Carolyn “Biddy” Martin began serving as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in September 2008.

As provost at Cornell University from 2000-2008, Martin served as the president’s first deputy officer and reported to the president as Cornell’s chief educational officer and chief operating officer. She was responsible for overseeing all academic programs, with the exception of those programs reporting to the provost for medical affairs in New York City. Martin received her Ph.D. in German literature from UW-Madison in 1985. That same year, she joined Cornell’s faculty full time as an assistant professor of German studies and women’s studies. In 1991, she was promoted to associate professor in the Department of German Studies, with a joint appointment in the Women’s Studies Program. She served as chair of the Department of German Studies from 1994-1997, and in 1997 was promoted to full professor in the department. In 1996, she was named senior associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. Martin was appointed as provost at Cornell University effective July 1, 2000. She is a distinguished scholar of German studies and author of numerous articles and two books — one on a literary and cultural figure in the Freud circle, Lou Andreas-Salomé, and a second on gender theory.

You are invited to Meet Biddy Martin! Join University League members for the annual Fall Welcome Coffee on Wednesday, September 30, 2009, at Nakoma Golf Club.

Speaker: Carolyn “Biddy” Martin
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Reservations due: September 24, 2009

This event will begin at 9:30 am with a continental breakfast, which will include an assortment of pastries and fresh fruit. The cost is $11.00 per person. Reservations are due on September 24, 2009. The reservation form can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Please return all reservations with a check payable to The University League, Inc. to: Helen Read
813 Ottawa Trail
Madison, WI 53711

Don’t miss this opportunity to meet Biddy Martin! Bring a friend, or invite a new member to attend. Sign up for a new interest group! Volunteer!! Become involved!
FROM THE PRESIDENT: 
JEANNE BURULL

Dear Fellow League Members:

You do make a difference!

Did you know that:

- The University League has developed 17 Endowed Scholarships with a book value of more than $900,000?
- The University League in 2008-2009 dispersed almost $52,000 in interest earnings from those endowments?
- The University League in 2008-2009 dispersed almost $75,600 in scholarships and grants, and to the Odyssey Project and Bookworms?

As impressive as this is, it is even more so on the personal level. That is where the difference is truly felt. Time after time, we receive letters expressing heartfelt gratitude from the students we help. After you read the letters of the three students included in this Newsletter, you will be inspired to keep on helping and giving.

Thank you for making a difference. 

--Jeanne Burull

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To League Members:

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Elinor Zach, will start work soon recruiting members to serve on next year’s League Board. Please consider serving on the six member Nominating Committee or suggesting possible Committee members. I have been on this Committee three times and have enjoyed it each time. It gives me a chance to contact, visit and inquire about ideas to keep League working.

Take time to recruit new University League members. We all have friends who after retirement seem lost or bored. We need these new members for League.

Please consider serving on the Board. The University League Board is a great group to work with and find skills you may have forgotten you possessed. Please contact the Nominating Committee with possible Board members. I think people should look upon these jobs as useful and a privilege to serve the League and support the University of Wisconsin. New Board members bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm. My years on the board have been fun and interesting. It is a great way to become acquainted with many nice people.

--Elinor Zach
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS--J. Robert Burull

As a relatively new University League member and Chair of the Endowed Scholarship Committee, I am extremely impressed by the direct impact of the League gifts upon students. The University League Endowments, and gifts and grants, are like "jet assisted take offs" to these young bright hopefuls.

Their responses tell it all in terms of the great leap forward their award has given them:

"My name is Portang Vang. My family and I came to the United States as refugees of the Vietnam War in 1991. Seeing the struggles my parents went through has motivated me to pursue a higher education. That’s why I will be attending UW-Madison this fall. Your scholarship donation has given me the opportunity to live on campus in the university housing. Thank you for believing in me. It gives me a bright outlook on my future. I truly feel like I am capable of achieving my dream."

From Green Bay, a 2009 starting college freshman: "I have dreamed of attending medical school since I was very young. Now, thanks to your scholarship, I will be able to follow my dream and am absolutely thrilled to be attending the University of Wisconsin this fall."

And, from a single mother's 18 year old child: "I deeply thank you for your generosity in awarding ... this scholarship. It is a great honor and I appreciate it immensely. The scholarship's money has helped alleviate a great deal of the burden of expenses that were placed on my mother and me."

To learn more about the endowment, gifts and grants programs, please call me at 608 483-2877, email me at jrburull@gmail.com, or check the University League Yearbook and future League Newsletters, or the University League Website, www.univleague.wisc.edu.

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INTEREST GROUPS

Please look over the various Interest Group listings beginning on page 6 of the Yearbook and call or email the chair or co-chair if you are interested in joining the group. Any other questions please call or email Pat Feltskog, 238-9836 or pafeltsk@wisc.edu

We will be featuring Interest Groups in the newsletter this year with an article and, if possible, a picture. In this issue, you can check out the Foreign Foods group. We would like your group to be included, so please send a picture (either as an actual photo or an attachment) and short article to bszeps@wisc.edu and we’ll publish it as we have space throughout the year.

Foreign Foods

On February 8, 2009, the Foreign Foods group ate their Turkish dinner by candle light when the lights went out at the home of Priscilla and Jerry Thain. From left to right, Eleanor Zach, Jerry Thain, Lynn Schten, Ivan Preston, Robbie Preston, Betsy Haimson, Bezalel, and not shown, Dick Zach and Priscilla Thain. After a team effort to whip cream for the dessert, Robbie Preston sent the hosts a note with this poem:

A good cream whipping team
Whips to left and then to right
With a strong candle beam
We were a jolly sight!
For the next few issues of the **League Letter**, we will be introducing members of the 2009-2010 Board of Directors. From L to R: Elinor Zach (Nominating Committee), Cathy Tesar (Assistant Treasurer), Roma Lenehan (President-Elect), Karen Goebel (Scholarship Benefit) and President Jeanne Burull.

Board members L to R: Margaret Strass (Secretary), Pat Feltskog (Volunteer Services), Roma Rowlands (Assistant Secretary), Mary Stuiber (Mailing), Susan Jablonic (Mailing), and Helen Lackore (Assistant Membership).

As you have seen, this newsletter is being mailed along with your new League Yearbook. Inside you will find a list of all the names and phone numbers of the Board. Feel free to contact anyone with your thoughts and ideas regarding League business and innovations.
Big Ten Women’s Conference, 2009—Navigating Today’s Currents: Charting Our Course  
Hosted by the University League, University of Wisconsin, Madison, June 5-7 2009

I. Planning*

Planning for the 13th Biennial Conference of Big Ten Women’s Organizations began in earnest as soon as Janice Golay and Betty Zeps returned from the 12th conference (June 2007) in Ann Arbor, although the League had been putting aside funds for the conference for several years. A six-person committee was formed consisting of Janice Golay, Ann Gordon-Walker, Jan Martin, Kathy Sandefur, Bev Zarnstorff and Betty Zeps, each with specific duties—finance and budget, programming, scheduling, donation procurement, interest group involvement, logistics and publicity. Of course, as we got further along in the planning process, these duties became a lot less specific. We combined email and in-person meetings throughout our entire planning, an arrangement which worked very well. Email “meetings” enabled the committee to utilize our time efficiently in the in-person meetings. We decided that, given our location on Lake Mendota, the conference theme would be nautical—a sailboat with “Big Ten” inscribed on the sail and the overarching conference title “Navigating Today’s Currents: Charting Our Course.”

During the course of planning, the committee tried to develop ways of involving the entire 500 members of the League in some aspect of conference participation. Volunteers were sought to host delegates during their “free” time at excursions to the University’s Chazen Art Museum, Allen Centennial Gardens, the University Arboretum, and Lakeshore Nature Preserve, and the State Capitol building and Overture Center gift shop downtown. Volunteers helped with registration, picking up and returning delegates to the airport, and welcoming participants at the receptions. One of our volunteers, Fumiko Miyazaki, cut from her own garden and arranged the flowers for the Saturday banquet. We recruited helpers via the League Letter and sign-up sheets at our annual meeting.

*Part II: The Conference will be published in the October League Letter
a. Finance and Budget (Janice Golay): Scheduling and finance/budget go hand in hand in the early stages of planning; however, establishing a tentative budget with known funds (registration fees, money saved by the League, University funds, etc.) was an essential first order of business. As soon as scheduling for each event began, the tentative budget became a guide for what we could spend and then was modified as needed.

Planning Committee: (front) Ann Gordon-Walker, Bev Zarnstorff, Jan Martin (back) Betty Zeps, Janice Golay, Kathy Sandefur

b. Scheduling (Ann Gordon-Walker): Although several different locales for the conference were discussed, the University Extension’s Pyle Center for the opening reception, plenary, workshops and luncheon, and Lowell Hall for housing were chosen. As soon as it was possible to do so (about a year prior to the conference dates), Ann reserved these venues. Olbrich Botanical Gardens (not a University site, but with University connections because of the gift to the University of a Thai Pavilion by the Thai Government and the Thai Chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association) was reserved for the Saturday evening banquet, and French House (a dorm for French-speaking UW students) was reserved for the Sunday morning ending breakfast. Each of these places has its own caterer, so various menus were obtained and the final food selections settled on. We decided to have buffet rather than sit-down dinners since this lessened the chance of allergic reactions by some delegates and required fewer serving staff. A bus to take delegates across Madison to Olbrich Gardens was scheduled.

c. Programming (Kathy Sandefur): In these times of recession and retrenchment (“Navigating Today’s Currents”), scholarships for students are more welcome than ever. Since all the Big Ten clubs are actively involved in finding funding for scholarships, we decided to focus the program and workshops for the conference on this theme (“Charting Our Course”). Toward this end, Martha Taylor, Vice President for Development of the UW-Madison Foundation, an authority on women’s philanthropy, was asked to present the plenary address. Boris Frank, an expert and consultant in fund-raising stratagems for non-profits, facilitated one of the two workshops. A panel of five University League members (Norma Brooks, Pat Cornwell, Mary Ellen Gerloff, Margaret Hickman and Carol Palmer) all of whom have given endowed scholarships, presented the second. We had decided that, presenting only two workshops allowed all participants to attend both workshops and have a common set of learning experiences.

A custom at these Big Ten conferences is to have a “Show and Tell” session at the final breakfast on Sunday where the various schools give short presentations about their clubs—what they have done since the last meeting, their thoughts on the future, innovations, and any other activities their clubs have been involved in. We decided to change this practice and have two to three 5-10 minute presentations at each meal (the two dinners and the luncheon) so that we could shorten the Sunday gathering, thus allowing delegates to catch planes and drive home earlier.
Kathy prepared a program to give out at registration with the schedule, presenters’ biographies, roster of delegates, donation contributors and a poem by Fran Rall on the founding of University League.

During the dinners, performances by two different types of musical groups were represented: Four Seasons Theatre (Broadway) and the Shumi String Quartet (classical).

d: Donation Procurement/Interest Group and League Involvement (Jan Martin/Bev Zarnstorff): It is a tradition at these conferences to present a tote bag filled with “goodies” to each delegate. Many Madison- and Wisconsin-based businesses were contacted to donate samples of their products (with varying degrees of success). Interest Groups were contacted and asked to contribute something for the bag which would give delegates an idea of what they do. For instance, the Needlework Group cross-stitched a bookmark for each delegate with the conference date and the Wisconsin state flower, a violet. A recipe book filled with representative Wisconsin foods was compiled by a Foods Group. The Book Groups assembled a list of favorite books, and the Birding Group, a list of Wisconsin birds. Interest group involvement extended beyond the “goodie bag”: the Arts and Crafts group designed and sent original notes to the Clubs to encourage them to think “Wisconsin and Madison” and come to the conference. They also designed and made the nautical decorations for the banquet tables.

e. Publicity (Jan Martin): Publicity for the conference was mostly limited to sending information to the clubs themselves. We had hoped that perhaps we could develop some outside publicity about the League, but that didn’t happen. Jan did try—she sent a press release to Wisconsin Week, Isthmus, and the Wisconsin State Journal, but didn’t get any answers. An article was published in our League Letter. We hope that the UW Foundation will include an article about University League, the Conference, and Martha Taylor in an upcoming issue of their quarterly publication.

f. Logistics (Betty Zeps): In September 2008, an invitation letter was sent to all the Big Ten Club presidents giving them the dates and theme for the 13th conference, contact names and numbers, and preliminary details about the conference. Also in this packet was a large brochure provided by the UW Admissions Office with information and pictures about the University. When this invitation went out, Betty became a de facto point person for communication with the Big 10 organizations. From that time on until June, she fielded phone calls, emails, and letters from the various clubs wanting further information, etc. In February, a second letter was sent with further details and an informational questionnaire for each club to complete. Copies of the completed questionnaires were given to the keynote speaker and to the workshop facilitators to guide them in preparing their workshops, then compiled into a booklet for distribution at registration to each club. In March, another invitation letter with the conference schedule and housing details and registration form was sent to the clubs’ presidents. We asked that clubs send up to five delegates. As registrations came in, a home address and club affiliation roster was developed to be included in the conference program. Name tags for all conference participants with the conference sail boat logo were prepared.
Volunteering: Our Personal Mission

The University League has a dual mission: scholarship and service. Raising scholarship funds is relatively straightforward. Service, or volunteerism, is more personal. Few have said it better than Mary Warfield in an article that appeared in the League Letter several years ago. A slightly modified version appears below:

People ask me why I volunteer. I can give them the short and idealistic answer: to help change the world. Or, I can give them a longer, but honest answer: to change myself. Yes, mentoring a first grade reader helps improve the student’s reading skills. Working on a community gardening project beautifies the neighborhood. But every volunteer activity I have ever undertaken has taught me something I might not otherwise have learned, helped me become acquainted with people I probably would not otherwise have had the chance to meet, or challenged me in some way. And I have always had fun volunteering! University League members devote many hours in many settings including the University Hospitals and Clinics, the Allen Centennial Gardens, Bookworms, and the U.W. Madison Odyssey Project.

Contact the Volunteer Services Coordinator Marguerite Sykes (238-2015 or sykesmargs@yahoo.com) for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities. We’ll be glad to pass your name on to the organization of choice, but please remember that the responsibility to follow through on making connections ultimately lies with you. Madison is a vital community with many needs and opportunities to match your talents with the job that needs to be done.

Volunteer at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve  (inadvertently left out of the Pay-in-May listing)

Come learn about the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, volunteer opportunities, and ongoing Frautschi Point restoration on Saturday, September 19 from 10 to 12, from Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Stewards. After a brief orientation and tour of the beautiful savanna restorations, there will be an opportunity to do volunteer work – either planting (if there are plants) or other volunteer work. Wear long pants and sturdy walking shoes. If you have good work gloves, bring them. Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot (on the north side of Lake Mendota Drive west of Picnic Point opposite Eagle Heights Apartments). For more information on the Preserve or the Friends of the Preserve, see websites www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu or waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve but are unable to attend on September 19, please send your name and email address to Roma Lenehan (rlenehan@charter.net or 238-5406) and she will get you information on other Preserve volunteer opportunities.

---MILESTONES AND SIGNPOSTS---

For those of you who didn’t see the announcement in the Celebrations section of the August 2nd Wisconsin State Journal, congratulations go to Kathy and Gary Sandefur on their 40th wedding anniversary. We wish them all the best!

► Please send any items: trips taken, important anniversaries, birthdays, articles, poetry, etc. you think would be fun to print here and for our members to read to Betty Zeps at bszeps@wisc.edu. We’ll look forward to receiving them.