



Compiled by Paula Wagner
Apfelbach '83

early years

A Mind of Her Own: Helen Connor Laird and Family, 1888-1982 (University of Wisconsin Press) is a biography of the late **Helen Connor Laird '12**, but it's also much more. Written by her daughter-in-law — also named Helen Laird — it's a look at Wisconsin government and politics through the eyes of this remarkable woman. Laird was a UW regent in the 1950s; her son Melvin Laird, Jr. was a sixteen-year member of Congress in the 1950s and '60s and served as the U.S. secretary of defense. Says one review, "Even though the author is a member of the family she married into, this is no cream-puff version of its public and private antics."

40-50s

"Spent my career in directing market development for vinyl pipe, conduit, and building products in the U.S.," began the brief update from **Bob Holtz '47** of Wheaton, Illinois. Next came the inspiring part: "In retirement, I'm working on developing the use of solar energy for irrigation systems in drought-stricken areas of East Africa. One realizes that doing something for money is not nearly as gratifying as doing something for others that is sorely needed."

Twenty-three: that's the number of books that **Richard Weiner '49, MS'50** has written, his latest being *The Skinny about Best Boys, Dollies, Green Rooms, Leads, and Other Media Lingo: The Language of the Media* (Random House Reference). "The trend is to long titles," he says, "but the price is only \$14.95." Weiner lives in Miami Beach, Florida.

New Yorker **Alvin Reiss**

'52, **MA'53** says he "had a good learning experience at Madison, especially about folk hero Paul Bunyan." The result? Last August, more than fifty years later, the Barn Playhouse in New London, New Hampshire, staged the first professional production of his original musical, *Tall Paul, A Tall Tale: The Legend of Paul Bunyan*. Reiss has written eight books and lectured for the UW's arts-management program, but he dreams of seeing his play produced in Wisconsin — "where it all started."

Watch out, Brevard County, Florida, speed demons: **Sally Ann Anderson Woock '54, MS'59** of Cape Canaveral is your new civil infractions hearing officer — a.k.a. the traffic judge. She's admitted to the bar in three states, in federal courts, and in the U.S. Supreme Court, and maintains her pharmacy license in Wisconsin.

John Morgridge '55, chair of the board of Cisco Systems, and his spouse, **Tashia Frankfurth Morgridge '55**, have given the largest individual donation ever to benefit the UW. Their gift of \$50 million will pave the way for pioneering scientific and medical collaborations at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. A state contribution of \$50 million advocated by Governor **James Doyle, Jr. '67**, along with a \$50 million match by WARF, would help to create one public and one private institute on University Avenue. In October, John Morgridge will make news in another way: he'll be named the UW E-Business Institute's 2006 Distinguished Fellow for his visionary contributions to information technology and e-business. The Morgridges live in Portola Valley, California.

Volunteer activities, international travel, relaxation, and family time figure into the plans of three retiring Badgers. **Fritz (Fredric) Hildebrand,**

Sr. '56 has retired from his Neenah, Wisconsin, internal medicine and pulmonary disease practice after forty-one years. Professor **Michael Mokotoff MS'63, PhD'66**, who specialized in medicinal and peptide chemistry and its application to cancer research, stepped down in June after thirty-eight years at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy, writes his son, **Jay Mokotoff '94**. And, after forty-three years of teaching high school and serving as a media specialist in Grand Rapids, Michigan, **Robert Otte MS'67** is also retiring. He notes that he "fondly remembers the summers he spent in Madison."

Concern for those who must choose between buying medicine and buying food compelled three UW pharmacy alumni to help. In February, **Ken Plavnick '57** of Delray Beach, Florida; **Jerry Spector '63** of Fox Point, Wisconsin; and **Mel Solochek '65** of Milwaukee launched USGenerics (www.usgenericsonline.com), a mail-order service that offers lower-priced, U.S.-purchased, FDA-supervised, generic prescription medications.

Whether you agree with the title or not, **Bob Knopes '59, MA'60** tells it like it was in *Any Damn Fool Can Be a Farmer: Growing up on a Wisconsin Farm* (Archenell Publishing). Written for his grandchildren as the story of his early years and as a "history of, and memorial to, the family farm," the book has earned Knopes an honorable mention in the 2006 Independent Publisher Book Awards. After a thirty-year career in the foreign service, mostly in Asia, he's now retired in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

The American Philosophical Society — founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin, and the oldest learned society in the U.S. — has invited **Gene Likens MS'59, PhD'62** to join its ranks. He's the director,

Tell Us about It...

Please share your recent achievements, transitions, and other important life happenings with the readers of On Wisconsin. You may e-mail the (brief, please) details to apfelbach@uwalumni.com; mail them to Alumni News, On Wisconsin Magazine, 650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; or fax them to (608) 265-8771.

While we receive many more submissions than we have space to publish, we love hearing from you. Please e-mail death notices and all address, name, telephone, and e-mail changes to alumchange@uwalumni.com; fax them to (608) 262-5552; mail them to Alumni Changes, Wisconsin Alumni Association,

650 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1476; or call them in toll free to (888) 947-2586. Most obituary listings of WAA members and friends appear in the Badger Insider, WAA's publication for its members, published thrice annually and inserted into On Wisconsin Magazine.

Bookmark



As a child, Chicago author **Barbara Gregorich MA'65** (www.barbaragregorich.com) knew she would one day write about idioms. *Waltur Buys a Pig in a Poke and Other Stories* (Houghton Mifflin) is that wish come true. It's the first in a series of early readers featuring Waltur, a bear who takes idioms literally, but, through funny consequences, comes to understand their wisdom. According to *Publishers Weekly*, this sends "an upbeat message ... that at times one learns only by trial and error." Gregorich, who has also written adult fiction and nonfiction, is planning *Waltur Puts the Cart before the Horse* for September 2007.

Dead Guys Talk: A Wild Willie Mystery (Clarion Books) is the fifth in the Wild Willie series by **Barbara Monnot Jooesse '71**. Wallowing in the hot boredom of midsummer, Willie, Kyle, and Lucy perk up when a mysterious note says that someone wants to move the bodies in the local graveyard, but the bodies don't want to leave! Could their new client be a dead guy ... who can talk? Jooesse has published twenty-nine children's books, including *Mama, Do You Love Me?* and *I Love You the Purplest*. There's much more about this Cedarburg, Wisconsin, author at www.barbarajooesse.com.

president, and G. Evelyn Hutchinson Chair in Ecology at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York.

60s

Felicitations to **Richard Farrenkopf '60**, the village manager of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, since 1984, and a village employee since 1960. He's been honored with the Wisconsin City/County Management Association's 2005 Meritorious Service Award.

Lyle Lahey '60, a former *Daily Cardinal* staffer, began contributing editorial cartoons to the *Brown County Chronicle* in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1968. In 1976, he became the editorial cartoonist for that paper's successor, the *Green Bay News-Chronicle*, and remained until the *News-Chronicle* closed last year. Now fans can "get his take on things" three times a week on Lahey's new Web site (www.weimar.ws/lahey).

We bet *this* is a popular assignment for authors: writing a book series about world cuisines. Madisonian **Joan Baier Peterson '61, MS'72, PhD'75** has written eight titles so far, the latest being *Eat Smart in Peru: How to Decipher the Menu, Know the Market Foods & Embark on a Tasting Adventure* (Ginkgo Press). Next she'll tackle the tastes of Scandinavia, supplementing her other *Eat Smart* volumes on Brazil, Turkey, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Morocco, and India.

When George Mason University bested number-one seed University of Connecticut in overtime to advance to the NCAA's Final Four basketball tourney in March, one Badger was undoubtedly proud: **Alan Merten '63, PhD'70**. He's been the Fairfax, Virginia, university's president since 1996.

Carla Shagass Kelley '65, MA'68 is general counsel for

the Port of Portland [Oregon], active in the arts as a singer for the Portland Revels, and a governor of Portland's City Club. With a JD from Lewis and Clark College, she says that "even an ABD in English lit can find gainful employment eventually!" Kelley would love to hear from "folks who knew me when" at carla.kelley@comcast.net.

"I started with the first class of nuclear engineers in 1961, but ... [took] ... a semester off to go folk singing with the Jim Langdon Trio," writes **Dean Kaul '66** of San Diego. "I am now at the end of my nuclear engineering career," he continues, and has received a Special Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Energy for his work in atomic bomb dosimetry.

One of the five Lifetime Achievement Awards that the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators gives annually will go to Madisonian **Kit (Katherine) Saunders Nordeen MS'66, PhD'77** in October. She was the UW's first, pre-Title IX Women's Club sports coordinator in 1971; became the director of twelve women's sports in 1974; and was promoted to associate athletic director for men's and women's sports in 1983, with WAA's executive director, **Paula Bonner MS'78**, succeeding her as director of women's athletics. Nordeen retired in 1990.

Cloud of Light: Portrait of a College Teacher (Hugger Mugger Publishing) is a tribute by **Mike O'Connell MA'66** to the "distinguished and under-recognized teaching career" of **David Cole PhD'70** at UWC-Baraboo/Sauk County from 1968 until 2004, and, the author believes, the first book-length account of any UW Colleges professor in its ninety-nine-year history. O'Connell is a farmer, poet, and — like Cole and his spouse, **Bevra Paul Cole '65** — an English

instructor at UWC-Baraboo.

Boston University recognized **Peter Hawkins '67** with one of its Metcalf Awards for Teaching Excellence — the university's highest honor — during its May commencement. A professor in the Department of Religion, the founding director of the Luce Program in Scripture and Literary Arts, and a Dante scholar, Hawkins possesses, concur his students, a "mesmerizing teaching style."

The Milwaukee-based Medical College of Wisconsin bestowed honorary doctorates upon **Thomas Hefty '69, JD'73** and **Richard Cooper '58** at its May commencement. Hefty is the former CEO and chair of Cobalt Corporation and its subsidiary, BlueCross BlueShield United of Wisconsin; created the largest public and community health foundation in the state's history; and set up permanent endowments at Wisconsin's two medical schools. He now serves as counsel in the Waukesha, Wisconsin, office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren and received WAA's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. Cooper — a former dean, executive VP, and director of the Health Policy Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin — is currently a professor of medicine and a senior fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Harvard University Press has published *The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust* by **Jeffrey Herf '69**. He's a professor of history at the University of Maryland and lives in Silver Spring.

As a sports economist, sports consultant, labor negotiator, media commentator, and baseball fan, few would be better suited than **Andrew Zimbalist '69** to write about the role that **Bud (Allan) Selig**

'56 has played as the commissioner of major league baseball. Thus, *In the Best Interests of Baseball? The Revolutionary Reign of Bug Selig* (John Wiley & Sons) is the latest work by Zimbalist, who also teaches economics at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

70s

The Milwaukee Regional Medical Center has a new executive director in **William Hatcher '70, MS'72**. He was most recently the director of the Economic and Community Development Division for Milwaukee County.

Arie Galles MFA'71 is a professor of art and the director of creative arts at Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, California, where a spring exhibition of his charcoal drawings called *Fourteen Stations/Hey Yud Dalet* was very well received. A March *Los Angeles Times* review of the works explained that what makes them "so viscerally potent is the tension, the contradiction between the artist's cool approach and the horror of his subjects: Nazi concentration camps." A child of Holocaust survivors, Galles used military reconnaissance photos taken by German and Allied forces as his source material.

Joseph Roesch PhD'71 drew upon his "lifelong interest in history, language, literature, and myth" and his background in medieval studies to write his first novel, *Boudica, Queen of the Iceni* (Robert Hale Limited). Roesch is a retired English professor who's taught at several institutions, including the UW. He lives in Hamilton, New York.

John Schwenn MS'73, PhD'76 is the interim president of Emporia [Kansas] State University (ESU) — the latest in a series of contributions that

he's made since joining ESU in 1989. Most recently, Schwenn was the school's vice president for academic affairs.

Lisa Berman '74 is among those whom Milwaukee Public Museum president and CEO **Dan Finley '80** had in mind when he said, "The most important thing we can do to ensure the future success of the museum is to have the right people in our key management positions." Berman is the museum's new vice president of marketing and communications.

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* says that **Marc Lampe '74** is a "real whys guy." That's because Lampe, in addition to being insatiably curious about human behavior, is also an eminent professor of ethics at the University of San Diego. He's coined the phrase "applied evolutionary neuro ethics" to describe his work, in which he "seeks to apply research and theory from psychology, biology, anthropology, and sociology to explain the human mind and moral behavior" — research that could change ethics education for good.

In May and June, the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, hosted a twenty-five-year retrospective titled *James Pernetto: MEME* at its Trumbull branch. It was a tribute to New York artist and Youngstown native **James Pernetto MFA'75**.

New to the helm of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Special Education Programs is **Alexa Posny MS'76, PhD'88**, who became its director in April. Previously, she was the deputy commissioner of education for learning services in the Kansas State Department of Education, and heavily involved in federal education policy and compliance issues.

Is it possible for a small venture specializing in TV production and documentary

and feature filmmaking to thrive in Milwaukee, so far from Hollywood? **John (Chip) Duncan '77** knows it's possible, because he's been doing it for more than a quarter century. Other Badgers at his Duncan Entertainment Group (www.DuncanEntertainment.com) include director of research **Patricia Donohue Ostermick '71** and **Tom Hecht '82**, who works in development.

Congratulations to **Kathleen McKinney '77, MS'79, PhD'82**, who's earned the 2006 Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award from the American Sociological Association. A Carnegie Scholar, she's in her nineteenth year as a professor of sociology at Illinois State University in Normal.

In March, the American Medical Association honored **Christopher Percy '79** with the highest honor it bestows on public officials: a Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service. Percy, a medical officer and the director of community health services at Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico, was recognized for his twenty-year effort to improve the health of Native Americans.

80s

Buenos Aires, Paris, Prague, Stockholm, Athens, the Isle of Man, Tokyo, Dublin, Lisbon, Warsaw, Moscow ... and *Madison!* All of these have hosted the CowParade: the world's largest public art event, which began in Chicago in 1999. **Gail Bach '80** (www.gailbach-art.com) of Brooklyn, New York, was one of many talented alumni who were selected to paint artful and innovative designs on 101 cow statues. The bovines were then placed around the city as fun public art, and they'll benefit charity when they're auctioned off in

Bookmark



Linda Blachman '66 has created *Another Morning: Voices of Truth and Hope from Mothers with Cancer* (Seal Press), a "powerful, inspirational, and deeply moving book — a tapestry of voices from ordinary women coping with every mother's nightmare: a cancer diagnosis while raising children."

More than a decade ago, Blachman founded a non-profit organization in Berkeley, California, called the Mothers' Living Stories Project (MLSP). The group helps mothers who are diagnosed with cancer to tap into the healing power of story telling by recording their life stories — for their own healing, to open up communication with their families, and as a way to create legacies for their children.

Another Morning interweaves Blachman's reflections as MLSP's founder with the words of some of these mothers, bringing their wisdom to light. It's for those confronting the "profound collision of mothering and mortality" — and doing so in a culture that, Blachman says, offers few services or resources and often denies their plight.

Bookmark



Randall Davidson '81, MBA'89 is a familiar name to Wisconsin Public Radio listeners, as he's been with the network for sixteen years as an afternoon newscaster, the voice of its Ideas Network, and its unofficial historian. Now he's combined his knowledge of the industry's present with his passion for its past to create the 512-page *9XM Talking: WHA Radio and the Wisconsin Idea* (University of Wisconsin Press).

Davidson traces radio programming over the past seventy-five years to its origin: the basement of the UW physics department. He tells of a nation enthralled by this new medium — Texans holding dances to the broadcasts, Saskatchewan listeners relaying that the sound was quite clear, sports fans thrilling to their first play-by-play during a game between the Badgers and the Buckeyes, the nation hearing its first weather report, and even the first call-in show, which was run by postcard.

And finally, Davidson chronicles the great shifts in the industry from public to private, AM to FM, local to international. Through it all, living out the Wisconsin Idea kept WHA, née 9XM, moving forward to claim and reclaim its airtime and its voice.

November. Bach's creation, *Wiscowsin Violet*, honors the official state flower.

New to the Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health — part of the National Institutes of Health — is **Nancy Norton '80**. She's the president of the Milwaukee-based International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders, a nonprofit educational and research organization that Norton founded fourteen years ago.

As the co-author of *Lessons from a Headhunter with Heart: Spiritual and Practical Keys to Navigating (and Surviving!) Job Change* (Beaver's Pond Press), **Patricia Comeford '82** has written what she needed to read fifteen years ago amid a career change: advice about the personal, introspective aspects of work transitions that tend to receive little press. Comeford is now the founder and president of the Esquire Group, a legal search and consulting firm in Minneapolis.

A Badger is the new editor-in-chief at *Catalog Success* magazine: **Paul Miller '82** of Somers, New York. He arrives with eighteen years' experience as the senior news editor of the monthly publication's rival, *Catalog Age*.

"Consider doing a piece on **Chris Rose '82**, a [New Orleans] *Times-Picayune* columnist who's become something of a folk hero since [Hurricane Katrina]," writes University of New Orleans computer science professor **Fred Hosch MA'68, PhD'72**. Rose has compiled *1 Dead in Attic* (CR Books), a collection of his stories about the first four post-Katrina months that's a "roller coaster ride of observations, commentary, emotions, tragedy, and even humor, in a way that only Rose could find in a devastated wasteland."

Madisonian **Gayle Williams Langer '83** has

received a Distinguished Service Award from Tempo International, a networking and educational organization that connects and assists women of influence. The award is very well deserved: Langer, WAA's executive director emerita, has been tireless in her service to Tempo, the UW, and the Madison community.

The new director of the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History (IAHA) in Tegucigalpa is **Dario Euraque, Jr. MA'84, MA'86, PhD'90**, who will spend the next two to three years carrying out IAHA's mission of protecting the cultural heritage of Honduras. Euraque has taught history and international studies at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, since 1990, while his spouse, **Polly Moran '86**, has been a nurse-midwife.

Two grads have become new judges: **Jeannice Miller Reding '84**, a former family court referee, has been appointed to a judgeship in the Minneapolis-based Fourth Judicial District. She's also a founding member of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association and lives in Plymouth. **Kurt Hitzemann JD'94** has been named judge of the county court in Hernando County, Florida, where he was previously a senior assistant county attorney.

The Wisconsin chapter of the American College of Physicians has elected its first woman governor: **Sharon Haase MD'85**. She's an internal medicine physician in Beaver Dam and an assistant professor in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

Elia Armacanqui-Tipacti MA'86, PhD'95, an associate professor of Spanish at UW-Stevens Point, and **Rose Marie Galindo MA'82, PhD'90**, an associate professor of Spanish at UWC-Rock County, both received Outstanding Women

of Color in Education Awards in March. Co-sponsored by a group of UW System entities, the honor recognizes the contributions of women of color to campuses and communities around the state.

David Boyd '86 has joined the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. A senior planner for MSA Professional Services, he leads the firm's Madison-based Planning & Design Studio and lectures in the UW's Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Two alumnae are working hard to keep downtown Madison great. **Mary Carbine '86, MA'88** is the new executive director of the city's Central Business Improvement District, and headed the Wisconsin Film Festival from 2000 until 2005. **Melissa Rowlands Meyer '90** is stepping up from an interim post to become the new director of membership development for Downtown Madison.

If you read and enjoy *Reliable Plant* magazine, you can thank **Paul Arnold '87** — he's the publication's editor, as well as the creator of conferences and seminars for manufacturing professionals. This year, he was nominated for fourteen publishing awards. Arnold lives in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

The Revenge of Hatpin Mary: Women, Professional Wrestling, and Fan Culture in the 1950s (Peter Lang Publishing) explains why millions of mid-century women flocked to wrestling arenas. Author **Chad Dell '87, MA'91, PhD'97**, an associate professor at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey, says that his book "may set down the June Cleaver myth once and for all!"

You're doing something right when *Esquire* publishes your first magazine story, it becomes a finalist for a National Magazine Award, and you become an *Esquire*

contributing editor. The writer we're talking about is **Robert Kurson '87** of Northbrook, Illinois, whose new book is *Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II* (Ballantine Books).

George MacKinnon III '88, MS'90 is the new vice president for academic affairs for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Alexandria, Virginia. He was previously Abbott Laboratories' director of global health economics and outcomes research.

A 2006 Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Award has gone to **Paul Steinbach '89**, an associate editor at the Madison-based *Athletic Business* magazine and the author of its monthly column on college sports.

90s

"This is a vivid, gripping novel about the medical and spiritual costs of pollution and modern life," said one reviewer about the debut novel of **Lyn (Arlyn) Miller-Lachmann MA'90** of Albany, New York. It's called *Dirt Cheap* (Curbstone Press), an eco-thriller about citizens who work to expose environmental pollution in their community. Miller-Lachmann is an activist herself and the editor-in-chief of *MultiCultural Review*. In October, she'll be part of a panel presentation held in conjunction with the UW library school's centennial.

Best wishes to **Raymond Webb PhD'90**, the new head of school at Foxcroft Academy in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine. He was previously the dean of academic affairs at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire.

Who was named one of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's* 40 Under Forty in

Big League Badger



Oakland A's managing partner Lew Wolff knocks one out of the park.

On an average game day at the Oakland Athletics' ballpark, you won't find the team's managing partner, **Lew Wolff '57**, in the owner's box sipping champagne and mingling with VIP types. You're much more likely to find him eating foot-long hot dogs and talking shop with fans in the stands. And that's just what the team needed, says Wolff, when he and two other business partners took over ownership and management of the team in April 2005.

"I'd rather sit down with the fans, and I think that's paid off for us," says Wolff. "The fans should feel like they have contact with the ownership," he adds, reflecting his down-to-earth management style, which has roots in his love of the game since childhood.

Wolff acquired the team when it needed new direction — and a new playing field. The Oakland A's currently share the aging McAfee Coliseum with the Oakland Raiders football team, an arrangement that he says isn't good for either party. He plans to build a new facility within the next few years.

Before becoming an owner of the Oakland A's, Wolff had financial interests in other sports teams such as the Golden State Warriors and the St. Louis Blues, but he says it was a UW-Madison Pi Lambda Phi fraternity brother, **Bud (Allan) Selig '56**, who encouraged him to buy the Oakland A's — and when the commissioner of major league baseball suggests you buy a team? Well, you take that advice seriously. Wolff and Selig are also friends with **Herb Kohl '56** — a fellow Pi Lambda Phi, current U.S. senator from Wisconsin, and owner of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team. The trio has kept in touch since graduating from the UW fifty years ago.

"Bud and Herb actually knew where the library was, and I didn't," Wolff laughs. "I wasn't necessarily a rigorous student, but I made up for that in graduate school."

Today, Wolff is chair and CEO of Wolff Urban Development, a private real-estate investment and management firm based in Los Angeles. Aside from his work with the Oakland A's, he and business partner Philip Maritz invest in luxury hotels such as the Carlyle in New York City, San Francisco's elegant Fairmont, and the Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis.

Upscale hotels and resorts may be his mainstay, but Wolff has caught sports fever. He has plans to purchase a major league soccer team for the San Francisco Bay area, because he sees it as a growing sport among America's youth. And he loves the challenge of owning and managing one of the nation's youngest major league baseball teams. "I think it's the most fun I've had in this business," says Wolff. "I can't think of one single A's player who isn't a terrific individual."

— Erin Hueffner '00

May? It was Land O'Lakes director of foodservice marketing **Jeff Duffin '91**. The publication bases its annual picks on business accomplishments and community contributions.

Indefensible: One Lawyer's Journey into the Inferno of American Justice (Little, Brown and Company) is the "thrilling account of an ordinary day in the complicated life of a public defender in the South Bronx" — a new book by legal insider **David Feige JD'91** of New York City. While the book includes dark humor, he's outraged at what he sees

underlying the legal system. Feige has served as the trial chief of the Bronx Defenders and is a frequent guest expert on Court TV.

Lincoln Konkle PhD'91 has written the first analysis of the life and works of Thornton Wilder — a native Madsonian — as products of American culture in *Thornton Wilder and the Puritan Narrative Tradition* (University of Missouri Press). Konkle is an associate professor of English at the College of New Jersey in Ewing.

Evan Strome-Cohen '92, a co-founder of Earth Capsule,

is excited about its new offering, called Earthcapsule.com. For just one dollar, you can place a prediction, prayer, memorial, picture, or video into one or more of the two hundred time capsules that will be deposited around the globe. The capsules' contents will be kept safe through technologically advanced preservation canisters and HD-ROM, and a portion of Earthcapsule.com's proceeds will go to charities.

John Wheeler, Jr. '92 celebrated a milestone in May when he graduated from the

Medical School for International Health, a collaboration between Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Columbia University Medical Center. It's the only medical school in the world whose mission is to train future physicians in global health.

In *First Freedoms: A Documentary History of First Amendment Rights in America* (Oxford University Press), co-author **Sam Chaltain '93** leads readers from the 1663 Charter of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to the USA Patriot Act of 2001 and beyond. He's

been on the staff of the First Amendment Center in Arlington, Virginia, since 2001.

Brad Pietz '93, MS'00 has risen from senior development scientist to director of product development at Milwaukee's BloodCenter of Wisconsin — a private, nonprofit transfusion-medicine organization.

A little taste test arrived at Alumni News HQ recently, courtesy of **Bert Cohen '94**, the CFO and COO of Enjoy Life Natural Brands (www.enjoylifefn.com). Inspired to launch the Schiller Park, Illinois,

firm in 2001 by his mother, who was on a restricted diet due to multiple sclerosis, Cohen and co-founder Scott Mandell traded their bankers' suits for aprons and developed a line of nutritious foods that contain no gluten or common allergens. Now they've been named to the Chicago Area Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame.

Two centuries ago, Britain was the world's most polluted nation. **Peter Thorsheim MA'94, PhD'00**, who teaches history at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte,

explains why in *Inventing Pollution: Coal, Smoke, and Culture in Britain since 1800* (Ohio University Press).

Where on this planet will you find the very best prom? If you ask **Ian Rosenberg '95**, he'll say it's been going on in Racine, Wisconsin, for more than fifty years. And if you want *proof*, check out the documentary he produced, called *The World's Best Prom* (www.worldsbestprom.com). Rosenberg — a New Yorker himself — notes that in his spare time, he's senior counsel in law and regulation at ABC.

From **Steven McKay MA'96, PhD'01** comes *Satanic Mills or Silicon Islands? The Politics of High-Tech Production in the Philippines* (Cornell University Press). In his new book, the UW-Milwaukee assistant professor of sociology "challenges the myth of globalization's homogenizing power."

Attention, fans of Chicago Public Radio: **Cynthia Hansen '98** is now on the job as the broadcaster's public relations manager. She was previously the communications manager for Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area.

Two alumni received awards in April from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine: **Melissa Schutten '98, DVM'02**, a resident in anatomical pathology, was named Instructor of the Year by the student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and **Keith Poulsen '00, DVM'04** took home the Bayer Large Animal Resident of the Year Award. He's a resident in large-animal internal medicine at the school's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Andrea West Dow '99 is one of only sixty people nationwide — and the first in Wisconsin — to have earned the Power Pilates teacher-trainer certification. Given the program's intensity, it's not hard to see why: certification

The Power of Caring

When a local woman in the Kenyan village where **Laura Sather Lemunyete '88** lives asked her to sell the basket she'd made so the woman could buy food, neither knew that this seemingly small act would spark a big change.

Lemunyete settled in Ngurunit, Kenya — a remote, arid region in the north — after earning her UW degree in meat and animal science, spending three years in Nepal with the Peace Corps, and earning a master's in tropical livestock production and health from the University of Edinburgh [Scotland]. That's where she met her future spouse, Reuben Lemunyete, a Kenyan herdsman who was enrolled in the same program.

After Laura sold the basket, she saw that these beautiful, intricately designed, tightly woven containers — which are used to hold milk from camels and other animals — could bring much-needed income to the village. She persuaded several Nairobi boutiques to stock them, and eventually, U.S. and European importers began ordering them as well.

This led to the creation of the Ngurunit Basket Weavers Association, which Lemunyete assists by serving as the group's accountant and distributing the weavers' profits. The association is developing a Web site, www.nomadicbaskets.com, and Lemunyete is also involved in conservation work for the doum palm tree, which supplies fronds for making the baskets.

Lemunyete and her spouse have formed several other charitable organizations as well, including the Rotary Club of Maralal in 2005 and groups that are involved in causes such as literacy, HIV education, water use, wildlife protection, tourism promotion, student volunteerism, and aid for schools.

She helped local women to form the Salato Women's Group so they could acquire life-sustaining milking camels from Heifer International, and run the group's dairy, meat processing, tannery, bakery, and tourist camp. She also heads PEAR (Participatory Education, Awareness, and Resource) Innovations, which hopes to expand the Heifer International program to 500 camels over the next three years.

But even with all of these good works from which to choose, it was Lemunyete's involvement with the milking baskets that captured the attention of the 2005 BBC World/*Newsweek* World Challenge. That work earned her a spot as one of twelve finalists — out of almost five hundred entries — in the competition, which honors people from around the world whose enterprise and innovation at the grassroots level are making a big difference in their communities. During the fall of 2005, *Newsweek* provided magazine coverage, and BBC World broadcast a film called *Weaving Magic* that profiled Lemunyete and her story.

While she did not ultimately win the competition or its \$20,000 grant, the demand for the baskets — generated solely through the efforts of one woman who cares — keeps nearly two hundred Ngurunit women busy, weaving and creating income to improve their village's quality of life. — P. A.



requires six hundred hours of lectures, workshops, observation, training, practicals, and written exams. Dow owns Core Concepts in Milwaukee.

William Hsu '00 writes that he and **Michael Forbes '99** "have formed a great friendship over the past two years here at Harvard Business School, in part because of our strong sense of Badger pride." Both graduated in June as Harvard MBAs, and both are now working for General Mills — Hsu as a financial analysis manager in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Forbes as an assistant marketing manager in Minneapolis.

2000s

Christine Welcher Hanson '00 and **Christopher Hanson '01** have combined their degrees in Scandinavian Studies with their love of adventure to create Runic Travels (www.runictravels.com) — one of only a few U.S. tour companies to specialize in the Scandinavian region. Both Badgers participated in the Oslo, Norway, study-abroad program in 1999, where their "passion for travel and adventure took off." When not touring, the couple lives in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin.

There were a few unrelated jobs on the way to grabbing hold of his dream, but **Brad Grossman '01** arrived when he launched his own filmmaking and media production company, called Fresh Images, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Early on, Grossman won a Best Film award in the forty-eight-hour National Film Challenge, and since then, he's specialized in helping nonprofits to market their messages.

Milwaukeean **Alex Kendzierski MD'01** is doing his part to create positive change through the nonprofit African Youth Outreach (AYO, www.africanyouthoutreach.org). Its work in South Africa includes

life-skills education programs, networking with other youth- and women-empowering groups, and combating the hopelessness that youth feel.

In the U.S., AYO works to increase awareness of the ravages of AIDS.

With possible new mercury regulations on the horizon, utilities will need to cut mercury emissions without reducing reliability or incurring giant debt — and **Shana Scheiber '01** of Sussex, Wisconsin, has helped them. As an Alliant Energy project engineer, she worked with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to facilitate emissions-reduction research. That research yielded promising results, and Scheiber's leadership earned her the EPRI's Generation Technology Transfer Award.

Oh, boy ... Here comes *Trouble* — the first book of short stories by **Patrick Somerville '01** of Chicago. *Trouble's* publisher, Vintage Books, calls the collection a "hilarious and wildly inventive debut ... that charts the dangerous territories of adolescence and adulthood for the American male. ... *Trouble* explodes with wicked humor, exuberant braininess, and unforgettable style."

Whoa, check this out, rock fans: Madisonian **Mark Croft '02** recently won the inaugural American Idol Underground Rock Contest and two Madison Area Music Awards for Best New Artist and Best Male Vocalist. You can hear him at www.markcroftmusic.com.

Congratulations to these Badger grads who earned their MD degrees in May from Milwaukee's Medical College of Wisconsin: **Travis Fisher '02**, who's now in a psychiatry residency in Milwaukee; **Nicholas Kitowski '02**, a new general-surgery resident in La Crosse, Wisconsin; **Jake Krisik '02**, a new internal-medicine resident in Milwaukee; **Shannon Lange**

Offerman '02, who's spending one year in a transitional residency in Milwaukee before beginning a radiation oncology residency in Cincinnati; and **Emily Larsen Porter '02**, who's joining the UW as a family-medicine resident.

Which new boutique on Madison's State Street provides a "convenient and impulsive, hip and luxurious shopping experience for discerning makeup enthusiasts"? It's Prep Cosmetics — envisioned during freshman year by co-founder and executive director **Lauren Frank '02**, who's returned from a public relations career in Las Vegas to pursue her dream of opening the store.

This spring, St. Paul, Minnesota, high school social studies teacher **Emily Martin '02** was one of twelve U.S. educators to participate in the National Council on Economic Education's Study Tour on Economic Education in Russia. She learned about the successes and challenges of delivering such instruction in Romania.

Have you noticed those green, white, and blue trucks with "1-800-GOT-JUNK?" painted on the side? If you live in Madison, they're part of the fleet belonging to **John Patterson '02**. He's an entrepreneur who heads up the Dane County franchise of the "world's largest junk-removal service" and hires UW students to help him conquer clutter — while donating and recycling as much of the junk as possible.

It's almost a cliché to ponder what you'd do if you won the lottery, but Madisonian **Maimoona Bowcock '03** had the chance to follow through. In February, when the jackpot had skyrocketed to more than \$300 million, she gave her father some numbers and a few dollars and asked him to buy her a ticket — which garnered more than \$600,000. Bowcock says she'll pay for grad school and perhaps buy her dad a new

car with her winnings.

The first assignment for **Erin Roberts '04** in her ten-month stint with the National Civilian Community Corps — a residential service program that's part of AmeriCorps (www.americorps.gov) — has been tutoring middle school students in Denver. Meanwhile, fellow corps member **Erin Jesberger '05** has gone to the Gulf Coast to help with hurricane relief. In exchange for their 1,700 hours of full-time service, corps members receive funds for future education or paying off student loans.

FYI: Bean Counters Have Sexy Ideas, Too — Histories and Mysteries of Words Used in the Office (3-Winged Creations) is a fun, new work by Madisonian **Rick Marolt EMBA'05**, who assures us that "all proceeds go to feeding the author."

obituaries

Marty Stein '59 — the onetime pharmacist who co-established the Stein drug store chain and later Stein Health Services, Stein Optical, and EyeQ stores — died in March in Milwaukee. A leader in the Milwaukee Jewish community, he also earned an international reputation while serving as the chair of United Jewish Appeal, traveling to Israel more than seventy-five times, and meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, President Ronald Reagan, and the pope. Stein found his greatest satisfaction in philanthropy and was known for his support of and work with charitable efforts in Milwaukee, particularly those that fight hunger and poverty, help children, and break down racial and religious barriers.

Compiled by WAA's alumni news editor, Paula Wagner Apfelbach '83, whose seat back and tray table are in their full, upright, and locked positions, thank you very much.