

## UWM introduces Business of Media & Film Studies certificate

By Zachary Julius, College of Letters & Science

To some, the movie *The Wolf of Wall Street* is a grotesque view of selfish, rich businessmen and their hideous actions. To others, it's an in-depth look at the ethics of business and how financial markets work. Among other aspects, courses in Film Studies teach the structures of the film and the motivations of various characters, and courses in Business teach the underlying aspects of corporate morality and how the economy works during different time periods.

What if you had something that combined these two perspectives, giving you a superior understanding of both film studies and business and paving the way to finding a job after graduation?

Now, UWM students have exactly that.

UWM's new Business of Media & Film Studies Certificate (BMFS) will ready both Film Studies and Business students for a competitive career field that is increasingly asking for multiple tool sets beyond a single major.

Approved last semester, the program is intended for students preparing for a career in media, marketing, or film studies seeking to expand their skills or add another qualification to their résumé, and it's perfect for students who are looking to develop a subspecialty.

Dr. Benjamin Schneider, Assistant Director of Film Studies, conceived the idea after noticing several business students in his classes were interested in film studies, but were limited in how many courses they could take because of the rigorous schedule for the business major. He wanted to give those students, along with Film Studies students, the opportunity to explore the intersections between the two fields with an eye toward becoming more employable through the completion of the BMFS.

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UWM's new Business of Media and Film Studies certificate prepares students for careers in the film industry, including avenues like media, marketing, or film studies. (Photo © Thomas Wolf, [www.foto-tw.de](http://www.foto-tw.de), CC BY-SA 3.0 DE)

HOLLYWOOD

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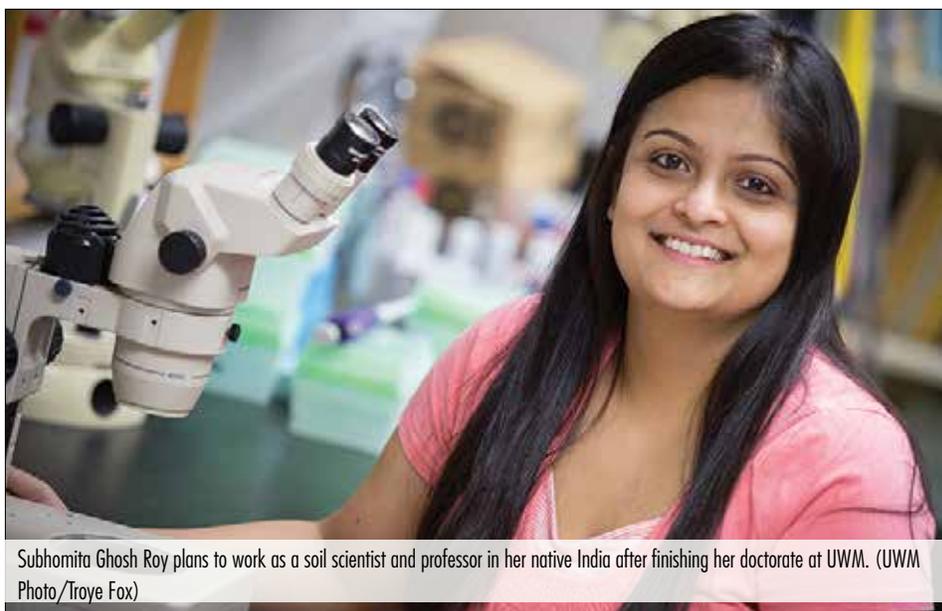
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Subhomita Ghosh Roy plans to work as a soil scientist and professor in her native India after finishing her doctorate at UWM. (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

## Student studies what colors India's saris

By Angela McManaman, University Relations

It takes a workforce of more than 6 million people to create India's signature sari, a yards-long garment that has pleated, folded, draped, and wrapped itself around Indian women for 5,000 years.

Among those 6 million are people running small family businesses that color sari fabric in a combination of chemical dyes and water. After shipping the fabric to factories, these businesses are left with gallons of dye water contaminated with lead, copper, cadmium, iron, rubidium and other toxins, says Subhomita Ghosh Roy, a soil scientist and Biological Sciences doctoral candidate at UWM. The water is dumped in backyards, which could be near animal habitats, lakes and even elementary schools.

The businesses are run by families trying to break into India's middle class and stay there. Environmental protocol and procedures are expensive and loosely regulated.

Workers don't take many safety precautions during the dyeing process, and often don't wear gloves while repeatedly soaking their hands in chemical-laden water. "They told us: 'We can't keep up with the costs,'" says Ghosh Roy, who spent part of summer 2016 doing field research in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. "Something should be done about that."

Then there are the environmental consequences of dumping the wastewater. To study that, Ghosh Roy collected and analyzed contaminated soil samples from two dyeing businesses with the help of Bangalore Institute of Technology researchers and Marissa Jablonski, her UWM instructor.

Ghosh Roy planted and tracked the growth of *Lepidium*, *Sinapis* and sorghum seeds. The three standard-indicator plants were grown in soil from a dye-waste site, as well as in uncontaminated control soil. After 72 hours, sophisticated imaging software revealed that plants in the uncontaminated soil grew much faster than their dye-contaminated peers.

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# PoliSci professor ponders Putin and rise of Russian autocracy

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

Russia and its president Vladimir Putin are making the rounds in American media, from headlines in the *New York Times* about Russia's possible influence on the 2016 U.S. presidential election to parodies on "Saturday Night Live."

More than ever, it's imperative for Americans and the world to understand Russia's government and its role on the world stage.

That's the aim of UWM Political Science professor John Reuter's new book. *The Origins of Dominant Parties: Building Authoritarian Institutions in Post-Soviet Russia*, due for release at the end of April, tracks the rise of Putin's autocracy and how dominant party authoritarianism permeates world politics.

The words "authoritarian regime" conjure images of despotic rulers, but the actual definition is very simple: An autocracy is any government that does not hold free and fair elections. Conversely, a democracy is marked by free and fair elections.

While most democracies tend to look alike – they generally have an elected legislature and some sort of executive, Reuter explained – autocracies can come in any number of flavors, from military juntas, like Myanmar until 2011; to a party regime, like today's communist China; to personalist dictatorships, like Libya under Muammar Gaddafi.

And then there's Russia, an autocracy with a dominant ruling party. It's a system that falls somewhere between a pure party regime and a personalist dictatorship.

"You might think of Russia's ruling party, United Russia, as a union in some ways. Among the ruling elites, there are agreements about how power is going to be shared and what happens if one of the members of that collective defects," Reuter said. "In Russia, President Putin is more powerful than the party in many ways, (but) the United Russia party does have some modicum of collective influence."

Reuter was always captivated by Russian politics, and completed his graduate work as Putin was consolidating his power. He watched as Russia began to transform itself in the early 2000s from a flawed democracy to an authoritarian regime.

He researched his new book by conducting field interviews with members of United Russia, advisors to both Putin and former Russian president Boris Yeltsin, and other figures who shaped Russia's political structure. He also analyzed statistics on the political behavior of Russia's elites, trying to understand why some backed United Russia, but others did not.

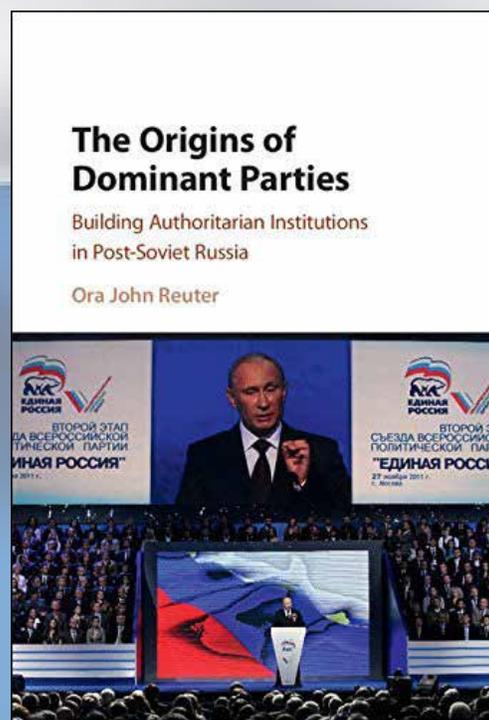
Russia's current authoritarian regime was born in the wake of economic collapse. During the 1990s, the central government had become weak and most power fell to regional barons.

"On paper, they were governors, but they were de facto heads of their own little political fiefdoms in various regions of Russia," Reuter said. "The creation of United Russia was all about the Kremlin coming to an accommodation with these regional barons, trying to induce them to come together and support the Kremlin, and remain united in their support."

Putin played the game masterfully, especially as the economy recovered with a resurgence in oil prices in the mid-2000s and Moscow had more to offer the regional barons for their support.

"Over the course of the 2000s, Russia became more autocratic and Putin accumulated more and more power," Reuter said. "That process reached its apogee at the end of the 2000s and since then, we've been in an equilibrium where Putin is very powerful but continues to share some power with other elite actors."

For many Americans, the worry isn't about autocracy abroad; they're more scared of what they consider a possible budding autocracy in Washington. Several left-leaning media outlets have been quick to warn of the dangers of authoritarianism, hinting that Trump's administration could erode the basic tenets of American democracy.



Political Science professor John Reuter's book documenting the rise of the dominant ruling party autocracy in Russia is available for pre-order and will be released in April.

[Continued on page 4](#)

# Literature Limelight - *Chicago's Block Clubs* by Amanda Seligman

When History professor Amanda Seligman was investigating the transitions of Chicago neighborhoods, she encountered the phenomenon of the Chicago block club. She found that the small battles waged by these organizations are vital to understanding the city's political and social history. In this excerpt, she discusses an example of the work of the block clubs: repurposing chronically vacant lots. Seligman's book is available at <http://amzn.to/2nRnijZ>.

The 15th Place Block Club's project started in 1968 when the club's president, Pearlie Robinson, became concerned that "we have been planting either no grass or just poor weak grass which quickly gets trampled by the children and does not come back the next year." Residents were discouraged in their efforts to get property owners to establish perennial grass. One janitor never followed through on his promises, and "there was nothing in the leases o[r] [c]ustoms to make the landlords plant grass." The owners of nearby buildings experienced the same difficulty, explaining that "it [wa]s useless to plant [grass] because the children will wear it off anyway. When they did supply grass seed it was annual and had of course to be planted over again each year." Nonetheless determined to green the environs, Robinson asked the resourceful [Faith] Rich if she knew how to find what she called "'Come Back' grass." The block club took the task upon itself, purchasing grass seed with its own funds and committing to the labor of tending it. Residents turned out twice a day for two weeks to water the initial plantings. The club "gradually established perennial grass" over the next several years, developing "our goal of grass all around the block" by seeding all the lawns, "something which was generally thought to be impossible." By 1973, some of the local building owners had agreed to purchase dirt for the project, although one such donated lot of soil left "even more stones than there were originally."



Rich wrote to her sister that the grass wrought "a great change." It not only improved the appearance of the area the block club officially tended, but also provided the neighbors with an incentive to transform their home environments— even if they were not property owners. Rich explained, "In the house next to us one of the tenants who had never done anything about grass before suddenly bought flowers, dug up part of the grass and put the flowers there, planted grass around the side of the house. She even set up a bird bath. If this keeps up we will be practically suburban."

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## Russian authoritarianism

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While those fears are likely overblown, "It's not inconceivable," Reuter said. "I think a lot of people who study autocracies would have said that prior to (the election). A lot of Americans have this misconception that they're somehow immune from the types of things that happen in other countries where democracy breaks down. I don't think the United States is immune from that by any means."

However, he added, America is a liberal democracy. That means, in addition to having free and fair elections – the democracy aspect – the country also has a set of codified values that affirm people's inalienable human rights and freedoms. That's the "liberal" aspect.

"I think, to the extent that there's threats to our liberal democracy, there are much greater threats to the liberal part of our liberal democracy than there are against democracy, per se. A populist regime can still be a democracy," Reuter said.

The extent to which an autocratic shift in American government is likely to happen is a debate for the politicians, but Americans shouldn't forget the lessons learned watching the birth of Russia's autocracy.

Reuter's book is available for pre-order at <http://amzn.to/2mzTvZ7>.



John Reuter

# Math alum works for NASA's space flight safety

By Sarah Vickery, College of Letters & Science

When he was younger, Jim Stott wanted to be an astronaut when he grew up. He hasn't made it into space (yet), but he's pretty darn close.

Stott is the Chief Safety and Mission Assurance Officer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. At its core, his job is to ensure that the people and equipment NASA sends into space depart from and return to Earth safely.

"My responsibility is having reliability, quality, and safety," Stott said. "Reliability meaning making sure we have the best parts, watching out for counterfeit vendors. ... Quality is making sure we have all the right quality processes in place – quality control, quality assurance. It's making sure everything goes smoothly in terms of manufacturing. Safety – that's system redundancy, making sure that we have redundant systems so it can tolerate single faults."

Ensuring those three things requires several degrees and a list of credentials. Stott began his education at UWM. It was close to his hometown of Brookfield, and best of all, it had a Physics and Applied Mathematics major. Stott graduated in 1997 with his Bachelor of Science, traveled and married, and then returned to UWM to earn a Master's degree in Mathematics in 2000.

The next step was Alabama. Stott joined Hernandez Engineering, which at the time was a subcontractor for NASA. Hernandez paid for Stott's second Master's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama-Huntsville, which he used to work for the Department of Defense. He wasn't planning to go for a PhD, but with the promise from his professors that it would be "easy" (it wasn't, Stott said with a laugh), he earned a doctorate in Electrical Engineering.

From there, it was on to NASA. Stott joined when the Bush Administration was pushing the Constellation program, designed to replace the space shuttle.

"The Obama administration canceled that. They really wanted to focus on the commercial stuff," Stott said. "I've got a lot of colleagues that work with Space X or Boeing and other private space companies. Also, we were tasked to design a heavy lift vehicle that would allow us the capability to go to Mars and the moon. That's currently ongoing."

At least, it is for now. NASA answers to the President, and the new administration may have different objectives for Stott and his fellow engineers.

"The programs that we have span administrations," he said. "It lasts a minimum of 10 years to take something from design to building it. There's always a threat, when there's a new administration coming in, that they will cancel the program. ... It's very frustrating. I think the folks at NASA who are wise enough to know this stuff try to get the hardware built. We have a lot of hardware built, so hopefully [we can say], we're almost done! Just let us get this done."

Stott would especially like to see the heavy lift vehicle be completed because he'd like to see the United States visit the moon again. Not only does space travel increase the country's international prestige, but it allows scientists to do research that can only be conducted in zero-gravity. Stott points to medicines that can be developed without the hindrance of gravity, or the presence of rare chemicals, like Helium-3, that can be harvested or studied in space.



UWM alumnus Jim Stott is working on the RL10 Engine that will be used on the SLS Upper Stage. The project is part of an effort to design a heavy lift vehicle for space travel. Photo courtesy of Jim Stott.

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# Planetarium Spotlight

The Muslim Student Association and the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition co-hosted a great celebration in the UWM Planetarium on Thursday, March 9. *Exploring Islam Under the Stars* was the final event in a series about Islam organized by the Muslim Student Association and sponsored by UWM Sociocultural Programming.



(Left) From left to right, students Mahbbat Ali, Omar Saleh, Tobi Amida, and Islam Salhab wait for the Planetarium show to start at the "Exploring Islam Under the Stars" event. Above, audience members gather in the planetarium to view constellations normally seen over Kazakhstan and Indonesia. Photos courtesy of the UWM Planetarium.



The celebration focused on Islamic art and architecture, scientific contributions in astronomy, and the faces and languages of Muslim people around the world. The event also included colorful food, gorgeous music, and constellations in the night sky from two different locations on Earth: northern Kazakhstan and Indonesia. Over 160 community members (two sold out shows) were dazzled by the beauty of the cosmos and Islamic culture.

## India's dye run-off

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Along with this growth-inhibiting effect, biomagnification is a main concern. Animals eat plants exposed to contaminated water and soil.

Humans eat those animals and plants, and the human body excels at storing chemicals. The effects of heavy metals on human systems are not as widely studied in India as in the United States, where lead poisoning has had a devastating effect on urban families.

Ghosh Roy returned to Milwaukee after completing the field research, and her data analysis continues. Her dissertation research focuses on ecological contamination issues in Wisconsin. She plans on returning to India as a professor and soil scientist, and she hopes to improve workplace safety and environmental policy.

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## Alum ensures NASA safety

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"I think it's a good thing to go out and discover new stuff to benefit humanity," he said. "I think we need to do it in a way that is self-sustaining, and hopefully it will teach us a lot about how to be self-sustainable here."

Even if the Trump administration has other goals in mind, Stott won't give up on his hopes for discovery, or his dream of being an astronaut. In fact, that's his advice for anyone looking to break into the aerospace field.

"Never give up. John Glenn was 77 when he went up for the last time. I guess he was the oldest guy in space. I'm not going to give up," Stott said. "And study science and math, and all the STEM subjects. Just follow your interests and keep that objective in sight. Don't give up and just enjoy the ride."

# In any language, UWM grad's career translates to success

By Kathy Quirk, University Relations

Susan Schweigert is translating what she learned at UWM into a fulfilling career.

“Can you believe there are people who go to jobs they don't like every day while I am making a living doing something I love?” said Schweigert, a 2011 graduate of the master's program in Language, Literature and Translation. She now runs her own business, Schweigert Language Services, in Chicago.

She is certified in translating and interpreting from Spanish to English, but she also works with Portuguese and French and English-to-Spanish. Translating involves working with written documents; interpreting deals with spoken words.

“Every day I'm learning something new,” Schweigert said. “I'm constantly provided with opportunities to analyze language and find the perfect word choice. I find that whole process very gratifying.”

Schweigert received a UWM Graduate of the Last Decade award in 2016 from the Alumni Association, and still travels to Milwaukee regularly on business.

In her business, she does all types of translation, from property titles to birth certificates to academic transcripts. Her specializations include international development, alternative energy, and the legal system. She is certified to interpret in both Wisconsin and Illinois courts. She translates civil and criminal depositions and serves as an interpreter for Spanish speakers involved in court cases or immigration hearings. She's also done transcriptions from wiretaps, police interrogations, and forensic reports. Last year, she completed training as a paralegal to help with that side of her business.

Travel is a side benefit – she's been to Munich and Aruba as part of the job. Schweigert's interest in the translation career grew out of her own travels.

“I've always loved languages,” she said, and a trip to Nicaragua when she was 15 cemented her interest in Spanish and Latin American culture. After earning her bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins in Latin American studies, she went to work for Project Minnesota-León, a cultural and educational partnership between Minnesota and the city of León in Nicaragua.

Through that job, she became fluent in Spanish. “Translating was the part of the job I enjoyed most,” she said, so when she left that job, she decided to earn her degree in translation.

Using the American Translators Association's website listing of accredited programs, she quickly found UWM. “I was very intrigued by the program, and the opportunity to come back to the Midwest made the decision easy.” UWM has one of the few master's degree translation/interpretation programs that is on the ATA's approved list.

The program was a good fit for her, she said, combining courses that helped her improve her skills with business courses and presentations that helped prepare her to open her own business. Kate Scholz, a senior lecturer in the program, was one of her mentors. “She's very supportive. I enjoyed every one of the classes I took from her,” Schweigert said.

Susan Rascon, now retired, was instrumental in helping her make connections that led her to her current career opportunities, Schweigert added.



Susan Schweigert, a 2011 graduate of the master's program in language, literature and translation, runs her own business, Schweigert Language Services, in Chicago. (UWM Photo/Troye Fox)

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# Upcoming Events

## March 29

**Translation Alumni Panel: Transitioning from Student to Professional Translator.** 5:30 p.m. Curtin 209. French-to-English translators Meghan McCallum and Sarah Puchner.

## March 30

**Geosciences Colloquium: Defining the Operational Age of a Well: Predicting Maintenance Issues in Advance of Failure.** 3:30 p.m. Lapham N160. Michael Schnieders, Water Systems Engineering. <http://bit.ly/2kkd5G2>

## March 31

**Geography colloquium: Ash tree identification based on the integration of hyperspectral imagery and high-density LiDAR data.** 3 p.m. AGS Library. Haijian Liu, UWM Geography. <http://bit.ly/2mtl6GQ>

**Psychology Colloquium: Reducing Impulsivity in Humans and Nonhumans.** 3 p.m. Enderis 107. Gregory J. Madden, Utah State University. <http://bit.ly/2oelYjg>

**Science Bag - Water and Air: The Physics of Flying and Sailing.** 8 p.m. Physics 137. Free and open to the public. Physics Professor Paul Lyman breaks down aerodynamics. <https://uwm.edu/science-bag/>

## March 31-May 5

**Japanese Festival and Planetarium Show: Evening in the Land of the Rising Sun.** 6 p.m. Manfred Olson Planetarium. Learn about Japanese culture and customs before a planetarium show featuring Japanese celestial folk stories at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4. Show runs Fridays Mar. 31-May 5. <http://bit.ly/2lhSXSG>

## April 3

**McGaffey History Lecture - Madison's Hand: Revising the Constitutional Convention.** 3:30 p.m. Greene Hall. Mary Sarah Bilder, Boston College Law School.

## April 5

**Women's and Gender Studies Spring '17 Brown Bag Series - The Phallus and its Temporalities: Sexuality, Disability, and Aging.** Noon. Curtin 904. Jane Gallop, UWM English. <http://bit.ly/2o0b7tS>

**English Department: Gabrielle Calvocoressi Reading.** 7 p.m. Hefter Center. Gabrielle Calvocoressi, poet and essayist, reads from her works.

## April 7

**Geosciences Colloquium: Increasing ocean oxygenation and the Ordovician Radiation.** 3:30 p.m. Lapham 160. Pedro Marengo, Bryn Mawr College. <http://bit.ly/2kkd5G2>

**Philosophy Colloquium: Punishment and the Value of Deserved Suffering.** 3:30 p.m. Curtin 175. Michael McKenna, University of Arizona. <http://bit.ly/2nld7Po>

## April 7-28

**Science Bag: Symmetry and the Alhambra Mosaics.** 8 p.m. Physics 137. Free and open to the public. Ric Ancel, UWM Mathematical Sciences, talks symmetrical figures and patterns. Show runs Fridays April 7-28 with a 2 p.m. matinee April 23. <https://uwm.edu/science-bag/>

## April 11

**Ctr. for Celtic Studies - An Irish Caravaggio: The Discovery of 'The Taking of Christ'.** 7 p.m. Hefter Center. Brian Kennedy, Toledo Museum of Art.

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Science Bag runs Fridays April 7-28 at 8 p.m.

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# Laurels, Accolades, and Grant Awards

**Diane Reddy (Psychology)**, **Dylan Barth** and **Ray Fleming (Psychology)** are the recipients of a 2017 Online Learning Consortium Effective Practice Award for their innovation in “Increasing Online Learning Successes Using a Learning Analytics Tool with messaging about How to Study Productively.” They will present their innovation in the Emerging Ideas session at OLC Innovate and be honored in an awards luncheon in April. <http://bit.ly/2mmU9bh>



Rebecca Dunham

**Rebecca Dunham's (English)** poetry collection, *Cold Pastoral: Poems*, published by Milkweed Editions, has received several accolades, including being reviewed in *Publisher's Weekly Review* (<http://bit.ly/2n0sxF4>), and being named as one of 15 of the “Most Anticipated Poetry Collections of 2017” (<http://bit.ly/2hHL6N5>) and one of 25 Protest Poetry Collections to Read Right Now (<http://bit.ly/2nx3nls>) by Bustle.com. In addition, Dunham's work *The Flight Cage* was included in the list of “40 New Feminist Classics You Should Read” on Lithub (<http://bit.ly/2f24TJj>).

PhD candidate **Susan Hill's (Anthropology)** book, *Alternative Tourism in Budapest: Class, Culture, and Identity in a Postsocialist City*, has been published this month with Lexington Books, an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield. It is the first publication in the new series *The Anthropology of Tourism: Heritage, Mobility, and Society*, co-edited by Noel Salazar and Michael Di Giovine. The book is based on her Master's research on alternative tourism workers in Budapest, Hungary.

**Gladys Mitchell-Walthour (Africology)** has been awarded the 2017 Morris Fromkin Memorial Grant for her proposal, “Black Brazilian Social Justice Activism in the Digital Age.” Mitchell-Walthour will present a lecture on her project in fall 2017 at the Golda Meir Library.



Gladys Mitchell-Walthour

**Chia Youyee Vang (History)** was listed as one of the *Wisconsin State Journal's* “most important women in history” for her work advocating for Hmong cultural preservation and education. <http://bit.ly/2mtmUmp>

Student journalists in the **Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies Department** received 15 awards from the Wisconsin College Media Association earlier this year, including five first place honors.

(<http://bit.ly/2mHOEQO>)

- Dan Zielinski, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Photography
- Paul Willems, Tisia Muzinga, Rebecca Papenthien, Miela Fetaw, and Kris Schimmel, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Sports Reporting
- Cole Stevenson, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Sports Column
- JAMS 500 Reporting Class (Jonathan Powell, Shana Wilson, Daniel Zielinski, Amanda Porter, Dylan Deprey, Tyler Nelson, Mary Jo Contino, Bo Bayerl, William Bott, Shannon Kirsch, Stevan Stojanovic, Amanda Melkonian, Amber Bak, Ellie Malone, Sarah DeGeorge, Mike Holloway, Graham Kilmer), 1<sup>st</sup> Place General Reporting
- Paul Willems, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Freedom of Information
- Jonathan Powell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Sports Column
- Stevan Stojanovic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Freedom of Information
- Various Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies students, General Web Excellence
- Amanda Melkonian, Amber Bak, Shannon Kirsch, and Ellie Malone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Investigative Reporting
- Jonathan Powell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Feature Writing
- Jaimie Anderson, Brooke Moret, Xing Qui, and Somer Servais, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place General Reporting
- Emily Zantow, Pakou Lee, Rebecca Papenthien, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Investigative Reporting
- Dylan Deprey and Tyler Nelson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Feature Writing
- Elizabeth LaPoint, Honorable Mention Feature Writing

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# Upcoming Events

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## April 13

Geosciences Colloquium: Drought, Water, People and Fire: Environmental History of the Great Lakes Region through the Rings of Trees. 3:30 p.m. Lapham 160. Evan Larson, UW-Platteville. <http://bit.ly/2kkd5G2>

## April 14

Neuroscience Seminar: Regulation of GABAergic synaptic networks in health and disease. 2 p.m. Lapham N101. Josh Lawrence, Texas Tech University

Geography colloquium: Drilling to Earth's crust-mantle boundary: Scientific drilling in the Indian Ocean. 3 p.m. AGS Library. Julie Bowles, UWM Geosciences. <http://bit.ly/2oeeEO6>

## April 20

Geosciences Colloquium: Anatomy of a Mine: Eagle Project-Marquette County, Michigan. 3:30 p.m. Lapham 160. Dan Wiitala, North Jackson Company. <http://bit.ly/2kkd5G2>

## April 21

Geography colloquium: Synthesizing population for travel activity analysis. 3 p.m. AGS Library. Hong Zhuo, UWM Geography. <http://bit.ly/2nlyZdr>

## April 23

Science Bag: Symmetry and the Alhambra Mosaics. 2 p.m. Physics 137. Free and open to the public. Ric Ancel, UWM Mathematical Sciences, talks symmetrical figures and patterns. <https://uwm.edu/science-bag/>

## April 27-29

Ctr. for 21st Century Studies: The Big No. 3:30 p.m. Curtin 175. The Center for 21st Century Studies' annual conference features plenary speakers Joshua Clover, Katerina Kolozova, François Laruelle, Ariana Reines, and Frank B. Wilderson III. For a full schedule and to register, visit <https://www.c21uwm.com/bigno/>.



## April 27

Geosciences Colloquium: Recent to contemporary stress of the West Antarctic Rift from drill core and volcanic alignment studies. 3:30 p.m. Lapham 160. Timothy Paulsen, UW-Oshkosh. <http://bit.ly/2kkd5G2>

## April 28

Urban Studies Program's Annual Student Research Forum 2017. Noon. Urban Studies students present original research. Union Fireside Lounge.

Geography colloquium: Harold and Florence Mayer Lecture - Unboxing economic geography. 3 p.m. Trevor Barnes, University of British Columbia. <http://bit.ly/2oeuPI4>

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# Laurels and Accolades

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Jeffrey Sommers (Africology & Global Studies) was granted a Fulbright Specialist Award by the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Program. He will split his time between Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest where he will present his research on austerity and economic development in the Baltic states.

Graduate student Bennett Hardy (Biological Sciences) was awarded a fellowship from the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP). This prestigious fellowship will support his research in Dr. Emily Latch's lab, combining extensive field work with genomic tools to conserve the Cascades frog in the Pacific Northwest.



Associate Professor of Political Science **John Bohte** passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of March. John was the director of the Masters of Public Administration program. UWM honored his memory in the following tribute:

A native of West Allis, John was an undergraduate at UWM, graduating with a degree in Political Science in 1992. He went on to earn a PhD from Texas A&M University in 1997. After four years on the faculty at Oakland University (Detroit, Mich.), John returned to UWM in 2004 to join the Political Science department. During his years on the faculty, John served the department as Director of Graduate Studies, and he was a founding member of the Public and Nonprofit Administration program. He taught regularly in the Masters of Public Administration program, served as the internship coordinator, and was the director of the program since 2010.

John was an active scholar in the areas of public administration and public policy. He was co-author of two books (*Politics and the Bureaucracy: Policymaking in the Fourth Branch of*

*Government and Applied Statistics for Public and Nonprofit Administration*) and many articles in top peer-reviewed journals, among them *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Public Administration Review*, *Policy Studies Journal*, and *Journal of Politics*. John was also a popular teacher among graduate and undergraduate students, teaching a range of courses from large introductory undergraduate classes to small graduate seminars. His contributions to the curriculum of the Political Science department and the Masters of Public Administration program were invaluable.

John was a quiet soul, kind-hearted, and willing to help anyone at any time. He was always the first one to arrive to a party, usually bearing chocolate. John will be deeply missed by the many people who loved him.

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## People in print

**Janine L. Kwapis, T. J. Jarome, Nicole C. Ferrara, and Fred J. Helmstetter (all Psychology)**. 2017. Updating procedures can reorganize the neural circuit supporting a fear memory. *Neuropsychopharmacology* (online ahead of print).

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

**Edward S. Hinchman (Psychology)**. 2017. On the Risks of Resting Assured: An Assurance Theory of Trust. In *The Philosophy of Trust*, Oxford University Press. <http://bit.ly/2mxzpOq>

**Yangjing Wei and Yi M. Zou (Mathematical Sciences)**. 2017. Inverses of Cartan Matrices of Lie Algebras and Lie Superalgebras. *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, 521: 283-298. <http://bit.ly/2lin5BH>

**Christos Bilanakos, Colin P. Green, John S. Heywood (Economics), and Nikolaos Theodoropoulos**. 2017. Do Dominant Firms Provide More Training? *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*. 26(1): 67-95. <http://bit.ly/2IYzEkm>

**Erin Winkler (Africology)**. 2017. Racism as a threshold concept: Examining learning in a 'diversity requirement' course. *Race, Ethnicity and Education*: 1-19. <http://bit.ly/2lnER6C>

**Y. Xie, Jingyong Ying ('16, PhD), and Dexuan Xie (both Mathematical Sciences)**. 2017. SMPBS: Web server for computing biomolecular electrostatics using finite element solvers of size modified Poisson-Boltzmann equation. *Journal of Computational Chemistry*, 38(8): 541-552. <http://smpbs.math.uwm.edu/>

**Pat Rubio Goldsmith, Marcus L. Britton (Sociology), Bruce Reese, and William Velez (emeritus Sociology)**. 2017. "Will Moving to a Better Neighborhood Help? Teenage Residential Mobility, Change of Context, and Young-Adult Educational Attainment." *Urban Affairs Review*, 53(2):305-337. <http://bit.ly/2nQXf8y>

**Deborah Hannula (Psychology) and Melissa Duff, eds.** 2017. *The Hippocampus from Cells to Systems: Structure, Connectivity, and Functional Contributions to Memory and Flexible Cognition*. Springer International Publishing. <http://bit.ly/2nlnO4u>

**Richard Grusin (English), ed.** 2017. *Anthropocene Feminism*. Minnesota University Press. <http://bit.ly/2gisJBM>

# ★ Alumni Accomplishments

**Richard Esenberg** ('78, BA Political Science) was appointed by U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) as one of three co-chairs on the Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission to advance federal nominations. Esenberg is the founder, President and General Counsel of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty in Milwaukee. He is also currently an adjunct Professor of Law at Marquette University. <http://bit.ly/2lTgyKB>

**David Berka** ('11, BA Philosophy and Psychology) and **Alex Nowakowski** ('09, BA Political Science and History) were featured as *Urban Milwaukee's* "Newaukewan of the Week". Berka is a Volunteer Engagement Coordinator for Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Nowakowski is a Recruiting and HR representative for Palermo's Pizza. <http://bit.ly/2m9ChAy> and <http://bit.ly/2negGYd>

**Steve Scaffidi** ('83, BA Mass Communication) stepped down from his post as the mayor of Oak Creek, Wisc., to take a new job: He is joining radio station WTMJ as the new midday co-host of "Scaffidi & Bilstad." <http://bit.ly/2mByARN>



Steve Scaffidi

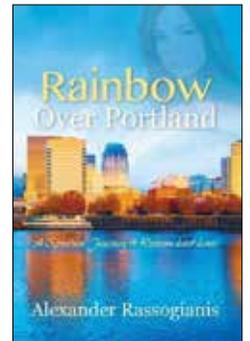
**Anton Wallner** ('86, BS Chemistry) was named the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Webster University in St. Louis. He is leaving his current position as an associate dean at Barry University in Florida. <http://bit.ly/2lQeiFu>

**Debbie Indermuehle** ('93, BA Anthropology) joined Pinnacle Financial Partners as senior vice president and financial advisor for the firm's Hendersonville, Tenn., office. She most recently served as a wealth management advisor for Fifth Third Bank and was a business development officer for Regions Bank. <http://bit.ly/2lTq40e>

**Amy Flanders** ('08, Certificate in Nonprofit Management) was named the new executive director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Appleton, Wisc. She is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the organization. <http://post.cr/2lI4HmL>

**Jay Wollenberg** ('95, BA Communication) was named the new vice president of asset management and property management for IM Property Investments LLC, one of the companies developing The Corners of Brookfield. <http://bit.ly/2lDRo0P>

**Alexander Rassogianis** ('82, MA History) recently published his third book, *Rainbow over Portland: A Spiritual Journey to Redeem Lost Love*. This is Rassogianis' first novel, telling the story of a love lost and one man's attempt to redeem it against the backdrop of cities like Seattle, Munich, Florence, and Berlin. <http://amzn.to/2lnG4us>



**Miriam Ben Shalom** ('79, MA English) was named among the *Wisconsin State Journal's* list of "some of the most important women in Wisconsin history." Shalom was a drill sergeant in the Army before being discharged for her sexual orientation. She was later the first LGBT person reinstated. <http://bit.ly/2mtmUmp>

**Leslie Montemurro** ('88, BA English) is one of the owners of BelAir Cantina, a restaurant chain that is expanding to add its fifth Wisconsin location in Madison near Capitol Square. <http://bit.ly/2n82nAQ>

**Sarah Riffi** ('14, BA Global Studies) joined Quest CE as a Customer Service Support specialist, where she will provide online and phone support for users of the company's compliance management system. <http://bit.ly/2mxlNOF>



Jonathan Brostoff

**Jonathan Brostoff** ('11, BA Political Science) and his mother, Phyllis Brostoff, were named the first recipients of the "Generational Gem Award" handed out as part of the Interfaith Older Adult Programs 2017 Pearls of Wisdom honorees and award winners. <http://bit.ly/2mNTgWS>

**Sanford Tweedie** ('95, PhD English) was named the Dean of the College of Communication & Creative Arts at Rowan University in New Jersey after serving as the interim dean. <http://bit.ly/2mM5bTI>

**Tim Nettesheim** ('78, BA Economics) joined Milwaukee law firm von Briesen & Roper to lead the firm's new capital markets section, where he will assist companies in mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, and other commercial and business matters. <http://bit.ly/2mt6Hi5>

**Joseph Davies** ('09, MA History) is the new director of the Burlington Public Library in Burlington. <http://bit.ly/2neFWH7>

# In the Media and Around the Community

Use conservative economic principles to fight climate change by imposing taxes on polluters, **Bill Holahan** (Emeritus Economics) argued in a *Montgomery Advertiser* editorial. <http://on.mgmadv.com/2m4jfl3>

Soldier and citizen **Abbas Mousa** ('15, MA Economics) was featured on the Association of the U.S. Army's website for his incredible journey from an Iraqi interpreter for U.S. forces in Baghdad to working in the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. Department of Commerce. <http://bit.ly/2lTq5kU>

The **Cultural Resource Management** program under the banner of the **Anthropology** department is among the firms seeking a position as a consultant for the city of Rochester, Minn., which is trying to preserve many of its historic landmarks, according to the *Post Bulletin*. <http://bit.ly/2lTulku>

Student **Jenna Terek** (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) was featured on WUWM for founding her own online company, As You Wish Co., which donates a portion of profits to charities of the buyers' choice. <http://bit.ly/2mHLnB6>

**Brenda Cardenas'** (English) poem "On the Coast in Pedasi" was featured on the March 4 Best American Poetry blog. <http://bit.ly/2mN3cTJ>

**David Kaplan's** (Physics) invention showing pulsar data through LED lights was featured on the popular technology blog adafruit (<http://bit.ly/2lvs1zd>) and further explained on The Wire's India website (<http://bit.ly/2muMSWH>).

Many enjoyed February's unseasonably warm temperatures, but an algorithm developed by **Mark Schwartz** (Geography) showed that the early onset of spring is due to climate change. Several media outlets, including *The Washington Post* (<http://wapo.st/2mBo8cN>), *The Atlantic* (<http://theatltn.tc/2ldX1rp>), *Associated Press* (<http://apne.ws/2mJDmAm>), SFGate.com (<http://bit.ly/2lkXoLT>), MSN (<http://bit.ly/2m4hdem>), and many others covered his findings.

It might be stomach-turning at first glance, but **Geoff Marshall** ('16, BA Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies) and former JAMS student **Grant Jahnke** were featured on WISN12 for their gourmet meals made from dumpster diving to call attention to food waste. <http://bit.ly/2m9iH73>

"Stop and frisk" is an unconstitutional policing method, alleges **Stephen Jansen** ('16, Masters of Public Administration) and several other plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Milwaukee Police Department, reported in OnMilwaukee (<http://bit.ly/2l8JmSr>) and Urban Milwaukee (<http://bit.ly/2lQgmNW>).

**Gladys Mitchell-Walthour** (Africology) delivered a talk on the lives of the African diaspora in Brazil at the Global Brazil 2017 Conference, which was featured on NewBlackManinExile.com. <http://bit.ly/2lloz9b>

An exhibition at Brown University curated by **Tanya Tiffany** (Art History) showcases pieces revolving around "Women of the page; Convent Culture in the Early Modern Spanish World." <http://bit.ly/2ld4uGQ>

Archivist **Hayley Jackson** ('15, MA History) was featured on Luther College Chips for her role in archiving Luther College's history. <http://bit.ly/2lzuecu>



**Marc Levine** (History) explores segregation, poverty, and employment among black citizens in Milwaukee. There are several factors responsible for Milwaukee's stunningly high rate of racial segregation, he told radio station WUWM during their series "Segregation Matters" exploring the stark divisions in the community.

Check out the series and Levine's contributions at <http://bit.ly/2mL2wh0>.



Mark Schwartz

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# In the media

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Switchgrass may be the next biofuel thanks to work by **Dave Zhao (Biological Sciences)**, Phys.org (<http://bit.ly/2m2Mb60>) and Advanced Biofuels (<http://bit.ly/2lZoXLL>) reported.

How do you teach your sons about privilege, race, and feminism? Take some advice from **Erin Winkler (Africology)**, Romper.com suggested. <http://bit.ly/2mHrqhD>

Transgender Wisconsin citizens, including **Cary Costello (Sociology)**, are facing hurdles in the legal documentation of their sex, as detailed on his blog, Trans-fusion (<http://bit.ly/2lOeYYP>) and expounded upon on the blog My Husband Betty (<http://bit.ly/2my9wO6>).

**Rachel Ida Buff (History)** hopes that UW-Milwaukee will receive its fair share of funding after possible changes to the UW System's funding structure, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported. <http://bit.ly/2m8YP25>

Students **Sydney Lee (Biological Sciences)** and **Dwayne Lee (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** discussed their experiences with segregation and racism with WUWM. <http://bit.ly/2lBaWYM>

Women around the country marked International Women's Day on March 8, including **Krista Grensavitch (Women's & Gender Studies)**, who analyzed some of the response in Milwaukee. <http://bit.ly/2mD4j7h>

**Michael Newman (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** discussed his new book covering the history of video games on the Joy Cardin show on WPR. <http://bit.ly/2m493yX>

Students from **Jessie Garcia Marble's (Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies)** class visited the TMJ4 studios to learn more about television news production and appear on the March 10 episode of the Morning Blend.

<http://bit.ly/2n3QlX3>

Research on the U.S. Census conducted by **Margo Anderson (History)** was quoted in an NPR segment detailing how people of Middle Eastern descent choose to identify on forms asking about race.

<http://n.pr/2n9T8UZ>

CBS 58 News ran a feature on **Innovative Weather**, the business arm of the Atmospheric Sciences program on the UWM campus. <http://bit.ly/2nsr9Qh>

Visiting professor **Erik Gulbranson's (Geosciences)** field work in Antarctica uncovering Jurassic plant fossils was featured on Military Technologies' website. <http://bit.ly/2nwOQUs>

**Don Pienkos (Emeritus Political Science)** presented a lecture on Polish immigration in the U.S., specifically Wisconsin and Milwaukee, at the Polish Center of Wisconsin in late March.

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, **Bettina Arnold (Anthropology)** was a guest on Offbeat with Jim Bohannon discussing how she, researchers, and Lakefront Brewery teamed up to recreate an ancient beer she found during a dig in Germany.

We should be teaching our students to write well, a lost art in this age, **Marshall Lev Dermer (Emeritus Psychology)** argued in an editorial for *USA Today*. <http://usat.ly/2oePLIG>

There's more to weather than just forecasting, **Mike Westendorf (Innovative Weather)** told WUWM in an interview discussing how meteorologists talk about their subject. <http://bit.ly/2nxnn7p>



UWM Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies lecturer Jessie Garcia Marble's class appeared on The Morning Blend.

# Business of Media & Film Studies

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“The Business of Media & Film Studies Certificate combines two elements: the world of film and the world of business,” Schneider said. “I want our students to learn more than one set of skills, so that when they go into a job interview, they will be more likely to be hired based on their additional experience. This Certificate will stand out on a résumé.”

The classes for the BMFS certificate are designed to combine elements of business and film studies, emphasizing information specific to the film industry. The classes delve into cinema and digital values by analyzing how technology, film, and business shapes America’s culture, and how culture responds back.

Schneider’s “Business on Film” course, one of the requirements for the BMFS, has proven to be popular with students in both majors. In this class, students watch movies such as *The Big Short* and, yes, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, and examine the style and content of films and how they relate to the business world.

Marketing major Kelsey Ackerman especially appreciates the class, citing her new knowledge of the business world, a result of watching these films, as a contributing factor to her enjoyment. After graduating, Ackerman plans to go into film marketing.

“Ben is really involved with the program and the students, and he personally got me to sign up for the certificate,” Ackerman said. “It’s easier for students to be excited about something if the teacher shows such great passion for it like Ben does.”

After being involved in many film festivals, including the Milwaukee Film Festival, Film Studies major Sydney Zahradka realized that her dream was to one day run a festival herself. The certificate, she said, will lend a hand in achieving this dream.

“When I got the call from Sundance Film Festival [that she had landed an internship last year], they told me that the reason they hired me was the fact that I not only had that film studies knowledge, but I also had that experience with the business side,” Zahradka said. “The BMFS is a great opportunity for these students who want to expand their career options. It’s a really smart decision for business or film majors, or even just students who are interested in either subject but aren’t doing a major in Business or Film Studies.”

Schneider hopes to see more students to sign up for the certificate next year. So far, BMFS has been more popular with Film Studies students, and he would like to have more Business students consider signing up.

Students can find out more about the BMFS Certificate by contacting Schneider at [terrapin@uwm.edu](mailto:terrapin@uwm.edu) or Gilberto Blasini, the Director of Film Studies, at [gblasini@uwm.edu](mailto:gblasini@uwm.edu). More information is also available at <http://bit.ly/2o9T6tn>.



Benjamin Schneider

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## Alum's translation career

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The skills required of a translator/interpreter go far beyond just being proficient in a language, especially when it comes to simultaneous interpreting, Schweigert said. The interpreter has to listen to a speaker in one language, mentally translate that into another language, and then almost immediately share it with a listener.

Running her own business, which she started right after leaving UWM, is also challenging, but when she had the opportunity to take a well-paid regular job in the legal field, Schweigert turned it down. “The perks are I can set my own schedule, and I love meeting new people all the time. I just couldn’t convince myself that I would like a 9-to-5 job somewhere.”

In turn, Schweigert has mentored other students from UWM’s translation and interpreting program. “The time and consideration that she returns to our program is invaluable,” Lorena Terando, chair of translation/interpretation studies, said in nominating her for the alumni award. “In a field such as translation and interpreting, word-of-mouth is the best measure of a professional’s worth, and Susie is clearly a leader. It is a pleasure to watch her continue to soar in her chosen field.”