

# AND TOMORROW

Rolling thrums of summer pulse against  
Our minds like a metronome and, once  
  august  
Ends, buzzingly clamor like bell chimes  
  rung  
At noon, refusing to be ignored any  
  longer.

These are the fresh voices of students,  
Absent in dormant months—but never  
  truly gone,  
Who molt dusty words and swell upon  
The town like a pregnant wave fit to  
  burst.

These are the fresh voices of  
professors  
stirring with the darkening of Fall  
  leaves  
and the loss of heat in the swirling  
  wind—  
Hibernation that thrills to awaken.

These are the fresh voices of a  
  community—  
A town, a group of people unified  
In something intangible that hurts us to  
  envision,  
That starts to burst at the start of  
  September.

All our voices join together, a surging  
  tide  
That washes away the sticky summer  
  heat  
Like brushing away thick memories  
  brought on by strawberries:  
Like brushing away the mosquitos that  
  pester and suck.

From Dane County, from Trempealeau  
From Douglas, Brown, and Winnebago,  
From Minnesota, from Michigan,  
From the rolling Great Plains and the  
  Southern bayous

From Canada, from Peru,  
From China and Brazil,  
Korea, France, and Germany:  
All flock here, not just for the chance  
  to learn

But to build something never before  
  seen,  
Like a lightning'd rainbow streaking  
  across  
The methane heavens of Neptune, or a  
  world truly at peace.  
Foundations built upon foundations  
  wrought

By the multitudes who came before;  
Who came before in past falls with kite-  
  like ideas;  
Who trudged as we trudge in the grey  
  slush  
Of winter colored by Wisconsin skies

To enter our classrooms, our hallowed  
  halls;  
Who, like sheltered ancestors in veiled  
  caves,  
gathered around fires lit by brighter  
  minds;  
Who slept like giants lullabied

By an eons worth of past summer  
  buzzings.  
Their voices are just as loud as ours are  
  now:  
The voices of parents who wished and  
  worked  
So that we may wish and work.

The voices of our parents' parents,  
Of ancestors and friends:  
Of a line stretching back to Aristotle,  
To Confucius, to the teachings of the  
  Oneida:

All these come together and clash,  
Rubbing against one another  
In a fierce friction that ignites a path  
To guide us here today.

That is why, Fall in and Fall out,  
And Spring in and Spring out,  
Determined we come, gripping fire irons  
To stoke the embers and ruffle the  
  flames,

Though they may fade and lose their  
  glow—  
Fire begins again in the Fall with rippling  
  golden hues,  
And in this year and the next year,  
And tomorrow and tomorrow and  
  tomorrow.

The thirsting of knowledge refuses to be  
  ignored.  
The clamoring buzz harkens the ending  
Of August, and summons fresh voices.  
Rolling thrums of summer pulse, and we  
  answer.

-BY SHANE P. CONNER

## DELEGATES

1847

Lawrence University  
Mark H. Burstein

1851

Ripon College  
Elaine M. Coll

1851

Ripon College  
Zach P. Messitte

1868

University of Wisconsin- Whitewater  
Beverly A. Kopper

1871

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
Amy L. Alatorre

1871

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
Franca R. Barricelli

1874

University of Wisconsin- River Falls  
Dean A. Van Galen

1891

University of Wisconsin- Stout  
Robert M. Meyer

1894

University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point  
Bernie L. Patterson

1906

University of West Georgia  
Scot A. Lingrell

1908

James Madison University  
Stephen P. Huffman

1908

Alfred State College  
Skip Sullivan

1910

Bowling Green State University  
Timothy R. Gleason

1916

University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire  
James C. Schmidt

1932

University of Wisconsin- Manitowoc  
Charles E. Clark

1933

University of Wisconsin- Fox Valley  
Martin D. Rudd

1965

University of Wisconsin - Green Bay  
Gary L. Miller

1968

University of Wisconsin- Parkside  
Fred J. Ebeid

1968

University of Wisconsin- Parkside  
Deborah L. Ford

1968

University of Wisconsin- Fond du Lac  
John N. Short

1973

Wisconsin Lutheran College  
Kevin W. Glaeske

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