

## WPT Broadcast of *Regret To Inform* Puts Faces to Vietnam War's "Other" Victims

By Amy Pikalek and Lynn Brockmeyer

*The battle goes on long after the war is over...  
Healing takes a long, long time.*

—Barbara Sonneborn, producer-director-writer  
of Oscar-nominated film *Regret To Inform*

Nearly 25 years have passed since the Vietnam War ended. But for many of the often-overlooked victims—the survivors of the people who died there—coming to grips with their loss is still a struggle.

In 1968, Barbara Sonneborn, a former UW-Madison student, received a telegram informing her that her husband, Jeff, had been killed in Vietnam. "We regret to inform you," the telegram began. Twenty years later, Sonneborn, a photographer and visual artist, embarked on a journey in search of the truth about war and its legacy, eloquently chronicled in *Regret to Inform*, her debut documentary.

A diverse crowd of students, veterans, senior citizens and others poured into the Fredric March Play Circle Theater on the UW-Madison campus Feb. 7 to join Sonneborn in a special

prescreening and discussion of the film, which aired on Wisconsin Public Television Feb. 11.

"This film touches on a painful and difficult subject for this country and for everyone whose lives

have been affected by the war," Sonneborn told the overflowing crowd at the prescreening. "I believe it has touched everyone in some way."

Certainly, that was the case for those who attended the prescreening. Throughout the 72-minute film, the audience was silent, and there was no shuffling in seats. As the lights came up, some had tears in their eyes, and others were at a loss for words. But all seemed to have a deeper understanding of the pain that lingers long after the war has ended.

*Regret to Inform* weaves together scenes of the serene Vietnamese countryside and shocking archival footage of the war years with the women's voices, an eloquent international chorus calling for peace. The women Sonneborn interviewed for the film came from diverse ethnic backgrounds. She

interviewed South and North Vietnamese, African American and Native American women. While their individual stories of the war were different, the underlying feelings of pain and loss were the same.

"I woke up one morning and knew I had to do something about Jeff's death," Sonneborn said. "I didn't know what that would be... At that time, I had met only one other American war widow."

So, in 1990, Sonneborn began her search for other women across the United States who had endured similar experiences. Her pilgrimage eventually took her to Vietnam in 1992, where she met many women who were willing to tell their stories.

"Women were lining up in Vietnam," she said. "When they heard that an American woman wanted to hear their stories and take them back to the United States, they came forward."

*Regret To Inform* was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature and won the Best Director and Best Cinematographer awards at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival. Sonneborn said she plans to release the film in Vietnam next fall.



Barbara Sonneborn and moderator/Vietnam veteran Doug Bradley discuss the film at the prescreening in the Fredric March Play Circle Theater, Madison.

### Outreach Project Sought to Spark Discussion of War Issues

The Madison prescreening of *Regret to Inform* was one of only a handful of such events across the country.

"Thirty years ago, the anguish of a nation divided over the involvement in the Vietnam War was played out at UW-Madison, an institution wrought with divisiveness and unrest," said WPT Outreach Unit Manager Timothy Rusch. "Screening *Regret to Inform* on this campus properly introduced and contextualized the gravity of this solemn anniversary. It created a forum for a film that transcends the cultural and political divergences and focuses on the kinship of loss, sufferance, survival and healing."

The goal of the outreach project was to encourage a dialogue by college-aged youth and the public on the multitude of war-related issues faced by veterans, their widows, partners, families and others left behind, Rusch said.



Vietnamese widow Tran Nghia

## Annual ETN Meeting Focuses on Plan 2008

*Plan 2008*, the UW-Extension's 10-year strategic plan to advance diversity statewide, was the focus of the Academic Staff Council's annual Educational Teleconference Network (ETN) meeting Feb. 7.

Approved by the UW Board of Regents last summer, the plan outlines specific initiatives for increasing diversity in the UWEX workforce, programs, program participants and educational partners.

UW-Extension will emphasize five of the seven goals outlined in the UW-System's *Plan 2008*, said UWEX Interim Chancellor Al Beaver:

- Increase the number of Wisconsin high school graduates of color who apply, are accepted

and enroll at UW System institutions.

- Encourage partnerships that build the educational pipeline by reaching children and their parents at an early age.
- Increase the number of faculty, academic and classified staff and administrators of color so that they're represented in the system workforce in proportion to the current availability in job pools.
- Foster institutional environments and course development that enhance learning and respect for racial and ethnic diversity.
- Improve accountability of the UW System and its institutions.

"What we want *Plan 2008* to do is help us clarify how we can best

fulfill the educational mission of UW-Extension, which is to reach all of the people of the state, including people of color," said Vicki Washington, director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs. "To the extent that we are not fully serving all of the people who reside in Wisconsin, we are not fulfilling our educational mission."

The individual UWEX divisions are now using the plan to develop more specific initiatives for the next three years.

"*Plan 2008* is a document that is being integrated into what we are already doing," Beaver said. "We will be successful once it has become 'just part of our jobs.'"



Albert J. Beaver

## Message from the Chancellor

As many of you know, workforce diversity has been one of my major emphases since I've been Chancellor. And, thanks to your participation and support, we are making progress. *Plan 2008*, UW System's current diversity focus, contains many new and exciting possibilities for UWEX diversity initiatives. Again, I am grateful to our *Plan 2008* planning team, our leadership, the Diversity Council and all of you for your assistance and support. I remain confident that UW-Extension can have a significant impact on strengthening diversity in the UW System.

To further these goals, I am pleased to announce the addition of Eddie Thomas to UW-Extension (see story p. 3). I firmly believe that by having someone in Extension with Eddie's broad experience, we will be able to recruit and retain a diverse and dynamic workforce. Please give Eddie your ideas, recommendations and support. That way, UW-Extension can begin to sow the seeds of Diversity *Plan 2008* in the year 2000.

Albert J. Beaver  
Interim Chancellor  
UW-Extension

A training package produced by Linda Kustka, Donna Menart, Jim Leser, Nancy Franz, Verne Gilles, Jeff Finlay and Donna Anderson, Cooperative Extension, received an award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in the category *Communicator Award for Team Educational Package*. The package included the videotape, *4-H Money--Handle With Care*, and other materials on sound money-handling and record-keeping practices.



Jim Brown,  
an associate professor with UW-Milwaukee's University Outreach and director of its Center for Consumer Affairs, was elected a fellow of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers in January. He'll be formally inducted into the college at the March meeting of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association in Columbus.

## UW Board of Regents Salute Famous Footwear, UW Learning Innovations for Beacon Award



(Left to right) Sean Young, LI; Julie Hestad and Susan Miller, Famous Footwear; and Mike Offerman, LI at the BOR meeting to accept the Beacon Award.

Miller, director of training and development for Famous Footwear.

"This year, Lotus and IBM received more than 500 nominations from over 40 countries for the Beacon Award," said Lyall. "Only one nominee was recognized for Excellence in Education and Training... the UW Learning Innovations-Famous Footwear collaboration. This speaks volumes about how LI is using computer technology to transform and raise the learning environments of Wisconsin-based businesses."

Offerman said that LI used Lotus *LearningSpace* and *Domino* to create *Steps to Success*, an online training program for launching new sales employees into the company culture and teaching appropriate sales techniques.

"Our design team created an engaging training experience using video, audio, graphics and text to engage Famous Footwear employees in a familiar yet interesting way," Offerman said.

"Through LI's support, we were able to make our vision of learning a reality in our stores," said Miller. She said that LI delivered a learning environment that can be accessed by more than 8,000 employees, updated quickly and automatically, and consistently managed at a lower cost.

"The Beacon Award gives us an opportunity to recognize their achievements and dedication to delivering the highest quality solutions and services possible, and to specifically honor those partners who exemplify the best the Lotus Business Partner community has to offer," said Pat Hume, vice president of Lotus Development Corp's. worldwide business partner program.

"UW Learning Innovations is helping the UW to extend its knowledge and resources in unique ways," said Lyall. "Moreover, as the Beacon Award demonstrates, LI is doing it better than just about anyone in the world."

The UW Board of Regents has recognized UW Learning Innovations and Famous Footwear, Inc., of Madison as recipients of the Lotus/IBM Beacon Award for Excellence in Education and Training.

UW System President Katharine Lyall announced the award at the Regents' February 10 meeting in Madison. She was joined by Mike Offerman, executive director of UW Learning Innovations, and Susan

More than 3,300 Wisconsin Public Radio listeners called or logged on to pledge their support during a February pledge drive. The \$350,000 goal was exceeded by more than \$4,000 during an eleven-hour rally, fueled by a challenge grant from current members. More than \$22,000 was raised in the final hour, as volunteers handled the steady stream of pledge calls. Listeners who missed the pledge drive can still contribute on-line at [www.wpr.org](http://www.wpr.org) or call 800-383-9772.

Garden Expo was a big success. Attendance was 11,000 - up by 1,000 from last year. They enjoyed displays from 135 exhibitors, educational seminars from 70 presenters and demonstrations by 30 experts.

## Present for GWETC 2000!

Only a few days remain to apply to be a presenter at the Governor's Wisconsin Educational Technology Conference 2000 to be held at the Dane County Expo Center and Sheraton Hotel in Madison Oct. 10-12.

This year's conference is expected to draw many presenters and attendees in the educational, business and government communities. GWETC 2000 presentations will be divided into six tracks:

- curriculum integration
- distance education
- emerging and future tools and trends
- policy and administration
- professional development
- technology infrastructure

Now in its eighth year, GWETC is co-sponsored by UW-Extension, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Department of Public Instruction, the Educational Communications Board, Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin and the Technical College System.



The October 1999 GWETC at the Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee saw a 63 percent increase over the 1998 conference in number of sessions and exhibitor classrooms and workshops, and a 171 percent increase in vendor representation.

### March 17, 2000 deadline for submitting Application to Present

If you haven't received an *Application to Present*, please contact GWETC 2000 management staff at 608-264-9724, or visit the conference web site at [www.gwetc.org](http://www.gwetc.org)

To schedule the Extension display, contact Vicki Pierce at 608-263-1100. A full description of the display can be found in the October '99 issue of *News and Ideas* [www.uwex.edu/ni](http://www.uwex.edu/ni)

### Annual ETN on Plan 2008

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Some specific initiatives of *Plan 2008*:

- Partnerships with the other UW campuses to strengthen precollege programs for students of color.
- Stronger linkages with communities of color.
- Coordination with community centers in southeast Wisconsin.
- Special outreach and recruitment efforts for 4-H youth programs, internships, and diversity training programs.

View *Plan 2008* in its entirety at [www.uwex.edu/diversity](http://www.uwex.edu/diversity)

-Amy Pikalek



Eddie Thomas joined UW-Extension on February 28 and will be housed in the Extension building on second floor.

## Thomas Joins UW-Extension as Human Resources Recruiter

By Karin Mast

Eddie Thomas, an equal opportunity recruiter with the Wisconsin Department of Employment Relations since 1992, will fill the recruiter role in the UW-Extension's Office of Human Resources.

"Eddie is a skilled recruiter with significant statewide experience," said UWEX Human Resources Director David Prucha. "We look forward to the enhancement of UW-Extension's ongoing employment program with the addition of his skills and talents."

Thomas will lead efforts to increase UWEX visibility as an employer of choice throughout the

state and the region. He'll be working with human resource managers, deans and directors, and program managers on strategies to attract the highest caliber of candidates available, and increase UWEX workforce diversity throughout the state.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge this position will afford me to use the skills and knowledge I have acquired over the years," said Thomas.

For the past eight years Thomas has worked in broad-based recruitment of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and persons with disabilities for vacancies at all

levels in state agencies and UW system institutions. Earlier, he was a job placement coordinator and developer with the Urban League and city of Madison welfare office.

Thomas is vice president of the Wisconsin Association of Equal Opportunity. He's also a member of the board of directors for Partnerships and Education; the Wisconsin Association of Black Public Sector Employees; and the International Personnel Management Association.

A graduate of Upper Iowa University, Thomas and his wife live in Madison and are the parents of three daughters.

## Four Lakes Distance Education Network Dedicated at The Pyle Center

Five other new networks dedicated at the same time in statewide video event

Traditional classroom barriers between K-12 teachers and students in Dane County and across Wisconsin are tumbling down—thanks to distance education networks that allow them to share resources.

The network is a fiber-optic system that connects member sites, allowing for fully interactive voice, video and data transmissions. Sites can also be linked with more than 300 other compatible sites statewide.

The dedication at The Pyle Center, UW-Extension's distance learning facility, was part of a video event in which six such networks were dedicated across Wisconsin. Other segments originated from Brussels, Thorp and Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

There are now about 40 similar distance education networks in the state. The idea is to increase teacher and student educational opportunities by allowing them to share the best resources available (see box).

"The Four Lakes consortium began as an idea shared by school superintendents and principals to share resources across school districts and to tap into resources of colleges and universities in Wisconsin," said Charles Reed, dean of UW-Madison's School of Education. "This grassroots origin meshes well with the historic Wisconsin Idea—the idea that the university reaches far beyond the boundaries of its campus."

UW-Extension has been a member of the Four Lakes consortium since July 1998 and has worked hard with other members to help K-12 schools share resources, not only in Dane County but statewide.

"We're proud of the strong relationship UW-Extension has built with UW-Madison, our area school districts, the Department of Administration... and others to meet the needs of our K-12 audience across Wisconsin," said UW-Extension Interim Chancellor Al Beaver. "These distance education networks will benefit thousands, even millions, of people... as they pursue learning opportunities. Each of (the networks) uses technology to bring people together to share one common bond—their desire to learn."

"UW-Extension has positioned itself as a resource not only for all of the K-12 schools in the area but also throughout the entire state," said Four Lakes Director Don Holmen.

Instructional Communications Systems provides coordination, training and technical support for those interested in using The Pyle Center's Four Lakes site.

For more information, contact Ginny Divine, interactive video coordinator, at 608-262-5249 or [divine@ics.uwex.edu](mailto:divine@ics.uwex.edu)

—Amy Pikalek



Representatives of a partnership among UW-Extension, UW-Madison, other higher education institutions, K-12 school districts and the community gathered Jan. 25 at The Pyle Center in Madison to celebrate the dedication of the new Four Lakes Distance Education Network.

## The Pyle Center to be Featured in National Videoconference in April

UW-Extension's distance education and conference facility, The Pyle Center, will be featured next month in a live two-hour national videoconference, *Designing Classrooms for Technology Integration and Accessibility*.

The Pyle Center in Madison is one of only four sites in the country to be featured in the April 13 program, which will instruct faculty administrators and staff across the country on the basics of classroom design for the new millennium. Participants will learn about room layout and lighting and acoustics, with special attention to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for learners with a disability.

"The Pyle Center is such a diverse facility—it's a model for integrating accessibility and technology into a learner-friendly classroom environment," said Marcia Baird, director

of Instructional Communications Systems. "The Pyle Center exemplifies UW-Extension's commitment to utilizing new, cutting-edge technology to take Wisconsin education beyond the boundaries of the state."

The Consortium of College and University Media Centers and PBS Adult Learning Service are producing the videoconference. Bruce Dewey, a Distance Education Specialist in ICS, is a long-time member of the consortium and is working with the task force that will be putting the final videoconference together.

The live videoconference will be shown at The Pyle Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 13. Anyone interested in attending should register with Dewey by calling 608-263-2749 or sending an email to [dewey@ics.uwex.edu](mailto:dewey@ics.uwex.edu).

Four Lakes Distance Education Network educational opportunities include:

- University of Wisconsin courses and workshops
- Programs for high school students
- Post-secondary credit, continuing education courses
- Staff development

# Grant Leads To Powwow On The Web—Live!

By Mary Lock Albrecht

UW–Madison Professor Sheila Reaves likes to make an impact on the world she lives in.

Ten years ago she established a summer workshop to teach Native American youth about journalism, a workshop that's since been nationally recognized.

This past year she embarked on another pioneering adventure. Having won a Program Redirection and Enhancement Fund grant from the UW–Madison Office of Outreach Development, Reaves focused on a new venture, with the help of her Ojibwe friends on the Lac Courtes Oreilles Reservation in Northern Wisconsin.

"I believe in the 'wise use' of technology. I want to make sure that technology doesn't get away from the underserved populations," Reaves said. "This belief and my involvement with the Native peoples led me to the idea of producing a live broadcast of the Honor the Earth Powwow on the Web. It would be the first powwow in the U.S. ever presented live via the Internet."

At an April 1999 meeting of Native American leaders including journalists, editors and educators, Reaves was struck by the idea of broadcasting the powwow live on the Internet... and everyone was excited about it. Because Reaves had helped the tribe set up a Web site last year, the group was familiar with Web technology.

"Making this powwow available to listeners around the world has special significance, because this is considered the homecoming powwow," said WOJB-FM Web coordinator Shelley Galloway. This is a time for those living away from the reservation to come home to celebrate with family. The broadcast means people not able to return home can participate via the Internet."

Having a joint appointment with the School of Journalism and Communication and the Division of Continuing Studies, Reaves turned to a colleague in the school's Vilas Hall for advice.

"Brian Deith became the technical wizard of the project—only because he was so personally interested in making the Internet broadcast work," Reaves said.

A computer specialist, Deith jumped at the chance to try out some brand new software that had not even been released yet.

"We could not have succeeded without all those people at the spring meeting," said Reaves. "First, we had Brian from the UW–Madison Journalism School, which provided the server; the Lac du Flambeau Community College lent us its computer; and WOJB handled the coverage (broadcasting equipment). It truly was like the Native American idea of the circle—all the players had an equal and intrinsic role in the project," she said.



Lac Courtes Oreilles Honor the Earth Powwow

Throughout the planning stages, everyone viewed the broadcast as experimental. "We really didn't know if we could make this work—even up to the last minute," Reaves said.

"I had never done audio-streaming before and the software that we used was unknown," said Deith.

On the evening of the powwow, which was held at Lac Courtes Oreilles Reservation on July 16, the project members crossed their fingers as Deith flipped the switch.

"We were ecstatic when we actually heard the native singing of their very old songs," said Deith, who had stayed in Madison with the server.

Because of the uncertainty, the broadcast team had told only a few people of the upcoming experiment.

"However, by word of mouth, we had more than 100 hits from

places like Alaska and Hawaii," Reaves said. "The grant gave us the opportunity to experiment with a new medium and we succeeded."

The grant was specially appreciated by the Native peoples. "Having this access to the University of Wisconsin definitely was instrumental in sparking interest in Web broadcasting," said Galloway.

As a result of this project, Reaves has identified another goal: "Currently, we're working to get WOJB online full time by April 3, which is the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first broadcast," she said. Another outcome of the grant, Deith said, is that now he'll use what he learned to teach traditional campus students how to broadcast on the Web.

"It is, indeed, a full circle and a wonderful example of what the Wisconsin Idea can do," Reaves said. WOJB's website can be found at: [www.wojb.org](http://www.wojb.org)

## Governor Commends SBDC for Strengthening State's Business Community

About 200 people met at The Pyle Center in February to help celebrate 20 years of service by the UW–Extension Small Business Development Center to Wisconsin entrepreneurs.

Gov. Tommy Thompson marked the occasion with an official commendation.

Wisconsin Secretary of Commerce Brenda Blanchard read the commendation to Interim Chancellor

Al Beaver, state SBDC Director Erica Kauten and representatives of the state's local economic development groups, technical college districts, and SBDC offices. The commendation recognized the center for:

- Stimulating social and cultural factors that encourage spontaneous optimism and creative spirit of successful entrepreneurship and for promoting women and minority participation.

- Motivating employment growth and innovation statewide by removing obstacles and finding solutions for Wisconsin entrepreneurs, and helping them to qualify for millions of dollars of new capital financing annually.

- Strengthening the state's business community by connecting them with the University

of Wisconsin's vast expertise and resources.

The SBDC network is the state's largest educational service provider for small business, with 13 offices supported through 12 UW campuses.

*extension News & Ideas* is a publication of the University of Wisconsin–Extension (UWEX). It features articles and information about UW–Extension and extension activities carried out through the 26 UW System campuses and 72 Wisconsin counties. An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, UWEX provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you would like this material in another format, please contact Vicki Pierce.

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**Photos:** Greg Gent Studios Inc., Jim Gill, Amy Pikalek

*extension News & Ideas* on-line:  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ni/>

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