

Edited from a comments made by Bill Dove at the University Senate April 6, 2009

Thank you:

- Mike Hoffmann and Phil Anderson
- Chancellor Martin
- The Biological Division
- The University Faculty

The University of Wisconsin is one of this country's great research universities, one of its pillars of innovation and public education in all fields of inquiry. With great foresight, the State of Wisconsin chose to place most of its professional colleges in this one locale:

- Letters and Sciences
- Education
- Business
- Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Engineering
- Veterinary Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Medicine and Public Health
- And others, still growing in number and diversity

My comment today speaks to this community of scholars – our university.

I have been connected to this community for almost 90 years. My father was a doctoral student in the early 1920s, supporting himself with odd jobs, cooking meals in the lab, and sleeping in a lean-to on Picnic Point – year-round. A farm boy's hunger to master the new science of genetics culminated in his doctorate. Franklin Dove was able to study animal breeding in Ag, anatomy in Med, and development in Zoo on the compact campus of the '20s. Notably, the connections made with his fellow students survived the vicissitudes of life. Madison is a great place to be a student!

My tangible connection here began 45 years ago, in the McArdle Laboratory. You cannot imagine a more specialized department than Oncology! But McArdle's founding leaders, Harold Rusch and Van Potter, had persuaded the National Cancer Institute to establish a research institute on a University campus. Now, the research in McArdle radiates out broadly to the University, unfettered by arbitrary academic divisions. In parallel, the science of genetics is invading all of biology. Thus, The McArdle Laboratory and the science of genetics have been the foci from which my research initiatives at this university have moved from viruses to cells to tissues to human health.

Beyond the Biological Division, cancer, one issue in the quality of human life, has no academic limits. How our university can address aspects of the understanding and enhancement of the quality of human life has driven the series of four Wisconsin Symposia on Human Biology that my colleagues and I have developed since 1999. A recent review of the 2006 Symposium in the Cambridge UK journal *BioEssays* stated: "The Symposium series is ... a bet that a comprehensive university can bring together highly specialized investigators to address shared

problems from complementary angles...” Wisconsin is well positioned to function as a comprehensive university.

That prospect includes not only our faculty, but our Academic Staff, fellows, and students. Several members from those parts of our community who have significantly enhanced my efforts in the university have accompanied me to this Senate meeting or to the Chancellor’s reception today:

- Academic staff
 - Alexandra Dove (McArdle)
 - Suzanne Dove (Business)
 - Bette Sheehan (McArdle)
 - Randy Martinson (McArdle)
 - Linda Clipson (McArdle)
 - Kathy Zweifel (Genetics)
 - Jean Petersen (Genetics)
 - Gayla Garlick-Hansen (Cancer Center)
- Fellows
 - Xiaodi Chen (McArdle)
 - James Amos-Landgraf (McArdle)
- Students
 - Amy Irving (McArdle)

I started this story 90 years ago, out on Picnic Point. What will our community become in the next 90 years, by century’s end? Knowledge is being globalized, driven by the serial incarnations of the Internet fueled by Moore’s Law. Will this create worldwide communities of scholars who have never met one another over lunch? Surely, yes.

Will our university thus become more fragmented – 16 divisions instead of 4? Will the advance of construction cranes put prospective colleagues, junior and senior, out of reach for face-to-face contact, driven by shared research issues? Possibly, no.

At this uniquely rich research university, we have a complementary opportunity:

As a community of scholars in one locale, we can put the “U” into university!