UWM researchers create new way to find 'when'

By Laura Otto, University Relations

Let’s say you’re trying to pinpoint when a particular past event occurred, but your best possible estimate puts it only within a span of 10,000 years. Now imagine if something could shrink that window of “when” to just 30 years.

That’s the power of a new mathematical tool devised and tested by an international team of scientists, led by UWM distinguished professor of Physics Abbas Ourmazd and senior scientist Russell Fung. The tool, a machine-learning algorithm, reduces timing uncertainties during changing events, improving accuracy by a factor of up to 300.

It could have numerous applications, from dating past climate-change events with better precision to determining when molecular bonds form or break during chemical reactions lasting only a few quadrillionths of a second.

“Timing uncertainty has been a bane in many areas of science for a long time,” said Ourmazd. “You often have data, but no exact time stamps on that data.”

Joining UWM’s researchers in the discovery were scientists from the Center for Free-Electron Laser Science at DESY Research Center in Hamburg, Germany; the University of Hamburg; and Northwestern University. The work appears in the April 27 online issue of the journal *Nature*, which is available at [http://bit.ly/1TwWwjv](http://bit.ly/1TwWwjv).

Ourmazd and Fung built the algorithm by extracting a weak “arrow of time” from noisy data with corrupt time stamps. Think of it as restoring the initial sequence of a deck of cards after it has been shuffled.

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Anye Ngwa traveled across the Atlantic Ocean from Central Africa to come to the United States. He applied to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where his whole life changed. The pre-med and biochemistry major graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science degree. But first, he had to overcome some chilly bouts with homesickness.

Why UWM?

I came from Cameroon to the United States to attend university. I chose Milwaukee because my brother recently moved here for a job at Aurora. I wanted to get into the medical field, and since he was a doctor, I needed him to mentor me. I chose UWM because his wife graduated from UWM and encouraged me to apply to the school she loved. That was the only application I submitted, and I was so happy when I received my acceptance letter.

Did you experience homesickness?

A lot. My first experience with winter made me feel like going back to Cameroon. I still remember the day I went out to school without a jacket. I thought I’d be fine because we normally don’t wear jackets in Cameroon. But when I stepped outside to minus-1 temperatures, I learned a lesson that will last a lifetime. That was the worst day of my life.

What was it like seeing snow for the first time?

The experience was just so amazing. There are only two climates in Cameroon; raining and dry season. The four different seasons didn’t seem real until I came to the USA. But I was just so excited seeing snow falling for the first time and feeling it drop in my hands. I also learned how to ice skate downtown in just two hours. I can stop, and I didn’t even fall! This is one of the reasons why I love Milwaukee.

How did you overcome being homesick?

With time, I learned how to fit in. I joined organizations and clubs, such as the African Student Association and intramural soccer. I was even a resident assistant for Sandburg North my third year. Getting involved is what made me not really worry about homesickness.
Video Stories

Amy Donahue was inspired to pursue a Biological Sciences major both to further her career and to help others in the same way doctors and clinicians helped her family when her sister was diagnosed with cancer. [https://youtu.be/JrY0m9aXad8](https://youtu.be/JrY0m9aXad8)

Political Science major Ryan Sorenson combined his academic and social life by running for the UWM Student Association. [https://youtu.be/-dSmixThKXQ](https://youtu.be/-dSmixThKXQ)

Graduate lessons  
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What do you do with the African Student Association?

It’s where you meet other African students. There are events planned for you to meet each other and have fun. They also host study groups where we can help each other. When I’m there, I’m able to let loose and feel free. I don’t have to try to adapt to the culture because everybody is just the same.

What did you enjoy most about being an RA?

The best thing about being an RA was being able to get that one-on-one communication with other students and learn about their cultures. Interacting with other students and knowing them personally was so rewarding. Luckily, my floor was a good floor. No rowdy students.

How did the Wisconsin Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholarship help you succeed?

The WiscAMP scholarship really gave me the academic support I needed and made me feel like I wasn’t on this academic journey alone. People are there to support and motivate you, both financially and academically. I received the scholarship my second year, and it helped me cut down on working and focus more on school.

What is your favorite memory from UWM?

My whole experience at UWM has been a transforming one. I am totally not the same person that came into this school. Everything that I went through, it brought me into this different mindset where I learned to be more responsible, reliable. I think being an RA was the greatest impact of my life. The leadership role and responsibility toward other students changed my perspective a lot, in terms of adapting to different cultures.

What do you want to do after graduation?

I want to go to medical school. My choices are the Medical College of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin-Madison or any medical schools in Chicago. After you start to like Milwaukee, you want to stay around. I have met a lot of friends here.
Parents, if you don’t want your child to take life too seriously, lay off criticizing them.

That’s the conclusion Psychology major Haley Branback reached as a result of her research examining how parental expectations and criticisms affect their children’s sense of responsibility later in life. She gave a poster presentation on her project at UWM’s Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 29.

“I focused on parental expectations and criticisms and how their children perceive them,” Branback explained. “A lot of people came up to me at the poster presentation because they’re parents and they were interested.”

Branback works in Psychology professor Han Joo Lee’s lab, which focuses on research into mental health disorders including anxiety, phobias, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Branback also works with children, so she combined her work interests and her research to test whether parental expectations and criticisms could lead to an overvalued sense of responsibility in their children.

An overvalued sense of responsibility is a key feature of OCD. It can be highly related to perfectionism and general distress, said Taylor Davine, a UWM Psychology doctoral student and Branback’s mentor for the project.

“If I broke a glass and didn’t clean it up, and someone got cut, most people would feel a sense of responsibility – ‘Oh, that was my fault!’ But someone who has an overvalued sense of responsibility would go beyond that,” Davine explained. “You’re always worried that you did something wrong despite a lack of evidence for supporting the idea, and experience strong urges to prevent a possible disaster that would be attributable to you.”

To conduct her research, Branback pulled data from a survey battery from a larger study about OCD. She looked at the results of more than 300 UWM students and examined whether their parent’s expectations and criticisms had any impact on their sense of responsibility.

They did, Branback said, but then she separated expectations from criticisms by controlling for one trait versus the other.

“We actually found that expectations did not lead to an overvalued sense of responsibility, but criticisms did,” she said. Moreover, it wasn’t actually the criticism itself at fault; it was the student’s perceptions of their parents’ criticism that determined whether they had an overvalued sense of responsibility.

“When we recruit students from university, they typically are no longer living with their parents, so it’s really their perception of how they were raised,” Davine said. “We can’t go back and ask their parents if they were critical or if they had high expectations. Even if we did, it may not even matter, because what matters is the way the child perceived the parenting.”

The findings fascinated several judges at the symposium, who were parents themselves. To avoid children developing an overvalued sense of responsibility, Branback suggests parents check with their children about how any criticisms are being received. She would like to expand her research and study younger children – perhaps in middle school – to examine children’s perceptions of their parents’ criticism against reality.

“I think with younger children, it can really affect the rest of their career and their path,” Branback said.

Branback herself plans to attend graduate school after she graduates from UWM in December of this year. She hopes to become a school psychologist, and draw on her experiences doing research at UWM.

“I think it’s really important to get involved in research. It helps you learn more about psychology, and pursuing your career,” Branback said.
John Roberts was still completing his undergraduate degree when he became an award-winning filmmaker.

Roberts majored in Comparative Literature and graduated from UWM in 2013. In 2009, he was the jury-selected winner in the Cream City Cinema section at the inaugural Milwaukee Film Festival for his film “Mary’s Friend.” Two years later, his film “The Wheel” won the audience award at the Milwaukee Film Festival, and after he graduated, he took the Cream City Cinema prize again for his film “Lemon.”

Today, Roberts works a day job doing motion design at a post-production house called Independent Edit, which provides animation, graphic design, visual effects and more for television, print, and radio advertising. Outside of work, he’s still creating films and is set to begin work on a feature-length film in September.

He credits much of his success to his Comparative Literature classes. “That’s where I got my training as far as storytelling goes,” Roberts said. “I already had a basic understanding of film production going into college thanks to the animations I had been doing. What was specifically interesting to me about Comparative Literature was being able to study the masters and taking part in storytelling.”

Roberts is a Wisconsin native who chose to attend UWM because he liked the cohesive feel of the campus. He became interested in animation in high school and originally intended to major in Film in UWM’s Peck School of the Arts, but Roberts switched his major after taking a class with Comparative Literature professor Peter Paik.

“We were watching Korean cinema and comparing them to Greek tragedies. I was like, I need this. This is what I’m looking for,” Roberts recalled. “I knew all of the animation tricks because I was doing that all on my own already. What I was looking for was the storytelling.”

He took those lessons and applied them to his film making, seeking help from professors like Paik and senior lecturer, the late, Michael Fountain along the way.

Roberts’ upcoming feature film, for instance, is a modern spin on Faust set in the culinary world.

Each month, In Focus features an alumnus whose Bachelor’s degree has led them to an interesting career. This series will feature every major in L&S in turn.

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming edition of In Focus, email let-sci@uwm.edu with your name, contact information, and a brief description of your career. We’re especially interested in Africology, Religious Studies, and Physics majors at this time!

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We’ve heard talk of Hillary Clinton’s so-called “firewall” of African-American voter support in the southeast. We’ve heard proposals from Republican candidates for a very different kind of wall in the southwest. It’s made for a sharp focus on minority politics in 2016.

Paru Shah, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee associate professor of Political Science, has watched the shifting minority voter landscape for most of her scholarly career. She shared her observations on the role of those voters in the current presidential campaign.

In terms of raw numbers, is it fair to say that the Latino and African-American populations are the most important minority segments of the population?

People who study minorities in politics tend to focus on Latinos and African-Americans because they are the largest minority groups. With Latinos and African-Americans, there is a stronger sense of shared identity, so the weight of their numbers ends up being greater.

What are the similarities and differences between Latino and African-American voters?

Broadly speaking, these groups share socio-economic status, similar life circumstances in terms of segregation and poverty, and educational gaps. There’s a lot of older political science literature that argued that these groups have shared interests and should work together, but we see almost no evidence of that. There have been moments, of course, such as Harold Washington’s run for mayor in Chicago, and Barack Obama’s campaign.

African-Americans have such a particular history and particular relationship with politics and the social structures – and have had a very long struggle. Other minorities, including Latinos, have had a shorter struggle and have benefited immensely from what African-Americans have achieved, for instance the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Opportunity Employment Act.

There’s been a really interesting shift in how people think about minority politics in the United States. You hear so much less about “the brown and black vote.” It’s all about the Latino vote. This has created some tension, with some perception that Latinos might be gaining at the expense of African-Americans.

Milwaukee’s an interesting place, too. African-Americans have worked very hard to achieve political power here. Right now, the numbers are pretty even, but if there were to be a large Latino influx, it would really change the dynamics.

In a recent talk about Latino turnout, you mentioned the “GOP’s Latino problem.” What does that mean?

After the 2012 election, the GOP saw Mitt Romney get something like 23 percent of the Latino vote. There’s a lot of analysis that says you cannot win the presidential election without the Latino vote. Many Latinos identify themselves as independent, so there was a sense in the GOP that they could make significant inroads.

The GOP outlined strategies to improve their Latino voter turnout, but some of the recommendations, notably support of comprehensive immigration reform, have gotten little traction among the Republican candidates. There was some hope that Cruz or Rubio could win Latino voters largely by virtue of being Hispanic themselves, but that alone couldn’t overcome some of the positions they took on immigration, as well as economic policy. Only Jeb Bush embraced that strategy, but he got hammered for it in the primaries.

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Would you say the voter ID laws have a greater impact on minority voters?

I would. Research has shown between a 5 and 10 percent drop in voter turnout nationwide because of these laws. There are two effects here. First, some people are prevented from voting by the lack of a voter ID. Second, there are complications at the polling places, which can lead to long waits, and voters may find that discouraging.

We know this is an anomalous – well, weird – election year, but could you hazard a guess about how minority voters will affect the general elections in November?

At this point, it seems likely to me that the Democratic candidate will win, and that Clinton will be the Democratic candidate in November. But eight months ago, I thought there’d be no way we’d be talking about Donald Trump in March. One of the things that can hamper political scientists is that we tend to look to the history to inform the future, so we are sometimes shocked when things don’t go our way.

Trump has sparked something in people that the GOP hasn’t been able to spark for a very long time: His supporters want someone who is far removed from everyday politics. All of this might reduce the impact of minority voters, but it’s a mistake for either party to treat any voters as though they matter less. There’s always the next election.
Urban Studies updates

Urban Studies’ 21st Annual Student Research Forum showcases student research, community engaged scholarship, and transdisciplinary projects in a Milwaukee neighborhood.

On April 30 in the UWM Union Alumni Fireside Lounge, Urban Studies majors enrolled in the Capstone Seminar presented their semester-long research during a judged poster session. Undergraduates Christopher Billick with his poster “The Streetcar that Could?: A Case Study of the Milwaukee Streetcar Project and the Factors that Account for its Approval,” and Emmajean Snook with her poster “The Rise of Political Fragmentation in Metropolitan Milwaukee, 1892-1935” took home the Scott Greer Best Poster Awards.

Graduate student Sierra Starner-Heffron received the Graduate Best Poster Award for her work titled, “Get a Lot for Less: A Case Study Evaluating the $1 Vacant Lot Pilot Program in Milwaukee’s 15th Aldermanic District.”

There was also a panel discussion of the Urban Collaborative on Race, Place and Health, a tri-course project with urban studies faculty and their students engaged in research in the Washington Park neighborhood. The Urban Collaborative is designed to facilitate interdisciplinary conversations about race, health, and urban development in the city. Seminar courses in Geography and Urban Studies (The Internal Structure of the City with Professor Anne Bonds), Public Health (Qualitative Approaches in Public Health with Professor Jenna Loyd) and Architecture (Embodied Placemaking with Professor Arijit Sen), collaborated to examine the dynamics of race, place, and health in Milwaukee’s Washington Park neighborhood. Students in each of the courses developed projects focused on Washington Park on such topics as food deserts and insecurity, urban inequality and community health, economic development, housing, and environmental justice.

Finding 'when'

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“There are some remnants of the original sequence information in the shuffled deck,” said Fung. “There’s a weak whisper of time, like a faint voice in a loud party.”

The researchers conceived the algorithm while working with data from a project tracking the movement of molecules using an X-ray free electron laser. Called an XFEL, this equipment at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in California is the world’s brightest X-ray laser and it serves as a camera of matter at nanoscale. The XFEL uses an ultraquick flash of light to grab a “snapshot” with such speed that the sequence of snapshots yields a slow-motion movie of extremely rapid events.

Making such a movie requires not only hundreds of thousands of snapshots, but also knowledge of the precise time when each snapshot was taken. Despite the unparalleled speed of the XFEL, much of the action is smeared, because the sequence of events is scrambled.

The algorithm Ourmazd and Fung devised resolves this problem. In an experiment at the Linac Coherent Light Source, the XFEL at SLAC, the researchers used the mathematical tool to reconstruct a clear movie of molecules as the bonds holding their atoms together were torn apart. The algorithm identifies internal correlations to make sense of the ocean of snapshots. The sheer amount of data the XFEL generates aids the algorithm in this task.

“One image viewed in conjunction with another gives you richer information than you would get by considering the two images separately,” Ourmazd said.

The research team sees applications in other sciences involving dynamical histories that are imprecisely known, such as geology, metrology, chemistry, biology and astronomy.

“There’s a treasure trove of information to be had,” Ourmazd said, “and we’ve pried the door open.”
Filmmaker alum

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“When you look at the Michelin star chefs, they’re already making these kinds of covenants,” Roberts said. “These people are incredibly devoted and you have megalomaniacs. It’s fertile ground for Mephistopheles to work in.”

The feature film, called “Popper Baxton’s Sickly Stew,” is Robert’s largest and most ambitious project to date. The film will be shot in Milwaukee and will draw name talent to the city for its production. Roberts also plans to draw production assistants from within the UWM Peck School, noting that the film program has made the students “battle ready” for a project of this size.

Beyond his filmmaking, Roberts is using his degree and his filmmaking skills to explore new avenues in his design and animation work for Independent Edit.

“You’ve got the feature film stuff, which is great. Commercials and digital, I think are really interesting, and virtual reality is changing everything,” he said. “There are incredible tools for a storyteller to use in virtual reality because you have absolute control over your audience. Those are all new, interesting horizons.”

He stops short of giving career advice to current Comparative Literature majors – Roberts credits luck just as much as skill for his success – but he does have advice for the rest of the world concerning Comparative Literature: Learn from it.

“Storytelling specifically in genre allows us to discuss complicated ideas packed into a safe space that’s allegorical with little barrier to entry, sibling to fable and mythology,” Roberts said. “There’s real value in the Humanities.”

Planetarium updates

The Celestial Celebration in April to honor the 50th anniversary of the UWM Planetarium was everything we hoped for and more. Guests included past Planetarium Director John Harmon, who served for more than 29 years; dean of the UWM Graduate School Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska; Director of the Center for Gravitation, Cosmology, and Astrophysics Patrick Brady; and over 50 other enthusiastic supporters.

The new Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex looked beautiful, and the live music from the UWM Collegium Musicum was sublime. Guests reminisced about their favorite memories of the UWM Planetarium at tables decorated with dramatic pink lilies and golden chrysanthemums. The meal was delicious, and even the dessert was space-themed; it included a nebula, solar flares, and an asteroid belt.

Over 30 businesses donated to the event’s silent auction, selling everything from restaurant gift certificates to original art pieces and raising $1,300.

The evening was concluded, naturally, under the stars. Guests attended a private show that started with a short movie to highlight the impact the UWM Planetarium has in our community, from astronomy appreciation of school groups to a couple who got engaged at a show. The long-term vision for a new facility was animated by Matthew Blake. Guests were introduced to Uniview, the dazzling new software that allows viewers to zoom around a visual representation of the entire observable universe. The money raised for the 50th anniversary has supported this purchase. Thanks to all the donors, visitors will get a better understanding of the universe. We hope to continue to inspire generations of people to appreciate the beauty of the night sky.
**Passings**

Jon Erickson was a three-time graduate of the College of Letters & Science, earning his BA, MA, and PhD in English in 1975, '83, and '90 respectively. More than that, he was a beloved Milwaukee performance artist in the 1980s and early 1990s whose presence in the city will be sorely missed.

Jon passed away on April 5 at the age of 64 following a battle with cancer. He led a full and vibrant life. After his passing, friends and colleagues gathered their memories together to publish a tribute in UrbanMilwaukee. Their stories of Jon are available at [http://bit.ly/26uJ07m](http://bit.ly/26uJ07m).

Barbara Zakrzewska Borowiecki, Professor Emerita in the Department of Geography, passed away last month. Barbara was born in Warsaw, Poland. She began teaching in the Department of Geography at UWM in 1960, became Chair of the Department in 1971, and retired from UWM in 1992.

Barbara was instrumental in UWM’s acquisition and transfer of the American Geographic Society (AGS) Map Collection to the Golda Meir Library. She was a dynamic believer in Polish studies and was an important force in the development of Polish, Russian, and East European Studies at UWM. She was also a dedicated promoter and initiator of the Polanki college scholarship program.


Thomas Hooyer, Associate Professor in the Department of Geosciences, passed away on May 4, 2016, at the age of 53, following a battle with ALS. Tom spent his career as a Professor of Geology within the University of Wisconsin system, serving in the Wisconsin Geological Survey in Madison, conducting glacial geology research worldwide, and most recently, as an Associate Professor of Geosciences at UW-Milwaukee.

Tom was raised in the mountains and was a life-long enthusiast of the outdoors. His travels associated with glacial research took him to diverse places throughout the world and he enjoyed leading his students on research trips to Iceland. At the Department of Geosciences Student Achievement Banquet earlier this month, students and faculty celebrated the life and contribution that Tom had made to the department and the University. Moreover, the first Hooyer Award was handed out to two graduate students in Geosciences. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, visit [https://uwm.edu/geosciences/give/](https://uwm.edu/geosciences/give/).

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, August 6 at 2 p.m. at Crestview Christian Church in Boulder, Colo. His obituary is available at [http://bit.ly/22pwl2j](http://bit.ly/22pwl2j).

**Upcoming Events**

**June 1**

Jewish Studies speaker: Mohammed Dajani, Weston Fellow, The Washington Insitute for Near East Policy. 7 p.m. UWM Music Recital Hall, 175. Dajani discusses the need for moderation in religion and politics, conflict resolution, peace in the Middle East, and more. [http://www.uwm.edu/cjs](http://www.uwm.edu/cjs)

**June 6**

Jewish Studies program - Paul Goldberg: The Yid. 7 p.m. Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. Goldberg will deliver a reading followed by an interview with Stahl Center Director Joel Berkowitz about Yiddish theater. [http://www.uwm.edu/cjs](http://www.uwm.edu/cjs)
In the Media and Around the Community

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, Ireland. Professor Emeritus John Gleeson (Center for Celtic Studies) explained the significance of several historical photographs on display at Milwaukee City Hall to mark the occasion. [http://bit.ly/1YTMSZH](http://bit.ly/1YTMSZH)

Matt Cook (’96, BA; ’99, MA English) is Milwaukee’s Poet Laureate. He was interviewed in OnMilwaukee about his job and writing. [http://bit.ly/1TwTpbz](http://bit.ly/1TwTpbz)

Marc Petrocci (Economics) is a current UWM student set to retire from the Milwaukee Ballet after 13 years of dancing. He has been interviewed by several media outlets about his career and retirement, including WISN12 ([http://bit.ly/1XWaEnG](http://bit.ly/1XWaEnG)) and Urban Milwaukee ([http://bit.ly/1MZNL2l](http://bit.ly/1MZNL2l)). He and Susan Gartell (‘16, Political Science) were each featured on WUWM as well. [http://bit.ly/1U8LzSX](http://bit.ly/1U8LzSX)


Chia Youyee Vang (History) talked about her work with the Hmong community and receiving the Regent’s Diversity Award on WUWM. [http://bit.ly/1rig2Hz](http://bit.ly/1rig2Hz)

The voter ID law in Wisconsin, requiring all voters to show photo identification at the polls, disenfranchises minority voters, said Paru Shah (Political Science) in the Milwaukee Courier. [http://bit.ly/1QAUKti](http://bit.ly/1QAUKti)

Mounting financial insecurity among middle-class families is a big concern, John Heywood (Economics) told the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel in an article detailing the status of Wisconsin’s middle class. [http://bit.ly/1TFJ7TK](http://bit.ly/1TFJ7TK)

In April and May, Erin Winkler (Africology) gave public presentations on talking with children about race and racism at Lapham Elementary in Madison, the UAW in Janesville, and Verona High School, and also lead workshops with faculty and staff at South Madison Head Start and Lapham Elementary. Some of this work was covered in the Janesville Gazette.

The Cultural Resource Management program affiliated with the Anthropology Department has found more than 25,000 prehistoric and historic artifacts on the site of a proposed golf course planned by the Kohler Co., according to the Daily Reporter. [http://bit.ly/1VUFuj9](http://bit.ly/1VUFuj9)

BizTimes.com reported that the rising Latino population has accounted for all of the Milwaukee area’s net growth, according to a study led by Marc Levine (History). [http://bit.ly/1UWeExD](http://bit.ly/1UWeExD)

Ching-Hong Yang (Biological Sciences) was featured in BizTimes for his new product that aims to limit the use of antibiotics in fighting fire blight affecting pear and apple trees to protect against developing resistant strains of bacteria. [http://bit.ly/1R0iZB6](http://bit.ly/1R0iZB6)

It’s essential that employers understand the challenges their transgender employees may face is they choose to transition at work, Cary Costello (Sociology) told Fox6 News. [http://bit.ly/1Of0ycm](http://bit.ly/1Of0ycm)


Wisconsin could learn a thing or two from Sweden about recycling, so Veronica Lundback (Foreign Languages and Literature) sometimes leads UWM to her native country for an immersion experience, according to WUWM. [http://bit.ly/1TBcfeX](http://bit.ly/1TBcfeX)

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Gladys Mitchell-Walthour (Africology) presented on the panel “Honoring Michael Mitchell’s Legacy of Expanding Black Politics in the Academy” at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in Jackson, Miss., on March 19.

Jeffrey Sommers (Africology and Global Studies) was the featured guest on UWM’s Institute of World Affairs weekly program "International Focus" on Milwaukee Public television for April 16. The show’s theme was the Panama Papers and offshore finance.

James Amato (Geosciences), who was featured in last month’s edition of In Focus, was lauded on WISN12 News for his hiking fundraiser for a scholarship in Geosciences Professor Thomas Hooyer’s honor. Hooyer recently passed away from ALS. http://bit.ly/10Xeatr

Vali Raicu (Physics) and his wife, Gina, were recognized on the Village of Shorewood, Wisconsin’s Facebook page for their efforts in bringing science to Shorewood students through DEEP (Down to Earth Experimental Physics), a hands-on science program the Raicus founded four years ago. http://bit.ly/1Tfn CCS


Leslie Harris (Communication) presented “Gender, Citizenship, and Rhetorical Geography in the White Slavery Controversy” at the the Gender and Citizenship Conference, Texas A&M in February, and received a Rockefeller Archive Center Grant-in-Aid to fund research at the Rockefeller Archive Center.


Thomas A. Salek presented “Disciplining the cyber wild west: President Obama’s model for transparent digital American citizenship” at the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Conference as well, and his work was recognized as the Top Student Paper in the Political Communication Division.

Laurels and Accolades

Celeste Campos-Castillo (Sociology) won a Best Paper of the Year Award from the International Medical Informatics Association for her paper titled, “The Double-Edged Sword of Electronic Health Records: Implications for Patient Disclosure”.

Cesar Ferreira (Spanish) was inducted into the Order of Discoverers, one of the highest honors of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honors Society. He was recognized for his exceptional contributions to the field of Spanish instruction and his promotion of the ideals of Sigma Delta Pi. [http://bit.ly/1sop7Pk](http://bit.ly/1sop7Pk)

Leah Rineck and Jeb Willenbring (Mathematical Sciences) were named 2016 Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) Excellence Award winners. The award honors UWM faculty and staff who provide outstanding service to students with disabilities, ARC staff, and ARC constituents like parents, teachers, and advocates.

Kevin McLeod (Mathematical Sciences) was honored as the Wisconsin Mathematics Educator of the Year at the Wisconsin Math Council annual conference in Green Lake in May.

Andrew Petto (Biological Sciences) received a Friend of Darwin Award from the National Center for Science Education. [http://bit.ly/1R4aftW](http://bit.ly/1R4aftW)

Members of the UWM Physics Department were published in the journal Science. The article was titled “Femtosecond structural dynamics drives the trans/cis isomerization in photoactive yellow protein.” The experiments in the paper were led by UWM scientists and were conducted in collaboration with 12 other organizations and universities around the world. [http://bit.ly/1TuRO3m](http://bit.ly/1TuRO3m)

Niloy Bose and Antu Murshid (Economics) received grants totaling $98,500 from the National Science Foundation for their project “Identifying Household Wealth Effects.”

Jakayla Phillips (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was chosen as the inaugural recipient of the Don Walker Memorial Scholarship, an award named for the late Don Walker who, for years, was a renowned reporter at the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. Phillips was chosen for her writing talent and dedication to journalism. [http://bit.ly/1TGBfS3](http://bit.ly/1TGBfS3)

The John Patrick Hunter First Amendment Contest for high school and college journalists is aimed at building awareness of freedom of speech and press. Stevan Stojanovic (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) won the inaugural award, chosen by the Madison Society of Professional Journalists, for his reporting on Wisconsin county courts and district attorneys responses to Freedom of Information Act requests. [http://bit.ly/1WP9jlb](http://bit.ly/1WP9jlb)

The Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Center is not only a venue for the scientific education of UWM students, boasting state-of-the-art labs and learning spaces, but it is also an award-winning building, garnering the following accolades:

- International Interior Design Association Wisconsin, Award of Excellence – Educational/Institutional/Liturgical
- In Business Magazine, Commercial Design Awards for the Best New Development or Renovation – Education
- In Business Magazine, Best Green-Built Project
- In Business Magazine, Project of the Year
- Milwaukee Business Journal Real Estate Awards 2016, Best New Development or Renovation – Education
- The Daily Reporter Magazine, Top Projects of 2015
People in print


Alumni Accomplishments

David Reeves (’92, BA Political Science) joined OpenGov as the company’s Chief Revenue Officer. He is responsible for driving global sales, business development, and customer success for a company that specializes in financial intelligence and planning for modern government. [http://prn.to/1SKu7Xp](http://prn.to/1SKu7Xp)

Allan Hanson (’09, BA Economics) was named the new head coach of the Nicolet High School boys basketball team. [http://bit.ly/1gp0Elq](http://bit.ly/1gp0Elq)


Lara Fritts (’95, MS Urban Studies) was named Salt Lake City’s new economic development director by Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski. She is the former director of economic development of the City of Cudahy, Wis. [http://bit.ly/1TAkzw5](http://bit.ly/1TAkzw5)