

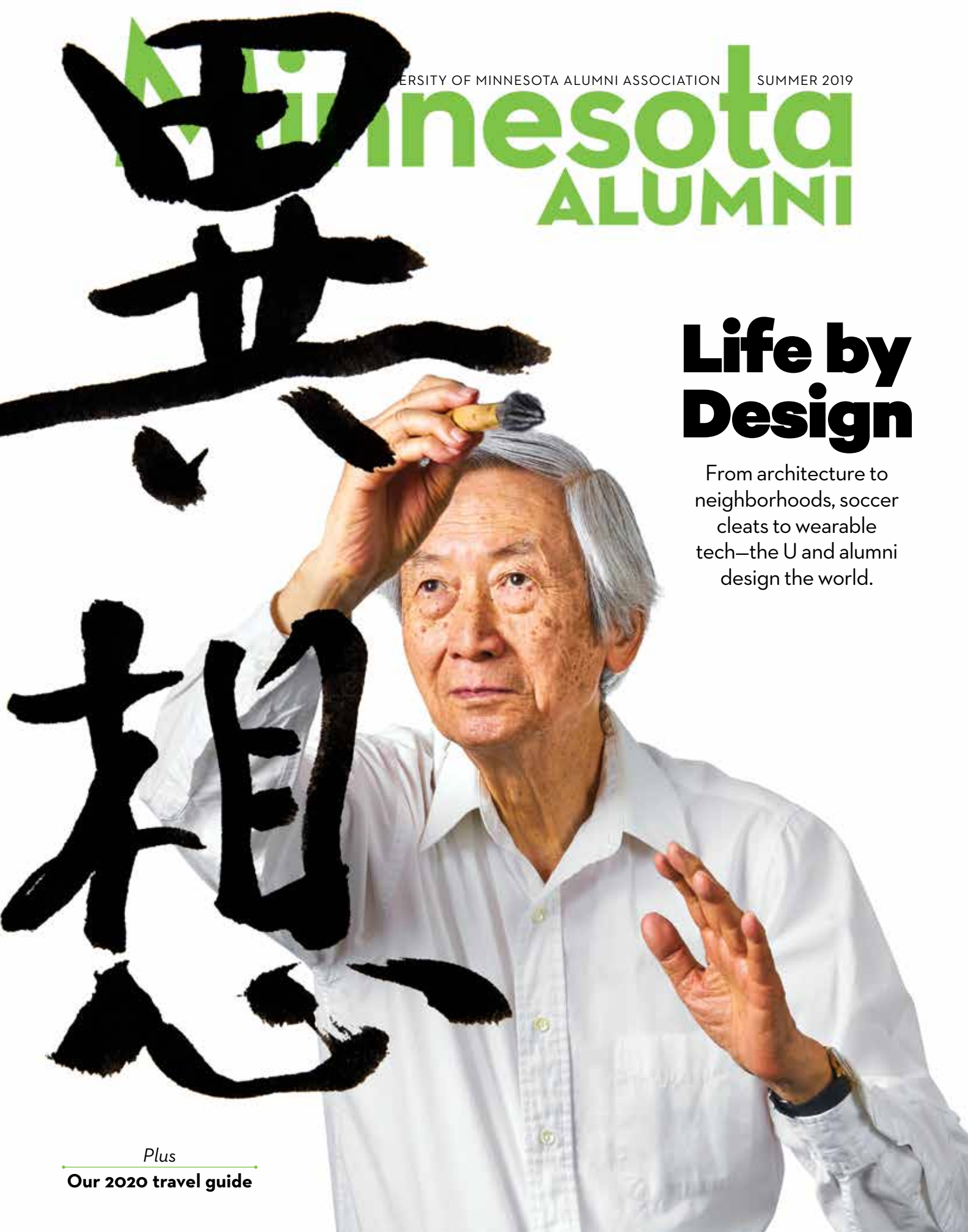
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2019

Minnesota ALUMNI

Life by Design

From architecture to neighborhoods, soccer cleats to wearable tech—the U and alumni design the world.



Plus

Our 2020 travel guide

Do you know what the does for you?

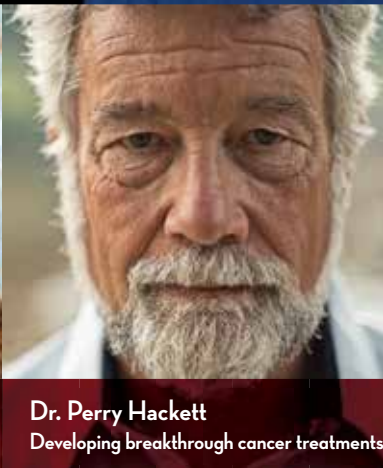
You know the U of M. But do you really know what the U does for you? From fighting the opioid crisis to earlier autism detection, we'll share the stories that bring the drive to discover home to Minnesota's doorstep.

Take discovery to the next degree at discover.umn.edu.

Dr. Lucien Gonzalez
Fighting the opioid crisis



Dr. Kathy Draeger
Supplying Minnesota food deserts



Dr. Perry Hackett
Developing breakthrough cancer treatments



Jake Overgaard
Educating farmers with new tools



Dr. Maria Gini
Detecting autism earlier

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities

Summer 2019



On the cover: Legendary urban designer and calligrapher Weiming Lu (M.S. '54) shows his craft. Photo by Mark Luinenburg

4 Editor's Note

5 Letters

6 About Campus

Anxiety and depression among students on campus; life advice from a philosophy professor

11 Discoveries

What the U's Wearable Technology Lab is up to *By Elizabeth Foy Larsen*

Plus: Research at the State Fair *By Joey Peters*

The U Designs the World

16 Urban designer Weiming Lu has left his mark all over the world *By Camille LeFevre*

20 A new geodesign collaboration aims to solve the globe's thorniest problems *By Mason Riddle*

22 Architect Tamara Eagle Bull works with communities to build on reservations *By Elizabeth Foy Larsen*

24 Marvin Meltzer has designed and built housing all over New York City *By Jennifer Vogel*

27 Techinal Designer Patricia Daskin has worked for some of the biggest names in fashion *By Jennifer Vogel*

Plus: A graphic designer at adidas, the Goldstein goes virtual, and designing the Sandy Hook memorial

30 History: Minnesota Seaside Station

Botanist Josephine Tilden's experiment on Vancouver Island *By Margaret Horsfield*

34 Arts: Perking up the Parkway

Two alumni restore a Minneapolis gem *By Lynette Lamb*

36 Off the Shelf: Our quarterly books roundup

Civil rights icon Josie Johnson's memoir *By Lynette Lamb*

39 Alumni Stories

Guardian of the monarchs; St. Paul's new Chinese pavilion

41 Stay Connected


Alumni-owned business Woodchuck USA; winners of the Distinguished Teaching Awards

44 The Last Word

My father's glove *By John Rosengren*

DISCOVERY nexus

Center for Innovation and Collaboration



Unique meeting
spaces now
available

Fresh,
modern
design with
natural lighting



Award-
winning
D'Amico
Catering

Built-in AV
& video web
conferencing

TO RESERVE EVENT SPACE CALL **612-624-8041**
OR EMAIL **NEXUS@UMN.EDU**

MCNAMARA ALUMNI CENTER

200 Oak Street SE, 2nd Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55455

mac-events.org/about/discoverynexus.html

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Douglas Huebsch, '85
Chair-elect Laura Moret, '76, '81
Past Chair Sandra Ulsaker Wiese, '81
Secretary Mark Jessen, '85
Treasurer Scott Wallace, '80
President and CEO Lisa Lewis

Eric Brotten, '03
Xin (Sean) Chen, '16, '19
Carol Johnson Dean, '80, '97
Patrick Duncanson, '83
Chad Haldeman, '08
Maureen Kostial, '71
Matt Kramer, '84
Colleen Flaherty Manchester
Peter Martin, '00
Simran Mishra, '19
Akira Nakamura, '92
Emilia Ndely, '11
Peyton N. Owens, III
Roshini Rajkumar, '97
Jason Rohloff, '94
Kathy Schmidtkofer, '97
Ann Sheldon, '88, '04
Anthony (Tony) Wagner, '96
Myah Walker, '10, '16

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA GOVERNANCE

President Eric Kaler, '82

Board of Regents

David McMillan, '83, '87, chair
Kendall Powell, vice chair
Thomas Anderson, '80
Richard Beeson, '76
Mary Davenport
Kao Ly Ilean Her, '94
Michael Hsu, '88
Mike Kenyanya
Janie Mayeron, '73, '76
Darrin Rosha, '90, '91, '93, '96
Randy Simonson, '81
Steven Sviggum

To join or renew, change your address, or
get information about membership, go to
UMNAlumni.org or contact us at:

-  McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2040
-  800-862-5867
612-624-2323
-  UMAlumni@umn.edu

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



With U every smile of the way.

Over 45 convenient Twin Cities, greater Minnesota and western Wisconsin locations.
Early morning and evening appointments.
Preferred provider for most insurance companies.
Locally owned by dentists who care.*

*107 of our 126 dentists are University of Minnesota alumni.

Visit us online to
find your dentist
and schedule an
appointment today.

Life by Design



I'm not really a believer in wizards or fairy godmothers or even rabbits' feet. But I do believe in the general concept of luck, and in putting oneself in the way of it. And I'm amazed when, despite various obstacles and wrong turns and inconveniently placed banana peels, something you've been working on and waiting for comes to fruition. In keeping with the design theme of this issue, I guess I would call that cosmic design. Now, I'm benefiting from it.

I'm leaving the UMAA after two years as editor of *Minnesota Alumni* because I've been presented with an incredible opportunity. Many years ago, I wrote a book about my father and my unconventional childhood. After much effort and over a decade of false starts, that book, *Flim-Flam Man*, is being made into a movie. If this moment were a piece of architecture (again, hitting the design theme), it would be a version of the Taj Mahal built of amethyst stones and frosting roses. To have someone—in this case Sean Penn, who will direct the film—fully commit to transforming one piece of art into another is incredible enough. That I get to go along for the ride is even more so.

I've loved working at the UMAA, which is full of warm, funny, and very smart people. Landing this job two summers ago was another bit of good luck that helped me reconnect with the University of Minnesota and give back just a little. My years on campus, during which I earned a journalism degree, meant everything to me; it's no exaggeration to say this place changed my life. I know that many U alumni feel the same. As editor, I've tried to do justice to that experience.

Minnesota Alumni's new editor is Kelly O'Hara Dyer. She's got tons of editing experience, not to mention ideas coming out of her ears. Plus, she's a terrific writer. Dyer is an alumna of Minnesota State University, Mankato, who understands very well the value of higher education. She's going to do a great job sharing the amazing stories that connect alumni to the U.

The magazine you hold in your hands is built around the idea that the U designs the world. Beautifully designed by our art director, Kristi Anderson, it includes profiles of alumnus Weiming Lu—a renowned urban designer and calligrapher—and innovative architects Tamara Eagle Bull and Marvin Meltzer. You'll also find a look at the new International Geodesign Collaboration—co-helmed by Minnesota Design Center Director Tom Fisher—and stories about clothing technical designer Patricia Daskin, a team at the U creating wearable tech, adidas graphic designer Charlie Kirihara, and more.

What a fabulous issue to go out on. It's been so very rewarding—not to mention a blast—to edit this magazine and serve you, our members. Thanks for reading.

—Jennifer Vogel

Jennifer Vogel (B.A. '92) can be reached at voge0022@umn.edu.

New editor Kelly O'Hara Dyer can be reached at ohara119@umn.edu.

Minnesota ALUMNI

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

President and CEO

Lisa Lewis

Editor

Jennifer Vogel

Senior Editor

Elizabeth Foy Larsen

Copy Editor

Susan Maas

Contributing Writers

Andrew Faught

Margaret Horsfield

Lynette Lamb

Camille LeFevre

Meleah Maynard

Scott Parker

Joey Peters

Mason Riddle

John Rosengren

Art Director

Kristi Anderson

Two Spruce Design

Senior Director of Marketing

Lisa Huber

Advertising

Send inquiries to

MinnesotaAlumni@umn.edu

or call 612-626-1417

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Minnesota Alumni

McNamara Alumni Center

200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55455-2040

612-624-2323

minnesotaalumni.org

Send letters and comments to

UMNAlumnimag@umn.edu

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

© 2019 University of Minnesota Alumni

Association

Inspired by Eville Gorham

Kudos to Tim Brady for his excellent retrospective on the career of Eville Gorham ["Unpopular Science," Spring 2019]. I took freshman biology from Dr. Gorham and distinctly remember two things about that class. First, lectures were delivered to classrooms via closed-circuit TV, something of an innovation in those days. The second was a lesson on how animals can adapt to pollution. It involved a species of moth that lives on the trunks of beech trees in Great Britain. In nature, beech trunks are pale and so are the moth's wings; in industrial regions of the country, the trunks were stained with soot from smokestacks and the moths evolved darker wings to avoid being conspicuous to predators.

Dr. Gorham was one of several world-class teachers that I was fortunate to have at the U and among the academics and advocates who would inspire me to pursue a career in environmental protection. Thank you, Dr. Gorham.

*Loren Bahls (B.S. '66), Ph.D.
Helena, Montana*

Don't Forget Maria Schneider

In noting significant CLA alums over the last 150 years ["Happy 150th Anniversary, CLA," Spring], might I add to the list Maria Schneider, the fabulous musician, composer, and arranger who not only received her

B.A. in music from the University in 1983, but also was awarded an honorary doctorate from the U in 2013? The accomplishments of the Maria Schneider Orchestra are many, but what I love most is the rich musicality of her compositions.

*Kate Hearth (B.A. '96)
Menomonie, Wisconsin*

Editor's note: It was so difficult to narrow down the list of fabulous alumni for the CLA anniversary feature. I agree with Hearth when it comes to the greatness of Maria Schneider. If you want to read more about her, check out our Winter 2018 feature: minnesotaalumni.org/stories/heading-upstream

He Was There

I was a freshman on the Minneapolis campus in January 1969, walking to class as the Morrill Hall takeover was happening. Your article ["Remembering the Morrill Hall Takeover," Spring] mentions that members of Students for a Democratic Society formed a barrier between demonstrators and counter-protesters. However, as I walked by Morrill's east entrance, I saw several of my Gopher football teammates linked arm-in-arm in front of the entrance. One of the players called to me and the next thing I knew, I became a part of the protective barricade they had formed.

A teammate thought American Indian students had taken over the bursar's office. People were shouting and swearing at us but we kept anyone from going in.

I later learned that it was, in fact, black activists who had taken over Morrill Hall, demanding curriculum reform, recruitment, scholarships, and financial aid for black students. While my Gopher teammate was mistaken, there was a follow-up American Indian connection to this event, leading to the creation of the nation's first American Indian Studies department—at the U of M.

I was on my way to class and just happened to be there. I look at it as my "Forrest Gump moment."

*Linc Duncanson (B.S.B.A. '76)
Dresser, Wisconsin*

Loved the Whole Issue

The Spring 2019 issue of *Minnesota Alumni* magazine is superb, thoughtful, easy to read, and thought provoking. Good job with the range of stories, editing, and design. I especially like the pieces on chubby pets ["How to Slim Those Portly Pets"], the new president ["Introducing Number 17: Joan Gabel], wheat ["The Cream of Wheat"], and fungus ["The Mushroom Man"]. And the "All the World's a Stage" article! Keep up the good work.

*Bruce Hawkinson (B.S. '68)
North Fort Myers, Florida*

Where discovery happens

A gift in your will sparks innovative ideas that create widespread economic value in Minnesota and throughout the world. Learn more at driven.umn.edu/waystogive or call Planned Giving at 612-624-3333.

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION



Driven. The University of Minnesota Campaign



ABOUT
CAMPUS



Golden

A barley field on the St. Paul campus shines in the sun.

Photo by Mark Luinenburg



ABOUT
CAMPUS

Anxiety on Campus

Universities across the country are confronting a spike in the number of students in need of mental health care. Here's what the U is doing to help.

By Meleah Maynard

In the movies, college looks like one long keg party interrupted only by occasional classes and assignments. But in real life, these years can be a challenging time for young adults. In addition to living away from home for the first time, students are trying to manage school, work, relationships, and the logistics of daily life on their own.

The University of Minnesota and other colleges and universities have long understood these challenges, which is why they survey students about their mental health. A little more than a decade ago, the otherwise unremarkable results of these surveys started showing increasing numbers of students reporting that they struggled with a mental health condition. Many had received a diagnosis before graduating from high school.

According to research based on a recent World Health Organization survey and published by the American Psychological Association in September 2018, roughly one third of first-year college students from 19 schools in eight industrialized countries reported symptoms consistent with at least one diagnosable mental health disorder. Those findings

jibe with the University of Minnesota Twin Cities' 2018 College Student Health Survey Report, in which 42.2 percent of students reported having been diagnosed with a mental health condition in their lifetime—compared with 32.7 percent in 2015. Forty-eight percent of female students reported a mental health condition compared with 32.7 percent of males. And anxiety and depression were the two most frequently reported diagnoses.

What's driving this increase isn't well understood. But mental health professionals, including Matt Hanson (M.A. '99, Ph.D. '04), assistant director of the mental health clinic at Boynton Health, say a number of factors could be contributing to students' unprecedented levels of depression and anxiety, in particular trauma associated with school shootings and increased incidences of peer suicides and sexual assaults. Add to that the excessive levels of stress associated with growing up in a culture that pushes younger and younger kids to focus on goals and accomplishments rather than play, as well as social media pressures and financial worries, and it becomes clearer why college students today are overwhelmed and asking for help in record numbers.



Campuses are scrambling to provide students with a broader array of supportive services. Hanson notes that while the uptick in mental health issues reported by U of M students may in part be due to students' increasing willingness to openly discuss personal issues compared to previous generations, there is clearly cause for concern. "We know mental health has been a growing issue for years, but we didn't predict the kind of acceleration we've seen in the last 10 to 15 years and we know there is a significant impact on students' well-being," he says.

As a result, the U now considers mental health to be its number one public health issue, and campuswide efforts to provide direct service and prevention strategies to students are expanding rapidly. Some of those efforts include boosting staff who provide therapy, counseling, and other mental health services at Boynton Health. The clinic has also dramatically increased its group therapy programs, which are particularly helpful to students from under-represented and marginalized communities—such as students of color, LGBTQIA+ students, and students from countries with vastly different cultures—because their experiences can be validated by peers who

understand what they're going through.

Located on both the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses, Student Counseling Services (SCS) has also expanded the number and types of groups they offer, says Vesna Hampel-Kozar, who became SCS's new director in early March. They also provide a range of mental health services, including support that is more informal for students who want to stop in and talk about issues such as food insecurity, anxiety over a career choice, or a botched exam. "Students often spend a lot of time communicating via technology, which can contribute to feeling very isolated," she says. "We work to connect students who can benefit from support with peers and resources that can help them both short- and long-term."

Though not a substitute for traditional counseling, SCS's new Let's Talk program (counseling.umn.edu/lets-talk) makes it easy for students to get free, confidential support during drop-in sessions at various locations on both campuses, including Coffman Union. Counselors, who may be academic advisors or other trained staff, meet with students on a first-come-first-served basis during specified hours, the idea being that some students will feel more comfortable talking openly in a less formal setting. Also operating in a nonclinical way is the U's Care Program (care.umn.edu), which provides coordinated case management

to students in need. Students, staff, faculty, and parents who are concerned about a student can contact the Care Program for support, resources, and referrals. And the U's 24/7 crisis line is available to students via call or text (612-301-4673).

Those seeking more informal help for stress can try Learn to Live, a free, online therapy program that provides students with an initial evaluation and interactive lessons aimed at redirecting harmful thoughts and behavior patterns. Boynton Health also offers de-stress (boynton.umn.edu/de-stress), a service where trained student helpers provide confidential peer-to-peer support during stress check-ins.

While he is careful not to minimize the severity of the problem, Hanson emphasizes that the fact that so many students are asking for help these days is a positive sign. Studies show that most students who go to therapy only need three to five sessions to feel considerably better, and some only need one or two. "I'm always aware of how resilient students are whether they access the clinic or not," he says. "In a lot of cases, what students who are struggling really need is a listening ear and some undivided attention so they can think through next steps and feel better. I'm glad they're asking for that." ▣

Meleah Maynard (B.A. '91) is a freelance writer and editor in Minneapolis.

“Every piece that we add to that renewably sourced energy helps bring down that carbon footprint.”

U Director of Sustainability SHANE STENNES on several new solar installations around the Twin Cities campus, according to the *Minnesota Daily*





ASK A PROFESSOR

On Friendship and Personal Fulfillment

Five quick questions for philosopher Valerie Tiberius *By Scott Parker*

University of Minnesota professor Valerie Tiberius is one of those philosophers whose work can be profitably read outside the grad school seminar. When you find yourself wondering, for instance, how best to respond to a friend's need for guidance, you might refer to Tiberius's recent book *Well-Being as Value Fulfillment: How We Can Help Each Other to Live Well*, which presents her value fulfillment theory.

How do personal values relate to well-being according to your theory?

Fulfillment of values requires living up to the standards of success that a person has for her values; these standards can shift over time, and they vary from person to person. For example, one person might think that the way to fulfill the value of music is to play a musical instrument at a high level, while another thinks that fulfilling this value requires appreciating others' performances. A person who values music in the first way might be well advised to shift her standards if for some reason she becomes unable to play at that level.

How do we know whether our values are what you call "appropriate"?

In the best case, when we value something, our desires, emotions, and judgments are in harmony. For example, if you value your marriage, you desire it to continue, you feel good when it's going well and sad when it's threatened, and you judge that it is a good thing in your life. Obviously, not all of our values are perfectly harmonious in this way. Appropriate values are those that are harmonious—psychologically integrated—in this way. Appropriate values are values that do not create or sustain inner conflict. Appropriate values are also those that we can actually succeed in fulfilling, given our circumstances. So, appropriate values are both psychologically integrated and realizable. This is an ideal, but the ideal gives us something to work toward.

What does the theory tell us about how to be a good friend?

I think good friends can help each other to achieve well-being by trying to see what matters to the other person, and by helping them to focus on what matters. Seeing what matters to other people—and how

it matters—can be difficult because we tend to think that things for other people are more or less the same as they are for us. Helping a friend focus on what matters requires sufficient skills and intimacy to point out when they are fixating on something trivial that doesn't really matter to them. We can also help friends see where there are ways to adapt their standards of success so they can keep valuing what they value despite changing abilities or circumstances.

Can understanding this theory really improve a person's life?

In a way, I think the value fulfillment theory I've advanced provides a theoretical background for things that therapists and other professional helpers have known for a long time. I think that my emphasis on changing our standards of success for our values rather than changing our values themselves is helpful to people trying to improve their own lives. We aren't likely to change the basic things that matter to us, but it's important that we can adapt how they matter to us as we age and as our circumstances change.

Are there limitations to this way of looking at human behavior?

The theory does not make being a morally good person necessary for faring well. According to the value fulfillment theory, a bad person could achieve well-being. Some philosophers see this as a deal killer for the theory. I see it as an unfortunate fact about human life: Some immoral people can do well for themselves. We should try to organize our societies and communities so this is as difficult as possible. ▣



DISCOVERIES



The Right Squeeze

A University of Minnesota team is using space technology to develop compression clothing for earthlings.

By Elizabeth Foy Larsen

Space movies are tough for Brad Holschuh, who has devoted his career to inventing and developing garments to improve life not just in space but also here on Earth. So when he saw Matt Damon strolling around Mars in *The Martian* wearing a space suit replete with wrinkles, he wasn't able to suspend his disbelief.

"He'd be dead," says the assistant professor in the University of Minnesota's Apparel Design Program, who also codirects the U's Wearable Technology Lab with Associate Professor Lucy Dunne. "For a spacesuit to work, it has to be fully inflated."

In fact, that inflation imperative has bedeviled space suit designers since the 1960s, when humans first traveled into space. As Holschuh explains it, a space suit needs to provide breathable air *and* exert enough compression—basically become a wearable balloon—to allow the body to perform the functions it does on Earth, where the weight of the atmosphere naturally places 14 pounds of pressure on every square inch of the body.

"If you were breathing a bunch of air or oxygen in space but didn't have compression against your body, all the nitrogen in your blood would boil out of it, to the point where you'd either pass out or fail to respirate," explains Holschuh. But these dual-function spacesuits—Holschuh calls them marshmallow suits—are so stiff and bulky, it's almost impossible to move. That's why the holy grail in space design has been to create a compression suit that is light and flexible. Unfortunately, gear that is tight enough to

●
“TO BECOME TRULY
UBIQUITOUS, THIS
TECHNOLOGY NEEDS
TO BE BURIED IN THE
CLOTHING ITSELF.”
●

perform the needed compression function is extremely challenging to take on and off. Not to mention uncomfortable.

It's a challenge that extends to our Earthbound compression garments, which promote healthy blood circulation and are used to treat a variety of serious health conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, lymphoedema, and burns.

“People hate them,” says Holschuh. “Especially people who are elderly or in poor health—the very people who are the target market for compression therapy. They often don't have the strength or the patience or endurance to get them on and wear them. So they stop and the treatment is ineffective.”

That's why Holschuh and his colleagues in the Wearable Technology Lab are taking their expertise in space suit design and applying it to soft robotics—robots made of pliable materials—in order to create compression garments that initiate compression *after* they're on the body.

Using shape memory alloys, which are metals that remember and return to their original shape when activated, the team at the Wearable Technology Lab is designing garments that may eventually be customized according to the health needs and preferences of the person wearing them: a function that doesn't exist in the elastic socks and inflatable compression sleeves (which need to be plugged into a power source) currently on the market.

The team recently wrapped up a two-year project with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where researchers tested a system of garments that are worn on both thighs and both calves; each can be controlled independently. They were able to replicate the health benefits of a standard compression garment, with the added benefit that it expanded or compressed when needed—and allowed the wearer to move freely because the garment didn't need to be plugged in.

Holschuh and the team are also working with materials that can be powered by body heat rather than a battery. “Just imagine,” he says, “you put on this loose-fitting pair of pants and

after a minute or two of heating up to your body's temperature, they'll naturally shrink-wrap down and fit you.” A user could stop compression by unzipping or unsnapping the garment. Or, says Holschuh, compression could be turned off when pressure sensors in the garment tell circuits to power down.

The Wearable Technology Lab is experimenting with other uses for these compression technologies as well, including a vest that can “hug” children with autism and sensory processing disorder, which can be switched on by a Bluetooth-enabled app. These children often benefit from the calming effects of deep-touch pressure, but they also can be easily overstimulated by direct human touch.

Rachael Granberry, a Ph.D. student in Apparel Studies, a NASA space technology research fellow, and a member of the Wearable Technology Lab, is using the lab's shape memory alloys to make “engineered knitwear”—including a lower-body compression garment that would regulate astronauts' cardiovascular systems after they return from space.

“The diversity of expertise in the lab makes it very innovative,” says Granberry. “I value that there are people in the lab who come from backgrounds in ergonomics, human apparel, and engineering. That spawns innovation and allows the teams to think from a more holistic perspective.”

Holschuh, who doesn't know how to sew, also appreciates that his colleagues keep that human experience front and center. “We approach wearable technology from a clothing perspective,” he says. “To become truly ubiquitous, this technology needs to be buried in the clothing itself, in a way that doesn't disrupt the other things that people need their clothing to do. You don't have to think about another thing that has to be charged, that has to be synced, that has to be downloaded. . . . We're not there yet, but that is, I think, the challenge that really needs to be solved to make this the sci-fi future, where everybody is living intertwined with technology.” ■

Elizabeth Foy Larsen (M.F.A. '02) writes for many local and national publications. She is *Minnesota Alumni's* senior editor.

“Our farmers are resilient and they are nimble.”

Associate Professor and Extension Economist JOLEEN HADRICH on preparing farmers to thrive despite declining income and a changing industry, according to the *Minnesota Daily*. “We are creating the resource space to continue to have agriculture be a big economic driver in the state.”





bell museum



You Need Some More Space This Summer!



Solution Studio

May 11 - September 8

Test your problem-solving skills with creative challenges inspired by U of M research.

With generous support from



Museum of the Moon

May 21 - June 9

NASA imagery & simulated moonlight combine in this large-scale art experience. Don't miss the June 1 Super Moon Pajama Party!



One Giant Leap

premieres June 8

This original Bell planetarium show puts audiences on the surface of the Moon with Neil Armstrong by transforming archival footage of the Moon landing into a 360 experience.

Bell members are kind of a big deal!

University of MN Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount on Bell memberships. Ask at the Bell lobby desk.

bellmuseum.umn.edu

2088 Larpenteur Ave. W, St. Paul



Research on the Midway

A University initiative tests scientific theories at the Minnesota State Fair *By Joey Peters*

During her many years of studying insects, Professor Sujaya Rao kept encountering a conundrum. Humans use pesticides on crops because they don't want to eat bugs in their fruit, but these pesticides also kill the key pollinating insects that make fruit form.

"So when I give talks, I say, 'I've got the solution: Let's just eat the bugs!'" says Rao (Ph.D. '91), who heads the U's Department of Entomology. "And then people laugh, and I'm like, 'No, really!'"

To prove her solution has legs, so to speak, Rao tested it out last year at Minnesota's premier event for weird food, the State Fair. She and her assistants convinced 175 fairgoers to taste chips made with cricket flour and compare them to traditional potato chips. Rao called her experiment "Jiminy Crickets." The results were positive: 55 percent of respondents preferred chips flavored with crickets, 67 percent reported a willingness to eat other insects, and 71 percent said they

would be open to serving cricket-flavored potato chips at a party.

While Rao's study may seem quirky, it's underpinned by a serious statistic: By 2050, the world's population will surpass 9 billion people and will not have enough resources to support the population. Bugs can serve as a cheap protein source, she says, as long as people are willing to eat them.

Rao's study was one of more than 50 conducted last year at the U's Driven to Discover Research Facility at the State Fair. The initiative dates back to 2011, when Logan Spector, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and Ellen Demerath, a professor in the School of Public Health, tested out whether people attending the fair would be willing to submit to academic surveys. They wound up recruiting 800 children within 36 hours to participate in a study following their long-term development.

For scientists seeking large, diverse samples of people who are otherwise impossible to find in one place, the State Fair is a gold mine. Daily atten-

dance usually fluctuates between 100,000 and 250,000; last year, more than 2 million people walked through the gates over 12 days.

Spector and Demerath obtained a grant from the U's vice president of research in 2014 to permanently set up shop in the old Spam building on the fairgrounds in Falcon Heights. By 2017, they'd convinced the U to put \$500,000 toward a new building, where the initiative operates today and shares space with other universities and colleges conducting research.

Tens of thousands of State Fairgoers have participated in a plethora of studies since then, including distracted driving simulations, assessments of public attitudes on infrastructure spending, and studies gauging signs of sleep apnea.

Silvia Balbo, an assistant professor in the School of Public Health, and Postdoctoral Associate Laura Maertens worked last year on a study looking at how tobacco and nicotine exposure affects DNA and causes cancer. They compared saliva samples, cheek swabs, and mouthwash samples from tobacco and nicotine users to those from nonusers, calling their experiment "Swishin' and Swabbin' for Science."

Recruiting people for this study proved tougher than getting them to eat bug-flavored chips. Balbo and Maertens took the equivalent of two days to recruit 190 participants, while Rao recruited nearly the same-sized pool in under seven hours. This might be because the saliva study included making participants brush their teeth. "The debris of typical State Fair food had to be removed," Balbo says.

Maertens expects recruitment to be easier this year, as her team plans to replace the "squeaky Gopher hats" used to entice participants with \$10 gift cards. "You need an incentive that's actually going to bring people in," she says. ■

Reset for Summer

RecWell now offers massage therapy.

Book an appointment by calling **612-624-4544.**

Massage therapy is open to the public and no membership to RecWell is required.

<http://recwell.umn.edu/massage>



“We support the UMAA because we believe it is important to help build and foster a community of Gophers interested in learning, sharing and philanthropy.”

– **Corey Kopecek**, *Life Member*
Founder & President, Synergy Imports
ck@synergyimports.com



GIVEBACK INITIATIVE

The UMAA thanks Corey and Synergy Imports for donating a portion of sales to the association. These dollars are immediately put into action to enrich the lives of alumni, bolster student success and strengthen the University community. We invite other companies to participate in this program and help strengthen our impact.

Life

WITH ITS HISTORIC WAREHOUSES, FARMER'S MARKET, and a gorgeously landscaped park that hosts food trucks and music festivals—all within blocks of the light rail and Union Depot—the Lowertown neighborhood of St. Paul is a thriving manifestation of cultural creativity, artistic ingenuity, historic preservation, and urban redevelopment done right. But this hipster enclave in Minnesota's capital city wasn't always such a pleasant place to work, live, create, dine, and explore.

After a booming start during the steamboat days, when the neighborhood was the first port of access to the Twin Cities on the Mississippi River, the rise of automobiles, trucks, and the highway system—not to mention the Depression—led to Lowertown's demise. By the 1970s, the 16-block district was full of abandoned and deteriorating buildings and empty parking lots.

Enter urban planner Weiming Lu (M.S. '54), a Chinese immigrant who came to the United States to study civil engineering at the University of Minnesota. In 1979, Lu was hired to be the deputy director for urban design by then-St. Paul Mayor George Latimer and a group of community leaders who had organized the Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation, an organization initiated with the goal of not only creating a highly livable urban village in the midst of the city but also bringing new

jobs, housing, commercial development, and year-round activities to the struggling neighborhood. He was promoted two years later to executive director.

Lu's influence on Lowertown and cities across the world—from Chattanooga to Winnipeg—has been profound. "He has long been recognized as one of the best, most well-respected planners and urban designers in the country," says Tom Fisher, director of the Minnesota Design Center, and Dayton Hudson Chair in Urban Design at the University. "A consistent theme in his career has been humanizing the city and making it more people-oriented and less car-dominated. I don't see another figure quite like Weiming in our midst right now."

Now 89 years old, Lu lives with his wife in a senior community in Golden Valley. His light-filled apartment, with two balconies overlooking the complex's central green space, includes numerous artworks and several pieces of mid-century modern furniture. He sips tea as he stands over the kitchen counter, on which he's organized piles of books and documents that illustrate his career highlights.

Lu says Lowertown was one of his most significant accomplishments. "The biggest challenge was how to envision a revitalized Lowertown, to protect its history while creating jobs and housing and work spaces," he says, his voice a quiet murmur, with a hint of resolve. "To see what other people haven't seen and show them the possibilities for a whole new future. Then, find ways to get it done."

A Global Education

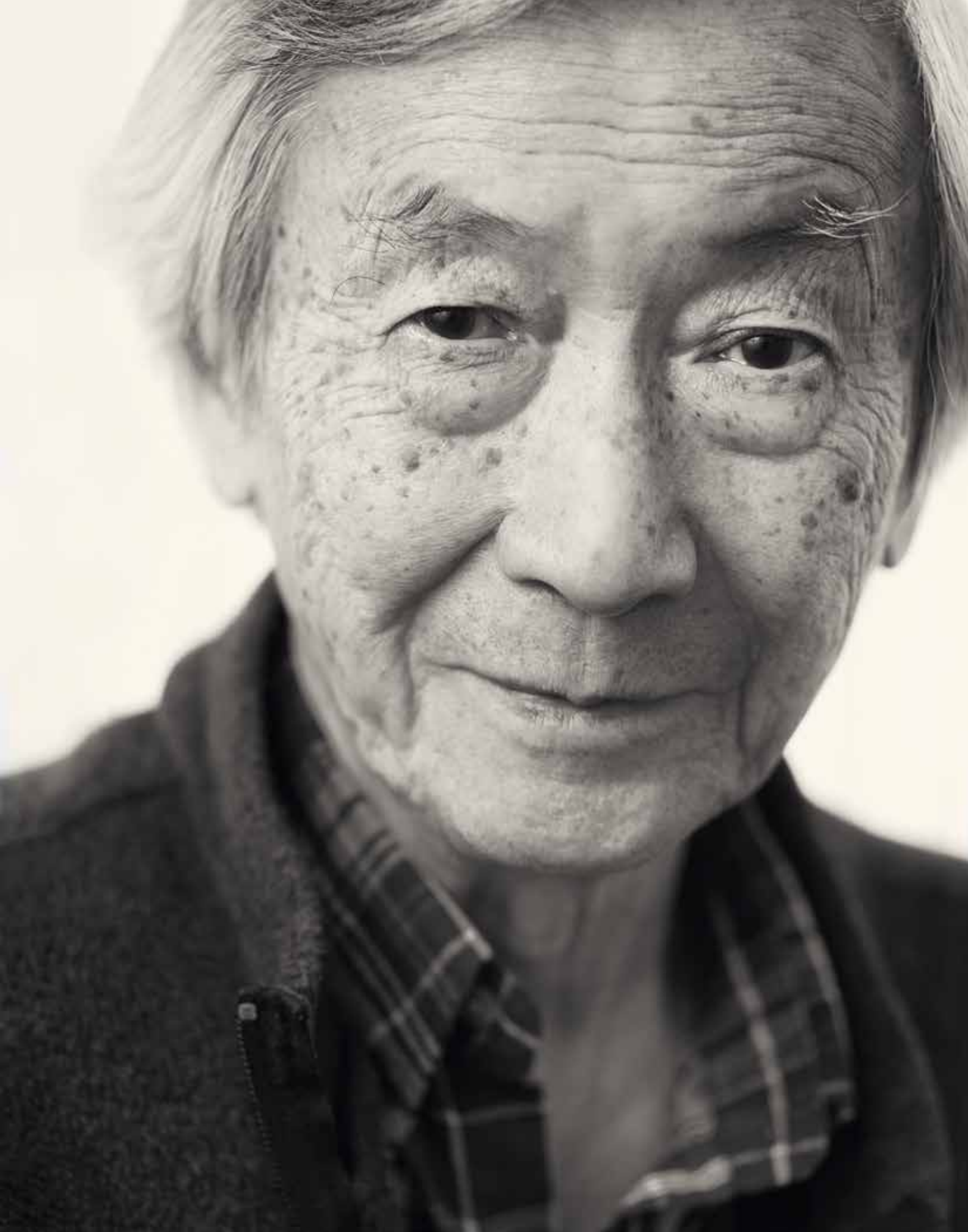
Born in Shanghai, Lu's family fled to Taiwan in 1949 due to political unrest. Lu was profoundly influenced by his father, a prominent architect and planner who was trained in China and France and admired the Modernists, including Le Corbusier. After graduating from Cheng Kung University in 1952, where he studied civil engineering, Lu moved to Minnesota on a recommendation from one of his father's friends, who was a U of M graduate. He says he studied engineering "to complement all I'd learned from my father about architecture and planning."

After graduating from the U, Lu attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received an interdisciplinary master's degree

How Weiming Lu
reinvented St. Paul's
Lowertown (not to
mention cities across
the world)

by Design

By Camille LeFevre • Photo by Mark Luinenburg



in city and regional planning in 1957. The early years of his career took him to Kansas City and Europe, where he studied post-World War II reconstruction. As a visiting professor at Tokyo University, Lu says he absorbed the juxtaposition of intense urban life and Zen tranquility.

That global lifestyle came to an end when the City of Minneapolis hired Lu to be chief of environmental design for its planning department. For the next 12 years he worked on a variety of projects that dealt with neighborhood conservation, downtown development, and historic preservation, including initiatives involving Loring and Elliot Parks, the skyway system, Nicollet Mall, and Butler Square. "Our biggest challenge was how do you revive the city, which at that time was quite weak because everyone was migrating to the suburbs," he says of Minneapolis in the 1960s. "Our goal was to make the city attractive so people would come back to shop, live, work, and play."

Other cities took notice of Lu's work. In 1971, he and his wife, Caroline Chang Lu, and their son, Kevin, relocated to Dallas after Lu accepted a position as director for urban design in the city's planning department. According to the late David Dillon, the architecture critic for the *Dallas Morning News*, the 1970s were a golden age for Dallas city planning. "The key figure

mercial tourist destination. After years of testimony and hundreds of meetings, Lu and his team received National Historic Landmark Designation for the Book Depository. They convinced the county to relocate its administration offices to the historic structure, while the sixth and seventh floors are a museum dedicated to the building's history. They also created the nearby Dallas Arts District and surrounding parks and housing.

Back to Minnesota

Thanks to his work in Dallas, Lu's national reputation soared. Lowertown was his next challenge. "We really scoured the field and chose Weiming because of his outstanding reputation and established credentials in Minneapolis and Dallas," says former St. Paul Mayor Latimer of Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation's decision to hire Lu. "He had a fierce sense of architectural design and a fine sensibility for preserving and adapting buildings for reuse. But he also brought with him a diligence and a clarity that made a difference throughout the community. His integrity is extraordinary."

Lu surprised the redevelopment corporation with an unanticipated expertise, Latimer adds. "He was a great budgeter. He treated the money as though it was a stewardship, husbanding the funds as leverage but never

"I DON'T SEE ANOTHER FIGURE QUITE LIKE WEIMING

was urban design director Weiming Lu," he wrote in his book *Dallas Architecture, 1936-1986*. "He began by recruiting an unusually diverse staff that included not only planners and urban designers but architects, geologists, environmentalists, and artists. The message in the method was that, far from being an abstract technical exercise, urban design was an integral part of city life, affecting everything from the layout of streets to the lettering on trash cans."

The project that changed Dallas, and propelled Lu's career, was the historic designation of the Texas School Book Depository, the building from which President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. When Lu arrived in Dallas, the building was faced with either demolition or reuse as a com-

as a gift. Weiming's diligence in mastering the resources really impressed our board." An unprecedented \$10 million grant by the McKnight Foundation, which Latimer promised would result in \$100 million in investment, enabled the corporation to drive Lowertown's revitalization. (During Lu's tenure, it generated \$750 million in investments, seven and a half times the original goal.)

"The word brilliant comes to mind when I think of Weiming," says Kelley Lindquist, the president of Artspace, a nonprofit organization that develops affordable artist live-work housing throughout the United States. Lindquist says Lu fought for and prioritized creating affordable lofts for artists. "He helped put the value of artists into the minds of the visionaries redeveloping Lowertown. He had a really clear sense of what needed to be done."



Master Works

To read more about Weiming Lu's work, visit these sources:

The Minnesota Historical Society's archive of his personal papers, mnhs.org/library/findaids/00674.xml

The U Libraries' collection of Lu's urban planning and design papers, continuum.umn.edu/2016/02/welcome-weiming-lu/

A Healing Landscape



When landscape architect Ben Waldo (B.A. '12, B.D.A. '12) set out with his design partner Daniel Affleck—both work in the San Francisco office of SMA Group—to create a proposal for a memorial honoring the 26 victims and survivors of the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, they didn't make a single drawing for almost six weeks. Instead, they talked, trying to grapple with both the horror of what had happened and how to provide a place for healing and remembrance. The inspired result is *The Clearing*, a wooded and flowering landscape designed around a circular walking path that leads to a young sycamore tree planted in a fountain. "We focused on the idea of memory as a process instead of something you can represent with an object," says Waldo. "A space where people can walk and use action to go through the motions and the time it takes to deal with grieving." The memorial will open on the anniversary of the shooting—year to be determined. —EFL

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, artists flocked to Lowertown, attracted by the affordable rents in the large, light-filled warehouse spaces. In 1983, the neighborhood was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The next year, the City of St. Paul designated the Lowertown Historic District as a heritage preservation site. Latimer

To say Lu succeeded is an understatement. And while he went on to other impressive accomplishments, including the reconstruction of South Central Los Angeles following the 1992 riots, he has also pursued other passions, including calligraphy. Ta-coumba T. Aiken, a public artist known colloquially as the "Mayor of Lowertown," remembers taking a stroll with Lu one day, several years ago, through Lowertown. They were studying a mural on the Jax Building (a former warehouse transformed into artist studio space) when two Chinese girls began taking photographs. Suddenly, the wide-eye girls started whispering.

"It's Master Lu!" Aiken recalls them saying. They had recognized the revered master of calligraphy. "It's my great hobby," Lu says. Using a brush and traditional techniques, as well as the computer, Lu has created a body of Chinese calligraphic work that's been exhibited throughout Asia and the U.S., and has been collected by the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Lu credits his many successes to perseverance. "I don't give up easily," he says. The combination of education, experience, and "the luck" of meeting other leaders with whom he could collaborate has given him the expertise and strength to face myriad challenges throughout his career.

Even after almost nine decades, Lu still looks for ways in which to "learn from different cultures, old and new, East and West, American and Chinese, to explore the possibility of creation. I've had so many ways to express myself, and I'm thankful. I'm grateful for the chance to serve." ■

Camille LeFevre is an arts journalist in the Twin Cities who writes about architecture and design for numerous local and national publications.

believes "Weiming's work in Dallas and Lowertown helped initiate the rise of the historic preservation movement."

Lu's impact on the Twin Cities also "reflects changes that were happening in urban planning," says Fisher. In mid-century Minneapolis, during Lu's tenure with the City, "a modernist view of urban development was in place, with an emphasis on the skyways and pedestrian thoroughfares like Nicollet Mall, which were designed to lure people back into the cities to live, shop, and play."

By the time Lu returned to Minnesota to work in St. Paul, "the emphasis was on preserving historic buildings and creating historically sensitive infill," Fisher continues, as a way to attract people back to the cities.

Lu remained with the redevelopment corporation for 26 years, overseeing Lowertown's evolution over the decades. "The goal of Lowertown was to 'create an environment where creativity is cherished and entrepreneurship is supported; where one can fill the needs for community and provide an outlet for civic spirit,'" said Lu in an interview in *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*. "From the beginning, we aimed to build a community, rather than just do projects, and promoted a vision for a new urban village."

IN OUR MIDST RIGHT NOW."

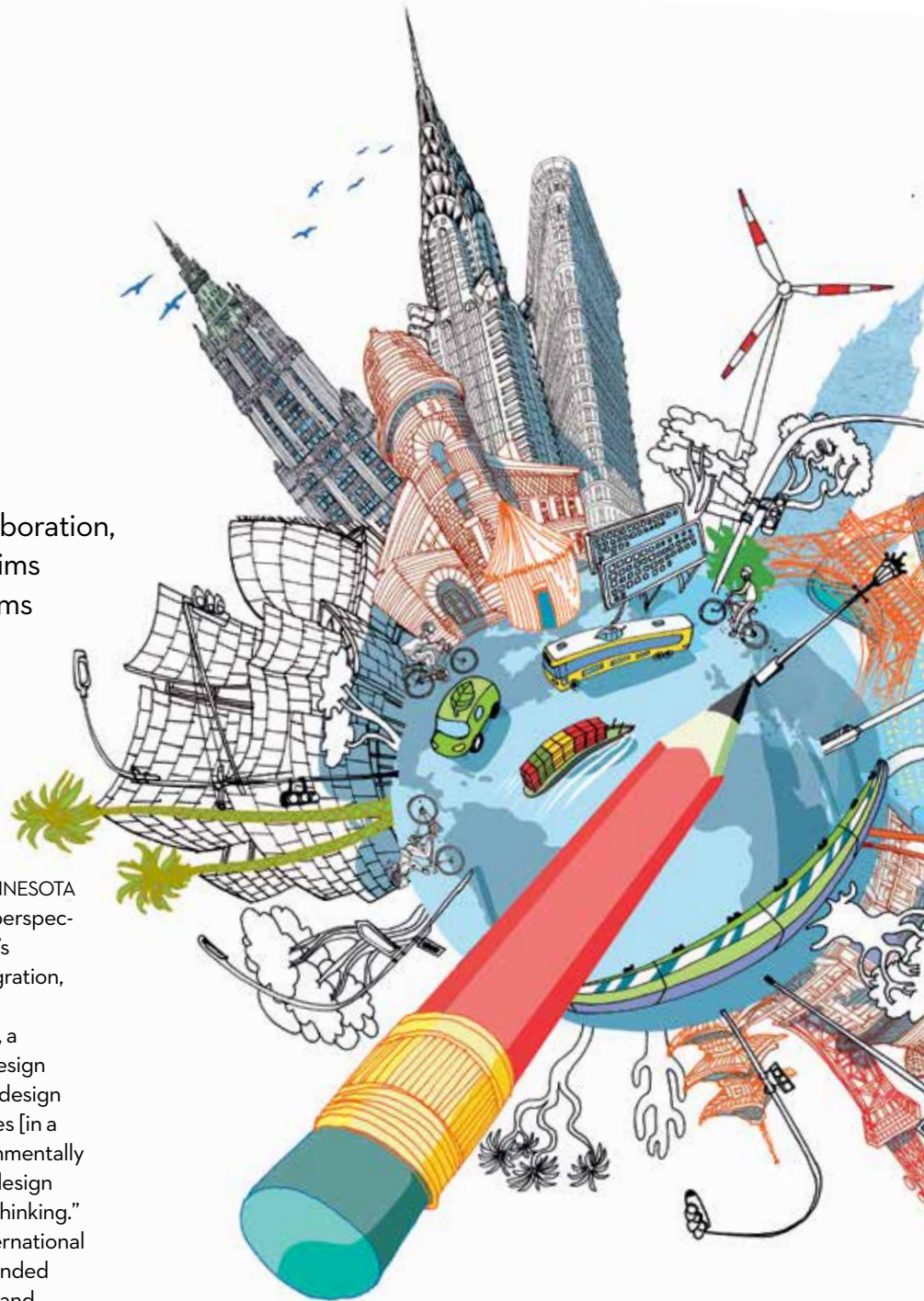
Going Global

The International Geodesign Collaboration, cofounded by the U's Tom Fisher, aims to solve the world's biggest problems through design. *By Mason Riddle*

IF YOU ASK TOM FISHER, DIRECTOR OF THE U'S MINNESOTA Design Center, looking at design from a global perspective could creatively address some of the planet's thorniest issues—like climate change, human migration, conservation, and land development.

"We all deal with the same issues," says Fisher, a professor and Dayton Hudson Chair in Urban Design in the College of Design. "Can a global effort of design scenarios and strategies resolve these challenges [in a way] that is equitable, cost effective, and environmentally effective? Let's approach the entire planet as a design problem and find solutions through geodesign thinking."

Fisher is trying to do just that through the International Geodesign Collaboration (IGC), which he cofounded in 2018 with Brian Orland, a landscape architect and

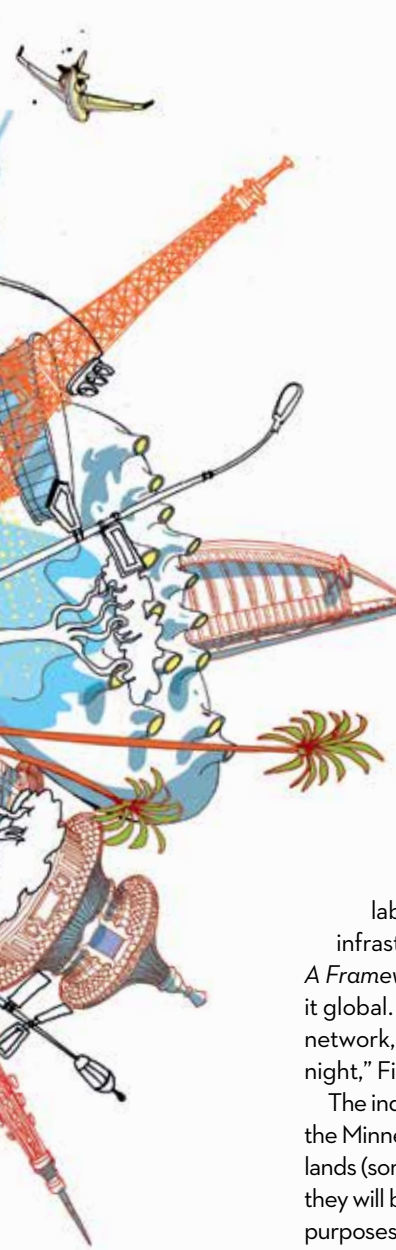


"LET'S APPROACH THE ENTIRE PLANET AS A DESIGN PROBLEM"

geodesign professor at the University of Georgia, and London-based Carl Steinitz, a professor emeritus at Harvard's Graduate School of Design who is regarded as the "father" of geodesign.

Geodesign is an approach that uses digital mapping and spatial analytics to help communities assess and shape their futures with sustainable results. Digital maps are created that allow people to make informed decisions about global challenges, such as predicting flash floods, the rate of rising sea levels, or population growth.

The new collaboration—a network of 90 universities, from every continent but Antarctica—held its inaugural conference in Redlands, California, in February. Redlands is home to Esri, the Environmental Systems Research Institute, a pioneering GIS mapping and spatial analysis software company. Esri's cofounder and president is Jack Dangermond (M.Arch. '68), a former student of Steinitz's at Harvard (read our story about Dangermond here: minnesotaalumni.org/stories/the-green-giant). The two-day IGC conference preceded Esri's 10th annual Geodesign Summit.



Approximately 60 geodesign projects from 29 countries were presented at the conference. Representatives traveled from Sweden, Italy, Spain, England, Germany, Turkey, Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Canada, and several African countries. "It was all very egalitarian," Fisher says. "With our current political polarization, nativism, and world unrest, you'd never guess some of our countries had tension with each other. Academics tried to solve problems collectively within a common framework. After all, we are on the same planet, dealing with same forces, and sharing methods and ideas."

Fisher originally conceived of the collaboration as a U.S.-based group addressing infrastructure problems. But Steinitz, who published *A Framework for Geodesign* in 2012, wanted to take it global. "When Carl tapped into his international network, IGC participants jumped from 12 to 90 overnight," Fisher says.

The individual projects were exhibited on boards that the Minnesota Design Center printed and shipped to Redlands (some of them can be viewed at envizzl.com); soon, they will be on view in Ralph Rapson Hall. For comparison purposes, projects were clustered in groups based on the

Britain versus those made in China. A gold mine of information exists in this cross-comparative work."

The U submitted an expanded version of an earlier Design Center project, which evaluated the assets and future development of the Creative Enterprise Zone, an area east of the Minneapolis campus that skirts University Avenue in Saint Paul. A placemaking project, the CEZ wanted to identify ways to bolster creative, economic, and cultural development that would enhance residents' sense of place and community. It was led by Design Center Senior Research Fellow Tim Griffin, whose Urban Design Studio created a master plan using geodesign mapping.

The University College London's project, presented by Steinitz, was called *The East-West Arc, Re-thinking Growth in the London Region*. It addressed whether the UK government should spend billions of pounds on a train line connecting Oxford to Milton Keynes to Cambridge. The geodesign research showed that there is relatively little travel in that corridor, as most people travel into and out of London rather than around the city in an arc.

"The geodesign process connects data to ideas and images, so architects, planners, and design professionals can create smart design to better solve problems and serve communities," says Griffin. "As a design tool, it requires participants to reach consensus through negotiation. It's a challenging way of designing, but I will continue to teach it to students."

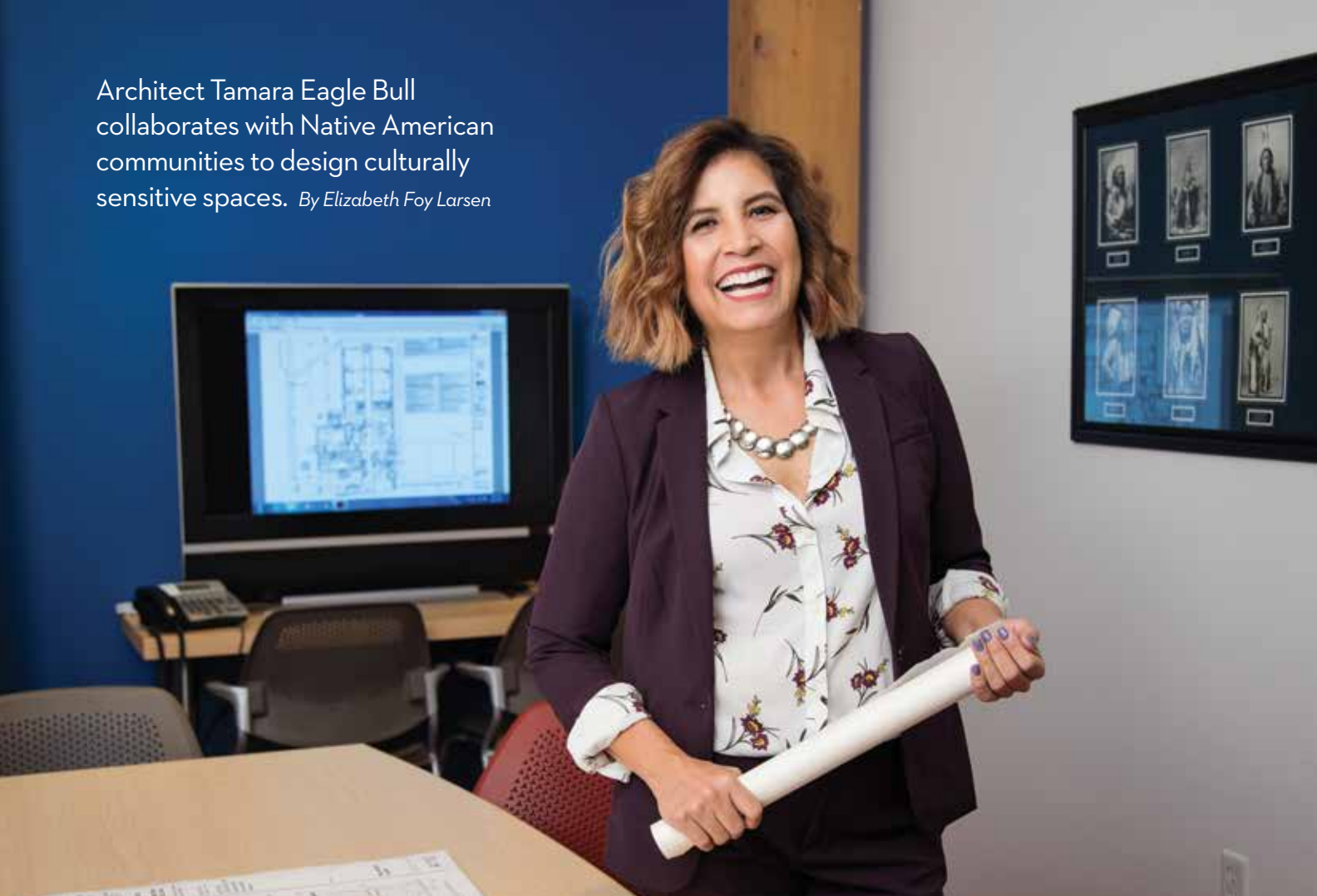
AND FIND SOLUTIONS THROUGH GEODESIGN THINKING."

latitudes of their countries of origin—hot, warm, and cold climates—and by largest to smallest—urban, suburban, and rural. The projects were delivered as five-minute "lightning talks." Each group also identified the potential outcomes of their project in 10 years, in 30 years, and if nothing was done at all. The scenarios considered government policy changes, climate change effects, mass transit, and water shortages, among other factors.

"The comparisons were fascinating," says Fisher. "We could see the differences in public policy made in Great

Fisher predicts a bright future for the IGC; he thinks the 2020 conference will draw over 100 participants. "The IGC has a wealth of intellectual power, 90 universities with top world scholars working together," he says. "Many have connections to their governments, nonprofit agencies, and world leaders. By networking globally, thinking through common problems, we will achieve much more than if individual universities worked without knowledge of each other. It's exciting." ■

Architect Tamara Eagle Bull collaborates with Native American communities to design culturally sensitive spaces. *By Elizabeth Foy Larsen*



Beyond Turtle-Shaped Schools

ALTHOUGH SHE GREW UP IN ABERDEEN, SOUTH Dakota, Tamara Eagle Bull's (M.Arch., '93) childhood visits with her grandmother and extended family on the Pine Ridge Reservation were a lesson in how disparity impacts our built environment. "My elementary and middle schools in Aberdeen were brand new and designed with open spaces, which reflected the 1970s learning philosophy," she says. The schools on the reservation, on the other hand, were in extremely poor repair, with plumbing that often didn't work.

Eagle Bull's father, a teacher, had once hoped to become an architect. So he and his daughter talked about the differences between the houses and public spaces in the two communities. Those conversations helped Eagle Bull, who is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and the first Native American woman to become a licensed architect, realize that the way she could give back to other Native Americans was not by

becoming a doctor or lawyer, but by using design to improve people's everyday lives.

"As a Native American person there is always a feeling that you should do something to come back to help—it's a calling that we are always taught," she says. Architecture that was sensitive to the unique needs of Native American communities could, she realized, not only improve the aesthetics of reservations but also the emotional well-being of their residents.

Today, Eagle Bull is the majority owner and principal at Encompass Architects, which is based in Lincoln, Nebraska. The firm, which she owns with her husband, Todd Hesson, is a national leader in designing projects for Native American communities, using a collaborative process that prioritizes the feedback of the people who will live and work in the spaces she designs.

"It's important to include community because tribal people haven't historically been consulted,"

she explains. “Architects were told, ‘you are the expert, you are getting this degree and will go in and fix problems for people.’ There was no recognition that this is a separate and different culture with its own traditions of cultural identity, decision making, and marking places.”

Eagle Bull says the results of that approach often compromised usability for an artistic vision. “All over the country there are schools that are designed in the shape of an eagle, or a buffalo, or a turtle,” she says, chuckling. “There are a lot of beautiful buildings but when you ask people about them, they say they don’t use them because they’re not functional.”

Countering that dynamic was the guiding principle when Eagle Bull was commissioned to design a replacement for a 60-year-old school on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Porcupine, South Dakota. Eagle Bull drew on her connections to that community, soliciting the input of teachers, students, and the general public, including her parents, who showed up to the public meetings. Because reservation schools often serve as de facto community centers—hosting funerals, wakes, and birthday celebrations—the building would need to have the flexibility to be a public meeting space as well.

“Tammy did a great job of collaborating and getting the input of everyone from parents to students to the kitchen staff to understand what they wanted for the school,” says Beverly Tuttle, a board member of the Porcupine School District. “The school’s design is thanks to their influence—she listened and drew the plans.”

The result is the Pahin Sinte Owayawa, a happy and warm building that incorporates two pods that are designed around a central “living room.” “The students wanted a school that felt like their idea of an ideal home,” Tuttle explains. “They can get off the bus, hang up their backpacks, eat breakfast, wash their hands, and go to the living room.”

The school opened in 2008, and when Eagle Bull visited last year she was surprised to learn that a new generation of students were excited to talk to her about the philosophy behind the school’s design. “It’s become part of the institutional memory of the school,” she says. “That the idea had been passed down and the students had this sense of ownership blew me away.” □



Screen prints by several design students



Sophia Norwood, Graphic Design senior



Dana Saari, Architecture senior



Molly Sanford, Arts and Cultural Leadership graduate student



Rachel Netzer, Product Design junior

Follow the Future

See student design work on Instagram @umndesign



Mitchell Leland, Graphic Design senior



Joshua Lassen, Landscape Architecture junior

Everybody Wants to Live Someplace Special



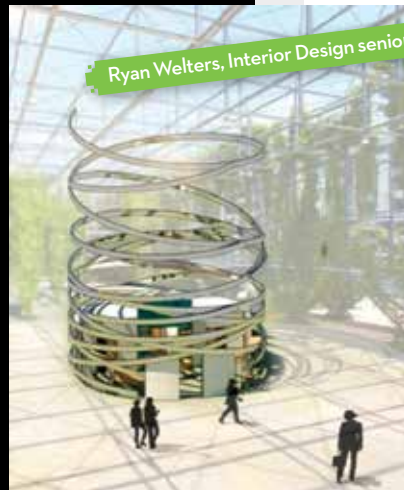
Joshua Lassen, Landscape Architecture junior



Allison Hunsley (left) and Ellie Hedlund, Product Design



Laurel Warner, Graphic Design



Ryan Welters, Interior Design senior



Annie Yang, Apparel Design



Dane Hart, Product Design freshman

MARVIN MELTZER SITS COMFORTABLY IN THE EAMES lounge chair in his living room on East 49th Street in New York wearing glasses and a black hoodie. The 80-year-old architect is telling the story of how he came to build and renovate so many affordable housing projects in the Bronx.

It began with a complex of 20 vacant buildings next to Crotona Park back in the borough's bad old days of the late 1980s. The economy had taken a dive, and along with it the luxury construction market. Meltzer (B.A. '59, B.Arch. '61), who had designed, rehabbed, and built much fancier structures all over Manhattan, thought his career might be over. "Here I am a big shot architect and developer," he says. "Now I'm driving up to the Bronx, sitting in my car, waiting for the police to come to take us into these buildings because the drug dealers have them all booby trapped." He remembers a person standing on a nearby rock giving a kid a haircut, but obviously keeping an eye out for the police, while the kid screamed.

Meltzer threw himself into the renovation project, which he describes as "probably the biggest and most sophisticated nonprofit housing development in the country," at the time. "I built my architectural philosophy on, you don't need a lot of money to do a really good piece of architecture," he says. "It doesn't matter who it's for, what it is. It's all about architecture."

During his long career, Meltzer has designed and built or rehabbed hundreds of buildings all over New York and elsewhere, including Bradhurst Court in Harlem, a homeless shelter in Yonkers with a ramp for shopping carts, and the luxury apartments at 45 Wall Street. In 2002, he received a lifetime achievement award from the New York Society of Architects for "an illustrious career that has added to the betterment of architecture in New York City." He's also received awards from the American Institute of Architects



Marvin Meltzer moved from St. Paul to New York City, where he became the architect who reimagined affordable housing in the Bronx.

By Jennifer Vogel

(AIA) and the National Association of Home Builders for best affordable multifamily project.

Many more Bronx projects followed that first one, often featuring Meltzer's playful use of color: He favors an exterior product called Dryvit, which is inexpensive, sturdy, and comes in many hues. These projects ended up being some of his most rewarding. "Every time you finished a building, they had this sort of celebration and all the politicians came and took all the credit for it," he says. "And I remember sitting in this rear yard. And there was this one woman who'd moved in with two kids. The night before she was sleeping in a shelter." At this, Meltzer's eyes fill with tears. "She gave a talk. And I had all these colors, right. There were lots of pastels and she was from the Caribbean. And she said, 'This reminds me of home.'

"You realize the impact you can have on people's lives just by doing what you do."

Meltzer was born in St. Paul. His dad was an Orthodox rabbi in a now-gone synagogue near the Capitol. "But he really made a living killing chickens in the cellar of our house," he says. "In those days, the farmers would bring in the chickens from the farm. And my dad would kosher kill them and my brother and I would deliver them. He had this whole thing set up. There was a lot of blood and feathers. It never seemed strange to me."

Meltzer spent two years in a rabbinical seminary in Chicago—his father wanted him to be a rabbi—before attending St. Paul Central high school, followed by the U.

"Everybody went to the University of Minnesota," he says. "All my family. All my friends." Meltzer could always draw well, but he didn't think he could make a living as an artist. Architecture was a natural choice and the U's School of Architecture was one of the best in the country.

But even though architecture was a fit with Meltzer's skills, the profession was still viewed as an unconventional option. "I was Orthodox," he explains. "I was the second Jew to ever attend the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Architecture was not a Jewish profession. In many places in the country, it's still not." For his thesis, he designed a synagogue for his father.

Just after graduation, Meltzer was drafted into the Army and stationed at Governor's Island in New York. "I thought I died and went to heaven," he says. "The place was like a country club. And here I was a 15-minute ferry ride from Manhattan."

New York changed his life. "One of the first powerful impulses I had about New York City was that there are a lot of Jewish people in New York and there are a lot of Jewish architects in New York. And it made it easier to practice architecture and start a business."

He met and married his wife, Dale, a psychotherapist, in 1974. They have two kids, a daughter, Rachel, who teaches urban policy at the New School, and a son, Eli, who is an architect based in Brooklyn.

Meltzer's very first project, for a firm out of California, was to design the exterior light fixtures for Madison

Square Garden, which opened in 1968. He went on to work at several firms before starting his own business designing nursery schools and playscapes. Then he formed Britton Development, Ltd. with a partner and began renovating properties on the Upper West Side which, at the time, was run-down and full of vacant buildings.

“Little by little, I ended up doing a new building, which was my whole goal,” he says, referring to the Enclave condominiums he built in 1986 on East 52nd Street. “I had planned this whole thing that every time we did a project that it would be bigger and more exposed than the one before. That’s how you get more work, you market the stuff you build. And if what you build is good, then you will get more.”

Meltzer counts his Minnesota-ness as an asset to his career. “This Minnesota nice is legendary,” he says. “And it’s true. How many people I met and do meet that when I tell them I’m originally from Minnesota, they immediately think I’m a nice person. And I am nice, that’s not the point. But, I was very aware that in my relationships with people that they would like me.” He says his ability to stay within budget also served him well, along with his knack for solving thorny problems and designing for problematic sites. The Roscoe C. Brown Jr. apartments in the Bronx, completed in 2011, were constructed partly on a giant rock outcropping.

Deborah Ippolito, who was director of business development for Meltzer for seven years beginning in the

early 1990s, calls him a quick-thinking, inventive architect who put as much effort into affordable housing as he did their luxury projects. “Marvin had quite a reputation already when I joined him for doing [affordable] housing, which is sort of a market that’s not very sexy, particularly at this time. Who wants to go to the Bronx? Marvin saw this as an opportunity rather than a negative, a chance to do something different.

“I think he is at his best when there are difficult challenges, when others would rather walk away from the deal,” she says. “He puts on this cap like, how am I going to figure this one out?”

Meltzer has reinvented his career many times, sometimes after what he calls “defining moments.” In 1995, after losing a lawsuit he was sure he would win, he partnered with David Mandl, an architect and beloved friend, who died in 2007. Together, they ran Meltzer/Mandl Architects, a firm of 45 employees, and built a reputation of renown. Now, rather than retiring, he has partnered with his son, Eli. “Professionally and in all ways it is an extraordinary experience to be in business with your son. He’s very smart and he’s also a Hasid.”

Meltzer says he has never chased the shiny object and that has made all the difference. “I didn’t get into it for the money. I got into it for the architecture... My mantra has been, everybody wants to live in someplace special.” ■

Jennifer Vogel is the editor of *Minnesota Alumni*.

Designing Elite Cleats

In his work as a color and materials designer at adidas, Charlie Kiriara (B.F.A. '15) gives a jolt of visual happiness to football cleats for professional and amateur athletes alike. “The biggest part of my job is storytelling,” explains Kiriara, who was raised in Bloomington and is now based in Portland, Oregon. “We try and find moments that

are big for football, big cultural moments.” Last March, the company launched the “Snow Cone” pack, cleats drenched in the colors of the iconic summer treat. “We wanted

bright, in-your-face colors,” he says. “We wanted these cleats to bring a smile to people’s faces because of their happy memories.” —EFL





Stitch by Stitch

Clothing technical designer Patricia Daskin has worked for some of the most prestigious names in fashion. Here's her advice on making it in a fast-changing industry. *By Jennifer Vogel*

Denise Chastain

PATRICIA DASKIN REMEMBERS THAT DURING THE time she worked at Ralph Lauren—for 19 years, beginning in 1996—Mr. Lauren, as she calls him, employed a sketch artist to draw his ideas at a moment's notice. It was an inspired, if extravagant, decision, she says. "To witness what the illustrators could do was incredible. Those sketches actually drove the silhouette of the clothing."

Working downstairs from the legendary designer at the company's headquarters on Madison Avenue, Daskin managed the technical design component for more than a dozen Lauren labels. She regularly traveled to Italy and Hong Kong and set up European runway shows and visited the small family factories north of Venice that made womenswear, including luxurious cashmere sweaters. She's wearing one today—the black mock turtleneck that she occasionally pulls up over her chin—as we sit together in a coffee shop in Greenwich Village.

The business of fashion has changed enormously since Daskin got her start. The industry is in flux, she says, due to the implosion of bricks-and-mortar retail; there is less money all around and fashion companies are restructuring. But while the trade has evolved, the skills and strategies she used to build her career remain the same.

Daskin (B.S. '85) grew up in Winona, Minnesota, where her dad was dean of liberal arts and then a vice president at Winona State University. Her mom, an elementary school teacher, was always sewing and making crafts. "We all grew up doing handicrafts in Minnesota in the winter, when the snow is higher than your head and it's zero or less outside," she says. After high school, she went to the University of Minnesota to study fashion design, which at the time was called costume design.

While at the U, Daskin threw herself into her studies and also on-the-job training. "I had gotten out the yellow pages my freshman year and said, 'Who needs somebody who really wants to learn?'" She worked for a few companies in Minneapolis, including a small outfit that made maternity clothing. "I did everything from sweeping floors to sewing on buttons to hemming clothes," she recalls.

To make it big, however, Daskin needed to move to New York City, the center of the American fashion industry. Her first job was at a clothing consulting firm, where she designed everything

"I DID EVERYTHING FROM SWEEPING FLOORS TO SEWING ON BUTTONS TO HEMMING CLOTHES."

from infant clothing to menswear. "We had to be able to look at any garment . . . and understand what the need of that garment was, and send it back to the client all spiffy and shiny and ready for production."

Daskin moved on to a better job and then an even better one, toggling between design and production at Liz Claiborne, Ann Taylor, Ralph Lauren, and Coach. "I believe to this day that I got my first job because I had a liberal arts degree, a four-year degree," she says. She also thinks that being from someplace other than New York was an asset. "Just being from Minnesota, I knew I was probably going to stick out because I didn't go to the Fashion Institute of

Technology and I didn't go to Parsons." She had a strong work ethic, too, "and I was certainly less jaded."

To new design graduates, she offers advice as timeless as her cashmere sweater. Thanks to social media, anybody can contact anybody. "Make that opportunity," she says. "Be the person who says, 'Can we have that personal interaction? Can we meet? Can I have 10 minutes of your time to either be on the phone or I'll come to meet you?' You have to be here in New York and get your feet on the ground.

"Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty," she says. "You may have to give more than you think you should to get that chance. But there are still good people out there." ▣

Project (Virtual) Runway



The Goldstein Museum of Design, on the U's St. Paul campus, has a loyal fan base. But over the past several years, the staff noticed that some patrons were not able to make it to new shows for a variety of reasons, including age-related mobility issues. So when a supporter suggested they use virtual reality

to take the shows on the road, College of Design faculty from the Housing Studies, Retail Merchandising, Interior Design, Graphic Design, and Product Design programs jumped in to create the VR Book Club, a collaboration between the College, the museum, and Episcopal Homes Senior Housing

and Care Services. "Research shows that having a social cultural experience enhances wellness," says Lin Nelson-Mayson, the director of the Goldstein Museum. "The VR Book Club is an opportunity for people to experience the exhibition and to then have a conversation about what they saw." So far,

the collaboration has piloted a VR experience from the exhibit "Storyed Lives: Women and Their Wardrobes" and created a second from "Demonstration Garden: Designing Flowers." The response has been enthusiastic: Participants told the researchers they want even longer experiences. —EFL

Do you know what the does for you?

You know the U of M. But do you really know what the U does for you? From developing a major breakthrough in cancer treatment to supplying Minnesota's food deserts, we'll share the stories that bring the drive to discover home to Minnesota's doorstep. Take discovery to the next degree at discover.umn.edu.

Dr. Perry Hackett
Developing breakthrough cancer treatments



Dr. Michael McAlpine
Using 3D printing for surgery prep



Dr. Hye-Young Kim
Revitalizing rural retail



Dr. Lucien Gonzalez
Fighting the opioid crisis



Dr. Kathy Draeger
Supplying Minnesota food deserts

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities

From the U to the Pacific Ocean

Botanist Josephine Tilden, the U's first female scientist, established the Minnesota Seaside Station on Vancouver Island in 1901. The station was short-lived, but Tilden's legacy endures. *By Margaret Horsfield*

et to the skin, her skirt soaked, breathless with excitement, Josephine Tilden first scrambled ashore on Vancouver Island's Botanical Beach on August 4, 1898. The swells of the open Pacific Ocean almost swamped her rowboat. She had little food, no shelter, no means of contacting the outside world. Tilden couldn't have been happier. She remained on the rocky, exposed beach for four days in the pouring rain, avidly collecting marine algae from the intertidal zone and the deep, brilliant tidal pools pockmarking the sandstone. Here, she had discovered a beach exceeding her wildest dreams.

To reach this remote destination, 29-year-old Tilden (B.S. 1895, M.S. 1896) traveled by train from Minnesota with her mother—young women rarely traveled alone at that time. They stayed in Victoria, British

Columbia, where Tilden sought advice from ship captains and fishermen. She heard of a distant beach glowing with fabulous tidal pools on the far-flung west coast of the island, and decided to see for herself.

She and her mother disembarked from a small steamer at

the settlement of Port Renfrew, about 60 miles northwest of Victoria. Local settler Tom Baird rowed them along the treacherous coastline to land at Tilden's coveted shore where, on a stretch of coast famed for shipwrecks and storms, she decided to establish a seaside





Two students explore a tide pool at the Minnesota Seaside Station.

research station for students from the Midwest.

Tilden never feared a challenge. This determined botanist from the University of Minnesota—its first female scientist—had already overcome opposition from her department in declaring she would pursue

the little-known study of Pacific marine algae. She then convinced the U to allow her to establish the Minnesota Seaside Station on the Pacific coast, some 2,000 miles away, to rival similar stations on the Atlantic coast.

Her powers of persuasion must have been astonishing.

Remarkably, the U agreed—but only to provide instructors and equipment, no funds. Money came from Tilden herself, from her staunch supporter Professor Conway MacMillan, head of the Department of Botany, and from fees paid by students. Tilden's determination

also greatly impressed Baird. He gave Tilden four acres of his newly acquired land at Botanical Beach for the research station—an extraordinary gesture. Set in virgin rainforest, the patch of land overlooked a wide sandstone beach pitted with countless tidal pools—some large enough to bathe in. A rocky headland bordered the property, with a large natural amphitheater where students staged plays and ceremonies and attended talks.

Construction of the Seaside Station buildings began early in 1901: first a large log building with a kitchen, living area, and dormitories; then a small laboratory near the shore. A two-story botanical laboratory later completed the station. Given the immense difficulty of access, with small boats only sometimes able to land near the site, the logistical challenges of



Josephine Tilden

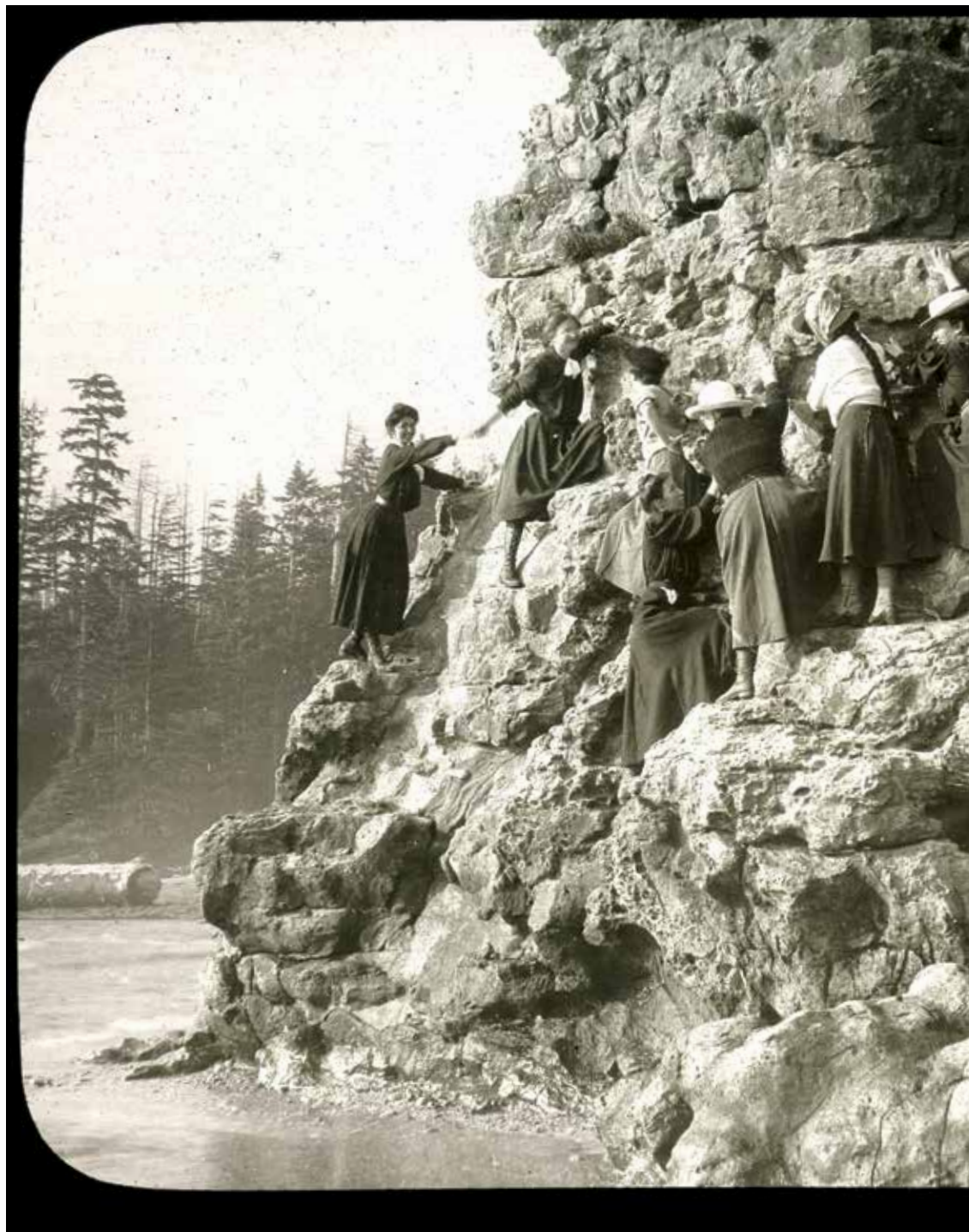
construction were immense. Photographs show huge stumps standing on Tilden's property; the wood was likely used in construction, accomplished with the assistance of Baird and other locals.

Each summer from 1901 to 1907, groups of students and instructors ventured to Vancouver Island from Minnesota, Ohio, Nebraska, and elsewhere. They traveled by train, marveling at the vast landscapes and high mountains. Many had never seen the ocean before arriving in Seattle, where they caught a boat to Victoria. The steamer *Queen City* bore them farther northward, where the groups usually disembarked at Port Renfrew. They then trekked for hours over an appallingly rough, muddy trail, carrying their gear.

In total, some 200 people attended the Minnesota

Seaside Station; significantly, female students often made up half of each year's participants. Most of the women studied botany, then the most readily accessible and acceptable science for them, due to a long tradition of women excelling as amateur naturalists. From the late 18th century, women adept in collecting, classifying, and

illustrating specimens became increasingly active in botanical studies. A noteworthy number of talented women—usually without any formal training—wrote influential papers and even books about botany. However, they rarely identified themselves as scientists, even when doing highly original and serious work.



Above: Intrepid students are caught on a cliff by a rising tide.
Right: Three Seaside Station attendees clown around.



A class works on the rocks near Seaside Station buildings at low tide.



Tilden was different. She stood with a new generation of educated and influential female scientists emerging in many disciplines. She had high expectations of her female students, giving them firm instructions about clothing so they could function effectively in the field. They were instructed to bring “a short skirt, about 12 inches from the ground ... bathing suit with high neck and long sleeves, for warmth, to be worn for bathing and in collecting on low tide days, [and] one pair of heavy-soled, 10-inch-high bicycle shoes with hobnails.”

The monthlong stay at Botanical Beach offered a clear schedule of courses, while actively encouraging the unconventional fun of station life. Each morning, there were classes on the beach. Accustomed to inland botany, students peered awestruck into glowing tidal pools alive

with brilliant algae in myriad colors, with huge sea anemones waving bright tentacles, and with snails, hermit crabs, and countless other creatures hiding in the depths. Laboratory work occupied the afternoons, as well as outdoor classes in zoology, taxonomy, and geology.

After supper, everyone gathered around beach bonfires for songs and storytelling, saltwater taffy made over the fire, or mussel bakes. They heard informal evening lectures, some later published in *Postelsia*, the journal of the seaside station. Many students slept in driftwood shelters on the beach, on mattresses of evergreen boughs, lulled by the continuous roar of the waves.

It was too good to last. The Seaside Station foundered in bitter disputes with the U about funding and equipment. For years, MacMillan and Tilden

poured their hearts, and their own salaries, into maintaining the place, believing the U would eventually lend more support. This proved a vain hope, and in 1906, MacMillan resigned in protest. Tilden kept the station open the next year, but could not continue beyond that financially.

She went on to lead many research expeditions, taking students, many of them women, to Tahiti, New Zealand, Tasmania, Australia, and Hawaii, breaking down barriers and defying convention wherever she went. Despite further disputes with the U, she remained on the faculty until her retirement in 1937. Tilden gained international recognition for her pioneering research into marine algae, and for her many publications.

In 1948, she sold her Botanical Beach property. She had not been there in over 40 years, but hated to give up the place where she arose at dawn to gaze enraptured into tidal pools. Tilden died in 1957. The station buildings gradually collapsed into the coastal rainforest; only dim traces remain. The beach is now a provincial park, accessible by road and footpath, and groups of students still visit regularly for fieldwork. ▣

Margaret Horsfield writes for a variety of publications and is the author of six books. She lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia. A version of this article originally appeared in *Hakai* magazine.



Perking Up the Parkway

Two University of Minnesota grads bring new life to an old city theater.

By Lynette Lamb

When Ward Johnson and Eddie Landenberger bought the Parkway Theater on 48th and Chicago Avenue in South Minneapolis last year, they were filled with romantic visions of showing old movies in a prewar theater. “I fantasized that it would be a fun, low-stress business,” remembers Johnson, a former pet food company owner.

They never imagined scrambling to find a Blue-ray version of *ET* in order to avoid disappointing an auditorium full of kids settled in with their popcorn. But that’s what happened last fall when, minutes before showtime, Johnson realized the digital file sent by the studio was locked, and thus unusable.

Luckily, reaching out to a nearby cinephile worked. “Once that friend of Eddie’s walked up to the theater with a Blu-ray copy of *ET* in his pocket, I went into my office to cry,” says Johnson. “Now every time I start a film, I have PTSD, and when I press play, my heart goes up to 160 beats a minute.”

Then there was the December day when a second-floor sink was plugged with its faucet left running, creating a waterfall in the lobby just before a *Moth Radio Hour* live performance. Between booking acts, overseeing events, and endless troubleshooting, “I haven’t worked less than 12 hours a day since we announced our opening,” says Johnson. “It’s like throwing a party every day.”

So, a low-stress business? Not exactly. But running the restored Parkway Theater, an Art Deco beauty that opened in 1930 and reopened in September, has definitely been a rewarding one, say

Johnson (B.S. '94) and Landenberger (B.E. '00). The Parkway alternates between featuring classic movies, musical acts, comedians, and spoken-word performances. It also boasts an old-fashioned arcade, a snack bar, and a classic bar, complete with cocktails created by local distillery Tattersall.

The duo purchased the theater in early 2018 together with an adjacent restaurant, formerly known as Pepito's. A fixture of South Minneapolis for 46 years, Pepito's closed due to financial difficulties and the owner's declining health. The restaurant is a sentimental spot for Johnson, who had his first date with and proposed to his wife, Maggie, there. Now it is an outpost of El Burrito, another family-owned local business, which shares a symbiotic relationship with the Parkway. "If they do well, we do well, and vice versa," says Johnson.

Renovating the 90-year-old theater wasn't easy. Even Landenberger, a commercial realtor and developer well aware of potential pitfalls, has been surprised by the project's scope. Among other unexpected challenges, "this winter's polar vortex has shown us every vulnerability of the building."

The Parkway was in tough shape to start with, says Johnson. The HVAC was virtually nonexistent, the lobby sported scary old couches, the seats were ancient and tightly packed together, the plaster was crumbling, and there was no ADA-compliant bathroom on the first floor. But designer Anna Lundberg, who had worked on the South Minneapolis restaurant Book Club, looked past the mess and saw the original terrazzo floor, curved staircase, and Deco door handles in the lobby and the coved ceiling and Deco columns inside the theater.

She uncovered and restored the former and lit up the latter, adding decorative copper panels to the ceiling and golden metal palm trees, statement wallpaper, and a banquette to the lobby. The theater seats were recovered with classic red plush and moved farther apart to provide plenty of legroom. "Most people want to gut a building and make it modern, but we saw such good Art Deco DNA and wanted to honor that," says Landenberger. "There's a patina here that you really feel."

Running the Parkway, which sits just three blocks from Johnson's home, is a family affair. Wife Maggie helped with the opening and still helps with staffing, sister Jessica Paxton (B.A. '87) is the booking and marketing specialist, and his 15-year-old daughter sells popcorn on the weekends.

Both Landenberger and Johnson view the project as not just restoring a theater but investing in a neighborhood. They hope the upgraded Parkway will strengthen an already palpable sense of place at 48th and Chicago, becoming a hub of local activity. So far, the signs are good.

At the end of each movie (shows have included crowd pleasers like *Jaws*, *Harold and Maude*, and *Taxi Driver*), the audience applauds—something unlikely to happen at your average multiplex. "When they clap, I feel like it's them saying thank you for doing this; we had fun," says Johnson.

Then there are the live musical performances, cozy because the theater seats just 365, quietly respectful because the seating is concert style rather than bar-table fashion. "Jeremy Messersmith, David Huckfelt, Farewell Milwaukee—these shows have been magical," says Johnson. "The crowds have been riveted, and the vibe is so warm and intimate. There's no other venue quite like it in town." The performers have enjoyed the space, too, including the Parkway's unique Green Room—a 1970 Airstream.

When it comes to programming, Johnson and Landenberger have compromised their original vision. "Initially, we had a very specific idea of the kinds of movies and acts we would have," says Johnson. "We saw the Parkway as kind of a cross between the Walker and the Dakota—interesting and challenging. But we soon came to realize that sticking to that programming would mean taking a long

Reid Strand, left, helps Landenberger and Johnson place a decorative palm tree in the Parkway lobby.

Opposite page: Theater owners Ward Johnson and Eddie Landenberger.



time to build an audience. You have to show *The Sound of Music* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, too, if you want to fill the theater. We can still have edgy content, just not every day."

Their University of Minnesota years are far behind both men, of course, yet they still draw from those days. Any engineering student learns project management, says Landenberger, a skill that has proved invaluable in coordinating the Parkway's rehab and operations. As for Johnson, his time at the U taught him his work ethic "and how to juggle 19 things at once—which is paying off lately," he laughs. "Oh, and how to read a balance sheet. All those accounting classes are really coming in handy now." ■

Lynette Lamb (M.A. '84), a lover of old-fashioned movie theaters, frequented the Parkway long before it was remodeled.

A Civil Rights Journey, Campus Living, and an Ode to Children's Books

It's *Minnesota Alumni's* quarterly books roundup. *By Lynette Lamb*

You would be hard pressed to find a more thorough or concise history of how the Civil Rights struggle played out in the Twin Cities than Josie R.

Johnson's memoir, *Hope in the Struggle* (University of Minnesota Press), written with Carolyn Holbrook and Arleta Little.

Johnson, one of Minnesota's most legendary Civil Rights activists and a former University of Minnesota faculty member and regent, was born and raised in Texas. She moved to Minneapolis in 1956 when her then-husband was hired by Honeywell. At that time, black people made up just 3 percent of the population of the Twin Cities, she writes, and were relegated to particular sections of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Despite having three small girls, Johnson wasted no time getting involved in civic matters, joining the board of the Minneapolis NAACP and the League of Women Voters and working as a community organizer for the Minneapolis Urban League.

Among her causes: trying to improve black parents' experiences of the school system (a fight, sadly, that continues to this day) and passing a fair housing bill in Minnesota, a state notorious for housing discrimination against African Americans, Jews, and other minority groups. She found herself lobbying state legislators who had never before spoken to a black woman.

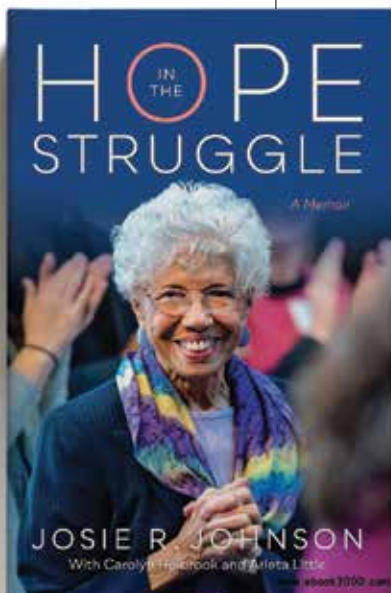
Enlisting the help of Governor Elmer Andersen (B.B.A. '31), Johnson and her colleagues succeeded in getting the bill passed in 1961, making Minnesota one of the first states in the nation to do so.

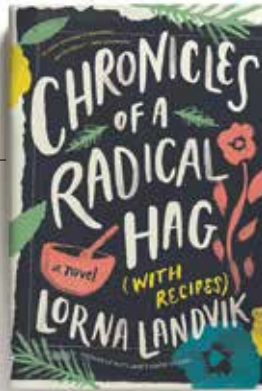
Yet, Johnson was just getting started. In succeeding years, she took part in the historic March on Washington and voter registration drives during the Freedom Summer in Mississippi, served as a fair housing, jobs, and education adviser to Minneapolis Mayor Art Naftalin (B.A. '39, M.A. '42, Ph.D. '48), and helped form the city's Commission on Human Development and the North Side youth organization The Way.

Next came Johnson's long involvement with the U—she helped found the Department of Afro-American Studies in the late 1960s and became the first black person elected to the Board of Regents in 1971. She summarizes that experience as any true Minnesotan would: "Being the only African American on the Board of Regents was interesting." In other words, it was difficult and frustrating. "I learned quickly that my suggestions and observations were not immediately heard or acknowledged," she writes. "Not only that, but the board was surprised that my interests were broader than only minority issues and concerns ... but the members seemed to only ask and listen when I talked about diversity issues."

After moving briefly to Colorado, helping establish her alma mater Fisk University's first alumni association, and earning a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Johnson returned to the Twin Cities in 1985, newly divorced, her daughters grown.

She had focused her doctoral research on the education of African American children during the years before 1954, when, she writes, "Black parents clearly maintained the view of our ancestors that education was emancipation." The U's College of Education offered her a senior fellow position and she began working through the Minneapolis





Public Schools to encourage more parent involvement. (Her assistant was Carol Johnson—no relation—who later became superintendent of schools for the city.)

Johnson organized speakers and events around Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the U, prepared a lengthy report on minority programming, and organized a 1991 forum on diversity. Her many accomplishments ultimately led to Johnson being named to the (lengthily titled) position of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Provost with Special Responsibility for Minority Affairs for the Office for Multicultural and Academic Affairs.

As she worked her way through this impressive list of civil rights and educational accomplishments, Johnson developed friendships with many Minnesota luminaries, including Vice President Walter Mondale (B.A. '51, J.D. '56), Macalester Professor Emeritus of History Mahmoud El-Kati, Minneapolis Mayor Donald Fraser (B.A. '44, J.D. '48), and Minneapolis NAACP President Matthew Little.

Johnson's memoir covers a lot of difficult territory, but one thing rings clear throughout: She has met these myriad challenges and difficulties with intelligence, energy, and hope.

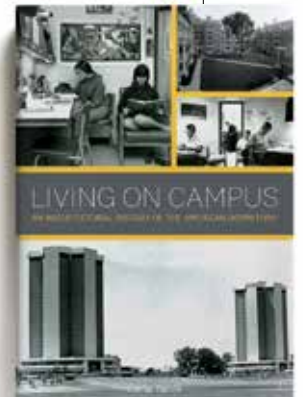
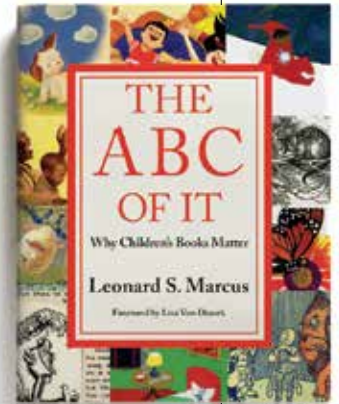
And ... the roundup

For a completely different take on Minnesota life, pick up the latest novel by **Lorna Landvik**, *Chronicles of a Radical Hag (with Recipes)* (University of Minnesota Press). Landvik, a Minneapolis-based comedian and writer, is probably best known for her first novel, *Patty Jane's House of Curl*. *Radical Hag* traces the life and times of a small Minnesota town through the unpredictable and occasionally controversial columns of its longtime correspondent, Haze Evans.

Kids can learn about our state, too, in an instructive and beautifully illustrated picture book called *The Lost Forest* (University of Minnesota Press) by **Phyllis Root**, with artwork by **Betsy Bowen**. This is the story—complete with maps and wildlife lists—of 40 acres of old growth white pine that was never cut down because of a faulty survey. It wasn't until 1958 that someone noticed the gigantic 350-year-old trees growing near Blackduck, Minnesota. Happily, they are still preserved today as the Lost Forty Scientific and Natural Area, part of the Chippewa National Forest.

Fans of children's literature can't do better than *The ABC of It: Why Children's Books Matter* (University of Minnesota Press) by **Leonard S. Marcus**, with a foreword by **Lisa Von Drasek**, curator of the U's Children's Literature Research Collections. Marcus curated the wildly popular New York Public Library exhibit of the same name, which ran from 2013 to '14. The book, a collaboration between Marcus and the U's Kerlan Collection, is essentially a lavishly illustrated catalog of the New York exhibit, merged with items from the U's fabled collections.

Feeling nostalgic for your college days? Take a look at the comprehensive view of university residence halls found in *Living on Campus: An Architectural History of the American Dormitory* (University of Minnesota Press) by **Carla Yanni**, an art history professor at Rutgers University. Yanni specializes in social architecture and few places are more intensely social than the college dorm. Her book includes some particularly fascinating sections on the class and racial barriers faced by prewar students, the rise of the postwar skyscraper-style residence hall, and the recent use of fancy new dorms in student recruitment. ■



MINNESOTA ALUMNI®
market

Where all the products are alumni made.



Joy McBrien (B.S.B. '11)
Anna Bottila (B.A. '12)
Co-owners, Fair Anita



THE FIRST STORE BY
ALUMNI
FOR **YOU**

Support alumni businesses making a positive change. At Fair Anita, Joy and Anna empower women artisans around the world through fair trade product development. Shop their items in the Minnesota Alumni Market, including the Ripples Necklace, just \$18.

MNAumniMarket.com

Brought to you by



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Get your official
**UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA**
license plate today!



With an annual contribution of \$25 for the special plate, you're supporting student scholarships at the University of Minnesota.



Learn more at
UMNAumni.org/plates

The Monarch of Monarchs

Orley Taylor has dedicated his life to rebuilding monarch butterfly populations.

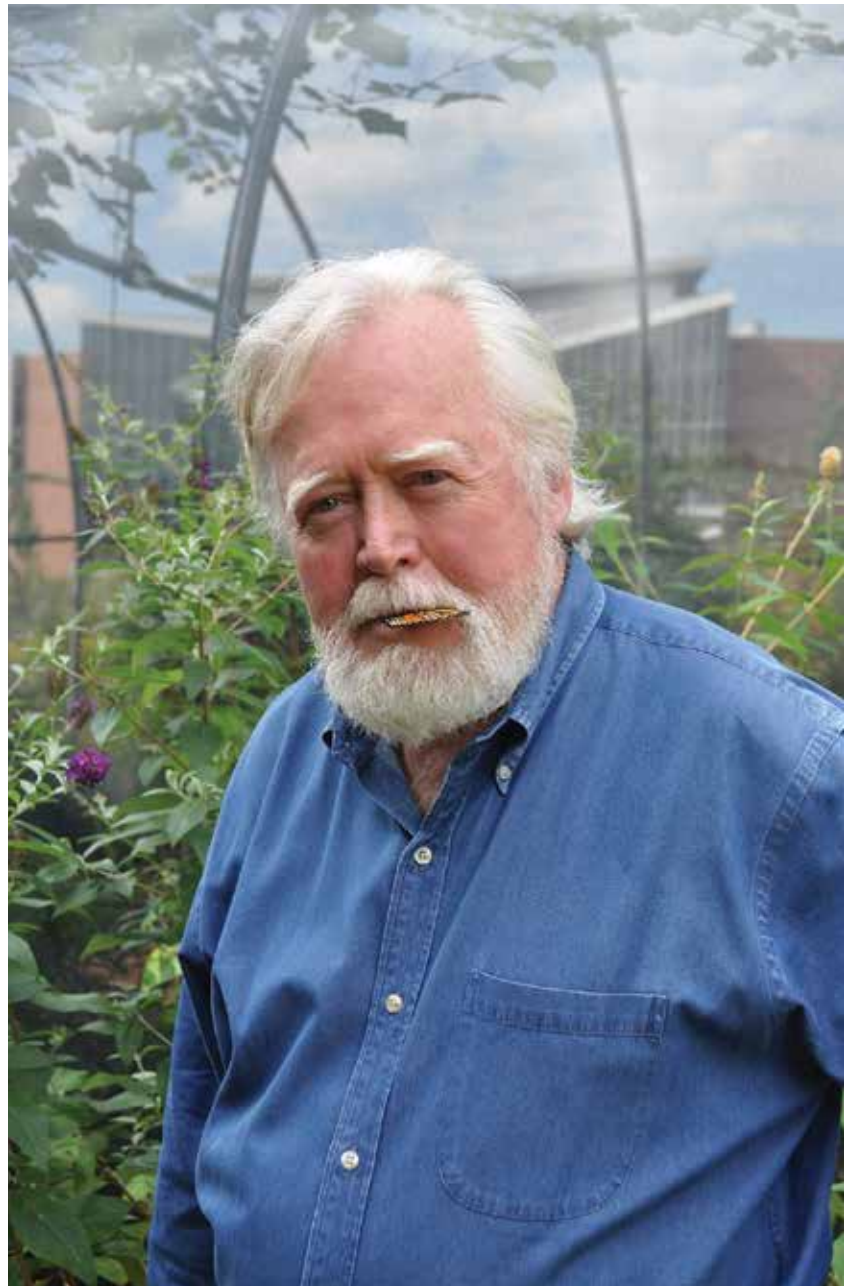
By Andrew Faught

The headlines this winter offered tantalizing hope for monarch butterflies. Cooler temperatures in Texas breeding grounds encouraged the embattled butterfly population to surge by 144 percent. But climate change and projections for warmer weather in the future mean the boom could be a one-year fluke. The butterfly faces another formidable foe, after all: Acres of milkweed, which monarch larvae feed on exclusively, have been dramatically reduced in the U.S. due to development and the use of weed killer.

“Monarchs are telling us that we are not doing a very good job of maintaining the biodiversity out there,” says Orley “Chip” Taylor (B.A. '59), a professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Kansas. Taylor founded Monarch Watch in 1992, an organization with the mission of researching and bolstering monarch populations.

The black, orange, and white *Danaus plexippus* is a bug under siege, says Taylor, who, perhaps more than anyone in the country, has devoted his life to saving the butterfly. As pollinators, monarchs play an important role in helping plants reproduce and ensuring bountiful harvests. “Biodiversity supports the system that supports us all,” says Taylor, who speaks in measured cadences despite the challenges at hand.

Soon after its founding, University of Kansas-based Monarch Watch launched a tagging program, designed to increase understanding of



the monarchs' monumental fall migration from North America to Mexico. The organization has also encouraged the planting of milkweed “way stations” around the country.

To date, there are more than 22,000 way stations—some as small as 100 square feet—at schools, in home gardens, and in commercial landscaping. Taylor successfully encouraged the New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council to distribute free milkweed plants to schools. And in 2010, he launched the Bring

Orley Taylor: “No butterfly was harmed in the making of this picture.”

Back the Monarchs program, a large-scale habitat restoration effort that calls for a “new conservation ethic.”

“We need a comprehensive plan to manage the fragmented edges and marginal areas created by development and agriculture, since it is these edges that support monarchs,” Taylor says.

Taylor was raised mostly in St. Paul. The son of an accountant father, he had no aptitude for numbers, so instead focused on the natural world. He honed his love for nature and bugs as a kid spending summers in Crivitz, Wisconsin, north of Green Bay, near the Peshtigo River. There, his grandmother owned an 80-acre spread that tantalized Taylor with its sights and sounds.

“It was a biological playground for a curious young kid,” he says. “The river was just full of life, and I had the run of the place. I was turning over rocks in the river and finding all sorts of stuff that was exciting. There was a mystery to the landscape, and it was a fantasyland for a kid.”

Attending the University of Minnesota was a logical choice. “I had no desire to go anywhere else at the time,” Taylor says. He studied zoology and went on to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Connecticut.

Because he initially was allergic to butterflies, possibly due to pigment in the bugs’ scales, Taylor started out working with Africanized honeybees—so-called killer bees. When that work ended in the early 1990s, he decided to give butterflies another chance. At the time, he was teaching an experimental field ecology class at Kansas and the monarch “turned out to be a very good subject for part of the course each year.”

Since then, he’s become an extremely effective advocate and evangelist. “I have witnessed Chip turn hostile community groups into conservation champions through his patient and prudent approach,” says Laurie Adams, executive director emeritus of the San Francisco-based Pollinator Partnership. “No one on the planet is more committed to the welfare of the monarch butterfly than Chip Taylor.”

Monarchs are dynamos of the bug world: From Canada each year, they travel nonstop 3,400 miles—at the rate of 50 to 100 miles per day—to their Cerro Pelon, Mexico, wintering ground, an oasis of Oyamel firs 10,000 feet above sea level. No other insect travels as far.

Taylor greatly admires the monarch, particularly when he views them en masse in Mexico.

“For many people who have seen this, it’s kind of a life-changing experience,” he says. “The fact that this insect is using the same continent we do and is dependent on us to maintain that habitat—that has to resonate with people.” ■

A Bit of China in St. Paul

Last November, the new Xiang Jiang Pavilion was officially unveiled at Phalen Regional Park in St. Paul. The enormous, double-roofed replica of China’s 18th century Aiwan Pavilion was a gift from St. Paul’s sister city Changsha, capital of Hunan province. The effort to build the pavilion was launched by the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, the president of which is Linda Mealey-Lohmann (B.A. ’81, M.A. ’86, J.D. ’90).

The idea for a pavilion first came about in 2005, at a board meeting for the US-China Peoples Friendship Association, Minnesota chapter. “A board member said there are five Japanese gardens in Minnesota, but no Chinese gardens,” says Mealey-Lohmann. “I love gardens and Chinese culture so I said, ‘Let’s remedy that.’” (The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum opened a Chinese garden in 2017.)

Other U alumni lent their support to the project, including Barbara Harrison (A.A. ’74, A.L.A. ’74, B.A. ’02), Mary Warpeha (B.A. ’68), and, more recently, Weiming Lu (M.S. ’54).

Interest picked up once organizers made a connection between Changsha and the local Hmong community, many of whom claim the city as their ancestral home. The garden was added to the Phalen Regional Park master plan in 2011; in 2015 then-St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman traveled to Changsha.

The pavilion itself is a gift from the people of Changsha, who sent engineers to St. Paul to assemble it. Mealey-Lohmann says

more additions to the site are planned, including an entrance arch, a lakeside pavilion, and a Hmong Cultural Plaza. “We hope the pavilion and the Hmong Heritage Wall will become a venue for all kinds of cultural activities for the Hmong community and Chinese community,” she says. A grand opening is scheduled for July. —JV



Linda Mealey-Lohmann (far left) and Mary Warpeha (far right)

Stay connected.

ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS



HOW MUCH WOOD WOULD A WOODCHUCK CHUCK?

The UMAA supports alumni-launched maker of beautiful wood products.

You'll find Ben VandenWymelenberg (B.S. '12), founder and chairman of Woodchuck USA, listed in many entrepreneurs-to-watch roundups, including from *Minnesota Business* magazine and Ernst and Young. He also received the U40 Alumni Leader Award from the UMAA in 2017.

Woodchuck makes artfully executed stenciled wood products like phone skins, planner covers, luggage tags, and flasks—many are available via our Minnesota Alumni Market, here: MNAAlumniMarket.com. For every product the company sells, it plants a tree. So far, Minneapolis-based Woodchuck has planted over 1.7 million trees across six continents, says VandenWymelenberg. "Because we plant a tree for every product we sell, we typically plant approximately 2,500 trees per tree that we use." He lists one of the company's most challenging jobs so far as "Woodchucking" famed racer Levi LaVallee's snowmobile with custom wood panels.

VandenWymelenberg says he learned to look at challenges as opportunities while studying architecture at the U's College of Design, from which he graduated magna cum laude. "I've found that a huge portion of business success relates directly to one's

ability to solve problems," he says. "Throughout college, I worked at a few different architecture firms where I used laser cutters to make models. Without this knowledge, I never would have come up with the idea to make the first real wood phone skin.

"The relationship with the U of M has been incredible ever since the start of the company" in 2012, he says. The U of M Bookstore was the first retail outlet to carry Woodchuck products, and the company—which employs 52 people full time—makes U of M centerpieces and desktop business card holders, among other Gopher products. In addition, he says, the Alumni Association "has been incredibly supportive in our growth, and we're excited to continue our great partnership."

Not one to sit still, VandenWymelenberg just self-published a book called *The World Needs Your F*cking Ideas*—the launch party was held at McNamara Alumni Center in April—and cofounded North Co., a coworking space for start-ups near the Twin Cities campus. "I want to help others release the inner entrepreneur within themselves," he says.

CAREER MONTH A HUGE SUCCESS

The UMAA helps alumni network, learn, and elevate their careers.

The UMAA launched our first-ever career month in February, which included an impressive roster of activities and talks that

put the focus on building fruitful connections and careers. Some of the month's events and activities were new; some were not. But the combination drew loads of interest and participation. During the month of February, the UMAA featured 22 events, including 15 in-person events—drawing more than 600 people—three

webinars, and two Facebook Live events. Around 600 participants also attended live webinars, the most popular of which was Aging with Purpose. Other topics included Resume Refresh and Creating Inclusion Across Organizations. Our Facebook Live alumni panel has been viewed nearly 1,000 times. Career month also bolstered

the rolls of our connections-focused Maroon and Gold Network, with 268 people signing up, bringing total network enrollment to nearly 3,500 alumni and students. Take a moment to sign up yourself: maroonandgoldnetwork.umalumni.org

MEMBER ADVANTAGES

Thank you for being a member! Don't forget to make the most of your member advantages. Here are just a few:

NEW!

▶ **Protect your digital and financial identity with a complimentary Essential Individual plan or save 20% on plan upgrades through Securus ID. To activate and learn more, visit: UMNAlumni.securusid.com**

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Take part in a quarterly roster of noncredit courses (save 10% on continuing education).
- ▶ Invest in yourself with a course in the Carlson Executive Education program (save 10%).

EXPLORE CAMPUS

- ▶ Visit the Weisman Art Museum, Bell Museum, and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (discounted membership rates).
- ▶ See the finest Northrop Dance, U of M Theatre Arts, and School of Music performances (member ticket rates).

MEMBERS-ONLY ACCESS

- ▶ Minnesota Alumni Market, where all products are alumni-made. If you are a graduate of the U, a UMAA member, and owner of your business, let us know. MNAAlumniMarket.com
- ▶ Advance notice and special pricing of exclusive events. Keep an eye on your inbox!
- ▶ Online access to U of M Libraries (subset of student access).
- ▶ Continue receiving this award-winning quarterly magazine! Membership includes your print subscription.

SPECIAL SAVINGS SECTION

- ▶ 20% savings on U of M Bookstores apparel and gifts in store and online.
- ▶ 10% discount at Goldy's Locker Room locations in the Twin Cities.
- ▶ Show your member card for alumni hotel rates at Graduate Minneapolis on campus.

For details, visit:

UMNAlumni.org/benefits

A SPECIAL WELCOME to our newest Life Members!*

By joining more than 19,000 loyal and enthusiastic UMAA Life Members, you are changing lives and creating possibilities for the U of M community, including students and recent graduates. Your membership accelerates careers, creates local and global connections, supports alumni-owned businesses, sparks learning, and so much more. Thank you.

Patricia Baldwin
Kathleen Barrett
William Betten
Dornan Bland
Dean Borghorst
Jerome Brakke
Marilyn Brakke
Arlene Breckenridge
Nicky Bredeson
Theresa Bundick
Chad Carlson
Kathryn Carlson
Robert Clarkon
Darlene Douglass
H. Douglass
William Driver
Doris Du Bois
Corrin Duque
Jared Erdmann
Donald Erickson
Sally Erickson
Stephen Erickson
Michelle Ewert
Brian Fahey-Bleick
Lisa Fahey-Bleick
Jane Flad
Dexter Harris
Carol Hartung
James Hartung
Judy Hatchett
James Herbert
La Vonne Herbert
Kenneth Horstman
Shelley Horstman
Kathleen Klukas
Robert Klukas
Margaret Kristian
Mary Kurth
Aprile Lack
Gerri Leonard
Timothy Leonard
Ming-Jiunn Lin
Michaela Mahler
Kate Maple
Dale Mulfingher
Janice Mulfingher
William Neujahr

Anthony Norcia
Amanda Norman
Daniel O'Shea
Rena Pagel
Harsh Parikh
Rachel Petersen
Gary Reiersen
Pam Reiersen
Darla Roelofs
Jessica Sartell
Jon Schraut
Jennifer Seamans
Spencer Seamans
John Secord
Lou Anne Siefert
Richard Siefert
Judith Simon
Eric Sims
Lance Sorensen
Donald Starzinski
Christopher Stolsky
JulLea Stolsky
Carol Stotko
Tammy Sturdevant
Beth Thielen
Steven Thom
Tara Thom
Daniel Thompson
Debra Thompson
Amy Tolbert
Eric Ung
Jeanne Wahtera
Richard Wahtera
John Wallace
Kathleen Wallace
Kerry Wallace
Scott Wallace
Erin Whitcomb Crafton
Lucas Wong

**Reflects January 16, 2019,
to April 15, 2019*

Join this list of Life Members by
upgrading your membership today!
UMNAlumni.org/join | 800-862-5867

STAY CONNECTED

-  UMNAlumni.org
-  [/MinnesotaAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaAlumni)
-  [UMAA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/UMAA)
-  [@UMNAlumni](https://twitter.com/UMNAlumni)
-  [/UMNAlumni](https://www.instagram.com/UMNAlumni)
-  [/UMNAlumni](https://www.pinterest.com/UMNAlumni)
-  [/UMNAlumni](https://www.youtube.com/UMNAlumni)
- [#UMNAlumni](#)
- [#UMNProud](#)

UPDATE
YOUR INFO
update.umn.edu



THE UMAA HONORS DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

The Horace T. Morse-UMAA awards for contributions to undergraduate education were presented at a ceremony on April 24. Recipients were (from left to right): Cheryl A. Olman, Sauman Chu, Daniel F. Keefe, Lisa A. Miller, Michael Lower, Catherine E. Wolfgram French, Rebecca Dean Swenson, and (not pictured) Eric Daigre.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT



Complimentary ID Theft Plan*

- Register for your plan today!
- All University of Minnesota Alumni Association Members** are eligible
- Visit umnalumni.securusid.com to register (no credit card required)

* Courtesy of University of Minnesota Alumni Association
** Membership will be verified

SECURUS ID



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH NEARLY 500,000 U OF M ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Customize your print, digital and sponsor package. Creative options like this magazine belly band available.

For rates and demographics:
UMNAlumni.org/advertise

Contact information:
MinnesotaAlumni@umn.edu
612-626-4874





My Father's Glove



John Rosengren is a Minneapolis freelance writer who also sometimes teaches in the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Illustration by James Heimer

By John Rosengren

Shortly before he died, my dad gave me his baseball glove. It's one of those big leather blobs with thick fingers, a Wilson model maybe 70 years old. On the band of leather that wrapped around his wrist, my dad had etched his name, BILL ROSENGREN. All caps. The "B" and "R" have the flourish of his creative side (the former *Minnesota Daily* cartoonist); the other letters display his impeccable penmanship (the dutiful U of M law student). He used a wood burning tool, whose mark would endure longer than a pen's ink. The glove, worn and aged, has preserved his personality.

I imagine the glove new: dark brown, aromatic leather. My dad, 13, 14 years old, tenderly rubbing oil into the pocket. I picture that boy—the skinny kid with short blond hair I know from black and white photographs—scooping ground balls with that lumpy glove, clapping his free hand over the pocket to trap the ball.

He played in a park near Minnehaha Falls. A road has since erased the field, but his stories about the games linger. My favorite is of the kid who slugged a ball that crashed into the popcorn cart past left field, breaking glass and scattering players—except for the batter, who gleefully rounded the bases before fleeing. I loved the way my dad laughed when he told that story, his eyes crinkling, his complexion reddening.

In another photograph, this one from the early '50s, my dad poses with his Navy shipmates in baseball uniforms, the glove resting on his knee. He played second base in a tournament against Alaskan teams during his ship's tour. I hardly recognize the young man—front row, second from the left—with several days' growth of beard. He was always clean-shaven as my father. I marvel that he had lived almost half of his life before I knew him.

Pondering that glove today, I'm curious about the time he bought it, probably with money from his paper route. Was he one of the first among his buddies to have a glove? One of the last? When someone dies, things we never thought to ask assume a sudden importance and stoke in us a desire to know, as though that knowing would bring the lost one closer to us, would ease the separation brought by death, soften its permanence.

This ache to know our parents often visits us too late. Yet had it come earlier for me, I'm not sure it would have been satisfied. My dad was a difficult man to get to know, a Swede who could go long stretches without speaking. Born in 1934, he was native to a generation of men who did not discuss their emotions. He shared some memories, but not about his father who disappeared on drinking binges; not about his mother, bitterly working to pay her husband's gambling debts. So often, that's the way it is. We're left with a view from the outside wishing we could know what it was like inside.

Today, I pick the glove off the shelf and slide my hand into it. Part of the beauty of an old leather glove is the way it shapes to one's hand, formed by so many days of sunshine and sweat. The glove does not fit me the way it did my dad. It's stiff in places, short in the fingers, wide in the palm.

I'm surprised to feel deep inside the fingers the leather has broken open and the ragged edges chafe my skin. The exposed padding is soft, tender. It seems I have stumbled upon a secret, something intimate I had not known. Maybe my dad knew I would, and this was his way of letting me glimpse what it had been like to be him. ■

THE ULTIMATE STAYCATION STARTS AT HOME.

Residents of The Pillars of Prospect Park will enjoy complimentary access to WellnessVR, a virtual lifelong learning and enrichment platform that is designed specifically for seniors. This award-winning WellnessVR programming has been proven to increase positive emotions, promote relaxation and enhance therapeutic sensations.



THE PILLARS
OF PROSPECT PARK
SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE



PROUD PARTNERSHIP WITH



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



612-623-7000 | PROSPECTPARKSENIOR.COM



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN

Electronic Service Requested

HELPING FAMILIES FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

Accra provides support to families that need help in their homes for a loved one with a disability. We'll help you navigate the different services available to you.

PCA Choice is one of our services that allows you to choose a family member or friend to be your paid caregiver.



Non-Profit Home Care Agency

We accept major insurance plans; Medicaid and private pay.

Call us and ask about the possibilities!

866-935-3515 • Metro 952-935-3515

SERVING PEOPLE STATEWIDE
www.accracare.org