Pre-vet student finds a calling at animal hospital

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

When Juan Orjuela talks about his patients, he describes them like they’re real people. And to him, they are.

“I think the bond with animals is so unbreakable, unlike any other,” he said with a smile. “There’s so much conflict with humans, but with animals, it’s consistent love and affection.”

Orjuela is a Pre-Veterinary student at UWM majoring in Biology and Conservation and Environmental Science. He is also a veterinary assistant at Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists in Glendale, Wis., where he triages patients, assists with the placement of IV catheters, and helps doctors and technicians around the clinic.

It’s a dream job for Orjuela, who has wanted to become a veterinarian for as long as he can remember. Orjuela’s family immigrated to Minnesota from Bogota, Colombia, when he was a child. He grew up in Minneapolis and decided to attend UWM because he wanted to try out a new city, but Orjuela initially had no idea that there was a pre-veterinary program on campus.

“I feel that a lot of people disregard UWM pre-vet students because of UW-Madison’s strong veterinary program,” he said. “I made it my mission throughout my undergraduate years to make the persistent community of pre-vet students known on campus. I decided to reestablish the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Organization, and I’m the president.”

Through the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Organization, Orjuela and other pre-vet students on campus have been able to talk with admissions counselors from several vet schools and hear from professionals in all aspects of the field. Those contacts helped him become a lab animal technician at the Animal Resource Center on UWM’s campus, and that experience, plus an internship at UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, helped Orjuela land his job at Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists.

Continued on page 4
Japanese students translate for Trainfest

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

The annual Milwaukee Trainfest is the largest show of its kind in the world. Each November, collectors from across the globe gather to show, share, and learn about model trains.

But, when you bring together people from around the world, you can run into language barriers. When a team of Japanese high school students from Hiroshima Johoku High School won a national model train layout competition to attend the event, the Japanese consulate turned to UWM.

First-year Japanese student Britt Fell jumped at the chance to be an interpreter for the Japanese team.

“It sounded like something that would look good on my résumé, and I always wanted to try my hand at it,” she said.

Trainfest took place Nov. 11 and 12, so for two days, Fell accompanied the team for media appearances and presentations. She and the students appeared on Channel TMJ4’s morning show, Morning Blend, and she also translated during a subsequent tour of TMJ4’s television and radio stations on Friday.

On Saturday, she translated their presentation of their model train. Translating was both exhilarating and nerve-wracking, Fell said.

“I had no idea what they were going to say,” she explained. “I felt like I floundered a bit translating the news interviewers’ questions from English to Japanese. The other way, Japanese to English, I thought was much easier because that’s what I’m used to.”

Fell previously taught in the JET program, an opportunity that allowed her to live and work as an English teacher in Japan.

Several of Fell’s classmates also lent their translation talents; Anthony Turtenwald, Eric Mohr, and Edward Beihan also interpreted during the event.

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Economics grad tells stories through documentary lens
By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Spencer Chumbley has spent much of the past year in conflict zones, but instead of shooting a gun, he’s shooting film.

Chumbley, a 2009 UWM graduate who majored in Economics, is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. He’s covered everything from the Syrian civil war to corroded oil pipelines beneath the Great Lakes, all without ever taking a UWM film class. (Check out his work here: fosterdiscourse.com/member/spencerchumbley)

“I never really had an interest in journalism or film-making at all,” Chumbley said. “It took me a while to get there, but the education I have influences my filmmaking background. … Every time you’re writing a college paper, you’re collecting information and doing research. I think some of the best journalism I’ve seen is that long-form documentary content, where the amount of research that is put into that is often the same.”

Chumbley dropped out of college twice – once out of disinterest and once because of illness – before he landed at UWM. Inspired by a trip to Europe with his sister, he became interested in international affairs and chose an Economics major to complement it.

During his time at school, Chumbley was accepted to the Honors College, completed a UN summer seminar in New York, and studied abroad in Africa. After graduation, he went to London to earn a Master’s degree in the School of African Studies’ international violence and conflict development program.

It was there that Chumbley discovered the power of a camera.

“When I was in London, there was big student riot against the school fees. I bought a DSL-R earlier in the year and was out in the street taking photographs every chance I could,” he said. “That gave me a bug. I really liked photography and journalism, but I didn’t have a formal training in it. I started wondering how I could use my background and combine that with (the photography) I’d done so far.”

He did so by first interning, and then working as an associate producer, for the media outlet Al Jazeera in Washington, D.C. after he earned his Master’s degree. From there, Chumbley began working with VICE Media in New York City, where he helped launch Vice News online.

“It was a dream job,” Chumbley said. “I got a reasonable budget to produce documentaries. I got to travel and learn new things. … This was my first time to make an impact in current affairs academic programming and really shoot something.”

That web service later grew into the current affairs show “Vice News Tonight,” on HBO. Chumbley describes it as “‘60 Minutes’ for Millennials.” He helped with the launch earlier this fall.

Chumbley began freelancing – he is a member of the company Foster Discourse – after he left VICE, picking projects and working with companies that interested him. He covered unfair tenant laws in Arkansas and the deleterious effects of petroleum coke, a tar sand byproduct, left on riverbanks in Chicago. He spent this past summer covering the presidential primaries and general election.

UWM Economics graduate Spencer Chumbley carries his camera past the wreckage of the Syrian city of Homs in 2016. Photo by Roy Marasigan, courtesy of Spencer Chumbley. Continued on page 16
Pre-vet student

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“Lakeshore’s mission is to support a collaborative workplace built on communication, compassion, and continuing education in order to deliver progressive medical care for pets, their people, and our community,” said Christina Matthews, the hospital manager at Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists.

“It’s a very fast-paced environment. We only see animals who are in very bad situations: they got attacked by a dog, or they come in not breathing and we have to immediately initiate CPR. It could be anything,” Orjuela added.

One case that especially stood out to him involved a pit bull who had been attacked by another dog – or who was possibly a victim of underground dog fighting. There’s no way to know, Orjuela said, but the animal was in bad shape.

“People associate such a stigma with pit bulls and think they’re really dangerous animals, but this pit bull, like most, was the most genuine, sincere guy. He knew we were there to help him, even though he was in a lot of pain,” Orjuela said. “That’s one patient I’ll always remember. He taught me a huge life lesson – sometimes you can be in the worst situation, but having a positive attitude can alleviate a lot of the negativity.”

Orjuela plans to graduate in May and begin applying to veterinary schools. His hope is to attend Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and to specialize in small animal soft-tissue surgery. He has the full support of his current bosses.

“Juan is a valued member of our Lakeshore family,” Matthews said. “His passion for veterinary medicine inspires all of our team members, from technicians to doctors. We look forward to Juan becoming a veterinarian and continuing to expand the capabilities of veterinary medicine.”

The job is important, Orjuela said, because animals have no way to say what ails them. They need someone to speak for them.

“Being able to help them, assist in diagnosing and treating them, and then see their progress, is the most satisfying part of the job,” Orjuela said. “We see a lot of sad cases, and when we get good results, that’s what makes all of the long hours at Lakeshore worth it. I like learning every day how to become a voice for all of these animals.”
New remedial math approach shows dramatic improvement
By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

Twice as many UWM students are completing needed remedial mathematics twice as fast. Those are numbers that add up to improving lives.

As a result of a new approach, more first-year students are staying in school and the achievement gap between minority and disadvantaged students and others is closing.

Kyle Swanson, chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department who led the Developmental Math Reform project, said the reorganization of these courses allows students to start taking courses for credit sooner. This particularly benefits minority and disadvantaged students, who often enter college with weaker math skills and need to take remedial courses, he said.

With the new courses, students are completing their needed remedial work in two semesters rather than three, according to Swanson. The changes have also improved students’ performance once they get to for-credit courses.

At UWM, 30 percent of all students and 40 percent of underrepresented students fail to return for a second year. Math anxiety and the length of time it takes to complete enough math coursework to earn credit have been major stumbling blocks to student success, according to Swanson.

His preliminary research findings show that for new freshman minority students entering at the lowest math placement level in fall 2008, 2009 and 2010, a total of 250 completed math remediation in the first three years at UWM. That three-year total has already been surpassed by those who entered in fall 2014, with 252 completing needed work.

Overall, the difference between the traditional developmental math program and the new program introduced in fall 2014 is significant. In fall 2012, 38 percent of students placed in remedial courses were able to take a credit-level math course their first year. In fall 2014, 67 percent of these students were able to take a credit-level course their first year. It was all accomplished without lowering department standards.

Students like the new classes

Two new courses are designed to accelerate the completion of remedial work and allow students to focus on content important to their career and academic goals.

Students are happy, too. Alex Roach, a first-year film student in his 30s, had taken a math class at UW-Rock County before transferring to UWM in spring 2015, but had otherwise been away from math courses for 20 years. Math 94, one of the developmental courses, “was tough, but it was really just what I needed.”

Roach is now in Math 103, a credit course, and has found Math 94 has already started to help him in ways he never expected. “I’m no longer intimidated by it (math), which is huge. I’ve actually found fun in math, which is something I never thought I’d say,” he said.

The courses succeed because they take a different approach to teaching mathematics, Swanson said. “The traditional math lecture is the instructor speaking and writing things down on a board, with the students being observers. But math is not a spectator sport. Students have to actively participate to learn.”
It may be who you know as well as what you know in the business world. So, two UWM alums have turned making connections in the marketing field into a six-figure-plus a year business.

Jeff and Martha Carrigan, who run the Big Shoes Network, connect job seekers with businesses looking for talent. Their online enterprise focuses on advertising, marketing, communications, public relations, social media, graphic and web design.

“I think they’re one of the best resources for reaching marketing and public relations talent locally and in the Chicago area,” said Megan Rouleau, a recruitment director at marketing services firm Bader Rutter, who has worked with the Carrigans for eight years. “We have other sources, but some of the most qualified applicants are applying through Big Shoes Network.”

Jeff Carrigan, who is the founder and chief marketing officer, earned his bachelor of business administration degree with an emphasis in marketing from UWM and started the business after he began some informal networking looking for opportunities.

Often he found jobs that weren’t right for him but might be a good fit for others he knew. “As I networked for myself, I heard about other jobs, so I emailed the information out to people I knew who might be interested.”

That simple email list, which included the job title, brief description and a contact, quickly grew from 50 names to 150, then 600. “When it reached 1,500 or 2,000 names – Martha and I were both working full-time and doing this at nights – we thought we were either going to have to quit doing the list or make a business of it.”

“What kind of pushed us over the edge was that we had some large companies using us like Northwestern Mutual and Laughlin Constable, and they started asking, ‘Why aren’t you charging for this?’” said Martha Carrigan, who is the company’s president and CEO and earned her bachelor’s in communications from UWM.

A business blooms

Their informal email postings of job opportunities in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois became a full-fledged business in 2006 when they launched a website. “We were in the black in six months,” said Martha. “I quit my job to work on the Big Shoes Network full-time.” Jeff joined the business full-time in 2007.

Big Shoes Network now has two regions – Big Shoes Midwest (Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois) and Big Shoes South (Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina). The name came from a chance comment from a client looking to replace an employee who told them, “I’ve got some big shoes to fill.”

It was a good fit for what they were trying to do, said Martha. “We wanted something a little below the radar because we offer a lot of resources besides job postings – news and events, information about professional organizations and a resource directory.”

The Carrigans keep the business small and focused on purpose. “We’re very much of a niche site – a one trick pony if you will,” said Jeff. “We’re not really competing with general purpose job boards where you can look for a nurse or a human resources person or a marketing professional. Everything we do is under the marketing umbrella, so we only attract that kind of talent.”

The Carrigans build and maintain their connections in visits to college campuses, attendance at professional events and just knowing people in the field.

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Computers are better than humans at carrying out mathematical operations, a facility that extends to the organization and retrieval of digital data. Electronic and digital sensors are better than humans at perceiving and recording many of the qualities of the physical environment, especially when it comes to measurement. Since the measurement, recording, and organization of data are the primary goals of the process of archaeological documentation, why not turn this over to computers? What do humans have to offer to this process? The answer to this question lies in the distinction between data, information, and interpretation. Machines can collect data, and they can begin to integrate them into the contextual systems that we think of as information, but they cannot perform the leap of informed imagination that enables the human archaeologist to propose explanations for why and how a stratigraphic deposit was formed, and they cannot (yet) tell the stories that archaeologists must create to explain the history of a site. Since, however, both the imaginative leap and the resulting story are a result of a close physical engagement with the material remains, and since they are both part of a process that involves a human being creating information at the trowel’s edge and then altering and transforming it for representation to other human beings, it is worth asking how the outsourcing of some of the components of documentation to digital tools will affect the information we produce and the stories we tell.

The effects (or lack of effects) of new input mechanisms on our cognitive processes, however, are invisible to us unless we look for them. Since we cannot discuss cognitive changes on a practical or theoretical level until we have investigated them, our reflective manifesto should spur us to do so.

Holbrook’s book offers an analysis of the political landscape and concludes that the Democratic party has a structural advantage in electoral college math. Read it all by visiting http://bit.ly/2g4QXLp.
Passings

As a 1962 graduate who majored in Political Science at UWM, Robert J. Weber knew the value of a good education. Weber passed away on Nov. 12 at his home in Westminster, Md. He was 79.

Weber, a Chicago native and Army veteran, spent the majority of his career as a beloved fixture at McDaniel College in Maryland. He joined the faculty in 1969 and embraced the Socratic teaching method, constantly questioning his students so they would learn to defend challenges to their beliefs and ideas.

He is remembered for his devotion to his classes and his demand for excellence from his students. Weber became the chair of the Political Science and International Studies department in 1983. His research took him around the world, from Europe to Central America to behind the Iron Curtain.

Weber is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, and 12 nieces and nephews.

For more on Weber’s remarkable life and fond memories of his career, read his obituary in the Baltimore Sun at http://bsun.md/2f8t2Os.

Department Spotlight: Mathematical Sciences

On the weekend of Oct. 21, the Department of Mathematical Sciences hosted an event-filled weekend celebrating not only its 50 years as a Doctoral Research department, but also everyone who made those years possible. Department alumni, faculty, students, and the campus community were in attendance to celebrate this milestone.

The weekend kicked off with a mathematics lecture by freelance geometer Jeff Weeks titled “The Shape of Space”, which attracted more than 200 people.

Saturday morning started with research group special sessions, including mathematical talks highlighting Algebra, Analysis, Applied & Computational Math, Statistics, and Topology. Alumni gave multiple talks in each session, and lectures were well attended.

Following these sessions, five departmental alums were featured in a panel discussion covering non-academic career paths, ranging from a software developer to editor of a mathematical review.

At Saturday evening’s Italian-style banquet, alumni received booklets that included updates on many former classmates, and a section called, “A Blast from the Past,” a compilation of the doctoral program’s 50-year history put together by former UWM employee Eve Detwiler and Math Senior Lecturer Steve Schwengels.

The weekend festivities ended Sunday morning with a tour of Lake Park given by Emeritus professor Gil Walter.

This Celebration of Mathematics was funded by the UW-Milwaukee Graduate School and the UWM Foundation. The department also received support from the UWM Alumni Association and the College of Letters and Science.

To continue the celebration of this important milestone, the UWM Mathematical Sciences Department will also host the Mathematical Association of America Wisconsin Sectional Meeting in April 2017. Professor Fredric Ancel will also give a UWM Science Bag presentation during that weekend. https://uwm.edu/science-bag/.

The department hopes to continue holding events like this, celebrating everything and everyone that has made this school a success.
Laurels, Accolades, and Grant Awards

Members of the African American Student Services and the Roberto Hernandez Center were awarded the 2016 “Best of WACADA” award for their presentation “Dig Deeper: Advising Black & Latino Students” at the 2016 Wisconsin Academic Advising Association (WACADA) conference. Olivia Navarro, Gabriela Dorantes, and Gary Cooper-Sperber will give the presentation again at the National Academic Advising Association Region V conference in Rosemont, Ill. in March 2017.

Rick Horowitz (English) has been nominated for a 2016 Emmy by the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. A sampler of his weekly commentaries for “InterCHANGE,” MPTV’s recently departed public-affairs show, was entered in the “Outstanding Crafts Achievement for On-Camera Talent: Program Correspondent/Narrator/Performer” category. Horowitz has now been nominated eight times, with two wins.

Ray Fleming, Leah Stoiber, Heidi Pfeiffer, Sarah Kienzler (all Psychology), Laura Pedrick (Academic Affairs), Dylan Barth (Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning), and Diane Reddy (Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Psychology), whose article, “Using U-Pace instruction to improve the academic performance of economically disadvantaged undergraduates”, published in the Journal of Computer Assisted Learning, was honored in September with the 2016 Research and Scholarship Award, National University Technology Network.

The poetry collection Do Not Bring Him Water penned by doctoral student Caitlin Scarano (English) won the Write Bloody Publishing’s 2016 contest and will be published in 2017.


Graduate student Kelsey Rozema (Art History) won Best Essay at The Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association conference at Ohio State University.

Doctoral student Laura Korthauer (Psychology) was awarded a National Institutes of Health Service Award (NRSA), a two-year fellowship, for her project regarding brain network connectivity and genetic risk for Alzheimer’s disease.

Graduate student Jennifer Tuscher (Psychology) was awarded the 2016-17 APF/COGDOP Ruth G. and Joseph D. Matarazzo Scholarship in the amount of $3,000.

The governmental National Agency for the Assessment of Academic Quality (ANECA by its Spanish initials) has accredited Gabriel Rei-Doval (Spanish and Portuguese) as a tenured Professor (Profesor Titular) in the Division of Arts and Humanities in Spain. ANECA issued the corresponding title last October. The Chair of the official committee in charge of the case, after hearing the independent reports from qualified professors at the national level, highlighted that Rei-Doval met and exceeded the necessary qualifications and merits research, teaching and service. This is an unusual honor for a Spaniard who has developed his teaching career overseas.

Student Bridget Kies (English) won a $2,500 scholarship from the Cream City Foundation. [http://bit.ly/2f1ptIj](http://bit.ly/2f1ptIj)

Graduate student Dylan Sessler (Sociology) was honored for his military service on Veteran’s Day at his undergraduate alma mater, UW-Whitewater. [http://bit.ly/2f5j3V4](http://bit.ly/2f5j3V4)

Gladys Mitchell-Walthour (Africology) was elected vice president of the Brazil Studies Association. BRASA is an international, interdisciplinary group of scholars who support and promote Brazilian studies in all fields, especially in the humanities and social sciences. BRASA is dedicated to the promotion of Brazilian studies around the world, and particularly in the U.S.

UWM was lauded for scoring a trifecta of highly competitive National Science Foundation grants, called Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) awards. Totaling just over $1.7 million, the grants were awarded for research conducted by Valerica Raicu (Physics), Patrick Brady (Physics), and Graham Moran (Biochemistry). Accolades appeared on PublicNow.com ([http://bit.ly/2fK3KCR](http://bit.ly/2fK3KCR)) and UrbanMilwaukee ([http://bit.ly/2f5j3V4](http://bit.ly/2f5j3V4)).
Upcoming Events

**Nov. 4**  

**Dec. 2 - Dec. 16**  
Planetarium Show: Northern Lights. 7 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Tickets are $3. Show runs Fridays at 7 p.m. [http://uwm.edu/planetarium/](http://uwm.edu/planetarium/)

**Dec. 2**  
Neuroscience Seminar: Representation of attentional priority in human cortex. 2 p.m. Lapham N101. Taosheng Liu, Michigan State University.

Anthropology Colloquium: Applied Anthropology in Public Health: Using Ethnography as a Tool for Intervention and Policy Development. 3:30 p.m. Sabin G90. Matthew Dalstrom, St. Anthony's College of Nursing. Sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Zilber School of Public Health, and College of Nursing.


**Dec. 4**  

**Dec. 9**  
Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies lecture - Synchronizing Liveness: Producing Transnational Broadcast Events. 3 p.m. Bolton B60. Lars Lundgren, Södertörn University, Sweden.

Japanese translation continued from page 2

“Opportunities like this are valuable career building experiences for our students,” said Japanese program coordinator Aragorn Quinn. “This is the second year in a row we have been able to provide these kinds of services for events in the community. As a program, it is rewarding to have our students fulfilling the university mission of community engagement and also putting their language skills to real and tangible use.”

For Fell, the chance to translate provided a glimpse of a possible future career.

“T’d like to go into translation, interpretation, and localization,” she said. “It was sad to see Trainfest end, even if it was a bit nerve-wracking. I enjoyed it and I would love to translate again.”
Alumni Accomplishments

Derick Kelly (‘14, BA History) recently self-published a new book, titled From the Maroons to the Hawks: Prairie du Chien High School Athletic Records 1897-2016. The book explores the athletic history of his high school alma mater and was funded in part by the Prairie du Chien Athletic Booster Club. Kelly said he was inspired to write his piece by seeing the extensive records kept by the UWM Panthers athletics. http://bit.ly/2gtUKKx

Timothy D’Amato (‘82, BS Political Science) joined Associated Bank as the senior vice president, regional sales manager for the North and West regions of Associated Investment Services. He will supervise the activities of several financial advisors in northern Wisconsin and in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. http://bit.ly/2caionL

Thomas Carter (‘91, BA Economics) was hired by Think Finance as the company’s new Vice President of Business Development. Carter will be responsible for promoting one of Think Finance’s newly-launched products called Cortex. http://bit.ly/2eshq4g

Dr. Richard Agesa (‘90, ’96, MA and PhD Economics) was appointed the new head of the division of Finance and Economics at Marshall University Lewis College of Business. http://bit.ly/2fxxVR1

Ugo Nwagbaraocha (‘97, BA Political Science) was nominated for, and accepted the position of, Vice President of the National Association of Minority Contractors – Wisconsin. He is the president of Diamond Discs International. The appointment is one of the latest honors in a long list of career awards. http://bit.ly/2fCc0b5

Qadira Oliver (’06, MA Mass Communication) was named the director of community relations and external affairs at the Milwaukee Center for Independence. She will develop community education programs and partnerships with universities, colleges, and community organizations. http://bit.ly/2fsDugz

Program Spotlight: Urban Studies

Given the events of the year, the UWM Urban Studies program’s 10th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit was especially topical as panelists gathered to conduct “A Frank Conversation About Race in Milwaukee.”

The lecture’s theme came about in response to the events of Aug. 13, 2016, in Sherman Park when a black Milwaukee Police officer shot and killed a black man, sparking violent protests. Although many of these issues are familiar and have been discussed in different contexts and at different times, the summit attempted to address questions around race, race relations, and racial division and inequality in Milwaukee, to be “frank” in panelists’ assessments, and to propose meaningful solutions.

More than 250 people attended the Nov. 10 lecture at the UWM Zelazo Center to listen to the panel address important questions like, what does the Sherman Park unrest teach us about race in Milwaukee? Has there been enough attention paid to Milwaukee neighborhood development? Is there a serious racial problem in Milwaukee? What is the significance of this year’s presidential election for these issues?

Panelists were Anne Bonds, Professor of Geography and Urban Studies; Rev. Willie Brisco of WISDOM/MICAH; Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Milwaukee Common Council President; Keisha Krumm of Common Ground; and Susan Lloyd of the Zilber Family Foundation. Robert Smith, Professor of History and Urban Studies, moderated.

The summit was co-sponsored by the UWM Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research; Cultures and Communities; the Center for Economic Development; and Urban Studies Programs.

Video of the panel can be viewed at uwm.edu/urban-studies/milwaukee-summit-2016/.


Big Shoes Network

“I think they go above and beyond,” said Rouleau. “They know everybody, and they’re great connectors.”

Making money out of their idea is great, said Jeff Carrigan, but there’s also fulfillment. “What we really like is helping connect people with employers – helping a student land his or her first internship or job, helping people who’ve been downsized find that new opportunity; helping a stay-at-home mom or dad get back into the workforce.”

Students find jobs

Ashley Batzner, a UWM alum, got both an internship and her first job out of college in 2011 through Big Shoes Network after the Carrigans spoke to her class and at a Public Relations Society Student Association meeting.

“They were a good resource for my field, one of the only places where you could look specifically for jobs in communications,” Batzner said.

The Carrigans say their UWM education has helped them, sometimes in unexpected ways. Martha found her writing and public speaking classes and a student job doing research helped prepare her for running a business.

For now, they are content with keeping the business a manageable size, and enjoy working from home. Other than outsourcing web work, accounting and legal services, Big Shoes Network remains a two-person operation.

However, the expansion into the South was deliberate, said Jeff Carrigan.

“As we get older and the winters get colder here, the South is attractive. I could get used to working on a beach with a Corona and a lime in it.”
The U.S. presidential election came and went this month, with results that shocked, saddened, and elated various parts of the country. Several Letters & Science faculty members have been called upon numerous times for their commentary and analysis. In election news this month:

Republican leaders who have stood by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump despite sexist remarks may have created long-term damage for the party’s image among GOP women voters, Kathy Dolan (Political Science) told the Dallas News. [http://bit.ly/2fah71m] Trump also does not enjoy quite as much support from American women as he claims to, she told San Antonio Express News. [http://bit.ly/2fsGWaW] Dolan was also quoted on the FiveThirtyEight election statistics blog about women’s chances in elections. [http://53eig.ht/2f6t1cE] Post-election, Dolan was quoted in the New York Times about why the U.S. has not yet elected a woman to its highest office. [http://nyti.ms/2EH7is]

Legal immigrant voters have the most impact in swing states, rather than solidly blue or red states, according to Thomas Holbrook (Political Science) as quoted in The News Tribune. [http://bit.ly/2eiDWMT] Post-election, Holbrook helped USA Today [http://usat.ly/2g0tttY] understand Clinton’s defeat.

During his campaign, Donald Trump claimed that African Americans are “living in hell”. Student Jeremiah Thomas (Biochemistry) provided the Los Angeles Times a more accurate picture of what it’s like to be a young black man in a segregated city. [http://lat.ms/2fOfSGq]

Kathryn Olson (Communication) was invited to the University of Nevada-Las Vegas for a series of events leading up to the third presidential debate. Olson was the final speaker, and also taught a class on presidential debates in addition to appearing on the KUNV radio show “Civil Engagement.” [https://youtu.be/dIoVxjFtgZc]

Student Anwuar Abdalah (Linguistics), the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that she felt as though America failed by electing Trump. [http://bit.ly/2fV81HF]

PhD student Michael Bednarzuck (Political Science) co-created an election model that correctly forecasted Trump’s win, according to Vox. [http://bit.ly/2fyfZTa]

Adding his name to a long list of scholars of Jewish history and studies, Joel Berkowitz (Jewish Studies) condemned anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts following the election in the Jewish Journal. [http://bit.ly/2fOLy8]

And in other news…

A new program in Milwaukee is showing encouraging results when it comes to providing the under- and unemployed with jobs. That’s according to research by Marc Levine (History) reported on myinforms.com [http://bit.ly/2ezdm7b]. He was also cited in an Urban Milwaukee article about proposed developments in the city. [http://bit.ly/2emoxuu]

Student Meredith Buyeske (Biological Sciences) was featured in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article for her hand-crafted clothing items, which she sells in her Etsy shop. [http://bit.ly/2dD1zff]

Bob Beck (Political Science) discussed the potential impacts of the US Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) on the Institute of World Affairs’ “International Focus”. [https://youtu.be/PwxhStf8nTw]

Aneesh Anesh (Sociology and Global Studies) was interviewed on the radio and covered in the Santa Fe New Mexican regarding his public lecture on global citizenship. [http://bit.ly/2fLljo]

Halloween has some interesting and fun Celtic origins, as John Gleeson (emeritus Celtic Studies) and Andrew Kincaid (English and Celtic Studies) told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. [http://bit.ly/2dJIBMk]


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In the media

Marc Tasman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) is one of the artists exhibited in the Revolution: CultureJam MKE indie art series at the RedLine art studio. Tasman has taken selected lyrics from the 1988 Leonard Cohen album “I’m Your Man” and mashed them in charcoal drawings on paper with contemporary political figures. (http://bit.ly/2eOrX9X) Tasman’s work, a photographic print from his Laurentian Internationale series, also appears in the juried group exhibition “Forward 2016: A survey of Wisconsin Art Now” at the Charles Allis Art Museum. www.charlesallis.org/exhibitions.html

Graduate student Abby Armstrong (Art History) completed an internship and research project which resulted in an exhibition featuring religious artist Georges Rouault at the Haggerty Museum of Art on the Marquette University campus. http://go.mu.edu/2f5lEUe

Ira Driscoll’s (Psychology) research showing a link between caffeine consumption and a decreased risk of dementia in older women was featured on Business Insider (http://read.bi/2frCRri), Woman’s Day (http://bit.ly/2erPvl9), and several other news outlets.

The only natural thing to do when you find remnants of Iron Age beer is to try and drink it (after you brew a fresh batch, of course). NPR (http://n.pr/2eLINHK), Good Food (http://bit.ly/2ewlKiY), Science Alert (http://bit.ly/2dGipFO), and several other news outlets – even German Public Radio (http://bit.ly/2gnrAsy) covered how Bettina Arnold (Anthropology) teamed up with Lakefront Brewery to recreate the remnants of beer found at one of her archaeological digs.

Mark Speltz (’09, MA Public History) was featured on WUWM to talk about his recently released book North of Dixie: Civil Rights Photography Beyond the South, which began as a project for one of his classes at UWM. http://bit.ly/2dZ623W

Did you know that Enceladus, one of Saturn’s 62 moons, is the likely origin of the planet’s rings? Learn from Jean Creighton (Planetarium) on WUWM. http://bit.ly/2fBarKK

If you’re looking for new reading material, check out John Kulczycki’s book Belonging to the Nation: Inclusion and Exclusion in the Polish-German Borderlands, 1939-1951. It comes recommended by Winson Chu (History), who reviewed the work for Humanities and Social Sciences Net Online. http://bit.ly/2eOwQQ4


Bobby Tanzilo (’89, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was praised for his new work Milwaukee Frozen Custard, a history of one of the city’s favorite treats. http://bit.ly/2eJ7VPQ

Elizabeth Benchley (’69, ’74, MA and PhD Anthropology) is the director of the University of West Florida archaeology program and is overseeing the terrestrial field school program where UWF faculty and students are exploring where the first European settlement in U.S. history was founded in 1559, as reported by the Pensacola News Journal. http://on.pnj.com/2eDRYcD

Bus routes out to Milwaukee suburbs are meant to help connect the workforce to available jobs, but Joel Rast (Urban Studies) is skeptical about their ability to solve the problem, as stated in BizTimes. http://bit.ly/2eR5LPv


Mark Connelly (’84, PhD English) talked about his newest book, Wanna-Be’s, on the Writer’s Life blog (http://bit.ly/2ebh9BV) and on The Book Connection (http://bit.ly/2g1EoTZ).

Continued on page 15
Foreign competition is hurting Milwaukee manufacturing, Avik Chakrabarti (Economics) told WUWM in a piece about the local impact of NAFTA.  

Karyn Frick (Psychology) was awarded a grant to study the effects of gender in Alzheimer’s disease, since women typically are at greater risk of developing the disease, as reported on Urban Milwaukee.  

Meg Noodin (English and American Indian Studies) was the guest speaker for the Social Justice Lecture Series in November at Michigan Technological University. She also gave a presentation titled “Oshkizhitwaawinan: New Traditions” at the Native People of the Americas Colloquium at the University of Dayton in November.  
http://bit.ly/2ezKKGk

Brenda Cardenas (English) was among several local writers who gave talks and signed books at the Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books in Waukesha in November.  

Susan Firer (English) read from her works at Boswell Books in November.  
http://bit.ly/2f8InB

Amidst growing tensions between the United States and Russia, Jeffrey Sommers (Africology and Global Studies) spoke about his recent trip to Moscow and Latvia on International Focus (https://youtu.be/gci2OzIPgzA). He also delivered the invited presentation “Neoliberal Malthusian Dead Ends” at the conference “Empire in the 21st Century” sponsored by the departments of economics at the Russian Academy of Sciences and Moscow State University, Oct. 8.

New research by John Heywood (Economics) and Keith Bender of the University of Aberdeen featured on Phys.org analyzes the gap between workers’ education and the needs of their job as workers approach retirement.  
http://bit.ly/2fKj4T

Shelly Schnupp (Nonprofit Management) helped facilitate discussion about race during a “talk back” on racial justice hosted by YWCA Southeast Wisconsin and featured in Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service.  

Over the last two years, WUWM, run under the umbrella of the College of Letters & Science, has collaborated with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 371 Productions, WNOV-AM, and the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism to explore the issue of gun violence in Milwaukee.

In more than 100 reports, producers have put a face and voice to the stories of tragedy in our city, and the impact violence has on young lives.

A few weeks ago, WUWM’s Digital Services/Special Projects Coordinator Michelle Materowski and WUWM General Manager Dave Edwards were asked to present their approach to more than 100 public radio managers around the country. Since then, many have contacted WUWM so they can learn to replicate this project in their own cities.

Learn more about Precious Lives at https://vimeo.com/186098401.

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Remedial math makeover  
continued from page 5

To make the courses more interactive, classwork was reorganized and teachers learned new ways of encouraging classroom participation. For example, students prepare ahead for class sessions rather than listening to a lecture and then doing homework. Students might watch a lecture online, answer questions and do a few problems as a preview of the next class. Then, when they get to class, they have to be prepared to put up a problem on the board and explain it to others.

“That forces the students to explain what they did to their classmates,” said Swanson. “That puts them in the position where they have to learn it well enough to teach it.”

Another change is to move students away from “procedural activities,” where they have a sample problem or a framework and fill in numbers. Instead, they are learning to figure out the framework themselves. “One of the things we really emphasize is the concept of productive struggle – that it’s okay that they don’t know how to get to the answer right away,” Swanson said.

New ways of teaching

The changed approach has also involved training instructors – 80 percent of whom are lecturers – to learn ways of encouraging interaction. Students work through problems using ALEKS, an artificial intelligence program that allows instructors to regularly evaluate how students are doing and where they may need help. Maslov said she is proud of the fact that she’s actually working ahead on the online ALEKS program. “I enjoy math. I’m finally able to stay on track and understand it.”

The new approach is encouraging students to continue their math studies. Enrollment in the next level course, Applied Calculus, is up 20 percent, according to Swanson.

And the courses are helping students overcome math anxiety. Roach said he used to set up all his bill paying online so he didn’t have to struggle with the numbers. “Now I’m actually enjoying math.”

Documentary lens  
continued from page 3

“I think the most memorable thing I produced was the oil pipeline story,” Chumbley said. “(Enbridge Energy Partners) is responsible for the largest oil spill in U.S. history in Michigan in 2010. It has a 50, 60-year-old pipeline under the state of Michigan and people are very secretive about what condition it is in. One of the largest fresh water sources in the world is at risk. That film was important because it was an opportunity to take the national spotlight and put it on an issue that is important to residents in this region, which I identify with.”

That’s just his domestic work. Chumbley spent a portion of 2015 traveling to some of the most harrowing locations of conflict in the world: Syria, Yemen, Crimea, Nepal, Gaza. He’s taken combat medical response training courses and constantly hopes he won’t need to use that knowledge. He’s often asked to go to the Middle East because of his experience filming there.

Shooting in war-torn cities or in the aftermath of natural disasters is a humbling experience.

“A lot people who live in these situations just put up with them,” Chumbley said. “We go there, gather voices and stories, and bring them back. It’s an emotional toll, realizing that people have to live with everything you get to escape from when you leave.”

And while traveling abroad and reporting on stories on international importance is exciting, Chumbley would like to keep focusing on the Great Lakes region – he even has a tattoo of the lakes – and producing films that showcase how vitally important they are as a natural resource.

And in the meantime, he’s always searching for his next project.