

Artes Liberales TODAY

College of Letters and Science
Volume 6, Number 2

SPRING 2001

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A Center of the World

CSUMC Collection



Otto and Iva Kundert Rindlishbacher of the Wisconsin Lumberjack troupe, with button accordion and "Viking Cello," Rice Lake, 1938.

BY JAMES P. LEARY,

*Professor of Folklore and
Scandinavian Studies and
Co-director of the Center
for the Study of Upper
Midwestern Cultures*

In 1925 the journalist Konrad Bercovici traversed America, chronicling the cultural contributions of diverse peoples to the nation. Wisconsin prompted his exultation: "There is not a single nation on earth that is not represented . . . One can literally pass through Wisconsin with any language one happens to possess, sure in advance of finding someone to speak to."

In late spring 2001 Randy Tallmadge gathered his extended Ho Chunk family in a place where their people had come for generations to honor water spirits and dramatize ceaseless relationships: the

reliance of human beings on water; the recognition that rain drops falling on Wisconsin swell lakes and rivers, join the waters of the world, generate clouds, return again as rain.

Words, ceremonies and stories—our languages, our folklore—characterize and conjoin us whoever and wherever we are. Wisconsin, like every other place, is distinctive yet connected. A source of, and a repository for, rich cultural traditions. A center of the world.

I began to grasp these truths in Rice Lake, where I was born and raised. Once the site of wild rice encampments, Rice Lake became a French fur trading post in the late 18th century, then a logging town in the post-Civil War era, before evolving into the northwoods farming, manufacturing, resort, and college community it has been since

the late 19th century. As I grew up I encountered a staggering range of languages and folklore.

Wisconsin, like every other place, is distinctive yet connected. A source of, and a repository for, rich cultural traditions. A center of the world.

"What's your nationality?" was one of the first questions I recall hearing as a kindergartener. By then I knew I was Irish and, with help from my dad, I had begun to match surnames with ethnicity.

Gagner was French Canadian, Destache was Belgian, Cooper was English, Eidesmoe was Norwegian, Ahonen was Finnish, Ivanauskas was Lithuanian, Bandli was Swiss, Schaubslager was German, Juza was Bohemian, Rogowski was Polish, Evitch was Croatian, DeGidio was Italian, and Benavides was Mexican American. And there were German and eastern European Jews with a range of surnames: Meskin, Parker, Shilkrot, Stein. Many Ojibwe and *metis* people had French names: Guibord, Quaderer, Rousseau. And up the road near Spooner, the African-American Chaney family ran a tavern. By the summer of 1975 Southeast Asian refugees were making their way into the area, just as Chinese sojourners had come a century earlier.

Roaming mom and pop grocery stores I often overheard locals whose first language was not English ordering jars of *sill* (Norwegian for pickled herring) or commenting on their craving for *schmierkäse* (German for cottage cheese—sometimes spelled "smearcase" on handwritten signs). In the polyglot atmosphere of church dinners, powwows, friends' homes, and fairs I sampled *kolacky*, fry bread, and pea soup. Live radio shows on WJMC yielded Polish fiddling, Swiss yodeling, and Swedish accordion tunes.

Continued on the next page

CONTENTS

A Center of the World	1&2
Grandparents University Connects Generations	2
Letters & Science: The Heart of a Great University	3
Creating the Future in L&S	3
When Earth Began	4
Persistence Pays Off for L&S Returning Adult Students	4
Jane Austen in the 21 st Century	5
Chancellor Milo Minderbinder?	5
Women's Studies Turns 25	6
News Briefs	6
L&S Potpourri	7
In Memoriam	7
A Moveable Feast L&S Alumni at Large	8



A Center of the World

Continued from page 1

Like many indigenous and converted “cheeseheads” I absorbed such experiences and never thought much about their cultural origins and regional peculiarities until I went to school outside Wisconsin and discovered that my hometown friends’ names were “weird,” that some of my expressions seemed “foreign,” that not everyone sang “In Heaven There Is No Beer” or danced the polka, and that I “talked funny.” Rather than change my ways, I began to investigate them, pursuing a PhD in Folklore and American Studies, reading widely, delving into archival collections,

and documenting the lives and folklore of the Upper Midwest’s remarkable peoples.

Other humanities scholars at UW–Madison—anthropologists, ethnomusicologists, folklorists, geographers, historians, landscape architects, linguists, specialists in material culture and in ethnic studies—share the conviction that one of the tasks of a great university is to tell the story of its region’s peoples. Together we have created the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, to teach, research, and develop archival collections and public programs regarding the languages and folklore of the Upper Midwest, those unique and shared human expressions that make our region a center of the world.

Jim Leary



Xiao Yang Lee displays her Hmong paj ntaub reverse applique work, Sheboygan, 1993.

The College of Letters and Science established the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures in 2001. It is dedicated to study of the Upper Midwest, an area bordered by the Great Lakes on the east, Ontario and Manitoba to the north, the Great Plains to the west, and prairie to the south. Bisected by the Upper Mississippi River, the region spans Wisconsin and Minnesota, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, the eastern Dakotas, northern Illinois and Iowa. Its cities include Chicago and other urban centers, and it is linked in commerce and culture to river towns like St. Louis, Missouri. Rural or urban, the region’s peoples constitute its richest resource. The region includes the greatest cultural and linguistic variety of American Indians east of the Mississippi, and comprises the nation’s largest concentrations of many European-American groups. African-Americans and Hispanic peoples are increasingly important to the region, which also hosts America’s second largest Hmong population.

In its first year, the center has received a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. For additional information, visit the center online at <http://www.wisc.edu/csumc/>.

Grandparents University connects generations

Letters and Science alumni will have a unique opportunity to experience the college with their grandchildren through a “Grandparents University” that will be held on the Madison campus July 19–20.

Grandparents University is a two-day workshop in which children ages 7–12 and their grandparents participate in hands-on learning experiences. These intergenerational

students will earn a “degree” together in ecology, history, science or communication arts while learning more about one another through shared stories and shared experiences. L&S deans and professors will lead the sessions on science and communication arts.

As science “majors,” grandparents and children can explore the groundbreaking work that scientists are doing today. They will participate in hands-on experiments using DNA with L&S Associate Dean Herb Wang.

Those who sign up for communication arts will get a behind-the-scenes look at acting, directing, and producing a television program. L&S Associate Dean Mary Anne Fitz-

patrick will lead workshops in the art of stage acting at Vilas Hall, where programs like “Zoom” and “Teen Connection” are produced. Communication arts students will also have a firsthand look at the technology that goes into producing television shows.

The registration deadline for Grandparents University is Thursday, July 5. Cost: \$120 per adult, \$60 per grandchild. To request registration information and a brochure, call UW Extension, (888) 391-4255, or visit the Web at: <http://www.uwalumni.com/grandparents/>. This program is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Association and UW Extension.

Volume 6, Number 2

Artes Liberales TODAY is published twice yearly by the College of Letters and Science for L&S alumni and friends of the College. It is produced in part with gift funds administered through UW Foundation. Please address all correspondence and suggestions to:

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Artes Liberales
We'll be back in 2002!

In May 2001 we asked for your feedback on *Artes Liberales TODAY!* Since then, we’ve carried out a telephone survey of Letters and Science alumni to gather additional information. Thank you to all of the L&S graduates who took the time to respond. Over the coming months we will take a break from our publication schedule in order to consider ways of implementing your comments and suggestions.

We’ll publish our next issue in early 2002. In the meantime, you can find the latest L&S news and information on our new and expanded website at <http://www.ls.wisc.edu/news.htm>.

LETTERS AND SCIENCE: The Heart of a Great University

BY PHILLIP R. CERTAIN, *Dean*

Frank Capra's classic film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, introduced us to the character of George Bailey, the unassuming everyman who was so immersed in his community that the importance of his daily contributions to the lives of those around him were invisible to others and, often, to himself. Within daily university life, the College of Letters and Science can be a bit like George Bailey. Our departments and people are frequently in the limelight for their discoveries or other accomplishments. What is less visible, however, is the core role that the college plays in supporting the UW–Madison's educational programs.

Consider, for example, that the overwhelming majority of each freshman class enters UW–Madison through the College of Letters and Science. While many will graduate with degrees in agriculture, business, education, engineering, or other fields, all undergraduates take many classes in L&S during their first two years. Indeed, the college teaches almost 90% of all freshman/sophomore credit hours each year. Letters and Science plays such a large role in the first two undergraduate years on the Madison campus because the foundation courses in arts and humanities, social sciences, and mathematics and natural sciences required for graduation in the professional schools are taught in L&S departments.

Over half of UW–Madison's undergraduates will stay within the college to earn their BA or BS degrees. Many students will change their majors, sometimes more than once, before they graduate. A large number will



Phillip R. Certain, Dean of the College of Letters and Science, with freshman Sheridan Bearheart in 1996.

earn degrees with more than one major, an achievement that is part of our students' understanding that breadth of knowledge is an asset in today's job market. Regardless of the field, the college has worked to build and sustain a faculty, staff, and programs that provide access to cutting edge research such as John Valley's recent discovery of the origins of Earth (p. 4), and rich complementary academic resources such as the recent Austen festival (p. 5).

Not content to perpetuate the disciplines as they always have existed, Letters and Science has long been at the forefront in devel-

oping new areas of academic enterprise. Those programs, in turn, have produced some of the earliest graduates trained in innovative fields of study. This year, for example, we have celebrated the 30th anniversary of Afro-American Studies and the 25th anniversary of Women's Studies (p. 6), both fields that were formed as risk-taking ventures but which now stand as two of the most respected and well-established programs of their kind in the United States. And we continue to add programs, such as the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures (p. 1), to provide focus for emerging areas of scholarship.

If one reads the history of L&S, the college's roles within the University of Wisconsin and within contemporary scholarship are not new to the 20th century. Since its earliest days, L&S has established a tradition of excellence in teaching and scholarship with support from the State of Wisconsin and from private donors, which makes excellence a reality for students at all levels from incoming freshmen to graduating Ph.D. candidates.

Over the coming months you will be hearing about the campaign to "Create the Future" through which L&S will join with units across the UW–Madison to raise the funds that will allow us to continue to offer a world-class education to our students. Like George Bailey, we will need help from our friends as the campaign moves forward. Not because we are on the brink of failure, but to ensure that College of Letters and Science will be able to continue to provide the foundations of success for future generations of UW–Madison alumni.

CREATING THE FUTURE IN L&S

Helen Firstbrook Franklin Bequest

A generous bequest from the estate of Helen Firstbrook Franklin will establish an endowed professorship and two distinguished graduate fellowships in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The bequest also will create two distinguished graduate fellowships in the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies. The Franklin estate also will endow student activities in the undergraduate Writing Fellows Program and innovative projects in the arts and humanities within the College of Letters and Science.

Franklin left her hometown of Asbury Park, New Jersey, in the early 1930s to study journalism at UW–Madison. She graduated in 1937 and returned to the East Coast where she worked for a public relations firm before Mrs. DeWitt Wallace, co-founder of *Reader's Digest*, hired her as librarian for the publication. After three years, Franklin moved to the editorial department. This was the first of several moves as she built her 38-year career at the publication.

In the 1940s and 1950s Franklin assumed leadership in developing *Reader's Digest's* coverage of Latin America. She became interested in the region through travel and subsequently developed considerable expertise by attending academic conferences and building strong contacts among Latin American Studies scholars throughout the United States. Franklin maintained her interest in the region until her retirement, working closely with the *Digest's* offices throughout Latin America.

David and Greta Lindberg Create History of Science Excellence fund.

David Lindberg is retiring this year after more than 30 distinguished years on the faculty of the Department of the History of Science during which he received a campus distinguished teaching award and a Hilldale professorship. During his years on the faculty, Lindberg taught history of science courses to thousands of history of science majors and Integrated Liberal Studies students. As a former department chair, Lindberg is acutely aware of the difference that it can make when a small department has flexible funds to host special academic events, support graduate student research and travel, etc. To mark his retirement, Lindberg and his wife have made a \$10,000 gift to help establish just such a fund for the department.

Former Students Honor Herb and Evelyn Howe

In 1996, a group of former "Ford Scholars" initiated The Herb and Evelyn Howe Bascom Professorship in Integrated Liberal Studies (ILS) to honor the couple, who served as important faculty, advisers and surrogate parents for them. Ford Scholars were 15–16 year-olds who were given early admission to the University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, and some Ivy League Schools in the 1950s because they were deemed exceptionally bright. In retrospect, many feel that they were ill-equipped to handle some of the pressures presented in a university environment. Herb Howe, emeritus professor of classics,

and his wife Evelyn, emeritus lecturer in ILS, invited the students to dinner at their house and served as friendly counselors and teachers, making the experience much more rewarding for many students.

Gift to Geology and Geophysics Helps to Visualize Below the Surface

Students in the Department of Geology and Geophysics will get hands-on experience with state of the art visualization technology, thanks to a gift from the British Petroleum Company. The 2 Sun workstations, 4 monitors, and associated equipment will be housed in the department's new Sedimentary Geology Visualization Laboratory in Weeks Hall. The facility's 3-D visualization of subsurface data represents an important tool in interpreting sedimentary basin evolution, groundwater flow, and structural features in the upper crust. Experience with workstation interpretation will enable geology and geophysics graduates to compete even more effectively for petroleum and other industry jobs. The department is developing a special course in workstation interpretation to enhance learning opportunities, which will use the laboratory and the new equipment. The gift was arranged with the assistance of L&S Board of Visitors member Patricia Wright (BA '74, communication arts), who is vice president of external relations at Amoco BP, and the geology and geophysics Board of Visitors President Joy Nania (BS '84, geology and geophysics), a BP Assets Manager and geoscience recruiter.

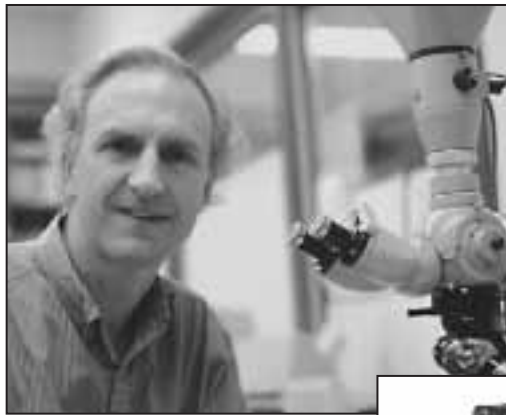
When Earth Began

Early one morning a few years ago, John Valley stumbled across the geological equivalent of the double helix. Working in a basement lab at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, at 3:00 in the morning, the professor of geology and geophysics was startled to discover highly evolved oxygen isotopes in the 4.4-billion-year-old zircon crystal that his team was analyzing. Although this may not seem significant at first blush, “What we found were signs of the very beginning, the very origins, of the crust of the Earth,” says Valley.

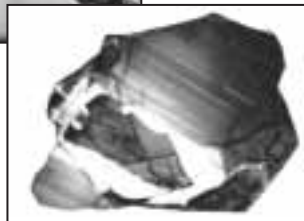
Valley and his colleagues, former student William H. Peck (PhD, geology and geophysics, '00) and Elizabeth King (PhD, geology and geophysics, '01) were testing a zircon crystal that has been determined to be the world's oldest known terrestrial material. It is unlikely that scientists will find an older zircon since earlier crust is believed to have melted during the formation of the moon or the differentiation of the Earth's core.

The team's findings contradict established interpretations of the earliest days of Earth. That is, the chemistry of the zircon and the rock in which it crystallized could only have formed from material in a low-temperature environment at Earth's surface. The emerging

Department of Geology and Geophysics



John Valley. Right: Microscopic view of a zircon crystal determined to be 4.4 billion years old.



Professor John W. Valley

picture is of an Earth with a low-temperature environment, oceans, the beginnings of continents, and conditions suitable for life.

“Conventional wisdom would not have predicted a low-temperature environment. Based on what we believed, the Earth's surface should have been a magma ocean. These results may indicate that the Earth cooled faster than anyone thought,” says Valley. These conditions also call into question existing theories of the formation of the Moon.

The discovery, which has generated

intense scientific and public interest, confirms the importance of basic research, says Valley. “It was scientific serendipity at its best.” The group was conducting a comparative study of the oxygen isotopes in a suite of 3.0 to 4.4-billion-year-old zircons with 2.7-billion-year-old-zircons that King analyzed in her MS thesis when they made their unexpected measurements. The importance of their findings is tremendously humbling, he adds. “We were just nosing around doing our science. We immediately realized the implications of what we'd found, but we waited more than a year before publishing our results in order to reproduce our measurements to be certain they are correct.”

Peck and King were the first and second recipients of the Dean Morgridge Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. Valley, Peck, King, along with Simon Wilde and Colin Graham are co-authors of three articles outlining the discovery and its significance. The first article was published in *Nature* (January 11, 2001). To learn more, visit the “Zircons Are Forever” Web site at http://www.geology.wisc.edu/zircon/zircon_home.html.

Persistence Pays Off for L&S Returning Adult Students

Evelyn Cruz's father taught her and her brothers and sisters to read and write before she started first grade in Isabeala, Puerto Rico. “My father had to leave school after the sixth grade,” Cruz recalls, “and he was determined that all of us would go as far in school as we possibly could.”

Cruz, who is completing a BA in international relations, is one of two recipients of UW-Madison's Outstanding Returning Adult Student Awards. The other is Janette Langdon, who will graduate in May with a B.A. in sociology.

Cruz entered UW-Madison in 1988, just a year after graduating from high school in Isabeala. During her freshman year she married and gave birth to two children in the next

Mary Lock Alrecht



Janette Langdon and daughter.

two years. For Cruz, “dreams of education gave way to family responsibilities.”

After working full-time as an administrative assistant for nine years, she returned to college in January 1999. The long delay only increased her determination to succeed. Although her father died from ALS shortly after she returned to school, she threw herself into her studies with an enthusiasm that earned her a place on the Dean's list and praise from professors for her commitment in the face of so many other responsibilities.

In addition to serving on the board of L&S's Academic Advancement Program, Cruz volunteers with her daughter's Girl Scout troop and has taught her son's Sunday School class. Most recently she has been helping to establish and raise funds for a Latino credit union in Madison. She ultimately plans to attend law school and eventually to practice international law.

Janette Langdon entered college more than 30 years ago when she enrolled at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. A diving accident forced her to leave school, and her then-husband's military career meant living in many different parts of the world during the next 15 years. Dur-

ing that time, she had two children.

She settled in Madison and enrolled at UW-Madison in 1989 but left in 1992 following her divorce and her brother's death from AIDS. She then worked as an office manager and as a special-education assistant in area schools.

A few days before the start of fall semester 1999, Langdon was trying to decide whether to go back to college or to accept an assignment as a special-ed assistant for another year. On her way to submit paperwork, she vowed that if she could find a parking place, she would take it as a sign that she should indeed return to school. “Not only was a place waiting for me, but there was still time left on the meter! From that point on, I literally ran my application through the process.”

She has hardly stopped moving since, maintaining a 3.9 GPA while tutoring in the Madison schools and playing the piano and singing in her church and in nursing homes around Madison.

After graduation, Langdon plans to continue working in some way with children or young adults. “I've been told by one professor that I ‘bring research to life.’ I find that with all my life experiences, including raising and loving my kids, I can offer a lot of help and encouragement to young people of many ages.”

Herbert Howe—Around the World in 80 Years



Jules Verne gave us the adventurous tale of traveling around the world in 80 days in boats, hot air balloons and automobiles. Herbert Howe, an emeritus professor of classics, in contrast, figures that swimming around the globe has taken him nearly 80 years. Howe says he's done enough laps in his 88 years to transit the polar circumference of the earth, which is about 24,855 miles.

“He's a world class [swimmer] and has held many records,” says Barry Powell, a professor of classics who has known Howe for 27 years. Howe's achievements extend beyond the swimming pool into academia. “He's one of the greatest teachers in the history of UW-Madison,” says Powell. “He's an amazing man, an old-school gentleman and a great storyteller with a powerful sense of humor.”

Mary Lock Alrecht



Evelyn Cruz and daughter.

BY EMILY AUERBACH, Professor of English and Continuing Studies

Jane Austen (1775–1817) is one of the greatest novelists of all time. As the 21st century begins, both popular and academic interest in her has never been higher. She remains one of the world's new writers whose entire canon (*Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*) is widely read, hailed as “classic,” and transformed into movies.

In all six of her brilliantly crafted novels, Austen focuses on young women and men who make mistakes and grow from their independent struggles. Recurrent themes include the discrepancy between appearance and reality, the horror of loveless or inequitable marriages, the need to balance reason and emotion, the devastating effects of materialism and snobbery, and the inadequacy of female education. Irony laces Austen's descriptions of guardians without wisdom, clergymen without mercy, and aristocrats without good breeding.

Though all six novels concentrate on the daily lives of a few country families, readers can discover bold passages if they read between the lines, as children engaged in a “Hidden Pictures” activity can find subtly drawn silhouettes of a boot or knife concealed in what looks like only a charming country scene. One such passage occurs in *Persuasion* when Anne Elliot rejects Captain Harville's assertion that women are fickle because books say so: “I will not allow books to prove anything,” Anne retorts, for “Men have had every advantage in telling their own story. Education has been theirs in so much higher degree; the pen has been in their hands.” By taking pen in hand and turning her rapier-like wit on society, Austen quietly but firmly challenged



nearly every assumption of her age.

Austen's novels do far more than reflect her own age or provide an easy escape to a time of candlelight and horse-drawn carriages. As millions of readers and moviegoers have discovered, Austen's characters follow them back into their own lives. We have all gotten stuck on an airplane sitting next to a “great talker upon little matters” like Miss Bates of *Emma*, footed the bill for a sponger like Aunt Norris of *Mansfield Park*, or attended committee meetings with an unctuous name-dropper like Mr. Collins of *Pride and Prejudice*. “How really *Modern* Jane Austen is, after all,” concludes Eudora Welty (BA '29, English).

Austen's lasting appeal was abundantly clear at the recent “Jane Austen in the 21st Century” Festival sponsored by the College of Letters and Science's new Center for the

Humanities. From April 23–29, several thousand people participated in the festival's diverse celebrations of the author: academic talks on Jane Austen and War, an English country dance, talks given in a hospital about Jane Austen's death from Addison's disease, a cyberworkshop, concerts, watercolor displays, book exhibits, or film showings. Featured speakers included distinguished British novelist and Austen scholar Margaret Drabble and BBC screenwriter par excellence Andrew Davies.

Curious Madisonians who showed up that week at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the Elvehjem Museum of Art, Attic Angels Retirement Center, the Stoughton Opera House, or Grace Episcopal Church found themselves learning about some aspect of Jane Austen while sitting next to eager “Janeites” from Texas, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Canada, and France.

Public radio programming, TV appearances, and webcasts brought Jane Austen to a large and diverse 21st-century audience.

“I simply had no idea an old writer could be so ‘now!’” commented one of my undergraduates. To paraphrase the ending of *Emma*, the wishes, the hopes, the confidence, the predictions of the small band of us who planned the week were fully answered in the perfect happiness of the festival.

The Center for the Humanities was established by the College of Letters and Science in 1999 to serve as a focal point for interdisciplinary activity in the humanities at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. For additional information on the Austen festival or the Center for the Humanities, visit the center's Web site at <http://www.humanities.wisc.edu/>.

Chancellor Milo Minderbinder?

“I like my fresh eggs fried,” Major _____ de Coverly remembered. “In fresh butter.”

“I can find all the fresh butter we need in Sicily for twenty-five cents a pound,” Milo answered. “Twenty-five cents a pound for fresh butter is a good buy. There's enough money in the mess fund for butter too, and we could probably sell some to the other squadrons at a profit and get back most of what we pay for our own.”

What's your name, son?” asked Major _____ de Coverly.

“My name is Milo Minderbinder, sir. I am twenty-seven years old.”

— *Catch-22*, by Joseph Heller

On January 1, 2001, John Wiley (MS '65, PhD '68, physics) became the 27th chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, succeeding David Ward (MS '62, PhD '63, geography) who has become president of the American Council on Education. Prior to being named chancellor, Wiley served as provost (1994–2000) and as dean of The Graduate School ((1989–1994).

Wiley's ties to UW–Madison go back to 1964 when he entered the graduate program in the Department of Physics. He had just fin-

ished his undergraduate degree in physics at Indiana University, and had a two-year National Science Foundation Fellowship (NSF) that would allow him to go to school almost anywhere.

Although Wiley visited several other universities, he ultimately settled on Madison because “I didn't know what specialty I wanted so I picked the department that had lots of options so that I wouldn't close any doors.

When I got here I absolutely loved the campus and the department, where Connie (Converse) Blanchard spent a lot of time talking about the program and the choices I would have if I came here.”

Because of Wiley's astute management of the department coffee fund during his grad school years, physics faculty and grad students nicknamed him “Milo Minderbinder” after the fictional wheeler-dealer in Joseph Heller's novel, *Catch-22*. “We were all big coffee drinkers, draining two 100-cup coffee pots that we kept going all day long. We bought so much coffee that I convinced the A&P store at the corner of University Ave. and Broom Street to give us discounts because we bought it by the case. I also set up a system where

Jeff Miller



people paid for the coffee on a ‘two cups for a nickel’ honor system. People started calling me Milo Minderbinder after the character in *Catch-22* because, against all expectations, we made so much money that we'd have to throw a party each month to get rid of our profits.”

Although he came to specialize in solid state physics, Wiley believes that “physics is the best preparation for any-

thing that you want to do in life,” he says. “In the end, it's fundamentally about how to analyze problems and go about solving them. It's certainly the best preparation for lifelong learning.”

Wiley has carried physics' larger lessons into his new role as the head of a world class research institution. “This is a big, complex, self-acting, self-organizing system. As we move forward, my challenge is to find the balance between making things happen and letting things happen,” says Wiley.

At the same time, his years as the Milo Minderbinder of the department coffee fund taught him other, more practical, lessons. “The resourcefulness that I learned serves me well in my role as chancellor,” he smiles.

Women's Studies Turns 25

Twenty-five years ago, the Women's Studies Program opened its doors, giving women an academic "room of one's own" at UW–Madison. The program was established within the College of Letters and Science and was a small venture that first year, when it offered four courses on the relationship of women to society.

Speaking to *The Capital Times* in September, 2000, Susan Friedman, professor of English, recalled, "There was considerable agitation and struggle here to get courses on women and gender issues in the curriculum. But once this administration became convinced that we should have a women's studies program, the decision was made that we should have a really fine one."

The faculty who stepped forward to put the program together had little experience running academic programs, a province reserved for men in those days. But women's studies drew faculty and staff from across the campus, an eager group of students, and community members who were committed to building a program that would last. As a result of their efforts and support from Letters and Science, the Women's Studies Program emerged as one of the top such programs in the United States. "We were able to succeed

because we had much of what we needed from the very beginning and didn't have to scramble for what we needed," says Jane Piliavin, professor of sociology, who chaired the program during its first year.

In its earliest years the program was located in an old

University of Wisconsin Archives



Professor Jane Piliavin, chair of the Women's Studies Program during its inaugural year, 1975.

house at 209 North Brooks Street, an arrangement that was the ironic product of Piliavin's failed strategy to avoid serving as program chair. "I was a very reluctant chair," Piliavin explains. "When Dean (David) Cronon asked me to chair the program, I wrote a memo outlining everything that I thought the program would need to have in order to succeed. The list included half-time appointments for the chair and associate chair with budget lines for both, a full time secretary, space of our own, our own budget line, and three assistant professors to be appointed jointly with other departments in the first year. It was outrageous, and I thought it would get me off the hook. I was stunned when Dean Cronon called me a few days later and told me that we could have it all."

The house at 209 North Brooks St. became a true home for the program, serving

as the center for department meetings, faculty and TA office hours, and countless academic, cultural and social events. The Women's Studies Program moved to Ingraham Hall in 1996, having grown to include the Women's Studies Research Center.

Today, the program offers more than 25 classes on topics including women's bodies in health and disease, women in sports, black women's writings, and upper-level independent graduate courses. The program serves about 1,000 students every semester, according to Nancy Kaiser, professor of German and women's studies, and current program chair.

"The first 25 years of the Women's Studies program on the Madison campus saw the establishment of a certificate, Ph.D. minor and undergraduate major. We are now in the development stage of a graduate program in Women's Studies with a focus on women and gender in global multicultural context. The international emphasis and an understanding of interactive cultures in the 21st century, as well as in historical perspective, address the direction contemporary feminist scholarship is taking," Kaiser says.

Outreach to policy makers, activists, professionals and other constituents always has been important, providing vital links and helping to keep the program vibrant, Kaiser says. "One new aspect of our undergraduate major is an internship or service-learning component, which enrolls about 15 seniors during the spring semester in an experience combining scholarly understanding and practical community activity," she says. "We feel it is essential that a university education bridge the gap between the institution and the social worlds beyond the campus."

For additional information on the program and the anniversary celebration, visit the Women's Studies Program on the Web at: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/wsp/>.

University of Wisconsin Archives



Professor Susan Friedman, founding member of the Women's Studies Program faculty, in 1981.

NEWS BRIEFS

American Academy of Arts and Sciences

William M. Denevan, Carl O. Sauer Professor Emeritus of geography and **Lorrie Moore**, professor of English, have been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Denevan is a leader in the field of cultural ecology and has transformed our understanding of the environmental and material conditions of the pre-Hispanic Americas. His research has uncovered the hydraulic base of Andean civilizations, documented the large size of native populations and demonstrated the scale of landscaped changes.

Moore, an accomplished poet, novelist, and author of short stories, is described by the academy as "the American Chekhov." In 1999, *The Irish Times* awarded her its International Fiction Prize and John Updike selected two of her stories for inclusion in the *Best Short Stories of the Century*. Known for her skepticism of popular culture, she is renowned for looking at tragedy with from a wry perspective. Her most recent book is *Birds of America*.

National Academy of Sciences

All of the UW–Madison's newest members of the National Academy of Science are drawn from the Letters and Science faculty. They are:

Larry Bumpass, emeritus professor of sociology and director of the National Survey of Families and Households, is a well-known demographer whose studies of marriage and the family have helped portray key trends in American life. From studies of fertility and cohabitation to the changing structure of the American family, Bumpass has helped chronicle societal trends that are among the most important and personal for millions of Americans.

Stephen Carpenter, the Halverson Professor of Limnology and a professor of zoology, joined the UW–Madison faculty in 1989. He is an ecosystem ecologist known for his work on large-scale experiments and adaptive ecosystem management. He has studied food chains and several factors which affect production and nutrient cycling, contaminant cycles, freshwater fisheries, eutrophication, non-point pollution, and ecological economics of freshwater.

The J.E. Willard and Hilldale Professor of Chemistry, **F. Fleming Crim** is an authority on chemical reactions at the molecular level. He is also known internationally for developing techniques in spectroscopy for controlling chemical reactions with light. Crim joined the UW–Madison faculty in 1977.

Balio Named First Academy Film Scholar

Tino Balio, professor of communication arts and noted film historian, has been named the first Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' first Academy Film Scholar. Balio will join a former UW–Madison colleague, Donald Crafton as the debut recipients of the \$25,000 honor. Crafton is now a professor of communication and theater at Notre Dame University. Balio will use the award to write his new book, *A Radically Different Cinema: Foreign Films in America, 1948 to the Present*.

Distinguished Teaching Awards, 2001

Six Letters and Science faculty are among eight honored with UW–Madison Distinguished Teaching Awards for 2001. They are: **Aaron Brower**, professor of social work and integrated liberal studies

Martin Cadwallader, professor of geography and interim dean of the Graduate School
John Coleman, associate professor of political science

Heather Dubrow, Bascom and Tighe-Evans professor of English

Stephen Kantrowitz, assistant professor of history

Seth Pollak, assistant professor of psychology

L&S Potpourri

A small taste from the Letters and Science banquet

Partnership Trains Child Welfare Workers for Wisconsin

A new collaboration between the School of Social Work, the State of Wisconsin, and health and human services agencies in Dane and Rock counties will help train child welfare workers with help from a \$1.2 million grant from the Wisconsin Division of Health and Family Services. Joan Robertson, director of the School of Social Work, says the funds will support 20 students, paying for their tuition, books and supplies, and travel expenses. Students also will receive a cash stipend. After graduation, participating students will work one year in a Wisconsin public welfare agency for each year that they have received funding.

"There's a real need for public child welfare leaders in Wisconsin," Robertson says. "Many children and families have

complex problems related to poverty, mental health, victimization, racism, substance abuse, and more. This partnership offers an outstanding opportunity to train social workers to address the needs of Wisconsin children and families in creative and unique ways within the current economic and social environment."

Religious Studies and Jewish Studies Majors Approved

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents has approved two new undergraduate majors. A bachelor of arts degree in religious studies will allow students to examine in depth a variety of world religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and more. Students working toward the new Jewish studies degree will be able to focus on a particular aspect of Judaism such as Jew-

Jeff Miller



ish history, philosophy, literature, music or law. The College of Letters and Science's interdisciplinary Religious Studies Program will offer the religious studies major, and its George L. Mosse-Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies will administer the Jewish studies major.

LVM Museum of Art Awarded Accreditation

After a recent on-site review by a team of experienced museum professionals, the American Association of Museums (AAM) has again awarded accreditation to the Elvehjem Museum of Art. Of the 8,000 museums in the nation, only some 750 are accredited. This distinction, the highest honor an American museum can receive, recognizes a museum's commitment to excellence and high professional standards of operation and public service and its leadership and educational role in the community. To visit the Elvehjem Museum of Art online, go to <http://www.lvm.wisc.edu/intro.html>.

Traveling Course Examines Freedom Rides

This spring marks the 40th anniversary of the Freedom Rides which drew large groups of college students to the South in support of African-American voting and civil rights. In a unique three-week summer class, UW-Madison students will explore the historical meanings of the Civil Rights movement on a different kind of journey.

"Freedom Ride: The Sites and Sounds of the Civil Rights Movement," or Afro-American Studies 671, will take students through the South from May 29-June 14 on a bus that serves as a rolling classroom. The instructors, professors Tim Tyson and Craig Werner, Department of Afro-American Studies, and Steve Kantowitz, Department of History, will use music, film, literature, and history to help students understand the themes that have shaped important moments in democracy over the past century.

The itinerary includes stops in cities and small communities throughout the South where students will have the opportunity to meet with the local people who made the movement a reality, engage in discussion and critical reflection with faculty and students from universities across the South, and visit historic sites. Students will begin and end their trip in Wisconsin, studying the movement in Madison and Milwaukee. Cities on the tour include: Nashville, Memphis, and the Highlander Folk School in New Market, TN; Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, AL; Hattiesburg, Jackson, Clarksdale, and Oxford, MS; and New Orleans, LA. This innovative course is made possible in part through support from the Anonymous Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

Murray Edelman, emeritus professor of political science, died at the age of 81 in January, 2001. He was a member of the department from 1966 until he retired in 1990. During that time he authored a number of texts including *Politics as Symbolic Action: Mass Arousal and Quiescence* (1971), *Political Language: Words that Succeed and Politics that Fail* (1977). In retirement he authored *From Art to Politics: How Artistic Creations Shape Political Consciousness* (1995) and *The Politics of Misinformation* (forthcoming).

Steven Chaffee, professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication for 16 years, died May 15 after a short hospitalization for a heart ailment. Chaffee was an internationally recognized authority on mass communication and its effects on society. Most recently, he was a professor of communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was director of the School of Journalism at UW-Madison in 1980-81.

Arthur Hasler, one of the leading figures in 20th century freshwater ecology, died in March, 2001 at the age of 93. Hasler, professor emeritus of zoology, made a number of enduring contributions to the field of lake research during his 41 years on the faculty. His most famous research came in the late 1940s, when he developed ways to demonstrate how "olfactory imprinting" enabled salmon to journey thousands of miles to spawn in the precise stream of their birth.

Hasler also pioneered a new way to study ecological problems by creating

controlled experiments of entire lake ecosystems and played key roles in the development of the Laboratory of Limnology on Lake Mendota and the Trout Lake Biological Station in northern Wisconsin. Hasler made a profound impression on his students, not only for his science, but also for the social responsibility he conveyed. "He used to read German poetry in his classes about the beauty of lakes. He imparted a moral and ethical sense of the value and beauty of nature," says John Magnuson, emeritus director of the Center for Limnology.

Robert Goldstein, emeritus professor of communicative disorders, died in December 2000. He retired in 1994 after 24 years at UW-Madison. A pioneer in the field of audiology/acoustics, Goldstein developed new techniques for evaluating hearing-impaired and aphasic children, studying how the brain encodes sound, and understanding electrodermal responses in relation to hearing.

M. Leslie Holt (Ph.D. '30), emeritus professor of chemistry, passed away, at the age of 96 in January, 2001. He was a member of the department from 1926 until his retirement in 1972 and had been associate chair in the department for about 15 years. When he retired in June 1972, it was estimated that he had worked with more than 25,000 students during his career.

Mary Lydon, Pickard-Bascom professor emerita of French, died of cancer in April 2001. Her teaching and research focused on Twentieth Century French literature

particularly the novel, and literary theory in its feminist, psychoanalytic and deconstructive manifestations. She was inducted into the UW-Madison Teaching Academy in 1995.

Marilyn "Mimi" Orner, 40, died of cancer in November 2000. During the last decade she was a teacher and adviser in the Women's Studies Program, where she often taught courses such as *Women and Popular Culture*, *Gender and Education*, *Constructions of Gender in the Media*, and *Race and Ethnicity in the Lives of U.S. Women*, among others. In 1999, she was recognized with the Chancellor's Hilldale Award for Excellence in Teaching. With collaborator Joyce Follette, she won a 1999 Emma Award from the National Women's Caucus for their video documentary "Step By Step: Building a Feminist Movement 1941-1977." With Deborah Zucker, she founded a community anti-anorexia/bulimia/dieting project.

Folke Karl Skoog, emeritus professor of botany, died in February 2001 at the age of 92. The renowned plant physiologist and National Medal of Science recipient was a member of the botany faculty for 32 years. While at Wisconsin, he discovered a major new class of plant hormones, the cytokinins, which stimulate the division of plant cells and regulate plant growth and development. His work has had a profound impact on agricultural and horticultural practices around the world. With colleagues, Skoog synthesized and tested hundreds of compounds for cytokinin activity, and established the principles that govern relationships between plant structure and activity. These discoveries are generally held to be one of the major advances made in the plant sciences during the last 50 years. His theory that plant development is controlled by hormone levels and other factors led to the realization that whole plants can be generated from cultured cells. This laid the groundwork for the production of transgenic plants and other advances in biotechnology.

Professor Mary Lydon was widely respected as an engaging and creative teacher. Here she is seen teaching her French class under a campus tree on a sunny afternoon in 1995.

Jeff Miller



A Moveable Feast—Alums at Large!

Please send information on your life (include major and year of graduation) and whereabouts to:

Editor, 307 South Hall, 1055 Bascom Mall, UW—Madison, WI 53706 fax 608/265-3565. E-mail matbiak@ls.admin.wisc.edu

The following Letters and Science alumni are among the four recipients of the Wisconsin Alumni Association's 2001 Distinguished alumni awards:

André De Shields (BA '70, English), **Conchita Poncini-Jimenez** (MS '64, industrial relations), and **William Young** (PhD '41, economics). (Full information appears in *On Wisconsin*, Summer, 2001.)

1930s

Ruth Gruber's (MA '31, German) non-fiction book *Haven* was the subject of a CBS miniseries starring Natasha Richardson. Gruber is credited with helping to bring nearly 1,000 Jewish refugees from Italy to America aboard a U.S. Army transport ship in the summer of 1944. She accompanied them to their refugee camp in Oswego, New York, and worked hard to win U.S. citizenship for them. Gruber hitchhiked to Madison from New York to attend the University of Wisconsin, where she wrote her master's thesis on Goethe's *Faust*.

1940s

Robert H. McFarland (PhM '43, PhD '47, physics), retired in 1984 after a career that included 10 years as graduate dean at University of Missouri-Rolla. Over the course of his career, McFarland authored or co-authored 112 papers and two books, and received 6 patents. His professional honors included a Mendenhall Fellowship at University of Wisconsin, and American Physical Society and American Association for Advancement of Science Fellowships.

Michael Rothbart



Wisconsin Union Director Ted Crabb is retiring this summer.

1950s

Ted Crabb (BA '54, American institutions) has announced his retirement as director of Wisconsin Union after 33 years in the position. He was student president of the Union in 1953 and took a job with then-director Porter Butts after he graduated in 1954. The Wisconsin Union includes some of the UW—Madison's most important landmarks, including Memorial Union, Union South, the Rathskeller, Union Terrace, and the Union Theater. He is the second director of the Union in its 78-year history.

Robert M. Rennick (BS '54, sociology) writes that he became actively involved in the systematic study of Kentucky's folklore, history, and place names while in the doctoral program at the University of North Carolina. He writes that his interest has been "strongly influenced by my association over the years with the late Fred Cassidy." He has published seven books and nearly 150 published articles and reviews on the subject of Kentucky's place names.

1960s

Glenda E. Gill (MA '64, English) is the author of *No Surrender! No Retreat! African American Pioneer Performers of the 20th-Century American Theater* (St. Martin's Press, 2000). The book includes interviews with key figures such as James Earl Jones, Morgan Freeman, and Ruby Dee. She is professor of drama at Michigan Technological University.

Linda Perlman Gordon (BA '69, history) co-authored *Why Boys Don't Talk, A Mother's Guide to Connection*, published in July 2000 by Mid-Atlantic Equity Center. She is a clinical social worker in Washington, DC.

Gerald S. Henig (MA'65, history) is professor of history at California State University, Hayward, and is the co-author of *Civil War Firsts: The Legacies of America's*

Bloodiest Conflict (Stackpole Books, 2001). The book has been chosen as a selection of the History Book Club.

Robert Hoysgaard (BA '64, psychology) has been named a trustee of the Florida Recreation and Park Association Foundation. He is a member of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board.

Barrie Wight, (MA '67, sociology, PhD '68, counseling and behavioral studies) is Community Services Coordinator for the Washington County Court System in Washington, PA just south of Pittsburgh. He has been in that position since 1997.

1970s

James Bradley (BA '77, history) is author with Ron Powers of *Flags of Our Fathers*, a best-selling

account of the legacy of the six men who stepped into history when they were photographed struggling to raise the flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945. The book grew out of Bradley's discovery when going through boxes of letters and photos after his father's death, that his father, who never discussed the photograph or the war, was one of the six men in the photo.

Linda (Forner) Lee (MS '76, PhD '79, communicative disorders) became a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in November 2000. She is a professor and graduate program director at the University of Cincinnati.

Jay L. Silberberg (MA '76, history) was recently appointed Director, Finance, Local Networks, Qwest Communications. He has worked for Qwest, formerly US West, since 1983 in a series of financial positions. He writes, "the knowledge I gained from my broad-based liberal arts background continually surprises my business colleagues."

Fran Oguss Stallings (PhD '70, botany) is still active in the field of biology as EarthTeller in the duo "Earth & Sky Storytellers." Stallings and her colleague SkyTeller Lynn Moroney provide in-service training to Oklahoma teachers while students hear traditional myths and folktales, and do story-based activities. She formerly taught biology at the University of Michigan and Kent State University and has published stories and recorded audiotapes and CDs.

1980s

Elizabeth Crais (PhD '87, communicative disorders) was promoted to full professor in August, 2000 in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of North Carolina Medical School in Chapel Hill, NC.

Charles W. Staley, Jr. (BA '80, music), is fine arts department chair and director of bands for Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, IL. The department was awarded the Grammy Gold Signature School distinction by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for 2000. The award ranks the program among the ten best in the nation.

Lynn (Tuttle) Gunney (BA '88 journalism) has opened Gunney Orchestrated Marketing Communications, a consulting firm based in the San Francisco Bay area that specializes in strategic marketing communications programs for the medical device and pharmaceutical industries.

1990s

Coleman J.F. Cannon (BA '96, behavioral science & law) is the author of "Cashing In On Older Workers; Age Discrimination Claims in Cash-Balance Pension Plans," appearing in the current issue of *Law & Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice*. Cannon is in his second year at the University of Minnesota Law School and is also completing an MA in industrial relations.

David B. Cohen (BA '90, political science/international relations) writes, "my wife, Dawn Sommers (BS '90, psychology) and I met while attending the UW and got married at the Memorial Union in the summer of 1994. We

Jon Graan



L&S stars dazzled audiences at the Adler Planetarium, when L&S joined forces with the Wisconsin Alumni Association to bring its "UW—Madison On The Road" public outreach program to Chicago on April 24, 2000. That evening, Assistant Professor Eric Wilcots, Department of Astronomy, gave a keynote address on "UW's Eyes in Space" at the Chicago Alumni Club's Founder's Day event at the Adler. While in the area, L&S faculty and staff presented programs at Providence St. Mel School, and met with prospective students from greater Chicago. Pictured from the left: (unidentified); Dean Phillip Certain; Rita Jung, school counselor at Senn Metropolitan Academy; Marques Jackson, Senn Metropolitan Academy and winner of UW Alumni Club of Chicago Scholarship; John Valley, professor of geology and geophysics; and Judy Craig, associate dean of Letters and Science.

enjoy coming back to Madison at least twice a year—we still think of it as the greatest city in the world. I received a PhD in political science from the University of South Carolina in 2000 with a dissertation entitled: 'Effectiveness and Influence in the White House: The Chief of Staff During the Reagan and Bush Years.' He is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Akron.

Dan L. Ross (MS'91, computer sciences) is finishing his term as President of the Board of Action Wisconsin, Wisconsin's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equal rights organization. This volunteer position included testifying before state legislators on proposals affecting domestic partner benefits for University of Wisconsin employees — something of a personal interest, as Ross works at UW—Madison as a computer programmer. Ross was chosen "2000 Man of the Year" by OutReach, Madison's LGBT community center. He is grateful to his partner, Charles S. Squires, Jr. (x'93, computer sciences), for his support.

L&S Online

YOUR LINK TO THE COLLEGE TODAY!

The College of Letters and Science launched its new and expanded website in March, 2002.

The new site includes links to:

- L&S information at a glance
- Alumni resources
- Centers, programs, and institutes
- Departments and other instructional programs
- K-12 and community outreach resources on campus and on-line
- Library resources in Letters and Science
- Museums, observatories, gardens, performance facilities and other special resource
- News stories about L&S people and programs
- Online newsletters (Artes Liberales TODAY! and departmental on-line newsletters)
- Research programs and facilities in Letters and Science
- Student resources for current and prospective students
- UW—Madison web site
- UW—Madison online faculty, staff, and student directories

Coming soon... a virtual tour of the L&S campus, L&S slide shows, and other features!

<http://www.ls.wisc.edu>