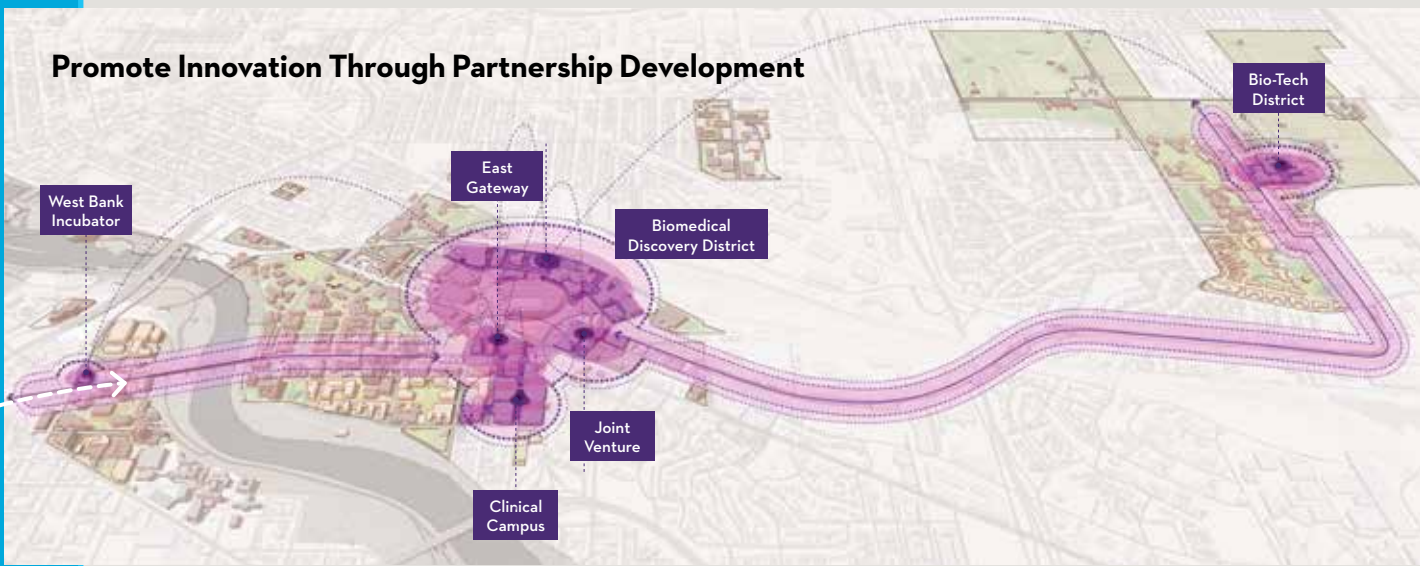
- Create a more inclusive campus
- Enrich the student experience
- Support patient care and the provider experience in health services
- Promote innovation through partnership development
- Make campus easier to navigate and prioritize pedestrian, bicycle, and transit circulation
- Align future development with the public realm framework
- Enhance financial resiliency
- Engage the river
- Reinvest in the campus core
- Use land and resources sustainably

Students: Eric Miller/University Relations • Schematics: Regents of the University of Minnesota



Support Patient Care and the Provider Experience in the Health Services

- Academic zone
- Health zone



Promote Innovation Through Partnership Development

- Bio-Tech District



Engage the River

- Potential Decommission
- Public Realm Network
- MPRB Parks
- River Overlooks



“You walk in some of [the University’s historic buildings] and realize they haven’t been touched in 30 years.”

Monique MacKenzie, U of M director of campus and capital planning

Pillsbury Hall is a model for future campus historic building updates in that its remodeling highlights the structure's classic bones while embracing 21st century innovation, including flexible classrooms, comfortable lounge spaces, and a top-floor gathering space for readings and other public events.



That's why, in 2021, a broad-based campus planning committee delivered an ambitious, updated Twin Cities Campus Plan that it calls a "vision for the future" in terms of potential growth, expansion, and renovation on campus. The Board of Regents approved the updated plan in December 2021.

The goal of the plan is to establish short- and long-term priorities to determine how the campus might change in the future. It's a sprawling roadmap that combines sustainability with large-scale projects that touch wide swaths of the U of M's 1,150 acres, from the area along Washington Avenue that currently houses the University's hospital and medical school to parts of the campus in St. Paul.

The document intends to "serve as a framework to guide incremental change, [as] a tool to evaluate future development proposals, and [to] inform the public of the University's aspirations."

The outlined implementation falls into two time horizons of between 1-10 years (or "near term") and 10+ years (or "long term"). In addition, the plan's recommendations are based on the Board of Regents' target of 33,000 undergraduates at the Twin Cities campus by 2030, and assumptions that the graduate student population will remain steady.

Because the document is a long-term plan, it's likely not everything envisioned will come to pass or in the time frame mentioned, but it does offer a deep look into how the Twin Cities campus may evolve in the future.

"Our goal is to make our spaces beyond simply functional; [it's] to make them welcoming and accessible to every member of our community," says Rachel T. A. Croson, the University's executive vice president and provost. "Our institution attracts world-class thinkers who need state-of-the-art labs and research facilities, outstanding students who need modern classrooms and social spaces, and committed staff who need workspaces that enhance their productivity. We rely on accessible design

The Northrop Mall Historic District, designated in 2006, includes buildings on the Mall, as well as along Pleasant Street to the west and Church Street to the east. The U of M is charged with maintaining these structures, while balancing the need to update them for today's students.

- Northrop Auditorium
- Morrill Hall
- Johnston Hall
- Walter Library
- Smith Hall
- Ford Hall
- Appleby Hall
- Fraser Hall
- Tate Hall
- Vincent / Murphy Hall
- Kolthoff Hall
- Lind Hall
- Mechanical Engineering
- Keller Hall
- Akerman Hall



In Morrill Hall, a renovation is underway to create student-facing services, amenities, and collaboration environments.



Refreshing and refurbishing campus is a nearly constant undertaking. Nearly 75 years ago in 1950, *Look Magazine* came to campus to profile the U of M, which it called "great in size and prestige." Several images show a much younger campus, including photos of the Mall and the "\$11 million Coffman Memorial Union."

principles and seek to embrace and inspire, as well as to serve, those who live and work on our campus.”

On the following pages, we highlight a few of the details in the report to provide a glimpse of how the U of M Twin Cities campus may change down the line.

Reinvesting in the Core

When the most historic U of M buildings were built in the 1880s, the Twin Cities campus was centered around the Knoll—the shaded green space just on the other side of University Avenue, between Eddy Hall and Peik Hall. By 1910, the campus expanded southward to incorporate architect Cass Gilbert’s master plan for the neoclassical grandeur that is the Northrop Mall.

Today, many of the University’s historic buildings are in need of internal updates. “You walk in some of them and realize they haven’t been touched in 30 years,” says Monique MacKenzie, the U of M’s director of campus and capital planning. “We need to reinvest in that historic fabric, which we are stewards of.”

MacKenzie points to the successful overhaul of Pillsbury Hall, the 1889 Romanesque sandstone castle that was recently renovated to become the new home of the English department. Today, it’s a model for future updates in that it highlights the building’s historic bones, while embracing 21st century innovation, including flexible classrooms, comfortable lounge spaces, and top-floor gathering spaces for readings and other public events.

Likewise, the Legislature’s 2023 bonding bill allocated \$92.6 million to renovate and put an addition on Fraser Hall, which was built in 1928 as a law school. (See accompanying story on pg. 31.) Upgrades will include 18 chemistry labs, student collaboration spaces, and prep storage spaces. In addition to the allocated legislative funding, the University will cover a portion of the \$138.9 million project, with the rest coming from donations.

The master plan also calls for maintenance and improvements to older buildings, including several that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“We can make the experience better for students when we connect living and community and recreation and walking and biking.”

Myron Frans, U of M senior vice president for finance and operations

Aerial: Eric Miller / U Relations • Dorm: Bailey Hall / U Relations • Healthcare: iStock



A Room With a View

A reimagined University housing neighborhood is proposed along East River Parkway—from the Comstock-Yudoff Hall area to Oak Street. Redevelopment in this area will be possible once programs in the Mayo building, Masonic Cancer Center, University Hospital, and other medical-related facilities relocate to the proposed Health Sciences district along Huron Boulevard.

From the Twin Cities Campus Plan Update

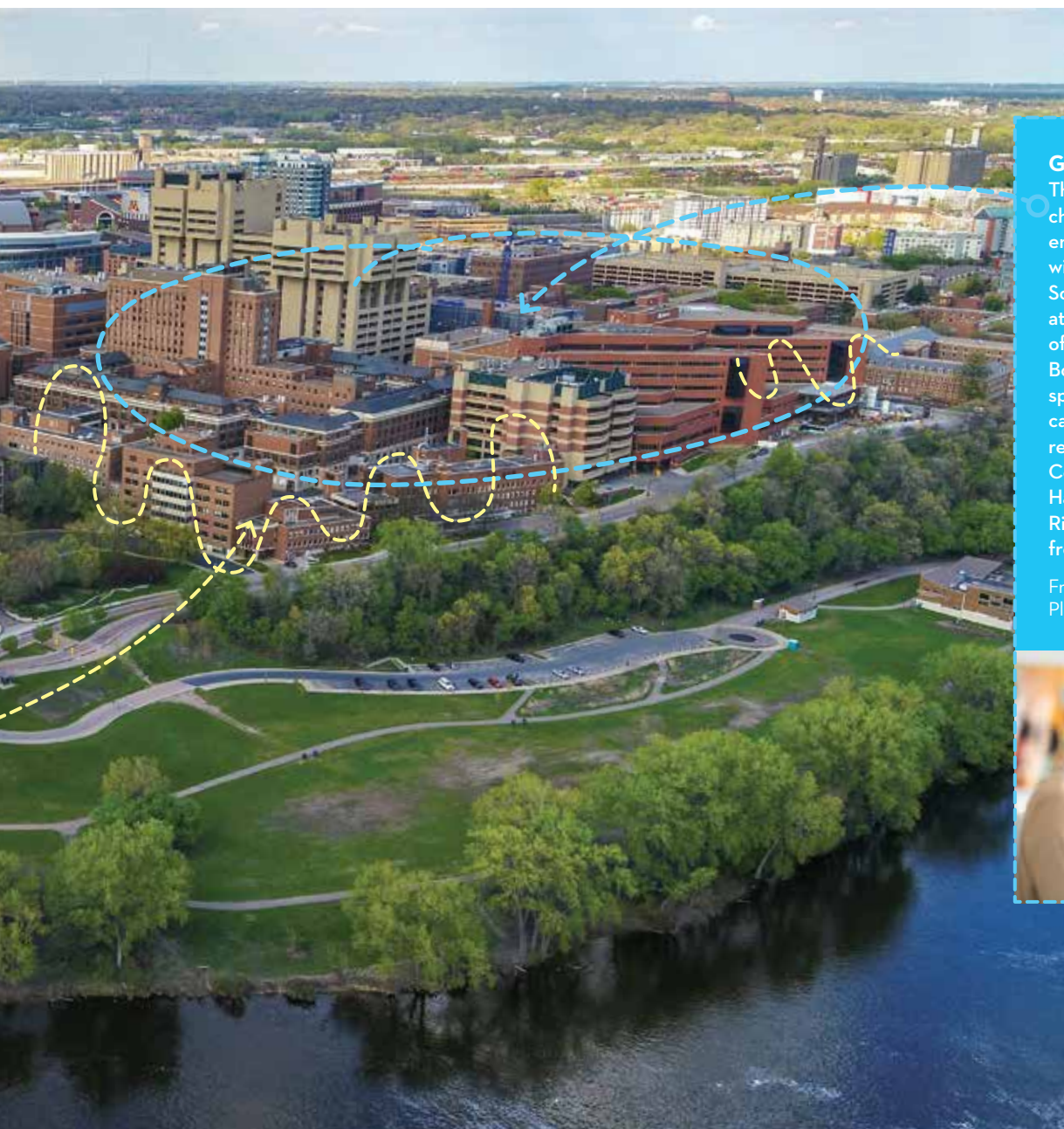
The plan further recommends demolishing buildings including **Peik Hall, Peik Gym, and Williamson Hall**, which are in poor repair.

At its June 2023 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a plan for Athletics to construct a new gymnastics performance center in the Athletes Village footprint, to allow student-athletes to study, train, eat, and recover all in one location. Construction on the \$15.5 million **East Bank gymnastics facility** will start in March 2024 and be completed by January 2025. The facility will be on the south side of the department's indoor football field.

That general area will also eventually include a repurposed "mobility hub," where people can enter and exit

campus and connect to public transportation, reflecting the long-range plan's commitment to sustainability and accessibility. This past year, the University gave all students universal transit passes. Plans are underway to also make them available to all faculty and staff, greatly reducing the need to drive to campus or park.

The idea of a less car-dependent campus would be further enhanced by the demolition of Williamson Hall, which would both enhance the current **Jones-Folwell Quad** and make way for a separate hub to accommodate a reality of our modern world: deliveries from Amazon, FedEx, UPS, and food services. It would connect to the Gopher Way and could also house a bike share station.



Good Health

The most significant change in land use patterns envisioned on the East Bank will be between the Health Sciences district (shown at left) and the relocation of the hospital on Huron Boulevard. Clinical research space, as well as outpatient care, is part of the planned renewal. Replacement of Centennial and Territorial Halls is planned along East River Parkway with access from Essex Street Southeast.

From the Twin Cities Campus Plan Update



“We can make the experience better for students when we connect living and community and recreation and walking and biking,” says Myron Frans, the U of M’s senior vice president for finance and operations. “One of the things we want to try to do is reduce the amount of parking . . . [and also reduce] all these deliveries that come. How do we get [packages] to an office without having [trucks] driving around on campus?”

Frans says the University is also working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to reengineer how people get to campus from I-94, improving congestion on Huron Boulevard.

A New Home for Health Sciences

The most dramatic proposition for the East Bank is the creation of a new **Health Sciences and Clinical Campus**, which would include demolishing and relocating the hospital and medical school, which are outdated. This

zone would also include new clinical care ambulatory sites, and research facilities for walk-in patients who are participating in clinical trials. The changes would stretch from Oak Street to south of Washington Avenue and over to Huron Boulevard, and would border a new innovation zone (see sidebar below). They will also enhance the work currently taking place in the **Health Sciences Education Center**, which opened in 2019 and is one of the most comprehensive interprofessional education facilities in the country.

To make way for this complex, the long-term plan calls for the “superblock” of student housing—**Centennial, Frontier, Pioneer, and Territorial Halls**—to eventually be demolished and rebuilt on the slope down to the Mississippi River, thus enhancing students’ connection to the iconic waterway that runs through campus.

“The most exciting piece [of the plan] is this notion of residential housing along the river,” says Marc Partridge



Another part of the University’s long-range plan is a regional **Innovation Corridor**, to run through the West Bank, East Bank, and St. Paul. It will include offices and research facilities for Minnesota Fortune 500

companies and small businesses, mostly in the bio-based manufacturing and health care fields. As part of this initiative, the University of Minnesota Foundation Real Estate Advisors (UMFREA) has announced plans

to develop several blocks on the east edge of campus in the East Gateway Neighborhood into a pedestrian-friendly area that will be called the Minnesota Innovation Exchange, or The MIX.

“[University] Innovation districts allow researchers to connect with the private sector and drive what we call place-based innovation on campus,” says Pat Mascia, UMFREA’s managing director, who notes that Big 10 competitors—including the University of Michigan and University of Wisconsin—already have these zones in place.

Working together with private partners, the Foundation sees the plan for The MIX unfolding in three separate stages over the next 15 to 20 years, with the first section—two blocks on Huron Boulevard that include the current home of a Burger King—set to start site prep and demolition this year.

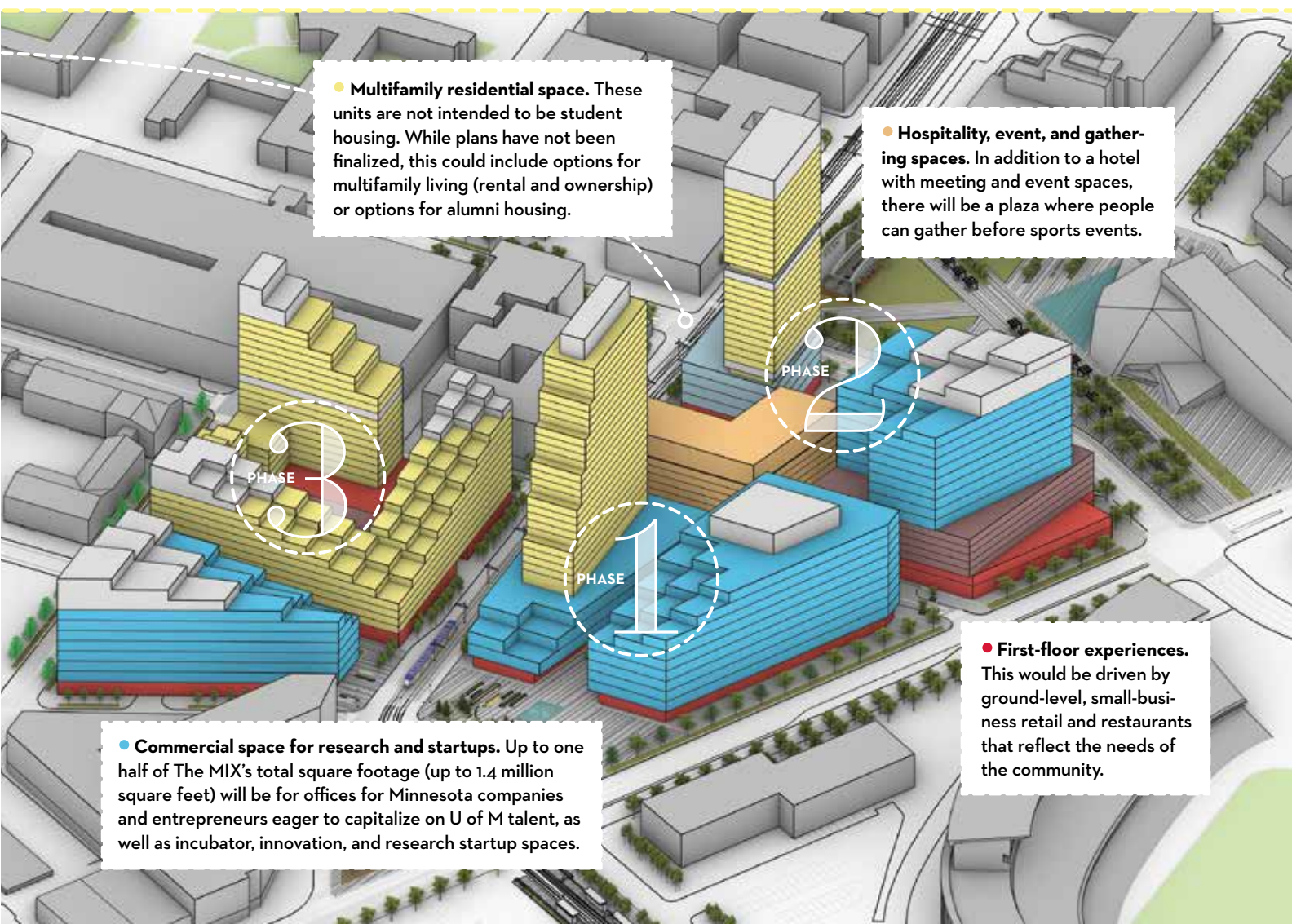
(M.A. '82), the U of M's architect and design director. "I think the real value of a campus is the physical campus, and people want to be with people. There's a culture at the University that I think you only get by being there physically."

Money Matters

The financing for these changes will of course determine when and if they are completed, and differs depending on the type of project. The University funds all auxiliary buildings—housing, athletic buildings, student unions, and recreation centers. In April 2022, the Regents approved the sale of \$500 million of debt in 30-year, interest-only bonds, which allows the University to generate savings and free up cash to spend on building projects. Infrastructure projects—including roofing, heating and air conditioning systems, disability access, as well as plans to renovate the Washington Avenue Bridge—are financed through the Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement

“When you talk about a campus plan . . . you don’t know exactly how you’re going to do it, but [you do know] where you want to go. And each generation bites off the next piece of that and keeps the whole picture moving.”

Brian Swanson, assistant vice president for finance and systems.



● **Multifamily residential space.** These units are not intended to be student housing. While plans have not been finalized, this could include options for multifamily living (rental and ownership) or options for alumni housing.

● **Hospitality, event, and gathering spaces.** In addition to a hotel with meeting and event spaces, there will be a plaza where people can gather before sports events.

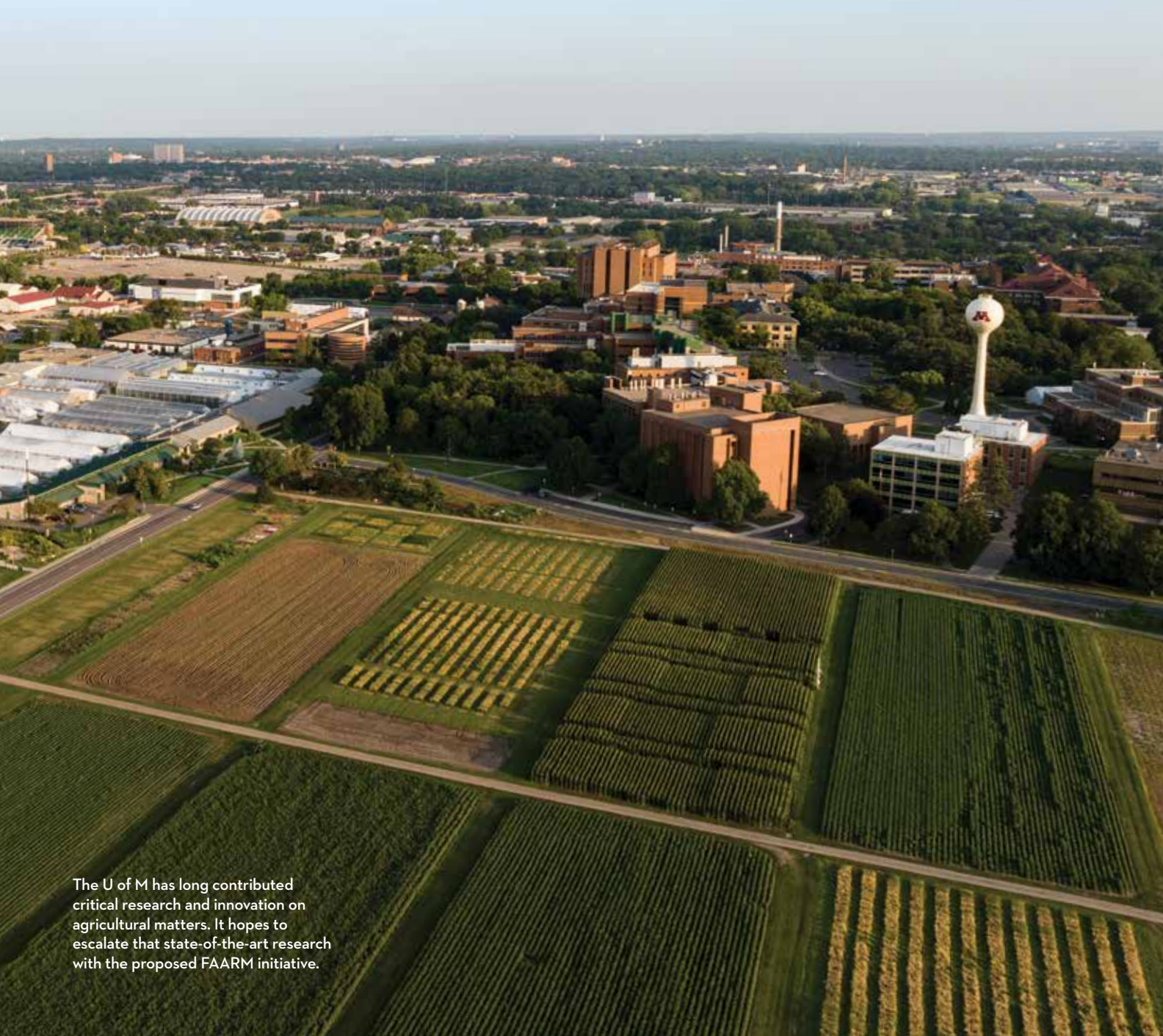
PHASE 3

PHASE 2

PHASE 1

● **Commercial space for research and startups.** Up to one half of The MIX's total square footage (up to 1.4 million square feet) will be for offices for Minnesota companies and entrepreneurs eager to capitalize on U of M talent, as well as incubator, innovation, and research startup spaces.

● **First-floor experiences.** This would be driven by ground-level, small-business retail and restaurants that reflect the needs of the community.



The U of M has long contributed critical research and innovation on agricultural matters. It hopes to escalate that state-of-the-art research with the proposed FAARM initiative.



From FAARM to Table

Last February, the U of M announced it is exploring developing a state-of-the-art agricultural research complex in Mower County. Called the Future of Advanced Agricultural Research in Minnesota (FAARM), this public-private partnership will be an advanced agriculture endeavor that studies every aspect of cattle, swine, and poultry—from the crops used to feed

them to the intersection of human and animal health. It will also research the interactions of animals on soil health, water quality, and climate.

The Hormel Institute has pledged \$60 million for the project and the University has asked the Legislature to match that amount. The total cost will be \$220 million, and the project will take four to six years to complete.

The University is currently

buying land needed for the proposed project in anticipation of its construction, and will partner with Riverland Community College in Austin to develop technical training programs for future staffing needs.

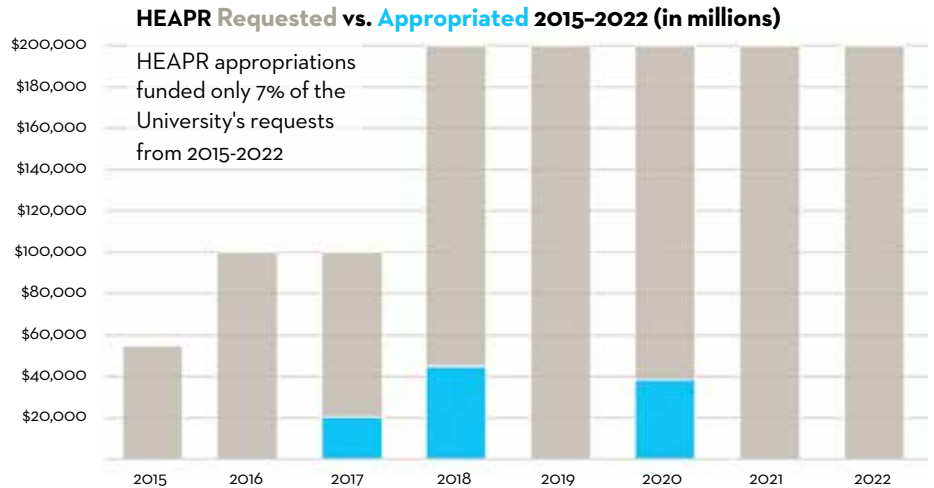
“This will be one of the biggest investments in agriculture and ag research in the country,” says Myron Frans, U of M senior vice president for finance and operations.

Understanding HEAPR

Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) funding from the Minnesota Legislature is used to preserve and renew the U of M's existing infrastructure to better serve students, maximize the useful life of buildings, and ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of building users.

The U of M allocates HEAPR funding systemwide in four categories: health, safety, and accessibility; building systems; utility infrastructure, and energy efficiency.

Between 2015 and 2022, the state has only funded 7 percent of the U of M's request



for HEAPR dollars. This has led to a 10-year need of \$4.2 billion across all campuses in order to preserve and renovate campus facilities in poor condition.

In 2023, the U of M requested \$200 million in HEAPR funding to update infrastructure needs. The legislature passed a bonding bill that provided \$43.4 million in funding.

Funding (HEAPR) statute, which comes from the state. (See sidebar above.)

Other projects also depend largely on the legislature. For example, the state paid for two-thirds of the Pillsbury Hall renovation, and the University (and generous private donors) paid for the other third. The state also paid for two-thirds of the new **Campbell Hall Institute for Child Development**, while the remaining funds were provided by donors. For the **Chemistry Teaching Laboratory Building** (Fraser Hall), the state will pay two-thirds of the cost and the remaining third will be paid for by the University. The College of Science and Engineering will pay the principal and interest over 20 years on the University's third.

Financing planned changes to the hospital area will be more complex. Given that the Fairview Health Services merger with South Dakota-based Sanford Health was called off in late July, this situation continues to evolve.

And of course, long-range planning is subject to many other factors. Projects go in and out of favor, depending on the priorities of new administrations and the legislature. "When you talk about a campus plan now, you're saying, 'What are all those pieces that have to fit to result in a plan that might seem really pie-in-the-sky now?'" says Brian Swanson, assistant vice president for finance and systems. "And you don't know exactly how you're going to do it, but [you do know] where you want to go. And each generation that comes through kind of bites off the next piece of that and keeps the whole picture moving." ■

Other Campus Changes

Anderson Hall will eventually be demolished to make way for a renewed campus plaza that will provide access to bike paths and public transportation. The plaza will include a new facility focused on instruction, student inclusion, collaboration, and engagement.

Wilson Library will get a makeover to keep pace with the needs of today's students, including spaces for gathering and collaboration.

St. Paul Proposals include creating a "discovery district" focused on issues involving food, water, and the environment; renovations to the

interior of Magrath Library to make it more welcoming and inclusive, and overhauling the St. Paul Student Center. A nearly 90,000-sq.-ft. Microbial Cell Production Facility is currently being erected in St. Paul. The project, which started in May 2022, is scheduled for completion in November.

Washington Avenue Bridge The University will study improvements to both the walkway enclosure and railing system, consistent with its National Register of Historic Places eligibility and in collaboration with the various jurisdictions governing use and ownership of the bridge.

Want even more insight into the U of M's future? You can read the entire 156-page Twin Cities Campus Master Plan at cpm.umn.edu.

Architecture Professor Thomas Fisher on what an increasingly hybrid world means for college campuses. *By Elizabeth Foy Larsen*

For more than 40 years, University of Minnesota architecture professor Thomas Fisher has been at the forefront of research on sustainable architecture, design ethics, and design that serves communities. In his most recent book, *Space, Structures, and Design in a Post-Pandemic World* (Routledge, 2022), Fisher focuses on the implications of our new hybrid world, including what it will mean for college campuses. We asked Fisher to describe how he thinks this emerging trend will play out on campuses across the country.

Minnesota Alumni: The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way the world works. How will our new hybrid reality impact American colleges and universities?

Fisher: Land grant universities arose after the cholera pandemics [which came in three waves from 1832 to 1866]. The community college system arose after the 1918 [flu] pandemic. Every time there's a pandemic, there is also an impact on higher ed. And, typically, it forces higher ed to become more affordable, accessible, and equitable. So now the question is, after this pandemic, what does that mean in the 21st century? What does a more affordable, accessible, equitable, higher ed system look like?

I think there's no question that it's

going to be some balance between what happens physically and digitally. We know from the workplace that we're in a hybrid world and that people are going to be working in more flexible ways going forward. And if nothing else, we have to prepare our students for that work world. So, the University itself has to be in a hybrid mode. It can't pretend that, "well, everyone has to come to class, show up in person," because that's not the world of work anymore.

What does that mean for the actual buildings on campus?

We probably have too many big lecture halls that I bet are sitting mostly empty. I have a class I teach right now that has about 80-some students in it—two-thirds to three-quarters of whom remain remote.

The University requires all faculty to be in person in class, and I'm in person, although my office hours are virtual. But I give my students a choice about whether or not to attend class in person. And a large number are choosing to be remote. Sometimes they're in the same building—that's what's interesting. It's not like they're all home. I can tell from the background [on their Zoom screens] that they're just upstairs. But they would still rather be remote than to come downstairs into the room, which I find fascinating.



I think campuses have to think of themselves in the way the office space is now being thought of, which is it has to be able to do something that the online world can't. Just as people's homes will become more officelike, the office needs to become more homelike. There's still a very good reason to come to campus, but it's not going to be to sit quietly in a



Architecture Professor Thomas Fisher believes “there’s still a very good reason to come to campus” in person post-pandemic, but that virtual options will influence how universities serve students in the future.

lecture hall. A university is going to be a space of interaction and of collaboration and doing things that are really difficult to do online.

We had this idea from the 20th century that students concentrate more in these blank spaces. It turns out that the campus serves more effectively as a memory palace, as a mnemonic device, where

you remember things based on all your senses. The sense of smell, the sound of the place, the light quality of the place. It actually helps us remember things more than these fluorescently lit spaces that are all alike.

Before the pandemic I taught a class that was nomadic, meaning I had the students decide where they wanted to



A study group gathers in Bruininks Hall.

“A University is going to be a space of interaction and of collaboration and doing things that are really difficult to do online.”

Thomas Fisher, professor of Architecture

meet for each class. They never picked a classroom, ever. We went to the Caribou Coffee on Washington Avenue and had a coffee as we talked. We went to a lounge overlooking the Mississippi. We went to the Weisman Art Museum and sat down in one of the big rooms. And what’s interesting is pedagogically, I realized they were remembering the content more because they could remember the space where we discussed it.

What about the nonacademic ways students use campuses?

That’s huge. And in fact, one of the main drivers to come back to campus is [to have] fun. Online fun is through social media and you’re isolated. And young people, particularly as they’re building their social networks, just like young employees, really want to connect. And the campus needs to really facilitate connection.

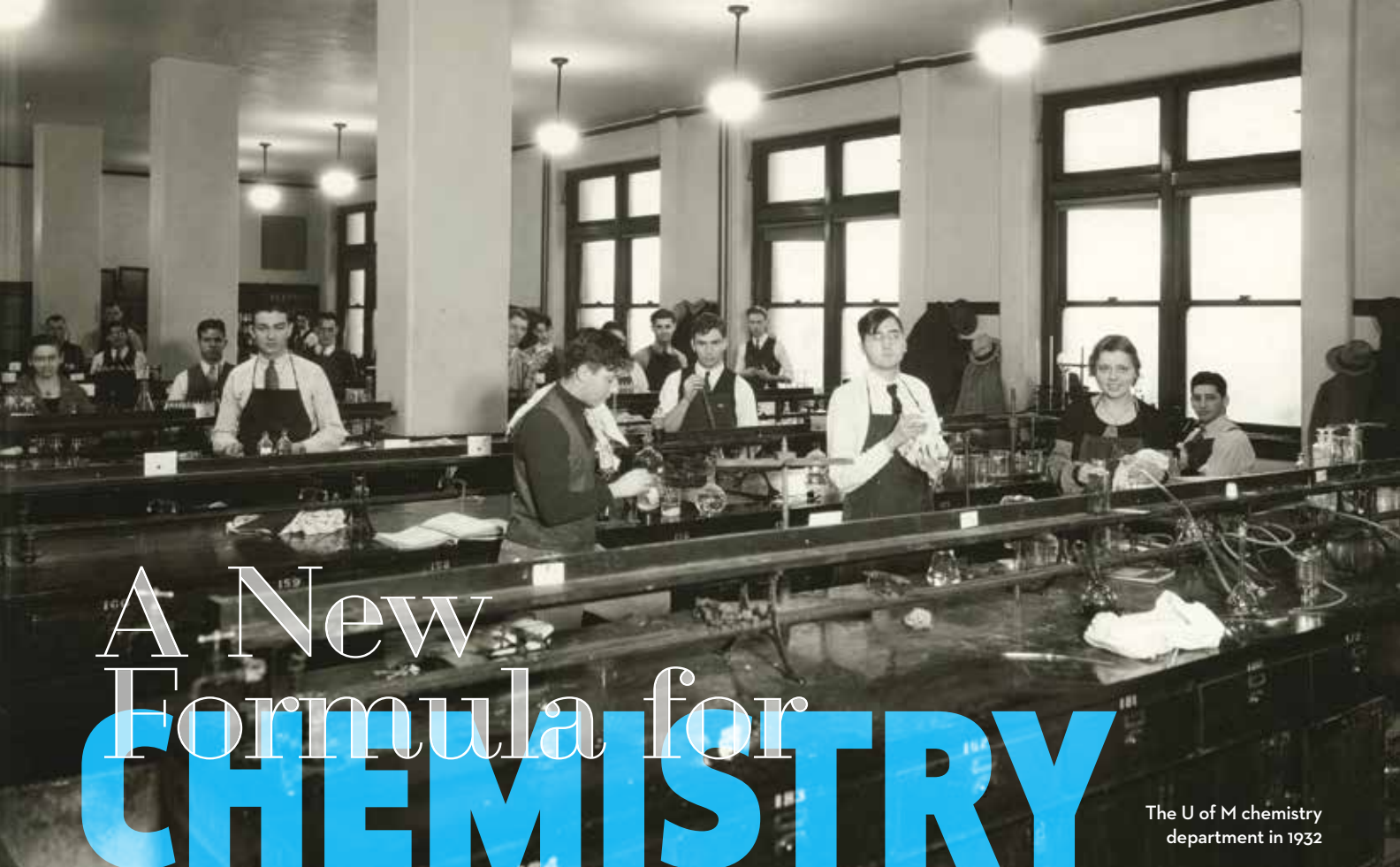
One of the things we’re talking about is this idea of curating interactions. I once cochaired a committee at the University called the Serendipity Committee. And the idea was that we would choose two faculty members who didn’t know each other, take them to lunch and introduce them and say, “We think that you two need to know each other.” And we did it over food and it was fun. And there were all sorts of new research ideas and new connections that came from just using the campus for serendipitous interactions.

Is there a space on the Twin Cities campus that you feel points the way forward to the future of campuses?

The newly renovated Industrial and Systems Engineering department in Lind Hall is, I think, a model for what higher ed space will look like in the future. It’s got really small faculty offices because they aren’t there as much, and a lot of hangout spaces for students. It has a big lounge with coffee and food and places for people to eat. The student spaces have a lot of the windows. The students have comfortable furniture and there’s a Starbucks downstairs. And it’s a fun, really zippy place. It’s the kind of place you want to go to.

The other place I find fascinating is the lobby of the Graduate Hotel in Stadium Village. There’s a huge table there and it’s full of students all the time. I learned from my students that some of them actually like working where there’s a lot of other activity. There’s a restaurant on one side, a Starbucks on the other. It’s cozy, quirky, soft lighting, comfortable chairs, fireplace going. And the students are doing their own thing. It’s not like they’re having conversations; they’re all working on different stuff, completely contrary to what we typically think of. ■

This interview was condensed and edited for length and clarity.



A New Formula for CHEMISTRY

The U of M chemistry department in 1932

The revamp of Fraser Hall and the chemistry department will bring tools that set up students across the University for success. *By Adam Overland*

Chemistry Professor David Blank would like to show you two side-by-side images. In one, students stand behind long work tables at individual stations diligently conducting science experiments. In another, students appear to stand behind those same tables, with little indication that anything has changed, except that one photo is black-and-white and dated 1932, and the other is current. Aside from the fashion and genders (the older image features almost exclusively young men wearing button-up shirts and ties), it doesn't appear that this chemistry lab has changed in close to a century.

That's because it hasn't.

Blank, who became associate dean for undergraduate programs in the College of Science and Engineering in July 2023 after heading the Department of Chemistry since 2017, helped lead efforts at the Minnesota Legislature to bring the U of M's undergraduate chemistry labs into the 21st century. In May, those efforts paid off. The state's 2023 bonding bill provided nearly \$93 million toward the \$140 million transformation of Fraser Hall on the East Bank into



A 2019 photo of the space shows that the chemistry teaching environment hasn't been significantly updated for nearly a century.



The new building, above, will provide 18 active learning laboratories, as well as tutoring and informal student collaboration spaces. The project will remove circa-1954 building additions, renovate the remaining existing 1928 Fraser Hall, right, and construct a new addition. It is expected to open for instruction in the fall of 2025.



a 117,000-square-foot modern chemistry teaching laboratory. With additional philanthropic support and college resources, the state-backed project will replace outdated chemistry labs in Smith and Kolthoff Halls.

Chemistry across campus

What might surprise you is that the soon-to-be renovated Fraser Hall and its chemistry labs will serve not just chemistry students, but first- and second-year students from nearly every U of M Twin Cities college, from the College of Liberal Arts to the College of Biological Sciences.

Chemistry has been an integral part of the University of Minnesota since the department was established in 1869. It's often called the "central science" because of its role in connecting the physical sciences. Blank agrees that nearly everything that has a scientific foundation to it includes chemistry.

"Everybody who is going to go into anything health-science related, agriculture-science related ... chemistry is the foundation of all of these things," says Blank.

And those fields are growing fast.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development projects significant job

growth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The new Fraser Hall will help meet that demand, says Blank.

'Life has shifted'

In 2022-23, more than 5,000 students from over 120 different undergraduate majors enrolled in eight different chemistry laboratory courses. More than 75 percent of those students were from colleges other than the College of Science & Engineering, which is home to the Department of Chemistry. Once completed, about a third of all students who graduate from the Twin Cities will have had a course in a Fraser Hall laboratory, says Blank.

But perhaps more important, the new Fraser Hall and its labs will formalize a shift in teaching and learning outcomes that has been under way for some time.

"The way we've done this for 100 years is we've got these long benches in this giant room. We essentially hand students a cookbook that says, 'open the drawer, take out the beaker ... don't think, just do the following things in order,'" says Blank. "You get out in the real world, no one is going to hand you a cookbook."

"Life has shifted," agrees Michelle Driessen, professor and director of general chemistry and a leading advocate for the new Fraser Hall. She came to that realization more than a decade ago when she overheard students discussing a lab session.

"I heard a student say, 'Did you understand what we were supposed to do today? What number did you get?'" says Driessen. "And the response was, 'No, I didn't really understand it. I got a number though.'"

"It became more and more clear that once you start



telling somebody what to do, step by step, you shut your brain off,” says Driessen.

That realization led Driessen to implement collaborative learning in her courses years ago.

“Before I made this change, students would go into the lab and do their own experiment, they’d have this 40-page document that says, ‘follow these 50 steps,’” says Driessen. “Now I give them about a paragraph, and they have to work together and figure out why they’re doing something. It’s sticking better,” she says.

The problem was that while the instruction methods were sound, the spaces for performing the work didn’t match the intended experience. Students would do group work in hallways outside the labs. And inside the labs, they complained of being distracted by the noise of simultaneously sharing the same large undivided space with other courses.

The new labs will have space that is intentionally designed for small group collaborations with sightlines and separations that provide a much-needed safety overhaul, says Driessen.

Responding to the marketplace

Blank says that the need for new labs was driven not only by research on teaching methods, but by the marketplace. Minnesota companies like 3M, Cargill, Boston Scientific, General Mills, and many others want students with skills like critical thinking, writing and communication, and collaborative problem solving—and they let faculty know about it.

“Employers basically said, ‘We hire from places who take this approach,’” says Blank. “Which is a little bit of

Chemistry has been an integral part of the U of M since 1869. It is often called the ‘central science’ because of its role in connecting the physical sciences.

a threat. But it’s an effective threat. Because if you care about your students, you want to make sure they’re the ones who are being hired.”

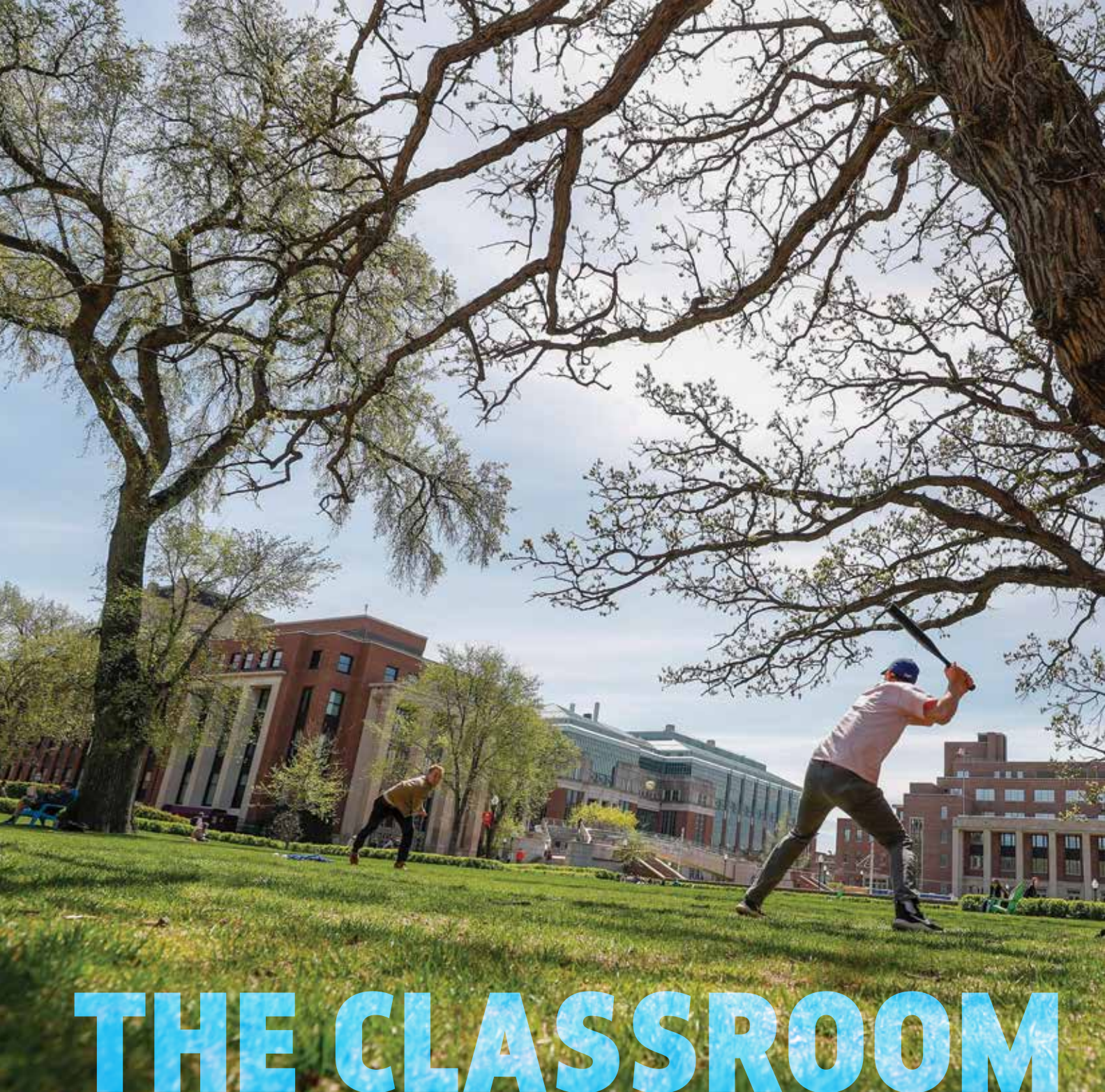
Mike Kesti, senior vice president of corporate research and development at 3M, visited the Capitol with Blank and helped advocate for the new building.

“3M strategically targets students from the best universities across the globe who are well prepared to work in team- and project-based environments to help solve complex problems,” says Kesti. “[We supported] this because it will enable students, both STEM and non-STEM, to learn and thrive in a modern, collaborative learning space and better prepare them to make an impact in industry—hopefully at 3M.”

Blank agrees.

“It really is a service to undergraduate education. I’m not sure there’s a building that will see more use from students across the entire institution,” he says.

“This will be at the front end of how you start to think about learning independently, baked into one of [a student’s] first experiences. So the hope is you carry that forward, and that you no longer expect to be given a cookbook.” ■



THE CLASSROOM

The “Campus Arboretum” project draws attention to the trees, plant communities, and green spaces that give the Twin Cities campus a sense of place. *By Amy Sitze*

Most of us picture an arboretum as an enclosed area of carefully tended plants, like the U of M’s Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Gary Johnson aims to change that.

Johnson, a retired professor who taught urban and community forestry at the U of M for 31 years, is heading up an initiative called the Campus Arboretum. The Twin Cities campus—which includes the East Bank, West Bank, and St. Paul—is full of natural beauty, he says, so why not



draw attention to the plant communities that give it a sense of place?

“We’re trying to help people understand their surroundings, so they start looking at the campus as more than just a bunch of buildings connected by a bus,” says Johnson.

Starting this summer, a website (trees.umn.edu) will provide a map and detailed information about 45 sites across the Campus Arboretum, organized into three categories: significant trees, sacred spaces, and special plant communi-

ties (see sidebar on pg. 36). Eventually, permanent signage in high-visibility areas of campus will direct visitors to the website to learn more about the varied landscape that makes the U of M so special.

Close to home

The idea for the five-year initiative was born in Johnson’s 2018 class on urban green space management. The project-based class brought together undergraduate seniors in fields like plant science, urban forestry, and landscape architecture with graduate students studying urban planning.

“We thought this would be a great project, because it involves a community that the students are engaged in,” Johnson says. “It’s literally close to home.”

Kylee Gregory, a junior majoring in environmental sciences, says the Campus Arboretum project was more than just a class—it became a personal passion. She came to the U of M from a small town in southern Illinois, and she says the green spaces on campus made her feel more at home. “Coming from a rural area, I felt like I was still connected to nature here, despite being so close to downtown Minneapolis,” she says.

Gregory helped with marketing for the project, including designing signs to invite people to participate in public meetings. A steering committee—made up of students, faculty, staff, U of M neighbors, and University Landcare, which manages about 11,000 trees on the Twin Cities campus—meets regularly to discuss public input and review the sites chosen for the project.

Refuge and sanctuary

Johnson envisions the project serving as a living classroom for students, faculty, and staff who spend their days on campus. He also hopes it will draw in visitors such as alumni, neighborhood residents, people attending a cultural or athletic event, and prospective students and families.

Patients at the M Health Fairview clinics and hospitals also benefit from campus green spaces, says Erica Timko Olson, who studies nature interventions as an assistant professor at the School of Nursing.

“We need to think about how we can become a place of refuge and sanctuary for people going through trau-



matic times,” says Timko Olson, a frequent guest speaker in Johnson’s classes. “If a patient has an hour between appointments, do they sit in the lobby or do we encourage them to take a walk down the Mall and notice what’s around them?”

Noticing is key, she says: “Being out in nature is great, but engagement with nature—that intentional connection—that’s where the healing happens.”

Dreams for the future

Intentional connection is exactly what Johnson has in mind for the future of the Campus Arboretum. The current 45 sites are only the beginning, he says. An online nomination form allows anyone to propose other locations, which will be reviewed by the advisory committee.

The project has helped the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus qualify for Tree Campus Higher Education status from the Arbor Day Foundation; it’s one of only three campuses in the state to receive the designation.

But for Johnson, an even greater honor would be to see campus tour guides mentioning the Campus Arboretum as they point out athletic facilities and residence halls. “To me, one of the most wonderful things would be if they talk about a restored prairie on campus, or an out-of-the-way place where you can go to be calm and quiet, or a historically important tree. In a nutshell, we’re celebrating what’s already there.” ▣

Notable spots on campus

The Campus Arboretum highlights campus trees, plants, and landscapes in three categories:

Significant trees: specific trees that are beautiful, unusual, or historically or culturally significant.

Example: A huge, sprawling honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), above, provides both shade and beauty in front of McNeal Hall on the Twin Cities campus in St. Paul.

Special plant communities: groups of plants with educational and recreational value, including rain gardens, bioswales, rooftop gardens, pollinator gardens, and open green spaces.

Example: Near the Law School, a previously unused space has been transformed into an urban meadow that attracts pollinators and helps manage water runoff.

Sacred places: areas that are special to individuals and communities.

Example: Generations of students have studied and socialized under the stately elms on Northrop Mall, the historic center of the Twin Cities campus on the East Bank. The U of M landcare team chemically treats the trees every other year to prevent Dutch Elm disease and maintain the signature green canopy.

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DINKYTOWN

Past, Present, Future

When Ardes Johnson (B.A. '57, M.A. '70) arrived at the University of Minnesota in 1953, she lived in Sanford Hall, but many of her college memories are linked to Dinkytown. She remembers a neighborhood packed with an ecosystem of small businesses, including restaurants run by Greek families—today, Tony's Diner on Fourth Street is owned by a grandson of one of those restaurateurs—as well as Meyer's Grocery, Simms Hardware, and the shops in Dinkydale. There were no bars, though, because at the time it wasn't legal to sell alcohol within a mile of the University.

After moving to the East Coast for graduate school and then working abroad, Johnson moved back to Minnesota in 1990. She purchased a townhouse in the neighborhood that held so many special memories, although that building was eventually torn down in 2013 to build Radius, a student apartment building managed by the University.

Today Johnson lives nearby in west Marcy-Holmes. And as a trustee of the grassroots organization Preserving Historic Dinkytown, she believes passionately that the neighborhood's unique history is not only worth preserving, but central to its future.

"I think many alumni of the University link their Dinkytown experiences with their school experiences," she says. "That is what we are trying to preserve."

Indeed, the buildings and sidewalks just to the north of University Avenue hold stories that are both personal and historic. In the 1870s, the neighborhood was the terminus of the first horsecar line route and went on to become a hub for the metro area's streetcars. As the streetcar line and the University grew, so did Dinkytown, where the majority of the commercial buildings at the intersection of Fourth Street and 14th Avenue SE were built between 1900 and 1920.

Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey planned his 1952 presidential run in a Dinkytown apartment. In 1959, a U of M student named Robert Zimmerman lived above Gray's Campus Drug. (He changed his name to Bob Dylan and got his start playing music at the nearby Ten O'Clock Scholar coffeehouse.) In the 1960s and 1970s, the neighborhood was synonymous with social justice movements. Both the Loft Literary Center and the MSP Film Society were founded in Dinkytown.



Preserving historic Dinkytown owes a debt to efforts by a local grassroots organization.

By Elizabeth Foy Larsen

Today, Dinkytown has undergone a construction boom, mostly in large buildings for student housing, but the buildings at the intersection of Fourth Street and 14th Avenue still have the bones of what stood there a century ago, thanks to being designated a historic district by the city of Minneapolis in 2015. The area was singled out for its relationship to the streetcar era—the Fourth Street Streetcar Line was one of the oldest in the city and dates to the 1870s, according to Rob Skalecki (M.A. '19), a city planner and historic preservationist for Minneapolis.

“The commercial districts that grew up around Fourth Street Southeast and 14th Avenue Southeast really reflect the growth of the University at the beginning of the 20th century,” he says. “And we see a social history there, a commercial history that is still present in a lot of these buildings.”

The city is currently drafting design guidelines for the historic district, which is regulated by the National Park Service, to help building owners retain the historic character of the area. Skalecki estimates that the guidelines will be released to the public this year.



Streetcar ridership in Minneapolis and elsewhere exploded during WWII because of gas and tire shortages and rationing. In 1954, a final, ceremonial streetcar run was made in the area before the lines were removed and service was replaced with cheaper bus transit. At one point, more than 900 streetcars served the Twin Cities area.



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Ardes Johnson and Kristen Eide-Tollefson in the stacks at Book House in Dinkytown

One organization that will be following these guidelines is the University itself: This past March the U of M purchased the building that formerly housed Gray's Campus Drug, which closed in 1998 and then became the Loring Pasta Bar. The University plans to lease the space to a sit-down restaurant to expand dining options in a neighborhood that's dominated by fast casual restaurants and bars.

"This historically charming neighborhood and commercial center is an asset to the University and the entire Minneapolis community," says Leslie Krueger, the University's assistant vice president for planning, space, and real estate. "We wanted to make sure that we were preserving that sit-down restaurant feel for Dinkytown that will allow students to go on a first date, where faculty can go for lunch or after work for dinner, where folks who are coming to basketball have a place to go for dinner before the game. We want to make sure that we have a range of commercial uses and that we are preserving that historically charming asset that's on the doorstep of our campus."

That the University is investing in Dinkytown is welcome news to the people at Preserving Historic Dinkytown, including Kristen Eide-Tollefson (M.P.A. '05). Eide-Tollefson is a founding proprietor of the Book House, which opened in 1976 when independent

"I was motivated to [preserve] Dinkytown because of having been in the bookstore for all these decades and having students come in, generation after generation, and tell me how important the neighborhood is to them."

Kristen Eide-Tollefson



bookstores were scattered throughout the neighborhood. The store operated for 37 years in the building that also housed the Podium guitar shop and House of Hanson grocery store. Then, in 2013, that building was razed to build a multiuse structure that includes retail and student housing. That event was the impetus for the launch of Preserving Historic Dinkytown and the campaign for historic designation of the neighborhood's central commercial intersection.

Today, the Book House operates upstairs in Dinkydale on Fourth Street. This "new" location pulses with the energy of the past, not only in the volumes of used and rare books but also the flyers and posters that line the stairwell. The bookstore also houses Preserving Historic Dinkytown's archives.

"I was motivated to [preserve] Dinkytown because of having been in the bookstore for all these decades and having students come in, generation after generation, and tell me how important the neighborhood is to them," says Eide-Tollefson. "That really still moves me. I did not want that to be lost. Dinkytown is about hanging out. College is about hanging out. And that's one of the pieces of our history." ■

Ed. Note: If you'd like to learn even more about Dinkytown, alumnus Bill Huntzicker (M.A. '76, Ph.D. '76) wrote a 2016 book called *Dinkytown: Four Blocks of History*, which is available via Amazon or Kindle.

Inside the Dinkydale stairwell that leads to Book House, a paper map invites visitors and alumni to reminisce about their favorite "hangout" spots in the Dinkytown neighborhood. The dots designating the locales are sorted by the era former students were on campus.

Dinkytown and Safety

Post pandemic, concerns arose about safety in Dinkytown and surrounding areas that lie outside of campus proper, but are near U of M grounds. The U of M has been working with Minneapolis police and businesses on a project called Dinkytown Safe Streets, to improve lighting, increase patrols, and implement other safety measures. In addition, the Department of Public Safety partnered with the City of Minneapolis to offer Dinkytown Alerts to enhance communication with the campus community about safety in a limited area of Dinkytown.

The *Star Tribune* editorial board wrote on July 31 that concerns about the area have mitigated. The editorial quoted Erin Brumm, leader of a concerned community group called the Campus Safety Coalition, who noted "things are going in the right direction."

You can learn more about these and other ongoing efforts at safe-campus.umn.edu.

The Presumed History of this “Dinky Town”

No one knows for sure where the name Dinkytown comes from, but theories abound:

- The name possibly came from a local merchant who declared one day that “this is getting to be a real dinky town!”
- It may originate from the longstanding dime store in the area, the Dinky Town Dime.
- Another theory ties the name to the Grodnik Building, the building in which the Dinky Town Dime was located. “Grodnik” means “little village” in Russian.
- Another possibility—and the most widely accepted—connects the name to the railroads. “Dinkeys” are small locomotives used for hauling freight, logging, and shunting. Dinkytown was close to the University Station on the Great Northern railroad, which served the University and Dinkytown areas. This station may have been known as the Dinkytown Station.

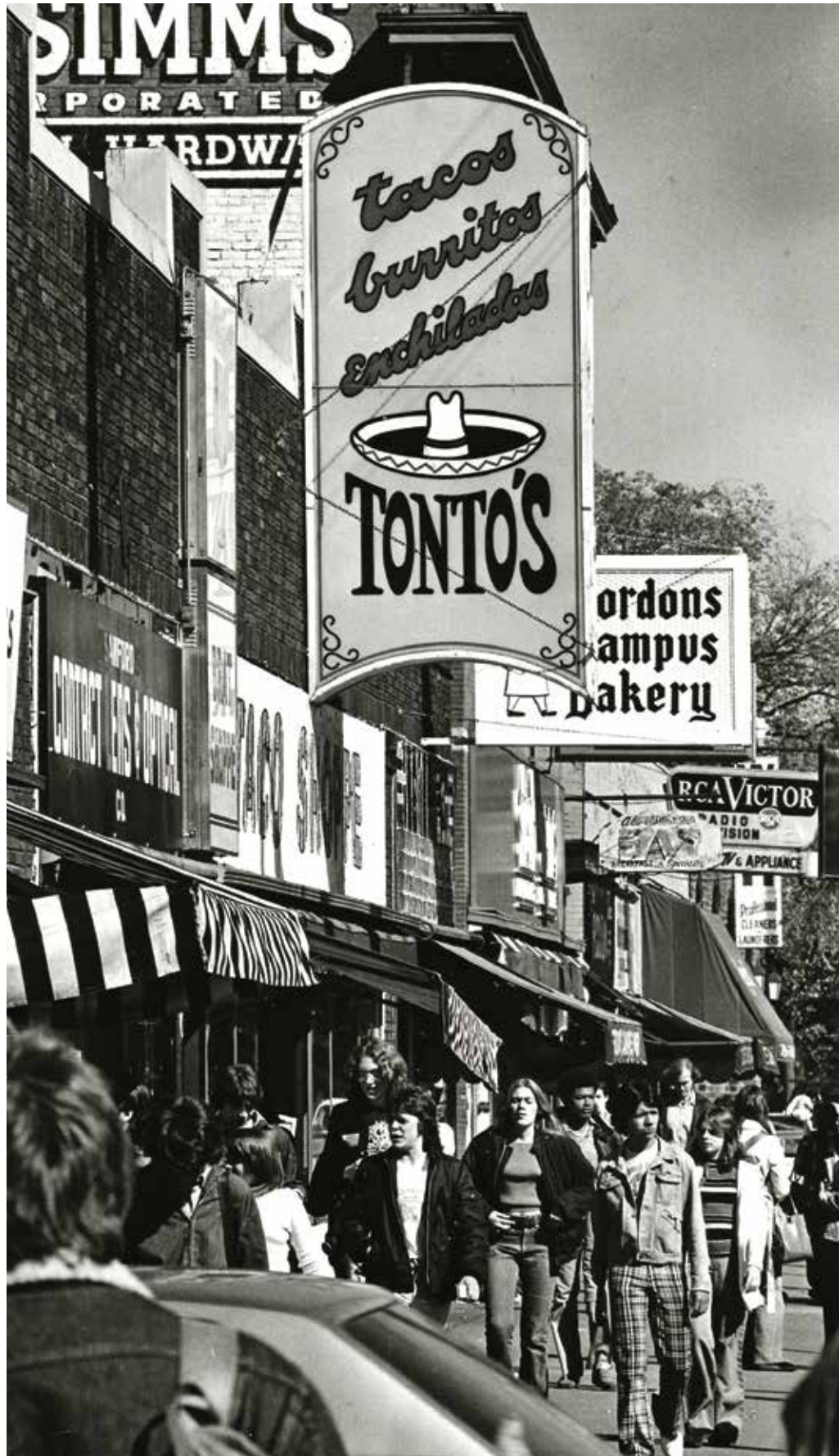
Regardless of its origins, the name became official in 1948 when local businessmen formed a group called “The Dinky Town Businessmen’s Association.”

Reprinted with permission from preservehistoricedinkytown.org.

Daytons, University Archives • Tontos, Mike Zerby / StarTribune



From the 1920s until the 1950s, Dayton’s, the downtown-Minneapolis-based retail behemoth, maintained a Dayton’s University Store in Dinkytown at 321 14th Ave. S.E. The elegant space pictured here shows the store as it was in 1928, when college attire was generally more formal than it has become.



Students from the University and nearby Marshall University High School on Dinkytown sidewalks in the 1970s.



Students and other U of M denizens wait for the bus in 1970.

Photos this page from University Archives
 Opposite page: Afs, Michelle Bennett • McDonalds, Liam Armstrong/MNDaily • New building, Michelle Bennett



Perine's Books and Art Materials Inc. drew students and others to the area. The art supply store has continued operations, in various Minneapolis locations, since 1956.



Gray's Drug and Dinky Town Dime were two tenants of the Grodnik building in 1965. The lunch counter at Gray's was a hangout for neighborhood notables, including the late poet John Berryman, who taught at the U of M from 1955 until his death by suicide in 1972.



Al's, a mainstay of the Dinkytown neighborhood, got its start when Al Bergstrom bought a Dinkytown hole-in-the-wall called Bill's Place in 1950 and renamed it Al's Cafe, also known as Al's Diner. Bergstrom retired in 1973. By 1980, the business was purchased by Doug Grina and Jim Brandes. Grina would retire in 2019 after 40 years behind the stove at Al's Breakfast. The spot remains open.



One familiar icon to generations of U of M students in the Dinkytown neighborhood was the McDonald's on the corner of SE Fourth Street and 15th Avenue. After 57 years, the building closed in December 2020, and a new mixed-use development is being constructed on the site.



The “Dinkytown Uprising”

Among the most indelible memories of Dinkytown for students who were at the University in early 1970 is what has come to be known as the Dinkytown Uprising. It was in part a protest against the Vietnam War and the police shootings at Kent State; part a protest against the proposed construction of a fast-food burger restaurant called the Red Barn that students felt was a corporate invader in the quaint Dinkytown neighborhood.

The protests would last for 40 days. Al Milgrom, a longtime fixture in the University scene and founder of the MSP Film Society, penned an opinion piece for the *Star Tribune* newspaper on May 5, 2020 about the uprising’s 50-year anniversary:

“During April and early May [1970], a confederacy of students managed to live in the ‘People’s Hotel,’ dine at a makeshift ‘People’s Diner’ (with a free daily menu of donated and moonlight-requisitioned food), set up a hospital unit, a meeting space, and a phone network. Despite persistent rumors of imminent police action, the lively society daily attracted citywide tourists and U students who either skipped classes or held campus sit-ins.”

On May 6, 1970, the occupation was broken up by riot police called in to restore order by Minneapolis Mayor Charles Stenvig. After razing the buildings, the restaurant was ultimately never built. ▣

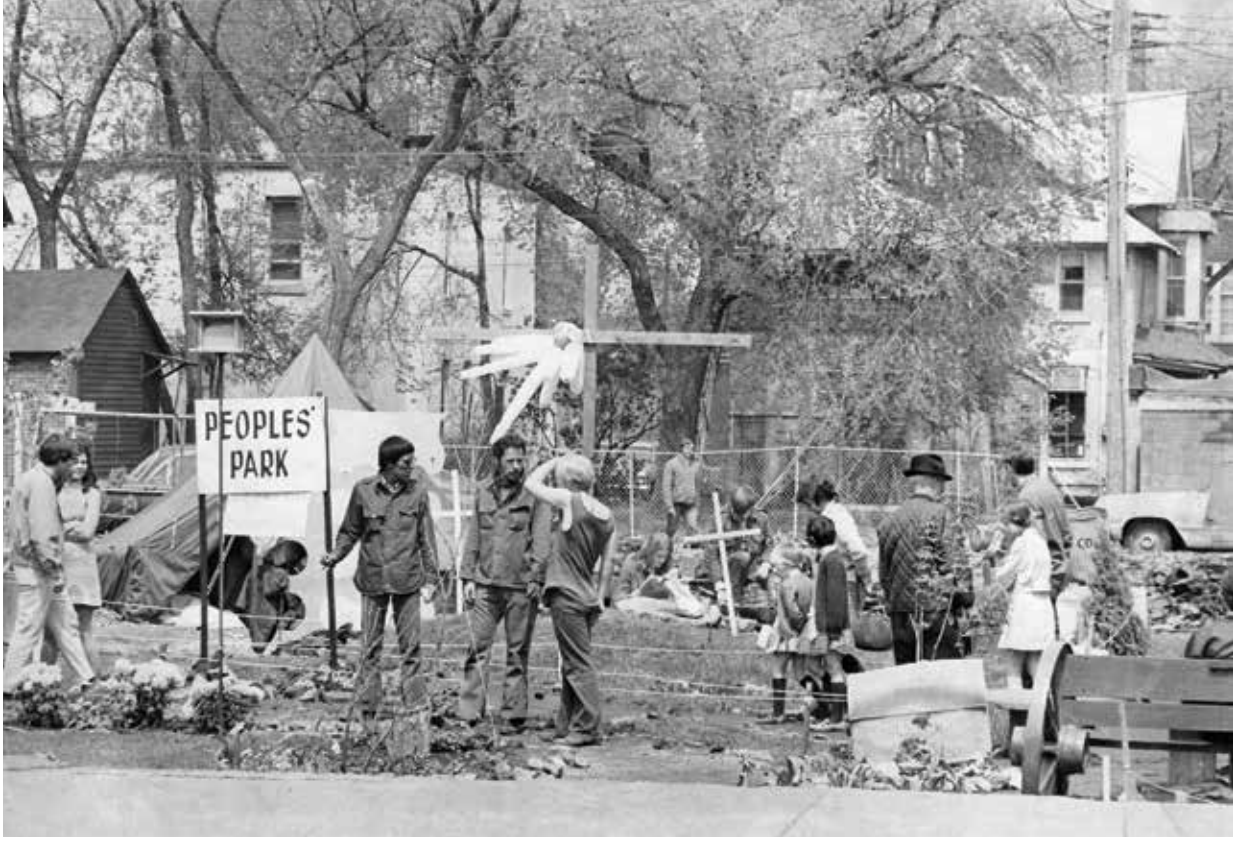


A group of students offered free food at a “People’s Picnic” in front of some of the Dinkytown buildings scheduled to be torn down.

Left: A speaker addresses a large crowd in Dinkytown.

Protesters camped at the intended Burger Barn site after it was cleared, renaming it the "People's Park." Some even called themselves "residents" and cared for the lawn and flowers. The burger restaurant that sparked the protests was ultimately never built.

Below: Loyce Houlton's Minnesota Dance Theater, which was based in Dinkytown at the time, staged performances during the uprising.





All Creatures Great and Small

Collette Adkins
provides a voice—and
legal advocacy—for
the world's carnivores.

By Ellen Ryan

If you spot a critically endangered, tuft-eared, thick-furred Canada lynx around Minnesota—or just its large pawprint—credit Collette Adkins (M.S. '99, J.D. '05).

Thanks to her longtime leadership as the senior attorney at the nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity (www.biologicaldiversity.org), where she directs the carnivore conservation program, a federal court has finally ordered a stop to most uses of strangulation snares. Those snares are actually intended for other animals, but have been killing the rare wildcats—as well as dogs—in northeastern Minnesota.

Trapping, along with climate change and habitat destruction, has whittled the state's lynx population to perhaps 50, says Adkins. After this ruling, they have a better shot.

The Center (which is headquartered in Tuscon, although Adkins works from Minneapolis) describes its work like this: "Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. We do so through science, law, and creative media, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters, and climate that species need to survive."

Adkins grew up ‘in the woods’ of Blaine and spending summers in the Boundary Waters region, home to black bear, moose, beaver, timberwolves, and various birds of prey.

That kind of goalpost drives Adkins, who grew up “in the woods” of Blaine and spending summers in the Boundary Waters region, home to black bear, moose, beaver, timberwolves, and various birds of prey. Planning to use her master’s in wildlife conservation from the University to teach young people to care about the environment, she soon saw the benefits of a more direct approach: hence a further degree from the U of M law school.

A lot of lawyers have no science background, Adkins notes. “I need to make the case against removing protections for grizzly bears—climate change, viable populations, land use—by understanding the scientific studies. That’s what I learned at the U of M. Add the legal degree, which taught me to research and write and use the law, and that’s a powerful combination.”

The center’s executive director, Kierán Suckling, agrees. “People are not necessarily adept at both” writing litigation briefs and presenting oral arguments, he says. Adkins’ “briefs are erudite and to the point, and in hearings she has tremendous ability to respond in real time and make compelling arguments to the court.”

Adkins lives with two teens, her fiancé, two dogs, two cats, three backyard chickens, and honeybees in a Minneapolis suburb. It’s convenient for those days when she’s testifying at the Capitol, leading a protest, or speaking at a hearing of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Most often, though, she’s collaborating with nonprofit colleagues on research, briefs, or those educational



Adkins and some of her colleagues

advocacy emails that say, “Click here to send a letter to your representative about. . . .”

Policymakers pay close attention to such mail, she says; public outcry has helped to save at-risk animals like the bald eagle and grizzly bear (among many others) from extinction; protect crucial habitat for thousands of imperiled species; and, just in May, ban for-profit killings of turtles in Minnesota.

And then there are long-documented scientific success stories, including the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park: Elk, which had previously stayed put munching on willows, were forced to keep moving because of the predators. That meant the willows grew back, in turn stabilizing riverbanks. Birds returned, as did fish driven away when willows no longer shaded the water. And so on.

“Some environmental problems are pretty hard to solve; they may need worldwide action,” Adkins says. “But something like this, really all you need to do is stop mistreating them and they will do OK. That’s the power of the law—a lot of my work is focused on

retaining federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.”

The wolf population of Minnesota has also recovered to about 3,000 animals, she adds. Three results: a healthier, if smaller, deer population; fewer car wrecks due to deer encounters; and more wildflowers in forest understories.

Farmers and ranchers often object to wolf reintroduction out of concern for their animals’ safety. Adkins points to possible safety measures like fencing, guard dogs, motion-sensing lights, and range riders (for some of these, funding may be available), and adds that education is key to countering peoples’ concerns. She notes that wolves are intelligent pack animals, and shooting one of the pack impairs their ability to go after native prey—making them, ironically, more likely to approach livestock.

Threats to animals come not only from climate change, vehicles, and traps, but also from legislation designed to protect moneyed interests, from oil drillers to land developers. Nonetheless, Adkins sees “a lot of reason for optimism.”

Largely, public attitudes toward carnivores have changed over decades: Having once seen wolves, grizzlies, and lynx simply as predatory threats that deserve to be wiped out, a majority now appreciates these animals as valuable to the ecosystem and cares about animal suffering.

“It’s an enormous benefit,” she says, “to have both public opinion and science on our side.” ■

Ellen Ryan is a freelance writer based in Rockville, Maryland.



Strengthening Communities

Sheryl Wilson believes in the power of restorative justice. *By Susan Maas*

Sheryl Wilson (B.S. '03, M.L.S. '07) is now in her sixth year as executive director of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR), a restorative justice center located in North Newton, Kansas.

Rather than seeing crime or wrongdoing only as lawbreaking, restorative justice views it as a violation of people and relationships, needing both accountability and repair. "Restorative justice is not a panacea," Wilson says. "It's not a cure for everything. But we have processes that can help repair harm. At its core, [restorative justice is] about community-building."

Wilson's path started when she earned her undergraduate degree in mediation and communication studies via the U of M's late Program for Individualized Learning. She later built her master's degree around restorative justice through the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

At KIPCOR, which is affiliated with Bethel College in North Newton, Wilson helps facilitate mediation and conflict resolution for organizations, congregations, and government entities; provides training to groups and individuals; and organizes lectures, film series, and other events for students and the public. She's also active in a philanthropic organization, Life Comes From It, which is a grant-making and movement-building circle working to strengthen and broaden the restorative justice movement throughout North America.

Restorative justice practices can reduce recidivism and are linked to higher victim satisfaction rates, according to research by the Justice Research and

“Wilson believes the criminal justice system often retraumatizes survivors. ‘You’re doing a small part to humanize a very horrific process.’”

Statistics Association and by the U of M’s Professor Emeritus Mark Umbreit, a pioneer in the field who teaches in the School of Social Work and the Bakken Center for Spirituality and Healing.

“‘Restore’ does not mean put something back the way it was before the harm occurred, because maybe it was flawed in the first place,” Wilson explains. “It’s about, let’s [go forward] in a better way.”

Wilson credits Umbreit—her friend, mentor, and former teacher—with helping launch her career. After “gigging” in consulting and substitute teaching in Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina, she began questioning whether she could make a living doing what she loves. Short-term, grant-funded roles were exhausting, and unsustainable for a family with kids in—and heading to—college. “I thought, ‘this isn’t working. This field doesn’t love me back,’” she says.

But in 2013, Umbreit tapped Wilson to serve as treasurer of the fledgling National Association of Restorative and Community Justice, a group he helped found. In 2017, as Umbreit’s presidency of the association was ending, he urged Wilson to run for the leadership post. “I think he asked me three times,” Wilson recalls. “And finally, he’s like, ‘I am *nominating* you.’” The NARCJ, and the relationships she built through it, proved invaluable.

Navigating ‘worst of people’s pain’

Among Wilson’s most challenging vocational experiences is working as a victim outreach coordinator in capital cases, which she began doing in Georgia and still does as a consultant.

The role gives her firsthand exposure to the prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness in those who commit violent crime. “It’s that cocktail of drugs [or alcohol], mental illness, and a weapon,” she says. “It’s a recipe for something horrible to happen.”

Wilson believes the criminal justice system—how long it takes to play out; the constant revisiting of horror and grief; the lack of sustained, meaningful support—often retraumatizes survivors. “You’re doing a small part to humanize a very horrific process. Families are never prepared,” Wilson says. She says she tries to focus on “‘What is my task in this moment?’” For instance, “The family might say, [‘the deceased’] is being referred to as *this* name. Well, we prefer that you call him *this* name.’ [It’s] giving someone whose voice hasn’t been honored as much agency as you can in a situation that typically overlooks them.”

Racial disparities in criminal justice have always been front of mind for Wilson; her master’s thesis, *From Jim Crow Toward Justice*, traced the roots of restorative justice from the U.S. Civil Rights movement of the 20th century. She sees the field as key in the struggle for racial equity. But that doesn’t make restorative justice antiracist in and of itself, she says. “Practicing restorative justice, on its own, does not make us antiracist. But if we’re going to live in restorative communities, we have to be antiracist. And anti-oppression.”

In a chapter she wrote for a book called *Colorizing Restorative Justice: Voicing Our Realities*, Wilson says the work will continue to grow as it becomes less eurocentric. “For restorative justice as a practice and

as a social movement to continue to evolve, the lens that we use to define it must become intersectional,” Wilson writes. That way, “[P]roblem-solving draws on a wider pool of knowledge, experience, creativity, and networks.”

Wilson is grateful to her U of M teachers and mentors for supporting her career journey even after graduation. When she was working on her master’s, restorative justice conversations were often held in a circle around a stone sculpture of people with linked arms, symbolizing the importance of community. Fast-forward a decade to her first week as executive director at KIPCOR.

“One day my office manager said, ‘I’ve got this box for you.’ When I opened it, I just wept.” Mark Umbreit’s assistant Vicki Griffin—to whom the statue belonged—had sent it to her to celebrate Wilson’s new role. “She said, ‘I was waiting until you got the job. Not a job, but *the* job.’”

Bob Milliman (B.A. ’82) is Wilson’s boss and the vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty at Bethel College. (Coincidentally, he earned his undergraduate at the U of M. The day of Wilson’s final interview, the two discovered they’d lived blocks apart in North Minneapolis.) Milliman says Wilson has helped make Bethel “the first campus center in Kansas for the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Initiative of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. That has helped us get on the road to bringing about racial reconciliation,” he says. “I just think the world of her. She has done a fabulous job.” ■

Susan Maas is a freelance writer and the copyeditor for *Minnesota Alumni*.



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ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

A NEW PLAN FOR A CENTURY-OLD MISSION

Since its founding in 1904, the Alumni Association has been empowering alumni and friends to make a difference for the greater good of the University, its graduates, and its students. Every generation of graduates has carried on this mission. The seeds they planted for us have grown to impact the lives of more than 622,000 U of M System alumni.

As we begin a new school year, the Alumni Association is also beginning a new strategic plan: one that aims to empower alumni to thrive, advocate, and celebrate as a community. Built on the organization's deep history, this new plan outlines how the Alumni Association will become more inclusive, responsive, nimble, and focused in the years to come.

To shape the plan, the Alumni Association Board of Directors consulted MPact 2025, the University's strategic plan, to ensure goal alignment. The Board also analyzed responses from thousands of alumni who participated in a 2022 University-wide survey and contracted an outside firm to conduct focus groups of alumni leaders, student leaders, U of M alumni relations professionals, and University leaders—including regents, the president, the provost, and deans.

The new, 2024-2028 strategic plan has five priorities—each with measurable metrics and with clear stated goals. Whether it's a goal to fortify our commitment to recognize and value *all* alumni, or activate alumni as strong ambassadors for the University, each element of the plan aims to strengthen the Alumni Association over the next five years. You can read the plan in full at UMNAlumni.org/strategicplan.

The Alumni Association will celebrate its 120th anniversary in 2024. Members like you made this milestone possible. With this legacy in mind and a new plan in place, now is the time for all of us to recommit to the Association's mission. The easiest way to do that is to ensure the U of M grads in your life are members too. With your continued support, this Alumni Association will plant more seeds and impact the lives of legions more alumni around the globe for another 120 years.



Lisa Lewis
President and CEO
Life Member and Alumni Leadership Circle Donor
University of Minnesota Alumni Association

Lisa Lewis
President and CEO
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NEW CHAIR FOR UMAA

Pat Duncanson (B.A. '83) was recently named chair of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, succeeding retiring chair Ann Sheldon. Duncanson is the CEO, CFO, and a partner in Highland Family Farms, a diversified farming operation headquartered in Mapleton, Minnesota. Located in southern Minnesota's Blue Earth County, the farm produces corn, soybeans, pork, and specialty grains.

Duncanson has been a longtime volunteer at the U of M. In addition to serving as UMAA chair, he is an advocate with the Minnesota 201 program and has previously served on the alumni board for the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Sciences and on the Regent Candidate Advisory Council.

Duncanson has been married to his wife Kristin Weeks Duncanson, also a partner in Highland Family Farms, for more than 30 years and has four children.

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Living the Dream in Mexico

By Dawn Fleming

When my husband Tom and I lived in Southern California, we had successful businesses as an attorney and engineer. Our lives were a blur, hustle, and grind. Wash. Rinse. Repeat. Day after day. We were making great incomes, but money flowed out just as fast as it came in.

Then, the financial crisis of 2008 struck and, virtually overnight, we lost almost everything. Tom's engineering business dried up when government contracts were cancelled. Most of the companies I serviced closed or experienced massive layoffs. We had substantial credit card debt and struggled for two long, difficult years trying to solve our financial troubles.

When it became clear that we could no longer hold onto our past careers, businesses, and real estate, we simply let go.

We left California in 2010 and steered our sailboat 5,000 miles through the Panama Canal to Florida, where we lived for six years. While the move was good for us, Florida didn't feel like home. We yearned for a vibrant community, a beach lifestyle, and richer cultural experiences. We packed up the sailboat again and began a voyage to Isla Mujeres, a tropical island in the Mexican Caribbean.

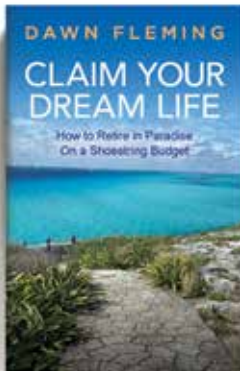
Living in another culture takes flexibility. At the U of M, I majored in anthropology. I learned a word that fascinated me: ethnocentrism. As I studied other cultures and societies, then backpacked across Europe for a summer, I became keenly aware of how damaging this bias can be. For the first time, I had an opportunity to see the United States

through the eyes of people who were not Americans. Many Europeans I met loved the U.S. and greatly respected her citizens. In France, I met people who remembered how we helped end World War II and expressed deep appreciation. But I also came to realize Americans can be the worst offenders when it comes to believing in the inherent superiority of one's own culture.

After retiring as an attorney, I worked as a sales trainer in the network marketing industry. I mentored and coached people and it provided us with a great income and lifestyle—and gave us the freedom to live anywhere. I had studied Spanish in college and visited Mexico often when we lived in California. Tom and I loved the kindness of the people, the beautiful scenery and, of course, the food. Moving there felt like the right next move for us.

We've lived in Mexico for six years now—and are moving to Merida, the capital of Yucatan, this fall to continue living our dream. Today, I specialize in helping professionals who are yearning for midlife reinvention, including people who want to start a new life abroad.

One lesson I learned many years ago serves me particularly well in our life as expats: Respect others, their values, and way of life, and don't judge them because they do things differently. I love living in a culture that values community, the wisdom of elders, and caring for each other. It's a blessing to be with people who allow us to feel safe, be our true selves, and feel loved and supported without judgment or criticism. ■



Dawn Fleming (B.A. '86) is the author of *Claim Your Dream Life: How to Retire in Paradise on a Shoestring Budget*. She also is host of the *Life in Paradise* podcast.



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