

# Nobel Prizes show strength of US universities -- Thomas Heberlein

- Jan 3, 2017 Wisconsin State Journal

I had the privilege of attending the Nobel Prize ceremonies and lectures in Stockholm this year. Bob Dylan's thank you speech, read by the American ambassador, and Patti Smith's performance of Dylan's "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" captured headlines.

Hiding in the event was the real message for America and Wisconsin. Of the 11 who received Nobel Prizes on Dec. 10, only one (Dylan) was born in the United States. But seven out of the 10 foreign-born laureates work today at U.S. universities.

This is a great tribute to the strength of American science to attract and benefit from talent. These immigrants contribute much to America's world leadership in science.

For those who are trying to make America great again — don't lose sight of how great we are right now, and how we got here. Attacking tenure and individual professors, continual funding cuts, legislative review of professors' syllabuses, allowing students and professors to carry guns to class -- all of those things are tearing down UW-Madison and will make it harder if not impossible to attract top scientific talent to our state.