

40 years after starting college, psychology student finally graduates

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

It's never too late to graduate.

That was the experience of Christine Lyons, who started at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the 1970s and finally graduated in May 2018.

She had started working on her psychology degree at UWM and was pretty much finished when she dropped out of school in 1979 to take care of her father, who was ailing. Then, life happened. She got married, moved to California and took a job where the degree wasn't absolutely essential.

"I sort of put it on the back burner for 20 years. It was just unfinished business," said Lyons, who is now approaching 60.

Meanwhile, she has built a successful career at Starbucks, working as a district manager in the San Francisco area.

Then, two things happened that led her back to UWM to finish that psychology degree she'd started so long ago.

'Why didn't you?'

The College of Letters and Science at UWM began reaching out to students like Lyons who were just a few credits short of a degree, offering to help them find a way to finish up.

And Lyons' daughter was in college. As Lyons encouraged her to stick with her education and finish up, her daughter asked, "Why didn't you?"

[Continued on page 11](#)



Christine Lyons (left) talks with Starbucks store managers Talia Serefidin and Patrick Tucker. Lyons is a district manager for Starbucks in the San Francisco area. (Photo courtesy of Christine Lyons)

CONTENTS

Feature Stories

Graduating after forty years.....	p.1
New dean for Letters & Science ..	p.2
Geography and satellites	p.3
Alum founds Nigerian boutique..	p.4
PhD lands Fulbright for <i>Foibe</i>	p.5
History alum at Guardian Art.....	p.6
Student study for bird strikes	p.8

Columns

Scholarship Success.....	p.7
Congratulations graduates!	p.9
Alumni Accomplishments	p.10
In the Media	p.12
Laurels, Accolades, & Grants ...	p.14
People in Print.....	p.14
Phi Beta Kappa induction.....	p.15

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UWM names new dean of the College of Letters & Science

By Angela McManaman, University Relations

UW-Milwaukee has named Scott Gronert incoming dean of its College of Letters & Science, effective Aug. 1.

Gronert, associate dean for research in the College of Humanities and Science at Virginia Commonwealth University, has begun preparing his 11-year-old twins for a move to the Midwest and initiated research on Wisconsin's biking trails.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity at UWM because UWM offers broad access to a high-quality education from a faculty dedicated to teaching and scholarship. It is a transformative place that makes a real difference in students' lives," he said.

A chemist and native Californian who earned his PhD at UC-Berkeley, Gronert conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Colorado and taught for 16 years at San Francisco State University. He accepted a professorship at VCU in 2009, progressing from professor to department chair to associate dean for research in seven years. His accomplishments include:

- \$21 million in research awards collegewide in 2016-17
- Ten percent increase in grant applications collegewide
- Increase in chemistry bachelor's degrees awarded, from 59 in 2009 to 134 in 2015, resulting in the department becoming the No. 2 Chemistry Department in the U.S. for baccalaureate chemistry degrees awarded to women and No. 3 in the U.S. for baccalaureate degrees awarded to African-Americans.

His research in organic and biological chemistry has been recognized with a Fulbright Scholarship and distinguished research award from the American Chemical Society, Virginia region, in 2016. He is an associate member of VCU's Massey Cancer Center.

He says he most looks forward to partnering with faculty and students at UWM..

"I have had wonderful interactions with faculty, staff and students during my visits to UWM and am eager to call it my new academic home," Gronert said. "I will be joining a college with many success stories, and my goal is to build on that success. I look forward to working with the faculty and staff on innovative ways to continue enhancing student success and academic scholarship across the many disciplines of the College of Letters & Science."

Gronert has never lived in the Midwest, but his parents are Chicago natives who honeymooned in Milwaukee in the 1950s. When he relocates to Milwaukee this summer, he'll be joined by his wife, Heidi, son, daughter, the family goldendoodle and several bicycles.



Scott Gronert

Geography professor tracks green on the ground and in space

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

High above the earth, a small satellite is orbiting the planet and taking pictures of the Amazon Rainforest, the Andes Mountains, and UWM's Downer Woods.

UWM is part of an international collaboration working with data collected by VEN μ S (Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New MicroSatellite). Administered by the Israeli and French space agencies, the satellite is designed to both test new technologies and collect data on a range of scientific interests.

"What we are particularly interested in is the multi-spectral optical sensor that allows us to determine phenology metrics from vegetation indices," said UWM Geography professor Alison Donnelly. "This helps us track the greenness of the vegetation and estimate the start and end of the growing season."

That's where Downer Woods comes in to play. The wooded area on the northern edge of campus provides the perfect test bed to assess the accuracy of the satellite sensors in detecting green vegetation below.

"We need to be in Downer Woods every second day during spring and autumn making direct visual observations of shrubs and trees in order to determine when the buds begin to open and leaves emerge as the woodland transitions from brown to green," Donnelly said. "We will compare these observations to the satellite data."

"That's why we were selected," she added. "Our proposal to the VEN μ S team was to help validate their phenology product."

Joining the team

Donnelly applied to take part in the project at the prompting of a former graduate student, Rong Yu. Together, the two submitted a proposal to the VEN μ S team in 2015.

"We didn't hear anything for nearly three years," Donnelly said. "It was just that it takes a long time to get a satellite into space. They let us know in May 2017 that our proposal was successful. Out of hundreds of proposals, ours was identified as useful for validating their phenology product."

The next step was to procure funding so that Donnelly could perform the research the team required. She needs manpower to collect data and analyze, test, and validate it, so she applied for a UWM Research Growth Initiative grant and received it in April. With that money, Donnelly will be able to hire Yu. Together with a graduate student Chloe Rehberg, they will process their findings and present them at both national and international conferences.

Gathering data, looking at leaves

To ensure that the satellite is getting an accurate picture of the vegetation on the ground, Donnelly traverses Downer Woods on foot, noting when shrubs and trees put out buds and leaves. She'll take the average of the data from the ground observations to calculate one 'greening' number – a percentage of foliage that she can compare to the satellite's averages.

UWM Geography professor Alison Donnelly takes note of the sprouting leaves in Downer Woods in early spring. (UWM Photo/Elora Hennessey)

[Continued on page 15](#)



A friendship turns to internship and job at Usman La'Aro

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

There's a little slice of Nigeria down on Brady Street.

It's inside a small shop called Usman La'Aro, where brilliant colors and bold patterns grace the clothing racks. Every dress, shirt, skirt, and other piece of clothing is handmade and imported from Lagos, Nigeria.

Behind the front counter sits UWM alum Simbi La'Aro, whose family owns the business. At her side is her intern-turned-coworker and best friend, Andrew Roznowski. Together, they're trying to change the way Milwaukee sees clothing, business owners, and commerce.

"We want to show people different stuff. We want to show African American business owners in a different light," La'Aro says. "We decided to open our arms to all types of people, to anybody willing to listen and open up their eyes and understand."

All of La'Aro's offerings feature fabrics straight out of Lagos, Nigeria. It's the hometown of La'Aro's father, for whom the shop is named. La'Aro flies out several times a year to scour marketplaces

for new colors and patterns, spending hours at a time looking to find the perfect prints. Several are from the local tribes – patterns unique to the Yoruba or the Igbo tribes, for example.

"Shopping for the fabric is always a rush," she says. "It's miles and miles of fabric."

The clothes themselves are a blend of traditional West African cuts and American styles. La'Aro has button-down shirts hung alongside traditional Nigerian shirts meant to be worn for everything from weddings to casual Fridays.

La'Aro designs the clothes herself, and she also offers custom tailoring, just like how clothes are usually ordered and made in Nigeria.

"It gives you that old feeling of being back home," La'Aro said.

All of the clothes are available for viewing and ordering on the Usman La'Aro website – thanks to Roznowski.

He and La'Aro have been friends since second grade. They grew up in Green Bay before separately making their way to Milwaukee. La'Aro was enticed to UWM with a scholarship for track. She started school intending to be a nurse, but she switched her major to Political Science halfway through and graduated in 2015.

[Continued on page 5](#)



Usman La'Aro owner Simbi La'Aro ('15, BA Political Science) and her friend and director of operations Andrew Roznowski ('18, BA Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies) arrange a rack of clothing at the shop on Brady Street. (UWM Photo/Alexis Amenson)



PhD grad gets Fulbright to study *foibe*

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

On the border between Italy and Slovenia are a series of vertical caves called *foibe* that were used as mass graves during World War II. Italy recently constructed a monument honoring the victims of what the country calls “an Italian genocide,” an ethnic cleansing of Italians killed by Yugoslavian forces under the communist leader Tito during the war.

There’s just one problem – according to Slovenia, the bodies recovered from the *foibe* are also Yugoslavians killed by Tito’s forces, as well as Italian Fascist officials. This calls into question Italy’s “genocide” interpretation that suggests Italians were killed just for being “ethnically” Italian.

And therein lies the focus of Louise Zamparutti’s Fulbright award for her research, “The *Foibe* in Slovenia and Italy: Identity, Division, and Reconciliation.” Fulbright awards are the premier educational grants for international study and research.



Louise Zamparutti

“[For the Fulbright,] I’m researching what Slovenia thinks of the Italian interpretation of the *foibe* and looking at some ways to provide reconciliation,” Zamparutti said. She graduated with her PhD in English this month.

The project grew out of her doctoral thesis, which focused on the initial controversy surrounding the Italian monument to the *foibe*. The country was fiercely divided about the historical facts surrounding the burial sites, and the monument, championed by the far-right movement in Italy, was the subject of deep political rancor. By the time it was built, however, the nationalistic sentiment driving the project had been normalized.

Zamparutti was presenting her research on the monument at a European conference when a colleague suggested that she apply for the prestigious grant. Zamparutti had to submit a research proposal, find a Slovenian university to sponsor her, and gather references from Slovenian academics.

She found out she’d been selected on April 12, after she’d already accepted a tenure-track position teaching English at UW-La Crosse.

“I was stunned,” Zamparutti said. “I just sat there and stared at the email.”

Zamparutti will put her teaching career on hold for a year while she lives and studies in Slovenia. She has high ambitions for her research focusing on how Slovenians are reacting to Italy’s version of the *foibe*.

“They have made attempts at reconciling with Italy, and the Italians have not been very responsive,” Zamparutti said. “I’m very interested in talking with young people, high school and university students, and finding out what they learn about World War II in their classes. I also want to talk to the oldest people I can find – World War II survivors or their children.”

Though she doesn’t expect to solve all of the region’s problems through her research, Zamparutti hopes that her work might help people of both countries understand each other a little better in hopes of future reconciliation.

Usman La’Aro

continued from page 4

Roznowski followed her a couple of years later. He worked part time with Americorps in Milwaukee and found that he enjoyed the city. Inspired by his travels through South America, Roznowski majored in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latin@ Studies and minored in Africology at UWM. He graduated this month.

When La’Aro needed extra help with the business, Roznowski was the obvious choice. She could try out using an intern with a friend she knew and trusted, and Roznowski could gain business skills and acumen.

“Simbi has given me a lot of freedom to find what role I fit best,” Roznowski said. “She’s guiding me and training me in skills I never thought were important.”

Roznowski handles much of the digital work of the business – digital design, social media, and photography for the store’s website, for example. He’s traveled to Nigeria with her to shop for fabrics and, upon graduation, was hired as the director of operations for the boutique.

Working in the shop has been an eye-opening experience for Roznowski.

“Before I started working with Simbi, I almost considered fashion to be frivolous, but today I see it as part of our human makeup,” he said.

That’s why he and La’Aro are gratified to see the warm reception they’ve received since moving to the Brady Street location. The avenue is a popular destination for tourists, so Usman La’Aro has seen an international clientele alongside customers from Milwaukee.

That’s a great thing, La’Aro says. She wants everyone, regardless of their ethnicity or racial background, to feel like they can wear Usman La’Aro clothing with pride without being afraid that they’re being insensitive or appropriating another culture.

“The people who live and breathe this clothing every day, when they see a white person enjoying their clothing style, they’re really excited about that,” she said. “Nigeria has the best designers. Simple as that.”

History alumna becomes an art Guardian

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

If you want to make her day, ask Katie Steffan about her box work. She's a self-taught archival box constructor and proud of it.

"I watched a YouTube video and kind of just ran with it," she joked. "I guarantee that if you use my custom box, whatever you put in it will last a lot longer than if it wasn't in my box."

It's one of the reasons she's so good at her job as the registrar at Guardian Fine Art Services.

Steffan is one of an eight-person team working at Guardian, which opened on W. St. Paul Avenue in 2017. Founded by John Shannon, an art collector and the husband of UWM alumna Jan Serr, the company provides storage facilities for art, helps collectors manage their art pieces, and even crates and packs art for shipping, among other services – like creating custom archival boxes.

Steffan has no background in art history. Luckily, she doesn't need to; she just needs to know how to protect the pieces in Guardian's care.

Registrars are responsible for implementing procedures and policies that dictate the care of collections under their purview. With the small size of Guardian's team, Steffan shoulders more responsibilities than most. From managing paperwork to implementing proper storage techniques to coding alarm systems to monitoring the HVAC system, she is tasked with ensuring the total safety of the art stored on-site.

"That's what I love doing – protecting things and making sure they're going to be around as long as possible," she said. "My role is to make sure the objects are cared for at museum-quality standards."

That means she has to know the proper way to store any type of art, paying attention to the temperature of the facility, the humidity in the air, how much light exposure the objects receive, and the type of materials they're packed in.

Her education was well-suited to the task; Steffan graduated from UWM in 2015 with her Master's in Public History and a certificate in Museum Studies. She completed internships at the Milwaukee Public Museum and met Guardian founder Shannon when she took an internship cataloging his personal collection, a treasure-trove of roughly 5,000 pieces of art.



History alumna Katie Steffan stands with some custom-made archival boxes in a work room at Guardian Fine art Services. Photo by Sarah Vickery.

[Continued on page 7](#)

Letters & Science celebrates scholarship success



The College of Letters & Science congratulated some of the college's "best and brightest" at the annual Scholarship Reception in April. More than 460 students and their friends and family were invited to be recognized for earning scholarships and awards.

The Reception was also a chance for students to meet several donors who personally, or through their organization, fund scholarships and awards that make it possible for students to complete their education.

Speakers for the evening included Nigel Rothfels, the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, and J. David Hoeveler, an emeritus professor of History and the sponsor of the J. David Hoeveler Merit Scholarship. Student speakers Madeline Jaekels, Dakota Crowell, and Jessye Hale talked about how their awards impacted their education at UWM.

<https://youtu.be/sXWW7O1WOYU>



Art Guardian

[continued from page 6](#)

When Shannon needed a team to staff Guardian Art Services when the facility opened in 2016, he tapped Steffan.

"I kind of just fell into it," she said. "I thought I was going to go into curation – that's the flashy museum job. The more I went into the program, the more I realized I'm definitely a registrar."

It's a demanding job; Steffan is on-call 24/7 to protect the art stored at Guardian. If the facility's motion sensors go off on a weekend or if HVAC system malfunctions at 3 a.m., for example, she has to be up and ready to fix it.

"If my environment isn't 70 degrees at 50 percent relative humidity, the art could be damaged, and we don't want that," she explained. "It's incredibly stressful ... [but] I love this job. I never knew this was a job someone could have. I didn't know art storage facilities existed. ... I don't do 'history', but the skills I learned from the UWM History Department are incredibly important to my job."

That includes skills like thinking through problems and understanding how to research and analyze art pieces. To protect client privacy, Steffan can't discuss what kind of art is stored on Guardian's premises, but some of the collections she's seen "I couldn't believe we were getting to work with."

Her job is rather unique, but she does have some advice for people looking to break into similar fields.

"Be known as the person who works very hard," she advised. "I can't stress the importance of internships and jobs. You have to be willing to learn every day."

Even if that learning is how to run an HVAC system or construct an archival box.

When data is for the birds

By Pam Seiler, University Relations

Erica Gerloski remembers reading a book by famed ornithologist John James Audubon when she was in the fifth grade.

“I loved what he wrote and the pictures that he painted,” says the UWM junior, a conservation and environmental science major, “and I told people that I wanted to be an ornithologist when I grew up.”



Erica Gerloski and Glen Fredlund look at modifications made to windows prone to bird strikes at the School of Architecture & Urban Planning building. (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

an online map. They can zero in on places that are particularly hazardous for birds, which helps them devise solutions.

“GIS software has a wide range of applications,” Fredlund says, “so for students to gain real-world skills with these tools is really valuable.”

They also gain a deeper appreciation for the birds’ plight.

“I remember one morning,” Gerloski says, “Professor Fredlund and I saw seven birds, including two golden-crowned kinglets, all in one spot under the skywalk between the Union and Bolton Hall, and it was so sad to see those little guys.” The skywalk has highly reflective glass, suspected as a strong contributing factor in bird strikes. Modifications to windows at a problem spot on the School of Architecture & Urban Planning building have already been made, and they’re having a positive effect.

Engineering students are creating cost-effective cameras to monitor other problem areas, which will provide more precise data on strikes.

“It’s almost impossible to simply look at a building and know where and why these strikes occur,” says Fredlund, who partners with architecture faculty members Filip Tejchman and Mike Utzinger to lead the bird-collision study. “It’s only through data collection that we can identify those variables, measure which ones are larger problems and determine those that we can cost-effectively mitigate.”

All the while, Gerloski gains research experience while tackling an issue close to her heart. “I really enjoy working on environmental problems while being in the heart of a city,” she says, “and this project has definitely opened my eyes to other career possibilities.”

These days, she’s helping the birds she loves by gathering data on dead ones around UWM’s campus. It’s research directed by Glen Fredlund, a UWM associate professor of geography, aimed at reducing collisions between birds and buildings. Such strikes kill between 365 million and 988 million birds annually in the United States.

Fredlund’s team – which includes students studying conservation, geography and architecture – wants to reduce that toll, especially at UWM. He and undergraduate volunteers started using clipboards and paper maps in 2014 to record bird strike data on campus. Now, students like Gerloski record data through a mobile app that uses geographical information systems software and is instantly uploaded to





Congratulations to the class of 2018!

We would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to all of the UWM students who graduated on May 20, 2018, and especially to our graduates from the College of Letters & Science. These students have shown incredible dedication to their studies and we wish them the brightest futures as they take their next steps in life.

Featured here are some of our graduates who have accomplished great feats during their college careers, or who have already been hired and are beginning their professional careers.



A car crash left Abbey Palmer unable to continue her career as a massage therapist, so she decided to pursue her love of languages and linguistics at UWM. That opened up a world of possibility and adventure.

She's traveled to China and Russia the past two summers, buttressing her minors in those languages. She's taught English to refugees. And now she's heading to England to pursue a master's degree at the University of Oxford.

"I am both proud and amazed of where I am right now," Palmer said. "I'm going places and I've been places just in the past few years that I never thought about them as possibilities."

UWM is a family affair for Palmer. Two daughters — one a freshman, the other a sophomore — attend the university as well. "It's really cool spending time with my daughters on campus," Palmer said.

<https://youtu.be/Zeunvoj8YE>

Christy Lueck, a Conservation and Environmental Science major graduating with her BS, has been hired full-time as a plant health care technician by Wachtel Tree Service. She will be removing buckthorn, an invasive plant, and treating infested areas with other plant care techniques. (UWM Photo/Alexis Amenson)



Vianca Fuster, a Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies major, has been with 88Nine Radio Milwaukee as an intern since 2016 and was hired full-time in September 2017. As a multimedia producer, she primarily works on Community Stories, an audio and video series that highlights people and places in Milwaukee. (UWM Photo/Alexis Amenson)



Little by little, task by task, Urban Studies major Dakota Crowell is finding ways to make the world a better place.

Surveys suggest that at UWM, as at other universities, up to half of students don't have enough food at some point during their time in college. Crowell decided to do something about it by helping create a food pantry on campus. In its first year, the pantry collected more than 5,000 pounds of food and served some 120 students.

During an internship at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, he's worked on making railroad trail crossings safer.

"I've just been really grateful that someone like me from a rural town would have the opportunity to go to a school like UW-Milwaukee, really try to explore my identity and what that means for my leadership and what I want to do for the future, and to take those skills and apply them to be a positive changemaker," Crowell said. <https://youtu.be/bbpuyJlabAY>

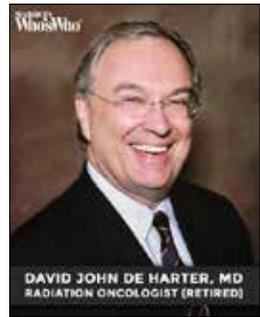


★ Alumni Accomplishments

Angela Eder ('01, BS Chemistry) was elected to the International Association of Women's VIP Influencer of the Year Circle for her leadership in entrepreneurship. The IAW is a global network comprising nearly one million members.

<https://bit.ly/2JjcgGP>

David J. de Harter ('64, BS Zoology) was named a distinguished biographee of Marquis Who's Who in May. Chosen for his outstanding medical career, contributions to the field of radiation oncology, and commitment to philanthropy, deHarter joins a distinguished cohort of Who's Who chosen for their noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in their fields. <https://bit.ly/2L7avhO>



David de Harter

Mackenzie Renner ('04, BA Journalism and Theater) directed "The Laramie Project" performed by the Lakeside Players, which ran two weekends in April at the Rhode Center for the Arts. <https://bit.ly/2Ka0ffc>

Alexander Rassogianis ('82, MA History) book, *The Entrepreneurial Spirit of the Greek Immigrant in Chicago, Illinois 1900-1930*, was referenced in *A Nation of Peoples: A Sourcebook on America's Multicultural Heritage* by Elliott Robert Barkan.

Laurie Zacharias ('07, BA Communication) joined the *Fond Du Lac Reporter* staff as the community content specialist in charge of Action Publications. She also works as a website developer and web communication specialist in Waupun, Wisconsin.

<https://fondulac.com/2HlmBpg>



Paul Nelson

Paul A. Nelson ('66, BS Economics) achieved emeritus status, retiring this year after more than 45 years as a Professor of Economics at Michigan Technological University. He served on several university committees and as a faculty advisor for clubs on campus during his tenure.

Kara van de Graaf ('15, PhD English) received glowing reviews for her debut collection of poetry, *Spitting Image*, from *The Beachwood Reporter*. The review also includes an interview with van de Graaf discussing her work. <https://bit.ly/2rgDA19>

Brice Smith ('10, PhD History) was invited to read from and discuss his book, *Lou Sullivan: Daring to be a Man Among Men*, at A Room of One's Own bookstore in Madison in May. Smith's book is a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards recognizing books on LGBTQ themes. <https://bit.ly/2InLbWm>

Gary Nosacek ('78, BA Mass Communication) knows the value of a great adventure. He was featured on the Medicare Allies website in an article exploring his travels to France, Italy, and Israel. Gary talked about finding a "circus family" during his trips and also spoke on his upcoming trip to Uganda to work with a new medical clinic. <https://bit.ly/2JrDOtU>

Maria de Jesus Dixon ('00, BA Political Science) joined the Washington State University campus as the new assistant director in College Success Foundation Scholars and Passport Scholars, two student-success programs. She will help award scholarships and assistance to low-income families and students from the foster-care system. <https://bit.ly/2KHxY9a>

Leslie Brothers ('87, BA Art History) was named the director of the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University in Kansas. She takes over on June 18, leaving her previous job as the director of the McDonough Museum of Art at Youngstown State University's Center for Contemporary Art. <https://bit.ly/2lhWNuE>



Leslie Brothers

Olivia Boeck ('16, MA History and Certificate in Museum Studies) joined the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern unit as a forest ranger. She previously worked with the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use. <https://fondulac.com/2wu9GMX>

Richelle Martin ('06, BA Art History, Political Science, and Psychology) launched the Winnow Fund in May, a new venture capital fund based in Madison, Wisconsin that will invest in college entrepreneurs statewide. <https://bit.ly/2GfcXzc>

Joanne Raj ('17, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) has unlocked the power of the pooch on Instagram. She and her dog, Leviathan, are considered Instagram "influencers" and were featured in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article exploring the phenomenon. <https://bit.ly/2KNEDEs>

[Continued on page 11](#)

Forty years to graduation

[continued from page 1](#)

So, working with Deanna Alba, assistant dean of Letters & Science, and others in the college, Lyons was able to figure out what she needed to do to finish, though it took almost a year to get everything in order. Community college classes Lyons had taken in California were counted toward her requirements, and she ended up needing only one more psychology course to finish her degree – a class that was offered online. And she received a scholarship to help cover the cost.

“I was so impressed with all that UWM was able to do for me,” said Lyons. “To make it possible for me to graduate after all this time is really pretty remarkable.”

Lyons’ journey isn’t unique, Alba said.

“Individuals can get detoured from their college journey for any number of reasons,” said Alba. “After some years pass, many are not aware of how close they really are to a degree. Or, they may not know about financial aid options and flexible formats such as online classes that can help them achieve their goal.”

The College of Letters & Science routinely contacts former students to inform them of their options and offer support to get back on the path to a degree.

“Our goal is to turn deferred dreams into concrete and achievable action plans,” Alba said. “I couldn’t be happier for Christine – she got to graduation because of her motivation to jump on this opportunity and because of her own hard work in the classroom.”

Challenge met

Lyons did well in the 600-level lab class and has enjoyed getting back into academic work again. “The class reminded me why I started taking psychology in the first place and how much I enjoyed the academic environment and the field of research psychology in particular,” she said.

The coursework was challenging and the standards were high, but Lyons put forth her best effort.

“I will say that being older and balancing work/family has its advantages — namely well-developed planning skills and staying ahead rather than getting behind!” she wrote to Alba.

What she’s learned in completing her psychology degree has helped her career, and she’s encouraging those she works with to continue their own education. She manages employees who are in their teens and early 20s, and learning in class about what drives their behavior gives her new insights.

“I manage people, and I’m using my knowledge every day,” she said.



Christine Lyons stands with her daughter, Elizabeth, who helped inspire Lyons to complete her degree. Photo courtesy of Christine Lyons.

Alumni Accomplishments

[continued from page 10](#)

Mary Ryan ('04, BA Political Science) was inducted to the Virginia Tech chapter of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The society’s goal is to create a network of scholars and business professionals promoting leadership, scholarship, character, service, and advocacy for underrepresented students. <https://bit.ly/2rHYKFP>

Gordon Knuth ('77, MS Urban Affairs) joined Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.’s Milwaukee office after the organization added The Pillar Group from Morgan Stanley. Knuth has more than 35 years of industry experience. <https://bit.ly/2jtQMFU>

Rebecca Schimke ('09, Master of Liberal Studies) was featured as *Urban Milwaukee*’s “Newaukeeian of the Week” in May. Schimke is a marketing coordinator for Palermo’s Pizza. <https://bit.ly/2L7zFN5>

Joe Hepe ('05, BA English) took over as the chef at I.d. Bar and Restaurant inside the Delafield Hotel in Delafield, Wisconsin, in July. He was featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*’s “Table Chat” column for his culinary skills. <https://bit.ly/2lLhBDN>

In the Media and Around the Community

Ruth Page Jones ('15, MA History) told the story of the advent of women's suffrage in South Dakota to mark the event's centennial for the Center for Western Studies annual conference at Augustana University in April. <https://bit.ly/2FblrH4>

A video co-created by **Rudi Strickler** (Biological Sciences) was used on NPR to show how migrations of tiny sea animals can create big channels in the water. <https://n.pr/2qJYTb0>

Scientists are redesigning a compound originally developed by **James Cook** (Chemistry & Biochemistry) to treat anxiety without dangerous side effects, according to Digital Journal. <https://bit.ly/2HXkC7A>

Nicholas Fleischer (Linguistics) has some criticisms for the state's performance-based funding plan for the UW System that he voiced in an article printed in the *La Crosse Tribune*. <https://bit.ly/2qWjyZw>

Wisconsin may face labor shortages in the future, but **Marc Levine** (History) doesn't think the state is in dire straits yet, he said in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article exploring Wisconsin's immigrant work force. <https://bit.ly/2Kd4iQY>

Archaeological evidence suggests that early hominids were responsible for depleting the populations of large mammals, **Ben Campbell** (Anthropology) told Mashable.com. If the trend continues, cows will eventually be the biggest mammal left on earth. <https://bit.ly/2J1NWcl>

Though alumnus **Kirk Schandelmeier** ('00, BA English) struggled with alcoholism and homelessness, friends and family remember him as a gifted poet and philosopher. Kirk passed away on the UWM campus in March. <https://bit.ly/2HrQfVl>



Erin Sahlstein Parcell

Erin Sahlstein Parcell (Communication) had a busy month as she presented a talk entitled, "Interpersonal communication is political" on a competitive panel and presented at the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Mentoring/Networking Session, all during the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in April in Milwaukee.

She also presented, "Microaggressions toward people with disabilities: Implications for inclusive education," with **Danielle Sparrow** ('17, MA Communication). Their paper won the Inaugural Dawn O. Braithwaite Award for Qualitative Research at the same meeting.

Parcell also presented, "Those who say new motherhood is natural, well, so is walking and that takes about a year to learn': Making sense of dissatisfaction during the transition to motherhood through relational dialectics theory" at the same meeting with **Valerie Cronin-Fisher** ('14, MA Communication).

Parcell and PhD student **Brittnie Peck** (Communication) presented, "Mental health and military marriage: Dilemmas faced in necessary conversations" to the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University in April. Student **Westly Klasen** (Women's and Gender Studies) contributed to the research via a UWM Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows grant.

When Jewish wealth was seized by Nazi Germany preceding World War II, it had far-reaching repercussions, as **Lisa Silverman** (History) was quoted in *Smithsonian Magazine*. <https://bit.ly/2HDpTQL>

Milwaukee County government should do more to increase openness and access to public meetings, **David Pritchard** (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) opined in a *Shepherd Express* article. <https://bit.ly/2rfdyvT>

The **Classics Program** was well-represented at Classics Day on May 4, hosted by UW-Madison. **Deanna Wesolowski** and **Renee Calkins** discussed teaching Classics to students from diverse backgrounds, and **Elisabetta Cova** joined a panel on Classical Archaeology. <https://bit.ly/2JMq78T>



Having a stressful day at college? **Erin Ruppel** (Communication) told Fox 6 News that students should try texting their parents after her research showed it decreased stress levels. <https://bit.ly/2KrStGb>

[Continued on page 13](#)

In the Media

[continued from page 12](#)

Rachael Jurek (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) discussed the common mistakes organizations can make when hiring interns and how to avoid them for *Rework*. <https://bit.ly/2JLze9P>

Sarah Kienzler, Sarah Weiland, Miranda Peterson, and Diane Reddy (all Psychology) presented, “Lower Self-efficacy Communicating with Physicians Predicted Women’s Contraceptive Experiences” at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science in San Francisco, California, in May.

Reddy also conducted a webinar entitled, “Accelerating Open Textbooks and Open Educational Resource Adoption to Increase Student Success” alongside Hanjoo Lee (Psychology) and Amy Mangrich as part of the UW System’s Learning Technology Development Council Virtual Showcase in April. In the same month, Reddy, Connie Schroeder, Devyani Gore and Sarah Kienzler (both Psychology) delivered an interactive presentation entitled, “Raising Student Success in Online, Blended, and Face-to-Face Courses” at the UW System Teaching and Learning Conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

On TheConversation.com, David Kaplan (Physics) penned a goodbye to – and an explanation of the science behind – the now-fading radio waves emitted from a binary neutron star merger that he and his colleagues have been observing. <https://bit.ly/2FEy1ic>

Insight on Business remembered the late Milton Huber’s (Urban Studies) legacy of helping hungry families in Wisconsin access fresh produce. <https://bit.ly/2w8YYLn>

Jennifer Jordan (Sociology) details her meticulous research on hops, the grains essential for beer brewing, in a guest blog for Consumers & Consumption, a section of the American Sociological Association. <https://bit.ly/2jHYkLH>

Enjoy a fresh experience in Milwaukee by visiting the Emile H. Mathis Gallery, overseen by the Art History department. The Gallery was featured on *Midwest Living’s* website highlighting Milwaukee attractions. <https://bit.ly/2rGABzY>

It’s been a while since a violent tornado last hit Wisconsin, and Tim Halbach (’01, BS; ’03, MS Atmospheric Science), a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, worries the state is due, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported. <https://bit.ly/2rrY4UF>

We must be more open to talking about mental health, especially in communities of color, graduate student Stephanie Baran (Sociology) said in a *Shepherd Express* article penned by student Nyesha Stone (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies). <https://bit.ly/2rtFuLP>

Gas prices are rising, so the U.S. may rely more on its own oil resources this summer, Shale Horowitz (Political Science) told CBS 58 News. <https://bit.ly/2jW2iRh>

Many schools and communities are reluctant to turn over concussion data in open-records requests, a problem for Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies students writing for *Media Milwaukee*, the Student Press Law Center reported. <https://bit.ly/2GcXv6E>

Viktorija Bilic (Foreign Languages and Literature) spoke on “The Immigrant Experience” at the May 7 meeting of the German Interest Group in Janesville, Wisconsin. <https://bit.ly/2L0jEsk>

CBS 58 News won a Wisconsin Broadcaster’s Association award for Best Sports Reporting for a segment featuring Nolan Kopkin (Africology), who explored the financial impact of losing a local football team. <https://bit.ly/2rLZ5b8>



Many women organized around the idea of motherhood, finding commonalities in mothers from all walks of life throughout history, Leslie Harris (Communication) told WUWM in time for Mother’s Day. (<https://bit.ly/2Gg32cv>)

She also revealed the origins of Mother’s Day on CBS 58 News. (<https://bit.ly/2rIIDHZ>)



Shale Horowitz



Laurels, Accolades, and Grants

Traci Billings ('16, MS Anthropology) was accepted into a funded three-year PhD program at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany, where she will be part of a team examining the use of psychoactive plants among the Steppe peoples in prehistory and early historic periods.

PhD candidate **Joshua Driscoll** (Anthropology) received a Graduate School Dissertation award and was just notified that his thesis project, "Strategic Drinking: Alcohol and Power in Iron Age Europe," will be funded by a Wenner-Gren grant, which supports anthropological research into humanity's biological and cultural origins.



Joshua Driscoll

Undergraduate student **Brielle Shortreed** (Mathematical Sciences and Biological Sciences) began a prestigious internship earlier this month at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where she is studying oceanic microbiology. Professor **Gabriella Pinter** (Mathematical Sciences) encouraged Shortreed to apply, and she beat out 260 other applicants for the position. <https://bit.ly/2llyhVE>

Graduate students **Sally Campos-Espejo** (Spanish), **Cheri Price** (Anthropology), and **Brock Splittergerber** (Spanish) have received the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Each student receives up to \$5,000 for tuition and a \$2,500 stipend for their summer studies on a less-commonly taught language.

PhD student **Patricia Torres Najera** (Urban Studies) was featured on CBS 58 News' "Sunday Morning Spotlight." She graduated in May, completing a long education journey that she hopes will serve as inspiration to non-traditional students. <https://bit.ly/2ICJPqO>



Adam Greenberg

Adam Greenberg (Psychology) received a grant award from the American Society of Breast Surgeons to support his project, "Leveraging Cognitive Science to Identify Biomarkers of 'Chemobrain.'" This is the second grant awarded to support Adam's work on the behavioral and neurological markers of cognitive decline associated with chemotherapy (chemobrain) in breast cancer patients.

Continuing their strong showing in awards season, WUWM journalists won 11 awards at the Milwaukee Press Club's annual awards ceremony, including four Gold (first place), three Silver (second place), and four Bronze (third place). In the category of "Best Writing in an Audio Story," WUWM took Gold, Silver, and Bronze. <https://bit.ly/2pr8WC7>

At the same event, student journalists in the **Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies** department scooped up eight first-place Gold awards and won the most collective awards of any Wisconsin university in this year's contest. <https://bit.ly/2rWvVFN>

People in print

Wei Wei (Mathematical Sciences). 2018. Properties of Stochastic Arrangement Increasing and Their Applications in Allocation Problems. *Risks*, 6(2): 49. <https://bit.ly/2HQVYJi>

Uk Heo (Political Science) and Terence Roehrig. 2018. Development Power Theory: The South Korean Case. *Pacific Focus*, 33(1):111-140. <https://bit.ly/2lembk6>

Stuart Moulthrop (English) and Dene Grigar. 2018. Tarversals: A Method of Preservation for Born-Digital Texts. Jentery Sayers (ed.). *The Routledge Companion to Media Studies and Digital Humanities*, New York, New York: Routledge Publishing: 351-361.

Stuart Moulthrop (English). 2018. "Just Not the Future:" Taking on Digital Writing. J. Aleander and J. Rhodes (eds.). *The Routledge Handbook of Digital Writing and Rhetoric*, New York, New York: Routledge Publishing: 445-456.

Tracey Heatherington (Anthropology). 2018. Reclaiming the public university in Wisconsin. *déjà lu*, 6. <https://bit.ly/2kl55Ui>

UWM inducts 56 students to Phi Beta Kappa



Above: Psychology major Shakai Reynolds shakes hands with Phi Beta Kappa treasurer Jim Klingbiel.

Middle left: Gabiella Cisneros, a Film and Spanish double-major, signs her name to the ranks of Phi Beta Kappa.

Middle right: Phi Beta Kappa member and Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Janet Protasiewicz ('85, BA History) delivers the address.

Right: Michael Sesini accepts congratulations from Klingbiel.

On April 23, 2018, 56 undergraduates were inducted into UWM's Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest honors society, recognizing academic excellence in the liberal arts and intellectual exploration. Eligibility is based on a record of breadth in coursework across the liberal arts and sciences, and a minimum 3.8 GPA for induction as a junior or a minimum 3.6 GPA for induction as a senior.

Only about 10% of colleges and universities in the U.S. have a chapter; in the UW-System, only Milwaukee and Madison have earned a chapter.

A satellite over Downer Woods

[continued from page 3](#)

But Donnelly's work doesn't stop with tracking when leaves appear. For instance, she's observing native and invasive species of shrubs to compare how they differ in leafing out. She also wants to expand the project in the coming years, working in conjunction with UW-Madison's flux tower in Park Falls, Wisconsin, which measures changing carbon dioxide levels in the surrounding atmosphere.

"We would then look at carbon flux in relation to the satellite data. Then we would have observations from the plants, we would have flux data, and we would also have satellite data," Donnelly said. "The idea is that once the leaves start to photosynthesize, they're taking carbon out of the atmosphere. As trees grow from zero leaf to full leaf, the rate of carbon dioxide they're absorbing increases, and decreases as the leaves start to color and fall off in autumn."

Combatting climate change and understanding ecosystems

The VEN μ S project and UWM's involvement have the potential to help scientists get a better understanding of the various ecosystems around the world, which is why it's so important that the satellite's sensors are precise.

"If we can validate the model on a small area, then we know that the satellite data over larger areas is pretty accurate," Donnelly explained. "It's important for us to understand how ecosystems work today. If we know what's happening today, then we can make reasonable projections of what will happen in the future."

Using the sensor will also help build on phenology-tracking research performed by UWM Distinguished Professor of Geography Mark Schwartz. His tools used to predict the start of spring across the country are instrumental in assessing how climate change is already affecting our environment.

"The satellite data will help us determine whether ecosystems are vulnerable or resilient to changes, whether it's climate-driven change or other changes," Donnelly said.



High overhead, a microsattelite is taking pictures of Downer Woods. (UWM Photo/Elora Hennessey)

