

Anthropology interns help MPM go “Beyond the Blade”

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Anthropology graduate student Lauren Kiesewetter’s nametag has a big red sticker that reads, “Ask me about my favorite weapon!”

Currently – her favorite changes every week, she jokes – it’s a piece of Indonesian armor crafted from parrotfish scales. “The human ingenuity that went into that, and the time and artistry, is amazing,” she said.

The same can be said for almost every item filling the cases in the Milwaukee Public Museum’s new “*Weapons: Beyond the Blade*” exhibit. Opened earlier this month, the display features 188 artifacts from 50 countries that explore the history, purpose, and cultural significance behind all kinds of weaponry.

“Weapons are some of the most provocative items that have shaped history,” said Dawn Scher Thomae, the curator of collections at MPM, as well as the co-coordinator of the UWM Museum Studies graduate certificate and a graduate of UWM’s Master’s degree program in Anthropology.

The MPM/UWM partnership

“*Weapons: Beyond the Blade*” is Scher Thomae’s brainchild, but it was born with a lot of help, much of it from an army of interns that included dozens of UWM undergraduate and graduate students. An entire class of the Museum Studies graduate certificate cohort even worked on the exhibit as part of their coursework.

Putting the exhibit together was quite an undertaking. For almost two years, Scher Thomae and her team considered more than 3,000 artifacts for display and worked on researching the detailed backgrounds for each weapon that made it through the five rounds of elimination to be included in the final display.

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Anthropology graduate student Lauren Kiesewetter and Anthropology major Armando Manresa examine two weapons that were not included in the Milwaukee Public Museum’s “*Weapons: Beyond the Blade*” exhibit. The MPM interns are tasked with showing the extra weapons to visitors in the exhibit. (UWM photo by Elora Hennessey)

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PUBLISHED THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH BY
THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE.

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Monsters among us: Studies on scares

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

Vampires, werewolves and monsters of all kinds starred in research presentations at UWM just in time for Halloween.

Undergraduate students from two programs shared their research at a “Monster Conference” on Oct. 27. The conference is a collaboration among three popular classes – an Honors College course titled “Monsters and the Monstrous” and two Slavic folklore classes – “Vampires: From Slavic Village to Hollywood” and “Werewolves and Shape Shifters in Slavic and East European Folklore.”

Faculty members Meghan Murphy-Lee, senior lecturer in the Foreign Languages & Literature department, and Jacqueline Stuhmiller, visiting assistant professor in the Honors College, came up with the idea of having the seven students who volunteered practice their academic presentation skills with a conference tied to the Halloween season.

The classes are extremely popular, and this is the second year the Monster Conference has been held, Stuhmiller said. “We thought that it would be fun to host an undergraduate research conference so that students could share their ideas with each other and with the public.”

“You usually don’t get to do papers on those kind of topics – things you don’t usually find in academia – so it’s great to do a presentation on something that’s a little bit more fun,” said Alisha Engelberger, a sophomore majoring in History and Anthropology. Engelberger, who took two of Murphy-Lee’s classes, originally became interested in wizards, vampires and werewolves through television, and did her 15-minute presentation on alpha female werewolves.

Bailey Flannery, a junior majoring in English literature who took courses from Stuhmiller, said the conference gave her an opportunity to share her research, which examines portrayals of monstrous women and the fear of female sexual power. Those ideas are expressed in literary characters, going all the way back to the tales of Scylla and Charybdis in the *Odyssey*, she said.

Krist Schubilske talked about how cultural beliefs combined with the physical realities of death and decomposition helped create the concept of the vampire in folklore.

Schubilske, a linguistics major, has taken Murphy-Lee’s classes on vampires and werewolves, and became interested in the stories and traditions that have turned into the spooky elements celebrated in popular culture, especially at Halloween.

“I became interested in folklore because folkloric creatures are intrinsically part of the cultures that they are situated in, and can tell us so much about the belief-sets of a given people, how they lived, and what was important to them.”



Students who presented their research on vampires, werewolves and other scary creatures at the second-annual “Monster Conference” included, from left, Jessie Nitz, Kaily Zacher, Alisha Engelberger, Bailey Flannery, Lizzy Stolow and Mara Lapp. Photo by Troy Fox.

Brain matter: Psychology alum leads groundbreaking concussion research

By Rich Rovito, University Relations

He's one of the world's foremost experts on concussion, but for so many years, few outside of Michael McCrea's profession showed much interest in his work. At parties, friends and neighbors had no desire to chat him up about mild traumatic brain injury, and the UWM alum's groundbreaking research continued mostly in anonymity.

How the landscape has changed. Today, concussion is a mainstream topic. You can hardly watch a football game without hearing about it. Now, when someone learns of McCrea's specialty, the questions come fast and furious.

"This is one of those topics that has gone, in 10 to 15 years, from total obscurity to dominating national headlines, and not just in sports," McCrea says. "It's on everybody's radar, from the front offices of professional franchises and sports governing bodies right down to soccer parents."

The 52-year-old McCrea has played a crucial role in education about the issue. He's director of brain injury research at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, as well as a professor of neurosurgery and neurology there.

He's helped shape the improved concussion protocols used today by sports and military professionals alike.

"Our work in sports gets all the attention," McCrea says, "but our program is focused on the study of all populations at risk of traumatic brain injury, whether it's athletes, military service members or civilians."

His fervent love of sports makes McCrea at home on athletic fields, which often serve as his research laboratories. He's comfortable around coaches and players, and they welcome him into what can often be a closed-off community. He's even served as one of the clinical neuropsychologists who assess head injuries on the sidelines of Green Bay Packers games.

UWM played a crucial role in putting McCrea on the path to that work, and in 2016, the UWM Alumni Association honored McCrea with its Lifetime Achievement Award. UWM is where he earned a Master's degree in clinical psychology in 1991 and a 1994 doctorate in the same field.

"The UWM program was really rising at the time, and the idea of being in Milwaukee was just a great fit for me," says McCrea, who got his Bachelor's degree at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. "My whole life, at every turn, I've been fortunate enough to run into really terrific mentors."

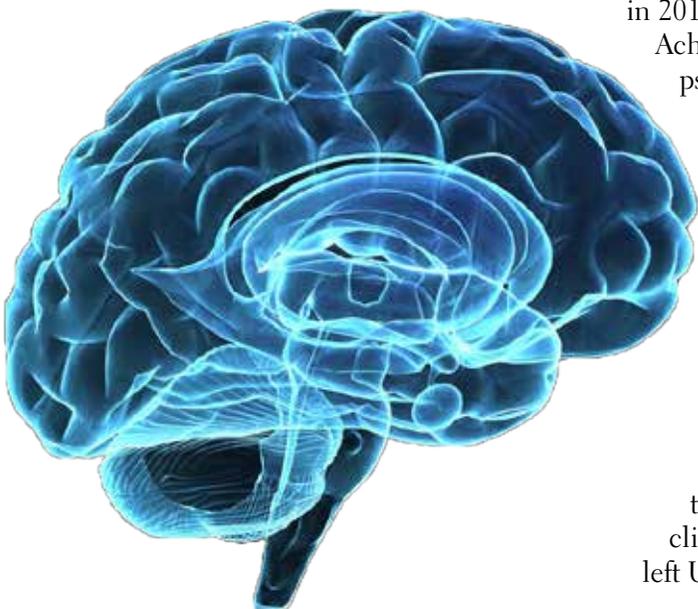
McCrea says UWM's training and ties to a collaborative network, including the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, were invaluable.

"It was like a gold mine, with the experienced faculty at UWM providing the academic training, combined with the ability go out and get real-life clinical training," McCrea says. "I had so much experience under my belt. I left UWM well prepared for the bigger stage."

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Dr. Michael McCrea ('91, MS; '94 PhD, Clinical Psychology) is a leader in the field of concussion research.





Sumit Argarwal ('93, BS Computer Science; '94 MA, '99 PhD Economics) is a professor of Economics and Finance at Georgetown University. Being in the heart of American policy is perfect for his research and his passion - a passion that bloomed at UWM. https://youtu.be/A9IL2_orqQ

Video Stories

UWM physicists were part of the team that detected gravitational waves. The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics honored this discovery that confirmed one of Einstein's theories about the universe! <https://youtu.be/dEm34vblnBA>

THE **2017 NOBEL PRIZE** IN PHYSICS
HONORS **LIGO'S** DETECTION
OF **GRAVITATIONAL WAVES**



Great ratings for Sociology alumna

By Zach Brooke, University Relations

Give Molly Poppie a few facts – say, your age, gender, location and income – and she probably knows what TV shows you watch and products you buy. That's because it's the UWM Sociology alum's job to understand everything about consumers as vice president of data science at Nielsen Holdings.

Poppie, 35, oversees a team of more than 50 data scientists in Chicago at the world's largest market research firm. Their work tells food executives and TV producers how popular (or not) their products are.

It requires constant methodological innovation, and the research coming out of her office has led to several valuable patents. High on the priority list now: how TV streaming services are affecting the landscape.

"People are flexible and looking for convenience," Poppie says. "Variety is huge right now. The question is, what's actually going to catch on? What's going to stick around that we should be measuring?"

Poppie's path to leadership began with a single Sociology seminar at UWM. Originally an English major, her interests shifted to include Psychology and pre-law. Then one summer, she enrolled in a Sociology course on family.

"I loved it. It just was something that really made sense to me," Poppie says. "I could see real-world applications for it, and I wanted to take more."

She earned her Bachelor's in Sociology and Psychology, then a Master's degree in Sociology. Along the way, she became particularly interested in how research could help predict people's motivations and actions.

"In each of the classes," says Nancy Mathiowetz, UWM Sociology professor emerita, "she was a model student, curious and hardworking."

It's all served Poppie well at Nielsen, where she says one constant question fuels her work: "How can we make our measurement as strong and representative as possible?"



UWM biologist wins \$2.8M grant to improve kelp farming for fuel

By Laura Otto, University Relations

What crop would allow bioenergy to claim a bigger piece in the U.S. green energy portfolio without competing with food crops for land and water?

The U.S. Department of Energy thinks seaweed – and specifically giant kelp – is a feedstock contender because it is the fastest growing organism on Earth.

UWM biologist Filipe Alberto recently was awarded \$2.8 million from the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) to create and maintain a kind of "seed stock" for breeding kelp with genetic traits best suited for mass production.

"The idea of this program is actually to develop off-shore sea-farming," said Alberto, associate professor of Biological Sciences. "Even with all the advances in biotechnology to extract biofuel from brown alga, we still have to scale up production to use kelp as a sustainable biomass."

By sequencing the genome and linking the plants' observable traits to pathways in the DNA, Alberto's lab and colleagues at UC-Santa Barbara, the University of Southern California and the J. Craig Venter Institute will ultimately create selected giant kelp lines that are cost-effective and environmentally sound to farm.



After crossing the male and female lines of kelp, the resulting "offspring" is called a sporophyte. (Filipe Alberto photo)

Alberto and his lab members bring an expertise in kelp population genetics and natural history to the project.

"We have characterized a lot of genetic diversity of giant kelp," he said. "The populations that we're going to focus on in Southern California are actually the richest in terms of genetic diversity in the world."

That range of diversity will help the scientists identify traits that make the crop sustainable even in environments that are not optimal. Although the marine plant naturally grows rapidly, mass-cultivation introduces new challenges, Alberto said.

One problem is that off-shore waters contain fewer of the nutrients than exist in coastal areas. Can selective breeding result in, for example, varieties of kelp that can maintain or even increase their growth rate on less food?

From the sequenced genome, the lab members will make associations between each change in the genomic structure of the DNA and a particular trait. That information will form the basis for a predictive model of how robust a particular cross will be.

Lab members will start by producing individual male and female lines for mating, with the goal of producing about 500 different crosses. Then they will plant the offspring in a farm off the California coast and monitor their performance.

The project's funding came from ARPA-E's Macroalgae Research Inspiring Novel Energy Resources (MARINER) program.

The giant kelp *Macrocystis pyrifera* can grow up to 2 feet a day along the coast of Southern California. (NOAA Photo/Claire Fackler)



Filipe Alberto

English Department spotlight: All aboard!

Professor Andrew Kincaid's class took a field trip aboard the Denis Sullivan schooner on Lake Michigan. The field trip was part of his English 326 class, "The Development of the Novel: The Novel and the Sea."

"In civilizations without boats, dreams dry up." This quote from Michel Foucault's famous essay, "Of Other Spaces," is one of the premises upon which Professor Andrew Kincaid's English class, "The Novel and the Sea," is built. What dreams and nightmares emerge when we are cast adrift and become unmoored from land? What worlds appear in literature when an author launches his or her characters toward the given boundaries of geography? When Odysseus, Gulliver and Captain Kirk take a leap into the unknown, what are the psychological, economic and cultural possibilities?



Visit <https://youtu.be/PsdkRMxJxk4> to watch students try their hand at sailing! See more photos at <http://bit.ly/2gYU5Op>.

the novel (think "stream of consciousness" and "modernist drift") and to restructure its content (alienation and labor; solitude and community).

On Saturday, Oct. 7, students boarded Milwaukee's stunning 19th-century three-masted schooner, the *Denis Sullivan*, in order to experience firsthand life aboard a tall ship. We learned about togetherness and diversity, knots and navigation, as well as the romance and drudgery of living life afloat.

English 326 students stand at the rail of the *Denis Sullivan* schooner on a field trip to learn first-hand what life at sea was like. Photo by Gregory Jay.



Professor Andrew Kincaid talks with students before embarking on the *Denis Sullivan*. Photo by Gregory Jay.

Writers from Daniel Defoe (*Robinson Crusoe*) and Fenimore Cooper (*The Pilot*) to Joseph Conrad (*Heart of Darkness*) and Virginia Woolf (*To the Lighthouse*) have relied upon the ocean voyage both to push the form of



L&S pulls up a seat "On the Table"

Fifteen events involving more than 350 attendees and countless conversations about moving Milwaukee forward filled UW-Milwaukee meeting rooms, dining tables and lecture halls on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

The events comprised UWM's major commitment to the citywide "On the Table" forum, convened by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The change-making community foundation invited UWM to participate as a "super host" of On the Table, which they hope will inspire a fresh set of ideas and partnerships to address challenges and opportunities shaping the city.

"The power and value of conversation should always be in the first step in authentic relationship building," said Joan Prince, vice chancellor for global inclusion and engagement and UWM's On the Table coordinator. "The opportunity to discover similarities and to cross divides in thinking permeated our conversation venues. New partnerships were formed, and existing partnerships were confirmed."



Jasmine Alinder, associate professor of History, momentarily leads the discussion on building stronger bridges with our community, our city, and our region. Photo by Elora Hennessey.



Upcoming Events

November 3

Geography Colloquium: Feminist Geographies of Mobilization. 3 p.m. AGS Library. Claire Hancock, Université de Paris-Est Créteil. <http://bit.ly/2zWDYWa>

Planetarium Show: Color of the Cosmos. 7 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Tickets are \$5. Show runs Fridays Nov. 3- Dec. 15 and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. <http://bit.ly/2iHxFRX>

Science Bag: Oil and Water Do Mix: How Oil Droplets Disperse in the Sea. 7 p.m. Physics 137. Rudi Strickler and Ai Nihongi from the School of Freshwater Sciences present this interactive, family-friendly show. Show runs Fridays Nov. 3-24 and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 12. <http://uwm.edu/science-bag/>

November 5

Archaeology lecture - Cova de la Pastora: A Study of Death and Discovery in the Prehistory of Spain. 3 p.m. Sabin G90. Sarah McClure, Pennsylvania State University, presents. Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America-Milwaukee Society and the departments of Anthropology, Art History, and Foreign Languages & Literature (Classics) at UWM. <http://bit.ly/2xuVDCC>

November 7

Artsit talk: Siona Benjamin, Blue Like Me. 7 p.m. Milwaukee Art Museum, Lubar Auditorium. Free and open to the public. Visual artist Siona Benjamin presents on growing up Jewish in India. Co-sponsored by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the departments of Art History and Women's & Gender Studies, the Religious Studies program, and Cultures & Communities. <http://bit.ly/2xtPAYc>

November 8

Artsit talk: Eternity, Beauty and Drawing Skulls: the Surprising Value of Playing in Sand. 5:30 p.m. Bolton 150. UWM alum David Leiberger speaks and give a sand painting performance. Sponsored by the Religious Studies program. <http://bit.ly/2iFrwWw>

November 9

Geosciences colloquium: A Record of Earthquake and Fault Mechanics Written in Stone. 3:30 p.m. Lubar S220. Laurel Goodwin, UW-Madison. <http://bit.ly/2yUFo3v>

cream city review Issue 41.2 Fall Release Party. 7 p.m. Hefter Center. Special guests include Aimee Nezhukumatahil, Olvard Smith, and Patricia Killelea. <http://bit.ly/2yTRRo4>

November 10

Physics Colloquium: The Cosmological Context of Star Formation. 3:30 p.m. Tom Quinn, University of Washington.

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Center for 21st Century Studies - Vilém Flusser's "Philosophical Fiction": Science, Creativity and the Encounter with Radical Otherness. 3:30 p.m. Curtin 175. Erick Felinto, New York University and the State University of Rio de Janeiro. <http://bit.ly/2y8FC9P>

November 12

Science Bag: Oil and Water Do Mix: How Oil Droplets Disperse in the Sea. 7 p.m. Physics 137. Rudi Strickler and Ai Nihongi from the School of Freshwater Sciences present this interactive, family-friendly show. Show runs Fridays Nov. 3-24 and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 12. <http://uwm.edu/science-bag/>

November 16

Women's & Gender Studies Brown Bag - Gerty Makes a Scene: Sexual Selfhood and Disability in James Joyce's Ulysses. Noon. Curtin 904. Sarah O'Connell, UWM. <http://bit.ly/2zVh0P9>

Geosciences colloquium: Estimating the Likelihood of Concrete Failure through Rock-magnetic measurements. 3:30 p.m. Lubar S220. Christoph Geiss, Trinity College. <http://bit.ly/2yUFo3v>

Urban Studies Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit: Far from the American Dream, Milwaukee's Fair and Affordable Housing Crisis. 4:30 p.m. Alumni Fireside Lounge. <http://bit.ly/2zd8kGL>

Ctr. for Celtic Studies - Irish-American Autobiography: Divided Hearts. 7 p.m. Hefter Center. Jim Rodgers, University of St. Tomas. <http://bit.ly/2yYi2f9>

November 17

Food Culture, Italian Identity. 11 a.m. Curtin 175. Massimo Montanari, Bologna University, Italy. Sponsored by UWM Humanities, Cultures & Communities, and the departments of History; French, Italian, and Comparative Literature; and Anthropology. <http://bit.ly/2ihhPtU>

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October Ovations

Space-walking astronaut visits campus

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan – the first U.S. woman to walk in space – visited UWM on Oct. 3 and 4.

At her sold-out keynote speech Tuesday evening, she shared “vacation pictures” from her three space missions in 1984, 1990, and 1992. The event drew several young aspiring astronauts to campus, many of whom got to ask questions of Dr. Sullivan following the presentation.

The next day, 800 seventh and eighth-graders from Milwaukee Public Schools joined Dr. Sullivan for a discussion on life in space. Pictures of the way astronauts eat, sleep, wash their hair, and go to the bathroom were particularly fun for the students to see and learn about.

Dr. Sullivan also met with campus leaders, faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students and shared stories about the challenges and adventure of being in the first class of female astronauts.

A special thank you to Dr. Robert Greenler, Professor Emeritus of Physics, who helps fund this annual Dean’s Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Sciences. Stay tuned to find out who next year’s guest will be.

UWM assists in Nobel research

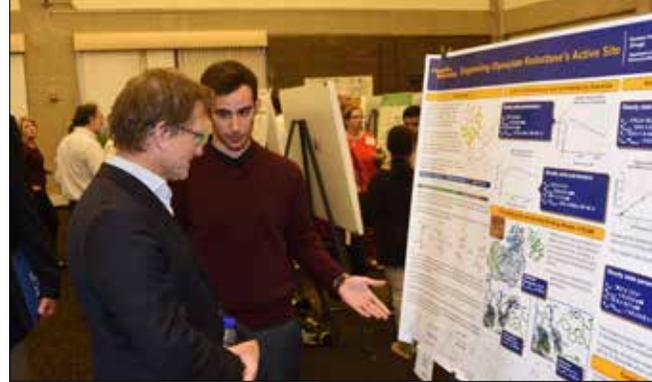
On Oct. 3, the Nobel Prize in Physics was given to Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne, the three lead scientists who helped prove Einstein’s final theory on the existence of gravitational waves.

These primary scientists were supported by a team of over 1,000 other scientists from around the world, including a group of UWM physicists. Members of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) team numbered around 50, and their primary role was to create a complex data calibration system for information coming in from detectors in Washington state and Louisiana.

This recognition is the result of decades of work for many, including Physics Professor Jolien Creighton, who has worked on the LIGO project for more than 20 years.

Patrick Brady, director of UWM’s Leonard E. Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology, and Astrophysics, notes that the practical applications resulting from this discovery are still unknown. As is the case with most new discoveries, time will reveal novel technologies and applications that will be based on this new knowledge.

Read more in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* at <http://bit.ly/2yYq20k>.



Brandon Michael Patterson, an undergraduate in the lab of Associate Professor Nick Silvaggi, explains his research poster to a Nobel Laureate. No pressure, Brandon!

Nobel Prize winner visits UWM

Dr. Bernard Feringa, 2016 winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, visited UWM on Sept. 29, speaking on “The Art of Building Small: from Molecular Switches to Motors.” His Nobel recognizes his work in creating molecular machines. These smallest of machines made of molecules could be used for the creation of new types of materials, sensors, and energy storage.

The visit was part of a chemistry technology exchange conference, but also served as a bit of a reunion. UWM Chemistry Professor Alexander Arnold was a student of Dr. Feringa’s during his graduate studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

While at UWM, Dr. Feringa met with students and faculty and toured the Shimadzu Laboratory for Advanced and Applied Analytical Chemistry, one of the most high-tech university mass spectrometry labs in the country.

Dr. Feringa also spoke with WISN-TV about his humble beginnings and his current quest to inspire young scientists (<http://bit.ly/2xB7TBG>). As he noted, one day a scientist might use his data about molecular machines to create a tiny robot that could be injected into the body to find and treat disease.

Upcoming Events

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November 17

Philosophy Colloquia: Mary Shepherd on Justification of Belief in the External World. 3:30 p.m. Curtin 175. Martha Bolton, Rutgers University. <http://bit.ly/2zNqn2t>

Biological Sciences Colloquium: Genomic islands of divergence linked to ecotypic variation in sockeye salmon. 4 p.m. Lapham N101. Wes Larson, UW-Stevens Point. <http://bit.ly/2yTra2C>

November 26

Planetarium Show: Color of the Cosmos. 2 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Tickets are \$5. Show runs Fridays Nov. 3-Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. <http://bit.ly/2iHxFRX>

November 30

Geosciences Colloquium: Discovering hidden folds and faults in the Precambrian. 3:30 p.m. Lubar S220. Esther Stewart, UW-Extension. <http://bit.ly/2yUfo3v>

A round of applause for L&S awardees!

Congratulations to all of the UWM 2017 Alumni Award recipients, and especially our L&S graduates!

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards

Sumit Agarwal ('93, BS Computer Science; '94, MA, '99, PhD Economics)

Sumit Agarwal is a widely published expert on financial institutions, real estate and capital markets, as well as household, behavioral, and international finance. The Georgetown University professor of Economics and Finance has advanced the intersection of economic policy and urban planning through research, symposiums and speeches at venues ranging from the United States Congress to the National University of Singapore. Former colleagues at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago say his research influenced Congress' creation of the Dodd-Frank regulatory act. Analytical thinking and steady leadership serve him well in research and during crises.

Stephanie Stein ('68 BA English)

"One common thread carries through all the many things that Stephanie Sue Stein has done," wrote U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore in support of Stein's award. "She has worked tirelessly to build effective systems and programs that support the long-term care needs of Wisconsin seniors and persons with disabilities." Stein is the recently retired founding director of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging. She was lead designer on Family Care, a long-term care program now in use nationwide. She mentored experts on aging and created culturally sensitive programming to reach elders in Milwaukee's diverse communities. As a consultant, she continues to influence and improve quality of life for older adults across the United States.

Graduate of the Last Decade Awards

Spencer Chumbley ('09, BA Economics)
Producer and Cinematographer for clients such as Vice, Al-Jazeera America, Fusion and others

Sam Leichtling ('09, Masters of Urban Planning and Masters of Public Administration)
Long Range Planning Manager for the City of Milwaukee

Elena Mihas ('06, MA English; '10, PhD Linguistics)
Postdoctoral Research Associate in Anthropological Linguistics at The Cairns Institute at James Cook University

Breanna Schatzman ('11, BA Psychology)
Rehabilitation Specialist at South End Community Health Center

Meghan Walsh ('11, BA International Studies)
Assistant Director of Alumnae Engagement at Alverno College

Congratulations to the Letters & Science recipients of the 2017 Faculty and Staff Awards!

Ernest Spaight's Plaza Honorees:

- Connie Jo, Emerita Assistant Dean
- James Sappenfield, Professor Emeritus, Department of English
- George Sosnovsky, Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

UWM Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Awards:

- Liam Callanan, Associate Professor of English
- Kevin McLeod, Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences

Office of Research/UWM Foundation Research Awards:

- Miren Boehm, Associate Professor of Philosophy
- Dawn Erb, Associate Professor of Physics

UWM Research in the Humanities Awards:

- David DiValerio, Associate Professor of History
- Christine Evans, Associate Professor of History

Office of Research/UWM Foundation Senior Faculty Research Awards:

- Karyn Frick, Professor of Psychology
- Josepha Lanter, Professor of English
- Marius Schmidt, Professor of Physics
- Ching-Hong Yang, Professor of Biological Sciences

UWM Academic Staff Outstanding Performance & Service Awards:

- Jean Creighton, Planetarium Director
- Michael Westendorf, Director of Innovative Weather

LGBTQ+ Champion of the Year Award:

- Cary Costello, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the LGBT Studies Program

Joanne Lazirko Award for Excellence in Teaching with Technology:

- Yael Gal-Ben Yitschak, Lecturer, Foreign Language & Literature

UWM Academic Staff Outstanding Teaching Award:

- Leah Rineck, Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Sciences

UWM University Staff Outstanding Service Award:

- Georgette Jaworski, Academic Program Associate in Philosophy

Beyond the Blade

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“They did a great amount of object research. ... We discussed it and I pushed them to ask, what was going on at the time that humans needed these weapons? What was it made of? Who donated it to the museum?” Scher Thomae said. “They also worked with me on exhibit evaluations and to develop public programs. Everyone who interns with me does real work that has measurable outcomes.”

Kiesewetter, for instance, was part of a team that contributed to a section in the exhibit that challenges visitors to think about weapons in popular culture. From the Olympics (sports include shooting, archery, and fencing) to playing cards (the king of diamonds wields an axe and the other three kings carry swords), weaponry is ubiquitous.

Kiesewetter helped to compile the research and distill it into panels that quiz viewers about how and why weapons appear in everything from literature to advertising.

The experience has been invaluable, since she hopes to work in a museum after she graduates. “Just getting your foot in the door here [at MPM] is a way to open up your opportunities,” Kiesewetter said.

Inside the Exhibit

The first display inside *Weapons: Beyond the Blade* is an actual blade – a Chinese *dao*. Beside the sword is a label asking viewers how they think about weapons. Is a sword just a tool of violence, or could it have deeper meanings as a piece of art or a status symbol?

Further inside, weapons of all sorts, from an Argentinian bolas to a European suit of armor, are on display. There are art pieces too, like a carved ivory figure of Joan of Arc and a huge painting depicting a Thai battle scene. The descriptions of each item are listed on signs just outside of the cases so that nothing distracts from the weapon inside. These are items used to harm others, and Scher Thomae doesn't shy away from headings like “Blunt Force Trauma” to describe a *wahaika* from New Zealand, used in hand-to-hand fighting.

“When I first walked through the exhibit, I was shocked at the size of it all,” admitted Armando Manresa, a UWM Anthropology major and another of Scher Thomae's interns. “The majority of these [weapons] are all from the Milwaukee Public Museum Collection. It's incredible seeing the pieces that didn't make it into the exhibit.”

Like Kiesewetter, Manresa's internship includes interpreting select weapons for the public. Periodically he will take a few items that did not make the cut and show them to visitors, like a Ngala execution sword from the Congo or obsidian flakes used in a fierce Aztec club, a *macahuitl*. Obsidian is so sharp that it's still used in some surgical tools today.

Weapons: Beyond the Blade has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from the public, said Scher Thomae, and many have been dismayed to learn that the exhibit ends in January. She's gratified that the display has inspired people to look at weapons in a new light. Conversations about modern-day violence have a historical context, she added.

“[Weapons] are an important topic now as they were in the past. The exhibit does not sensationalize violence but offers an opportunity to explore how weapons evolved all over the world. It's something that few people talk about,” Scher Thomae said. *Weapons: Beyond the Blade* runs through Jan. 1, 2018.



Milwaukee Public Museum curator of collections and UWM Anthropology graduate Dawn Scher Thomae points out the details on a Chinese sword. Photo by Elora Hennessey.

The UWM Connection

Several UWM graduates and students were involved in creating “Beyond the Blade,” including:

MPM staff/UWM alumni

- Emilio Bras, Exhibit design
- Ellen Censky, PhD - Project Director
- Dennis Kois, President/CEO of the MPM
- Al Muchka, Content support and object selection assistance
- Dawn Scher Thomae, Curator of exhibit
- Jackie Schweitzer, Image research and Conservation support

Current students

- Samantha Machalik
- Emily Antonneau
- Sarah Carlson
- Tarryl Janik
- Max McHone

- Mia Phifer

- Shelby Stuparits

- Jack Zweifelhofer

Recent graduates

- Allison Barr
- James Flores
- Emily Stanton
- Lauren Kiesewetter
- Armando Manresa
- Ann Eberwein
- Marcia Hoffman
- Lexie Jordee
- Michelle laBerge
- Dana Hansen
- Stephan Hassam
- Marin Kniskern
- Michelle Lentzner
- Katie Maxwell
- Jessica McGillivray
- Jackie Pozza
- Erin Pruhs



In the Media and Around the Community

Simonetta Milli Konewko (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature) presented her work at the International conference, “Ischia International Festival of Philosophy,” Sept. 23 – Oct. 1 in Ischia, Italy. Her paper was titled, “*Il valore della vergogna nel romanzo autobiografico di Maria Laurino, ‘Were you Always an Italian?’*”

Paul Roebber (Atmospheric Science) was one of the featured guests on Dell Technology’s Trailblazer’s podcast. Hosted by Walter Isaacson, best known as the author of the Steve Jobs biography, the six-part podcast focuses on technology’s impact on business. The episode, “Cloudy with a chance of Disruption,” focused on technological improvements in weather forecasting and their impact on everyday life.

The men responsible for perpetrating the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed an estimated 1 million people justified their actions by appealing to evidence of their good character, according to a new study researched in part by **Emily Schmike ('15, MA Sociology)**. The findings were published in the journal *Social Problems* and widely reported in the media. <http://bit.ly/2gd1feb>

Greg Marshall ('03, BA English) was featured in *Urban Milwaukee* as the NEWaukee of the week. He is the Chief Storyteller for CI Design, a Milwaukee agency for branding, advertising and communication. <http://bit.ly/2g3YDPo>

Angela Sikorski ('05, PhD Psychology), associate professor of Psychology at Texas A&M University-Texarkana spoke to a Texas audience on “Learning, Memory and Beyond: Toward the Reality of the Bionic Woman and Six Million Dollar Man.”

Several UW System professors, including **Nicholas Fleisher (Linguistics)**, voiced their concerns with the Board of Regents’ proposal to restructure the UW System in an *Inside Higher Ed* article. <http://bit.ly/2gamRaO>



Margo Anderson

In 1920, the U.S. Census showed for the first time that more Americans lived in cities than in rural areas, **Margo Anderson (History)** told NPR, prompting a controversy about the number of seats each state should be allowed to have in the House of Representatives. <http://n.pr/2zsTWHj>

Cities that have overcome economic obstacles or historic struggles are seeing a surge of civic pride, graduate student **Thomas Calkins (Sociology)** noted in a *Shepherd Express* article. <http://bit.ly/2gdPEyH>

Abbas Ourmazd, Ahmad Hosseinizadeh, and Peter Schwander (all Physics) went on WUWM to discuss their ground-breaking technique that allows them to not only visualize, but also create 3-D videos, of how viruses infect healthy cells. <http://bit.ly/2kNjQSF>

Merry Wiesner-Hanks (History) shined in the PBS documentary covering the dramatic life of Martin Luther, famed for beginning the Protestant Reformation. <http://to.pbs.org/2vTk8iL>



Finding Flint

It’s been more than 1,000 days since Flint, Mich. residents could turn on their tap and drink clean water.

In 2015, the EPA notified Flint officials that dangerous amounts of lead had been discovered in the city’s drinking water. Residents had reported strange rashes on their children and other mysterious illnesses. Two years later, Flint residents must still drink bottled water.

Students from the **Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies** department spent part of their Spring Break traveling to Flint to report on the water crisis. These are the stories of the people of Flint.

<http://findingflint.mediamilwaukee.com/>

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In the Media

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Jeffrey Sommers (Africology & Global Studies) delivered several political economy presentations and invited guest lectures on the connection between the supply-side revolution and the emergence of populism in the U.S. at the European Planetary Science Congress in Riga, Latvia; the University of Tartu in Estonia; the Tallinn Technical University in Estonia; the University of Latvia; and the Stockholm School of Economics. He also served as event moderator at departments of Economics and Political Science in Latvia and Estonia, and at Mount Holyoke College's Alumni Association.

Postdoctoral researcher **Jeremy Copperman (Physics)** was part of a research team that identified a universality to the way that proteins move within cells, despite the proteins' vastly different functions. The discovery was reported on BrightSurf (<http://bit.ly/2yNhubt>) and Science Newsline (<http://bit.ly/2gKHfjc>).

UWM physicists, including **Patrick Brady and David Kaplan (Physics)**, aided in the detection of the collision of two neutron stars millions of years ago. The discovery prompted headlines worldwide, including in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (<http://bit.ly/2gjcwcG>) and *Discover Magazine* (<http://bit.ly/2yuRkKo>).

Rachel Buff (History) voiced her concerns with several recent decisions by the UW System Board of Regents in a blog post reprinted by the Academe Blog. <http://bit.ly/2x36cg0>

Digging through the trash has never been so enlightening. Members of the **Anthropology Department**, including director of Cultural Resource Management services **John Richards**, have been excavating a 19th-century Irish homestead's trash pile. Richards recently presented his findings to descendants of the original settlers' family, according to *Waupaca County News*. <http://bit.ly/2gjj0bh>

Western Michigan University's loss is our gain: The university ran a story lauding their recent graduate **Ian Brown's (Physics)** contribution to the ongoing research into gravitational waves with UW-Milwaukee as a graduate student. <http://bit.ly/2yFc16T>

Encyclopedia Milwaukee editors **Amanda Seligman and Margo Anderson (both History)** released the encyclopedia's entry for UW-Milwaukee in October. The encyclopedia is an ever-growing reference source for all things pertaining to the city. Read how the university came to be at <https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/university-of-wisconsin-milwaukee/>

Increasing Wisconsin's gas tax is the best solution to pay for fixing the state's roads, **William Holahan (emeritus Economics)** argued in an opinion piece for the *Tahlequah Daily Press* (<http://bit.ly/2gyV9Ew>). Holahan also expressed his concern that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to take a more "business-like" approach to hiring UW leadership threatens the UW-System's academic excellence. (<http://bit.ly/2iBOMOE>)

Jean Creighton (Planetarium) went on WUWM to discuss the recently-detected collision of two neutron stars. <http://bit.ly/2lmWdB1>

Bryan Burlingame ('16, MS Atmospheric Science) was highlighted as one example of a young professional educated in Milwaukee who returned to the city for its reasonable cost of living in a *Shepherd Express* article pondering how to raise Milwaukee's national prestige. <http://bit.ly/2yNwvuM>

Jennifer Jordan (Sociology) will give two talks in November, including "Life and Death in the Garden: Complexity and Uncertainty in the Study of Remembering and Forgetting" at Northwestern University on Nov. 2, and "Edible Memory: How Tomatoes Became Heirlooms and Apples Became Antiques" at the Sugar Maple in Bay View on Nov. 13, as part of the Underground Science Society of Milwaukee.



UWM Linguistics and the Wisconsin accent

Is it pronounced "bag" or "bay-g" when you're referring to the sack you use to carry groceries? **Garry Davis (Linguistics)** talked with WUWM about the history and nuance of the Wisconsin accent. <http://bit.ly/2h3txZc>

People in print

T. Nguyen, M. Wu, J. Lew, M.D. Albaugh, K.N. Botteron, J.J. Hudziak, V.S. Fonov, D.L. Collins, **Benjamin Campbell** (**Anthropology**), L. Booij, C. herba, P. Monnier, S. Ducharme, and J.T. McCracken. 2017. Dehydroepiandrosterone may impact working memory by shaping cortico-hippocampal structure covariance during development. *Psyoneuroendocrinology*, 86: 110-121. <http://bit.ly/2gCalvV>

Clark Evans (**Mathematical Sciences**), Kimberly M. Wood, Sim D. Aberson, ... and Fuging Zhang. 2017. The Extratropical Transition of Tropical Cyclones. PartI: Cyclone Evolution and Direct Impacts. *Monthly Weather Review*, 145(11): 4317-4344. <http://bit.ly/2g8XJRF>

Agustin Fuentes, Jason De Leon, **Tracey Heatherington**, **Bernard Perley** (**both Anthropology**), Alex W. Rodriguez, and Sarah Rowe. 2017. What's in Your Bag? *Anthropology News*. <http://bit.ly/2hbEdrr>

Ryan B. Holifield and **Michael J. Day** (**Geography**). 2017. A framework for a critical physical geography of 'sacrifice zones': Physical landscapes and discursive spaces of frac sand mining in western Wisconsin. *Geoforum*, 85: 269-279. <http://bit.ly/2we5n7u>

John Heywood (**Economics**), Uwe Jirjahn, and Cornelia Struewing. 2017. Locus of Control and Performance Appraisal. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 142: 220-225. <http://bit.ly/2ykomv0>

Jeffrey Sommers (**Africology & Global Studies**). 2017. Donald Trump and Steve Bannon's Russia Policy Explained: Bend or Break, Expect Change. *World Financial Review*, March/April: 56-59. <http://bit.ly/2m3QDP4>

Passings

World War II veteran, American immigrant, restaurant-owner, and UWM graduate Hans Weissgerber, Sr., passed away in October at the age of 100.

Wiessgerber, a native of Yugoslavia, endured a harrowing term of service in the Serbian military during World War II. After the war, he and his family immigrated to South Bend, Ind., and later moved to Milwaukee where they founded the Golden Mast Restaurant in 1961. They went on to found several other restaurants, including the Edelweiss dinner river boat. Weissgerber also attended UW-Milwaukee where he majored in Economics and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1967.

To learn more about Weissgerber's life, visit <http://bit.ly/2z4IODC>.



Need help? Look here. Emergency assistance is available.

Thanks to a grant from Great Lakes Community Investments, UWM undergraduate students may apply for emergency grants of up to \$1,000 for non-academic expenses that are preventing the student from achieving academic success. Typical situations which fall under this grant may include:

- Emergency car repairs needed so that student can get to class
- Unexpected medical expenses
- Food shortage so that the student can get necessary nutrition
- And other similar emergencies

More information about the grant can be found at <http://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/assistance/uwm-emergency-grant/>. Online applications may be submitted at <https://uwm.dreamkeepers.org/> or in-person application may be made in the Dean of Students Office (Mellancamp 118).



Laurels, Accolades, and Grants

PhD student **Kitonga Alexander (Africology)** garnered one of the inaugural “Positively Milwaukee” awards lauding those “who do the most for our community.” Alexander received his award in October during a ceremony at the Harley Davidson Museum. He is pictured to the left.

<http://bit.ly/2gPr8Ey>

Christine Evans (History) received an honorable mention from the USC Book Prize in Literary and Cultural Studies for her book *Between Truth and Time: A History of Soviet Central Television*.

<http://bit.ly/2gng7Gn>

Neal Pease (History) has been invited by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of International Information Programs to speak in Warsaw and four other Polish cities on “Regional Security: U.S. Polish Relations,” from Nov. 4-11.

The *Financial Times*, the first Iranian English economic daily publication, recognizes **Mohsen Bahmani Oskouyi (Economics)** as the second-most widely cited Iranian economist in the world. <http://bit.ly/2yMykYL>

Madhusudan Dey (Biological Sciences) received a \$1.3 million grant for his four-year project entitled “Regulating the Unfolded Protein Response in Yeast.” The funder is the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ching-Hong Yang (Biological Sciences) is part of a team that received a \$459,978 federal grant to study and combat fire blight, a disease that can kill apple trees or significantly decrease their yields. <http://bit.ly/2zineYp>



Alumni Accomplishments



Luis Arreaga

Luis Arreaga ('81, PhD Economics) was recently named the U.S. ambassador to Guatemala. Arreaga has previously served as the ambassador to Iceland. The appointment brings Arreaga full-circle; he is a Guatemalan immigrant who gained U.S. citizenship in 1975. <http://bit.ly/2yu6LB7>

Bryan Dranzik ('93, BA Political Science; '98, MA Urban Planning (School of Architecture)) was appointed the new director of General Mitchell International Airport by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele. Dranzik previously served as the airport’s interim director and currently chairs the board of Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc., as a commissioner for Milwaukee County on the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. <http://bit.ly/2xK2Vqm>

Aimee Fifarek ('91, BA English; '97, MA English and MLIS) was chosen as the new director of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County in Youngstown, Ohio. Fifarek will be leaving her current job as the deputy director of Information Technology and Digital Initiatives at the Phoenix Public Library in Arizona. <http://bit.ly/2x5qfKM>

Michelle Wenninger ('05, BA History) joined the law firm of Zacherl, O’Malley & Endejan in Fond Du Lac. She will assist clients with criminal defense matters, contract and business law issues, Social Security and bankruptcy.

<http://fondul.ac/2y0C7xk>

Brad Giemza ('95, BA Geography) was appointed the Managing Director and Chief Risk Officer of R.J. O’Brien & Associates, the oldest independent futures brokerage and clearing firm in the United States. Based in Chicago, RJO will have Giemza lead the risk department and chair the corporate risk committee. <http://bit.ly/2h8Cr7H>

Jonathan Richie ('15, BA History) was named the new editor of the *Burnett County Sentinel*. He previously covered local government for the *Waukesha Freeman* before accepting this position. <http://bit.ly/2gPmeY6>

Alum's concussion research

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McCrea performed postdoctoral work at Northwestern University. That's where he met Dr. James Kelly, one of the first researchers to study sports concussion and now a professor of neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

"Mike is a guy who had an interest and took charge," Kelly says. "He is so confident and smart. He's completely self-propelled. We became peers far earlier than normal."

McCrea and Kelly teamed with Christopher Randolph, a clinical professor of neurology at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, on concussion-related research as far back as 1994. That was some two decades before the topic gained any significant public attention.

McCrea was lead author for their research paper on standardized assessment of concussion. It set guidelines for concussion management in sports and was adopted by the American Academy of Neurology. It's become the world's most widely-used concussion assessment tool, Kelly says.

McCrea finished his postdoctoral work and returned to Milwaukee, where he spent 15 years at ProHealth Care. He also had a faculty appointment at the Medical College of Wisconsin and became full-time there in 2011.

He's continuing his game-changing concussion research as one of three principal investigators in a landmark \$30 million initiative. Known as the Concussion Assessment, Research and Education Consortium, or CARE, it's funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Defense and the NCAA. CARE research takes place at more than 30 sites nationwide, including four U.S. military service academies and a mix of NCAA Division I, II and III institutions. Baseline assessments are conducted on all male and female athletes from every sport on each campus. At the service academies, all cadets are enrolled, including non-athletes. Any participant who sustains a concussion undergoes detailed evaluations at various points after the injury.

"This helps us develop evidence-based approaches for assessment, returning to play and rehabilitation," McCrea says. He pauses for a moment and shakes his head a bit. He's reminded how it used to be standard practice for concussed athletes to return in the same game or practice. "That's a rare occurrence these days," McCrea adds. "There are now resources to guide everyone in the management of this injury."

McCrea's portion of the CARE initiative focuses on six of the sites, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the U.S. Air Force Academy and West Point. All football players at the six sites are equipped with helmet telemetry that records the location, duration and magnitude of every head impact they sustain.

That helps researchers study concussion's effects on brain structure and function. They're also looking at how long it takes the brain to recover from symptoms and function normally. And the assessment goes beyond how an athlete feels to include MRIs and blood biomarkers. The results will create better guidelines for returning to action after a concussion.

McCrea knows the increased attention on concussion has sparked fervent responses, including calls from some corners to abolish sports such as football, where concussion is especially prevalent. He respectfully disagrees.

"I think there's great value in participation in all competitive sports and that the benefits far outweigh the risks," McCrea says. "Concussion has dominated the conversation in sports medicine these days, but when I think of public health matters in sports, there are other important issues, too, like overuse injuries in all levels of athletics, including youth sports."

He knows how much progress has been made in his field, and how a better public understanding will continue to push things forward.



Dr. Michael McCrea has changed the field of traumatic brain injury research. He has earned an international recognition and received the UWM Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

<https://youtu.be/aUU-YNgz90>