



The Aggregate

The UWM Honors College Newsletter

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Student Athletes in Honors



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Philosophy and Communications



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NCAA Division I Colleges and Universities field nearly 6,700 athletics teams and provide opportunities each year for 192,000 student-athletes to compete.

At UWM, 450 students are [Division I athletes](#), and 700 students on campus are enrolled in the Honors College. However, there are only seventeen students who overlap these categories, making them stand out as some of the most dedicated and hard-working on campus.

For these student-athletes, keeping up with studies between training and events can feel like a full-time job.

“On the average day, I have about five hours of time outside of class, homework, and soccer,” explains Women’s Soccer athlete Senya Muerer (Communications Sciences and Disorders).

“Athletics and academics require a lot of mental toughness and problem solving as we navigate the many obstacles and pathways that confront us, and I feel supported by the infrastructure in both areas.”

Women’s Track and Field athlete Aubrie Gorski’s (Psychology) time commitment to her sport varies depending on the season.

“During the heart of our meets season, practice, travel, and recovery demands take up most of my time,” she shares.

However, Aubrie tries to take advantage of her time off when she has it.

“I love hanging out with friends, reading, going for walks, or traveling to visit my family, just like everyone,” she confirms.

Practices and competitions require these busy students to adopt sometimes complicated time management strategies.

Women’s Track and Field athlete Isabel Roloff (Accounting) adjusts her course schedule to fit with the demands of her two-season sport.



Athletics logo courtesy of UWM.

“From an academics standpoint, I take a smaller course load in the Spring semester when track is in season and more courses in the Fall to balance it out.”

Like many students, Men’s Swim and Dive athlete Ben Lorenz (Astrophysics) uses a planner to keep up with everything.

“I’ve used a planner for my entire time at UWM, and it has helped me keep track of my assignments, even when my schedule becomes full of competition and training,” he says. “The planner I use is nothing more than a small notebook, but it has helped me balance my schedule very effectively.”

Course loads and planners are just one aspect of keeping up for a student-athlete in the Honors College.

Men’s Track and Field athlete Chris Dobbie (Architecture) understands that he needs specific strategies for balancing all his obligations, but the advantages of being part of the Honors College community outweighs the scheduling demands.

“I can have intellectual conversations with the people in my seminars that I’m not able to have in other settings,” he says. “The pure amount of creativity and walks of life that are offered in our seminar discussions make for interesting discourse a vast majority of the time.”





Athletes in Honors (continued)

Similarly, Women's Soccer athlete Clara Broecker's (Mechanical Engineering) motivation is an attitude to do the best that she can in all aspects of her life.

"Balancing soccer and academics can be challenging, but it's rewarding to know that I put my best effort forward in both aspects," she shares.

Another motivator for student-athletes to stay engaged is the sense of community shared in each of those spaces.

"I value my commitment to both communities, and I would never want to put it at risk," Chris shares.

Aubrie feels that the differences between Athletics and the Honors College support her own multifaceted interests.

"In the Honors College, I encounter more individuals who are passionate about making a difference than in any other avenue of my life," she says.

"The athletics community does amazing things; however, we tend to be much

louder in what we do and have more of a media presence. In my experience, the Honors College is a community of silent mountain-movers, and athletic teams are campus' passionate and prideful students."

The benefits of being in these two distinct communities are as diverse as the athletes themselves.

"My favorite part about being a student-athlete is having a built-in friends. The first day of school I already had 60 friends to count on," says Women's Swim and Dive athlete Brianna Homontowski (Nursing).

"I love having the opportunity to travel, represent Milwaukee, and be surrounded by other athletes who have such strong goal pursuing behaviors," she states.

These students represent UWM at the highest level of athletics and academics. Their hard work does not go unnoticed, and their efforts will undoubtedly send them sprinting/diving/kicking into a promising future.

Director's Note

Honors at UWM is not only our seminars and activities in Honors House. As this issue of *The Aggregate* reminds us, Honors College students are deeply embedded throughout UWM: in athletics, study abroad, volunteering, social justice work, and research.

We're particularly proud of being represented on the playing field by our student-athletes, who are featured in this issue.

Did you know that student-athletes at UWM carry a higher-than-average GPA year after year? Or that they have to balance school, work, practice, travel, and meets or matches in order to maintain their GPA and eligibility to compete?

Over the years, I have had student athletes in many of my seminars and have every time been deeply moved by their commitment to excellence.

Throughout this issue, you can see how social justice and volunteering are growing parts of the UWM Honors experience: an-

other successful spring break trip to New Orleans; a new conference on race, power, and justice; deep work in near South Side non-profit organizations through our Community Embedded Experiential Learning program; exhibitions and courses supporting and celebrating LGBTQ+ issues.

Surveying the current state and activities of our Honors College should remind us all of how far we've come as a community and how hard individuals and groups are working to continually improve us for the next generation of students.

You'll see toward the back of the issue a list of outstanding students graduating and a recognition of scholarship and writing awards winners.

Your excellence as students is seen and recognized, and we hope that you'll all be here, as alums or continuing students, in the fall, ready to extend a helping hand to UWM, the Milwaukee community, and our new students!



Dr. Peter Sands
Honors College Director



Bryce Gensler
English Education

Innaugural Race, Justice, & Power Conference

On February 24th, the [Honors College Equity Team](#), the Inclusive Excellence Center, and Student Involvement hosted the first ever Honors College Race, Justice, and Power Conference.

Honors College Professors Lindsay Daigle and Jill Budny are the faculty leaders of the conference, and they worked closely with students to organize the event.

“The conference will continue growing, and that’s due in large part to the brilliance and hard work of the student presenters and the students on the Equity Team,” Lindsay shares. “I’m incredibly proud of them.”

Adam Carr, the event’s keynote presenter, began the conference discussing race relations at UWM and the fight to break barriers of segregation in education.

Carr’s presentation included images from community protests at UWM depicting community members flooding the chancellor’s office in support of racial diversity.

“The fact that the protestors were able to import their spaces into campus is beautiful,” Carr shared. “These kinds of methods of protests are still happening.”

To gather his stories, Carr depends on engaging himself in the community by talking to strangers for his work at [88Nine Radio Milwaukee](#).

“If you tell someone they’re interesting, there’s about a ten second window in which their resistance to questioning can be opened up. I’ve depended a lot on the kindness of strangers.”

Onisha Dale (Accounting), Ian Schmitt (Political Science), and Liz Karpowitz (Psychology) presented both sides of Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard/UNC.

The group’s presentation began as an assignment for Professor Budny’s Political Science class, but the group found an interest in sharing the case details and how it could impact both students of color at UWM and broader society.

“If we do not have diverse student bodies, we will not have diverse leaders, health care workers, or teachers,” Liz shared.



Members of the Equity Team. Photo courtesy of Professor Budny.

“Lack of representation in these key fields will mean under-represented communities without agency in power. When our institutions lack diversity, we all suffer.”

Alejandra Gonzalez (Spanish) presented on her experience with anxiety as a Latina in a Hispanic household. According to her research, Hispanic women experience more depression than both African American and Caucasian women.

“When it comes to Hispanics with a mental disorder, less than 1 in 11 contacts a mental health specialist. Just 5% of Hispanics report using antidepressants, even though 27% suffer from depression,” Alejandra shared.

Samawia Akhter (Psychology) educated the audience on Islamophobia in America. She is studying to become a therapist for the Islamic community and is excited to become an advocate for a struggling community in the United States.

“It would be helpful for the American people to understand that Islam actually means peace and that it is known as the religion of peace,” she argues.

Trauma is developed when one constantly has harmful interactions stemming from Islamophobia, like the one she describes in her poem, “The Name Grenade.”

The Race, Justice, and Power Conference was a resounding success, with the audience engaging with each presentation and every presenter adding a new perspective on the issues being discussed.

Look for more opportunities like this from the Equity Team in the future.



Jennifer Olsen
Global Sustainability

Foreign Correspondence

This semester I have had the life changing opportunity to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain, and now I understand why people always talk about their semester abroad as being the time of their life.

In this short time, I made some amazing lifelong friends and shared many exhilarating experiences with them. And I have experienced many different cultures as well.

My time abroad has presented many new activities and opportunities that have pushed me out of my comfort zone, and I feel so much more prepared for challenges I will encounter in the future because of these experiences.

I am particularly glad I chose to study in Barcelona, partially because I missed the Wisconsin winter this year, but also because I experienced such an exciting and vibrant culture.

One particularly exciting moment was being able to explore the Gaudí architecture at [La Sagrada Familia](#) and [Casa Batlló](#) that first caught my eye when I was in middle school.

I have also lived as though I am a Spaniard which has consisted of spending a lot of time on public transportation, utilizing siesta time, and adjusting to a different mealtime schedule.

Eating dinner before 9:00pm is now a struggle, and I can find my way around any metro station without a problem.

When many people think of Spain, they think tapas and flamenco, but living in Catalonia presented me with so many newer cultural experiences.

Catalonians are very proud, and they speak mostly Catalan, which has been a little hard for me to learn, though they still speak some Spanish. To me, Catalan feels like a mix between Spanish and French.

Some Catalonians continue to want independence from Spain, and it is common



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Olsen.

to find independence protests in the streets and Catalan flags flown from balconies.

I could not live in Barcelona for a semester without sampling Spanish food. While it may not be my absolute favorite, I have been able to try some amazing tapas, and I learned to make them too.

At the beginning of the semester, I participated in a tapas workshop that taught me how to make the perfect “pan con tomate” (bread with tomato and olive oil). My roommates and I make it often because it is easy, and the groceries are cheap.

Traveling outside of Barcelona has also brought me new cultural experiences. Each European city has its own charm, even throughout Spain. My favorite Spanish city apart from Barcelona is Seville with its beautiful architecture.

I also saw more than just the area of Barceloneta, where tourists crowd the beaches, by visiting the beautiful nearby Mediterranean beach towns.

Though I greatly enjoyed my weekend and spring break travels to exciting places, like Norway, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, I was always drawn back to the relaxed culture and comfortable feel that Barcelona provides.

My experiences will stick with me forever, and I encourage anyone who has the ability and urge to travel and learn about different cultures to study abroad.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Olsen.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Olsen.



New Orleans Service Trip Inspires Activism



Clara Broecker
Mechanical Engineering

If you'd like to contribute to the Alternative Spring Break trip, [DONATE NOW](#) or scan the QR code below.



This March, a group of Honors College students and faculty members took part in the annual [Alternative Spring Break Trip to New Orleans](#). There, they spent a week working in communities of need, while also experiencing the rich culture of the city.

ASB is the product of an idea that Honors College Professor Benjamin Schneider had for many years before it came to fruition in March of 2018.

“When I came to the Honors College full-time in 2017, it’s the first thing I asked about trying to do with our amazing students,” he recalls.

After getting approval from both the University and Honors College Director Peter Sands, the inaugural trip was underway just six months later.

Professor Sands also agreed to co-lead the trip, a decision he made due to his love for New Orleans and his belief that the trip is an important learning opportunity for Honors College students.

Because of the dedication of Professors Schneider and Sands, the trip to New Orleans has continued to be an opportunity for students to think outside of themselves while making their Spring Break plans.

For Aubrie Gorski (Psychology), who went in 2022, the trip was an opportunity to make a difference, while also being able to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Though she recalls days of physical work in hot and humid conditions, Aubrie appreciates the entire experience and specifically the people she met.

“My favorite part of the trip was getting to meet some of the silent community heroes of New Orleans,” Aubrie reflects. “NOLA is truly a place with an alive soul and an uplifting community.”

Sophia Shaw (Psychology) also highlights connecting with the people of New Orleans as an impactful part of the trip, which she participated in this year.

In addition to the volunteer work, Sophia recalls the opportunity that she and the rest of the group had to immerse themselves in the culture of the city.



Photo courtesy of Honors College.

“Everyone went out and explored the French Quarter and beyond. There’s a lot of food, so many shops, and so much art,” she says. “There’s no city like it.”

Grace Lyons (JAMS, Digital Arts and Culture) went on the trip in 2022 and again this year. For her, a rewarding part was to see the impact that ASB participants had on the communities in which they worked.

This year, the non-profit organization that ASB works with, [HandsOn New Orleans](#), valued the work the group completed as just over \$17,000 in tax credits for the communities in need.

Perhaps the greater impact, though, is on the students who participate. Grace says that the trip empowered her and other participants even after returning.

“What we’ve tried to do is bring our service energy back to Milwaukee and do some of the things that we do in New Orleans in our own communities,” she says, citing projects like the Milwaukee River cleanups and UWM Make a Difference Day.

That connectedness reaches to the community in Milwaukee that supports the ASB trip as well.

“I am extremely proud of the students and of the financial support from our donors,” Professor Schneider says. “The trip is not sustainable without their generosity, and we work hard to live up to their confidence in us.”

The Alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans brings together tourism, volunteering, and learning in a meaningful experience for all involved.



Rachel Oelsner
Geography and
Urban Studies

Starting Out: Houa Vang

Houa Vang (Design and Visual Communications) almost didn't join the Honors College when she enrolled at UWM.

"When I came in, I had an impression that everyone was going to be super serious and studious," she explains.

Now completing her third semester as a member of the Honors College community, Houa is glad that she took the leap of faith and joined.

Houa says that her Honors College classes and professors have been some of her favorites at UWM, and she appreciates how the courses focus on how students fit into the world.

In Professor Benjamin Schneider's "Growing Up," she especially enjoyed how the course introduced her to new material.

"I wouldn't go and seek these things out," she says about the media she encountered in class, "but now that I have read and watched them, I have it as an influence on my art career."

As a Design and Visual Communications major, Houa enjoys doing art and making graphics. She even aspires to start her own company someday.

In her current Honors College course, Professor Lindsay Daigle's "The Art of Truth/The Truth of Art," Houa has discovered that connections exist between her coursework and her future career.

"I love the class because we get to explore creative writing in new and unique ways," she says.

She acknowledges too that the writing skills she has developed in the seminars will benefit her in her future as a graphic designer. "I love incorporating words as a visual form in my artwork," she says.

In addition to graphic design, Houa also has a love for poetry. Since joining a poetry club in high school, she has found



Photo courtesy of Houa Vang.

that poetry is one way to connect with people of different backgrounds.

"It's interesting to see different perspectives from different people and feel what they're feeling," she says.

Professor David Southward's "Poetry and Empathy" course helped Houa hone her own poetry skills and learn to better understand the poetry of others.

Despite her initial reluctance to join the Honors College, Houa is thriving in her classes and sees their value.

"I think one of the main things that keeps people from joining the Honors College is the thought that it's harder and more work intensive," Houa shares.

However, she has found that her Honors College courses have been the most interesting. "The fact that it is so discussion-based and so engaging is what makes it worthwhile," she says. "It kind of counters what work there is."

According to Houa, the professors and discussion-based seminars make the Honors College so special.

She encourages students considering the Honors College to give it a try.

"In the long run, the classes you take here are going to live with you," Houa says. "I think it's worth it."



Lizzie Adams
Criminal Justice and
Spanish



The Editorial Team

CEEL Connects with South Side Non-Profits

The Community Embedded Experiential Learning (CEEL) program is an opportunity for students to connect with South Side Milwaukee community-based organizations through shadowing, hands-on projects, and other immersive experiences.

Throughout the semester, students participate with the organizations while learning and growing as members of the Milwaukee community.

Honors College Professor Benjamin Schneider coordinates the program that he initiated in Fall 2021, and the goals include encouraging students to apply their in-class educations in a community setting, connecting students with Milwaukee's Latinx community, and discovering how and why non-profit service organizations operate.

In placements with community partners like the [16th Street Clinic](#), [VIA](#), and [Centro Legal](#), students gain a better understanding of the needs of Milwaukee's residents.

This semester, Lizzie Adams (Psychology and Spanish), Lily Levrault (Math and Computer Science), Evan Miller (Psychology), and Amy Reyes (Biological Science) are the CEEL team, and each will earn three Honors College non-seminar credits for completing the program.

At 16th Street Clinic, these students contribute to the HIV preventative unit, a part of the clinic that educates the community about HIV and Hepatitis B outbreaks, drug use, and unsafe sex practices.

José Salazar, HIV Director at the clinic, helps establish strategies for individuals to move toward seeking healthy solutions.

"If we can provide a way to give people hygienic supplies and clean needles without prejudice, then we can help to provide a safe space and a safer community," he says.

The students are also working this semester with VIA on neighborhood economic development projects. Brisa Van Galen, Community Outreach Director for VIA, sees clearly the impact on this community, and she is happy to be partnering with the Honors College.



16th St. Clinic at 1635 W. National Avenue. Photo courtesy of the internet.

"VIA CDC is an amazing non-profit serving the South Side of Milwaukee," she shares. "I've never met a more intentional organization; from the way we operate internally to how we carry out the work in the areas we serve. I would encourage anyone to volunteer and learn more."

CEEL is providing exposure to the realities that some people experience in Milwaukee, and it showcases how to join the existing efforts attempting to bridge the gap between the sometimes harsh realities and a better future for all people.

"The work we do in the CEEL program has an instant impact on the community," Amy shares. "Whether we are assisting a non-profit organization or directly speaking with a community member, the payoff of our time is clear."

Past CEEL participant Lauren Wilcox (Social Work) recognizes the benefit of experiential learning in CEEL.

"CEEL challenges us to step outside of our bubble and immerse ourselves in a new environment," she says. "We spend a lot of our time in college in the classroom, but so much valuable knowledge comes being in unfamiliar spaces and experiencing things firsthand."

Lily concurs: "A significant part of CEEL is experiencing a side of Milwaukee, from the art to the businesses to the needs of the community, that might be unfamiliar and eye-opening."

The Honors College offers the CEEL program every semester and is always looking for interested students.



Olive Justman
Criminal Justice

Moving Forward: David Deshpande

David Deshpande ('22 Biological Sciences) graduated from UWM one year ago, and already he is moving toward a fascinating and impactful future.

After a brief summer in Milwaukee, he moved to Chicago where he is finishing his first year at the [University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine](#).

He believes being a part of the Honors College played a major role in his successful medical school application.

“I appreciate the more creative approach to exploring unfamiliar topics and writing detailed reports; this definitely strengthened my writing skills,” he shares.

He also had the help of mentors from the Honors College to look over his application essays.

David is still open to many positions in the medical field but is currently studying surgery, which has proven to be of great interest to him.

During college, David worked as an EMT with Bell Ambulance, where he developed a passion for advocacy and policy work relating to equal healthcare access. These public health issues are what initially drew him to Chicago, a city with many health disparities.

His experience with emergency medicine has stuck with him too, and he is intrigued by the field of trauma surgery. In fact, he has a research program with his mentors starting this summer.

Not surprisingly, David’s life is fast-paced and constantly evolving in medical school, so he has made it a goal to do some reflective writing.

“Even if it is just to remind myself of one interesting interaction I had with a patient in a single day,” David says. “I want to



Photo courtesy of David Deshpande.

remember all the feelings and fleeting moments that happen during medical training.”

In the first few months of medical school, he took special note of how providers show empathy to patients, and he realized he was fortunate enough to have more time to engage with patients as he was in the student position.

Out of his reflections came, “[The Young Person’s Guide to Empathy](#),” which David published on the website *Sensible Medicine* in February of this year.

He wants to continue to publish his reflections and advocate for meaningful change in the medical field.

David has three years left in Chicago, and as a Wisconsin native he would love to start his career in the Midwest.

Besides medical school, David will be volunteering at a community farm and gardening in a greenhouse where he already has planted beets, radishes, and kale.

He plans to do lots of bike-riding along the shores of Lake Michigan and enjoy the live music that Chicago has to offer. He also will take a trip to India this August before his classes resume in the fall.

David’s short time away from the Honors College has come with great success, and he has such a bright future to come.



Clara Broecker
Mechanical Engineering

Monsters and Beastfest

The Honors College prides itself on promoting a collaborative nature, which allows students to build relationships while also enriching their academic experiences.

The Honors Association of Research and Publication ([HARPY](#)) and their annual conferences are, therefore, a quintessential Honors College experience.

HARPY is an organization for students by students, formed to foster research in the humanities and social sciences. Now a staple in the Honors College community, HARPY provides students weekly opportunities to share ideas with their peers.

HARPY's emphasis on communal learning makes it natural for the organization to take on the coordination of the Monsters Conference in the Fall semester, and Beastfest in Spring.

Inspired by Honors College Professor Jacqueline Stuhmiller's classes, the conferences give students a chance to present a variety of scholarly and creative work.

The conferences are intentionally open-ended, allowing students to connect to the theme in their own ways.

HARPY president Elayna Karacan (Anthropology and Marketing) says that the format adds a intimate feel to the conference and encourages variety.

"Presenters can choose to read a poem, share artwork, or share a personal piece," she says. "They often turn out very personal, so it's a lot of fun."

HARPY members work to ensure that the conferences are a positive environment for both participants and viewers. They take on a range of responsibilities, from applying for funding to communicating with other university organizations, as well as working with students to revise their work.

While Professor Stuhmiller offers help where she can, she praises the students for their efforts and independence in coordinating the events.

"For every conference, they start planning four months in advance," she says. "They do all the work themselves."



Monsters Conference 2022. Photo courtesy Jo Fox.

Elayna believes that one of the most rewarding parts of being involved with the conferences is seeing all the hard work come to fruition. On those days, she loves to see how a variety of people come together to hear from students.

"It's not just for Honors College students," Elayna clarifies. "We get to see different people from across campus be amazed by different pieces."

Beyond the work of the HARPY organizers, the willingness of participants to be accountable and engaged makes the conferences successful.

Ronan Carpenter (French and Psychology) has presented at both conferences and plans to take part in more.

For him, presenting at the Monsters Conference and Beastfest has been an opportunity to explore and gain confidence in creative writing.

"I appreciate being able to share a more personal side of my writing, to have the chance to express myself; I just love that opportunity," Ronan adds.

He also appreciates the other Honors College students and faculty who take part in the conferences.

"The Honors College community is so supportive and wholesome in general, and to include my creative writing is such a good experience," he reflects.

Honors College conferences are sources of growth and community, fostered by the dedication of HARPY members, as well as the support of those who attend.



Caleb Pacheco
Biological Sciences

Looking Back: Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs

Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs ('06, Art and English, Literary Criticism) has become a viral sensation for her use of TikTok in promoting the [Milwaukee Public Libraries](#).

In 2015, Fawn joined the Milwaukee Public Library Tippecanoe Branch as a library reference assistant, where she was responsible for managing adult programming at her branch.

During the pandemic, she was selected to be on a team which lead virtual programming for the whole library system and later became the library's volunteer coordinator.

Because there were no volunteers at the time, the library housed her in communications and marketing, where her creative background lent itself well to social media.

Soon after, Fawn, along with her co-workers Derek Reilly and Evan Szymkowski, had the brilliant idea of showcasing the library to the world using social media. The team's use of TikTok to help attract library patrons has brought her and the library significant attention.

The videos they created for the Milwaukee Public Library went viral, garnering millions of views and nearly 100 thousand followers.

The Today Show and *The Wall Street Journal* have featured their work, and Fawn is very proud of the library's success.

"The videos have helped to dispel the notion that libraries are stuffy places," she says. "They show that libraries are keeping up with the times and have a lot of resources that people can take advantage of."

The videos are aimed at attracting patrons who may have never used the library before. The team keeps the videos general, hoping that they will inspire people to use libraries in their local areas.



Photo courtesy of Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs.

While it is difficult to track the exact impact of their videos, Fawn has noticed an increase in comments and engagement from patrons, some of whom had never used the library before.

Fawn believes that the team has helped inspire other libraries to create engaging social media accounts to attract more people.

Fawn fondly remembers meeting her husband in a creative writing class at UWM. He is a graduate of the Film Department, and their different interests in the medium help inspire the creative work they share.

Fawn is especially appreciative of her time in the Honors College.

"My love for literature was solidified in the Honors College because of the wide variety of texts that we were able to study," she acknowledges.

"The seminar style instruction inspired me to model book clubs that match the small group discussion format that the Honors College is known for," she shares.

Fawn encourages students to take advantage of the resources and opportunities available to them in school and in the library and to not be afraid to think outside the box in terms of their career paths.



Marshall Hoff
Biological Sciences

Retro Computing Lab is More Than Nostalgia

Tucked away on the fourth floor of UWM's Holton Hall exists a collection of fully functional retro computers.

Created and managed by UWM History Professor Thomas Haigh, [the Retro Computing Lab](#) is a growing collection consisting of more than twenty computers from the 1980's to the early 2000's.

The project started with Professor Haigh's personal collection that he worked to refurbish in his attic throughout 2021. In the Spring '22 semester, the collection moved to campus and has been expanded by the generous donations of UWM Staff and Faculty and community members.

The Retro Lab is not a museum full of artifacts on a shelf meant to be observed at a distance, but a working lab with a collection of ordinary machines representing the history of computing and the evolution of personal computing.

The lab allows Professor Haigh to teach students about the evolution of the computer and to give them the opportunity to experience it for themselves.

Professor Haigh teaches an Honors College class about the History of Computing following his book [A History of Modern Computing](#) and making heavy use of the lab.

The class, which will be taught again during the Fall '23 semester, includes a hands-on assignment which students can do in the lab on one of the retro computers, using period appropriate software.

"One of my previous students during the Honors College course used an early version of CorelDraw on one of the computers to write an article," shares Professor Haigh, "which they then printed using one of the printers in the collection."

The oldest computer in the lab is a TRS-80 Model 1, originally released in 1977 alongside the Apple II.

"This was the year that standard, mass-produced, personal computers were



Retrocomputing Lab. Photo courtesy Professor Haigh.

available for purchase," Professor Haigh shares. "Prior to these machines personal computers were kit-based and required a user with specialized knowledge."

The collection includes a wide range of vintage machines with the most recent model being a 2003 iMac G4.

Professor Haigh maintains the technology in the lab and hosts regular open hours throughout the year for anyone to learn about the history of computing, for primary research on working machines, or just to relive a past experience with these amazing, vintage computers.

The lab also maintains a collection of software, and Professor Haigh is happy to help visitors find and install retro software on a machine from its era for an original computing experience.

In addition to the large collection of computers, the retro lab also maintains a collection of early computer accessories, including printers, drives, and original manuals and catalogs.

"These items are useful primary sources to show the experience of buying and owning one of these computers in their time," says Professor Haigh. "They show pricing, the way they were marketed, and some of the stuff they may have been used for."

The Retro Computing Lab is a gem on our campus and we suggest making a special visit next time it is open to visitors.



Terra Johnson
Geosciences

"Blossom & Wilt" Featured at UWM Library

As a community leader and Director of Education & Outreach for Milwaukee Pride, Vince Tripi III ('11 English Education, '16 Administrative Leadership) is truly making an impact in Milwaukee.

Tripi, who uses co/co/cos pronouns, programs and organizes educational presentations and events on LGBTQ+ history, culture, and advocacy.

Tripi's "Blossom & Wilt: Queerness Under Fascism is a 9-panel exhibit that examines the development of modern gay and transgender identities in pre-1900's Germany, the rise of fascism, and queer resistance to the Nazi regime.

Originally presented at PrideFest Milwaukee in 2022, "[Blossom & Wilt](#)" was on display in UW-Milwaukee's Golda Meir Library at the beginning of the Spring '23 semester.

In a desire to branch away from white Western perspectives, Tripi's next work will focus on several indigenous cultures' relationships with gender and sexuality across North America, South America, and Africa.

Cos future exhibit, Precolonial Indigenous Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality, will be released this June. Tripi's LGBT history exhibits help empower people "to see their lives as chapters in a long, queer story that will never end," co says.

While in the Honors College, Tripi especially enjoyed Honors College Professor David Southward's course on aesthetic theory, "The Arts in Theory & Practice," which taught co non-Western ways of thinking about creativity and what it means to be creative.

Tripi fondly remembers cos time in Southward's classes and the impact he had on co.

"I still remember what Professor Southward said to me after he read my thesis for



The Honors College Open Mic House Band. Photo courtesy Jo Fox.

the first time, and I was like, that was the mountain top," co says. "I don't think I would be the person that I am without having gone to UWM for the opportunity to engage with the Honors College."

Honors College Professor Lydia Equitz was also important to Tripi's time at UWM.

"Her particular way of teaching how to write is on occasion, austere and stark, and you come out feeling ripped to shreds: those are growing pains," co remembers.

"Like I learned as an undergrad, writing is thinking. If you write better, you think better. The Honors College is focused on that and rightly so."

Tripi encourages current Honors College students to be active members of the community and to participate in the programs and events it offers.

"Getting involved in all kinds of things is totally worthwhile," co says. "You get so many different experiences through the Honors College in your undergrad times that you just don't get elsewhere. Even if you love writing and researching and want to go to graduate school, it's nowhere near the Honors College experience."

Vince Tripi's next art exhibit will be on display in June. You can find Tripi at cos website vince.lgbt.



Jake Clements
Architecture and Film

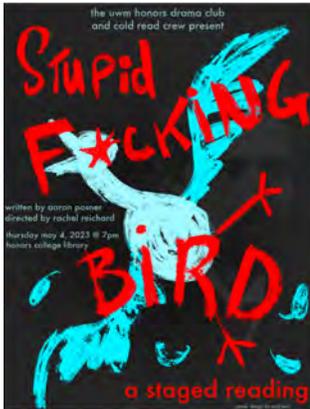


Photo courtesy of the May Heili.

Drama Club Presents... *Stupid Fucking Bird*

It's a plane! It's Superman! It's... *Stupid Fucking Bird*? Spring's Honors College Drama Club production is Aaron Posner's 2013 play adaptation of Anton Chekhov's 1896 *The Seagull*. The dark comedy asks the question: what does art and its interpretation look like for a younger generation in the theater?

Director Rachel Reichard (Art History and Classics) was drawn to the story because it engages a fresh perspective. "When I was first researching plays, I knew I wanted a show that was primarily about young people," Rachel says, "because we're at a unique point in our lives."

Benjamin Freyer (Film) plays Conrad, the show's central character. "He is very much a cynical character, and he spirals," Ben says. "There's a madness in him by the end of the show."

As Conrad struggles to write a play to engage with what he believes should stim-

ulate contemporary audiences, his friends and family have their own opinions on what art should be. Conrad's love life is additionally rocky, causing a chain reaction throughout the rest of the cast.

One of these characters is Sorn, Conrad's uncle, played by Lily Levrault (Math and Computer Science).

"Sorn is an old guy who doesn't understand this world of 'artists' but tries to be supportive of his family," Lily comments.

The production style of this semester's play is a staged reading.

"When we were discussing what we wanted to do for the Spring show, the idea of that format seemed to fit best," Rachel shares.

The Drama club also hosts monthly cold reads that are structured similarly. Rachel hopes the staged reading format can continue, eventually spawning two in-person shows in future semesters.

Powerlifting Panthers

Amy Reyes (Biological Sciences) and Ashley Wisnepske (Psychology) recently competed at the 2023 USA Powerlifting Collegiate Nationals in Arlington, Texas as part of the UWM Extreme Powerlifting team where they regularly lift more than their own body weight.

Initially, Amy and Ashley joined the team to expand their social life on campus and try out a new hobby.

Little did they know they would be implementing a new lifestyle into their daily routines with a whole new set of friends.

"I feel like I joined a family and a community," Amy says. "I see the same people at gyms all around Milwaukee."

Their new community trains together, supports each other, and most importantly competes together.

A powerlifting competition consists of each competitor performing three attempts throughout the day at three different lifts: squat, bench, and deadlift.

Each athlete's heaviest successful lift per exercise is added towards their final score in order to determine who wins the competition. A win at any smaller competition secures an individual's spot at the national competition.

Because both Amy and Ashley earned the invitation in smaller competitions, they got the chance to represent UWM in the 56 kg weight class at Nationals.

Both athletes had a successful meet and are satisfied with their performances. Amy placed 12th and Ashley placed 20th out of 52 lifters.

This is Ashley's first national collegiate competition, and she recognizes a new level of intensity.

"The people at Nationals are all lifting so much weight," Ashley says. "It's more than what I have been used to at the high school meets I went to."

They both hope to be back competing at Nationals next year.



Lizzie Adams
Criminal Justice and Spanish



Photo courtesy of Amy Reyes.



Student Workers Support Campus Life



Seth Duellman
Architecture

The Honors College proudly fosters a strong set of growth-minded values as students are encouraged to immerse themselves deeply into their studies and the community in the spirit of learning.

Our students inevitably extend this mindset into their professional practices, and some get started right here at UWM working a diverse range of paid campus jobs that both serve our community and provide a breadth of opportunities for professional growth.

Students who work in campus roles can provide a unique perspective on how the institution operates and how to negotiate the time demands of school and work.

Molly Stilling (Sociology) is a Caregiver at the campus Childrens Learning Center. She mainly works with children under one-year whose parents are either students or members of the faculty and staff at UWM.

“My favorite part of the job is seeing the kids grow so quickly,” Molly says. “We see them go from just sitting or rolling over to watching them learning how to walk in the span of one semester.”

Ruby Loeffelholz also juggles work and school in the campus mailroom, sorting and distributing packages for students.

“Most of the carriers come in the morning and bring huge bins of packages,” she says. “I scan them with an iPad and stick a number on them and then sort them to where they go. When I work at night, the carriers have already come, and everything’s organized. So then it’s just people coming and getting their packages.”

Ruby appreciates having some time to do her homework while she’s at work, but sometimes people ask her challenging and strange questions.

“Our supervisor isn’t there from four to eight, and if something goes wrong, we just figure out how to deal with it,” she says.



Hire A Panther.

Photo courtesy of UWM.

Vanessa Chavez (Conservation and Environmental Science) works as a Supplemental Instructor Leader for pre-calculus in the Student Success Center.

Vanessa finds a challenge in preparing for a certain set of concepts and then students come in needing help with something totally different.

“Learning how to take whatever the students need and create a session in the moment is one of the most important things I’ve learned so far,” she shares.

Syd Seebach (Film Studies) is an Operations Attendant at the Klotsche Center, where she works at three positions: front desk, FSW (custodial shift), and equipment room.

Syd feels she has learned valuable lessons from working at the K.

“I make sure to treat everyone with kindness because I never know what people are going through,” she says.

“The gym is a place people go to take care of themselves and escape, and I try to support that energy.”

Many more Honors College students are working on campus too, so be sure to ask your peers what they are up to while they are getting their degrees.

You might be surprised to learn who is working behind the scenes to make campus function smoothly.



Photo courtesy of Syd Seebach.



Photo courtesy of Ruby Loeffelholz.



Lizzie Adams
Criminal Justice and
Spanish

Hats for Change

Winter can be brutal without the accessories to keep warm, and the unfortunate reality for some in Milwaukee is not having the luxury to provide themselves or their children with these necessities.

As a result of the lack of protection against the harsh winter climate, some individuals, and especially infants and small children, can suffer from hypothermia.

Hats for Change will attempt to combat this reality by collecting crochet supplies to support the creation of hundreds of baby hats throughout the summer.

In the fall, Hats for Change will donate the hats to women's prenatal clinics at the 16th Street Clinic on the near South Side of Milwaukee.

In order to successfully complete the project, the program is requesting donations of any shape, size, or color yarn. Collection bins can be found around the Honors House.



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Adams.

Hats for Change is soliciting volunteers as well to collect supplies and produce the hats. Contact Lizzie Adams at adams273@uwm.edu for more information about participating.



Rachel Oelsner
Geography and
Urban Studies

Honors College Students Earn "Lubar 25" Spots

The Lubar 25 is an annual program that recognizes 25 undergraduate students in the Lubar College of Business who stand out for their accomplishments in academics, entrepreneurship, leadership, or campus/community service.

Students chosen for the Lubar 25 recognition program are selected by a panel of judges comprised of business leaders and are celebrated at a special reception; each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

This year, three Honors College students have been named to the prestigious list: Zachary Baynham (Accounting), Andrew Gaeta (Finance), and Cynthia Hernandez (Marketing).

In addition to his outstanding academic record, Zach has a passion for people and helping others.

"I am an officer in the Alternative Spring Break Club," he says, "where we focus on serving communities in need locally and in New Orleans."

After a study abroad trip to Paris, this summer Zach will expand the work he be-

gan in high school as an advocate for people with intellectual disabilities.

"I will be working with The Maren Fund on a program that will help young adults of different abilities to develop professional skills that can be used in a business setting."

Andrew is especially proud of his leadership positions in fundraising and finance with the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi.

"Leading during the pandemic turned out to be exceptionally challenging," he says, "but we persevered and organized a face mask sale and developed sponsor partnerships with local businesses."

As a member of UWM's Track and Field team, Cynthia earned the Athletic Department's 2022 Smartest Panther Award for the highest GPA among all UWM women athletes.

She will graduate in December with a BBA and an accelerated master's degree in marketing, a dual degree program that allows undergraduate students to complete both degrees in five years.

Congratulations to our Lubar 25!



Photo courtesy of Ruby Loeffelholz.



Course Highlights



Bryce Gensler
English Education

“Journeys to Hell and the Dark Sublime”

Little pink paper hearts cover the door of Honors College Professor Brian Marks’ office. Part of a Valentine’s Day class project, these “Love Letters from the Pit of Hell” surely put other valentines to shame.

In “Journeys to Hell and the Dark Sublime,” students examine questions about Hell and explore why humans are drawn to the dark sublime.

Professor Marks’ class expands beyond Western notions of Hell and monsters who deal with death.

“I want to examine many cultural representations of the figure of death. In Western civilization we often think of death as a bony dude with a cloak on,” he says with a chuckle, referring to the Grim Reaper.

“In the present there are shards of the past. I like to use the present to look back at the past and the past to see into how we view what is evil, what is horrifying, terrifying, sinful, in different ways.”

In the course, students read chronologically to understand where modern beliefs stem from.

“Dante’s *Inferno* is an incredibly rich text,” Professor Marks says. “It can seem intimidating, but I hope that it can build a person’s confidence as a reader.”

Kayla Solomon (English Education) appreciates the challenge of the course readings: “the *Inferno*, was once something indigestible to me, but now I can see the many definitions of evil and amorality in Dante’s time versus in the 21st Century.”

Professor Marks believes that the class is less about the immediate subject matter of Hell and the dark sublime and more about pondering life’s biggest questions collaboratively.

“I’m just as in the dark as anyone else,” he shares, “but I like to talk about things with other people to see their thoughts and perspectives.”



Photo courtesy of the internet.

“Indigiqueer Theory and Practice”



Jake Clements
Architecture and Film

In August ’22, Dr. Sharity Bassett began at UWM as Visiting Assistant Professor in Women & Gender Studies and as the American Indian Student Center Manager.

Her “Indigiqueer Theory and Practice” course introduces students to indigenous artists and writers, including Kent Monkman, Lisa Tatonetti, and Audra Simpson, among others.

“When you intersect queer theory with indigenous thought as indigenous queer theorists and artists have,” Professor Bassett says, “there’s more potential to undermine and disrupt settler nation states to the point where we can interrogate some of the heteronormativity that’s part of the soil at this point.”

As part of the course, Professor Bassett has students extend their learning outside the classroom. They are required to attend two co-curricular events on campus related to indigenous topics.

“What I want to do in those two assignments is disrupt the idea that there’s not enough indigenous content on campus because there is,” Professor Bassett shares. “You just have to look for it.”

David Jensen (History) was excited to take the course precisely because he did not know what to expect from the content. He has found the coursework beneficial to learning more about being a member of the Milwaukee community.

“Dr. Bassett asks us to take off the glasses of whatever worldview we bring into the classroom, to understand what those glasses change when we look at the world, and then to try on other glasses,” David says.

Professor Bassett is happy to be teaching “Indigiqueer Theory and Practice” in the Honors College and obviously so are the students. The course filled all open seats within minutes of registration opening.



Photo courtesy of UWM.



Sophia Shaw
Biological Sciences



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

Familiar Faces

Dr. Jill Budny

This year, Honors College Professor Jill Budny celebrates 20 years in academia. Throughout her tenure, Jill has taught at Beloit College, Marquette University, Alverno College, Notre Dame University, and now UWM.

As Professor and Honors College Assistant Director, she strives to foster an environment of inclusivity and sharing.

“The Honors College is a space for all sorts of creativity,” she says. “It is a gift to be present during the discussions in class.”

In addition to her other roles, Jill is an advisor for the Equity Team that most recently hosted the Race, Justice, Power Conference featuring speaker Adam Carr.

She advises students to get involved in student organizations and to attend events that challenge them.

“The diversity of opinions and thought is very special in the Honors College,” she

says. “Reach out and form a community; there is an amazing group of humans here.”

Jill is an advocate for students sharing their perspectives and respecting their peers’ perspectives.

“A lot of people have a loud inner critic telling them that they are not good or smart enough,” she shares. “But fight against that voice. Be more kind to yourself. You matter. Your voice matters. Sharing your opinions with others is a beautiful thing that can be the key to human happiness.”

Outside of the Honors College, Jill enjoys cooking and gardening. She is Milwaukee born and raised, with a big family in the local area.

She loves spending quality time with her relatives, especially her husband and her daughter Audrey.

Congratulations on an amazing twenty years, Jill!

Quincy Lagrant



Rachel Oelsner
Geography and
Urban Studies



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

Quincy Lagrant may be one of the newest additions to the Honors College professional community, but he is already tackling his new role as the Honors College Enrollment Coordinator with confidence.

Originally from Milwaukee, Quincy did most of his undergraduate work at the University of Northern Iowa before transferring to UW-Oshkosh to complete a degree in Sociology.

Wanting to stay close to family, Quincy moved back to Milwaukee and worked as the Undergraduate Recruitment Coordinator at the Lubar College of Business for over a decade before joining the Honors College.

As Enrollment Coordinator, Quincy’s responsibilities include reviewing incoming applications, visiting local high schools, and reaching out to current UWM students who may have an interest in joining the Honors College.

“One of the major parts of my position is the branding,” he shares. “You’d be surprised that many prospective students and current students at UWM are not familiar with the Honors College.”

Quincy’s personal background makes him the ideal candidate to help students who are considering transitioning into higher education.

“I was the first person from my family to ever attend college,” he says, “so I remember how challenging that was for me.”

He hopes to be a resource for students who are unsure of what to expect from the college experience and to remind students that performing at a high academic level is just one part of the experience of attending college.

“Find a career path that allows you to utilize your academic strengths and personal passions,” he suggests, “and good results will follow.”



The Aggregate:

Lizzie Adams
Clara Broecker
Jake Clements
Seth Duellman
Jo Fox
Bryce Gensler
Marshall Hoff
Terra Johnson
Olive Justman
Azaan McCray
Rachel Oelsner
Jennifer Olsen
Sophia Shaw

The Aggregate's Voice

With this issue of *The Aggregate*, we celebrate the contributions students make to the communities we are part of.

We recognize that being an Honors College student is about more than academic accomplishment; it is also about discovering our unique skill sets and using them to support each other.

At *The Aggregate*, we hope to make our own contribution by documenting the many achievements of our peers.

In this issue, we acknowledge that Honors College students lead busy lives and that their ambition does not dissolve when they leave the classroom.

Our students not only dedicate themselves to their studies, but to athletics, work, and volunteerism.

This issue features our student-athletes who have learned to manage their demanding course loads, practices, games, competitions, and other extracurriculars.

We applaud not only the contributions these students make to our community, but to the UWM athletic community as well.

We also commend students who support our campus through their employment in university positions. Their efforts and dedication make UWM an actively welcoming environment.

We are proud too of the students who returned from the Alternative Spring Break Trip eager to make positive changes in Milwaukee and of this semester's CEEL cohort who learned about how nonprofits engage with and support Milwaukee residents.

The articles in this issue all share a common theme: commitment. Our peers start projects and see them through, and we are thrilled to share them here.

The Aggregate makes one thing clear: Honors College students are high achievers, both inside the classroom and beyond, and we are proud to be part of that community.



Top row: Rachel Oelsner, Clara Broecker, Azaan McCray, Jake Clements. Seated: Sophia Shaw, Lizzie Adams, Bryce Gensler, Vai Triggiano. Not Pictured: Seth Duellman, Jo Fox, Marshall Hoff, Terra Johnson, Olive Justman, Jennifer Olsen, Caleb Pacheco



Congratulations 2022-23 Graduates



* Honors With Distinction

Stephanie Aguilar	Sabrina Edwardson	Emily Kraft	Ashley Rudser
Annabelle Ahlers*	Emma Erickson	Isaac Lawson	Daniel Rusch
Cameron Ahles	Emily Fedewa	Moss Leiko	Cody Santas
Wren Ahrens	Noor Fleifel*	Lily Levraut	Aysha Schiller
Abigail Ambrose	Jo Fox	Sarah Lunow	Abigail Schott
Parker Annan	Julia Frank	Grace Lyons*	Megan Schulte
Liberty Ansonge	Angela Freeman	Declan McCormick	Matthew Sharley
Alice Apfelbach	Andrew Gaeta	Morgan McIlwee	Sheridan Sinnen
Jhonette Balingit	Nicholas Gilhaus	Nico Molek	Holden Skeels
Amaya Barker	Emma Gingras	Jason Morrison	Grace Spears
Samantha Bastow	Mitchell Gnadt	Kari Mrotek	Anvitha Sriram
Joshua Bausch	Alejandra Gonzalez	Benjamin Nast	Morgan Stark*
Halle Berres	Aubrie Gorski	Alexander Nelson	Olivia Swanson*
Andrea Bishop	Kathryn Grapatin	Dylan Nicosia	Margaret Tews
Rachel Blank	Carolann Grzybowski	Rachel Oelsner	Walker Voigt
Vivien Blecking	Christina Guirau	Anna Ohde	Megan Waage
Emily Braun*	Zella Haase	Madison Parola	Caitlin Waddell
Christopher Bravata	Sierra Hansen	Evan Pennau	Kaley Waters
Lauren Breunig	Zavier Idarraga	Reid Pezewski	Sean Weaver*
Zoë Brown*	Brady Jager	Natalie Plant	Nicholas Webber
Caroline Clemens	Isabelle Jardas	Katherine Possing	Emily Webster
Rachel Comande	Aleyna Karacan	Emily Prochaska	Jada Wegner
Virginia Connell	Elizabeth Karpowitz	Naomi Raicu	Henry Wehrs
Samantha Danczyk	Sophia Keay	Lauren Ramsdell	Olivia Wilson
Easton Dobson	Emily Kern	Madeline Rickert	Grace Wodill
Kelly Dolgner	Afnan Khatib	Faith Robinson	Sadie Wolfe
Grace Dorschel	Molly Kiley*	Kori Rogers	Faith Wrycha
Danielle Douville	Greta Kitto	Timothy Romang	Skylar Zamzow
Kiley Dufek	Alexander Klug	Megan Rose	Samantha Zander

Scholarships and Writing Awards



2022-23 Honors College Scholarship Awardees

Elizabeth Adams	Leijla Ganija	Brooke Leibman	Vai Triggiano
Zoey Bannenberg	Ssanyu Grayson	Ruby Loeffelholz	Sara Vang
Zachary Baynham	Emily Gunn	Jack Loewe	Vivian Wagner
Madison Bomkamp	Brianna Harrel	Benjamin Nelson	Hayley Wagnitz
Ivana Damjanic	Lillian Hassan-Thomas	Nadja Nordstrom	Alexa Wegener
Jessica Dray	Kate Jakubowski	Butoyi Odetta	
Liam Farin	Morgan Klug	Gerit Otto	
Isaac Ferguson	Ava Ladky	Florin Saitis	

Ruback Prize for Distinguished Writing in Honors

1st Place: Abigail Tran, "Reflecting on Homing"
 2nd Place: Faith Wrycha, "Living Through a Lens"
 Honorable Mention: Terra Johnson, "Curb Stomp Fascism"

Equitz Prize for Distinguished Writing in Honors 200

1st Place: Simeon Britz, "Wounded: The Complex Portrayal of Jesse James and Robert Ford in the Film, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*"
 2nd Place: May Heili, "I've Started Standing in Hallways"
 Honorable Mention: Fridarose Hamad, "Towelhead"