The Spring 2015 University Roundtable luncheon series opens with Mark Johnson discussing cheese research as part of his work at the Wisconsin Center for Dairy research. After that, Phil Pellitteri will give us a primer on the landscape of Wisconsin insects. Finally, Araceli Alonso will take us into the world of healthcare by motorbike, a program that received the United Nations Public Service Award.

February 11  Cheese Research: Old School and New Frontiers – Mark Johnson  When Mark Johnson explains to his friends what he does, they are a little surprised to find out that after a few thousand years of cheese making experience there is something new to explore with cheese making. Mark will tell the story of what the Wisconsin Center for Dairy Research has done and what it is doing. He will share stories about the traditional way of making cheese, as well as the exploration of developing newer techniques to produce great cheeses.

March 11  Things Cannot Stay the Same: The Ever-Changing Landscape of Wisconsin Insects – Phil Pellitteri  Between climate issues and new invasive species, there will always be new insect challenges to deal with. It is impossible to predict what will be the next major pest, but it is possible to have insight into what will happen in the future. With over 40 years of experience chasing insects, Phil will talk about his perspective on the world of Wisconsin insects and where it is headed.

April 8  Nikumbuke-Health by Motorbike (N-HbM): Women Turning Structural Violence into Health and Well-Being – Araceli Alonso  This talk is a personal and professional reflection about the way in which the application of academic and scientific knowledge—backed up by commitment, creativity, collaboration and empathy—has created positive synergies towards equality, equity and human flourishing in seven communities of rural Kenya. As mediators, the programs of N-HbM facilitate the re-encounter of women with their inner power or suppressed empowerment; the result has been an extraordinary capacity for the women to transform the status quo and promote the necessary elements towards the construction of a fairer society. In 2013, the programs of N-HbM received the United Nations Public Service Award for its work on gender, health and sustainable development.