

Alumni Stories: Laurel Ostermeier

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

Make your way through this map to experience some stories from alum Mark Ostermeier. Each story frame is colored to represent the mood of the story

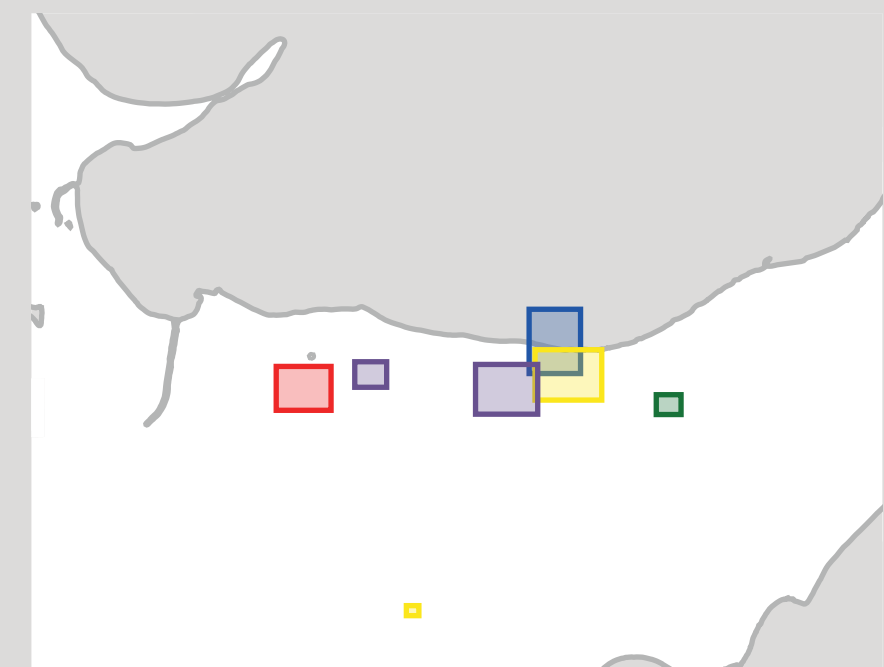
Purple - Wonder / Bewilderment / Creativity

Blue - Calm / Serenity / Tranquility

Green - Growth / Cycles / Rooted

Yellow - Happiness / Laughter / Optimism

Red - Shock / Panic / Intensity

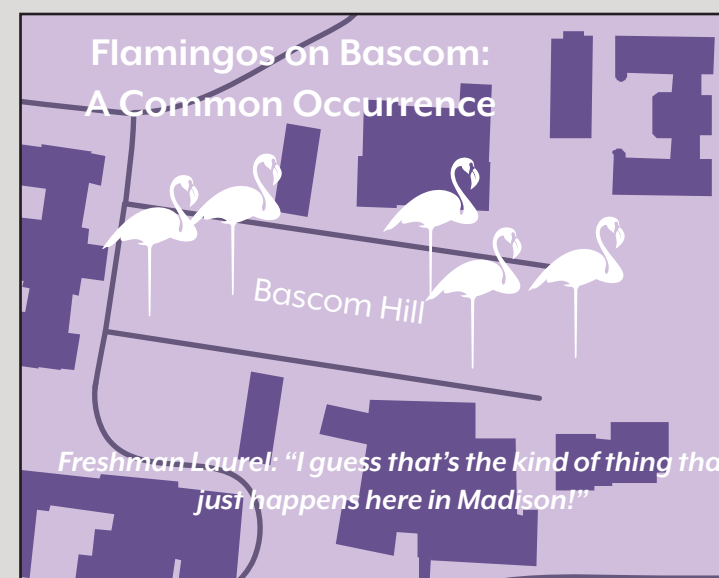


"One time we had to culture stuff out and smear it on a plate and have it grow then look at it later to see what we grew. And the thing I grew, nobody could identify- not even the TA!"

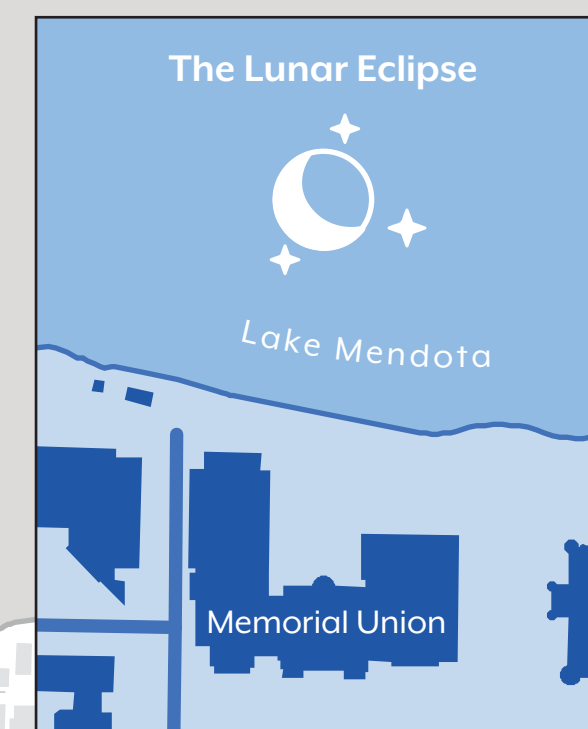
Laurel had to take Bacteriology for her major and expected to hate it...



"Just as I arrived at the bottom of Bascom Hill, I saw that it was filled with plastic flamingos. And, now, I was in some ways kind of naïve when I started so...Madison was kind of known to be a place where all kinds of weird things happen and all that...so I was kind of befuddled..."

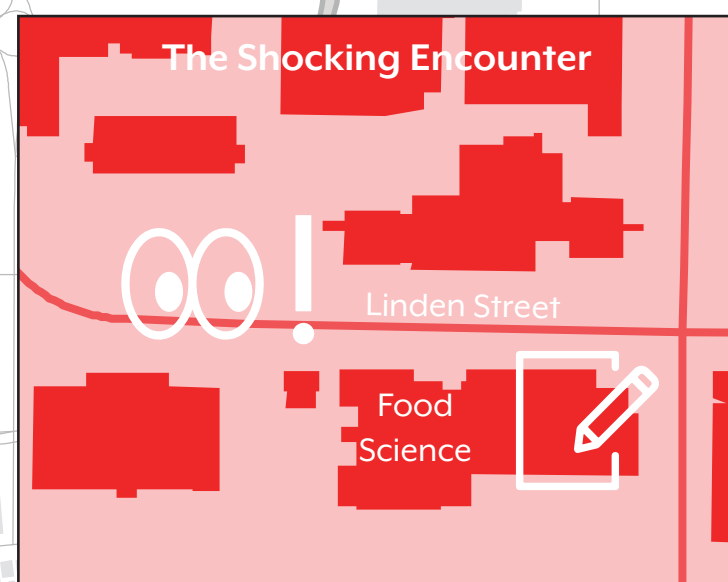


"At the Union there's that pier that goes into the lake and there was a lunar eclipse...So some of our friends just had some beer and sat out on that pier."



"It was quiet, it was very mellow because it wasn't like the terrace is now. There was hardly anybody around, we were the only ones on the pier."

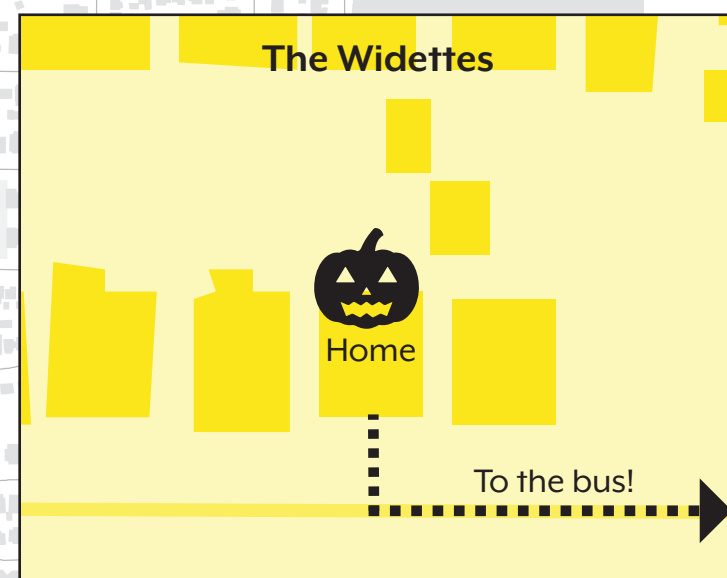
"It was finals week and I had a Food Science Final and I studied hard... I was walking down the street, getting ready to take that final, and then I look over and I see the other side of the street and there's the professor for that class..."



(Laurel still got to take the final and DID graduate.)

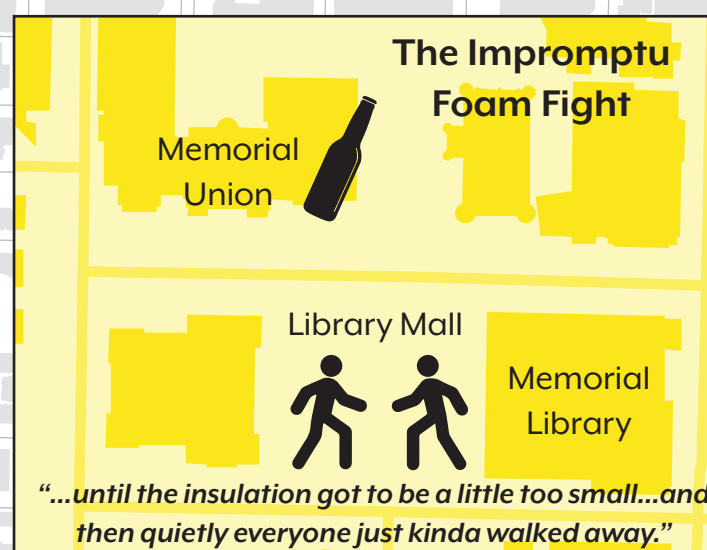
"She sees me and she's like 'Laurel, there you are!' And I thought I was going to the final now, but that final had just gotten done!"

Laurel and her roommates dressed up as SNL's Widettes for Halloween...



"On SNL there was a comedy about this family and they were called the Widettes and they were just completely normal shaped except they had big butts, only they didn't know it, so they just acted like it was all normal."

"Somehow, spontaneously, people started having fights with it. And it didn't hurt, and it was just a sense of fun. No one was trying to be mean. And it wasn't like you would only would hit someone with that foam that you knew, you might hit somebody that you didn't know- and it didn't matter...there was a lot of laughing!"

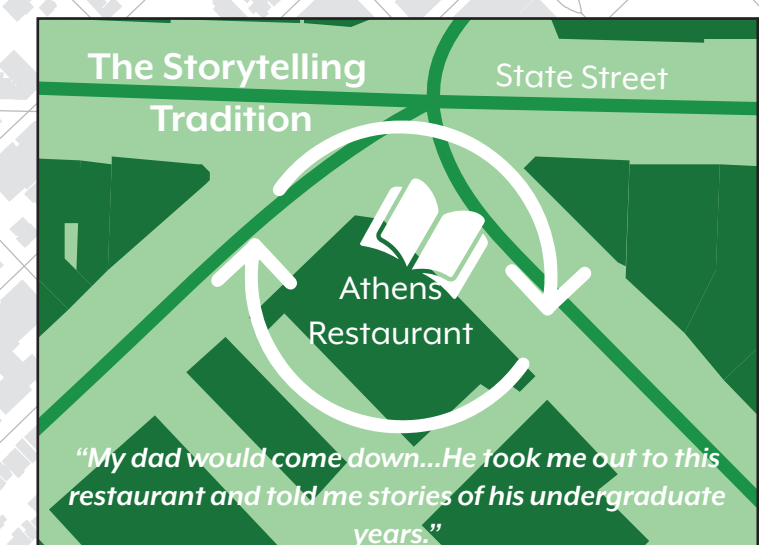


"...until the insulation got to be a little too small...and then quietly everyone just kinda walked away."

Laurel and her friends were out drinking when giant pieces of foam insulation blew off the roof of Memorial Library....



"We got on the bus, and we all stepped on it like it was hard to squeeze our butts on, and the whole bus was laughing."



"I felt a pride and sense of continuity that my dad went there [UW Madison] and had a lot of experiences and I was going to be going there and having those experiences...I would have stories to tell one day too...it was a sense of connection."

Alumni Stories: Mark Ostermeier

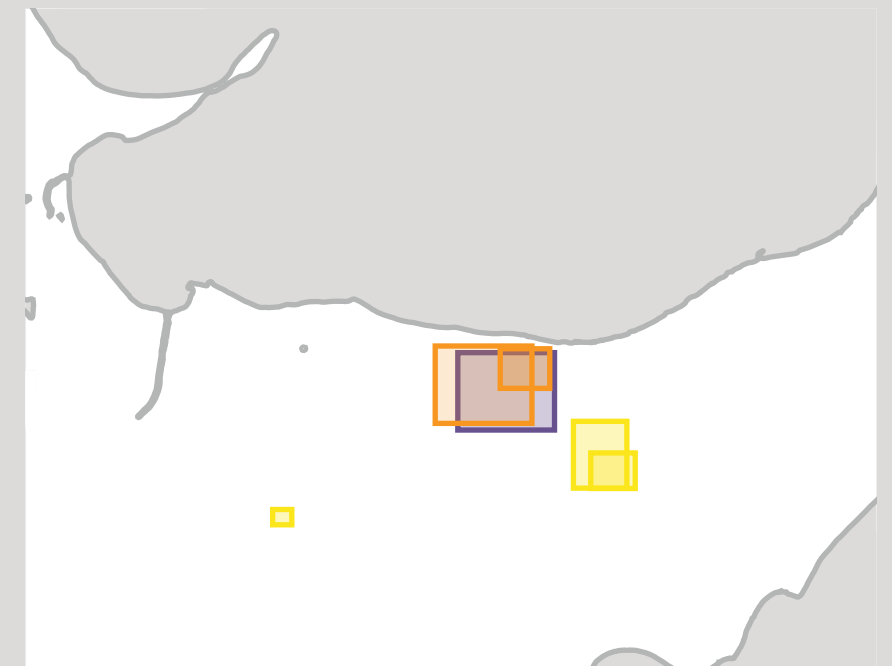
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

Make your way through this map to experience some stories from alum Mark Ostermeier. Each story frame is colored to represent the mood of the story

Purple - Wonder / Bewilderment / Creativity

Orange - Adventure / Enthusiasm / Excitement

Yellow - Happiness / Laughter / Optimism



On the way to the first class, on the first day of Freshman year...

Marks floormate had found out about it from another student...so they went to check it out. They boldly moved past classes in session...

"...and that happened to be the first time that they put the pink flamingos on Bascom hill...but being a dumb freshman, I didn't know enough that I should have grabbed one of those pink flamingos...it would've been a nice keepsake today."



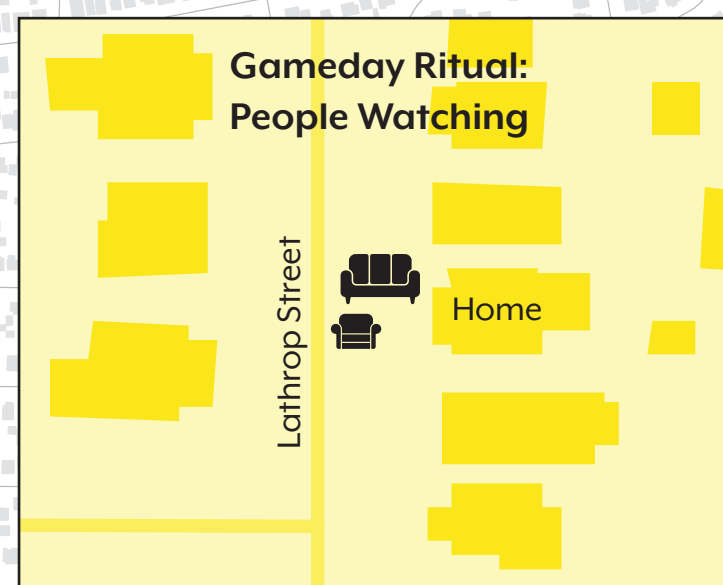
"You just jumped in there and it was a spiral slide, like at a water park, and then there were places where another slide would enter into the same tube...and then eventually you popped out in the back parking lot..."

"...just these tunnels with all these electrical cables that went along the wall. You could stand up and actually walk in them...there were lights and you could turn them off and on. You'd walk along for a long way and then you'd see a ladder going up and if you went up there would be another hole where you could get out..."



"We could look across out the window...and we could see a club we used to go to called Headliners...almost every night they would have a band play at Headliners and we could look through the window and see who was playing there, and it was usually pretty cheap. It was free to get in, and you might get a beer for very cheap."

"It got us interested in playing music...then the four of us on that floor got together and started a band."



"...the games were always busy on Saturdays, if it was a nice day we would take our furniture from the living room onto the front lawn, we would put lamps and couches out, and just watch the crowds."

"We could literally go down the stairwell at Witte and run across the road in our sweatpants or stocking feet into the Nitty Gritty to have a beer or some popcorn."



"It was just a little bar on the corner."