Tap into the LSA Wire — LSAmagazine’s new online supplement — and read about UM graduate and Top Chef winner Stephanie Izard. She shares cooking stories, recipes from her winning dishes, insights from the show, and more. Trip the Wire today at www.lsa.umich.edu/alumni/wire.
Dr. Sanjay Gupta had intended to open a quiet practice in Michigan, but instead he became CNN’s Chief Medical Correspondent. Today, global travel is part of his work as he discovers medical insights, unearths compelling stories, and offers health expertise to his thousands of viewers. It isn’t what he planned, but it’s everything he hoped.

You can cast your ballot, but will your vote count in the November election?

In simple speche, as we couthe, we bid Godspeed to Professor Ralph Williams.

The NFL’s number one pick, Jake Long, tackles his first season with the Miami Dolphins.
Did I Just Invent That?

Many of the greatest inventions occurred completely by accident, and throughout this issue you’ll find details on a few of them. Here are clues to a handful—the trick being, of course, to figure out what the invention is before you turn the page.

Media Medicine Man
Neurosurgeon and journalist Sanjay Gupta in the exam room of his own life: how he sutured his two careers together and started practicing the health lessons he was preaching.

The Face of the Moon
Learned scientists didn’t want to hear him. The war effort needed him. His family, and family business, called to him. Yet for 40 years, Ralph Baldwin never stopped fighting the battle that would revolutionize lunar science forever.

The Affairs of Small Tribes
Aaron David Miller recently interviewed three presidents, four national security advisers, and nine secretaries of state to plot the complex, tangled roadmap to peace in the Middle East. No easy answers here.

Out of Africa
Mugabe’s reign of terror in Zimbabwe was never just a newspaper headline for Clapperton Mavhunga, but rather everyday life. Mavhunga came to Michigan to study, without fear of torture or death, what went wrong in his homeland—and why.
Engagement and Accountability in Undergraduate Education

ARE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS at the University of Michigan academically engaged? As the famous baseball player and yogi yogi Beria once said, “You could look it up.”

Beginning in fall 2007, USA Today launched a website reporting the scores on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which is conducted annually and examines student experiences at more than 500 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. It is thought of as the “gold standard” among academic leaders because it considers only one thing: the academic experience of undergraduate students.

The University of Michigan has voluntarily participated in the NSSE survey since 2000 in an effort to better document and measure student education and overall academic success. As USA Today noted when introducing the website (with a story that highlighted the University of Michigan), the NSSE survey accomplishes what many other rankings do not. “While many popular college guides focus on survey accomplishes what many other rankings do not. "While many popular college guides focus on survey accomplishment, and more enriching educational experiences. Of academic challenge, more active and collaborative education by looking at how actively involved students were with their studies, professors, and the campus community. Decades of research shows that the more engaged students are, the more likely they are to learn.”

The overall NSSE scores rank UM above the benchmark mean for its peer institutions across four categories. Our students report a higher level of academic challenge, more active and collaborative learning, more intense student-faculty interaction, and more enriching educational experiences.

Because the University receives more NSSE information than is printed in USA Today, it is possible to see behind these general scores, which reveal that LSA students were much more likely than students at peer institutions to simply memorize facts for later repetition and much more likely to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate ideas, theories, and sources of information. LSA students read and wrote more and spent more time studying and on academic work than students at peer institutions.

At a time when the “accountability” of higher education is justified on the minds of everyone, from parents and students to members of Congress, we are very pleased by these strong ratings. We are pleased, but not smug. In fact, over the last two years, hundreds of our faculty, undergraduate staff, and students have met with me in focus groups to discuss improvements to our undergraduate experience. On the table now are a wide range of changes, including more support for and better integration of international and civic outreach education, enrichment of the sophomore year, and more “capstone” opportunities.

After arriving on UM’s campus in 1971, Michigan President James B. Angell declared that the University of Michigan is intended to provide "higher education for the common man." With those words, he put us on a path that, to this day, we are proud to walk.

Teresa J. McDonald
ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLEGE OF LSA
Professor of History, and Dean
Arthur F. Thurnau
Professor, Professor of History, and Dean
Peggy Burk
ASSOCIATE ADVISOR LSA ADVISMENT
Laura Zielin
EDITOR
Rebekah Murray
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Patricia Clydem
ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER
Regents of the University
Julia Dorrance Dalton, ANN ABDUR
Laurence B. Deutch, SHEFAIR/FAMRS
Okia F. Hurd, OSCEONIC
Rebecca McGovern, ANN ABDUR
Andrea Fischer Niemann, ANN ABDUR
Andrew C. Rutter, GROICE
PoNTE PARK
S. Marie Taylor, GROICE
Petoskey
Kathleen C. White, ANN ABDUR
Mary Sue Coleman, U.S. OFFICE

Copyright © 2008 University of Michigan
ARTICLES APPEARING IN LSA MAGAZINE MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM:
Editor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
University of Michigan
Suite 600
500 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2024
734-647-3939
lsa@umich.edu

Teresa J. McDonald
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, AND COLLEGE OF LSA
Peggy Burk
ASSOCIATE ADVISOR LSA ADVISMENT
Laura Zielin
EDITOR
Rebekah Murray
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Patricia Clydem
ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER
Regents of the University
Julia Dorrance Dalton, ANN ABDUR
Laurence B. Deutch, SHEFAIR/FAMRS
Okia F. Hurd, OSCEONIC
Rebecca McGovern, ANN ABDUR
Andrea Fischer Niemann, ANN ABDUR
Andrew C. Rutter, GROICE
PoNTE PARK
S. Marie Taylor, GROICE
Petoskey
Kathleen C. White, ANN ABDUR
Mary Sue Coleman, U.S. OFFICE

The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, committed to recruitment and employment of a diverse group of individuals. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, color, religion, national origin, or disability. The University of Michigan is committed to the ethical treatment of human beings as research subjects. If you have questions regarding complaints of conduct that violate the university’s policies, you should contact the Office of the Dean of Students, 2075 Administration, 1420 Angell Hall, 1300 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1062, or the Director of the Office for Institutional Equity, 2072 Administration, 1420 Angell Hall, 1300 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1062, or the University of Michigan Information Technology, 1200 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2015. Individuals who have physical, hearing, or speech impairments who need auxiliary aids and services are encouraged to contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 734-763-1667; the Director of the Office for Institutional Equity at 734-764-5657; or the University of Michigan Information Technology at 734-763-1000.
Reprinted materials, geothermal heating, and natural landscaping are important ideas, but too often these ideas are used — an 8,000-square-foot house in suburban sprawl. There is nothing even remotely green or sustainable about suburban sprawl — it is a waste of land and all the other resources needed to support an unsustainable lifestyle.

MARK TRINLING (’79)

Marie van Stavenen (’07) complimented our use of recycled paper in the Green issue, but questioned our choice of printers.

While the Michigan economy slides deeper into recession, you are printing your magazine in Wisconsin. Not only does that not make sense for the environment because your magazine now has to be shipped in from the other side of Lake Michigan, but you’re pumping thousands of dollars of Michigan money into the Wisconsin economy.

Yes and no. The magazine mailing list is large and international, so it makes sense to ship the magazines from a centralized location. What’s more, our paper is recycled. Just right down the road from where we print. We also tried out web printing, which was quite pleasing. However, we cannot print or personally deliver all our copies at once, so we don’t feel that it’s efficiently handled by our printer. We print the magazine (at LSAmagazine.com) in addition to other publications and send them to posting centers, which saves gas and money — helping both our budget and the environment.

Let us know what you think!

We welcome your thoughts, opinions, and ideas regarding LSAmagazine. Letters may be published in the magazine and/or on our website, but we cannot print or personally respond to all letters received.

Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Opinions expressed in LSAmagazine Letters do not necessarily reflect those of LSAmagazine, the College, or the University of Michigan.

All correspondence should be sent to: Editor, LSAmagazine, Suite 100, 300 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2390. You can also email us at lsamagazine@umich.edu. Please include your name, address, and graduation year.

After 20 years of receiving ho-hum, send-us-money messages from the University of Michigan, out of the blue I received your Spring 2008 issue. Loved it! Interesting, short articles on alumni and current research, great graphics, fun photos. Thank you and more, please.

SARA MCGEE (’88)

Some of you wrote to say the magazine’s overall look was hitting home, like Sara McCue (see pull-quote, left), while others weren’t quite as pleased with the updates:

I am not very fond of your new gizzy magazine. I liked the old, more serious one better. Now, like the younger set used to say about the old format, “I glance through then throw it out.”

JANET PERKINS (’63)

Finally, Professor Don Munro wrote to clarify that the Tang Junyi Visiting Scholar fund, which we featured in our last issue, will support a short-term visiting scholar specializing in Chinese thought or doing work in Chinese moral psychology. The scholar may be located in any one of the following LSA units: Philosophy, Asian Languages and Cultures, or the Center for Chinese Studies. The visitor’s role is flexible and one appointment is welcome within a single academic year.

MIKE NEWMAN (’96, M.B.A. ’03)

For real? [...]

Our "Green" issue garnered more letters to the editor than any other issue in the magazine’s history. Some of you, like Brett Feldman (’96), wrote to say you were delighted to see that LSAmagazine had increased its environmental initiatives.

When I was in LSA, I had to basically create my own environmental economics major with the School of Natural Resources and Environment. I interned in the University recycling office, where I started a recycling program at Michigan Stadium. I am extremely proud of UM’s environmental leadership and the influential alums it has fostered.

Many of you praised the Green issue but expressed displeasure with our “Breaking Ground” story. It was great to read your Green issue of LSAmagazine, however, I am still laughing over your profile of an 8,000-square-foot “environmentally responsible home.” There can be no environmental justification for that size home — ever. It is unfortunate that the builders seem to think that they can “buy” their way out of their environmental footprint rather than taking a deeper look at the implications of their choices. [Your article] left them largely unchallenged.

Mike Newman (’96, M.B.A. ’03)

Colleges

A UNIVERSITY-WIDE INVESTMENT

The University's enlarged giving campaign — the University of Michigan’s Donor Challenge — has generated more than $330 million in endowed funds for graduate student stipends.

Although the FY09 budget includes a 5.6 percent tuition increase for resident and nonresident undergraduates, the raise is tempered by a 10.8 percent increase in student financial aid for undergraduates. The budget also will provide additional funds for graduate student stipends.

UM President Mary Sue Coleman’s Donor Challenge, a matching program to aid both undergraduate and graduate students, has raised more than 100 million in endowed funds for need-based undergraduate financial aid. The College of LSA, through the support of alumni, helped raise just shy of half of the 80 million. The Challenge for graduate student aid remains in effect until December 31, 2009, when each dollar received will be matched 1:1 by President Coleman (see p. 6).

“Alumni in the College of LSA and the University as a whole have stepped up and responded to the academy’s needs at a critical time,” says LSA Dean Terrence J. McDonald. “The economy and the state of Michigan’s dire recession could have crippled the University, but alumni gave—and continue to give—generously to help us close the gap.”

The UM budget includes first-time base funding to begin hiring 100 new faculty members, many of whom will be housed in the College of LSA. McDonald says new, outstanding faculty members are critical to keeping the University competitive. “They are the presence that maintains the caliber of our education and research,” he says.

Funds from the State of Michigan have also improved over last year. UM’s FY09 budget assumes a two percent increase over last year’s $3.53 billion appropriation, or 530 million. However, aggressive cost-containment measures will continue in the College and across the University to make the institution more efficient. “We always strive to steward our funds in the most responsible way,” McDonald says, “while still providing a world-class education.”

Grad Giving Makes a Difference in UM’s Budget

Sources

Total Sources $582,755,322 100%

Uses

Total Uses $582,755,322 100%

Endowment Distribution $29,980,799 4%

Additional Revenue $3,531,699 4%

Gifts $37,374,081 6%

External Grants & Contracts $61,600,957 11%

State Appropriations, Tuition, Indirect Cost Recovery, and University Transfers $440,604,186 75%

COLLEGE
On April 7, 2008, the University of Michigan lost a longtime friend and supporter, Samuel Frankel. Frankel studied at UM in the 1930s and, together with his wife, Jean (’36), transformed UM Judaic Studies from a small academic program into a leading venue of research and teaching. In their honor it was renamed the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

The Frankels’ groundbreaking $20 million gift to the College — the largest in LSA history — founded the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, the first of its kind at a public university in the United States. To pay tribute to the memory of Sam and his enduring generosity, LSA Dean Terrence J. McDonald recently committed $15,000 in College funds to support graduate students in Judaic studies. The funds will be matched 1:2 through President Coleman’s Graduate Student Donor Challenge Program.

“I can’t think of a better way to honor Jean and Sam’s faithful support of the University over the years,” says McDonald. “Forty-five years ago, Judaic Studies was an academic niche, but now it’s a rich field of study with breadth impact in other scholarly areas. The Frankels’ support was transformative, and it’s a privilege to honor Sam’s memory in this way.”

In addition to his wife, Frankel was survived by his children Stanley (’63, M.B.A. ’64), Bruce (’67), Stuart (’66), Jo Elen, and their spouses, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rebekah K. Murray is the Assistant Editor of LSA magazine.
A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Alumna

New York Times reporter and LSA alumna Amy Harmon ('90) earned a 2008 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting in her ongoing series, “The DNA Age.” This series covers the ways in which genetic technology—including genetic mutations, culling embryos, and mapping genes—impacts American life. At UM, Harmon was the editor of the Opinion page of the Michigan Daily before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in American Studies.

Mice and Men

Mice are stalwart stand-ins for humans in medical research, thanks to genomes that are 85 percent identical. But identical genes may behave differently in mice and men, says a study by Jianzhi Zhang, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and graduate student Ben-Yang Liao. "Everyone assumes that the deletion of the same gene in the mouse and in humans produces the same phenotype (an observable trait such as the presence or absence of a particular disease)," says Zhang. "Our results show that may not always be the case." So while the researchers say that mouse models still provide useful information, other models may need to be established for particular diseases.

FEMALE FUEL

New UM psychology research suggests that the sex hormone estrogen may be for women what testosterone is for men: the fuel of power. Until recently, some researchers doubted whether women had a biologically anchored need for dominance. The study by Associate Professor of Psychology Oliver Schultheiss, who directs the Human Motivation & Affective Neuroscience Lab, and Steven Stanton, who is completing doctoral work at the lab, measured women's power needs and then assessed salivary estrogen levels both before and after they entered a one-on-one dominance contest. The researchers found that even before women got involved in the contest, higher power motivation was associated with higher levels of estrogen.

"Our findings perfectly parallel what we have observed for power motivation and testosterone in men," Schultheiss said. "In men, power motivation is associated with heightened levels of testosterone, particularly after a contest victory. In women, estrogen appears to be the critical hormone for power motivation."

As the world shrinks before our eyes, the need to provide an international context for work, for research, for life seems to grow exponentially. UM’s International Institute (II) connects the Michigan campus to the world—through its regional focus, through its comparative studies, and through its student programming.

You can become part of the II’s rich intellectual discoveries, learn from some of today’s leading global scholars, and discover how to support education that transcends boundaries. Subscribe today to the free, bi-annual Journal of the International Institute.

To be added to our Journal mailing list or to learn more about the International Institute, please call 734.763.9200 or email iimichigan@umich.edu
He trained as a neurosurgeon at UM, intending to start a quiet practice in Michigan. But plans changed for Dr. Sanjay Gupta. Today he’s CNN’s Chief Medical Correspondent, his face graces magazine and book covers, and he travels the planet to learn more about global health perspectives, which he explains to everyday folks using everyday language. Here, Gupta offers LSAmagazine a diagnosis of how his life’s plan was altered to combine medicine and media.

by Rebekah K. Murray
On April 5, 2003, an Iraqi man stumbled into a U.S. Navy’s medical unit south of Baghdad, covered in blood. He had been shot on the right side of his head. As the doctors rushed to help him, they soon learned that the man was bleeding around his brain and needed a neurosurgeon—but there were none on staff.

Yet there was another person who might be able to help. He was embedded with the unit as a journalist for CNN.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta (’93, M.D. ’99) told viewers about his experience that night on CNN. “As journalists, we came here to cover the story, not to be the story. But they came to me, asked me if I would be willing to take a look at the patient and operate on the patient. Medically and morally, I thought that was the right thing to do.”

That first day, he performed brain surgery on a young boy, did not.

Gupta would perform brain surgery more than 400 times during his two-month stay in Iraq. Some of the patients he operated on lived, like the man with the gunshot wound to the head. Others, like the young boy, did not.

Today, an unframed photograph of Gupta in Iraq sits on his desk at the CNN Center in Atlanta. “It’s one of those indelible experiences,” he says of his time there. It was also a time when his dual careers Gupta was asked to perform surgery in Iraq. The first time, just two days before, a young Iraqi boy had come in with head wounds.

Gupta’s Rx

It is this ability to connect medicine and media that makes Gupta the right man to lead CNN’s team of medical correspondents. He hosts a weekend show called House Call with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, co-hosts AccentHealth for Turner Private Networks, contributes health news stories to CNN.com and American Morning, writes a column for TIME magazine, and more. He has also written a bestselling book, Chasing Life, and is about to release a second book.

Gupta has been interested in educating the public on health care policy since he was a student at UM. Now, through his role at CNN, he can dispense medical information and advice, and share personal stories of people impacted by health concerns. He tries to come across as just a man telling health stories, a doctor in real life and on TV. He thinks of his audience as patients and tries to make that clear through a television screen.

“I imagine that I’m talking to a patient in a room,” he says, “and you speak a certain way. You don’t want to use a lot of medical jargon because they don’t understand what you’re saying. And you want to treat the patient with a lot of compassion and a lot of care. It’s the same sort of thing with the viewers. It’s just that I look into a camera and there are lots of eyes looking back, which I don’t get to see.”

Right now, Gupta is trying to educate his viewers on two health threats. One is obesity. “When you look at obesity, you come out to find that it could single-handedly erase or reverse all the medical advancements we’ve made over the last decades,” Gupta says.

Health care is Gupta’s other chief area of concern. “Stuff we know how to do, right now, that could prolong or save people’s lives, doesn’t always get done — whether it’s cancer screenings or prenatal vitamins. I mean the basics. Everyone should get that, and they don’t always.”

Gupta could stand in front of a camera and try to explain this to viewers, but obesity is a difficult topic, he says. “It’s not sexy. You can see people’s eyes glazing over as you talk about it.” And with the health care system, the problems and proposed solutions can be quite complex.

So Gupta tries to communicate people’s personal stories. For instance, earlier this year he was part of a documentary for CNN on health care titled Broken Government: Health Care — Critical Condition. In that documentary, he shared the story of one couple whose twins, born at 28 weeks, struggled to live via surgeries that eventually forced the couple into bankruptcy — a scenario that should never occur, Gupta says.

“Consider this: In 2006, almost a million people filed for bankruptcy,” Gupta told his viewers in that documentary. “Almost half, according to a Harvard study, were sunk in large part by medical expenses. And the sad fact is, most of those people did have health insurance.

Shouldn’t health care be that way in this country?” Gupta asked.

It’s a question that Gupta has repeated for many years, reflecting a concern that originated during his days at Michigan.

The Michigan Work Horse

Gupta grew up in Novi, Michigan, the son of two Ford Motor Company engineers. Immigrants from India, they taught him about hard work (“We’re work horses, not show ponies,” his father often said) and about lifelong learning. Gupta’s father received a master’s degree from UM in 1968, and, right out of high school, Gupta was accepted into Intellex, an accelerated program that is now discontinued, through the College of LSA and UM’s Medical School.

While Gupta was studying the liberal arts, he also wrote about health policy in op/eds for the Economist, to the need for asthma vans to educate children in urban areas about how to use their inhalers.

After his brief stint at the White House, Gupta returned to Michigan to practice neurosurgery. At UM, he had met attorney Rebecy, an asthma patient, and then-Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary.

That led to a meeting with the Clintons at a prestigious conference, when Gupta was only 20 years old. “But I think they appreciated that a 20-year-old student could be so interested in health care policy,” he says. A few years later, while Gupta was training to be a neurosurgeon at UM, Bill Clinton became president and Gupta applied for and received a White House Fellowship.

Through his year-long fellowship, Gupta wrote speeches for the First Lady, most of them related to health care. “It was everything from sweeping legislation, like a proposal for children’s health insurance in 1997, to the need for asthma vans to educate children in urban areas about how to use their inhalers.”

After his brief stint at the White House, Gupta has traveled extensively, reporting for CNN. He was in New York City after the September 11, 2001, attacks, explaining anthrax to viewers. He has also traveled to Sri Lanka after the tsunami, to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and to a chain of young survivors, Sage and Sky, ages 1 and 2 months. At the time, he says, he and Olson thought they would make their lives in Michigan. But Gupta had met Tom Johnson, the then-CEO of CNN, while he was in Washington, D.C., and Johnson was convinced that Gupta would be a great fit at CNN. For Gupta, the idea was appealing but forced him to ponder a difficult question.

Could he educate a mass audience on health concerns and still be a practicing neurosurgeon?

America’s Doctor

Gupta is proving that he can, but he is quick to add that his current life is not easy — especially when it requires 80-hour work weeks.

Along with spending time in Iraq, Gupta has traveled extensively, reporting for CNN. He was in New York City after the September 11, 2001, attacks, explaining anthrax to viewers. He has also traveled to Sri Lanka after the tsunami, to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and to a chain of
Doctor’s Orders

**Tips from Chasing Life**

- Eat only until you are 80 percent full.
- Eat five to seven servings of fruit and vegetables every day.
- Remember the essential vitamins you need every day.
- Go to the source, not a supplement. There is no substitute for a diet filled with fruits, vegetables, and other vitamin-rich foods.
- Exercise daily. Don’t have time for a workout? Then take the stairs, park farther away, rake the leaves, or vacuum.
- Get plenty of sleep. It will help you lose weight.
- Make sure to do upper-body training now. It may add years to your life.
- Discover the unlikely elixirs. Dark chocolate, red wine, and coffee may extend life.
- Just because something is natural, it is not guaranteed to be safe.
- There is no fountain of youth. Beware of the product that says it will make you younger.
- Even if you’re an old dog, learn a new trick. The more you learn, the more you protect your mind.
- Regular screening and early detection are the best ways to never hear the word “cancer” from your physician.
- Practice optimism. It can help you have a longer life.

“television is not as glamorous as you’d think,” he says. “I’ve been to the hottest and worst spots on the planet.” But it’s worth it, Gupta says. And it’s his job. Let politicians debate strategy and health care coverage. In the meantime, Gupta will continue connecting medicine and media, and “introducing people to the stories of human beings who are suffering and being affected by these events now.”

Rebekah K. Murray is the Assistant Editor of LSAmagazine.
Cape Canaveral
July 16, 1969

From the VIP area of Kennedy Space Center, Ralph Baldwin witnesses firsthand the launch of Apollo 11, his eldest son, Dana, by his side.

I can’t believe we’re standing here. We’re sending men to the Moon.

All those years researching, and now my work is going to be checked on the spot.

Baldwin certainly didn’t start his astronomy career focused on the Moon. In fact, just the opposite. He was interested, along with the majority of sky scientists in the 1930s, in the exotic and unexplored stars and galaxies that lay far beyond the Moon.

University of Michigan, 1937

I don’t like the doggone thing. It gets in the way; the light of the Moon. It bothers every kind of observation I want to make.

I present to you my thesis on Nova Cygni III, in which I unravel the complicated spectra and posit a model of events that occurred at this Nova.

University of Pennsylvania, 1938

Congratulations Ralph, you’re featured in TIME Magazine for the work you did on the star Gamma Cassiopeiae.

I guess that makes you famous!

Northwestern University, 1939

And that’s how we classified the previously unidentified M, R, and S stars. Our findings will be published in the Annals of the Dearborn Observatory.

I don’t like the doggone thing. It gets in the way; the light of the Moon. It bothers every kind of observation I want to make.
Chicago, 1940

For extra money to support his new wife, Lois, and baby son, Dana, Baldwin headed into bustling downtown Chicago to Moonlight at the Adler Planetarium. And it was there one night, while preparing to give a lecture after the projection show finished up...

...that Ralph Baldwin discerned a curious pattern. One of the eyes of the "man on the Moon" had deep grooves radiating out of it.

Modern scientific theory is wrong! The moon's surface isn't pitted by volcanoes. The craters must have been made by explosions. Explosions of incredible violence...meteors impact the radial valleys carving out of the center—they're made by immense boulders ejected from the crash site. It's so simple, but makes so much sense. Why didn't I notice this before?

For all the years Baldwin had tried so hard to see around the Moon, he couldn't ignore the facts that were now staring him straight in the face. Astronomy was at a turning point, lunar science was completely upended. But unfortunately for Baldwin, his discovery didn't send him down a path of fame and prestige. Instead, he was about to set out on a frustrating journey of controversy and rejection.

After exhaustive research...

Only one other scientist, William Herschel Stevenson, has ever commented on the grooves, and he got it wrong—he says they're parallel, not radial.

In 1941, Baldwin committed his revolutionary lunar crater theory to paper. But he was unsuccessful in getting the theory published anywhere other than popular astronomy. Baldwin had run up against a hard wall of prejudice surrounding lunar science.

The moon's craters were made by volcanoes, just like on Earth.

EIGHTEEN BY TWENTY-FOUR-INCH PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE MOUNT WILSON AND LICK OBSERVATORIES IN THE EARLY 1900S, THE BEST IMAGES OF THE MOON THAT EXISTED AT THAT TIME.

Modern scientific theory is wrong! The moon's surface isn't pitted by volcanoes. The craters must have been made by explosions. Explosions of incredible violence...meteors impact the radial valleys carving out of the center—they're made by immense boulders ejected from the crash site. It's so simple, but makes so much sense. Why didn't I notice this before?

For all the years Baldwin had tried so hard to see around the Moon, he couldn't ignore the facts that were now staring him straight in the face. Astronomy was at a turning point, lunar science was completely upended. But unfortunately for Baldwin, his discovery didn't send him down a path of fame and prestige. Instead, he was about to set out on a frustrating journey of controversy and rejection.

Modern scientific theory is wrong! The moon's surface isn't pitted by volcanoes. The craters must have been made by explosions. Explosions of incredible violence...meteors impact the radial valleys carving out of the center—they're made by immense boulders ejected from the crash site. It's so simple, but makes so much sense. Why didn't I notice this before?

For all the years Baldwin had tried so hard to see around the Moon, he couldn't ignore the facts that were now staring him straight in the face. Astronomy was at a turning point, lunar science was completely upended. But unfortunately for Baldwin, his discovery didn't send him down a path of fame and prestige. Instead, he was about to set out on a frustrating journey of controversy and rejection.

Modern scientific theory is wrong! The moon's surface isn't pitted by volcanoes. The craters must have been made by explosions. Explosions of incredible violence...meteors impact the radial valleys carving out of the center—they're made by immense boulders ejected from the crash site. It's so simple, but makes so much sense. Why didn't I notice this before?

For all the years Baldwin had tried so hard to see around the Moon, he couldn't ignore the facts that were now staring him straight in the face. Astronomy was at a turning point, lunar science was completely upended. But unfortunately for Baldwin, his discovery didn't send him down a path of fame and prestige. Instead, he was about to set out on a frustrating journey of controversy and rejection.

Modern scientific theory is wrong! The moon's surface isn't pitted by volcanoes. The craters must have been made by explosions. Explosions of incredible violence...meteors impact the radial valleys carving out of the center—they're made by immense boulders ejected from the crash site. It's so simple, but makes so much sense. Why didn't I notice this before?

For all the years Baldwin had tried so hard to see around the Moon, he couldn't ignore the facts that were now staring him straight in the face. Astronomy was at a turning point, lunar science was completely upended. But unfortunately for Baldwin, his discovery didn't send him down a path of fame and prestige. Instead, he was about to set out on a frustrating journey of controversy and rejection.
March 1942

IN THE MIDDLE OF WORLD
WAR II, BALDWIN RECEIVES
A LIFE-CHANGING
PHONE CALL.

June 19, 1942

and so it was that Ralph
Baldwin packed his family
and life into a two-year-old stick
shift car and left Chicago
for Washington, D.C., and a job
he didn’t know anything about.

LITTLE DID HE KNOW HE WAS ABOUT TO PLAY A HUGE PART IN
BRINGING ABOUT THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

THE PROXIMITY FUZE THAT BALDWIN HELPED DEVELOP PROVED TO BE A
GODSEND AGAINST JAPANESE KAMIKAZE PLANES. BY ALMOST ALL ACCOUNTS
IT SHORTENED WORLD WAR II BY AT LEAST A YEAR.

MEANWHILE, DESPITE WORKING LONG HOURS AT THE APPLIED PHYSICS LAB, BALDWIN STILL MANAGED TO FIND TIME
TO RESEARCH AND FEED HIS LUNAR THEORY, WHICH BY THIS TIME COULD BE CALLED A FULL-BLOWN OBSESSION.

THE U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY, ESTABLISHED IN 1843, IS ONE OF THE OLDEST SCIENTIFIC AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE COLLECTIONS OF
ASTRONOMICAL LITERATURE IN THE WORLD.

THE LIBRARIES OF THE U.S. NAVAL
OBSERVATORY AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY GAVE BALDWIN ACCESS TO HISTORICAL FIELD STUDIES OF EARTH’S
OWN MOON-LIKE CRATERS.

BOMBING RANGES AND
MUNITIONS TESTING FACILITIES
ACROSS AMERICAN MILITARY
BASES SUPPLIED HIM WITH
FRESH DATA ON HIGH-
IMPACT CRATERS.

THE U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY, ENS. L. STONE TROYER, NAWAC.

...HIS WORK ON THE MOON WAS FAR FROM DONE.
IN 1948, BALDWIN PUBLISHED THE FACE OF THE
MOON, ITS PAGES A VERITABLE GOLDSMITH
OF QUANTITATIVE AND TESTABLE IMPACT THEORY.
HE OUTLINED THE EXACT RELATIONSHIP BE-
TWEEN THE DEPTH AND WIDTH OF A CRATER AND
THE EXPLOSIVE ENERGY THAT CREATED IT (THE
SIZE-FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION). BALDWIN WAS
HANDING THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD A RADICALLY
DIFFERENT WAY TO THINK ABOUT THE MOON AND
ABOUT GEOLOGY IN GENERAL.

THE IMMENSE EXPLOSION OF A METEORIC IMPACT STARTS
WITH A BLINDING SPHERICAL SHOCK WAVE RADIATING UP
INTO THE AIR AS WELL AS DOWN INTO THE GROUND. THE
TREMENDOUS PRESSURE OF THE SHOCKWAVE PULVERIZES THE
GROUND AND Launches FRACTURED PIECES OF ROCK LIKE
BOMBS OUTWARD FROM THE CENTER OF IMPACT, CREATING THE
GROOVES THAT HAD FIRST CAPTURED BALDWIN’S ATTENTION.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, BALDWIN DARED TO SUGGEST
THAT THIS COULD—AND HAD—HAPPENED ON EARTH. HE
FURTHER SPECULATED THAT TERMINAL IMPACTS HAD
CAUSED MASS EXTINCTION OF SPECIES.

BALDWIN WOULDN’T BE IGNORED THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH THE
ASTRONOMICAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE STILL WASN’T READY
TO ACCEPT HIS THEORY, DISCUSSION OF THE MOON WAS
REOPENED. HIS WORK EVENTUALLY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION
OF TWO VERY INFLUENTIAL SCIENTISTS.

... HIS WORK ON THE MOON WAS FAR FROM DONE.
IN 1948, BALDWIN PUBLISHED THE FACE OF THE
MOON, ITS PAGES A VERITABLE GOLDMINE
OF QUANTITATIVE AND TESTABLE IMPACT THEORY.
HE OUTLINED THE EXACT RELATIONSHIP BE-
TWEEN THE DEPTH AND WIDTH OF A CRATER AND
THE EXPLOSIVE ENERGY THAT CREATED IT (THE
SIZE-FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION). BALDWIN WAS
HANDING THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD A RADICALLY
DIFFERENT WAY TO THINK ABOUT THE MOON AND
ABOUT GEOLOGY IN GENERAL.

THE PROXIMITY RADIATION (VR) FUZE, A SHELL OR
ARTILLERY FUZE COMPOSED OF A TINY
RADIO THAT TRANSMITS A SIGNAL TO
DETERMINE LETHAL DISTANCE FOR AUTOMATIC
DETONATION. FIRST USED IN COMBAT BY THE
ALLYED FORCES ON JANUARY 5, 1943.

THE INUREMENT EXPLOSION OF A METEORIC IMPACT STARTS
WITH A BLINDING SPHERICAL SHOCK WAVE RADIATING UP
INTO THE AIR AS WELL AS DOWN INTO THE GROUND. THE
TREMENDOUS PRESSURE OF THE SHOCKWAVE PULVERIZES THE
GROUND AND Launches FRACTURED PIECES OF ROCK LIKE
BOMBS OUTWARD FROM THE CENTER OF IMPACT, CREATING THE
GROOVES THAT HAD FIRST CAPTURED BALDWIN’S ATTENTION.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, BALDWIN DARED TO SUGGEST
THAT THIS COULD—AND HAD—HAPPENED ON EARTH. HE
FURTHER SPECULATED THAT TERMINAL IMPACTS HAD
CAUSED MASS EXTINCTION OF SPECIES.

BALDWIN WOULDN’T BE IGNORED THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH THE
ASTRONOMICAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE STILL WASN’T READY
TO ACCEPT HIS THEORY, DISCUSSION OF THE MOON WAS
REOPENED. HIS WORK EVENTUALLY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION
OF TWO VERY INFLUENTIAL SCIENTISTS.
Eugene Shoemaker didn’t discover Baldwin’s book until the late 1950s while he was a student at Princeton. For his doctoral thesis in 1960, using methods outlined by Baldwin in the face of the moon, Shoemaker proved Barringer Crater in Arizona was in fact a meteoric crater. This was the first definitive proof of an extraterrestrial impact on the Earth’s surface, and it was sensational. The floodgates flew open. By the end of the decade, 47 more confirmed impact craters had been identified by the same methods. There was no question anymore that meteorites can and do fall from the sky.

Barringer Crater in Arizona is known today as Meteor Crater.

Eugene M. Shoemaker, founder and first director of the U.S. Geological Survey’s Astrogeology Research Program. One of three scientists who worked on the Ranger missions, the first unmanned spaceships to go to the Moon.

Unlike Shoemaker, Harold Urey was an established and famous scientist by the time he picked up Baldwin’s book and became enamored with the moon. The book changed the course of his scientific life, and his influence on lunar science became paramount. In his meetings with the fledgling National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, he supplied the scientific rationale for the agency’s existence and the all-important impetus for the moon program.

Harold C. Urey. Nobel prize winner in Chemistry for isolating deuterium. His work on separating isotopes was a major part of the Manhattan Project. Professor of Chemistry at the University of Chicago and the University of California, San Diego.

While Urey agreed with Baldwin’s impact theory, that was about all the two agreed on. Heated but gentlemanly discussions about other aspects of the moon erupted between the two in public forums, in printed columns, and over friendly cups of coffee.

July 20, 1969

As Baldwin watched, along with the rest of America, the first humans landed on the moon. He knew they had been briefed not only with the face of the moon, but also with his second book, The Measure of the Moon, a compendium of minute and painstaking measurements of every inch of the surface. The astronauts were now stepping on.

The astronauts gathered about 48 pounds of rock and soil samples to bring back to earth for analysis.

Apollo 11 Lunar Module Pilot, Buzz Aldrin, on the moon. The mission commander, Neil Armstrong, is reflected in Aldrin’s faceplate.

The astronauts gained about 48 pounds of rock and soil samples to bring back to earth for analysis.

One giant leap for mankind — and for my research.

Eugene Shoemaker.
The return to earth of the moon materials gave the world concrete answers to some of the most important scientific questions of the era. How old is the moon? What is it made of? Is there any water? Any life? And most importantly for our story, what made the craters?

Scientists determined after six months of study that the rocks were breccias, or rocks made when impact shock waves fused together unrelated rocks and small mineral grains that melted into tiny fragments of glass.

Finally, Ralph Baldwin was vindicated. Scientists now had conclusive proof that the vast majority of craters on the moon were made by high-velocity meteoritic impact. Volcanic craters, if any exist at all, are the exception.

Scientists now agree that the two most revolutionary ideas in earth science are the theory of plate tectonics, and Baldwin's theory of impact craters. Finally, over three decades after he first posed his theory, Ralph Baldwin was showered with awards and honors.

You are now an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Congratulations.
Photographing the Stars

by Julie Sparkman

Astronomy Professor John Monnier used to gaze into the sky through the lens of his childhood telescope. “It was fantastic and exciting,” he says, “but I never imagined it would be my life’s work.”

Now, not only is Monnier gazing at stars, he’s photographing them. “We have been exploring different ways of capturing high-resolution images of stars, a goal for many researchers across the world.”

In 2007, Monnier, along with several graduate students and colleagues, made a scientific breakthrough on this front by merging starlight collected by four widely separate optical telescopes. This procedure, known as interferometry, produced the first-ever highly detailed image of a main sequence star. The sun and most of the stars in the night sky are main sequence stars.

“This is a real breakthrough,” Monnier says. “The ability to image nearby stars opens up new avenues of research.”

Exquisitely depicted in Monnier’s recent photography is the sun-like hot star Altair, a million times farther from Earth than our own sun and almost double its size. Altair is a quickly rotating luminary that spins at 638,000 miles per hour—so fast that it “spreads out like a twirling ball of pizza dough,” Monnier says. The photos of Altair are “the first images of a star that allow us to visually confirm the basic idea of gravity darkening,” Monnier says of the theory that a star can spin so fast that it has a larger radius at its equator than at its poles. Consequently, the poles have a higher surface gravity and a greater temperature and brightness; the bloated equator, on the other hand, appears dark because it is farther from the star’s fiery nuclear core.

Monnier—with graduate students Ming Zhao and Ajay Tannirkulam—has plans to image more than just stars themselves. He will continue to develop optical interferometry to observe planet formation around other stars, hoping to eventually detect Earth-like planets. The ability to view close-up photos of these planets to track biological activity would be “revolutionary,” Monnier says. And it is only the beginning. “I am anxious to see and be a part of the radical discoveries that have yet to come,” he says.

Scientists estimate the universe is approximately 13.73 billion years old, give or take 120 million years. In the last hundred years (a fraction of a fraction of 13.73 billion), great progress has been made studying the universe—from the understanding that billions of galaxies exist just like our own Milky Way, to the certainty that planets orbiting around stars are commonplace.

In winter 2009, the College of LSA’s theme semester The Universe: Yours to Discover will highlight the growth of modern astronomy and mark the 400-year anniversary of the first astronomical observation through a telescope by Galileo Galilei. The theme semester will explore the impact of astronomy in areas ranging from the humanities to the arts, and will feature multiple events open to the public.

For more information on The Universe: Yours to Discover, please visit www.lsa.umich.edu/universe.
After years of disengagement, the Bush Administration seems bent on brokering an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord before President George W. Bush leaves office. But could such an ambitious plan do more harm than good? In his new book, *The Much Too Promised Land*, alumnus Aaron David Miller puts the Bush Administration’s attitude toward the Middle East into decades of context, and plots the complex and tangled roadmap to peace in the Middle East.
David Miller (’71, Ph.D. ’77), a senior Middle East adviser to six American secretaries of state, brought 200 Arab and Israeli youngsters to the White House to meet the president. They were members of Seeds of Peace, a nonprofit organization that trains promising youths from regions at war to become future leaders.

In August 2004, Aaron George W. Bush came out on the steps of the Old Executive Office Building, grinned for a group photo, then turned to leave. When Miller asked for a word of encouragement to the kids, the president said: “Gotta go, gotta go.” Then, looking back over his shoulder, he added: “Gotta implement that road map. Gotta do it.”

Miller included the story in his new book, The Much Too Promised Land: America’s Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace (Bantam, 2008), he says, not to suggest that the president doesn’t care about young people. Instead, he saw the incident as a small symbol of the Bush administration’s basic strategy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict—disengagement. In a conversation with Miller, Colin Powell, Bush’s first secretary of state, summed up the president’s thinking this way: “I don’t want to do what Clinton did because it takes a lot of time. The prospects of success...are quite low.”

Not that a U.S. president can bring peace to the Middle East all alone. Indeed, the central argument of Miller’s book—half memoir, half history—is that a kind of “organic” peace cannot be made without American power; yet Americans must realize their power in the region is distinctly limited. “For all their military and political muscle,” Miller writes, “great powers tend to make war, not peace. Disengagement makes sense only if it is accompanied by a significant step toward peace in the last thirty years. This is the main challenge for the Arab-Israeli peace process today and it is one with which the Bush administration has failed.”

Miller concluded that two conditions were necessary for each significant step toward peace in the last thirty years. The first is a situation that creates openings for creative diplomacy—for example, a war, an insurgency, or a crisis that reshuffles the situation in the field or the leadership of the key contestants, or both. The second is an American president and secretary of state who are genuinely committed to reaching settlements, who are shrewd enough to perceive the makings of a deal, and who are tough enough to push the antagonists further toward an agreement than they would have gone without pressure from the United States.

Miller says only three Americans since 1970 have possessed the required blend of character traits and diplomatic skills.

The first was Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who brokered agreements in the wake of the October 1973 War (also known as the Yom Kippur War and the Ramadan War). The second was President Jimmy Carter, whom Miller called “a rock” of determination in the 1978 talks that led to a comprehensive peace settlement between Egypt and Israel. The third was James A. Baker III, “an immensely effective secretary of state,” who engineered the Madrid Conference of 1991, the first forum at which Israel, Jordan, and Syria shared a table to talk about peace.

All three had what Miller calls the essential “four Ts” of Middle East diplomacy:

TOUGHNESS. “Even if the Israelis and Arabs want help, to actually help them requires pushing them further than they initially want to go,” Miller says. “That requires an enormous amount of will and toughness.”

TRUST. “When I say trust, I don’t mean a kind of deeply rooted confidence, but political trust. [Kissinger, Carter, and Baker] all made it clear to the Arabs and the Israelis that they would not push them across their red lines.”

TENACITY. “They all put themselves in the...
timing. “they all had an astute sense of what would be required to reach a deal. They knew how not to overreach like Bill Clinton or, as in the case of George W. Bush, disengage.” Miller’s praise for Baker is particularly strong. “If Yitzhak Rabin had not been murdered in 1995, and if Bill Clinton had not beaten George H.W. Bush in 1992, and if Baker would have come back as secretary of state, we would have had one agreement—either between Israel and Syria, or between Israel and the Palestinians. Probably the former.” But neither Kissinger nor Carter nor Baker, he says, could have broken the deadlocks of their respective eras without the upheavals that arose in the region—upheavals that had little to do with American will or wishes. “Those three were effective brickmakers,” he says, “but you can’t make bricks without straw. And [Kissinger, Carter, and Baker] had the straw.”

In March of 2002, Miller (second from right) served retired Marine General Anthony Zinni (center), who was the State Department’s envoy to the Middle East, with a mission to encourage talks between Palestinians and Israelis. Here, Zinni confers with aides (from left to right) Lieutenant Colonel Dave Huggins, Dorothy Shea, Miller, and Cécile Shea outside their office near Jerusalem’s Old City.

Evaporated Hope

If Miller’s highest grade goes to Baker, his lowest would likely go to President Bill Clinton, whom he blames for stumbling mismanagement of the Middle East summit that he convened near the end of his presidency.

In July 2000, Clinton brought the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority to Camp David. His agenda was massive—to settle at one stroke all four of the key issues between the disputants: the placement of borders, the status of Jerusalem, the status of Palestinian refugees, and guarantees of Israeli security.

That was madness,” Miller says. “It never could have happened. You had weak leaders and a president who had tremendous empathy and commitment but was not nearly tough enough. Carter is a rock. Clinton is not a rock. He can be angry. He can be manipulative. It may well be that, in negotiations, those traits are required. But they are not the primary focus of the diplomacy.

With Bill Clinton’s persona—his empathy minus toughness, his willingness to allow the Israelis to dictate his strategy, and his refusal to be tough enough on Arafat—there was zero chance that we could achieve an agreement. Bill Clinton wasn’t prepared to be tough, in a sustained way, with anybody. It wasn’t in his nature.”

The summit was fueled by hope alone, Miller says, and when the talks broke down, hope evaporated, and there was no Plan B to replace it. Of George W. Bush’s role in the Israeli-Arab imbroglio, Miller says the president has been hampered by his own impotence. “On one level, yes, he’d like to see a Palestinian state,” Miller says. “On the other, he is prepared to do his part in helping to bring it about. Probably not.”

As for prospects of peace as the Bush administration winds down, Miller sees promise in developments such as Egypt’s effort to broker an informal accommodation between Israel and Hamas, which holds power in Gaza. The Bush administration should do all it can to nurture those kinds of efforts, Miller says, so the next president comes into office with a functioning peace process.

“If this thing looks like a mess in January 2009,” Miller says, “or even if they pretend to manage it, it won’t be serious. And we don’t want that. That is not in our interest. At the same time, I do not believe that it is even imaginable that you could achieve a conflict-ending agreement in the next six months or a year.”

In the meantime, Miller is planning a new book. He’ll take a road trip to interview leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran “in an effort to better understand who they are and what they want.”

“There’s never a never,” Miller says. “It’s never over. That’s both the good news and the bad news about the Arab-Israeli issue.” Peace “may not ever be possible. But the United States cannot act on that assumption. That would condemn Palestinians and Israelis to an unending future of confrontation and violence. That may well be the story. But we shouldn’t give that legitimacy. There’s always a chance.”

James Tabor is an associate professor of journalism at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is the author of Ernie Pyle’s War and To Conquer Air: The Wright Brothers and the Great Race for Flight.

Learn more: www.muchtoopromisedland.com
Clapperton Mavhunga, a native of Zimbabwe, witnessed firsthand the freedom—then terror—unleashed under Robert Mugabe. He left his homeland to pursue a Ph.D. in history from UM, studying the role guns, specifically the AK-47, played in shaping his country. Here, he shares his story and the story of a nation that was fashioned from the barrel of a gun.

by Rebekah K. Murray
With the guidance of the early morning sun, a Modern Express Motorways bus appears, careens down to the Nyatlane River Bridge, and then starts the steep climb to Rhodesia’s Border Church Township. The passengers, including seven-year-old Clapperton Mavhunga and his mother, start to notice a peculiar smell. They reach the crest and ultimately see seven-year-old Clapperton Mavhunga and his mother, start to notice a peculiar smell. They reach the crest and ultimately see the cause: five bullet-ridden bodies. The corpses of the men, their t-shirts and trousers covered in blood, are slumped against five trees in the middle of a triangular intersection.

“Seeing those bodies there and that putrid smell has stuck with me to the present,” says Mavhunga (Ph.D. ’87), 23 years later, in an interview on UM’s campus while he finished his dissertation. That moment was Mavhunga’s introduction to the violence that would define his country. The corpses belonged to guerrilla fighters. They were dead because they had clashed with the Rhodesian government’s security forces. It was 1979, and war had been raging since the early 1970s. Members of African nationalist organizations were engaged in guerrilla warfare against the all-white Rhodesian regime. But now, the violence had come to a head. The nationalist demands of independence, the right to vote, and an end to segregation and the hardships forced upon the black majority.

These nationalist guerrilla warriors, or “freedom fighters,” were backed by the villagers, including Mavhunga’s own family. For promised land and jobs, the villagers fed the freedom fighters with their own chickens and goats. That left Mavhunga and his brothers to find other sources of protein for their family of 12. They trapped mice and birds to eat along with the fish they caught in the Nyatane River.

Finally, at the end of 1979, after more than 25,000 people had been killed in the struggle for independence, a cease-fire was implemented. The country briefly reverted to a head. The nationalists demanded independence, the right to vote, and an end to segregation and the hardships forced upon the black majority.

But soon Mavhunga had doubts about freedom. “Life was supposed to be better now that Mavhunga was in control, and in some ways, it was. Mavhunga could now live in whatever part of town he chose, as long as he could afford it. He could attend schools that were previously whites exclusively, if he could afford them. And as soon as he turned 18, he could vote. But there was no one to vote for except Mavhunga and his fonctionaries. At least Mavhunga was able to attend high school, thanks to an older brother who paid his school fees. And he had lodging in a rental home owned by his father in Chiruma Township near Marondera High School— even though his bedroom was the dilapidated kitchen. There, at least, he had a light to study by, and he was close to the paraffin stove that supplied some heat and lots of smoke.

He lived in poverty, but Mavhunga had a reason to hope he could climb out of it. He was smart. He always received top grades at his school. He knew his life could be better, and formal education was the only way to advance. “I knew if I didn’t get on my own feet and work for myself, I would be nothing in this world.” High public exam scores landed Mavhunga a spot at the competitive state-funded University of Zimbabwe. There, he was placed in a fast-track honors program to earn a bachelor’s degree in history. He also met like-minded students who were questioning Mavhunga’s policies, which had already led to high inflation and widespread unemployment.

In the early 1990s, the university students began to protest. They were attempting to “warn the public of the state’s deteriorating human rights and governance record,” Mavhunga says, and their marches would end with riots that involved the police, paramilitary units, and tear gas. Mavhunga knew that challenging Mavhunga was dangerous. He started backing off his political participation. After all, he had his future—and his new fiancée—to think about. “There were worries from one of my professors that unless I toned down, I might not realize my full academic potential,” he says, because student leaders were regularly occupying police detention cells.

Mugabe signs unity agreement with rivals after campaign to subjugate minority Ndebele tribe leaves approximately 20,000 dead. Under constitutional change, he becomes president.
strike, trying to demand a salary that, with the soaring rates of inflation, might at least allow them enough money to afford transpor-tation to and from work—never mind food, clothes, and housing.

“The dream of freedom and prosperity that we had been promised by Mugabe had turned into a nightmare,” Mavhunga says. “The day I got really fed up was when I felt forced to turn my private vehicle, a Nissan, into an illegal commuter bus as the only way to supplement my income.” Their independence had become a prison, Mavhunga says. “Under the Rhodesians we were well-fed slaves. Now, we are hungry ‘free’ people.”

Meanwhile, Mavhunga was watching an HIV/AIDS epidemic explode around him. “You can tell in Africa when somebody has AIDS or not,” Mavhunga says. “Their hair becomes very smooth, shiny, and begins to fall out. Their eyes become very white. The white in their eyes becomes even whiter, bloodless. People lose weight and begin to cough. You don’t need a doctor to tell you that somebody has HIV. You just see.”

In 2001, it was estimated that almost one in four Zimbabweans had contracted HIV/AIDS. In Mavhunga’s family, two brothers and two sisters contracted the virus. “At that point I decided that I was going to lose some of my siblings. They were lost and there was nothing I could do. I had a pathetic salary, and was struggling to make a living. But what about the kids? It was no longer about my siblings, but about their kids. If I failed, they wouldn’t have a life. I knew that I was going to have to leave this country.”

AN AFRICAN DREAM

“My heart will always be in Zimbabwe,” Mavhunga says, but in 2001, he chose the University of Michigan as the place to continue his research on guns and on mobile technology that has shaped society and the formation of nations. The articles that he’s published and the book that is emerging from his research will have a major impact, predicts his adviser, Associate Professor of History Gabrielle Hecht. “It’s a very powerful story,” she says, “one that challenges elite political discourse on African nation-alist struggles.”

Mavhunga’s wife and young daughter were able to join him in Ann Arbor in 2005. They are not named in this story due to Mavhunga’s concerns that he has been labeled a political dissident by Zimbabwe’s current regime, and that his family could be harmed as a result.

Their new life in Michigan, thousands of miles away from family and home country, has not been easy. “Half my family died since I’ve been in the United States,” Mavhunga says, speaking of his brothers and sisters with AIDS and some of their children who contracted the disease. “I could have very well quit my program.”

But his adviser and professors didn’t let him. “It’s to a point where my adviser is no longer just an adviser but a mother. My department is no longer just an

Zimbabwe HISTORY

1997 Amid allegations of burgeoning corrup-tion, Mugabe orders unbud-geted pensions for independence war veterans, causing panic in financial markets and crashing the Zimbabwe dollar.

1999 Movement for Democratic Change founded as biggest chal-lenge to Mugabe’s rule since independence.

2000 In first ballot-box de-feat, Mugabe loses constitutional refer-endum to entrench presidential powers. Often-violent seizures of thousands of white-owned farms begin.

2002 Mugabe wins presidential vote; inde-pendent election monitors say it was rigged.

2003 Ruling party wins parlia-mentary vote amid alleged massive rigging.

2005 Ruling party passes sweeping security laws and media curbs.

2007 Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai hospitalized after police declare an oppo-sition-led prayer meeting illegal and brutally disperse opposition supporters. Mugabe declares police have the right to “bash” his opponents. Regional Afri-can leaders appoint South African President Thabo Mbeki to mediate.

2008 April 2: Official election returns show Mugabe’s ZANU-PF party has lost its parliamentary majority. Tsvangirai wins first round of presidential poll by clear margin, but Mugabe re-fuses to admit defeat. A runoff election is expected.

June 22: Tsvangirai, un-willing to ask his support-ers to risk their lives on his behalf, withdraws his bid for the presidency and pleads with the international com-munity to intervene in what he calls a “violent sham” of an election.

June 29: Mugabe is sworn in for a sixth term as presi-dent, and lifting restrictions on the media.

September 29: Mugabe and Tsvangirai sign a power-sharing agreement that al-lows Mugabe to remain the president and Tsvangirai to become the prime min-ister. Tsvangirai says his priorities are getting food to hungry Zimbabweans and lifting restrictions on the media.

In the Highfields area of Harare, Zimbabwe, grandmother Mbuya Nanini cares for 11 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that 1.3 million Zim-babweans are living with HIV, and that the virus affects more than 30 million people globally.
intellectual college but a family of human beings. They made sure I kept my focus at a time when I could have lost my mind."

With the completion of his dissertation this past summer, Mavhunga earned a Ph.D. in history and a graduate certificate in science, technology, and society. With offers from several top universities, Mavhunga chose to accept a faculty position offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He and his family, which now includes an eight-month-old son, reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mavhunga started teaching this fall.

"I think my physical presence here in America can change a lot," he says, since here, he’s free to teach and write about the history of Zimbabwe that he personally experienced. "For my heart and its presence to be felt in Africa, I have to make my contribution from here. One day, when there are smiling faces, I will go back."

By that time, Mavhunga is convinced that true freedom will have encompassed Zimbabwe. "The era of 'freedom at gunpoint' will one day give way," he says. "The old worship of violence and the AK-47 must give way to a new Pan-Africanism that seeks to free the mind. It's a new revolution that cannot be stopped."

Rebekah K. Murray is the Assistant Editor of LSAmagazine.


---

As the world shrinks before our eyes, the need to provide an international context for work, for research, for life seems to grow exponentially. UM's International Institute (II) connects the Michigan campus to the world—through its regional focus, through its comparative studies, and through its student programming. You can become part of the II's rich intellectual discoveries, learn from some of today's leading global scholars, and discover how to support education that transcends boundaries: Subscribe today to the free, bi-annual Journal of the International Institute.

To be added to our Journal mailing list or to learn more about the International Institute, please call 734.763.9200 or email ii@umich.edu
His Heart on His Sleeve

PROFESSOR RALPH WILLIAMS REFLECTS ON LO THESE MANY YEARS IN LSA

by Sheryl James

IT’S ALWAYS AN ADVENTURE when Ralph Williams sallies forth into one of his—well, it’s hard to call it a lecture. Not would “performance” be the right word, because performance has a selfish bent to it, as if an instructor wants to show off, rather than share the literature, and Williams is not about that. No, Williams is about Chaucer— the wife of Bath — and about Shakespeare— “To sleep, perchance to dream.” And to truly acquaint students with these authors and these characters, Williams must somehow toe that fine line between lecture and performance, because it is Williams’ fault Chaucer and Shakespeare drew such vivid characters? Characters which must be made real. As though they thought and talked and walked?

Williams is doing that right now, in his English literature class, From Beowulf to Milton. If you happened to be standing out in the hall, you would be drawn into the classroom by the booming voice, the pauses, the Gaelic-sounding Middle English ripping off of his tongue. He speaks here of the General Prologue of The Canterbury Tales:

“In Chaucer, April is the month when, in all of nature, liquids start flowing again. Things start moving all about. Birds sing in the trees and make melody all night, with open eyes—and remember from last day that making melody is having sex. So the birds are having love in the trees and at this time, when all nature is in motion, and liquids are flowing in the world, and liquids and roots and thrusting things, then, that wonderful line we ended last day, you know what he’s thinking: Humans, too, want sex: “Thanne longen folk to go on pilgrimage.””

Williams adds, “You’ll soon get used to Middle English,” before going on to paint the world of Chaucer, of saints and sluts and so forth. Every so often, he pauses to ask, in a Shakespearean actor’s tongue, “Is that making sense to you? Are you following, yea or nay?” Meanwhile, as all of this unfolds, students’ faces slowly mutate from discomfort to curiosity, to memorization.

Which brings us back to this problem of description: Is Williams giving a lecture or performance or something else altogether? Williams later muses over this. “One uses everything one has, and to me, one feels with the mind and one thinks with the body as well. It doesn’t make that separation. While I’m never the point of my classroom, one tries to use whatever one is and whatever one has so that students can gain access to the material in ways that cut across mind, body, emotions, intellect, literature, and the life lived. If one is successful, (students will say), ’you touched on something that’s part of my life’.”

“What they sense is the bounce, if you will, of the text off the whole lived experience, somehow. Something else altogether? Williams is doing that right now, in his English class, the General Prologue of The Canterbury Tales. His public lectures, held in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Williams is a dedicated member; in fact, his expertise and passion helped cement the partnership a few years ago. His public lectures, held in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company’s performances, are as packed as his courses, Fischer says. “He’s kind of a star.”

Nevertheless, Williams will leave this unproclaimed stardom and his small office, a living organism of hardback books, (plus those Moses, Shakespeare, and Jesus action figures), and the enormous, incredible university to which he owes so much, he says. “I want to salute the University of Michigan and what it has done in my life,” he says. Williams’ story began, literally, with his 1941 birth in, believe it or not, the city of London—

Can a professor after lo these many years of teaching these characters, this olde world, become a bit like the characters themselves, yea or nay? Yea.
When naval engineer Richard James watched a tension spring fall on the ground, he was intrigued by its playful bounciness. By 1946, the Slinky was introduced to toy stores and quickly became a top-selling item.

Inserting the wrong resistor into a cardiac pacemaker used for heart sounds created a shocking vibration. William Greatbatch compared this reaction to that of the human heart and, using this comparison, the world’s first implantable cardiac pacemaker went into production.
House, a controversial decision that left a large segment of the United States’ population crying foul. An Electoral commission was appointed to devise a solution to the problem, but it proved harder to tally. Especially in Florida, where the Democratic nominee had won the popular vote, but the electoral college proved contentious. The Republican party argued Buchanan had strong support in Palm Beach, the voters argued they had been duped. Mebane and his colleagues wanted to know for certain one way or the other. 

Mebane’s solution was to look for anomalies in the data. “It’s like a fingerprint left at the crime scene,” he says “because it’s like a signature. Only this case it’s a signature with information instead of human cells.” Mebane tested whether Democrat voters mistakenly voted for Buchanan for through multiple methods and concluded that Palm Beach county had an “anomalous excess” of votes for Buchanan in other words, the heavily Democratic and politically liberal county was filled with people who truly meant to vote for Gore but, because of the ballot structure, voted for Buchanan instead. Mebane says there were about 2,600 of them. Since Bush had a 537-vote victory in the state, Mebane has concluded that Gore should have won, and he penned a paper in 2004 with the definitive title, “The Wrong Man is President!”

So whose fault is that, and what can be done about it? While Mebane believes that the 1876 presidential election between Democrat Samuel J. Tilden and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, though the Bush/Gore election in 2000 makes the scenario seem eerily familiar. Presidential elections have never been perfect, but the 2000 election, coupled with problems in 2004 with polling stations in Ohio during the Bush/Kerry election, have renewed concerns about the fallibility and manipulability of the voting system in the United States. As Americans get ready for the polls in November, who is to say their votes will be tabulated correctly, and the true winner will ascend to the White House?

Enter Political Science Professor Walter R. Mebane, Jr, whose research on elections has led him to coin a new academic niche: election forensics. Like the TV shows where forensic scientists meticulously sift through clues to determine the details of a crime, Mebane collects data surrounding elections and runs that data through complex mathematical formulas to determine where anomalies occurred, and why. Take, for example, the 2000 election and the much-disputed Florida votes. In Palm Beach County, Mebane and five other researchers looked closely at the butterfly ballot (see sidebar), a voting medium that caused so much confusion that “thousands of voters complained that they had difficulty understanding it” (Mebane et al, December, 2000). Many voters in Palm Beach stated they wanted to vote for Gore but, because of the structure of the butterfly ballot, wound up voting for Pat Buchanan instead. The Republican party argued Buchanan had strong support in Palm Beach, the voters argued they had been duped. Mebane and his colleagues wanted to know for certain one way or the other.

Mebane’s solution was to look for anomalies in the data. “It’s like a fingerprint left at the crime scene,” he says “because it’s like a signature. Only this case it’s a signature with information instead of human cells.” Mebane tested whether Democrat voters mistakenly voted for Buchanan through multiple methods and concluded that Palm Beach county had an “anomalous excess” of votes for Buchanan in other words, the heavily Democratic and politically liberal county was filled with people who truly meant to vote for Gore but, because of the ballot structure, voted for Buchanan instead. Mebane says there were about 2,600 of them. Since Bush had a 537-vote victory in the state, Mebane has concluded that Gore should have won, and he penned a paper in 2004 with the definitive title, “The Wrong Man is President!”

So whose fault is that, and what can be done about it? While Mebane believes that the 1876 presidential election between Tilden and Hayes was definitively plagued by widespread, documented fraud, he won’t go as far as to say the 2000 election fits the same bill. Sure, the United States put the wrong guy in the White House, but “people voted for Buchanan by accident,” he says. “They intended to vote for Gore, but they made a mistake, and the quality of the election administration was so poor, voters were never given a chance to correct their ballots, even when they had an idea they were wrong.”

Mebane has considered the role of fraud carefully because in Florida in 2000, voting problems disproportionately affected blacks and Democrats, which raised more than a few eyebrows. Additionally, in 2004, after the voting debacle in Ohio — where voting machines lost votes, insufficient polling equipment created crowded conditions, and long lines deterred voters from casting ballots — the language surrounding the election mayhem had changed. “The word ‘accidents’ was replaced by the word ‘fraud,’” says Mebane. It was an interesting language shift, but it wasn’t one Mebane could address directly since election forensics can’t reveal motives.

“At a crime scene, you can find hair and blood samples that lead you to determine a person committed the crime,” says Mebane. “But the hair and blood can’t tell you why. In the same vein, with statistics we can find patterns in the data that suggest a certain outcome is wrong, or that votes were misallocated, but we can’t tell you if it was deliberate fraud or simply human error.”

In 2007, Mebane presented a paper at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in San Francisco, California, and said the goal of developing indisputable election methods is difficult for three reasons. First, because elections for high offices will almost always be closely contested; second, because in close elections, emotions run high and neutral mitigation may be scarce; and third, because voting is largely anonymous, so there’s no way to trace a ballot back to a voter to determine how they meant to vote in the case of a dispute.

“But all is not lost. “There are bills aimed at getting better results in elections,” says Mebane. “And I’m not the only guy working on this. There are computer scientists, statisticians, other political scientists, lawyers, all working on how to make the election process better.”

Lora Zelin is Editor of LSAWire.
According to Blum, bacteria living in anoxic (oxygen-depleted) lakes or ocean sediments transform non-toxic forms of mercury into toxic methylmercury in a chemical process called methylation.

"After mercury is methylated by these bacteria, it’s consumed by algae or zooplankton in the water," Blum says. "Zooplankton are eaten by small fish, which are eaten by bigger fish. The mercury gets concentrated at every step, which is why some fish have high mercury levels and some don’t. Top predator fish like pike, tuna, or swordfish have extremely high levels of mercury, simply because of the length of the food chain, not because they live in more polluted areas. The fish we are most concerned about are the big, old fish that live a long time and eat a lot of other fish."

Scientists can measure the amount of mercury in a fish, but they had no way of knowing where that mercury came from, what happened to it along the way, or how to pinpoint the source of toxic methylmercury that was contaminating the food chain.

Now, after years of research, Blum believes he and his research colleagues have found a way to change all that. They have developed a new technique that uses advanced mass spectrometry technology to essentially “fingerprint” different sources of mercury pollution and track them as they move around the environment.

“It has enormous ramifications for legislation on mercury emissions, because now for the first time, we can identify the source of mercury coming into the food chain at a specific location,” Blum says. “This will help us make informed decisions about clean-up and regulatory strategy.”

Sally Pobojewski is a freelance writer living near Chelsea, Michigan.

Student CEOs

Why climb the corporate ladder when you can build the whole business? Just ask these UM students who are choosing to start—and run—their own companies.

by Kevin Brown

BLAME AN UNEPENDED SODA CAN for the launch of Eatblue.com, founded by two 18-year-old first-year LSA students. “One night a soda spilled that was sitting on top of the fridge and destroyed all our menus,” Matt Lerner, now 21, recalls. The incident sparked the idea of creating an online menu guide.

The dream of success has Jonathan Carender, 20, an engineering major from Dexter, Michigan, answering business-related emails on Friday nights, when his classmates are at parties. “Being able to retire at age 30 is a good motivator. Hell, I might retire before my dad does,” he says.

These students are part of a growing phenomenon of undergraduates finding the self-confidence and creativity to start their own businesses. “Entrepreneurship is spreading like the flu,” says Thomas Zurbuchen, head of the Center for Entrepreneurship in the College of Engineering, “in part because UM is encouraging it, and in part because the market is demanding it.” Zurbuchen says the number of student CEOs attending organizational meetings has quadrupled in the last year, drawing more than 400 students. “It’s intense when they pack the room. These are the
Between classes, UM students Jonathan Carender and Dylan torrent run Frontier Markets, LLC, a sales forecasting service.

The business makes money by charging yearly advertising fees. Lentner admits to devoting more time to the business than he anticipated, averaging about two hours per day. “When we first got started, we thought we’d be rolling in mountains of cash, having put in almost no work at all,” Lentner says. “We came back down to reality. It was a good lesson.”

Now, knowing they’re providing a service for students matters almost as much as the cash. “What’s great is when a student sees us handing out our promo stuff and lights up with a huge smile, saying, ‘Oh my god, I use your site all the time. I love it so much!’” Lentner says. “That really makes our day, every time.”

EASY ENOUGH FOR A BUCKEYE

After the spilled pop incident, Lentner, a pre-law major and business minor from New York City, started researching how an online menu service could be established on the UM campus. He and his Eatblue.com co-founder Nick Farinella, a political science major from Chicago, eventually signed with YNOT, an online company that has set up menu guides at 20 colleges, including Penn State and Indiana University.

On their homepage, “Eatblue” is presented in blue block letters, set against a photo of the Michigan Stadium gridiron. “So easy a Buckeye could use it,” reads a message in the upper right portion of the screen. Users can click on Wolverine icons linked to delivery, take-out, dine-in, catering, and more. There are 30 restaurants on the site where customers can place online orders and 200 restaurant menus.

The way we do that is by asking employees from the business what sales goals they should be able to hit,” Carender says. “If GM was our client, we’d ask everyone from assembly workers to a person in HR what they think.” To entice employees to participate, Frontier Markets rewards them with cash prizes and gifts. It can be a profitable business.

“By the time I am 26, I want to have made my first million,” Carender says. “And by the time I’m 30, I want to achieve financial freedom.”

On the way to that first million, he is learning what it will take to get there. “Owning your own business is a lot of work. And business is weird sometimes, like when my business adviser insisted we bring cookies to our first meeting with an important client, so we ended up being late to the meeting, because we were trying to buy cookies. Nevertheless, after listening to the pitch, she asked us to send them a proposal. They must have been good cookies.”

Along the way he’s received valuable advice from UM experts like Zurbuchen and collaborators in the student organization MPOWERed. He says the organization provided essential industry contacts to get his business off the ground—and keep it there.

“The University of Michigan has put their money where their mouth is,” says Zurbuchen of the campus resources available to students. “We have a wealth of resources and activities available, all of which are building an entrepreneurial ecosystem at the University of Michigan.”

All the help means students such as Carender and Imre will be better poised for success when it’s time to face the real world. “Ideally, when I graduate, I hope to have the business financially stable, so I will have the financial resources to continue to grow it,” Carender says. “I think this is definitely attainable.”

GETTING THE BUSINESS OFF THE GROUND

“I’ve always wanted to start my own company,” says Carender, who, along with Dylan Imre, an LSA archaeology and anthropology student, recently founded a sales forecasting service. They built the company on a successful 1990s model adopted by Hewlett-Packard and others.

Their business, Frontier Markets, LLC, seeks to join a growing list of prediction market firms that sell their sales forecasting services to companies trying to effectively anticipate future markets. The takeaways online from the business what sales goals they should be able to hit,” Carender says. “If GM was our client, we’d ask everyone from assembly workers to a person in HR what they think.” To entice employees to participate, Frontier Markets rewards them with cash prizes and gifts. It can be a profitable business.

“The way we do that is by asking employees from the business what sales goals they should be able to hit,” Carender says. “If GM was our client, we’d ask everyone from assembly workers to a person in HR what they think.” To entice employees to participate, Frontier Markets rewards them with cash prizes and gifts. It can be a profitable business.

By the time I am 26, I want to have made my first million,” Carender says. “And by the time I’m 30, I want to achieve financial freedom.”

Um’s Olympic Correspondent

LSA senior Helen Zhang was one of nine UM students chosen to intern with NBC at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. Here, snips from her journal give a behind-the-scenes look at Olympic life.

by Helen Zhang

AUGUST 6, 2008

The opening ceremony fell right within the frame of my shift, 2:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Surprisingly, it wasn’t as busy a night as everyone had anticipated, at least in the executive office where I worked, doing everything from translating to designing banners to buying gifts to photocopying to getting coffee. I spent most of the evening glued to the many TVs in the room, watching the ceremony with Tom Brokaw and Brian Williams in the next room. It was almost better than attending the real thing. After work, I dashed outside the International Broadcast Center to join the crowds gathered on restaurant tabletops, catching the last of the fireworks show.

AUGUST 17, 2008

Definitely one of the busiest days yet. As I walked to the office, I passed Michael Phelps and a gaggle of photographers in the hallway. He and his family were in the studio doing interviews all afternoon. Earlier this week, USA gymnasts Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson came by for the same reason. Many of the athletes came into the executive office to see Dick Ebersol, the NBC Sports Chairman. Sometimes I helped take care of them by getting them snacks and making sure they were comfortable. It’s a little surreal to see these athletes live on set, then watch the same interviews being broadcast on TV.

AUGUST 22, 2008

It’s been all about closing ceremony rehearsals and packing lately. More boxes of office supplies go out every day, yet we still manage to keep the office running. The Olympics is a portable operation, made possible by a massive collaborative effort. It amazes me to think that this will all happen again in 27 months for the Vancouver Winter Olympics. I know that I can never view the Games from the same perspective again after learning how broadcast television—as well as a major event like the Olympics—actually operates.
Rachmaninov, Bach, and Mozart. It’s what the 20-year-old listens to most often when he is not leading the University of Michigan’s 364-person Marching Band.

“People think that classical music is boring,” says Martin, who has spiked hair and a round, open face. “But if you’ve ever played an instrument, you realize that the essence and storyline of the music is the complete opposite of boring—it’s phenomenal.”

Martin’s love for classical music surfaced when the Texas native attended a Dallas Symphony concert as a kid, and to this day he still describes dressing up and going to a classical concert as a thrill. Most juniors in college aren’t excited about such adult activities, but Martin has a rare kind of maturity.

“It’s what enabled him to lead the University of Michigan’s Marching Band as Drum Major. In this role, Martin holds the highest student position in the band, which is in its 111th year.

His freshman year, Martin started out playing the mellophone horn—an instrument like a French horn but louder, so it can be heard on the field. By his sophomore year, he was a rank leader in the band. And in 2008, the aerospace engineering major was finally able to wear the coveted uniform of the Drum Major—a white suit, black boots, and a soaring hat. Finally able to wear the coveted uniform of the Drum Major — a white suit, black boots, and a soaring hat.

It’s also up to Martin to keep the band’s tension under control, which can flare over anything—from how the band members march into the stadium, to the music that will be played. “I don’t care if a band member doesn’t like the music, because someone in the stands is going to like it. As long as the band realizes that the show is for the audience, the problems will fix themselves.” If Martin does have to step in and resolve conflict, he relies on controlled mediation, but other times he has to raise his voice. And that’s when his native twang sneaks in. “When I’m angry or emotional, the Southern accent will come out.”

He also facilitates rehearsals five days a week, but on game days it is Martin who runs the show. “Pre-game is my show, and halftime is the band’s show,” he says.

Martin’s pre-game routine consists of a goalpost toss, the Present, where he runs onto the M of the field, and the strut. During his strut, Martin races straight-legged across the field, while the band plays “The Victors.”

“It’s as if I’m being pushed across the field by the sound of the band playing our fight song,” he says. Martin’s pre-game show also includes a crowd favorite, the backbend. It took Martin one year to perfect. “It takes an immense amount of strength to hold yourself up six inches off the ground,” he says.

Many of Martin’s on-field activities are rife with superstition, especially the goalpost toss, in which Martin throws his baton backwards through the goalpost, and has to catch it. If he doesn’t catch it, the Wolverines are supposedly doomed and will lose the game. “I don’t pay much attention to it,” Martin says, but admits the pressure can get to him. “The only time I’ve been mentioned in a lot of fan sites is when I drop the baton. That’s frustrating, because last season I caught it for seven out of the eight games we played, and they only talk about the one I dropped.”

Martin was so determined to perfect this skill that he injured himself to prove it. “I gave myself a black eye and jammed a bunch of my fingers,” he says with a laugh. But bruises and swollen fingers won’t result in complaints. Martin relishes every moment of his 20 hours of practice each week, which includes full band rehearsals at Elbel Field, as well as time spent alone on the field of the Big House. “No matter how badly my day has gone, all I have to do is come to Elbel Field and nothing else matters. We have our own little world here and everyone loves it.”

It’s as if I’m being pushed across the field by the sound of the band playing our fight song, he says. Martin’s pre-game show also includes a crowd favorite, the backbend. It took Martin one year to perfect. “It takes an immense amount of strength to hold yourself up six inches off the ground,” he says.
Jake Long, the first pick in the NFL draft last April, says his UM training has helped prepare him for the high expectations he’ll face as an offensive tackle for the Miami Dolphins. Pressure? What pressure?

It was his sophomore year at UM, 2004, and the Detroit Pistons had just won the NBA championship. A fire, possibly started by neighbors celebrating with bottle rockets, engulfed his house on Oakland Avenue. Always quick on his feet in spite of his size, Long leapt out of bed and took the only possible route out of the house, diving through the window of his second-floor room and onto a cot that sat atop a friend’s Ford Bronco.

He was treated at the UM Hospital, where his airways were cleaned of black tar, where he fell into a drug-induced sleep for three days, where family members prayed at his bedside. Just three weeks later, he returned to the practice field.

That resilience has served him well in his time as UM. And it surely appealed to the Miami Dolphins, who chose the one-time superhero and two-time All American as the first overall pick in the NFL draft in April.

Long shares that prestigious distinction with just two other UM graduates — Tom Harmon, chosen by the Chicago Bears in 1941, and Elmer Madar, chosen by the Miami Seahawks (part of the short-lived All-America Football Conference) in 1947. Being part of the elite group of first-draft picks carries a heavy burden, though it is one that doesn’t intimidate Long any more than the dozen of defensive linemen he has stared down. He wants to prove that in the world of No. 1 picks, he is the caliber of Peyton Manning or Hall of Fame offensive tackle Ron Yary.

“It’s definitely a lot of pressure to be a first pick. Every year, people are going to watch you to see if you lived up to expectations,” Long says. “But I like being under pressure. I want to show everyone that the Dolphins were right to choose me with their No. 1 pick.”

Long is excited about the prospect of playing for the Dolphins — and not just because the tropical weather is a distinct change after a lifetime in Michigan. He sees a turnaround in the team’s future, and he expects to be a key part of that success. He may have the chance to do that along with a player he knows well: quarterback Chad Henne, whom Long protected from sacks for the past four years and who was chosen in the second round by the Dolphins. In the long tradition of Michiganers moving to Florida, the team has another

“it’s definitely a lot of pressure to be a first pick. Every year, people are going to watch you to see if you lived up to expectations.”

by Katie Vloet

A FEW YEARS BEFORE Jake Long turned out to be the biggest Big Man on Campus, before he became the $7.75-million-dollar man and an instant celebrity in the sports world, he already was playing the role of superhero.

In 2007, UM gained nearly 1,200 rushing yards behind Jake Long, a fifth-year senior and two-time All American.

The Long Haul

A Humanitarian Hero

by Maryanne George

Although he met him only once in the bunkerized waiting room of the Sarajevo airport during the Bosnian war in 1994, Fred Cuny (‘76) made a lasting impression on Robert Donia (‘76).

Cuny, a civil engineer and internationally acclaimed disaster relief specialist from Texas, was deeply immersed in the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia. Donia, a research associate with UM’s Center for Russian and East European Studies, was working as a wartime historian of Bosnia-Hercegovina and attempting to re-establish links with scholars in Sarajevo.

Donia has since written numerous books about the area, but after his chance meeting he never lost an appreciation of Cuny’s tireless efforts to relieve suffering and civil rights abuses in Biafra, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia with practical acts such as building roads, improving drainage systems, and fortifying houses against earthquakes.

Cuny’s proudest achievement was the design and installation of a water filtration system in besieged Sarajevo, made of huge modules that could be unloaded from a United Nations transport plane in a matter of minutes to avoid Serbian sniper fire. He installed the filtration system in three protected locations, including a tunnel just above the river running through the city. The system produced filtered river water to the city’s 250,000 residents, helping to sustain them through some of the greatest deprivation and heaviest shelling of the war.

Unfortunately, Cuny was killed in 1995 in Chechnya while trying to arrange medical aid and the evacuation of 40,000 victims of the war between Russia and the Chechens.

“He was a big Texan with a soft voice, who was both an idealist and a pragmatist,” Donia says. “Of all the people I have encountered, Fred best embodied the values of human rights and international humanitarianism.”

To honor Cuny’s legacy, Donia and his wife, Jane Ritter, donated $2.5 million to establish the Fred Cuny Professorship in the History of Human Rights in LSA’s Department of History.

“Fred’s legacy brings life to the dangers and dilemmas faced by the human rights movement, and we hope his example will inspire others, as it has us, for generations to come,” Donia says. “He is an inspiration, whether someone is approaching the study of human rights from law, political science, or history.”
Past Picks

While only three Wolverines have been chosen first in the NFL and AAFC drafts, here’s a look at who's made the top five since 1941.

- **Tom Harmon**
  - Chicago Bears
  - No. 1 overall in 1947

- **Bob Westfall**
  - Detroit Lions
  - No. 1 overall in 1941

- **Bob Nakamura**
  - Cleveland Browns
  - No. 2 overall in 1966

- **Elroy Hirsch**
  - Cleveland Rams
  - No. 3 overall in 1942

- **Braylon Edwards**
  - New York Jets
  - No. 4 overall in 1998

- **Charles Woodson**
  - Oakland Raiders
  - No. 4 overall in 1992

- **Dolphins.**

Jake Long in pre-season practice with the Miami Dolphins.

Prominent UM connection as well: The team’s half-owner is Stephen M. Ross (UM ’87), an alumnus and the namesake of Michigan’s School of Business.

As a Wolverine, Long will face some intense scrutiny. The team’s Executive Vice President of Football Operations is Bill Parcells, one of the most intense, hardest-to-please coaches in the history of the NFL. And Tony Sparano—a straight-talker who is said to communicate well with players—will expect a lot from his team as he takes on his first head-coaching job in the pros.

Long isn’t worried. The training he received at Michigan makes him well-prepared for the NFL, he believes. While his education in the classroom was important to him, Long is also quick to point out that he learned a lot more than football from his coaches at UM, including former Head Coach Lloyd Carr and offensive line coach Andy Mueller.

“They don’t only teach you about football. Those two taught me how to grow up and be a man,” Long says.

His football achievements are not Long’s entire legacy at UM. Off the field, he could be seen as a champion to stay-in-school proponents. Though he could have been a first-round pick in last year’s draft, he stayed through his final year of eligibility so he could complete his degree in general studies. The move led the Michigan Daily to name him one of its “Students of the year” in 2007.

“Everyone has to consider their own situation,” he says. “But I feel this is a success story that can be used. People can say, look what happens when you come back for your senior year, it can work out better.”

Even though he has graduated, Long says Michigan hasn’t seen the last of him. In the tradition of players such as Brian Griese and Steve Hutchinson, who headlined an annual golf outing to raise funds for UM’s C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, Long plans to do his part to repay UM in the future. He doesn’t yet know what kinds of activities that may include, but he vows to give back to the place that gave him his start on the national stage.

“I grew up a Michigan fan. I love everything that Michigan stands for,” he says. “I’ll definitely find a way to be involved.”

Katie Vloet is a media coordinator with UM Medical School Communications.

---

**Life After a Layoff**

Is a University of Michigan degree enough to shield graduates from tough economic times? Maybe not. Three graduates talk about their struggle to survive financially, mentally, and emotionally — after losing their jobs.

**by Doug McNinis**

_IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN_ Christine Alcer’s first bout of joblessness and the second—a span of just 14 months—the U.S. economy unraveled. Easy credit and cheap oil vanished, and Americans were blanketed with grim economic statistics. But Alcer didn’t see statistics when she walked into her local suburban Detroit unemployment office in March 2008, to sign up for benefits a second time.

“There were people in line five to 10 deep waiting to use computers so they could apply online for jobs,” says Alcer (’92). “There was no smiling. They looked sad and depressed. I honestly think people were quite desperate.”

She knew from her first round of unemployment, which had lasted a year, what they could expect. “It wasn’t so bad in the beginning,” she recalls. “Then came desperation. I reached the point where I started feeling worthless. I would say, my God, I’ve applied for 100 jobs in one week, and two weeks later, I haven’t gotten a single response.”

Economic downturns can strike any group, but this one may have hit an unusual number of college and university graduates, especially those in the battered Midwest, where many University of Michigan alumni live. As a result, many of the University’s graduates find themselves in places they never thought they would be— unemployment lines, for instance, or working at jobs that fall far below their educational levels.

“I felt like I had nothing to offer,” Alcer says. “There was a time when I literally sat in a chair and cried. I started asking if I was ever going to get a job. It’s really hard not to give up. There were times when all of the sudden you would realize that a day has gone by and all you’ve done is watch the clock.”

In his efforts to produce homemade soda pop, Frank Epperson left his mixture outside with a wooden stirring stick still in the bucket. The crisp night air caused the mixture to freeze and popsicle was born.

When an ice cream vendor ran out of serving dishes at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, a cantender, whose booth was not doing well, provided wafer-thin waffles as the remedy. Ice cream cones went onto production later that year.
Are You inCircle?

ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS: NETWORK WITH U-M’S ONLINE COMMUNITY

Meet future coworkers and potential employers through inCircle, an online directory and networking community that contains profiles of Michigan alumni and students. inCircle offers the basic functions of an online directory, plus the ability to create your own personal network, just like Facebook or MySpace.

UM’s Alumni Association offers the following five tips on finding a job through inCircle:

First, update your profile. Add your résumé, degrees from other institutions, and your photo if you wish. The more information you supply, the greater your opportunities for networking. Don’t forget to include how you are willing to help fellow Wolverines in the “About Me” section of your profile.

If you are targeting a specific company, you can do a search for that company name. Then, search the results to see if anyone in your network works at that company and, if so, simply contact them directly. If an alum who is not in your network works there, you can still contact that person, introduce yourself as a fellow UM alum, and ask for advice or insight on the company.

Not sure what company you want to work for? Send a message out to your network with information about the type of job you’re looking for.

Look for alumni who have indicated they would be willing to talk to others about career information and use them as a resource.

Join groups by geography, industry, or other interest parameters. Start a group if you see a need or a niche and use that group as a vehicle for developing relationships.

LEARN MORE: Visit inCircle: http://alumni.umich.edu/online-services/in_circle.php

Only crimped family incomes. In Michigan, it brought on a meltdown of the domestic automobile industry, which can no longer sell its most profitable vehicles: gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs. As automotive layoffs mounted, jobless workers began to lose their homes, accelerating the collapse of the real estate industry.

“Nationally, the country has been losing jobs for five months; in Michigan we’ve been losing them for eight years,” says Joan Crary, an assistant research scientist in the Department of Economics. “We’ve seen sharper downturns in Michigan in recent decades, but we haven’t seen anything this long since the Great Depression.”

“Obviously, the elephant in the room is automobile manufacturing. For the state as a whole, we’ve lost one out of every 10 jobs. For manufacturing, we’ve lost one out of every three. And in the auto sector, it’s nearly one out of every two.”

If past experience holds, Michigan will create a new economy—eventually. “One area where we’ve seen consistent job growth is in health care services,” says Crary, adding, “things eventually correct themselves.” Home prices will fall low enough that people will start building. Builders will start building again. The credit markets will straighten out. Eventually, the auto companies will have a product mix that meets the needs of Americans.

In the meantime, workers often find themselves tossed about like cards in a deck that is constantly being reshuffled. The UM Alumni Association has taken note of this and has increased its programming to help out-of-work Wolverines. “We got feedback saying this was what [alumni] wanted,” says Lisa Mangigian (’86), the Alumni Association’s Career Services Manager. “The economy is getting rougher.”

In March of this year, the Alumni Association hosted a job fair in Detroit. The event also included career counseling. “We couldn’t handle all the people who wanted counseling,” Mangigian recalls. “So we brought in volunteers, and even then we couldn’t see them all. The overflow had to be handled later.”

One of those who did get help was the newly unemployed Alcser, who sat down at Mangigian’s table. Mangigian was impressed by Alcser’s credentials, which included fluency in three foreign languages, and suggested she leave her résumé in case the alumni association had a job opening. As it happened, a job opened in the office that coordinated alumni tours. Alcser was back at work.

BEYOND BANK STATEMENTS

Job loss also means more than just the absence of a paycheck. “Unemployment produces a cascade of negative events,” says Richard Price, a research professor at Michigan’s Institute for Social Research, who studies the impact of unemployment. “You lose a lot of things. You lose a reliable stream of income, and a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. It disrupts your family life. Bills come due that you can’t pay. You may lose your health coverage. You may not be able to make car and house payments.”

“Many people don’t know how to engage in a job search, especially if they have had a secure job for a long time. We’re emerging from an era when job security was the assumption and the rule, and we’re entering an era when multiple jobs and even multiple
Job Loss 101

Richard Price, who studies the effects of unemployment, offers up five tips for survival when you’re out of work...

- Stabilize your current situation by taking a stepping-stone job. “It brings in income and may lead to a full-time job,” says Price. “But if you take a stepping-stone job, don’t stop searching.”
- Determine your marketable skills. Everyone has skills, though they may not realize it, Price says. “Years ago, I talked to an auto worker who lost his job. He said, ‘I don’t have any marketable skills.’ I just put the left rear tire on Nash Rambler’s. I asked, ‘What are your hobbies?’ He said, ‘I’m the accountant for the Boy Scouts of Southeastern Michigan.’”
- Use your personal network to identify job leads. “Your brother-in-law may have better leads than the classified ads.”
- Get interviews wherever you can. “For example, visit potential employers and ask if they would take 20 minutes to tell you what it’s like to work there. ‘Do not ask for a job,’” Price says. “You just want to get a foot in the door, and while you’re there, they may ask you about yourself.”
- Develop a Plan B to deal with setbacks. “Do not give up when you get a ‘no,’” says Price. “When many people get turned down, they quit. You have to inoculate yourself against setbacks. We teach people how to have a Plan B because it increases their resilience.”

Software architect Jim Rodgers started his own company, Longview Ideas, after he was laid off for the third time.

Richard Price, who studies the effects of unemployment, offers up five tips for survival when you’re out of work...

- Stabilize your current situation by taking a stepping-stone job. “It brings in income and may lead to a full-time job,” says Price. “But if you take a stepping-stone job, don’t stop searching.”
- Determine your marketable skills. Everyone has skills, though they may not realize it, Price says. “Years ago, I talked to an auto worker who lost his job. He said, ‘I don’t have any marketable skills.’ I just put the left rear tire on Nash Rambler’s. I asked, ‘What are your hobbies?’ He said, ‘I’m the accountant for the Boy Scouts of Southeastern Michigan.’”
- Use your personal network to identify job leads. “Your brother-in-law may have better leads than the classified ads.”
- Get interviews wherever you can. “For example, visit potential employers and ask if they would take 20 minutes to tell you what it’s like to work there. ‘Do not ask for a job,’” Price says. “You just want to get a foot in the door, and while you’re there, they may ask you about yourself.”
- Develop a Plan B to deal with setbacks. “Do not give up when you get a ‘no,’” says Price. “When many people get turned down, they quit. You have to inoculate yourself against setbacks. We teach people how to have a Plan B because it increases their resilience.”

Future graduates of the University of Michigan are going to be the rule. That model has been a problem for one alumnus who has an M.B.A. from UM and an undergradu-

date from Harvard. “Joe,” who agreed to an interview provided his name did not appear, cur-
rently works a sales-floor job with a big-box retailer in suburban Detroit. He has been there two and a half years, job hunting when he’s off the clock.

In a previous existence, Joe worked in banking, as a business consultant to some of the country’s largest corporations, and he headed his own general contracting business for more than a dozen years. Ironically, his undoing was the boom that preceded the bust. In 2004, times were so good in Michi-
gan that he found it increasingly difficult to find workers for his contracting service, which repaired homes damaged by fire and water. So he sold the business and plunged into the job market.

As he began his job search, he sensed that the economy had begun to slow. “But you never

expected it would tank like it has in Michigan,” he recalls. “When we sold the business, I naively
thought I could get something. Now, I find myself high and dry.”

Family ties keep him in Michigan, tethered to an anemic job market. When he picks up the
newspaper, the once thick help-wanted section of Detroit’s dailies has shriveled to a single page.

“The jobs are not there — regardless of your quali-
fications,” Joe says.

The failing economy has, in turn, dampened the
temptation for Detroiters for big-ticket purchases, and that has made his situation worse. Part of his compensation is based on commissions, and he

could make a lot more money if customers bought the more expensive items in his store. “They rarely do so,” “The mood in Michigan is not good. Most
of the people I deal with are scared. They are hold-

ing back on purchases. They are buying necessities instead of moving upscale. It used to be that they would buy what was nicest. Now, they say, ‘What’s the
least I can pay to get by.’

On rare occasions, though, he hits the jackpot.

Joe continues to look for a job commensurate with his qualifications. Last year, he got just one interview.

So the grind goes on, and he makes ends meet by

fighting to stay afloat amid a deep economic slump and rising competition from foreign automakers. “I don’t know what kind of

world you’re graduating into,” his father told him. “It’s completely different from what I knew. I don’t know what advice to give you.”

By then, the economy had begun a trans-
formation from one based on industrial produc-
tion to one based on information. It proved to be a

wrenching change, much like a previous transfor-
mation — the Industrial Revolution — which sent

millions of workers from farm to factory. Rodgers has accepted the change, and the fact that he must live by his skills. “As long as I can add value to the companies I contract with, there will be opportuni-

ties,” he says.

Rodgers works in software development, providing contract services to high-tech and

manufacturing companies through his firm, Longview Ideas. “The mood in Michigan is not good. Most
of the people I deal with are scared. They are hold-

ing back on purchases. They are buying necessities instead of moving upscale. It used to be that they would buy what was nicest. Now, they say, ‘What’s the
least I can pay to get by.’

Joe continues to look for a job commensurate with his qualifications. Last year, he got just one interview. So the grind goes on, and he makes ends meet by cutting expenses. “We don’t have cable TV. We watch where we drive because of the price of gas. When I replaced the car, I ended up with a small subcompact. I’ve got a Ford Focus — used. From 1973 to 2004, all I drove was a Volvo. If we go out to eat once a month, that’s a lot. Before it was three or four times a week.”

Still, he has fared better than many workers who have slipped down the economic food chain: he will be able to keep his suburban house.

“It’s probably only in retrospect that I will appre-
ciate this,” he says. “I’m probably learning things that are not immediately apparent. This has caused me to explore a different lifestyle. I look into my closet and see all the three-piece suits and tailored shirts that I rarely have on any more. It’s a different world, an eye-opening world.”

**BECOMING YOUR OWN BOSS**

When there are no jobs, unemployed workers

sometimes create their own. In 2005, Jim Rodgers

(’85) opted for self-employment after losing three

jobs in five years—one to low-wage compe-
tition from China, and two when employers

slashed payrolls. “When I got laid off for the

third time,” he says, “it didn’t take long to decide to start my own company.”

Rodgers works in software development, providing contract services to high-tech and

manufacturing companies through his firm, Longview Ideas. “The mood in Michigan is not good. Most
of the people I deal with are scared. They are hold-

ing back on purchases. They are buying necessities instead of moving upscale. It used to be that they would buy what was nicest. Now, they say, ‘What’s the
least I can pay to get by.’

On rare occasions, though, he hits the jackpot.

Joe continues to look for a job commensurate with his qualifications. Last year, he got just one interview. So the grind goes on, and he makes ends meet by cutting expenses. “We don’t have cable TV. We watch where we drive because of the price of gas. When I replaced the car, I ended up with a small subcompact. I’ve got a Ford Focus — used. From 1973 to 2004, all I drove was a Volvo. If we go out to eat once a month, that’s a lot. Before it was three or four times a week.”

Still, he has fared better than many workers who have slipped down the economic food chain: he will be able to keep his suburban house.

“It’s probably only in retrospect that I will appre-
ciate this,” he says. “I’m probably learning things that are not immediately apparent. This has caused me to explore a different lifestyle. I look into my closet and see all the three-piece suits and tailored shirts that I rarely have on any more. It’s a different world, an eye-opening world.”

**BECOMING YOUR OWN BOSS**

When there are no jobs, unemployed workers
Thoroughly Modern Mildred

by Maryanne George

Mildred Sommer (‘28) never forgot the four years she spent at UM.

She kept her diploma with her—at her home in Cleveland Heights, and then at the nursing home where she lived before passing away last year at the age of 100. After her death, relatives sorted through her belongings and found an invitation to her June 18, 1928 graduation ceremony on Ferry Field, along with pictures of Sommer, a proud Phi Beta Kappa graduate, in her cap and gown.

In honor of her days at UM, Sommer decided to leave $5.2 million, the majority of her estate, to fund LSA fellowships for graduate students.

“She thought of UM as an excellent place of learning,” says her cousin Dennis Rodgers. “At Michigan, she excelled in academics and had a good social life. She obviously really liked her days at UM.”

After graduating in 1928, Sommer returned to her home in Cleveland Heights, and continued learning. She earned a bachelor’s degree in library science from Western Reserve University in 1936, now known as Case Western Reserve University. She worked at the university as a librarian for more than 30 years.

During those years, especially the 1930s-50s, Sommer and her mother traveled abroad extensively. They also enjoyed entertaining in their home and hosting tea parties. An only child, Sommer continued to live in her family’s Cleveland Heights home with her father, Al, a successful businessman, and her mother, Zoe.

“They were a remarkable family,” Rodgers recalls. “Mid was as smart as a tack and had a dry wit that didn’t stop. She was definitely a modern woman.”

Sommer was also a shrewd investor. She studied the stock market closely and invested her inheritance wisely. She also lived simply and spent little on herself. She decided before her death to leave most of her estate to UM, says her attorney James Bright.

“She was very appreciative of the education she received,” he says.
predicting the weather, to making soap.
Each how-to is given personal flair through the short memoirs that Worick uses to start each chapter. The beginning of the chapter on making rock candy, for example, begins:

My family vacations often consisted of five people and as many suitcases crammed into a station wagon driving down old highways next to train tracks. My dad is a hard-core train enthusiast. I was not so enthused. Worick leaned on her family heavily when creating many of the Prairie Girl how-tos. Her dad explained how to milk a cow; her uncle helped her with the section on whittling; her mom taught her to can bread-and-butter pickles; and her brother helped her learn to pan for gold. She acknowledges that the book is a big nod to her family’s collective history and skills, but she adds that she hopes that the book can be a vehicle for other people to appreciate their own histories and families as well.

“People are moving away from their biological families more and more,” Worick says, “but wherever they go, they still want to have groups they can belong to and create an affinity with. There are whole communities of people who are doing projects like this, who are trying to create satisfying and meaningful objects instead of just buying stuff that’s mass-produced. They don’t want to just learn the skill—they want to learn about the other people doing the same thing.”

Worick hopes to fold this notion into a future book. “I’m working right now on a book that will help readers connect with their families—how to get wonderful stories out of your grandma, or ask your mom about the crush she had on a boy in high school, for example—through engaging interviews and the many social media outlets online.” Worick won’t be returning to farm-life in Michigan anytime soon—she’s much too fond of her urban lifestyle in Seattle at present—but she says she’ll continue cultivating her roots in her creative efforts. “It’s taken me a long time,” she says, “but I’ve come around to not just owning my past but appreciating it.”

Lara Zielin is Editor of LSA magazine.

The Prairie Girl’s Guide to Learning to Play Jacks

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
Set of jacks (at least 10 jacks and a small ball)
Flat surface, such as a sidewalk or table

With all of the jacks in your hand, shake them and throw them lightly onto a flat surface. If playing on the floor or sidewalk, sit. If you use a table, it’s better to stand. Your goal when dispersing the jacks is to get them near each other without having them clumped in one tangled pile.

To play, toss the ball into the air, pick up one jack in the same hand, and catch the ball before it bounces, again doing it with the same hand. Now, repeat the process, this time picking up two jacks. Continue in this manner, picking up one additional jack each time, until you have picked up all the jacks or you fail to gather the correct amount of jacks or catch the ball. When you miss, let the other player(s) take a turn and try to best your score.

Mighty Madam President

A new documentary film follows seven young women—one of them a UM student—who could one day become commander in chief.

by Lara Zielin

Lucie Miller is one of seven young women featured in Amy Sewell’s new documentary, What’s Your Point, Honey? Hillary Clinton withdrew her bid for the U.S. presidency and officially endorsed Barack Obama.

It might not have mattered except that Sewell’s mighty madam president film follows seven girls in their early 20s who have their sights set on the White House. Clinton’s failed bid underscored one little boy’s telling quip in the film, when asked if he thought a woman could ever be president: “It might just be like a miracle or something.”

Sewell—who’s Oscar-nominated documentary Mad Hot Ballroom was the second-highest grossing documentary in 2005, behind March of the Penguins—says she was passionate about creating a film in which young women talked about their futures.

“Little boys can be whatever they want to be because men are out there doing everything,” explains

JUST DAYS BEFORE AMY (OTTENS) SEWELL (‘88) showed up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, to promote her documentary, What’s Your Point, Honey?, Hillary Clinton withdrew her bid for the U.S. presidency and officially endorsed Barack Obama. It might not have mattered except that Sewell’s film follows seven girls in their early 20s who have their sights set on the White House. Clinton’s failed bid underscored one little boy’s telling quip in the film, when asked if he thought a woman could ever be president: “It might just be like a miracle or something.”

Sewell—who’s Oscar-nominated documentary Mad Hot Ballroom was the second-highest grossing documentary in 2005, behind March of the Penguins—says she was passionate about creating a film in which young women talked about their futures.

“Little boys can be whatever they want to be because men are out there doing everything,” explains...
An annoyed chef sliced paper-thin potatoes and over- fried them in an attempt to get even with an unruely guest. To the chef’s surprise, the customer loved the potato “chips” and so did everyone else.

When a cook in China mixed together charcoal, sulfur, and saltpeter it burned excessively. And then when the mixture was poured into a bamboo tube, fireworks were lit into existence.

The film’s title is taken from a Jim Borgman cartoon showing Hillary Clinton pointing to a globe highlighted with countries that have been led by women, while Uncle Sam shrugs, “What’s your point, Honey?”

“Nobody is really talking about these problems that haven’t been solved,” says Sewell. “Yet we didn’t want to make a film that just ranted and raved about what was wrong. We wanted to give hope and show where women are going, not where women are.”

So where did Sewell and Toffler find the next generation of women leaders for their film? Cosmogirl magazine, of course.

In 2002, Cosmogirl partnered with the White House Project—a nonprofit group that works to advance women into leadership positions, up to and including the presidency—to launch Project 2024. The project’s aim is to help a woman ascend to the White House by the year 2024, and Cosmogirl believed there was a solid chance a candidate existed among its 10 million subscribers.

Cosmogirl solicits essays annually asking young women to write about where they see themselves in 2024, and the winners are given internships in a variety of capacities throughout New York City. The seven young women Cosmogirl chose in 2006 were the seven Sewell profiled in her documentary.

Lexie Mitter (’08) was a University of Michigan sophomore when she saw the Cosmogirl contest and entered. “I wrote about my future life as a public service attorney,” Mitter says, “helping people who were victims of a crime and needed representation.”

Mitter’s resulting internship through Cosmogirl was in the office of New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, a man now infamous for his sexual escapades while Governor of New York. But you won’t hear Mitter speak ill of him. “I really admired him,” she says, “I thought he did a great job as Attorney General.”

While such a gift for diplomacy would come in handy in political office, Mitter is headed for law school at New York University this fall, with the goal of working for an aid organization in a public-service position. “My internship set me up and helped me think about a role like that,” she says. “As for Sewell and Toffler, they are logging miles by car and plane taking Honey directly to independent theaters, selling DVDs at makeshift tables in lobbies, and building grassroots enthusiasm for their work. They have, so far, shrugged off distribution from Hollywood. “In a traditional theater, we would never make the numbers we need to make to be profitable. So we’re just going to take it directly to the people.”

It’s a plan they intend to incorporate into the future, as they continue to make movies about subjects that are important to them. “We’ve stopped thinking about what Hollywood wants,” says Sewell. “We’re focused on filming what we’re passionate about and making a difference with our work.”

Producers Amy Sewell at the 2005 premiere of Mad Hot Ballroom in Los Angeles, California.

Mitter didn’t want to make a film that just ranted and raved about what was wrong. We wanted to give hope and show where women are going, not where women are.”

With Nancy Pelosi as House Speaker and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg sitting on the Supreme Court, some might wonder why Sewell and her creative partner, Susan Toffler, are so adamant about putting a face on the challenges women are so adamant about putting a face on the challenges that are important to them. “We’ve stopped thinking about what Hollywood wants,” says Sewell. “We’re focused on filming what we’re passionate about and making a difference with our work.”

Producers Amy Sewell at the 2005 premiere of Mad Hot Ballroom in Los Angeles, California.

Mitter’s resulting internship through Cosmogirl was in the office of New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, a man now infamous for his sexual escapades while Governor of New York. But you won’t hear Mitter speak ill of him. “I really admired him,” she says, “I thought he did a great job as Attorney General.”

While such a gift for diplomacy would come in handy in political office, Mitter is headed for law school at New York University this fall, with the goal of working for an aid organization in a public-service position. “My internship set me up and helped me think about a role like that,” she says. “As for Sewell and Toffler, they are logging miles by car and plane taking Honey directly to independent theaters, selling DVDs at makeshift tables in lobbies, and building grassroots enthusiasm for their work. They have, so far, shrugged off distribution from Hollywood. “In a traditional theater, we would never make the numbers we need to make to be profitable. So we’re just going to take it directly to the people.”

It’s a plan they intend to incorporate into the future, as they continue to make movies about subjects that are important to them. “We’ve stopped thinking about what Hollywood wants,” says Sewell. “We’re focused on filming what we’re passionate about and making a difference with our work.”

Producers Amy Sewell at the 2005 premiere of Mad Hot Ballroom in Los Angeles, California.

Mitter didn’t want to make a film that just ranted and raved about what was wrong. We wanted to give hope and show where women are going, not where women are.”

With Nancy Pelosi as House Speaker and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg sitting on the Supreme Court, some might wonder why Sewell and her creative partner, Susan Toffler, are so adamant about putting a face on the challenges women are so adamant about putting a face on the challenges that are important to them. “We’ve stopped thinking about what Hollywood wants,” says Sewell. “We’re focused on filming what we’re passionate about and making a difference with our work.”

Producers Amy Sewell at the 2005 premiere of Mad Hot Ballroom in Los Angeles, California.
LSA researchers know it will take more than inventions and technology to save us from the energy crisis—it will take people modifying their behaviors in big ways. But how? And when?

by Maryanne George

WHEN CARL SIMON THINKS about the energy crisis, he sees his 94-year-old father weeping in his darkened apartment in LaGrange, Illinois, on Father’s Day. “His power went out and he dropped his flashlight and broke it,” Simon recalls. “His phone didn’t work because it was electric and I couldn’t get to him. Dad was lost. His dependence on energy was really crashing home for him.”

Simon, the Director of LSA’s Center for the Study of Complex Systems (CSCS), believes that understanding behaviors and attitudes toward energy is crucial to solving the energy crisis. “Energy solutions must extend beyond the laboratory and must take into account the ways people live, feel, think, and make choices,” says Simon.

Simon and Irv Salmeen, a CSCS researcher and biophysicist who worked at Ford Motor Company for 36 years, are launching an academic initiative to examine the cultural, historical, and social aspects of energy policy. The theme semester will underscore the urgency of the energy crisis. “We have an attitude that energy is free and shortages are off in the future,” says Salmeen, “but recent power outages, idled SUV plants, and rising gas prices are a wake-up call.” The United States could reduce its energy demand significantly without lifestyle changes if Americans would drive higher-mileage cars, construct energy efficient buildings, and insulate pipes, he says. Hybrid cars, for example, comprise only two percent of the car market, even though they offer large-scale benefits that go beyond great gas mileage. “The technology is there,” Simon says, “but it’s not being used. Why?”

Simon and Salmeen want to answer that question—and others. “We want to understand what motivates people to behave the way they do,” Simon says. “We are facing a number of crises in security, food supply, and health, and many of these crises are tied to energy.”

“We have low standards for public education about energy,” Salmeen adds. “That needs to change.”

The theme semester is a strong step in the right direction. In addition to sparking energy research among social scientists, Salmeen and Simon hope the theme semester will make students more aware of societal attitudes about energy. “When my dad was young, coal was the key energy source,” Simon says. “His family had a car before they had full-scale electricity. Americans now see energy pervade every aspect of human life, and when we lose control over energy it can be devastating.” Devastating, but not hopeless. “Our goal is to ask how we can examine and change human behaviors,” Simon says. “We want to understand how to motivate people to look beyond their own immediate needs and consider what will benefit society.”

“We have low standards for public education about energy,” Salmeen adds. “That needs to change.”

The theme semester is a strong step in the right direction. In addition to sparking energy research among social scientists, Salmeen and Simon hope the theme semester will make students more aware of societal attitudes about energy. “When my dad was young, coal was the key energy source,” Simon says. “His family had a car before they had full-scale electricity. Americans now see energy pervade every aspect of human life, and when we lose control over energy it can be devastating.” Devastating, but not hopeless. “Our goal is to ask how we can examine and change human behaviors,” Simon says. “We want to understand how to motivate people to look beyond their own immediate needs and consider what will benefit society.”

“We want to understand what motivates people to behave the way they do. We are facing a number of crises in security, food supply, and health, and many of these crises are tied to energy.”

Simon and Salmeen hope the theme semester will underscore what will benefit society.

Maryanne George is the Public Information Specialist for the College of LSA.
A Thief’s Caprice

Former Compulsive Shoplifter Terrence Shulman Now Helps Rehabilitate Others Who Steal

by Kristy Demas

Terrence Shulman (’87) once stole a computer from a store run by a disabled man in a wheelchair. He also stole video games, food items, books, and cassette tapes.

“Stealing was something I had battled as a young adult, but it really came to a head when I was in law school,” says Shulman, who lifted things when life became stressful or felt unmanageable. “I was dealing with the pressures of school, family stress and, underlying it all, feelings of anger. I lashed out in the only way I knew how.”

Today, Shulman talks openly about his compulsive stealing, having received treatment for it. “I finally told my parents what was going on and they were very understanding and got me help,” he says. Through psychotherapy treatment, Shulman learned that he wasn’t stealing because he was a bad person, but rather because of emotional issues.

“Typically, this behavior is a cry for help. I needed help dealing with my resentment over my own father’s alcoholism, as well as other stressors in my life.” Shulman now reaches out to others through the Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft and Spending, which he founded in Franklin, Michigan, in 1992. He runs the center, seeing dozens of patients each week, all while still practicing as an attorney.

He’s also published three books on compulsive behaviors, and leads seminars on the topic once a year. “My compulsion to shoplift turned into a compulsion to work,” he says, acknowledging that people with compulsive tendencies often attempt to substitute one behavior for another that might be more socially acceptable.

And as for that disabled man that he stole from all those years ago? “I did go back in the recent years and confess and offer to make amends to him,” says Shulman. “He forgave me.”

Kristy Demas is a writer with LSA Development, Marketing and Communications.

Five Tips to Combat Compulsive Behavior

- Use a diagnostic screening tool such as one found via ShoplifterAnonymous.com to assess the behavior you feel might be compulsive;
- Confide in a trusted family member or friend;
- Research support groups that address your concern like Kleptomania’s and Shoplifters Anonymous;
- Seek professional help. Talking to a professional can help find the root of anger, which helps to diminish the compulsions. In some instances, medication can be helpful;
- Recognize you’re not alone.

Happiness is Rising

People in most countries around the world are happier these days, according to newly released data from the World Values Survey based at UM’s Institute for Social Research. Data from representative national surveys, conducted from 1981 to 2007, show the happiness index rose in an overwhelming majority of nations studied.

And as for that disabled man that he stole from all those years ago? “I did go back in the recent years and confess and offer to make amends to him,” says Shulman. “He forgave me.”

Kristy Demas is a writer with LSA Development, Marketing and Communications.

Five Tips to Combat Compulsive Behavior

- Use a diagnostic screening tool such as one found via ShoplifterAnonymous.com to assess the behavior you feel might be compulsive;
- Confide in a trusted family member or friend;
- Research support groups that address your concern like Kleptomania’s and Shoplifters Anonymous;
- Seek professional help. Talking to a professional can help find the root of anger, which helps to diminish the compulsions. In some instances, medication can be helpful;
- Recognize you’re not alone.

A Culture of Learning

UM has opened a new Center for Educational Outreach and Academic Success. The new center is charged with strengthening partnerships between the University and K-12 school systems and communities in the state of Michigan.

“We will work on additional strategies to help Michigan youth understand their hopes and aspirations can be realized through higher education. We want them to envision themselves as college students, and to help Michigan parents guide their children toward this possibility,” says William Collins, the center’s new director. “Learning should be rewarding in and of itself, but we have to recognize that some communities need help developing and fostering a culture of learning.”

Exercising and Hunger

Exercise does not suppress appetite in obese women as it does in lean women, according to a new study. “This lack of appetite suppression may promote greater food intake after exercise in obese women,” says Karolina Borr, a UM researcher in the Division of Kinesiology, and lead author of the study. “This information will help therapists and physicians understand the limitations of exercise in appetite control for weight loss in obese people.”

Husbands and Housework

Having a husband creates an extra seven hours a week of housework for women, according to a UM study of a nationally representative sample of U.S. families. For men, the picture is very different: a wife saves men from about an hour of housework a week. The findings are part of a detailed study of housework trends, based on 2005 time-diary data from the federally funded Panel Study of Income Dynamics, conducted since 1968 at UM’s Institute for Social Research.

Husbands and Housework

Having a husband creates an extra seven hours a week of housework for women, according to a UM study of a nationally representative sample of U.S. families. For men, the picture is very different: a wife saves men from about an hour of housework a week. The findings are part of a detailed study of housework trends, based on 2005 time-diary data from the federally funded Panel Study of Income Dynamics, conducted since 1968 at UM’s Institute for Social Research.

A Culture of Learning

UM has opened a new Center for Educational Outreach and Academic Success. The new center is charged with strengthening partnerships between the University and K-12 school systems and communities in the state of Michigan.

“We will work on additional strategies to help Michigan youth understand their hopes and aspirations can be realized through higher education. We want them to envision themselves as college students, and to help Michigan parents guide their children toward this possibility,” says William Collins, the center’s new director. “Learning should be rewarding in and of itself, but we have to recognize that some communities need help developing and fostering a culture of learning.”

Exercising and Hunger

Exercise does not suppress appetite in obese women as it does in lean women, according to a new study. “This lack of appetite suppression may promote greater food intake after exercise in obese women,” says Karolina Borr, a UM researcher in the Division of Kinesiology, and lead author of the study. “This information will help therapists and physicians understand the limitations of exercise in appetite control for weight loss in obese people.”

UM has opened a new Center for Educational Outreach and Academic Success. The new center is charged with strengthening partnerships between the University and K-12 school systems and communities in the state of Michigan.

“We will work on additional strategies to help Michigan youth understand their hopes and aspirations can be realized through higher education. We want them to envision themselves as college students, and to help Michigan parents guide their children toward this possibility,” says William Collins, the center’s new director. “Learning should be rewarding in and of itself, but we have to recognize that some communities need help developing and fostering a culture of learning.”

Exercising and Hunger

Exercise does not suppress appetite in obese women as it does in lean women, according to a new study. “This lack of appetite suppression may promote greater food intake after exercise in obese women,” says Karolina Borr, a UM researcher in the Division of Kinesiology, and lead author of the study. “This information will help therapists and physicians understand the limitations of exercise in appetite control for weight loss in obese people.”

Husbands and Housework

Having a husband creates an extra seven hours a week of housework for women, according to a UM study of a nationally representative sample of U.S. families. For men, the picture is very different: a wife saves men from about an hour of housework a week. The findings are part of a detailed study of housework trends, based on 2005 time-diary data from the federally funded Panel Study of Income Dynamics, conducted since 1968 at UM’s Institute for Social Research.

A Culture of Learning

UM has opened a new Center for Educational Outreach and Academic Success. The new center is charged with strengthening partnerships between the University and K-12 school systems and communities in the state of Michigan.

“We will work on additional strategies to help Michigan youth understand their hopes and aspirations can be realized through higher education. We want them to envision themselves as college students, and to help Michigan parents guide their children toward this possibility,” says William Collins, the center’s new director. “Learning should be rewarding in and of itself, but we have to recognize that some communities need help developing and fostering a culture of learning.”

Exercising and Hunger

Exercise does not suppress appetite in obese women as it does in lean women, according to a new study. “This lack of appetite suppression may promote greater food intake after exercise in obese women,” says Karolina Borr, a UM researcher in the Division of Kinesiology, and lead author of the study. “This information will help therapists and physicians understand the limitations of exercise in appetite control for weight loss in obese people.”

Husbands and Housework

Having a husband creates an extra seven hours a week of housework for women, according to a UM study of a nationally representative sample of U.S. families. For men, the picture is very different: a wife saves men from about an hour of housework a week. The findings are part of a detailed study of housework trends, based on 2005 time-diary data from the federally funded Panel Study of Income Dynamics, conducted since 1968 at UM’s Institute for Social Research.
crystal mccrary

After graduating from LSA with a dual major in English and communications, Crystal McCrary Anthony (’91) attended law school and practiced law in New York City. But it was a love of words and entertainment that became McCrary’s passion, prompting her to leave a cushy salary and abundant job security to pursue her creative dreams. Since then, she’s built a name for herself in the entertainment industry in a variety of capacities—from writing to producing to directing. McCrary talked with LSAmagazine while running errands in Manhattan with her two children, Cole, age eight, and Ella, age six, and shared her thoughts on transitioning from the life she thought she’d have to the life she wanted to have.

After you got your degrees, you were practicing entertainment law in New York, but then at age 26 you quit to make your own creative dreams a reality. What was the tipping point for you?

It was almost torture representing folks who were using their creative talents to write books, produce movies, and create works of art, when that was what I wanted to do. Even still, being on the business-side of things showed me a road map for success—I saw that it was possible to make a living doing what I loved. That was all the encouragement I needed.

Not long thereafter, you collaborated with Rita Ewing, the ex-wife of Hall of Fame basketball player Patrick Ewing, to write your first novel, Homecourt Advantage, which follows the wives and girlfriends of NBA stars. At the time, you were married to NBA player Greg Anthony. While the book is fiction, would it be fair to say that you were writing about real-life issues?

First let me say that this is not an autobiographical book. The NBA is just the backdrop for the novel, but the issues are real. What may seem like a fairy-tale existence can be, in reality, fraught with anxiety, insecurities, crazy travel schedules, jealousy, and pressure to perform. Sure, these women live luxurious lives, but that luxury can come with a steep price.

Homecourt Advantage became a New York Times bestseller and so did your second novel, Gotham Diaries. How did you translate your success as an attorney into success as a writer so seamlessly?

LSA gave me my foundation for writing and expressing myself creatively. A liberal arts background allowed me the flexibility to direct my talents and strengths in different ways, and still pay the bills. I guess I jumped into my career change more quickly than most folks, but it was something I had to do.

How did your family feel about you dropping your career as a lawyer to write and produce?

I will be honest. My family was concerned with my decision. They questioned me on how I would make a living, pay the bills, and get health insurance. I grew up in Detroit and many in my family attended the University of Michigan. My aunt just retired from the Law School. My family background is filled with lawyers and they’re used to having a stable and professional career. So for me to make such an abrupt change, they were understandably concerned. I had to reassure them that I knew what I was doing and that I had a plan.

What advice could you give to other aspiring writers or those making a career change?

I would caution them to get their ducks in a row before making such a life-altering decision. Despite how it looks on paper, I did not quit my job until I knew I was covered in many different ways. I had saved enough money to live on so I could write and still eat. I made sure I had health insurance. You have to have your safety nets in place before you can make a big move. Even if you aren’t a prolific writer, join a guild. If you’re making films, get involved with a trade association—anything to take advantage of those networking opportunities and, more importantly, to gain access to group medical policies.

What’s on the horizon for you, project-wise?

Well, in the immediate future, I have a few films in pre-production. One is based on the 1929 Harlem romance novel Pasing, by Nella Larson. I am also adapting Homecourt Advantage into a film. For these movies, I still rely on what I learned in the screenwriting class I took at Michigan. I also am working on some other reality TV shows and a larger four-part series, Inside Black Culture, which will run on BET during Black History Month.

For your reality television series Real Life Divas, you’ve interviewed singer Chaka Khan, actress Veronica Webb, supermodel Iman, and Essence editor Susan Taylor, among others. What did you learn from speaking with them?

The show basically pays tribute to outstanding African American women who have impacted the country artistically, socially, and politically, and each episode is like a little jewel. I’ve learned something valuable about life, success, hard work, and humility from each of these outstanding people. This fall our parallel show, Leading Men, began airing on BET and it showcases prominent black men. For that show, I’ve profiled such greats as actor Terrence Howard and musician Wyclef Jean.

What importance has your wealth of work, contacts, and experiences had on your ability to produce a large number of projects?

Jumpstart is an organization focused on promoting early childhood literacy, and you’re extremely involved with them. Is that because of your work as a writer? What I do for a living inspires me to some extent, but I have a larger vision. I spent a year teaching at a school in Detroit really motivated me to get involved. And of course, my own children inspire me to help other children as well. They are my most important job.

With your wealth of work, contacts, and experiences, are there still things out there you’d love to do, but haven’t?

Well, this may sound crazy, but I would love, love to do a lounge act. In a small, intimate place, like a piano bar, where I could sing songs by artists like Minnie Riperton. Now that would be a great experience.

LSA reporting by Kristy Demas.
Tap into the LSA Wire — LSAmagazine’s new online supplement — and read about UM graduate and Top Chef winner Stephanie Izard. She shares cooking stories, recipes from her winning dishes, insights from the show, and more. Trip the Wire today at www.lsa.umich.edu/alumni/wire.