Chancellor Mone On Downer Woods

Many of you are familiar with the Downer Woods Natural Area located adjacent to the intersection of North Maryland and East Edgewood avenues. It is one of our gems and a tangible example of the potential impact of the proposed State of Wisconsin biennial budget bill. Let me explain.

The Downer Woods area is currently protected as a permanent conservation area (11 acres), permanently reserved woodland (3 acres), and park and woodland areas (7 acres). These areas are important for recreation and scientific study. They also provide some of the only undeveloped green space on campus and serve as a natural buffer between the campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. The pristine park and woodland areas are vital to maintain a quiet corner on campus that is largely untouched by buildings or other structures.

Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 36, which governs the UW System and UWM, established protection for Downer Woods. The current proposed State of Wisconsin biennial budget bill removes those protections. UWM did not ask for the removal of Downer Woods protections and that UWM has absolutely no plans to sell any of the land.

As part of the budget deliberations there is an assumption – but no guarantee – that the protections now provided by state law would transfer to the UW System as part of a proposed new Public Authority.

Please be assured that I am doing everything I can to not only retain the current protections of the Downer Woods but the historic Milwaukee-Downer College buildings on campus as well. These buildings are a critical part of UWM’s as well as Milwaukee’s history. The Milwaukee-Downer College dates to 1895, when the Milwaukee Female College (1851) and Downer College (1855) merged. The Milwaukee-Downer College buildings, distinct in their red color, date back as far as 1899, and have become inextricably linked with the public image of UWM and are important historical buildings as the representation of pre-Civil War era colleges, of which fewer than 200 remain.

I have asked the UW System to negotiate with the Governor’s Office and the Legislature for continued statutory protections. UWM’s governance groups have been involved and have passed a resolution to protect the area. Many of you have written letters and are advocating for the same protections. Thank you for that support.

As spring continues to emerge I hope that you will stop by campus and take a walk through the Downer Woods. I know you will see the value of preserving this area for our neighborhood and the generations of neighbors to come.

Best regards,

Mark A. Mone
Chancellor

UWM Research Report Features “Made In Milwaukee”

The annual UWM Research Report is hot off the presses.

The publication, available in both print and online, is a collaboration of efforts among writers, designers editors and photographers in University Relations. It highlights the great innovators and researchers making a difference at UWM.

This edition helps highlight some of the expertise and accomplishments of 1,700 faculty members, with ideas holding the potential to shape economies and industries worldwide. In fact, these stories are where our most promising research intersects with momentous challenge.

• University engineers work alongside industry partners to make Milwaukee an epicenter for energy control and storage

• A public health scientist in Milwaukee reaches back to his home country of Liberia with suggestions to halt an epidemic and prevent future outbreaks

• A chemist tests treatments that focus with deadly precision on cancer tumors, leaving healthy cells and systems intact.

Read about these and more stories online: www.uwm.edu/researchreport

The latest budget news is online uwm.edu/budget

neighborhood.uwm.edu
Police Chief Search

The search for a new Chief of Police at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is entering its final stages.

A search and screen committee has been narrowing down a field of applicants and on-campus interviews will likely start in late April. Those day-long sessions will include meetings with a variety of campus stakeholders. Each finalist will also take part in a public forum.

Landlord Think Small

UWM Neighborhood Relations and UWM’s Neighborhood Housing Office, in cooperation with the Eastside Milwaukee’s Committee On Landlords, hosted a seminar from landlord-tenant law specialist Tristan Pettit last month.

Pettit, from the law firm of Petrie & Stocking SC, shared a variety of tips and pieces of advice with landlords. In particular, Pettit spoke on the topics of tenant screening and fair housing laws. He also answered a variety of questions from the audience.

Much of the information from the presentation is available on Pettit’s blog: www.LandlordTenantLawBlog.com

Spring Graduation At Panther Arena Set For May 17

UWM Facts and Impact – 2015

UWM’s Economic Impact

- $85+ million in state & local tax revenue
- $59 million in research expenditures
- $956+ million in annual direct spending by the UWM community
- 160,000 graduates
- 14,489 Wisconsin jobs created & supported
- Nearly 200 patents and patent applications

Diversity and Opportunity

- Top 50 LGBT+ friendly university for 2014
- 9,000 UWM undergraduates – 39% of the student body are first generation college students
- 1,077 veterans, service members and their dependents attend UWM
- More than 33% of new freshmen are students of color
- 90% of UWM students are from Wisconsin

UWM’s International Impact

- 2,400 participants brought to campus yearly for international affairs programming
- 1,562 international students represent 80 countries
- 20,000 people reached online worldwide

UWM’s Enrollment 2014-15

- 23,108 undergraduate students
- 4,934 graduate students
- 23,956 Wisconsin residents
- 4,086 non-residents
- 14,798 women
- 13,244 men

*The “non-operating” figure for the “operating budget” does not include indirect operating costs, such as research grants, and excludes credit-related student revenue that are traditionally excluded in the operating budget. For further explanation, see UWM’s budget to learn what is included and excluded.
Spring Grant Period Underway

UWM and the Milwaukee Police Department are again partnering for extra patrols on the eastside as the weather begins to warm up.

UWM has extended the Law Enforcement Special Assignment Grant Agreement for this spring, providing $25,000 to MPD to place extra officers in the neighborhood on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through the end of the school year. The agreement also involves weekly meetings between UWM officials, MPD and the Department of Neighborhood Services to ensure prompt follow-up on all matters.

The partnership is part of a multi-layered approach from UWM. The Dean of Students Office will be conducting weekend neighborhood walks as the weather gets warmer, while UWM's Neighborhood Housing Office provides follow-ups with both students and landlords. Plus, the UWM Police Department is actively involved in keeping the campus and neighborhood safe.

The Dean of Students Office will also continue implementation of its student behavior guidelines and follow-ups, including meetings with students involved in violations and the implementation of various sanctions for violators both on and off-campus.

Nelson/Nygaard Continues Transit Work

Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates has been working on a comprehensive study of parking and transportation issues on and around the UWM campus.

The study started over a year ago and has built a large database of information as well as a list of best practices and suggestions for improving parking and transit on the east side.

Among the notable findings of the study:

- 42% of UWM students and 71% of UWM employees stated they drive to campus. This means that as many as 5,400 cars may come to the Kenwood campus area.
- In the typical school day, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., over 50% of UWM parking (including the lot at Capitol-Humboldt) will be occupied. By 1 p.m., approximately 90% of on-campus parking facilities will be occupied, so over 1,000 commuters have to wait for turnover or park on surrounding streets.
- On an average weekday in the Kenwood campus, 4,400 riders ride MCTS while another 4,500 ride the UWM shuttles.
- Parking exists for over 1,200 bicycles, but people still illegally lock their bikes to railings. The neighborhoods surrounding UWM are safe and dense, but multiple intersections were cited as dangerous for pedestrians.
- Kenwood Boulevard is perceived as a barrier limiting the desire to walk/bike to and from campus while Maryland Avenue is a source of constant vehicle/pedestrian conflicts.

The consultants also noted a number of other needs, including better local connections throughout the neighborhood to the Oak Leaf Trail as well as better connections to off-campus facilities, for example the Zilber School of Public Health.

This spring, Nelson/Nygaard is again meeting with campus and community constituents to discuss their findings and share recommendations and ideas for improvements. Many of the suggestions or options target the consistency and cost of parking both on and off-campus, the safety hazards and congestion on Maryland Avenue and the more efficient and effective use public transportation.
University Relations & Communications
Neighborhood Relations
P.O. Box 413
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Notes2Neighbors
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee • Spring 2015

Courtesy of University Relations
414-229-4451
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University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student Kathryn Henry reached the finals of the Metropolitan Opera audition competition last month.

The elite group picked to perform in New York who began competition at local district levels was selected from more than 1,500 singers who began the competition this year. Kathryn has been the youngest singer in each successive round of the competition. Kathryn, a senior from Sheboygan, was the first University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student to reach the finals since the Metropolitan Opera opened its national audition competition last month.

Kathryn Henry reached the finals of the Metro-Politan Opera audition competition last month.

University Relations, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"At UWM, I have been given many opportunities to perform through the Milwaukee community," said Kathryn Henry. "I also had the opportunity to learn and grow with my music professors and received a lot of one-on-one attention that I needed to connect with my music."

Kathryn Henry says the Met Auditions played a major role in getting her to the big stage in New York.

The elite group picked to perform in New York who began competition at local district levels was selected from more than 1,500 singers who began the competition this year. Kathryn has been the youngest singer in each successive round of the competition. Because she reached the final round this year, Kathryn is not eligible to compete again. But she plans to draw on this experience going forward.

"At UWM, I have been given many opportunities to grow through my education," said Kathryn Henry. "I was able to connect with so many professionals through which I was able to learn. I also had the opportunity to learn and grow with my music professors and received a lot of one-on-one attention that I needed to connect with my music."

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