

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE MADISON CIVICS CLUB

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The Madison Civics Club is celebrating 100 years of engaging minds

Former UW-Madison Chancellor Biddy Martin to Speak About the Challenge of Innovation in Academia March 3 in Madison

MADISON—Former University of Wisconsin-Madison chancellor and current Amherst College president **Carolyn “Biddy” Martin** will speak about the **challenge of innovation in academia** at the Madison Civics Club’s Saturday, **March 3, 2012, 11 a.m.**, lunch meeting at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

As UW-Madison chancellor from September 2008 until July 2011, Martin dynamically advanced the campus’ international reputation as a leading-edge teaching and research public university. She led initiatives to expand financial aid and academic support for undergraduate education, increase the diversity of the student body and faculty, and strengthen support for research.

In response to Wisconsin’s budget crisis, Martin spearheaded a proposal to increase operating flexibility and independence for the UW-Madison. Although the state legislature decided not to grant autonomy to UW-Madison, Martin’s effort was instrumental in all 26 UW System institutions being given greater flexibility for managing their finances.

Prior to her UW-Madison chancellorship, Martin held a number of positions over more than two decades at Cornell University, including provost from 2000 to 2008; senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; chair of the German studies department; and associate and assistant professor of German studies and women’s studies.

Martin earned her doctorate in German literature from UW-Madison, a master’s degree in German literature from Middlebury College, and a bachelor’s degree in English from the College of William and Mary in her home state of Virginia. She has also studied at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität in Germany.

Martin's presentation will be preceded by remarks from UW-Madison English professor and Odyssey Project director **Emily Auerbach**, who is nationally acclaimed for reaching thousands of nontraditional students through lectures and book discussions at public libraries, prisons, retirement centers, schools, service clubs, Elderhostels, as well as through public radio and courses taught online and through the mail.

The cost for the luncheon meeting is \$30.00; the cost to qualified students is \$20. To make a reservation, go to www.madisoncivicsclub.org and click on "Reservations Open" at the top of the home page or call **608-241-1158 no later than Feb. 24**. Doors open at 10 a.m. for the 11 a.m. lunch meeting.

The Madison Civics Club partners with community organizations to provide thought-provoking presentations by civic, national and international leaders and grants to support the work of student and youth groups in the Madison area. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to youth groups whose community service projects correlate with the topics covered by the club's 2011-12 speakers. For more information and a grant application form, visit www.madisoncivicsclub.org.

Anyone can become a member of the Madison Civics Club. The \$100 annual membership fee will be prorated at \$25 per meeting for individuals who join no later than Feb. 24, 2012. Information about how to become a member and further details about the meetings are at www.madisoncivicsclub.org.

The nonprofit Madison Civics Club was founded in 1912 by five women after the Wisconsin State Legislature failed to grant women the right to vote. Since then, the club has expanded to more than 550 members, both women and men.

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