

Front Page News

We're sorry and thank you.

Due to a technical problem at our mailing service, a portion of the Winter 2010 "Digest" was incorrectly addressed. We apologize for the error. It seems, however, that our mistake gave many of you the opportunity to let us know that you enjoy this publication and would like us to continue to publish a print version as well as the proposed online version. We always appreciate your comments and suggestions and are happy to respond to your requests. Thank you.

Congratulations Class of 2010

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Class of 2010 celebrated commencement in five Kohl Center ceremonies May 14, 15 and 16. Speakers this year included U.S. Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan** and Youth Speaks founder **James Kass** ('91 BA L&S).

Duncan joined the Obama administration after seven years as chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools. Kass is the creator and executive director of the San Francisco-based nonprofit Youth Speaks. The organization helps young people find new ways to apply reading and writing to achieve social change.

Five alumni were selected to receive honorary degrees. Awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees were **Ned W. Bechthold** ('59 BS EGR), chair of Payne & Dolan Inc., a Waukesha, Wisconsin-based paving company; **Robert G. Bush** ('50 BA ALS), chair emeritus of Schreiber Foods in Green Bay, Wisconsin; **Judith R. Faulkner** ('76 MS L&S), founder and CEO of Epic Systems Corporation in Verona, Wisconsin; and, **Milton Friend** ('71 PhD ALS), emeritus scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center. **Wade Fetzer** ('59 BS L&S), independent director of the Potash Corp of Saskatchewan Inc., received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Honorary degrees are awarded in recognition of extraordinary accomplishment and achievement. A Wisconsin connection beyond receiving a degree from the University is not a prerequisite to an honorary degree, but many recipients are connected in some way to the state or the University.

Chancellor optimistic after China trip

In April, Chancellor **Biddy Martin** ('85 PhD L&S) and a UW-Madison delegation returned from a 13-day trip to China. The trip included stops in Beijing, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Shanghai. The delegation met with Chinese education officials and alumni and visited numerous universities. Martin expressed optimism that the University's presence and visibility in the world's most populous nation is growing.

"I return with a heightened sense of urgency about our responsibility to engage with China," she said. "Because of the extraordinary pace of change and development in China and the consequent and sometimes jarring juxtaposition of the ancient with the new [and] because of the extraordinary level of respect and courtesy with which we were treated.

"We have a range of commitments on which we want to act immediately, including the possibility of establishing parents' organizations in Beijing and Shanghai. But our primary focus will be on the future and how to be strategic about our presence in China and our exchanges and collaborations with specific institutions."

Chancellor Martin also hopes the University can work with the governor's office and the Commerce Department to explore ways to create opportunities for attracting investment to the state.

An interview with Chancellor Martin plus photos and trip details are posted at www.chancellor.wisc.edu/china.

Regents approve tuition increase

The 18-member University of Wisconsin Board of Regents approved a 5.5 percent tuition increase for the 13 four-year universities in the University of Wisconsin System and a tuition freeze for the two-year colleges. The approval was part of a \$5.59 billion UW System operating budget. Regents said they had no choice but to approve the increase given what they called a shortage of resources to pay for higher education.

University officials said roughly 40,000 students from families that earn less than \$60,000 per year are expected to receive enough increases in state financial aid to offset the tuition increase.

The tuition increase will cover the rapidly rising costs of health and retirement benefits for UW employees and help fund the system's Growth Agenda, a plan to increase the number of four-year degree holders in Wisconsin. UW System budget official **Freda Harris** said the increase will help protect key instructional and support services, helping avoid an increase in class sizes and reductions in the number of faculty and classes offered.

The tuition increase means that in-state students at UW-Madison will pay \$638 more next year, or \$7,933 in tuition.

Campus welcomes Chinese champions

Eleven Chinese champion student-athletes, including four Olympic medalists, are spending six months living and studying at the UW-Madison as part of a groundbreaking partnership with Beijing University of Sport, the foremost sports, physical education and exercise science institution in China. This first-of-its-kind collaboration was jointly announced by Chancellor Martin and Beijing University of Sport vice president **Chi Jian** in Beijing on March 27, 2010.

The Chinese Champions Workshop will provide the student-athletes, who are current graduate students, with a non-degree seminar to build their English, science, leadership and coaching skills.

The world-class athletes come from various sports, such as track, speed skating, swimming, table tennis, skiing, curling or gymnastics. The best known are **Luo Xuejuan**,

Olympic gold medalist in swimming, and **Xing Huina**, Olympic gold medalist in the women's 10,000 meter run.

Classes include English as a second language, kinesiology, physical education instruction, dance, American and Western history, plus experience with the UW Athletic Department. Students are enrolled in the newly formed Wisconsin Institute for Global Leadership and will receive a certificate for participating. They also are visiting historical sites in Wisconsin and the United States.

Science & Technology

Possible Alzheimer's predictor found

Two new studies involving a newly identified gene show that Alzheimer's disease could be diagnosed as much as 20 years before symptoms develop. The studies by **Dr. Mark Sager**, professor of medicine, UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and director of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, and **Sterling Johnson**, SMPH associate professor of medicine and researcher at the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center at the Madison VA Hospital, were presented at the International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease.

Sager's study included 726 healthy, middle-aged people with a family history of Alzheimer's disease. All carried both the newly identified gene (TOMM40) and APOE, a well-established risk gene for Alzheimer's. Researchers discovered that 229 people with the high-risk version of TOMM40 did significantly worse on tests of learning and memory than study participants with the low-risk version.

"The deficits shown by the high-risk group are similar to the kinds of changes in memory and learning that are seen in very early Alzheimer's," Sager said. "In this study population, TOMM40 genotyping allowed us to find evidence of very early Alzheimer's disease at least 20 years before any outward symptoms would be noticed."

Johnson found that healthy, middle-aged adults who have the high-risk version of TOMM40 had a significantly lower volume of gray matter in two brain regions affected in early Alzheimer's. Johnson says the finding in

the brain's posterior cingulate could represent a "neuro signature" for Alzheimer's disease.

Study participants came from the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention, the largest pool of middle-aged, asymptomatic adults with a family history of the disease.

Visit www.wai.wisc.edu for more information.

SMPH in "social mission" top 20

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) placed in the top 20 medical schools for fulfilling its social mission. An inaugural study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* ranked 141 United States medical schools on three measures: the percentage of graduates who practice primary care, work in health professional shortage areas or are under-represented minorities. Each school received a "social missions score."

The research team, based at George Washington University, analyzed data on medical school graduates from 1999 to 2001 to capture the most recent group of graduates who had completed all types of residency training and national service obligations.

"This is a new way of evaluating medical schools, and we are proud that Wisconsin is ranked so highly on measures that reflect our commitment to serve the needs of our state," said **Dr. Robert Golden**, SMPH dean.

SMPH has established two innovative programs that focus on preparing medical students for practice in underserved rural and urban settings: the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine and Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health.

"Health by Motorbike" Africa-bound

Araceli Alonso ('97 MA L&S, '02 PhD L&S), Gender and Women's Studies lecturer and faculty associate, College of Letters and Science, is spending the summer traveling around rural Kenya as part of her "Health by Motorbike" initiative. Alonso, who also is a registered nurse, will conduct a health camp for women and adolescent girls in Lungalunga, Godo and Perani.

The health camp, funded by the Davis Foundation for

Projects for Peace, will provide culturally sensitive education about reproductive health, maternal and child health, preventable diseases and treatable infections.

Gender and Women's Studies undergraduate students **Megan Kleber** and **Sara Maria Donohue** were awarded a Wisconsin Idea Grant and will travel with Alonso to distribute mosquito nets to pregnant women and children under the age of 5 to help prevent malaria, the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in that part of Kenya.

After the camp, the Mama-Toto (mother-child in Swahili) Mobile Clinic will be launched to serve women in the same communities throughout the year.

Alonso was recently named a UW-Madison Outstanding Woman of Color for her work to create an inclusive and respectful environment on and off campus.

UWCCC researchers honored

Two researchers at the UW Carbone Cancer Center (UWCCC) were named 2010 Young Investigators by the Prostate Cancer Foundation. **Joshua Lang** and **Justine Bruce** were awarded three-year grants to continue their research projects on prostate cancer treatments.

Lang, a research fellow, is investigating a prostate cancer vaccine for patients with advanced disease. He will study medications that could attack the body's immune system to attack tumor cells.

Bruce, assistant professor, Hematology-Oncology, School of Medicine and Public Health, will develop additional imaging techniques and new medicines for patients who do not show evidence of metastatic disease but whose prostate-specific antigen continues to increase after hormonal treatment. She is working with a novel experimental agent that inhibits tumor growth and disease progression.

Lang and Bruce are among a select group of investigators and research fellows from distinguished academic medical centers including Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York City and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Texas to receive the Young Investigators honor.

The UWCCC is a founding member of the Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium with the U.S. Department of Defense. The consortium represents the most active prostate cancer clinical research sites in the world.

Better decisions, better outcomes

Current computational approaches to decision-making suggest solutions for the best outcome on average. For example, standard tools can produce a customer call center workforce schedule that results in a small number of unhappy customers on an average day. However, the schedule may not help the center deal with an abnormally high number of calls and the resulting high number of unhappy customers.

James Luedtke ('01 BS EGR), assistant professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, is working to develop new algorithms in a field known as stochastic programming to specifically address uncertainty in decision-making settings while allowing for individual preferences for risk. These new algorithms, which address constraints that limit the probability of bad outcomes, will offer alternative solutions to the best-on-average solutions produced by current models.

"When you aren't making a decision thousands of times, being best on average doesn't matter to you," Luedtke said. "If a decision-maker has just one shot, she may be willing to give up making a choice that is best on average to reduce the risk of being one of the bad outcomes."

Luedtke's methods could have applications in medicine, business and finance.

An improvement on nature?

For decades, doctors have used collagen from cows to treat arthritis, burns and other ailments that result from the breakdown of the body's natural collagen. But human collagen engineered in the lab is getting nearer.

Ron Raines, professor of biochemistry, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, whose lab made the first synthetic human collagen in 2006, announced that his team has developed a form of collagen that is stronger than the real thing. "It's by far the most stable collagen ever made," Raines explained.

The breakthrough came by swapping out some of the

amino acids in natural collagen with similar but less flexible alternatives, helping the synthetic collagen hold form. Raines says the synthetic collagen is indistinguishable from its natural form and could eliminate the risk of cross-species transplants.

Detecting seizure-inducing websites

About one in 4,000 people are at risk for seizures induced by intermittent flashing lights or objects. This means that a website with flashing or flickering can pose a serious problem for some people with a form of epilepsy. A team at the College of Engineering's Trace Center has created a free tool to help Web developers determine whether a site's content flashes at a rate and intensity that might induce an epileptic seizure.

The center, directed by **Gregg Vanderheiden** ('72 BS, '74 MS EGR, '84 PhD L&S), professor of biomedical engineering and industrial and systems engineering, works to develop methods that will make the technology available to as many people as possible regardless of age or disability.

The free tool, known as PEAT, or Photosensitive Epilepsy Analysis Tool, has been downloaded by 1,000 users including Internet service giant AOL. Vanderheiden said the next step is to develop a chip or software that could be installed in computers to detect content that could induce a seizure and then change the screen to prevent it.

Algae from above, inside and outside

UW-Madison scientists are relying on everything from satellites to genetics to better understand the blue-green algae that floats on Lake Mendota.

Colleen Mouw, assistant researcher, Space Science and Engineering Center, uses satellite images to measure light bouncing off phycocyanin, the blue-green pigment for which the algae, or cyanobacteria, are named. Measuring the different wavelengths eventually could allow researchers to detect and warn people about the location of toxic growths, which give a different light signature from the less dangerous varieties.

Katherine McMahon, associate professor of civil engineering and bacteriology, College of Engineering, uses genetic analysis to better understand the toxicity of the

approximately 20 different varieties of blue-green algae that grow on Madison lakes.

Paul Hanson, associate scientist, Center for Limnology, College of Letters and Science, studies how algae fits into and interacts with the entire lake ecosystem, including nutrients and other pollutants, light and temperatures. Such studies may lead to a better forecasting system for predicting and warning people about potentially dangerous blooms.

Arts & Humanities

***Vasara* means summer in Latvian**

The UW-Madison offers more than 80 modern and ancient languages, from Akan-Twi to Zulu. This summer, 20 students from across the United States came to Madison for eight weeks of intensive study of the languages of the Baltic countries: Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian. The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) is sponsored by a consortium of 12 U.S. universities. Hosting duties rotate among the member schools every three years.

The pace of the work and the difficulty of the languages challenge the students, who cram a year's worth of work into eight weeks, explained BALSSI coordinator **Nancy Heingartner**, outreach specialist at the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia. "This is a unique program," she said, "and the only opportunity for intensive summer study of these languages in the United States. Even during the school year, these languages are only offered at a few universities."

BALSSI included events, activities, field trips and a lecture series to provide a complete cultural experience. Go to www.creca.wisc.edu/balssi/ for more information.

Second Go Big Read book selected

Chancellor **Biddy Martin** has selected "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot as the second book in the University's common reading program, Go Big Read. The book was chosen by a review committee from a list of nearly 160 titles. The purpose of Go Big Read is to engage students, faculty, staff, alumni and

community members in a shared, academically focused reading experience.

Henrietta Lacks was a poor black woman in Baltimore who died in 1951 at age 30 from cervical cancer. Before her death, a sample of her cancerous tissue was taken without her knowledge or consent. Skloot tells the story of what happened to her cells and the influence they had on medicine, including advances such as vaccines for polio and the human papillomavirus, treatments for leukemia and other drug developments.

The book raises issues of medical ethics, poverty, racism, ownership rights and the law. These topics and others will be incorporated into classroom lessons and special events.

Skloot will speak on campus during the fall semester. All first-year students will receive a copy of the book. Go to www.gobigread.wisc.edu for more information and email updates.

SoHE expansion breaks ground

With help from University Preschool children, Governor **Jim Doyle** ('67 BA L&S), Chancellor **Biddy Martin**, School of Human Ecology Dean **Robin Douthitt** and guests broke ground for a project to renovate the Human Ecology Building and expand it to the west. The new, larger facility will extend across land previously occupied by offices of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Preschool Laboratory's on-campus site.

The expanded facility will bring together all human ecology programs, including the Preschool Laboratory, Design Gallery, Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection and five other academic and research centers. It also will feature areas for student organizations, a cafe and informal meeting spaces. Underground parking will offer safe access to preschool parents and visitors.

Completion of the \$52 million environmentally responsible project is planned for spring 2012. For updates, visit www.sohe.wisc.edu and click on Movin' On Up.

Pro Arte plans centennial celebration

The Pro Arte Quartet has been the string quartet in residence at the UW-Madison for 70 years. The group, however, was founded in 1911 by students at the Brussels (Belgium) Conservatory. This world-renowned group will celebrate its centennial next year with five new American premieres, guest lectures, composers in residency and a series of new recordings.

The original Pro Arte members came to tour the United States in 1938 and 1940. When Hitler invaded Belgium, the UW president offered to let the quartet remain as artists-in-residence. This residency had no precedent and was the first in the United States. Now, such arrangements are standard in educational institutions.

"It's important to remember that the Belgian group was a full-time performing ensemble," said **John Barker**, emeritus professor of history, College of Letters and Science. "The players were very enthusiastic about working with American ensembles and students, but before the ties with the University were increased, teaching was a sideline."

Today, the group's schedule is three hours of rehearsal each weekday morning. Each member also maintains a private studio with about eight students.

Current members are **Parry Karp**, cello; **David Perry**, violin; **Suzanne Beia**, violin; and **Sally Chisholm**, viola. For information about centennial recordings and performances, visit www.proartequartet.org.

Good Knight

Aliko Songolo, professor of French and African languages and literature, College of Letters and Science, has been named Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, or Knight in the Order of the Academic Palms, by the French Minister of National Education. The Order was established in 1808 by Emperor Napoleon I to honor accomplished members of the University of Paris. Its three ranks have since been extended to those who make major contributions to the the expansion of French culture in France or the rest of the world. The rank of knight is the highest honor.

Songolo, who was raised in the Congo, has spoken French since childhood, though Swahili is his native language. He also is fluent in Ehembe, English and Spanish.

Sports Roundup

Alvarez honored by Hall of Fame bid

UW Athletic Director **Barry Alvarez** was selected for the College Football Hall of Fame's 2010 class. Alvarez guided the Badgers to three Rose Bowl titles and an overall record of 118-73-4 in 16 seasons as head coach. He remains the only Big Ten coach to record consecutive Rose Bowl victories.

"It is very humbling," said Alvarez. "It's about a group of players. It's about a staff. It's about anyone that supported you throughout your career."

Alvarez and **Gene Stallings** (Texas A&M, Alabama) were selected for the honor from among seven coaching candidates. To qualify for the ballot, a coach must have coached for at least 10 years and 100 games and compiled a winning percentage of .600 or better. He also must be retired from coaching for at least three years.

The induction ceremony will be December 7 in New York City.

Badger Athletes of the Year named

Hockey player **Blake Geoffrion** ('10 HEC) and swimmer **Maggie Meyer** were named UW athletes of the year.

As a senior forward, Geoffrion led the Badgers to the NCAA championship game and became UW's first Hobey Baker Award winner. The Brentwood, Tennessee native served as tri-captain this season and finished first in the nation and the WCHA with 15 power-play goals. He tallied 28 goals and 22 assists.

Meyer, a junior from North Oaks, Minnesota, currently holds five UW school records, including two set in 2010, along with two Big Ten Conference records. The five-time All-American was a USA Swimming National Team member in 2009-10 and is the 2009 U.S. Open 200-meter backstroke champion.

Coaching update

The University of Wisconsin Athletic Board approved contract extensions for several of the school's head coaches in spring. **Brian Fleishman**, women's tennis coach, and **Jeff Schuman**, men's golf coach, received contract extensions through May 2011. Women's golf coach **Todd Oehrlein** received an extension through June 2011. **Barry Davis**, wrestling coach, had his contract extended through April 2013. The contracts of **Greg Van Emburgh**, men's tennis coach, and **Eric Hansen**, men's and women's swimming and diving coach, were extended through June 2013. Men's and women's basketball coaches **Bo Ryan** and **Lisa Stone** will be leading their Badger teams through May 2015. Men's hockey coach **Mike Eaves** ('78 BS EDU) had his contract extended through June 2015.

The Athletic Board voted not to renew the contract of softball coach **Chandelle Schulte**. She was named head coach in 2006. In July, athletic director Barry Alvarez named **Yvette Healy** as the new head coach. Healy had been head coach at Loyola University since 2004. She was 2007 Horizon League Coach of the Year. Healy attended DePaul University where she earned her bachelor's degree in communication in 1999 and her master's in secondary education and English in 2007.

Foundation News

Michael M. Knetter, Nicholas Dean of the Wisconsin School of Business and vice chancellor for advancement at the UW-Madison, has been named the new president and chief executive officer of the UW Foundation. Knetter succeeds **Andrew A. "Sandy" Wilcox**, who has served 22 years and will retire at the end of 2010. Knetter will join the Foundation on October 16. Wilcox will assume the title of president emeritus, effective October 16.

Knetter earned his bachelor's degrees in economics and mathematics in 1983 from UW-Eau Claire and a PhD in economics from Stanford University in 1988. He has worked in a variety of public policy, academic and executive leadership positions, including senior staff economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisors for Presidents **George H.W. Bush** and **Bill Clinton**,

research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and board member for American Family Insurance, Newberger Berman Funds and Wausau Paper. He was associate dean of the MBA program and professor of international economics in the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

Knetter joined the Wisconsin School of Business as dean in July 2002. As dean, he orchestrated the novel \$85 million Wisconsin Naming Gift, the expansion of Grainger Hall, the restructuring and improved national standing of the full-time MBA program and the restructuring and expansion of the Enterprise MBA programs for working professionals.

A national search for the new Foundation president was conducted by the firm SpencerStuart under the auspices of a search committee appointed by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

"While I have enjoyed many aspects of my work at Wisconsin, nothing has given me greater satisfaction than engaging alumni in support of our mission," Knetter said. "This new role will enable me to focus on facilitating support for the entire university and build on the success that the Foundation has enjoyed throughout its history."

"The richness of Mike's background makes him uniquely qualified for this important position," said **Frances S. "Fran" Taylor** ('68 BSE EDU), chair of the Foundation Board of Directors. "He has been actively engaged in fundraising and has already developed many important relationships with UW-Madison donors."

Joan Schmit ('78 BBA, '79 MBA BUS), vice dean, Wisconsin School of Business, will serve as interim dean. An international search for a new dean is underway.

We welcomed **Betsy Vogel**, director of development, Research, **Michelle Green**, director of development, Wisconsin School of Business, **Kate Bahr**, development coordinator, Marion Group, **Kristine Ludwig**, development coordinator, Health and Life Sciences Group, **Ronald Luskin**, director of development, College of Letters and Science, and **Dan Julie**, director of investments, Investments.

Points of Pride

In 1875, the UW-Madison founded the nation's first Scandinavian studies department.

Charles Van Hise, father of the Wisconsin Idea, not only received the first PhD awarded by the University, he also was the first graduate to be named president.

In 1969, the Wisconsin School of Business established the first graduate program in arts administration in the United States. The Bolz Center supports and advances the education and training of arts and cultural managers.

The UW-Madison School of Pharmacy was the first to offer a baccalaureate degree in pharmacy. It also was the nation's first school of pharmacy to award doctoral degrees in pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmaceuticals, the history of pharmacy, social studies of pharmacy, continuing education, and one of the first in pharmacy administration.

For the second year in a row, UW-Madison has produced the fifth highest number of Teach For America corps volunteers among large universities. This fall, 56 graduates will begin two years of service in underserved schools across the United States.

The groundwork for the School of Library and Information Studies was laid in 1895 with the establishment of summer sessions in library science, making UW-Madison the home of one of the oldest and longest running library school programs in the nation.

Rocco Landesman ('69 BA L&S) currently chairs the National Endowment for the Arts. He is the Tony award-winning producer of such Broadway shows as "Big River," "Angels in America" and "The Producers." Landesman will be on campus in September to kick off the Year of the Arts. For more information, visit www.yearofthearts.wisc.edu.

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Use the ID number located above your name on the mailing label above to log into the Web site. Thank you!

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