

YEAR 10, ISSUE #3

SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

ODYSSEY ORACLE

TENTH YEAR CLASS ON THE UW CAMPUS



In this Oracle . . .

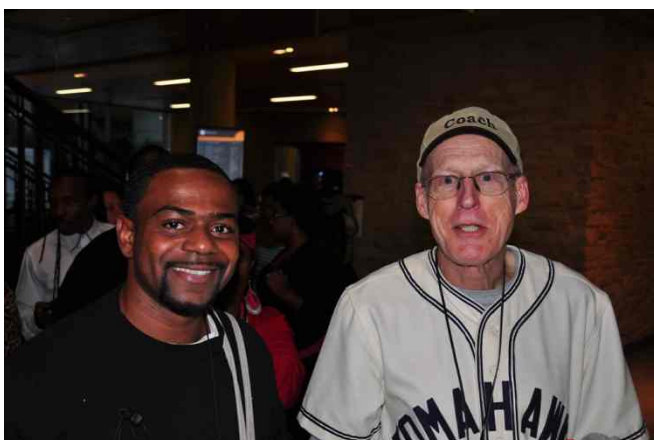
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Emily Auerbach
Project Director; Oracle Editor
eauerbach@dcs.wisc.edu
608-262-3733/712-6321

Oracle Designer, Beth McMahon

*Photography in this issue by Richard Baker,
Keith Meyer, Laurie Greenberg, Emily
Auerbach, and Kegan Carter '04*

www.odyssey.wisc.edu



OFF ON AN ODYSSEY



I think this course is called the Odyssey Project because it gives us the opportunity to travel to places within

our mind that will nourish and enrich our lives far beyond what we know now. I feel this class might be an odyssey for me because I am one of those people who used to thirst for knowledge until I allowed life and circumstances to take over. This class will get me back to where I need to be. It will allow me to journey through the eyes and words of others as well as the newfound me. **(Michelle Whitman)**



From September to May is a journey to me, so I take it as a journey of growth in personality and knowledge. The

class could help me look at things I did not believe I could do with my background and help me learn beyond what I was taught in school.

(Brandon Williams)



We are all on a journey to become more educated, and we have to open ourselves up to learn something new or

to see things in a new way. The class will be an odyssey because we all have real life (jobs, children, sick parents) to carry with us on this journey. **(Michelle Reams)**



It's a journey of self-growth and the opportunity to share this journey with a diverse group. Seekers are what we are, and

the Odyssey is the beginning of the road to an everlasting lake of life. . . . This is my odyssey, and I am so thirsty to see where it takes me.

(Tosumba Welch)



This class is offered to those who want to begin their journey into the educational world but need help along the way. I believe this

course is a journey for all of us no matter where we are in life. This class is a journey of knowledge for me, a journey in life that I wasn't sure I would take because of my fear of failure. This is my odyssey to truth, success, and facing my fears. **(Patrice Smith)**



Education is a never-ending process. This class for me marks the start of a higher education without giving up or looking

back. I also feel as if this class is something of a heroic step for me and my classmates to take. Continuing your education can be a scary operation, and I am up for the challenge.

(Fantasia House)



The project will be a “helluva” journey for those who may or may not have taken previous classes seriously. All

students were asked, “Is there anything that will keep you from attending this class?” There were painful phone calls Professor Emily had to make to those who were not accepted this year. As I said during my interview, “My 17-year-old daughter is on her way, and it is now my time to show what I can do!”

I have been awaiting this voyage for quite some time. I have wanted to become a college student at the UW-Madison since my junior year at East High School. The now late Mr. Milton McPike and Mr. Richard Scott brought Bucky and Big Red into my sights.

Life has taken its toll on me, but I have vowed to myself and my daughter, Dylilah, “No more excuses when it comes to school!” No more “I’m tired,” “it’s cold and snowing”—Nothing. But. To. Push. Forward. (**China Moon Crowell**)



I think the course is called Odyssey Project because if you are open-minded, it is a journey for life. This course is an odyssey for

me because I am seeking something new in my life. Putting my pride aside, I need help finding some structure in my life. I am open-minded with this new structure and journey for my life that’s to come. (**Derrick McCann**)



I think the course is called The Odyssey Project because it (the course) takes you on an extended journey

through Art, Music, Philosophy, Language, and History. To me this is the beginning of my odyssey of education. I would like this to be an extended journey to a higher education, something I have always wanted but never wanted enough. Not unlike most journeys, I’m sure it all won’t be smooth sailing and easy terrain with perfect weather all the time. There may be rough spots and obstacles along the way. I’m determined not to let those things get in the way as they have before. I believe in staying the course, and I’m enjoying learning on the odyssey I’ve already begun. (**Mary Millon**)



Life is a journey truly no matter who you are or where you come from. Beginning with filling out our applications for the Odyssey Program to our

interview to the first day of class and all the way up until graduation day, Odyssey is letting us set out on another journey of life. Where it shall take us, no one truly knows. (**Jasmine Banks**)



We are on a life-changing journey that can have a very high impact on our lives moving forward.

This class can be the one step that thrusts us forward and gets me closer to the area in my life where I would like to see myself. (**Lewis Black**)



It's a long, excited journey of learning that'll never end. It can be an odyssey for me because I like to learn

and am very excited about it. (**Tanatnan Chaipang**)



The class can be an odyssey for me because I love learning things from the past and future. For me also it's a journey for me to where I want to be in life right now.

(**Tracey Cherry**)



We will have an extended journey in English involving the humanities . . . and extending our

vocabulary. It will be an odyssey for me because it will be a much-needed reentry for me into higher learning . . . getting me on the way to reaching some of my goals for my life. (**Eunice Conley**)



This class will prepare us to take another step (forward, I'm sure) in our journey through life. This class was planned and

organized so that we will succeed in the tasks in front of us. Therefore, we will have no choice but to gain knowledge that will enrich our lives! (**Carrie Llerena Sesma**)

This program holds the name "odyssey" in the form of all of us together in one accord experiencing this extended journey. When I hear



the word "project" I often will hear "complete" in the same sentence. For example, we were unsure at the

beginning of our journey. The outcome was great because we finished the project with marked success (*marked* meaning noticeable, obvious success). (**Sharisse Hancock**)



I believe this course is called the Odyssey Project because it changes lives! It's a journey and motivation

for me to go forward and push myself to do more! (**Dominique Haskins**)



I believe this class will be an odyssey to me because my mind is already excited. It was already opening up

during our first class while the teachers were talking about their classes. Watching each one of them and their excitement for the work made me want that, too. (**Angela Jordan-Jackson**)



Many of us are on a path/journey of discovery. Those of you who are providing us with the tools to discover have in some

way shared in your own "odyssey" or life-affirming quest. The odyssey for me will be in exploring the ideas and beliefs of my classmates, the sharing of staff, and the course materials. I believe there's the potential for

growth and the acquiring of wisdom to further enhance my quality of life. (**James Morgan**)



This is a journey for me to go back in time, which I believe will lead me to a better future for myself. It will allow me to give back to or should I say share with people I meet. (**LoLita Phillips**)



We are humans coming together, bringing our experiences and ideas together, all learning from each other, with an individual's style being different from others. (**Jovenus Price Pierce**)



This project is a journey to help people succeed to better education, to become something more. It's a journey to strive for better. It's an odyssey for me because . . . it gives me the push I need to do better in life and get a better education. (**Amber Turner**)



This course is called the Odyssey Project because it's like a learning journey that we have started. It can be an odyssey for me because I have to put more effort and sacrifice so I can succeed and be able to achieve something. It might be a start of much more to come my way through education. (**Nancy Wambua**)



The word that stands out to me in the definition of odyssey is "epic." This course is an opportunity to do something dramatic, or epic, for most of us who can't do school through the traditional route but want to make a dramatic change in our lives. (**Akilah Freeman**)



It can be an odyssey to me through the adventure of studying courses that I am not familiar with, pushing me to be dedicated, committed, and sincere with myself and my classmates. (**Munroe Whitlock**)



This course is called the Odyssey Project because we all come from different diversities to confront our difficulties by taking a ride of knowledge and adventure. (**Jovite Rayaisse**)



DISCOVERING WILLIAM BLAKE



Love is within/amidst a vast, great garden of green. Instead of surroundings of happiness, heartfelt serenity, and the like, there are visions of the complete opposite. As one should open up to and not hold back from the true feeling of love, here it seems blocked: "Thou shalt not" over the door. Instead of bright feelings and visions of those who feel/felt love, there are those in mourning for the loss and grief where love should be growing up and out. (China Moon Crowell)

The Garden of Love

*I went to the Garden of Love
And saw what I never had seen:
A Chapel was built in the midst
Where I used to play on the green.*

*And the gates of this Chapel were shut,
And "Thou shalt not" writ over the door;
So I turn'd to the Garden of Love
That so many sweet flowers bore;*

*And I saw it was filled with graves,
And tombstones where flowers should be;
And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds
And binding with briars my joys & desires.*



It seemed as if Blake sees the chapel not as a place of peace but a place of deceit, depression, and coldness. It confused me . . . I do attend church myself and have never felt this way about my pastor or congregation. However, times have changed. Maybe that's why I see things differently. (Patrice Smith)



"The Garden of Love" is real deep. I would describe a garden of love as somewhere there is life, not gravesites. It disturbed me because I don't really understand how he views love. (Derrick McCann)



The Little Black Boy

*My mother bore me in the southern wild,
And I am black, but O! my soul is white
White as an angel is the English child
But I am black as if bereav'd of light. . . .*

*"For when our souls have learn'd the heat to bear,
The cloud will vanish; we shall hear his voice,
Saying: 'Come out from the grove, my love & care,
And round my golden tent like lambs rejoice.'"*



It stood out to me when he said, "For our souls have learned the heat to bear." I took it that we

(African Americans) have learned to deal with struggle. The white man in the past has seen us as weak because of our skin, but we are strong. That's what I got from "light."
(Britney Sinclair)



"The School Boy" grabbed my glance. It really reminded me of me when I was growing up. I used to love watching the early morning cartoons and eating my cereal, but knowing I had to go to school right after that was a drag. (Lewis Black)

The School Boy

*. . . But to go to school in a summer morn,
O! it drives all joy away;
Under a cruel eye outworn,
The little ones spend the day
In sighing and dismay. . . .
How can the bird that is born for joy
Sit in a cage and sing? . . .*

I was disturbed by the poem "The School Boy" because he gave an interpretation of a boy in school who not only made his school experience negative but also made it seem as if this was all students' interpretation of school: a negative experience with negative teachers who judged him cruelly and harshly. Some teachers' style of teaching can be this way; however, this poem depicts it as a generalized view. (Sharisse Hancock)



He talked about how school was a bad place for him. The teachers were cruel and outworn (tired). The books brought him no happiness. It was like a jail to him. He described school as a cage. He felt school took his youth away: "How can we gather what grief destroys?" (LoLita Phillips)

On Another's Sorrow

*Can I see another's woe,
And not be in sorrow too?
Can I see another's grief,
And not seek for kind relief?*

*. . . Can a mother sit and hear
An infant groan, an infant fear?
No, no! never can it be!
Never, never can it be! . . .*

*Think not thou canst sigh a sigh,
And thy maker is not by;
Think not thou canst weep a tear,
And thy maker is not near. . . .*



No mother or father can sit and watch their child cry or be hurt. (**Shalonda Hilliard-Jones**)

This really spoke to the belly of my emotions. My eyes watered as I read on. It speaks about people having such care and emotion for other people, and it says if

no one cares God is near you and He does. This is very comforting to know. (**Angela Jordan-Jackson**)



When those we know and love experience emotions, it is very hard to avoid those feelings ourselves because we care about others, be they our family, friends, or even those we don't know. But when we are a part of their experience, we feel similar emotions. (**Munroe Whitlock**)



Infant Sorrow

*...Bound and weary I thought best
To sulk upon my mother's breast.*

This poem interested me the most. I take it as a woman giving birth and automatically knowing that the world is a tainted place. The infant clings



to his or her mother instinctively for comfort and reassurance (**Fantasia House**)



In Spring, it's time to be reborn and start everything over again. Everything is soft and beautiful and comes back to life again. (**Tanatnan Chaipang**)

Spring

*...Cock does crow
So do you;
Merry voice,
Infant noise,
Merrily, merrily,
To welcome in the Year.*

A Divine Image

*. . . And all must love the human form,
In heathen, turk, or jew;
Where Mercy, Love & Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.*

God is in every one of us. Prayer soothes the soul. It does not matter your gender or ethnicity, nor where you now live or are from. God is everywhere and a part of everything. (**Michelle Whitman**)



There may be a God, but it's in our brains. The rich may be happy while the poor were pitied. . . . Everything is mysterious, but if we open our eyes we can understand. (**Brandon Williams**)

The Human Abstract

*Pity would be no more
If we did not make somebody Poor;
And Mercy no more could be
If all were as happy as we. . . .

The Gods of the earth and sea
Sought thro' Nature to find this Tree;
But their search was all in vain:
There grows one in the Human Brain.*



I was really confused because I didn't know if the poem was about a lamb or a child. (El-Rasheedah Wilson)

The Lamb

*Little Lamb, who made thee?
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb,
He is meek & he is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child & thou a lamb.
We are called by his name. . .*

A Letter to Blake

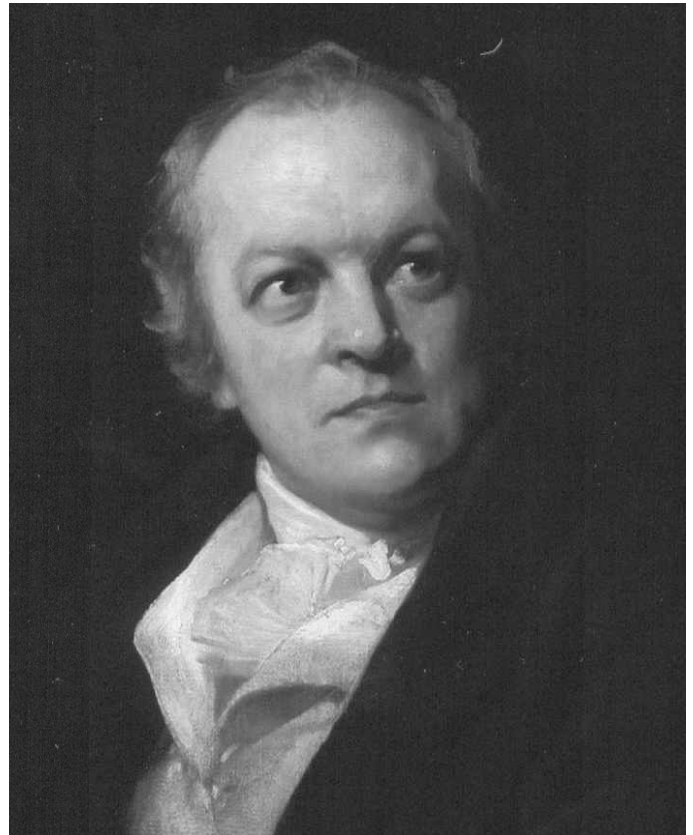


I admire your awareness of self, confidence, contentment, knowledge of what's God and

Good. Your artistic expression is so enlightened, free, not restricted. How does that happen? Obviously you didn't care what others thought. You painted for yourself, for the love of it, to try to tell your feelings, to express true experiences and untraditional ideas.

I haven't been able to do that! My work is unfinished, always due to what others might see it as. When I was young, I had no care for negative criticism. I did what I thought was right and didn't care what people thought. Later people (the world) taught me wrong.

They said do art for money. Do what others want to pay you for. I wasn't happy doing that—too restrictive, too complicated, with no joy. Now I fear what others think so I never finish a work and get discouraged. I think I'm not good enough. (Carrie Llerena Sesma)



ORACLE OVATIONS

Odyssey students from the Class of 2013 received an Oracle the first night of class with writings by alumni.



I really enjoyed reading the Oracle because it brought me back to why I wanted to be in this class. Everyone's stories are so

encouraging and motivating. I want to learn. I want to do better for myself and my child, and I know this is the first and best step. They [the alumni] made me feel like I can do anything if I just try my best. So I am ready to take this adventure with the Class of 2013.

(El-Rasheedah Wilson)



What I have learned about the Odyssey Project is that it is more than a project; it is a life changing experience that

I have been blessed to be a part of. Previous alumni have such a glow from the experience, and their sharing of it makes me thirst even more for it. All of their stories jumped out at me, just reading and feeling their overwhelming positiveness and the encouragement. All I can say is I hope to do exceedingly well. I am up to the challenge. **(Michelle Whitman)**



I learned that this is an opportunity that I can take and make out of it what I want to and go as far as I please, like when

Terry Hart '12 (a friend of mine) said we have won the jackpot and the amount is up to us.

(Tosumba Welch)



From the comments by alumni I learned that the Odyssey Project is a wonderful journey and opportunity for higher

education which helps anyone move forward in life. Education is the key to success. Particular sentences that jumped out at me are that during this journey I will doubt myself and find the strength that I didn't know I had, I should stay positive and open-minded and encourage those around me, I should never settle for less than my best, and this is a life-changing experience which will stimulate my mind to think.

(Nancy Wambua)



As I went through the Oracle, it gave me confidence, belief, and encouragement. It really erased my doubts, especially after reading

the accomplishments and success stories of students who graduated and furthered their education. I've learned you don't have to give up your dreams. . . . The alumni showed power, excitement, and happiness in their writing.

(Amber Turner)



I learned that fear has no place in the Odyssey Project. The alumni seem confident in themselves and future students. A sense of pride, joy, and relief of self-discovery projects from each paragraph. The comments I read only encouraged me to move forward through this journey. Brandon McCarey '12 wrote, "Whatever your struggles or whatever unhealthy chains bind you to the past, this is the time to break them and begin your odyssey these next two semesters." This sentence encouraged me to break loose from my past and move on.

(Patrice Smith)



Reading the Oracle excited me about what is coming. I'm looking forward to the hard work and the disagreements.

(Michelle Reams)



I learned there will be challenges but at the same time we will have a lot of support from teachers and students. . . .

I'm excited to be a part of this program and can't wait to experience what is to come. **(Britney Sinclair)**



It was a delightful issue with so much happy feedback from everyone. This class has renewed my faith in getting my education

back on track. I love being in a group that gives out so much information on several topics. I feel real special. I love that the Odyssey team really cares about their students. I learn the alumni feel the same way I do.

(Jovenus Price Pierce)



I am the chosen one! I've been given an awesome opportunity! I'm blessed. Brandon McCarey '12 tells me to break

unhealthy chains and begin my odyssey. Hedi Rudd '12 says I'm a part of something much bigger than myself. Beatriz Mairena-Kellman '12 says we will be one big happy family. Juanita Wilson '07 says help is always available. . . . I'm going to learn to be free! **(LoLita Phillips)**





I learned that the Odyssey Project is holistic in its approach to education and that it strives to serve its

students well. I believe—from the comments of previous students—that what we will learn will be life affirming and will provide us with a “vision” for our future. The comments I most appreciated were “most of the answers lie inside of yourself, in your humanity” (Hedi Rudd ’12), “never settle for less than your best” (Run Barlow ’12), and “Whatever your struggles, or whatever chains bind you to the past, this is the time to break them” (Brandon McCarey ’12). (**James Morgan**)



I learned that people who have the drive to go to the Odyssey Project come from many different backgrounds. For many it

has been a journey going back to school. I learned it is important to study and keep up with the readings. I found out in the first class how interesting in all is. I was really moved by René Robinson’s poem about her journey. My favorite lines were, “Getting acclimated was a little rough at first, / But soon thereafter to read books I would thirst.” (**Mary Millon**)



As I sit down and read the first issue, I see many students from different areas, races, ages, female, male. Getting accepted

into the Odyssey Program, I really don’t know what to expect. But I see it’s not wrong to feel how I feel because they felt the same. I see

nothing but great stories. I am really inspired. Everyone expressed the program as a ride, an experience, and a big journey. (**Derrick McCann**)



I learned that they [the alumni] are just like me—some nervous, excited to take a step into faith and embarking on a journey

filled with hopes and dreams and with the attitude I can do anything I put my mind to. (**Dominique Haskins**)



Wow, everyone was so encouraged. It’s great to see people from everywhere having the hunger to awaken from

our bondage and renew our minds. I’m glad to have support! (**Carrie Llerena Sesma**)



In all of the letters submitted to the Odyssey Oracle from Odyssey Project alumni to those of us beginning the 2012-

2013 Odyssey Program, it was found that this is a one-in-a-million opportunity which we should feel welcomed and blessed to be a part of. This statement made by a graduate of the program, Phyllis Anderson ’12, jumped out at me: “Congratulations! Welcome to our Odyssey family. Consider yourself blessed.” These were the same words I said to Professor Auerbach when she called. I said, “I don’t know what to say. I’m speechless almost. Thank you for this opportunity. I’m truly blessed to be a part of your program.”

When reading every single article of welcome in the Oracle, my head started tingling. I truly felt chills. I could relate to a statement in each article. In a future writing of my own, I definitely would express how blessed I am to be in the Odyssey Project and would state that one of my motivating factors is my daughter. Another thing pushing me to succeed in this program is the dream my grandmother had for me to return to school. She passed in June of this year (2012). . . . I know my grandmother is looking down from heaven smiling. I also believe she'll be rooting for me until graduation day! **(Sharisse Hancock)**



I learned so far to enjoy the journey and stay open minded. I'm so excited!
(Angela Jordan-Jackson)



It's going to be a roller coaster ride but a fun and adventurous journey. It will be hard, but it will all be worth it.

(Shalonda Hilliard-Jones)



The Odyssey Oracle has shown me that I have a lot to look forward to. I want that drive, motivation, and feeling of accomplishment that the previous students of the Odyssey Program talk so much about. **(Akilah Freeman)**



The Oracle was very eye-opening and driven—all positive results. Although many rode the waves of emotion, those that told their story hung on for the ride. Most even took the reins. **(China Moon Crowell)**



The Oracle was a great way to ease my anxiety about reentering the education arena. I'm comforted by the fact that so many people have been able to handle moving forward with their education while continue their life with family, church, and other obligations. The main theme of "Don't Give Up" stood out throughout the Oracle. Another tidbit of wisdom to take from the articles was that you are not alone—you will have support. **(Eunice Conley)**



Everyone is happy and grateful to be part of the Odyssey Project, and they feel the Odyssey Project is a family. They've learned so much and it has changed their lives in good and different ways. It seems like everyone loves learning. I like the lines in "My Journey" by René Robinson that said, "From the TV to the

computer, / I'm now a Google Queen."
(Tanatnan Chaipang)



It seems to me that the class is very motivating and inspiring. It makes me look forward to be able to absorb every bit of information and detail that is awarded to me. By the end of the year, I can't wait to see how well I have improved. **(Lewis Black)**



I learned that I am not alone. A lot of the comments I felt were my own thoughts but in someone else's brain. I may not be a pioneer from the first group of graduates, but I will become one of the many to inspire the 2013-2014 class. I along with 29 other people will embark on a journey that maybe is truly understood only by the others that went before me. . . . Terry Hart '12 wrote, "If you get that loving feeling in your soul, you are in the right place." I have to admit I got it the first night of class and am looking forward to it growing stronger and stronger. **(Jasmine Banks)**



I learned that the Odyssey Project is a valuable resource for many adults who want to continue their education. Throughout two semesters, students gain knowledge. The amazing professors' support played an important role in students' journeys. While I was reading about the Odyssey Class of 2013, I gained confidence and got rid of negative doubts about myself. **(Angelica Cuahuey)**



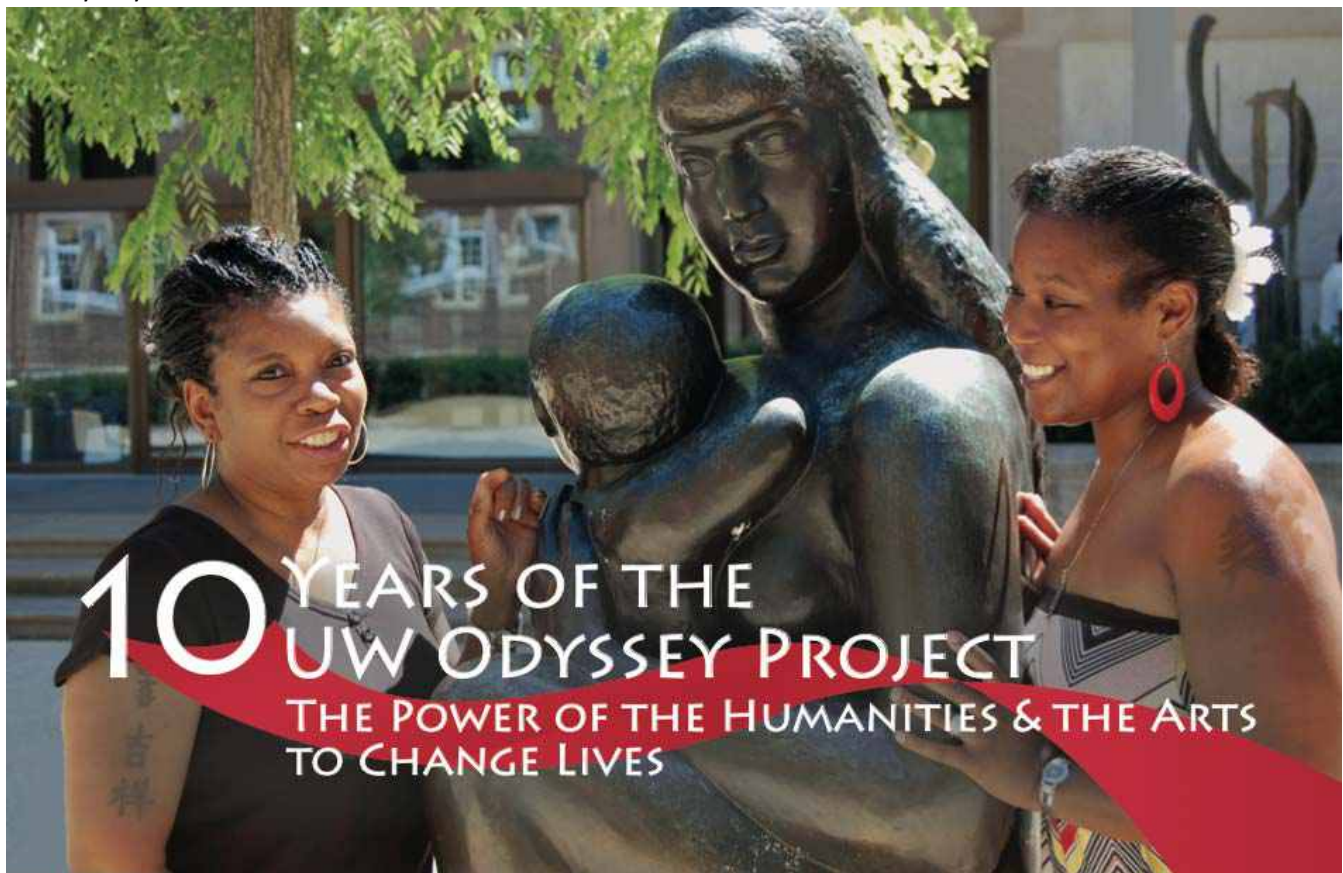
In the Odyssey Project we will learn about U.S. History and discover poets. It will help us to open new doors, with the professors there to help with any kind of concern. It's an opportunity to make new friends. Never quit the project, whatever comes up. **(Jovite Rayaisse)**



The Odyssey Project is an adventure of studies that will take us inside ourselves to examine exactly what we think and feel and believe about certain subjects. **(Munroe Whitlock)**







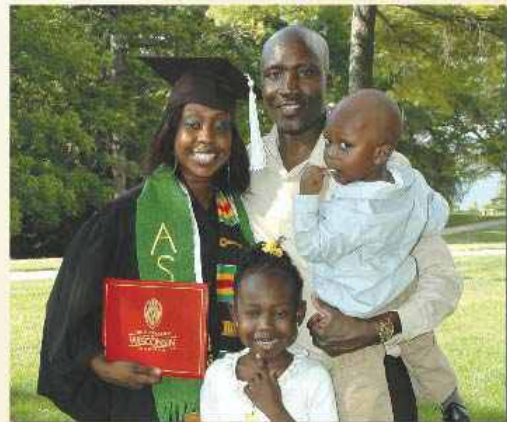
UW ODYSSEY PROJECT

a journey in the humanities for adults facing economic barriers to higher education

The Chazen Museum of Art
Thursday, Oct 4, 2012 • 5-7 pm

Please join us in celebrating our 10th anniversary!

- Readings of original poetry and prose
- Theatrical and musical performances
- Premiere of a new Odyssey video produced for national broadcast
- Refreshments



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