



INTEGRATED LIBERAL STUDIES

"Thinking together, independently"
— Alexander Meiklejohn

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Inside This Issue

Letter from the Chair	1
Thank you, Dr. Sell	3
Meiklejohn Travel Fellowship Funds Trip to Hanford	4
Student Wins National Undergraduate Paper Award	5
Call for Class Notes	5
Attending President Obama's Nobel Prize Speech in Oslo	5
Faculty Book Recommendations	6
Faculty News	7
Faculty Publishing News	8
I Went to the Woods Because I Wanted to Live Deliberately	9
Tribute to Herbert and Evelyn Howe	10

Letter from the Chair

By Cathy Middlecamp

If you ever wind up in Stuttgart, Germany, consider visiting the Mercedes-Benz Museum. Admittedly, cars — especially the high-octane variety — are not my thing. My initial thought was to skip the museum and head out for a hike in the Black Forest. But if you get the chance, take it. The museum truly has something for everybody, including for those in the ILS program. But I am getting ahead of the story.

Once inside, I was met with light, open space and German efficiency. An attendant quickly sized me up and then asked in perfect English if I wished for an audio guide with headphones. Sure, why not. I bent my head so that she could hang a small player around my neck. Now wired for sound, I took a sleek metal elevator up to the eighth floor. It was perfectly engineered, as was everything in the museum.

As we rode up, one of my German hosts explained the plan, a very civilized one. The visit would begin with the oldest cars on the top floor. As we walked down to ground level, we would travel through time and arrive back at the present. Accordingly, I was not surprised when the elevator doors opened and we stepped into a chamber filled with motorized carriages.

No, Henry Ford did not invent the automobile. Credit should go to Karl Friedrich Benz, who filed a patent in 1886. Two other inventors, Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach, invented the first high-speed gasoline engine a few



Middlecamp at the Mercedes-Benz Museum

years earlier. Although the exhibits were interesting, the museum still seemed to be one vehicle after another. With a bit of ho-hum, I reached for the audio guide tethered around my neck. To my surprise, the player offered not one but four programs: general information, society and issues, technology, and for children. Society and issues it was. It seemed ideal for viewers like me who were not particularly enthralled by cars.

As it turned out, I listened to all four programs. The one for kids was fun and the one on technology explained the clever engineering. But I quickly settled on the society and issues tape. Who were the people who owned these vehicles? In what world did they drive them? And to what end? Context! I found answers, and new questions.

The circular ramp that led from floor to floor (think Guggenheim Museum) also provided context. Eye-catching, backlit photos, each with a date, line its

Continued on page 2



ILS is an official affiliate of the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

Letter from the Chair continued from page 1

walls. Right away, I spotted Hand mit Ringen (1885). This X-ray photograph of his wife's hand was taken by Wilhelm Roentgen, and it forms the basis for a lively discussion in ILS 251, my course on radioactivity, people and the planet. Neighboring photos included the Expansion of the Telephone Network (1900), the Start of the Women's Movement (1903), and Prohibition in the USA (1920).

I was hooked! Integration between the past and present. Integration across disciplines. Connections to people and their ideas. There it was — an ILS course on the automobile.

Although we don't offer such a course, I now realize we could. Given the far-reaching interests of our faculty, our list of courses continually changes. For example, in this issue, check out ILS 208, the new course that Shifra Sharlin

will teach. Also in this issue, our graduates continue the ILS tradition of connecting ILS with their own lives: in the wilderness (Maggie Hippman '08), at a national lab from the Cold War (Mariah Terhaar '09) and at the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize (Ben White '09).

So if you ever get to Stuttgart, stop by the museum. Better yet, if you get to Madison, stop by and visit us at Meiklejohn House. Hope to see you!

Join ILS continued from back panel



Waipa Farmers' Market near Hanalei (Photo by Patricia Owens, 2009, with permission)

trade-offs involved in sustainability efforts, focusing on Kaua'i as a case study. We also will have the benefit of resident experts from the faculty of the University of Hawai'i-Kaua'i Community College.

The program is crafted to allow plenty of time during the week for your own exploring and beach time on the island. Highlights include: an ethno-botany tour of the Limahuli National Tropical Botanical Garden on the north shore; a visit to Hanalei

Bay and the surrounding valley to discuss the importance of coral reefs and experience the revival of native taro farming and the application of the Hawaiian ecological concept of Ahupua'a; a tour of Kilauea Bird Sanctuary; a chance to work in the taro fields and help prepare a Hawaiian lunch at UH-Kaua'i Community College; discussion of energy sustainability initiatives on campus and on island; and a fabulous dinner and chef's discussion of food sustainability at the famous Merriman's in

the Poipu Beach area. For those who have not had the chance to visit what Mark Twain dubbed "the Grand Canyon of the Pacific," an optional tour to Waimea Canyon is also available at additional cost.

Accommodations are at the Aqua Kaua'i Beach Resort, situated on the oceanfront on the east coast of Kaua'i, between Lihue and Kapa'a. The resort has an airport van. Bus transportation to all scheduled events and the cost of several meals are included in the total package price. Airfare is not included but Burkhalter Travel of Madison is prepared to provide you with assistance. If you want to travel during your free time to other parts of the island, car rentals are available at the airport and through the resort concierge. Package price not including airfare is \$1,775 per person for double occupancy, or \$2,195 for single occupancy.

Visit uwalumni.com/learning later this fall for more information. Feel free to contact Cathy Middlecamp at chmiddle@wisc.edu or Kathi Sell at ksell@wisc.edu for more information.

Thank you, Dr. Sell

Speech given by Kelly Creech '10 at the ILS Awards Ceremony, April 2010

Dr. Kathleen Sell announced her retirement in the spring. I feel that it is only fitting that I say a few words to honor Kathi, after all the support and encouragement she has given me over the three years that I have been part of the ILS program. I met Kathi three years ago, when I first started working at the ILS department, and I remember being amazed by her ardent dedication to the ILS program. Kathi was always someone I could turn to in order to ask any sort of silly question, and she generally would know the answer or else help you figure it out.

"Dr. Sell's classes have been a huge factor in understanding the world and my role in it."

— Student of Dr. Sell

Over the semesters of working at Meiklejohn House, Kathi turned into someone I could confide in and talk to, even though I was never a personal student of hers until just this semester. This semester, I was thrilled to finally be able to take a class from her, and finally get the experience of the ILS Capstone. This class is so unique in the structure and yet freedom that Kathi provides to her students through her division of the seminar into two parts.

The first half of the semester is dedicated to pursuing a core set of values and beliefs of a liberal arts education and the history of the ILS program and its founder, Alexander Meiklejohn. In the second half, she gives us the freedom to pursue our own interests and shape seminar by actually teaching it ourselves. And of course there are few people who can match her expertise on Alexander Meiklejohn.

What is most important about Kathi is her devotion to her students, both while they are in her class and into the future. She gives each student in her classes so much personal attention and feedback and genuinely works through any avenue to see them succeed. She purposely wants to work with students the semester they plan on graduating for a reason, she wants to be able to contribute to shaping their attitudes for the future.

Kathi's capstone is a wonderfully unique experience. Of course do not just trust my opinion. Over the past semesters students have filled out assessments of the ILS program anonymously and while students are not asked specifically to name classes or professors, there are always a good deal of people who mention the influence the capstone has had on them in some way. Students in the past have said:

"The ILS capstone specifically has helped me carve out a place in my mind which academia and citizenship is intrinsically linked."

"Dr. Sell's classes have been a huge factor in understanding the world and my role in it."

"The capstone seminar made me especially aware of our obligations to our generation and to other generations as we move forward in this world. Our own education can only strengthen our role in enacting change."

Through these testimonies I think it is evident just how unique of an experience Kathi has created with her capstone seminar. I am incredibly grateful to be one of the last students to have this experience and am especially happy to be able to give her this personal recognition. So thank you Kathi, for the support and encouragement you have given me over the last three years and more importantly for your work in the ILS program and for embodying all of the qualities that make the ILS program so special.

Kelly Creech '10 majored in history (honors) and political science with an ILS certificate. She is the winner of the Pooley Prize awarded by ILS for academic achievement, leadership and service.

Meiklejohn Travel Fellowship Funds Trip to Hanford Engineer Works



The control room within B-Reactor, where a push of a single button could have raised the rate of plutonium production or shut it down completely in case of emergency.

By Mariah Terhaar '09

One of the very first things I find myself telling others is, “I’m not a science girl.” Ask me to analyze the Gettysburg Address and I’m fine. But bring up something related to chemistry, biology or nuclear technology, and I’m lost. That was before taking Dr. Middlecamp’s ILS 251: The Radium Girls and the Firecracker Boys, whose name belies its dizzying trek through our world’s nuclear past, present and future. To my continued amazement, I found myself deeply and irrevocably falling for all things nuclear.

Thanks to the Alexander Meiklejohn Scholarship, which gives an ILS certificate student a travel opportunity in connection with the course, I was able to take the trip of my nuclear dreams. I had the opportunity to visit Hanford Engineer Works in the Columbia

River Basin in Washington State. Hanford Engineer Works produced the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. It continued producing plutonium for three decades, contributing to the escalation of the Cold War. It is now the most contaminated site in the United States and is entirely devoted to clean-up efforts. Five years ago, a tour of the Hanford site would have been out of the question. Now, online registration for the 60 tours offered each year fills up in less than two hours.



B-Reactor is the site of production of the plutonium used in the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

I believe I was the only person on the Hanford tour under the age of 50. After we passed inspection by a canine unit, around 50 U.S. citizens (only U.S. citizens are allowed to tour Hanford) boarded a bus and settled in for a five-hour tour of the grey concrete buildings of the 500-square-mile site. The rest of the group was amused at my note-taking while our tour guide led us around B-Reactor, the first reactor to produce plutonium on a grand scale. One couple asked if I was going to attempt to make my own atom bomb.

Given all that I know now about Hanford — its initial destruction as well as its continued contamination — you would think I’d be anti-nuclear. Quite the opposite. My four years with ILS has taught me to see the world’s complexity. In its heyday, Hanford Engineer Works employed thousands of proud, hardworking Americans to harness the new technology of the atom. And, unlike many other nuclear facilities, Hanford did this safely. In over 30 years of operation, no significant radioactive accidents occurred. But at the same time, it produced a deadly weapon. I went to Hanford wearing a T-shirt that stated “Harvest the Sun — No Nukes.” I came back with a bumper sticker that says “Proud of Hanford.” I now see both sides of the story.

Student Wins National Undergraduate Paper Award

Elaine Ayer won a scholarship from the Metanexus Institute, sponsored by Wartburg College, for interdisciplinary work on the relationship between technology, the natural world and the human identity or spirit. Elaine’s paper examined the issue of technological control over nature in H.G. Wells’ *The Time Machine* and Audrey Niffenegger’s *The Time Traveler’s Wife*. Elaine became interested in the subject after taking ILS 202: Western Culture — Science, Technology and Philosophy II taught by Dr. Lynn Nyhart. The paper will be published online through the Metanexus Institute.

Call for Class Notes: We would love to publish news from ILS alums of all ages. Please send news of your life, work and adventures for a new Class Notes section of the newsletter. Send news, including your year of graduation, to shifra.sharlin@gmail.com.

Attending President Obama’s Nobel Prize Speech in Oslo

By Ben White '09

It is difficult to describe the level of excitement I felt as I walked into Oslo City Hall as Barack Obama was set to receive his Nobel Peace Prize. Because my father had been appointed the United States Ambassador to Norway, I had the opportunity to join the preparation team for the event, witness the speech in person and realize my dream of meeting a U.S. president

Obama began his speech discussing the paradoxical nature of a president receiving the world’s most distinguished peace prize mere days after sending thousands of additional young men and women to fight a controversial war. It was then, however, that he used the apparent contradiction between peace and his troop surge in Afghanistan to introduce the main point of his lecture: the tenets and application of Just War Theory.

I was intrigued not just because it was refreshing to hear our president admit that war, at times, can be justi-

fied, but also because I recognized what he was saying. I had heard this all before, far away from the dark daylight of the Scandinavian winter, in a place you all might recognize. That’s right, on the soft comfortable couches of the one and only Meiklejohn House.

What Obama was highlighting were the same intricacies of Just War Theory that I learned from Dr. Kathi Sell’s ILS 372 Seminar: Just War Theory and Terrorism. It was during this seminar that we engaged in thought experiments that aimed to challenge our pre-conceived notions of what makes armed conflict morally justified. I was excited to be able to situate the president’s lecture in the same historical context as the words of Saints Augustine and Thomas Aquinas.

You can imagine my excitement when the president’s speech was over. I knew I had to contact Dr. Sell to tell her that the President Obama had been stealing her material and using it on the international stage!

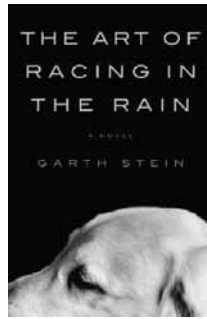
At the first opportunity, I logged on to my Gmail account, eager to tell Dr. Sell about my experience. Much to my surprise, however, already waiting in my inbox was a note from none other than Dr. Sell herself, alerting me to the topic of the president’s Nobel lecture. Little did she know that I not only was aware, but that I was fortunate enough to have been in the room, all the way in Oslo, to hear it live.

Before Obama left Norway for Washington, I had the good fortune to meet him and Michelle I spoke with the first lady about her kids and her vegetable garden, and spoke with the president about the effect his speech had on me. What struck me the most was how genuine he appeared to be, how normal he seemed and how interested he was in what I had to say. While this is no doubt a skill of a successful politician, he made me feel extremely at ease, like I was simply speaking to just another guy.

Faculty Book Recommendations

Lynn Nyhart:

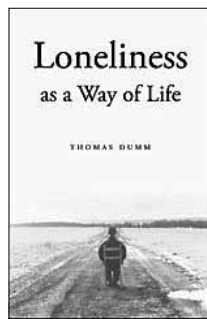
Garth Stein, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* (Harper, 2009). The story of a dog and his family, as told by the dog. The dog yearns to be human, and learns much about them by observing them, loving them, listening to his master (a race-car driver) and watching lots of videos of car racing. You can't not love this dog. Or this book.



Erica Bauermeister, *The School of Essential Ingredients* (Berkley, 2009). A novel about achieving love and understanding through food. Although occasionally a little simile-heavy, Bauermeister offers many evocative moments connecting food with the other essences of life.

Rick Avramenko:

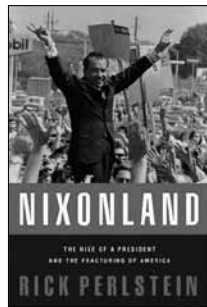
Thomas Dumm, *Loneliness as a Way of Life* (Harvard University Press, 2008). A work of political philosophy,



learned yet accessible, this book speaks loudly to the pain, both personal and political, of our democratic age.

Craig Werner:

Brendan Lane, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality*. A beautifully written meditation on the healing power of wilderness landscapes and the necessity of making room for the desert in our psyches, especially in times when we're struggling. Lane writes about his journey to the Sinai, his relationship with the American West (especially the Sangre de Cristos where I spend a couple of weeks each summer at a hermitage dedicated to silence and prayer) and coming to terms with his mother's struggle with Alzheimer's. Deeply grounded in the history of Judeo-Christian theology, Lane's book is moving and wise.

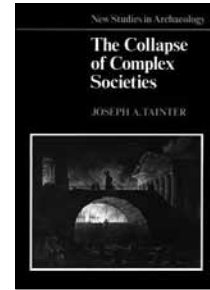


Rick Perlstein, *Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America*. The best book on the 1960s, which tells a compelling (and to my mind tragic) story about the sea change in the underlying premises of American political life which took place between Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and Reagan's ascendancy.

story about the sea change in the underlying premises of American political life which took place between Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and Reagan's ascendancy.

Tim Allen:

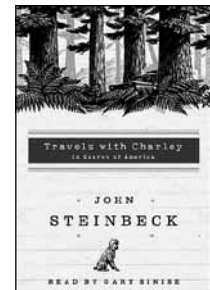
Joseph A. Tainter, *The Collapse of Complex Societies* (Cambridge U Press, 1988).



Allen, Tainter, and Hoekstra *Supply-side sustainability* Columbia U press NYC 2003.

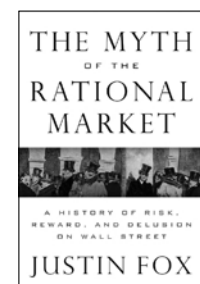
Shifra Sharlin:

John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley*.



Who knew that a book about a man and his dog could be so terrific? Two students and I read it for an independent study. We loved it.

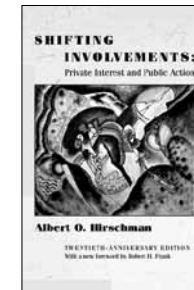
Kathleen Sell:



A set of readings to contextualize or understand the Great Recession:

Justin Fox, *The Myth of the Rational Market*

Charles P. Kindleberger and Robert Aliber, *Manias, Panics, and Crashes: A History of Financial Crises* (5th Ed.)



Albert O. Hirschman, *Shifting Involvements: Private Interests & Public Action*. A classical piece of political economy by a great

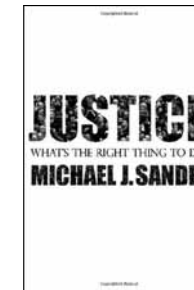
scholar who looks at why the U.S. oscillates between a wide conception of the public good (with public assumption of cost and risk) and a narrow one (with private/personal assumption of cost and risk). This one is particularly relevant in the current economic cycle.

Two takes on justice, first from a communitarian political theorist and next from a liberal theorist:

Faculty News

Richard Avramenko won the William H. Kiekhofers Distinguished Teaching Award, the oldest teaching award at UW. This award is a campus honor, sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Association in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty in recognition of excellence in teaching.

Joe Elder played a major role in the March 19 and 20 "Teach-In on Afghanistan and Pakistan," described in a March 31 press release as follows: "To overflow crowds at Madison's Pyle Center Friday night and the Memorial Union and Vilas Hall all day Saturday, speakers drew repeated parallels to past U.S. failures in Vietnam, recent Soviet failures in Afghanistan and current U.S. policies in Afghanistan and



Michael J. Sandel, *Justice* (also available on DVD from PBS: his actual Harvard classroom lectures on Justice; he is a terrific lecturer).

Amartya Sen, *The Idea of Justice*

Test your tolerance for a defense of partisanship in this hyper-partisan environment:

Nancy L. Rosenblum, *On the Side of the Angels: An Appreciation of Parties and Partisanship*

Pakistan. Professors, describing their sense of responsibility to 'add needed critical information to the public discourse,' presented 'current facts on the ground' in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Kristin Hunt spent the summer finishing up scene design and dramaturgy for *Across A Distance*, a performance piece for which she's been on the creative team for three years. It's a collaboratively devised performance for deaf actor and soprano that's a kind of bilingual (ASL/English) love story about the possibilities and limitations of communication.

Lynn Nyhart has been elected vice president of the History of Science

Kristin Hunt:

Since he wrote the script for *Across A Distance*, I can recommend Nick Lantz's two new books of poetry, *We Don't Know We Don't Know* and *The Lightning That Strikes the Neighbor's House*, to ILS readers. The first of the two is especially ILS-y, in that it puts Donald Rumsfeld and Pliny the Elder into a kind of philosophical dialogue about the nature of knowledge. Plus, Nick got his MFA in creative writing here at UW, and both of these books of poetry won book prizes. They're wonderful — I even had him read his poem on Vermeer in ILS 204.

Society and will serve as president in 2012 and 2013.

Shifra Sharlin has been awarded the 2010 Meiklejohn-Powell Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to a faculty member to develop and teach a new course or workshop in the ILS program. The new course, *History As Seen from the City*, will be offered in spring 2011. Shifra will be participating in a Mellon Postdoctoral Seminar, 2010-2011, on world citizenship.

Kathleen Sell has been awarded the 2010 Ken and Linda Ciriacks Outreach Excellence Award from the Wisconsin Alumni Association. For more than six years, Kathi has engaged alumni in lifelong learning

Continued on page 8

Faculty News continued from page 7

programs with WAA. She has given presentations on a variety of topics, such as great books and midlife transition, at Alumni Colleges in Door County and Wisconsin's north woods, as well as in Osprey Point and Asilomar.

Kathi and WAA also worked to capture, archive and distribute recordings of the lectures of Professor Charles Anderson from the course Western Culture: Political, Economic and Social Thought. This provided the inspiration for WAA's online Alumni Media Library, and these lectures are available for free download through UW's iTunesU.

Link to Charles Anderson podcasts: <http://www.uwalumni.com/home/onlinetools/media/andersonlectures.aspx>

Craig Werner was named to a four-year term as senior fellow in race, ethnicity and indigeneity at the Institute for Research in the Humanities.

Faculty Publishing News

Joe Elder's just-published, co-authored book with Maureen L.P. Patterson, *A History of the American*

Institute of Indian Studies, 1961 to 1998, is now available at <http://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/38774>.

This book provides the first detailed history of the American Institute of Indian Studies, today the major funding organization for scholarly research of all kinds in India. Drawing on interviews with founders and extensive notes of meetings, Patterson and Elder trace the early debates and later committee meetings during which professors from 13 U.S. universities, including the University of Wisconsin, created a unique, inter-university research organization that grew to include trustees from over 50 U.S. colleges and universities committed to encouraging and facilitating the study of India by U.S.-based scholars.

Kristin Hunt's "I Greedily Resign: Lucius Junius Brutus as Queer Transcultural Object" is in the July issue of *Restoration and Eighteenth Century Theatre Research*. The essay considers Nathaniel Lee's play through the lens of queer theory and calls for an expansion of the idea of transculturation to include the processes of cultural exchange and interpenetration that occur when we read and perform historical texts in the present. She argues that, in addition to glancing

backward at the historical Restoration to untangle the history of sexual desire, we might fruitfully value precisely the excessiveness of this desire, using the transcultural queerness of the Restoration play in the contemporary Western imagination as a tactic for doing queer theory.

Lynn Nyhart has won the 2009 Susan E. Abrams Prize for the best book in the history of science published by the University of Chicago Press in the previous two years, for *Modern Nature: The Rise of the Biological Perspective in Germany* (2009).

Craig Werner is working in collaboration with Reverend Rhonda Lee, an Episcopal priest who teaches in the history department at Duke University. Craig has recently completed work on a very ILS-y book titled *Love & Happiness: Eros According to Dante, Shakespeare, Jane Austen and the Reverend Al Green*. The basic ideas were the center of his spring 2008 section of ILS 275. In the fall, he will be teaching a course on The Vietnam Era: Music, Media and Mayhem in collaboration with Vietnam veteran and writer, Doug Bradley.

"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend..."

The newly stocked and furnished M-House Library (Thank you, Booth! Thank you, Kelly, Janelle, and Chloe!) needs more history and history of science books. Donations of money and/or books are much appreciated.

...Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." — Groucho Marx

I Went to the Woods Because I Wished to Live Deliberately

By Maggie Hippman '08

I spent five months living in the backcountry of the Sierras with the California Conservation Backcountry program, a partnership between the local CCC centers around California and Americorps. Now I'm living in Verona, Wisconsin, wondering how anyone can be happy surrounded by everything except those elements of nature that seem to me to be essential to mental health: fresh air, open spaces, indications of other life (natural water, vegetation, animal life) and quiet.

At one point, I began to think that the underlying principle of the backcountry program was to make us as uncomfortable as possible for as long as possible. The work never ended and the expectations only increased throughout the season. In those moments when we were all questioning whether we could complete the task in front of us and somehow we did, slowly the reality that we are capable of infinitely more than we once supposed began to seep into those crevices in our brains formerly occupied with technology, stress and trivial thoughts. This was the most perfect type of happiness I have ever experienced. Looking back, I think that's the core of me, absent all the complications that result from living in civilization.

But those complications could not be completely avoided, even in the backcountry. Halfway through the season, I hiked out nine miles to the trailhead to drive to the trails office to return a call from my mom. No specific information had been given, but I knew it was related to my dad's health. He had been diagnosed with



Alzheimer's disease my freshman year of college. In an emotional telephone conversation with my mom, she told me that my dad probably had only a few days to live. I quickly booked a flight on a red-eye back to Madison that night (using a computer was incredibly strange after two months without one). But I was too late. He died about an hour before my plane arrived. I spent the week in Madison for the funeral, then anxiously flew back to California where I was met by my supervisor. We hiked back in the next day (a Friday) and I worked the remainder of the day, then headed directly toward a weekend destination (aptly termed the Backcountry Water Park) with four of the guys on my crew. It would end up being my favorite weekend of the entire season. I preferred to be surrounded by these people whom I trusted and felt close to, as opposed to distant family members asking banal questions. This was the ideal environment for me to grieve in.

Life picked up just as I had left it, perhaps with an extra layer of appreciation on my part for all that nature had to offer which had I had missed during my visit home. We moved farther into the backcountry to our third and final camp at Long Lake, the most visually stunning of all our camps. Relationships continued to deepen, including one in particular for me. I

would later discover that in the real world we would most likely not associate with one another, our types of friends and interests being somewhat opposed. But as was the case with the entire crew, our former identities had no bearing on our perceptions of one another in this new environment. In fact, I was surprised in many instances to learn via facebook how I would have classified my crew members if I had met them under different circumstances. That was part of the beauty of the backcountry — we were all stripped down to our basic personalities, to be judged by our actions and not by our past.

In the last couple of weeks, most people were becoming anxious to get back to their former lives, friends, cell phones, computers, beds and hot showers. I had mixed feelings. Could it be possible that none of us here in civilization are as happy as we could be if we had those things that were present during most of our evolutionary history? What exactly have we done by displacing ourselves from the sources of our life? I marvel as I walk this typical suburban neighborhood in an attempt to reconnect to the outdoors, and see a car pull into a garage door which closes behind it as I pass. Such a typical, routine act portrays a couple of clear messages to me: "I want to control my environment (therefore any travel is from one closed-off environment to another), and I don't trust people (so I live in a secure enclosure)." I don't think I would have interpreted this situation in the same way before I spent my time in the woods.

Tribute to Herbert and Evelyn Howe

By David Schoenbaum

I'm only sorry that I can't be here to say in person what I've been deputized to say on behalf of a cohort of superannuated whiz kids, once known as Ford Boys and — with a slight delay — Girls.

Much of what follows will be old hat to some of you. But it might be of interest to others of you, who knew the Howes differently or more recently than us. And you can trust me that it's been a matter of lifelong interest to the small but devoted constituency I have the honor to speak for.

The story begins, believe it or not, with the Korean War, that struck almost all of us out of nowhere just over 60 years ago. With one highly qualified exception, it's hard to say anything nice about it. It killed some 37,000 Americans and several million Koreans. It left a weird armistice, one of the world's creepiest states and a nagging nuclear proliferation problem.

But now comes the exception. It connected us with the Howes. The Cold War had already resurrected the peacetime draft. The Korean War increased the need for military manpower. The need for military manpower caused concern at the January 1951 meeting of the Association of American Colleges.

The concern at the meeting of the Association of American Colleges rang bells at the Ford Foundation, at this point a mountain of untapped capital, just waiting to become philanthropy. Within weeks, academic demand and philanthropic supply converged, and the mountain gave birth to a bouncing baby experiment, known as the Ford Pre-Induction Scholarships. By College Board

— now SAT — time that spring a couple thousand applicants had somehow got wind of it.

(Full disclosure: the news reached me in Milwaukee via my high school English teacher, Miriam B. Watson, a lady with a cane and what seemed to me godlike authority, who I suddenly realized was chasing me from the other end of a very long corridor. "David," I heard her call, "when is your birthday?" Thanks to Miss Watson, I made the cutoff date for application by 11 days.)

None of us were over 16 and a half, and most were a year or two short of high school graduation.

The idea was to sort 200 of us into groups of 50 for a two-year liberal arts package at Yale, Columbia, Chicago or Wisconsin. We'd then be drafted.

Right up to today, I have no idea what happened at the other places. But I have a pretty good idea what happened here, and who and what made it work. Mark Ingraham, the longtime liberal arts dean, had the inspired idea of mobilizing Herbert M. Howe, a former prep school teacher and junior professor of classics, to take charge of the Wisconsin contingent. Where Herb went, Eve, of course, was right behind.

The rest, as they say, is history. Two of the precocious arrivals were from Wisconsin and dorm-eligible. One was Marv Chapman, very possibly the only black kid in Whitefish Bay, where his mother did the rich folks' laundry. The other was me.

John Israel of suburban Long Gyland reminds me how Herb spent much of a pre-air-conditioned summer

finding roofs to cover the rest, 29 from New York, eight alone from the Bronx High School of Science. He also recalls how Herb tried to pair roommates from different parts of the country — or at least different boroughs of New York. He then piloted us through registration, funneled large numbers of us into Integrated Liberal Studies (ILS), and was generally on call in loco at least 50 pair of parentis in matters large and small for whatever it took. I'd guess that most of us had to become parents ourselves to appreciate what this involved.

For many of us, it meant warmly remembered dinners at the Howe home, where Eve cooked well, the guests ate properly and Herb, who kept his troubled stomach at arm's length, drank milk. For him and most of us, it meant at least four years, since the Korean War ended in negotiated stalemate, the draft calls receded and the Ford Foundation agreed to see us to our diplomas. But in fact, the relationship never ended.

All of us have our personal memory galleries. There's a well-tended place in mine for the man, who told me to call him mister on grounds that professor was too fancy, and doctor too much like an optometrist or school superintendent. When Dick Church, the conductor of the university orchestra, decided that we should play in tuxedos, Herb, who was as tall and gaunt as I was neither, loaned me his, as well as the safety pins I needed to wear it. To this day, I don't write a sentence, including this one, without recalling how Herb deconstructed what I thought was a wonderful term paper. "It's OK," he reassured me. "I write that way too when my wife doesn't stop me."

But all this is 3.2 beer — another reminiscence — compared to Earl Dolven's experience a generation on, when the UW freshman, who was his son, hurt himself so seriously in a swimming pool accident that he required brain surgery. Over a month of recovery, Herb and Eve were again on the scene with help, concern and Union Terrace lunches.

A mini-bio of Mark Ingraham on the old math department home page says: "It has been his peculiar genius as an administrator that he could both understand the distinctive needs

and aims of the various types of specialists with whom he worked, and at the same time share with them his own broad vision of the larger whole university."

It has been the peculiar genius of the Howes as parents and teachers that they could both understand the distinctive needs and aims of a platoon of clueless whiz kids, and at the same time share with them their own broad vision of an educated adult.

David Schoenbaum received his BA at the University of Wisconsin-

Madison. In 1965, he was awarded a D.Phil at Oxford University. Until 2008, he was a professor of history at the University of Iowa. He is the author of *Hitler's Social Revolution: Class and Status in Nazi Germany 1933–1939* (1966) and *The United States and the State of Israel* (1993). Since the mid-'90s, he has been working on a social history of the violin.

In Memoriam

Herbert M. Howe, the longtime University of Wisconsin professor of classics and ILS faculty passed away recently at the age of 98, followed by the death of his wife and colleague, Eve, two days later. In addition to teaching an estimated 26,000 UW students, he also co-edited, with his colleague Paul MacKendrick, the two-volume *Classics in Translation*, with one volume devoted to ancient Greek literature and the other to Latin literature. Still used in classrooms around the world nearly 60 years after their initial publication, this pair of volumes is the top-selling title in the history of UW Press!

Evelyn M. Howe was long denied tenure track as a faculty wife. She served as a lecturer and advisor at the UW. In the 1950s, she and Herb served as mentors and surrogate parents to students in the Ford Foundation's program for gifted 16-year-olds entering college. Until her retirement in 1982, Eve was faculty adviser to the students in the

Integrated Liberal Studies program. She lectured on ancient art and archaeology, and led seminars on satire, the British Romantic poets, and children's literature. Her particular specialty was the English painter and art patron, Sir George Beaumont, and his relationship with the British Romantic poets.

Throughout her life, Eve had a deep commitment to preserving the earth and was a supporter of numerous conservation groups. The two lived a simple lifestyle. Carless, they were well known for bicycling or walking everywhere. After retirement, Eve managed the Friends Shop of the Madison Public Library years.

UW Press humanities editor Raphael Kadushin and marketing manager Andrea Christofferson took classes with the Howes. Andrea recalls Herb's witty and erudite lectures, followed by discussion groups led by Eve. "I'll never forget sitting around

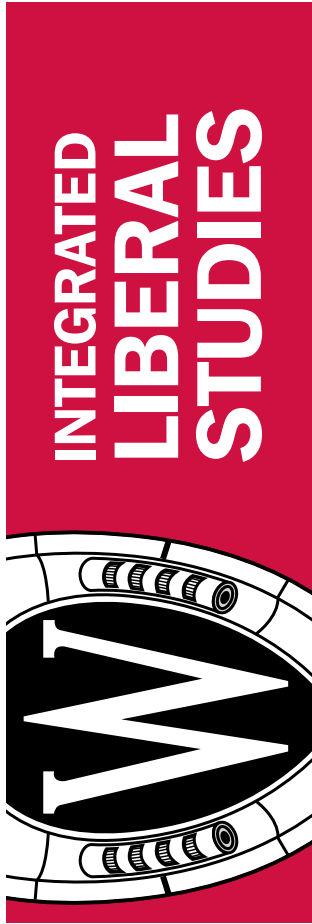
a table at Meiklejohn House in those discussions with Eve and my classmates, including Russ Feingold, now our U.S. Senator. We saw in the Howes their joy in scholarly pursuits, and their joy in life and in each other was a

tremendous inspiration."

As reported in the UW Press monthly newsletter. Thanks for permission to reprint.



Herb Howe was also a Masters swimmer and named Badger State Athlete of the Year in 2000 at age 88. Photo by Jeff Miller, UW-Madison News office



"Thinking together, independently" — Alexander Meiklejohn

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ILS and the Wisconsin Alumni Association are offering an opportunity for alumni and their friends to have that ILS interdisciplinary experience once again, and in a location appropriately described as paradise. Please join us if you can!

Join ILS faculty Catherine Middlecamp (ILS, Chemistry and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies) and Kathleen Sell (ILS — political, economic and social thought) June 18–24, 2011, for an Alumni College experience, Blue Waters and Green Challenges: Food and Energy Sustainability in Hawai'i. This experiential seminar on the island of Kaua'i will examine the challenges, opportunities and

Continued on page 2



Hanaiei River Watershed, Taro Fields (Photo by Joyce Dehli, 2004, with permission)