

## **On the Hunt for Children Of those with Young Onset Dementia (COYOD)** **Two Seattleites are on a mission to capture narratives on film during 5,000-mile U. S. bike tour**

**SEATTLE, WA** — Seattleites Max Larkin and Emily Boardway are on the hunt throughout America for COYOD, Children Of those with Young Onset Dementia. Max, 24, and Emily, 25, are cofounders of Mind Series, a nonprofit that links public health and the arts ([mindseries.org](http://mindseries.org)). Spoke Your Mind, Mind Series' pilot project, will take Max and Emily on a 5,000-mile bicycle tour as they capture COYOD narratives on film and connect people across the country. For more information on Spoke Your Mind, please visit [spokeyourmind.org](http://spokeyourmind.org).

### **About Spoke Your Mind**

Created by cofounders Max Larkin and Emily Boardway, Spoke Your Mind was inspired by the Young Onset Alzheimer's diagnosis of Max's father, Dr. Hugh A. Larkin II, in 2006; he was just 56 at the time. Dr. Larkin is one of the estimated half million people in the United States living with Young Onset Dementia, which affects people before age 65. Following the diagnosis, Max and his family discovered most services that exist for families navigating the difficult terrain of dementia cater to the needs of the elderly rather than those of preretirement age. The financial impact and emotional reality of Young Onset Dementia left his family searching for support and in need of resources.



Emily Boardway, Max Larkin and Dr. Hugh A. Larkin II

"We experienced firsthand the desperate need that exists for a network of support for COYOD," Max explains. "Recently we have met other young people whose loved ones—mostly baby boomer parents—have been diagnosed with Young Onset Dementia. So we coined the acronym COYOD, Children Of those with Young Onset Dementia, as a general way to define these people."

The goal of Spoke Your Mind is to spotlight personal narratives on film and build an online forum at [spokeyourmind.org](http://spokeyourmind.org) to connect COYOD. The majority of the filming will take place during a 5,000-mile bicycle tour across the U.S. to many COYOD's respective communities beginning this May. The tour consists of two legs: Seattle to San Francisco and Boston to Austin (for route details, visit [spokeyourmind.org](http://spokeyourmind.org)).

"Max and I will essentially serve as 'bicycle messengers' carrying COYOD stories to share along the route," Emily says. "We believe that gathering these stories and sharing them online, face-to-face and through film will offer comfort to others silently suffering, thinking they are alone in the struggle."

You can help Max and Emily with their mission to capture COYOD narratives. Please direct any leads on where they can find COYOD to [info@mindseries.org](mailto:info@mindseries.org) or visit [spokeyourmind.org](http://spokeyourmind.org).

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Continued...

**About Mind Series**

In 2008, Max and Emily created the nonprofit Mind Series as a way to promote public health through art and compel communities to act. Mind Series will provide qualified individuals a vehicle to curate artistic projects that spotlight diverse health issues. These projects will generate awareness about particular public health issues by harnessing the power of art to spur dialogue about difficult topics.

Through these projects Mind Series will create a forum to connect people touched by the same health issues. These connections will occur through face-to-face conversations, art installations and other real-world interactions as well as by building an online space for those affected to share resources and establish a network.

For more information on Mind Series, please visit [mindseries.org](http://mindseries.org).

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2009  
Contact: Emily Boardway, Max Larkin  
(253) 226-5561, (253) 381-6866

## **Executives Biographies**

**Emily Boardway**, Co Executive Director/Co Founder  
Emily's aspiration to fuse public health and art began in 2005 at a "Roll Back Malaria" benefit concert in Senegal. Since then, a combination of professional and personal experiences inspired Emily to create Mind Series.

During her undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, Emily worked at Vandenberg Communications on accounts including Pearl Jam, Music for America, Choice USA and the Vote for Change Tour. Upon graduating from the Jackson School of International Studies in 2006, Emily was hired at GMMB Communications to work with the Washington State Tobacco Prevention and Control Program team and assist with the Gates Foundation account. Currently, Emily is dedicated to building Mind Series' pilot project "Spoke Your Mind."



**Max Larkin**, Co Executive Director/Co Founder  
Max brings artistic integrity and compassion to his work as co-founder of Mind Series. Being a musician and having lived abroad twice, Max believes the arts can serve as a tool to communicate important public health topics to various populations.

Upon graduating with a degree in Global Studies and Human Rights from the University of Washington, Max has intimately explored the topic of Young Onset Alzheimer's since his father, Dr. Hugh Larkin, was diagnosed in 2006. Max's family experience is Mind Series' influence for "Spoke Your Mind."

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**Route Map and Timeline**



CITIES (IN ORDER)	DAY OF ARRIVAL	MILEAGE (MAP)	LENGTH OF CITY STAY
<b>1st LEG</b>			
Seattle, WA	May 3	0.0	
Portland, OR	May 13	203	6 days
San Francisco, CA	June 20	815	TBD
<b>1st Leg Total 1018</b>			
<b>2nd LEG</b>			
Boston	Aug 1st	0.0	4 days
New York	Aug 13	300	5 days
Washington D.C.	Aug 25	300	4 days
Cincinnati	Sept 22	978	5 days
Chicago	Oct 4	345	5 days
St. Louis	Oct 17	350	3 days
New Orleans	Nov 11	937	5 days
Austin	Dec 1	708	5 days
<b>2nd Leg Total 3918</b>			
<b>11 CITIES</b>	<b>MAY 3 - DEC 1</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL 4936</b>	