

## University Club History

1906

“At a meeting of the Madison Alumni and the faculty of the University of Wisconsin early in the month, it was decided to organize a University Club, to consist of the members of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, University Alumni of Madison, and alumni of other institutions.”  
*Wisconsin Alumni Magazine*

1907

“The University of Wisconsin Club has definitely determined to establish its home at State and Murray streets on what is known as the Parkinson corner. Articles of incorporation for this organization were filed yesterday....

“The ground which the Club will own is in many respects the most desirable in the city and particularly for the purpose intended, that of a club the membership of which to a preponderant degree is drawn from the university faculty. The Parkinson site is across the road and only a few steps away from the beautiful State Historical library building and directly faces the lower campus, so that the view from the front windows of the club will take in the library building, the great gymnasium, the Christian association building, with Lake Mendota beyond....

“...The building is a substantial one of brick and before the fire some 14 months ago was one of the finest residences in the neighborhood...the club experienced some difficulty in coming to a conclusion as to site, however, because some of the members believed it desirable to have a place nearer the center of the city....”

*Daily Cardinal, Feb 21 1907*

1908

“From the standpoint of the alumni of the university no improvement in recent years is of more interest or importance than the establishment of the University Club, which occupied its new house about February 1. In no way connected with or supported by the University, or under its control, it owes its establishment and its fifty-thousand-dollar property entirely to the initiative and the exertions of the alumni of this and other colleges and universities living in or interested in Madison.

“...[The Parkinson] home, which had been damaged by fire, has been rebuilt, but as it is not large enough for the purpose of the Club, a part of a new building has been erected...two principal objects have been kept in view; the funds immediately available and the scope which the University Club should have in the future. It was therefore deemed wise to begin the construction of a permanent building by erecting on the west side of the Parkinson house one wing of the new clubhouse, in such a way that the two buildings could be used jointly by the club, till such time as it shall be feasible to remove the old building entirely...

“The land, the present buildings, and the furniture of the clubhouse have cost \$52,000.”

*Wisconsin Alumni Magazine*

1912-1928

Parkinson house is torn down and replaced by the east wing of the Club, completing the original plan. Subsequently the land south of the Club is bought and a rear dormitory wing built.

World War I

University Club building used as an infirmary for influenza patients.

1926

Honorary memberships granted to regents and Governor. (This action is repeated several times in later years.)

1927

Night watchman hired for \$60 a month plus room and board. Club accepts a bequest: a gazelle's head.

1927-1931

Annual surplus from Club operations averages \$5,000.

1933

Women are admitted to membership.

Because of income shrinkage expected due to the coming reduction in salaries, the directors offer to give the Club property to the University. Acceptance recommended with some dissent, at a special faculty meeting in Music Hall. Regents agree to accept with a proviso that male faculty earning more than \$2,000 a year will be subject to obligatory dues if the operations run a deficit. (Never implemented.) Estimated value of buildings and land given the University is \$300,000.

Room and board rates for residents of the Club:

School Year.....	\$400
Semester.....	\$210
Weekly.....	\$11
Room Rental.....	\$15-\$30 a month
Restaurant Service.....	\$8.50 a week
Three-course Luncheon.....	50 cents

1934

CWA painters redecorated the Club.

1935

Club President Mark Ingraham welcomes new members.

1936

A copy of John B. Chapple's book, *La Follette Road to Communism*, purchased and placed in lounge.

Speakers during the year include:

- Dr William S. Middleton on "Changing Weapons in the Treatment of Tuberculosis."
- Prof. E. E. Witte on "Individual Economic Security; the Problems and Proposed Solutions."
- Dean George C. Sellery on "The University, Faculty and People."

1937

Prof. Charles Bunn of the Law School speaks on "The President and the Court."

1940

Program on "Women in the Legal Profession"

Club President Paul F. Clark writes in his newsletter to members: "...will you not bring your colleagues in to taste the apple pie of our pastry cook? It is deliciously toothsome especially when mixed with the tales and gossip of colleagues from other departments."

A later newsletter is illustrated: "N. B. This is a picture of the virus of inertia, (first cousin to the influenza virus) taken with the new electron microscope. This virus will surely "get you" if you don't bring in that new member."

1941

Prof. Helen White becomes the first woman to head the Club.

Speakers include:

- University of Wisconsin President Dykstra on "Working of the Selective Service Act"
- John Steuart Curry on "Modern Painting"

In his newsletter, Club President Ashur Hobson writes:

"The Club will continue its practice of serving special value dinners on Thursdays for 65 and 85 cents..."

"Many of the Club members have left Madison for the Duration. This will call for unusual effort on the part of all of us in maintaining sufficient membership numbers to keep the Club on an efficient operation basis."

Women members start using the front door of the Club.

1942

Speakers include:

- Lt. Com. Mildred McAfee, Commander of the Waves and former president of Wellesley College
- Prof. C. A. Elvehjem on "A decade of Research on the Vitamin B Complex"

1943

Directors vote to accept the Faculty Club of Harvard for reciprocal relations.

Club Manager announces he's to report for duty in the Navy.

Rooms taken over for 200 students in the Army Student Training Program.

Ration points hard to come by: breakfast and weekly "Steak Nights" discontinued.

1944

Rooms are returned to Club use; University agrees to compensate the Club for loss of rental income.

Negro membership approved by vote.

1945

Lunches in dining room: 50 cents and 65 cents; dinners 75 cents and \$1.00.

1949

“Even today a separate lounge and special entrance on Murray Street are kept for the use of women”  
*The Centennial Cardinal*

1952

Speakers include:

- Michael S. Petrovich, instructor in history, on “The American Voice Behind the Iron Curtain”
- Prof. David Fellman on “What Shall We Do About Legislative Investigating Committees?”

1953

Speaker include

- Prof. Ralph O. Nafziger on “Germany Today”
- Prof. Arthur Hasler on “Eniwetock and the Marshall Islands”

1955

Mrs. Henry C. Hart talks on women in the new India.

1959

Dr. Harry F. Harlow speaks on “My life with Men and Monkeys.”

1960

Speakers include Artist-in-Residence Aaron Bohrod, and Mrs. James S. Watrous, who reported on the saga of a wife who got her husband to Paris via winning a contest.

1964

Speakers include:

- Prof. Catherine McClellan on “Women of the North.”
- Miss Martha Peterson, special assistant to the University president, on the state of affairs when the University has doubled present enrolment.
- Prof. Leon Epstein on “Post Mortem on Two Elections.”

1965

U.W. Chancellor Robben Fleming speaks on the future plans of the University.

Prof. Henry C. Hart speaks on “The Kashmir Dispute.”

Miss Mildred Lindquist is appointed Manager of the Club.

1964-1966

University Club faces elevation to a higher sphere when plans proposed for a new twelve-story tower on Lake Mendota with provisions for two top floors set aside for faculty lounges, recreation rooms, restaurants.

Plan falls through; Club stays put.

1969

The University takes over all but eight of the Club's rooms for use as offices.

1969-1971

Student protest surge up and down State Street past the Club.

1971

“The University Club, a campus institution for more than 60 years, may have to close its doors this spring - a victim of changing times and new life styles. “According to its board of directors, the club at 803 State St. is in 'deep financial distress. Unless its membership doubles, the directors said the club's cash reserves will be used by March or April and closing will be all but inevitable.” *Wisconsin State Journal*

1973-1979

We survive.

1972

President: David Fellman

1973

President: Elizabeth McCoy

1974

President: Elizabeth McCoy

1975

President: Ragnar Rollefson

President Rollefson closed the club during the summer months due to financial constraints. There was campus support to help finance the Club's deficit of \$5,000.

1976

President: William Hay

Gross food and Beverage sales for year were \$11,855.62. A promotional letter for membership was sent to 2,500 faculty and 9,500 academic staff.

1977

President: Clara Penniman

Professors Barbash, Baerreis, and Hay were asked to serve on a committee to investigate how to acquire younger members. The “mixer table” was established in the dining room.

1978

President: Clara Penniman

Thomas Higgins reported on plans for dinner to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Club. Reception honoring Vice-Chancellor Bryant Kearn.

1979

President: Gordon Baldwin

Letter to Pres. Baldwin from Chancellor Shain suggesting housing be discontinued at the Club, and that the Club has 3 years to become financially self supporting or be phased out of existence. Mildred Lindquist retires.

1980-1981

President: Jane Hutchinson

1982

President: Robert Beetem

1983

President: Fannie Taylor

Discussion of “singles” events be considered at the Club. First Friday dinners were held with speakers such as Henry Hart and John Jenkins. Annual dues for “professors” are \$138.60.

1984

President: Fannie Taylor

The question of paid advertising was discussed. It was called a “delicate problem.” It was agreed a “story” about the club was okay, but actual advertising was not okay. It was agreed to cancel Sunday brunches because of poor attendance.

1985

President: Fannie Taylor

Joann Mais, Stanley Payne, and Mimi Lyons completed the “University Club Guidelines” - an operating manual with considerable historic background.

1986

President: Joel Skornica

Three dinner dances were held, as well as pre-concert and pre travel series (Union) dinners. The Union allowed the Club to advertise in their notices.

1987

President: Gordon Baldwin:

The Club joins the computer age. One computer is used to prepare financial reports. Juli Johnson becomes manager.

1988

President: Reuben Lorenz

Fireside grill is remodeled. UW Foundation vacates offices upstairs. Free memberships extended to new faculty and staff and new dues structure adopted.

1989

President: Reuben Lorenz

Luncheon programs begun on "Politics and the University." Mayor candidates Joe Sensenbrenner and Paul Soglin are featured speakers on March 30th.

1990

President: Linda Weimer

Restoration committee established and decorator, Sandra McSweeney appointed. Sixty-three people attend Mother's Day brunch. Regular Informance lunches begun on Politics/History (focus). Reading room redecorated.

1991

President: Linda Weimer

Half price membership to alumni. Speakers include Art Hove, Dave Cronon and Jauels Watrons.

1992

President: Martha Taylor

Valentines Day Dance attended by 88 people. WAA magazine has story on Club and offers half price membership. Speakers include congressional candidates Ada Deer and Rep Scott Klug.

1993

President: Gerald Thain

Pre-game football event draws 250 people for Ohio State game. Speakers include Prof. Harold Scheub and Dennis Maki. Prof. Li Chiao Ping spoke on choreography. Club receives loan of baby grand Steinway form Music School. Banquet room redecorated.

1994

President: Martha Casey

Speakers include John Kaminski on George Washington and Susan Cook on Ireen Cartle. A new lighting system installed in the dinning room. Issue raised of applying for Historic Landmark Status because of danger raised by expansion of Elvehjem. Art Hove's picture exhibit completed.

1995

President: Martha Taylor

Speakers include Prof. Linda Gordon of History, Marshall Erdman, and Mayor Paul Soglin.

1996

President: Margo Melli welcomes members to a newly redecorated Wayside Room with refurbished wood paneling and chairs, repainted walls, and finishing touches so that the room is much more in keeping with the lovely entrance and Reading Room. Speakers include: How Does a string quartet work by the Pro Arte Quartet, Alzheimer update by Dr. William Ershler, Jane Coleman looked inside the Elvehjem Museum, the UWF 50th Anniversary, musings of a Regent Past by Erroll Davis, Dr. Dick Anderson and John James Audubon, David Ward described the Future of the University, Bill Cronon on Honors Students, the Wisconsin Brass Quintet, Herman Goldstein regarding the Mark Fuhrman Phenomena and American Policing, Karlos Moser on The Ballad of Baby Doe, Jane Schacter on human rights, and Art Professor Elaine Scheer.

## PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

1907 Burr W. Jones	1951 Kurt Wentz	1995 Martha Casey
1908 H. L. Smith	1952 R. V. Campbell	1996 Margo Melli
1909 R. G. Thwaites	1953 C. H. Ruedisili	
1910 E. M. Griffith	1954 R. O. Nafziger	
1911 E. A. Birge	1955 E. A. Gaumnitz	
1912 E. A. Gilmore	1956 Alden White	
1913 G. C. Comstock	1957 Ray Brown	
1914 D. C. Munro	1958 T. Zillman	
1915 K. C. Leith	1959 A. F. Ahearn	
1916 T. E. Lyons	1960 F. W. Haberman	
1917 J. G. D. Mack	1961 Martha Peterson	
1918 H. S. Richards	1962 Arno Lenz	
1919 C. E. Allen	1963 Harold Engel	
1920 W. O. Hotchkiss/G. Wagner	1964 Winston Brembeck	
1921 F. L. Paxson	1965 William Sachse	
1922 W. J. Mead	1966 F. Chandler Young	
1923 C. I. Corp.	1967 F. Chandler Young	
1924 F. H. MacGregor	1968 Raymond Penn	
1925 R. H. Whitbeck	1969 Reuben Lorenz	
1926 W. H. Kiekhofner	1970 Reuben Lorenz	
1927 L. F. VanHagen	1971 John Johnson	
1928 Grant Hyde	1972 David Fellman	
1929 J. D. Wickhem	1973 Elizabeth McCoy	
1930 Warren Weaver	1974 Elizabeth McCoy	
1931 E. B. McGilvary	1975 Ragnar Rollefson	
1932 E. G. Hastings	1976 William H. Hay	
1933 J. H. Matthews	1977 Clara Penniman	
1934 W. F. Lorenz	1978 Clara Penniman	
1935 M. H. Ingraham	1979 Gordon Baldwin	
1936 E. F. Bean	1980 Jane Hutchinson	
1937 I. L. Baldwin	1981 Jane Hutchison	
1938 Andrew Weaver	1982 Robert Beetem	
1939 Joel Stebbins	1983 Fannie Taylor	
1940 Paul Clark	1984 Fannie Taylor	
1941 Helen White	1985 Fannie Taylor	
1942 Asher Hobson	1986 Joel Skornica	
1943 Asher Hobson	1987 Gordon Baldwin	
1944 Asher Hobson	1988 Reuben Lorenz	
1945 O. S. Rundell	1989 Reuben Lorenz	
1946 R. J. Roark	1990 Linda Weimer	
1947 V. W. Meloche	1991 Linda Weimer	
1948 V. W. Meloche	1992 Martha Taylor	
1949 V. E. Kivlin	1993 Gerald Thain	
1950 V. E. Kivlin	1994 Martha Casey	
	1995 Martha Casey	
	1996 Margo Melli	

-----

## *Article written for the newsletter*

The First Thirty Years: 1906-36

This is the first of a three part story of the University Club which celebrates its 90th Anniversary in 1996/97.

The Wisconsin Alumni Magazine of 1906 reports "At a meeting of the Madison Alumni and the faculty of the University of Wisconsin early in the month, it was decided to organize a University Club, to consist of the members of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, University Alumni of Madison, and alumni of other institutions."

In February, the following year the Daily Cardinal reports "The University of Wisconsin Club has definitely determined to establish its home at State and Murray streets on what is known as the Parkinson corner. Articles of incorporation for this organization were filed yesterday.... The ground which the Club will own is in many respects the most desirable in the city, that of a club the membership of which to a preponderant degree is drawn from the university faculty. The Parkinson site is across the road and only a few steps away from the beautiful State Historical library building and directly faces the lower campus, so that the view from the front windows of the club will take in the library building, the great gymnasium, the Christian association building, with Lake Mendota beyond.... The building is a substantial one of brick and before the fire some 14 months ago was one of the finest residences in the neighborhood...the club experienced some difficulty in coming to a conclusion as to site, however, because some of the members believed it desirable to have a place nearer the center of the city...."

Finally, in 1908, "From the standpoint of the alumni of the university no improvement in recent years is of more interest or importance than the establishment of the University Club which occupied its new house about February 1." The Wisconsin Alumni Magazine continues, "In no way connected with or supported by the University, or under its control, it owes its establishment and its fifty-thousand-dollar property entirely to the initiative and the exertions of the alumni of this and other colleges and universities living in or interested in Madison. [The Parkinson] home, which had been damaged by fire, has been rebuilt, but as it is not large enough for the purpose of the Club, a part of a new building has been erected. It was deemed wise to begin the construction of a permanent building by erecting on the west side of the Parkinson house one wing of the new clubhouse, in such a way that the two buildings could be used jointly by the club, till such time as it shall be feasible to remove the old building entirely. The land, the present buildings, and the furniture of the clubhouse have cost \$52,000.

During the next sixteen years the Parkinson house is torn down and replaced by the east wing of the Club, completing the original plan. Subsequently the land south of the Club is bought and a rear dormitory wing built.

With World War I, the University Club building is used as an infirmary for influenza patients. In 1927 a night watchman is hired for \$60 a month plus room and board and the Club accepts a bequest: a gazelle's head and the Annual surplus from Club operations averages \$5,000 between 1927-1931

Women are admitted to membership in 1933. Because of income shrinkage expected due to the coming reduction in salaries, the directors offer to give the Club property to the University. Acceptance recommended with some dissent, at a special faculty meeting in Music Hall. Regents agree to accept with a proviso that male faculty earning more than \$2,000 a year will be subject to

obligatory dues if the operations run a deficit. This was never implemented. Estimated value of buildings and land given the University is \$300,000. Restaurant service is \$8.50 a week, and a three-course luncheon is 50 cents.

CWA painters redecorated the Club in 1934 and Club President Mark Ingraham welcomes new members the following year.

In 1936 a copy of John B. Chapple's book, *La Follette Road to Communism*, purchased and placed in lounge. Speakers during the year include: Dr William S. Middleton on Changing Weapons in the Treatment of Tuberculosis; Prof. E. E. Witte on Individual Economic Security; the Problems and Proposed Solutions; and Dean George C. Sellery on The University, Faculty and People.